



# Canticle

Newsletter of St. Francis Episcopal Church of Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin

*Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word."*

## The Collect of the Day for next Sunday, Fourth Sunday of Advent



Almighty and everlasting God, whose will it is to restore all things to your well-beloved Son, the King of kings and Lord of lords: Mercifully grant that the peoples of the earth, divided and enslaved by sin, may be freed and brought together under his most gracious rule; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Click on this link to read the upcoming bible passages: [The Lectionary Page](#)

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16, Canticle 3 or Canticle 15, or Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26

## Christmas Eve at St Francis

Please join us for a celebration of the birth of our Lord and Savior this Christmas Eve, Wednesday, December 24th, beginning at 7:00 pm.

*Following the service Sam and Greta will be hosting a "Traditional Reception" in the undercroft. The reception is open to everyone. Please bring an appetizer or dessert to share.*



## Upcoming Events

### Sunday, Dec 21

Outreach Meeting following service.

### Wednesday, Dec 24th

7:00 pm—Christmas Eve Service

### Wednesday, Dec 24th

Following service—Traditional reception

## Regular Events

### Men's Group

2nd Mondays, 6:30 pm Undercroft

### Outreach Ministry

3rd Sundays following worship. Sunday School area downstairs.

### Vestry

3rd Mondays, 6:30 pm Hearth Room

**Worship Committee** as announced

## Outside Groups

### Yoga

Saturdays, 10-11 am Undercroft

### A.A. Open Meeting

2nd Saturdays, 7:00 pm Undercroft

### A.A. Regular Meeting

Tuesdays, 7:00 pm Undercroft



## **A Christmas message from the Presiding Bishop " . . . darkness reminds us of light"**

The altar hanging at an English Advent service was made of midnight blue, with these words across its top: "We thank you that darkness reminds us of light." Facing all who gathered there to give thanks were images of night creatures - a large moth, an owl, a badger, and a bat - cryptic and somewhat mysterious creatures that can only be encountered in the darkness. As light ebbs from the days and the skies of fall, many in the Northern Hemisphere associate dark with the spooks and skeletons of secular Halloween celebrations. That English church has reclaimed the connection between creator, creation, and the potential holiness of all that is. It is a fitting reorientation toward the coming of One who has altered those relationships toward new possibilities for healing and redemption. Advent leads us into darkness and decreasing light. Our bodies slow imperceptibly with shorter days and longer nights, and the merri-ness and frantic activity around us are often merely signs of eager hunger for light and healing and wholeness. The Incarnation, the coming of God among us in human flesh, happened in such a quiet and out of the way place that few noticed at first. Yet the impact on human existence has been like a bolt of lightning that continues to grow and generate new life and fire in all who share that hunger. Jesus is among us like a flitting moth - will we notice his presence in the street-sleeper? He pierces the dark like a silent, streaking owl seeking food for hungry and defenseless nestlings. He will overturn this world's unjust foundations like badgers undermining a crooked wall. Like the bat's sonar, his call comes to each one uniquely - have we heard his urgent "come and follow"? God is among us, and within us, and around us, encountering, nudging, loving, transforming the world and its creatures toward the glorious dream the shepherds announced so many years ago, toward the beloved community of prophetic dreams, and the night-watch that proclaims "all is well, fear not, the Lord is here." May Christ be born anew in you this Christmastide. May his light burn in you, and may you labor to spread it in the darkness. The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light, and it is the harbinger of peace for all creation.

The Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori  
Presiding Bishop and Primate  
The Episcopal Church



JD and Sally Polley are hosting a Christmas open house at their home in the Falls on Christmas Day from 3:00-8:00 pm (they're flexible on these times I'm told.)

Sally will be serving spinach lasagna as well as meat lasagna. In addition to the lasagna there will be a variety of soft drinks available as well as brandy, rum and spiced rum. It has been suggested if you want something other than what is offered that you are welcome to BYO.

You are also invited to bring a dish of your choice to share or come as you are! Questions? You can reach Sally at 414-940-6799.

St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Dousman will be broadcasting via webcast the Trinity Institutes annual conference. Among the guest speakers this year is

The Most Rev. Justin Welby, The Archbishop of Canterbury.

The conferences central topic will be economic inequality and "...practical tools we can use to make a positive economic impact."

