

THE BELLRINGER

DECEMBER 2012

DIFFERENT ENDINGS

THE VERY REV STEPHEN SHEPHERD

I recently had the chance to watch one of my favorite movies, "The Natural". It's the story of young baseball phenom who on his way to the major leagues gets side-tracked by a bad decision and fifteen years later finally gets to the major leagues and has a shot at redemption. It's a story of how things don't always turn out how we think they should or would. (Spoiler Alert) In the end, the heroic Roy Hobbs pulls himself out of a hospital bed, returns bribe money that is offered to him, and wins the pennant with a dramatic 9th inning homer. It is a wonderfully feel-good ending and feel-good movie. However, this movie unexpectedly provided me with a valuable lesson that things don't always turn out the way I think they should. You see after seeing the movie in the theaters, when it first came out, I was inspired to read the book "The Natural" by Bernard Malamud on which the movie is based. I was thoroughly enjoying the book and reading it at lunch one day at work and I was ready for the joyous pay-off at the end. (Spoiler Alert) Much to my shock and dismay the book ends completely different from the movie. Roy Hobbs takes the bribe, throws the game, and they lose the pennant. A valuable lesson that in being too narrow minded about the way I thought the book should end prevented me from appreciating a more profound story.

The followers of Jesus were quite certain how his story would end. The Roman occupiers would be put in their place by a great re-

volt led by Jesus and he would become their king in the line of David and Solomon, only greater. So great that all the nations of the world would see him as king and come to worship at Jerusalem. Reestablished Israel might become the new great empire under this new King Jesus. Well they might not have been thinking as big as the prophets of the Old Testament but certainly King Jesus was going to clear up the mess they were living in under Roman rule. However, those dream endings died with Jesus on the cross. Yet in the resurrection their hearts and minds were open to new possibilities that gave them a deeper understanding of God's love and God's ways.

We are entering the season of Advent in which we recognize that we are waiting for the coming of Christ with anticipation of the future coming and remembrance of his coming as a child. How do we imagine this second coming should be? Perhaps we see it as a time when the evil will finally get what is coming to them. Maybe we draw on images of the Rapture fiction novels and movies where the good are swept away in an instant and the evil are "left behind". Perhaps we think we are smarter than everyone else, like Harold Camping, and have figured out the mysterious codes of scripture and know exactly when Christ is coming. In honesty, we do have faith that Christ will come again but we will probably be just as blind to it as the people of Je-

sus' day who didn't recognize him as the Messiah. Letting go of any certainty we have in exactly what the second coming will look like may allow us be more open to truly seeing it.

The exercise of faithfully letting go of how we think things are or should be allows us to see the world and see God differently. Perhaps the homeless guy pan-handling money isn't just a lazy bum. Perhaps he has a story that forces us to see the destitute in a more compassionate way. The way God sees them. Perhaps in daring to dig deeper into our faith by prayer, Bible Study, and worship our current faith tenets will be challenged and we can see God in a new light. Every time we risk our faith we are open to the possibility of seeing a new Jesus and Christ comes into our lives again. Idleness and stagnation in our faith prevents this from happening. When I got over the disappointment of the ending in the book version of "The Natural", I realized that the book ending was just as powerful as the movie. In the book, a young boy meets Hobbs on the street and says, "Say it isn't so Roy." In a moment of remorse and confession Hobbs puts his face in his hands and weeps. The ending of the book creates a powerful story of our human condition where we are in need of a first and second coming of Christ for redemption of ourselves and our world, the hope and blessing of Advent.

ADVENT LITURGY

Liturgies for Placing an Advent Candle Ring and Lighting the Advent and Christ Candles

The Advent and Christ candles liturgies draw on the RCL Year C Advent and Christmas readings from Luke 21:25–36; Luke 3:1–6; Luke 1:39–45; Luke 2:15; and from Luke 3:15–16.

Use five separate candlesticks or use a prepared ring with holders for the first four candles at its “compass points” on the rim and a fifth holder in the middle. Have the candles far enough apart of minimize burn risk to the candle lighters.

People of all ages and conditions can be involved – some to speak, others to light the candle(s).

