



# The Fisherman's Net

## "Catch the Spirit"

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Advent

DECEMBER 2011

Christmas

**Pastor's Pen** *Fr. David Couper*

**Happy New Year!**

*[ADVENT: an arrival or coming, especially one which is awaited;  
from the Latin adventus.]*

In the definition for Advent we also see the root word in adventure. Of course, few of us see Advent as a time of adventure. Most commonly it is forgotten or ignored. After all, haven't we already heard the Christmas carols while we shopped this week? See the decorations? And Thanksgiving has yet to come. Nevertheless, Advent is the beginning of a new church year (that's the "Happy Birthday!") and I want to ask you to come on an adventure -- a time of preparation for something that may be long awaited. "Come, thou long expected Jesus..." Prepare for the Great Arrival, the Great Coming -- CHRISTMAS! Prepare and be prepared to question.

I know I am working cross-grain here, advocating against the culture which invades, surrounds, and nearly smothers us. But I will be brave. I will be courageous and invite you to join me for four consecutive adventurous Wednesday evenings beginning November 30<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. for a meal of soup and bread and stimulating discussion. The topic? "Spiritual Heroes: Women and Men on the Frontiers of Faith." It is part of a new, online church-group resource which works in conjunction with the popular radio program, "*Speaking of Faith*" with Krista Tippett, and produced by American Public Media.

During these four weeks, we will hear from a full spectrum of spiritual leaders with interviews ranging from well to lesser-known religious figures such as Joan Chittister, Jimmy Carter, Rumi and Thich Nhat Hanh; influences from Catholic to Protestant Christianity, Islam, and Buddhism. This is an opportunity for us to examine our own faith in an honest way. We will discuss faith along with doubt. And we can challenge ourselves with new thoughts on integrating unexpected non-Christian and right-brain practices — like meditation, dance, prayer and poetry — into our daily faith (remember last month's newsletter on Prayer Walking?).

Because this is Advent and because we are called to go outside ourselves, I would like you to invite a friend to this challenging event. It will be a time to break bread together, perhaps to meet new friends and explore our faith and faith-in-general.

Jesus told us to "go and tell." I think this is what he meant, not necessarily to ask someone to come to church (a very scary prospect for a non-believer), but rather, in the spirit of love and friendship, share a meal with others and explore spiritual ideas in a non-threatening environment. Proselytizing will not

permitted here!

This Advent, let's "be Jesus" to the world. We might be surprised at what may be birthed at Christmas when we do. See you on November 30<sup>th</sup>! And, remember, bring a friend.

The Sessions are as followings

Nov 30: The Private Faith of Jimmy Carter.

Dec 7: The Ecstatic Faith of Rumi.

Dec 14: Brother Thây: A Radio Pilgrimage with Thich Nhat Hanh.

Dec 21: Obedience and Action with Sr. Joan Chittister.

## 2 Samuel 7:1-17

*"My love will never be withdrawn from him.*

Everyone needs someone to love him or her without reserve, wholeheartedly and forever. The world would be made new if each person had at least one person who delighted in him, whose face lit up every time they met; someone who sees the good and the not-so-good in us, someone who rejoices in the good and knows the "bad" is not serious, knows the bad is outweighed by the good. Our world would be transformed if we all felt loved and accepted, if we dwelt in this love that gives us such joy, knowing it would never be withdrawn for bad behavior or caprice. This is the good news. God is sending his never-to-be-withdrawn love to all of us. It is arriving on Christmas Day, wrapped in saddling clothes and lying in a manger. This love will not come as an irascible prophet, prickly and angry all the time, but as God-Man—who will walk among us, seeing us as we are, loving us to the end and even beyond time. He will come as a baby and stay with us forever, giving us an example to follow. He will walk with us all the days of our lives, and then he will carry us in his arms and take us to his Father.

