



St. Martin's Episcopal Church

News and Announcements

December 14, 2016

"Sharing God's Love and Grace"

The Reverend Paulette Magnuson, Vicar

Dear folks,

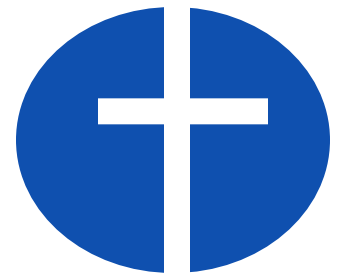
Several have asked why our church year (we call it our liturgical year) is divided into different seasons, the first being Advent, which begins the last Sunday of November. The beginning of the church year is a long way from Jan.1, the beginning of the secular calendar year. Here are a few reasons:

1. It reminds us that we as the church are a people set apart, and as such our lives aren't exclusively oriented around civic holidays and observances. We serve a higher throne, and our purpose in gathering isn't ultimately about nationalism, cultural pride, or sentimentality.
2. It distinguishes our holy days from secular celebrations. We enjoy Mother's Day, Father's Day, Fourth of July, Thanksgiving, etc, but again, we within the church serve a higher calling.
3. It organizes and shapes our lives around the Christian story, instead of the things the kingdom of the world holds valuable. Living by a gospel-centered calendar helps us to maintain our allegiance to Christ.
4. It unites us with the holy catholic (universal) church – past, present and future. Christ was crucified over 2000 years ago. We are part of a long faith tradition and one that has observed the Christian liturgical year in one form or another practically since the actual events themselves.
5. It disciplines us to linger in the valley instead of rushing toward the mountaintop. We need the anticipation of Advent to truly recognize the miracle of Christmas. We need to hear the voice crying in the wilderness that precedes the coming of the Savior. We need to follow Christ throughout his life and go to the cross with him. We are an Easter people, but Easter doesn't happen without the terror and anguish of Holy Week. And so we wait during Advent, the beginning of our year. We anticipate what is to come, and we move through the rhythm of the year as it happens.

During this third week of Advent I hope you will take time to ponder the church year that has begun. Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, and Ordinary Time – all those seasons lie before us as we wait for Christ's coming.

I look forward to being with you next Sunday, the fourth Sunday of Advent, when we light the candle of peace.

Blessings to you all,
MP+



December

Coffee & Conversations



Sundays 10am in the Parish Hall – Daily ADVENT readings and discussion

Coffee Hour Host
Sandwiches and Christmas cookies – bring a plate of sandwiches if you can.

Godly Play & Children's Chapel
Marla Spry and those helping with kids program

Nursery Volunteer
Shawna Moore & Sharon Schwang

Youth Group
The Youth are helping prepare for our Christmas program with the little ones. Thank you Erin, Liani, Cheyanne, Becca!

Scripture of the Month: Isaiah 7:14 "Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel.

“Leave fear for faith this Advent”



**Join us tonight for our third “Advent Wednesday.”
6:00-7:30. A light supper, A movie – HUGO –
A bit of discussion, and Compline by Candlelight.
Together we wait for the Christ Child.**

Guest Deacon Pat Henderson

This Sunday we will have a guest with us. My friend, Deacon Pat Henderson, previously serving at Grace Church Georgetown and now serving at St. Francis Church, Macon, Georgia, will be join me at the altar this Sunday. Watch closely to see some of the things a deacon is called to do.



THE GREENING (DECORATING) OF THE CHURCH IS UPON US!

Please stay after church and help us decorate the church. It always happens on the last Sunday of Advent, to prepare for Christmas Eve. We will set up and decorate the big tree and the children’s tree, hang the wreaths, change the altar linens, decorate the parish hall, et. Etc. Sandwiches and cookies provided!

***A BIT OF CLARIFICATION FROM MP+**

*If you would like time for a private conversation with me, whenever possible please make an appointment. I am in the office most Weds. and Thurs. from 11-3, or on other days if it is urgent. I am also always available for immediate pastoral care in the event of illness, hospitalization or death. I love sharing your thoughts and concerns, that’s part of my job as your Vicar, but I do appreciate having Sunday morning to see and visit a bit with everyone who comes during coffee hour. Thank you for your understanding.

*Another small but not so small thing. When we have guests, either at coffee hour or for a potluck or a reception, please allow our guests to go first in the serving line. Look around you and see who is a guest that day, and offer them this hospitality. It’s also a good thing for our children to learn, although I realize that is a bit harder at times.