First Sunday in Advent: Placing an Advent Candle Ring and Lighting the First Advent Candle

What are these candles for?

This is an Advent candle ring. It shows the circle of God’s unbroken love. (OR: These Advent candles remind us of God’s love in Jesus Christ.)

There are five candles. We shall light a new candle each Sunday from now until Christmas.

What is the point of doing this?

Because the old proverb is true: “What I hear, I forget. What I see, I remember. What I do, I understand.”

As we light our Advent candles, may they bring us together in the warm light of God’s love.

(If a candle ring is used, set it in place.)

The Gospel of Luke speaks about the future: “There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth, distress among nations. People will faint from fear and foreboding.” (*Luke 21:25–36*)

Because our world is full of fear and distress, we light our first candle, trusting that Christ is alive on earth and that the Spirit of Christ lives among us.

(Light the first candle.)

Living Christ, give us faith to trust you.

We trust you, we love you, we praise you. Amen.

Second Sunday in Advent: Lighting the Second Advent Candle

(Begin with the first candle relit.)

The Gospel of Luke speaks about God’s messenger: In the fifteenth year of the reign of the Emperor Tiberius, . . . the word of God came to John son of Zechariah. . . . He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. (*Luke 3:1–3*)

God comes to us through particular people, in particular places and times in the past, and here and now. Our second candle reminds us to look for the light of God in God’s messengers today.

(Light the second candle.)

Living Christ, give us faith to trust you and hope to follow you.

We trust you, we love you, we praise you. Amen.

ADVENT WREATH LITURGY CONTINUED

Third Sunday in Advent: Lighting the Third Advent Candle

(Begin with the previous candles relit.)

In the Gospel of Luke, John the Baptizer points to Jesus: As the people were filled with expectation, . . . questioning whether John might be the Messiah, John answered them by saying, "I baptize you with water, but one who is more powerful than I is coming. . . . He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire." (*Luke 3:15–16*)

If we follow Jesus Christ, we will get everything we hope for, and more than we bargained for. We light our third candle to praise God, whose Spirit comes to us with disturbing and wonderful blessings.

(Light the third candle.)

Living Christ, give us faith to trust you, hope to follow you, and love to live for you.

We trust you, we love you, we praise you. Amen.

Fourth Sunday in Advent: Lighting the Fourth Advent Candle

(Begin with the previous candles relit.)

The Gospel of Luke tells how Mary meets her cousin Elizabeth: When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb." (*Luke 1:41–42*)

Christmas Eve or Christmas Day: Lighting the Christ Candle

(Begin with the previous candles relit.)

The Gospel of Luke tells what happened on the night when Jesus was born: When the angels had left them, . . . the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem, and see what has taken place, which God has made known to us." (*Luke 2:15*)

In those days, shepherds didn't count for much. But God chose shepherds to welcome and honor Jesus. We light the Christ candle to praise Jesus Christ, who comes to all of us, beginning with the least and the last.

(Light the Christ candle.)

Living Christ, give us faith to trust you, hope to follow you, love to live for you, wisdom to know you, and joy to adore you.

We trust you, we love you, we praise you. Amen.

"Liturgies for Placing an Advent Candle Ring and Lighting the Advent and Christ Candles" are from Brian Wren, *Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany: Liturgies and Prayers for Public Worship* (Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2008) and are reproduced by permission.

Copyright 2007 by Brian Wren.

VESTRY HIGHLIGHTS-NOVEMBER 2012

Draft 2013 Budget Report

David Graling, the treasurer, presented the proposed budget for 2013. The projected income is very close to what we experienced in 2012. However, the projected operating expenses are a bit higher than our 2012 experience. A balanced budget will be presented to the congregation for their approval at the Annual Meeting.

New Website

The new website is live and there are some additions to service that are to be considered, such as mobile conversion, online offering. There needs to be discussion as to how best to manage content update the website content regularly. The content management system is relatively simple to use. Some additional audio/visual equipment will be purchased for sermon recording.