He is coming. He is coming to us. *-Seeing through God's Eyes, Daily Readings for Advent,*  
by Cynthia Caruso, 2009, Forward Movement - condensed

## Stewardship Prayer

O Lord, giver of life and source of our freedom, we are reminded by the Psalmist that yours is "the earth and its fullness: the world and those who dwell in it". We know that it is from your hand that we have received all we have, are and will be. Gracious and loving God, we understand that you call us to be stewards of your abundance, the caretakers of all you have entrusted to us. Help us always to use your gifts wisely and teach us to share them generously. May our faithful stewardship bear witness to the love of Christ in our lives. We prayer with grateful hearts, in Jesus' name. Amen

## Calendar & Times

|                           |         | <u>Scheduled Reader</u>     | <u>Altar Flowers</u>     |
|---------------------------|---------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Nov. 30, Wednesday        | 6:00 PM | Supper & Bible study        |                          |
| Dec. 4, Sunday            | 8:00 AM | Vestry Meeting              |                          |
| <u>Stewardship Sunday</u> | 9:30 AM | <u>Praise Eucharist</u>     | Pete Buerosse Greens     |
| Dec. 7, Wednesday         | 6:00 PM | Supper & Bible study        |                          |
| Dec. 11, Sunday           | 9:30 AM | Holy Eucharist              | Andy Marks Greens        |
| <u>Outreach Sunday</u>    |         |                             |                          |
| Dec. 14, Wednesday        | 6:00 PM | Supper & Bible study        |                          |
| Dec. 18, Sunday           | 9:30 AM | Holy Eucharist              | Katie Luedke Greens      |
|                           |         | Greening of the church      |                          |
| Dec. 21, Wednesday        | 6:00 PM | Supper & Bible study        |                          |
| Dec. 24, Saturday         | 7:00 PM | Singing of Christmas Carols | Poinsettias              |
|                           | 7:30 PM | Christmas Mass              |                          |
| Dec. 25, Sunday           |         | No service at St. Peter's   |                          |
| Jan. 1, Sunday            | 9:30 AM | Holy Eucharist              | Debbie Marks Poinsettias |

*The Holy Name of Our Lord Jesus Christ*

## Lessons for DECEMBER

|         | <u>1 Lesson</u>     | <u>Psalm</u> | <u>2nd Lesson</u>       | <u>Gospel</u>      |
|---------|---------------------|--------------|-------------------------|--------------------|
| Dec. 4  | Isaiah 40:1-11      | 85:1-2, 8-13 | 2 Peter 3:8-15          | Mark 1:1-8         |
| Dec. 11 | Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 | 126          | 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 | John 1:6-8, 19-28  |
| Dec. 18 | 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16 | Canticle 3   | Romans 16:25-27         | Luke 1:26-38       |
| Dec. 24 | Isaiah 9:2-7        | 96           | Titus 2:11-14           | Luke 2:1-14        |
| Jan. 1  | Numbers 6:22-27     | 8            | Galatians 4:4-7         | Philippians 2:5-11 |

## Remember in Your Prayers

*“And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he hears us: And if we know that he hears us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of Him” (1John 5:14-15)*

- \*Give thanks to God for sending us his Son at this Christmas time.
- \*Pray for the safety of those who will be traveling during the Christmas holidays.
- \*Keep Peg Leitgabel in your prayers as she receives treatments.
- \*Pray for peace and justice in **all the world**.
- \*Pray for the hungry, the jobless, the homeless and those who see no hope in their lives.
- \*Pray for our leaders, both national and local, to make good decisions.
- \*Pray for the Millennium Goals, especially to eradicate hunger and poverty by 2015.
- \*Pray for St. Peter’s and its families, for the present and the future, that we may grow in Christ and be his light to the world.
- \*Remember the members of the Prayer Circle in your prayers.

## The Spirit at Work!

- \*The next Vestry meeting is Sunday, December 4 at 8:00 am.
- \*Mark your calendars for **Stewardship Sunday, December 4!**
- \*We are asking everyone to bring a poinsettia to church on December 18 to “green” St. Peter’s. You pick the color: Red, pink or white. Many thanks!
- \*Thanks to all who helped clean-up St. Peter’s on Dungaree Sunday, Nov. 6. Special thanks to the Naze family for the wonderful lunch!
- \*Have you picked a Sunday to bring flowers for the altar? A NEW FLOWER CHART is posted on the Narthex Bulletin Board ! Pick your special Sunday to give thanks to God for a special celebration, memorial, or general thanksgiving.
- \*A NEW BREAKFAST CHART is also posted. It’s easy to do.... Ask a friend to help.
- \*Last month St. Peter’s donated \$140.25 to the North Lake Food Pantry!