Ministry:	Dec 18	Dec 24	Dec 25
Lay Eucharistic Minister (LEM)	Mary Greiner & Chrissy Tilson	Rob & Evi Endter	Rob & Evi Endter
1st Reader (OT)	Chrissy Tilson	Mary Greiner	Brittany Hernandez
2nd Reader (NT)	Dwight Gray	Open	Mary Greiner
Acolyte/Crucifer	Erin Friels & Liani Rivera	Erin Friels & Liani Rivera	Erin F & Liani R
Altar Guild	Evi Endter & Lynda Day	Evi Endter & Lynda Day	Evi & Lynda Day
Usher/Greeter	Albert Hernandez & Joyce Friels	Open	Open
Stewards	Marla Spry & Larry Magnuson	Open	Open
Nursery	Shawna Moore & Sharon Schwang	No Nursery	No Nursery
Children's Chapel/Godly Play	Marla Spry & Gracie Fiaoni	No Godly Play/ Children's Chapel	No Godly Play/ Children's Chapel
Vestry of the Day	Cameron Hernandez	Open	Open



Children’s program this Sunday! We are so excited for you to see the work the children and youth have been doing. Please join us as they present the Nativity Story during the 11:00 service.

If your child is in the program, please have them at church at 10:00. All children are welcome, whether they have been attending practices or not.

**REMINDER:
PLEASE IF ALL THE CHILDREN WOULD BRING A STUFFED ANIMAL SHEEP, COW OR DONKEY PREFERRED ALL ANIMALS ARE WELCOME TO BE PLACED AT THE MANGER THEY WILL ALL BE RETURNED SAFE AND SOUND.**



Thank you to Sharon Schwang and Angelica Cirittenden for handling the delivery of the Christmas hams to our school families. Thanks to the proceeds from our rummage sale, and the generosity of our congregation, we have provided Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners for 25 families in need.

Upcoming Events

- Dec 17 5 pm Bishop's Committee Christmas Meeting hosted by Mary Greiner and Steve Wallace
- Dec 21 Final Advent Wednesday 6pm
- Dec 18 Advent 4 Holy Communion 11 am and Children's Program
Decorate the church after the service
- Dec 24 7 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service with Holy Communion
- Dec 25 Holy Communion 11am No Sunday School
- Jan 1 Holy Communion 11 am No Sunday School
- Jan 8 Holy Communion 11 am All Parish Meeting & Potluck
- NA Meetings: Tuesday, Thursday 7pm-8pm and Saturday 12pm-1pm
- MS Meetings: 3rd Monday of every month 6pm-8pm
- KOB Meetings: 2nd and 4th Thursday of every month 7pm-8pm
- Girl Scouts: Friday 4pm-6pm

Meet the Church Staff

Vicar- The Reverend Paulette Magnuson
Office Clerk- Shawna Moore
Treasurer- Jocelyn Blackwell
Children & Youth- Marla Spry &
Brittany Hernandez
Nursery Staff- Shawna Moore
Altar Guild- Evi Endter and Lynda Day
Housekeeper- Chrissy Tilson

Bishop's Warden- Amanda Stockman
Junior Warden- Cameron Hernandez
Member- Mary Greiner
Member- Marla Spry
Member- Albert Hernandez
Musician- Larry Magnuson
Vocalist – Angelica Crittenden

St. Martin's Episcopal Church
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Copperas Cove, Tx 76522
254-547-0331 – if no answer please leave message

www.stmartinscove.org

Find us on Facebook - St. Martin's Episcopal Church Copperas Cove
Office Hours: Wednesday & Thursday 11:00-3:00pm



13-Marla Spry
17-Mary Ellen Jones
23-Chrissy Tilson
28-Dwight Gray
30-Cheyenne Guthrie

Prayer List



- Kathie Gluck
- Elizabeth Hoefert
- Alice Brunette
- Theresa Lyle
- Mary Ellen Jones
- Bobby Berkman
- Lanora Franck

**CHRISTMAS EVE
SERVICE: 7 PM
Punch and Cookies
afterward.**

**CHRISTMAS DAY
SERVICE: 11 am NO
SUNDAY SCHOOL**

**NEW YEARS DAY
SERVICE: 11 am NO
SUNDAY SCHOOL**



**We pray for our soldiers who
are deployed
Jenna Sieben
Alpha Ecalnea**

**DID YOU READ THIS FAR DOWN THE PAGE? LET MP+ KNOW IF YOU DID. TRYING OUT A NEW
FORMAT!**