Jr. Warden's Report

The hope is for the Common Room renovation to begin while

Brookfield is away on vacation starting December 19th. Water abatement has been a big issue this year. We have had issues with drains on the flat part of the roof and the flat roof itself. Erosion issues in Memorial Garden; non-clogging gutters would be helpful. We need to get bids to address these issues. The Boy Scout project to build the bridges in the Memorial Garden is going well. There is another potential Eagle Scout looking for a project which might assist with erosion issues. We need to address the leak in the tank in the boiler room and because it is covered in asbestos, it needs to be addressed properly. Bids are being received to maintain the parking lot lights.

Election Day

St. Dunstan's first presidential election as a polling site went very well. The election officials were very pleased. 1500 people voted at our site and the Bake Sale raised \$1500 for the Nets for Life program.

Director of Christian Education

Gray Snead (DCE) attended the vestry meeting to report on Christian Education. The Christmas Pageant is underway and we are considering adding some new music. The J2A is going to the Grand Canyon for their pilgrimage and fundraising is underway. They will visit the canyon, Indian Reservations, and will be in search of Episcopal churches on the Reservations. The trip may last 5 to 6 days, for 10 people, and will cost about \$1000 per person. The 3rd Grade class is looking to do another program "Onward Christian Soldier" which will likely be held in February.

Reverend Shepherd suggest it may be time to rethink how and when we are doing Children's Chapel.

Full copies of the Vestry Meeting minutes are posted on the Parish Hall bulletin board..

The next Vestry Meeting will be Tuesday, December 11,, 2012 at 7:00 in the Undercroft.

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Advent I

Sunday, December 2
8:15 AM Rite I HE & Healing
10:15 AM Rite I HE & Healing
Wreath Making/Parish Hall

Advent II

Sunday, December 9
8:15 AM Rite I HE
10:15 AM Rite II
Craft Fair

Advent III

Lessons and Carols
Sunday, December 16
8:15 AM Rite I & Healing
10:15 AM Rite I & Healing

Christmas Eve

Monday, December 24
5 PM Pageant & HE Rite II
10:30 PM Carols & HE Rite II

Christmas Day

Tuesday, December 25
10:00 AM HE Rite II
In the Chapel

Christmas I

Sunday, December 30
8:15 AM HE Rite I
10:15 HE Rite II



UPCOMING EVENTS AND SERVICES



TREE & WREATH SALE J2A FUNDRAISER Saturday, December 8 10 AM to 4 PM

The Youth at Saint Dunstan's Episcopal Church are selling Christmas trees and wreaths in a One Day Event on December 8th, from 10 am to 4 pm. Come and join us for holiday cheer, music, and s'mores by the fire pit. We'll have hot dogs, cider, and cocoa too! The J2A group has partnered with Merrifield Garden Centers to bring you the most beautiful Christmas trees to decorate your home for the holiday season. The J2A students are still taking pre-orders for a variety of sizes of Frasier Firs, and Wreaths. All items will be available for pickup on Saturday, December 8th at St. Dunstan's. Please consider buying your trees and greenery from the J2A group to help support them in their pilgrimage this coming June. Look for order forms in the Vestibule, Church Office, and Parish Hall. Or contact Gray (dce@stdunstans.net), and he will be happy to send you a preorder form electronically.



PARENTS DAY OUT Saturday, December 8 9 AM to 1 PM

Drop the kids, off, and take some much needed time to catch up on the Holiday list. You can pick up your tree too! Childcare will be provided.

CHRISTMAS SUPPER CLUB Saturday, December 8 at 2:00 PM

Place: Beauchamp's Home

You are invited to a pot-luck dinner at Catherine Beauchamp's house on December 8 at 2:00 PM. A sign up sheet is in the vestibule. Please RSVP to Linda Young 703-506-4357



WOMEN OF ST DUNSTAN'S CRAFT FAIR

Sunday, December 9

The women of St. Dunstan's will be holding their annual craft fair on December 9th in the Parish Hall. Our parish artisans will show their wares for your Christmas shopping enjoyment. The fair will be open after each service 9:15 AM to 12:30 PM. Please join us for this special event!