**WHERE:** St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 36014 Sunset Dr, Dousman, WI

**WHEN:** Two Opportunities:

Saturday, February 7, 2015 9:00am-Noon

Monday, February 9, 2015 6:00pm-8:30pm

**COST:** \$25.00 per participant

For more information or to register please click on the following link:

[Lifelong Christian Formation](#)



## Open Staff Meetings

Mother Martha will begin holding a 10:30 am Staff Meeting on Mondays in the Hearth Room to give each of us an opportunity to bring up subjects and questions that need to be discussed. The meetings are open to everyone and will begin after the holidays on Monday, January 12th.

## The Falls Food Pantry Current Needs

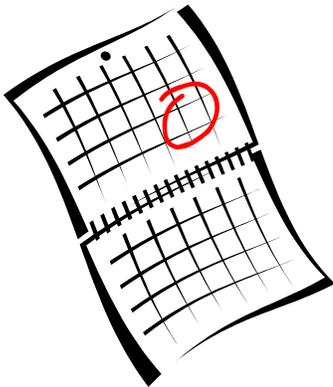
1. Chunky-type soups
2. Cream of mushroom soup
3. Canned peas,
4. Canned mixed vegetables,
5. Crackers
6. Boxed rice (side dish type)



Please place your donations in the basket which is just inside of the lower entrance in front of the statue of St. Francis.

Thank you for your continued generosity.

## Communal Calendars



You have perhaps noticed the four calendars that hang along the lower hallway, opposite the rest rooms. Please know that these are meant to be a do-it-yourself community effort to keep us all up to date. If you have a meeting or event to share please feel free to post it on the calendar yourself. There are pens and pencils nearby. And don't worry, we have plenty of white out if events change.

## [Presiding Bishop's statement on the way forward from Ferguson](#)

The Episcopal Church joins many others in deep lament over the tragic reality that continues to be revealed in Ferguson, Missouri. The racism in this nation is part of our foundation, and is not unique to one city or state or part of the country. All Americans live with the consequences of centuries of slavery, exploitation, and prejudice. That legacy continues to lead individuals to perceive threat from those who are seen as "other." The color of one's skin is often the most visible representation of what divides God's children one from another.





## Deacon's Corner

After one of the Nursing Home services, Jim came up and said, "I would like to show you the houses that I build in my spare time, if you're are interested." I told him I would very much like to see the houses, as I had heard about Jim's houses from the activity staff for over five years.

As we entered his apartment, facing us was a three shelf stand with a miniature house with lights on the top shelf. Peering into its windows, I saw miniature furniture: a bed, 3 tables and some chairs, a rocking chair, lamps on the tables and actual paintings on the walls. The house had shake shingles, each of which Jim had cut out of balsa wood. Around the outside of the house was a lawn with trees and a pond with fish and mountains in the background. Believe it or not, there was even an outhouse with two holes and a small catalog.

What a fantastic sight! Jim said that he's been building cabins and house since he was 14 years old (Jim is now 86.) Further into his apartment the sights again were amazing. On top of tables, cabinets and a coffee table were 6 more house. All were beautiful and made with such detail, just as the first house.

Back in the Activity Room, preparing to leave, one of the staff members said that I really have made a friend out of Jim, for he only shows his hobby to those he likes. You see, Jim comes to every one of the communion services. Through the grace of God, I have made a friend.

Deacon Ken Castello

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## A Final Thought....

It shall not be so among you, all of you, who seek to walk in a sacred way, to fail to forgive, to be quick to blame, to look the other way, but rather that you hold together, through every time of struggle, loving one another as you have been loved, respecting your differences, valuing your opposites, seeing strength in change, until you have learned, discovered, the community you were designed to be, called to be, by the author of all your fates, the focus of every prayer, the holy source of who you are, and when that happens, as it will happen, peace will fall down like snow, hope like spring blossoms, grace like stars on a clear night.



Taken from the Facebook page of Steven Charleston which can be viewed [here](#).

## The Week Ahead

<b>Sun Dec 21, 2014</b>	Lay Eucharistic Visitors	Chuck Sherry to visit Brisks
	Server	Ron Johnson ·
	NT Lector/Epistle Reader	Chuck Sherry ·
	Chalice Bearer/Psalmist	Evelyn Castello
	Counter	Barb Spain & Kurt Hoff
	Altar Takedown	Leslie Thorkelson
	Old Testament Reader	Barb Spain ·
	Ushers	Lindy Mary & Steve Kupcho ·
	Crucifer	Ron Johnson ·
	11:00am – 12:00pm	Outreach Meeting in the Undercroft - <i>the Undercroft</i> ·

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*Please note: There are no other events scheduled for the week other than those for this coming Sunday.*