If you would like to reserve a table for selling, please call Helen Vogel at 703-534-4877 or email Martha Taishoff: mvt@cox.net

YOUNG ADULTS FELLOWSHIP Monday, December 3 7:00 PM

This is a group of folks in their 20s and 30s from various Episcopal Churches in our region who enjoy a cold beer, deep theological discussions, and fellowship. We meet about twice a month at Ireland's Four Provinces in Falls Church to talk about our faith and to hang out.

Our new book is *The Wisdom of Stability: Rooting Faith in a Mobile Culture* by Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove. For more information, either visit our Facebook page or contact Rev. Anna Scherer at ascherer@stdunstans.net

LUNCH BUNCH Wednesday, December 12 Noon

Place: Café Tatti

That's right Café Tatti! The seven of us had such a good time in November that we plan to return in December. The carpool leaves the church parking lot at 11:40 AM. Please come and bring a friend. ct Helen Vogel (703) 534-4877

All are welcome-bring a friend. The carpool leaves the church parking lot at 11:40 am. Contact Helen Vogel (703) 534-4877.

CENTERING PRAYER EVERY TUESDAY 7:00 PM

Centering Prayer will continue throughout Advent but will not meet on Tuesday, Christmas Day. Centering Prayer will resume on Tuesday, New Year's Day at 7 PM.

Please remember that the chapel is always open for private prayer.



BOOKWORMS Saturday, December 15 10:00 AM at the Hopkins'

Our selection for December is the New York Times bestseller To Heaven and Back by Mary C. Neal, MD. In 1999 in the Los Rios region of Southern Chile, orthopedic surgeon, devoted wife, and loving mother Dr. Mary Neal drowned in a kayak accident. To Heaven and Back is Mary's remarkable story of her life's spiritual journey and what happened as she moved from life to death to eternal life, and back again. We will have an excellent discussion I'm sure.

OUTREACH



**Come Ye *THANKFUL*
People, Come....."
And "come" you
DID!!!**

UNITED THANK OFFERING Fall Ingathering

It is obvious that counting our blessings is really a way of life at St. Dunstan's. With such joy we have opened your Blue Boxes and UTO Envelopes, and find that we can now forward to the Diocesan Coordinator a check in the amount of **\$2,120.59!!!**

It is a privilege to be your UTO representatives, and we will keep you informed about the grants which your generous contributions make possible.

Elizabeth Lee and Ellen Keck

NETSforLIFE Election Day Bake Sale

Many thanks to all who participated in the Election Day bake sale. We raised \$1504.21 for NetsforLife!

Since 2006, *NetsforLife®* has distributed over 8.5 million nets as part of its campaign to fight malaria resulting in less sickness, fewer deaths and stronger communities. Combined with the community education and net monitoring work of over 74,000 trained Malaria Control Agents, these nets have saved the lives of over 100,000 children under five and reduced the overall malaria-related death rate by 45% in communities where *NetsforLife®* is active.



**NEXT OUTREACH MEETING
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 4
6:30 PM**

SHARE

Holiday Wish List:

Donate Target, Wal-Mart, Macy's, Marshall's, Best Buy, grocery and/or other gift cards to help us fulfill wishes (\$25 value best)

OR

Fulfill a client's personally expressed "Wish." In addition to gift cards, there are specific gifts such as small appliances, linens, house wares, electronics, clothing and toys. They range in price from approximately \$25 - \$30. Every donation will be tagged for that specific individual. Please send an email to Sharewishes@gmail.com to obtain a wish to fulfill.

Cookies for Holiday Party:



Would you like to add a personal touch to the SHARE Holiday Celebration? Consider making some cookies

that will be served to our clients that day, Saturday, December 8 from 8:30 am until noon?

Make your favorite recipe! Please make the cookies small like those you would see on a "Cookie Platter" from a bakery. No fluffy or potentially gooey, messy frosting, please. Bring in disposable boxes or containers.

Delivery date is Friday, December 7, 11am-6pm at the Fellowship Hall, McLean Baptist Church, 1367 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Questions? Contact Anne at amspear@yahoo.com To sign up you may go to: <http://tinyurl.com/SHARECookies2012>

Thank you and have a Happy Holiday Season and Wonderful New Year!

SHEPHERD'S CENTER

Senior Citizens Being Served in McLean-Arlington-Falls Church

The first Shepherd's Center was created in 1972 by a Methodist minister in Kansas City, Missouri who was concerned by an aging population and what would be needed to allow seniors to age safely in place in their own homes. The minister knew there needed to be a support system for them to do that and he created the first Shepherd's Center. The Shepherd's Center of McLean-Arlington-Falls Church is among the newest centers and is providing services being requested by area seniors. Among the free services provided by a Shepherd's Center are transportation to and from medical appointments, companion shopping to the grocery store, pharmacy and other miscellaneous errands, friendly callers to homebound individuals for reassurance and friendly talks on a regular basis and handy helpers with minor home repairs, chore assistance and yard work. The Center also hosts what we call Lunch n' Life which are luncheons in various locations with guest speakers or musical entertainment. In the past several months, our client base has increased dramatically to almost 400 seniors and growing every day, especially in the southern part of our service area (south Arlington and the lower half of Falls Church). In addition, the center is in the process of a major expansion that will provide a larger variety of services to seniors and more volunteers will be needed to assist with those programs. Our greatest need now is to recruit new volunteers to take clients to and from medical appointments. PLEASE be willing to volunteer by calling the Shepherd's Center at (703) 506-2199.

PARISH REGISTER

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS



12/01 William Cunnion
12/01 Margel Prince
12/03 Adrianna Close
12/08 Wilson Buttz
12/08 Martha Doerflinger
12/12 Margie Cunnion
12/16 Kevin Dougherty
12/16 Mary Margaret Chalk
12/17 Ian Thompson
12/20 Kevin McCarthy

12/21 Brad Taishoff
12/23 Paul Loizeaux
12/24 Carolyn Dougherty
12/25 William Butcher
12/27 Jason Upp
12/31 Julia Irons
12/31 Dan Moore
12/31 Jeffrey Young

DEATH

Andrew Charles Seamans Sr.
Sept. 10, 1937—Oct. 6, 2012



BAPTISM

Toby William Russo
St. Dunstan's Episcopal
Church, McLean
Thanksgiving Day 2012

BIRTH

Nathan Jackson Newlun
Saturday, November 24

8 lbs 4 oz

Congratulations to Connor & Sara!

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

St. Dunstan's 2013 Calendars

The J2A group is very excited with the planning and preparation of their next fundraiser: the 2013 St. Dunstan's Calendar. These calendars will feature pictures of crosses found on the grounds of St. Dunstan's. Philip Chalk has contributed his exceptional artistic talents to this effort and the group is putting together a quality product that everyone will be proud to hang on their wall. The calendar will also feature inspirational messages on each page and will highlight special dates relating to our church life here at St. Dunstan's. We hope you reserve a special place on your wall for this special 2013 calendar and also help the J2A group!

Christmas Pageant

We are excited to present the "Good News with Great Joy" with additional instruments and singing this year. Our youth are looking forward to sharing their talents with you as they tell this wonderful story on Christmas Eve. Please come out and join us. Additionally, if you feel moved to

lend a helping hand, or have a youngster that would like to be part of the Pageant, please feel free to contact Gray (dce@stdunstans.net). We are always happy to welcome more participants.

Do-Your-Thing-a-Thon was a Huge Success!

The J2A group held its first fundraiser on 10 November 2012 and it was a huge success. Everyone who participated had a great time and the group raised \$800.00 for their upcoming pilgrimage. The group has selected the Grand Canyon as their pilgrimage site. Thanks to everyone who assisted with this activity.

Check out St. Dunstan's new Website

We are excited to announce that our website is live! The address hasn't changed – you can still find us at www.stdunstans.net, but we have several new features including access to sermons, a calendar, picture galleries, group pages and links to social media. Please

take the time to visit the site and share it with your friends. We welcome your feedback!

Directory Pictures

We will be taking pictures for the directory from 9:30 – 10:00 a.m. on the following Sundays: Nov. 25th, Dec. 2nd, Dec. 9th, and Dec. 16th. If you already have your own picture that you would like us to use send it to: office@stdunstans.net

Photo Release Form

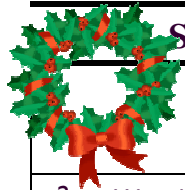
The Holiday Season is a time of many special events. Your child's pretty picture might end up in a photo we want to use on our website, or in a brochure, *but only if you say it's okay*. Parents please take a moment and review the policy on how we might use pictures of your children. Forms are found on the information table in the Vestibule

Journey to Adulthood Dates

Rite-13: Dec.2; Dec. 16

J2A: Dec. 9

YAC: Dec. 9 "Eat, Pray, Love" 6-8pm, Parish Hall; Dec. 16, following 10:15 service



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 9-Noon MYO/PH
2 Wreath Making Advent I 8:15 AM HE Rite I & Healing 10 AM Sunday School & Rite I 3 10:15 AM HE Rite I & Healing 11:30 AM Pageant Rehearsal/ UC 11:45 - 12:30 Choir II/Sanctuary	3 7 PM Young Adults Irelands 4 Provinces 7 PM Scouts #652/Parish Hall	4 6:30 PM Outreach Meeting/Common Rm. 7:00 PM Centering Prayer/ Chapel	5 10:30 AM Bible Study/CNF Rm. 6:15 PM EFM/Common Rm. 6:30 PM Bible Study/Seely	6 6:15 PM Joy Choir/PH 6:45 PM Praise Choir/PH 7:30 PM Praise Choir/PH	7 8:30 PM AA/ Common Room	8 10 AM-4 PM J2A Tree Sale 9 AM-1PM Parent's Day Out// Parish Hall 2: pm Supper Club/ Beauchamp Home
9 Craft Fair Advent II 8:15 AM HE Rite I 10:00 AM Sun. School & J2A 10:15 HE Rite II 11:30 AM Pageant Rehearsal/ UC	10 7 PM Scouts #652/Parish Hall	11 7:00 PM Centering Prayer/ Chapel 7:30 Vestry Meeting/UC	12 10:30 AM Bible Study/CNF Rm. Noon Lunch Bunch/TBD 6:15 PM EFM/Common Rm. 6:30 PM Bible Study/Seely	13 6:15 PM Joy Choir/PH 6:45 PM Praise Choir/PH 7:30 PM Adult Choir/UC	14 8:30 PM AA/ Common Room	15 9 AM-Noon-MYO 10:AM Bookworms/ Hopkins' Home
16 Advent III Lessons & Carols 8:15 AM HE Rite I & Healing 10 AM Sunday School & Rite I 3 10:15 AM HE Rite I & Healing 11:30 AM Pageant Rehearsal/ UC 11:45 AM Choir II/Sanctuary	17 7 PM Scouts #652/PH & Sanctuary Eagle Scout Ceremony	18 7:00 PM Centering Prayer/Chapel	19 10:30 AM Bible Study/CNF Rm. 6:15 PM EFM/Common Rm. 6:30 PM Bible Study/Seely	20 6:15 PM Joy Choir/PH 6:45 PM Praise Choir/PH 7:30 PM Adult Choir/UC	21 8:30 PM AA/ Common Room	22
23 Advent IV 8:15 AM HE Rite I 10:00 AM Sun. School 10:15 HE Rite II 11:30 AM Pageant Rehearsal/ Sanctuary	24 Christmas Eve 5 PM Pageant & HE Rite II 10:30 PM Carols & HE Rite II	25 Christmas Day 10:00 AM HE Rite II In the Chapel <i>Peace on Earth</i>	26 6:30 PM Bible Study/ Seely	27	28 8:30 PM AA/ Common Room	29
30 8:15 AM HE Rite I 10:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 HE Rite II	31	<i>Peace on Earth</i>				

CONTACT US
St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church
1830 Kirby Road
McLean, VA 22101

The Very Rev. Stephen G. Shepherd, Rector
Email: rector@stdunstans.net

The Rev. Anna M. Scherer, Asst. Rector
Email: ascherer@stdunstans.net

Web: www.stdunstans.net
Phone: 703-356-7533

St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church
1830 Kirby Road
McLean, VA 22101