## Greening of St. Peter’s—December 18

Please plan to stay after service on December 18 to decorate St. Peter’s for Christmas. We will put up our Christmas tree, wreaths, garlands, and place the poinsettias around the church. Please bring your poinsettias on December 18!

## Christmas Schedule

St. Peter’s Christmas Eve service will begin with singing some of our favorite carols at 7:00 PM. The Christmas Eve Mass will begin at 7:30 PM. There is no scheduled service on Sunday, December 25, Christmas Day. St. Peter’s will have regular service on New Year’s Day, January 1 at 9:30 AM.

## Nunsense”

Our outing to the Sunset Theatre in Elm Grove for their production of “Nunsense” is fast approaching. We are going to the 2 pm performance on Sunday, January 15, 2012. There is a sign-up sheet in the church narthex. The deadline to sign up, and payment, is due by Sunday, Dec. 18. Please make your checks payable to ‘Sheila Campbell’. The cost is \$15.00 per person. We will end the evening with an early dinner at Baker’s Square restaurant following the performance (cost of your dinner is NOT included in the ticket cost). Please let Sheila know if you will be going to Baker’s Square, so she can let the restaurant know how many people will be coming. Questions – call Sheila @262-691-4857.

## Let’s Celebrate!

### Happy Birthday

Dec. 2 John Ackley  
Dec. 10 Joshua Marks  
Dec. 11 Kathryn Medd  
David Abbott  
Dec. 12 Paul Mikulak  
Dec. 27 Eric Dyrud

### Happy Anniversary

Dec. 29 Rev. David Couper & Sabine Lobitz

## Christmas Outreach

At the November Vestry meeting the members voted to give North Lake Food Pantry \$120 to provide four (4) Thanksgiving dinners for their clients. It was agreed upon then that the Vestry would recommend to St. Peter’s parishioners the opportunity to reach out to those less fortunate at the pantry and provide a dinner as their Christmas outreach. SHARE is a food buying co-op which will supply the meals for the North Lake Food Pantry clients. For Christmas the meal includes: 6 lb. Boneless Honey Ham, canned pineapple, sweet potato casserole, dinner rolls, 8” apple pie, large fresh produce assortment which may include white potatoes, broccoli, carrots, apples, oranges, and additional seasonal produce. All this is included for \$30! You can even purchase a dinner package for your own family’s table. We will be gathering the **donation** checks on Sunday, December 11. Make checks out to North Lake Food Pantry. To purchase a Christmas dinner for yourself or a family in need, call 800-548-2124 or online at [www.sharewi.org](http://www.sharewi.org). Those orders MUST BE PLACED by November 29. SHARE has many other offerings year round which may interest you. Check the bulletin board in the narthex for more information.

## St. Peter’s ‘S.E.A.’ Change

The “S” is for STRENGTHEN MARRIAGES: The Marriage Course

Plan now for The Marriage Course! We will be offering it Sunday after worship beginning February 19th for seven weeks. We will begin with a light lunch, a presentation, and time to discuss the material with your partner. Remember, there is no group discussion or talking about your “stuff” during the course—that’s for you and your mate to do.

[http://www.alphausa.org/Groups/1000056818/The Marriage Course.aspx](http://www.alphausa.org/Groups/1000056818/The%20Marriage%20Course.aspx)

The “E” is for ELIMINATE PERSONAL DEBT : Financial Peace University

“Financial Peace University” is now online! While we don’t have enough folks to take the parish-based course, there is now a great alternative—the web-based version of Dave Ramsey’s life-changing course. The 16-week online membership allows you to take the class on your schedule—anytime and anywhere for \$79! See <http://www.daveramsey.com/fpu/online/>

The “A” is for ACTIVATE MEN: One Year to Live

“One Year to Live” Wisconsin men’s weekend retreats are scheduled for January 13-15 in Chetek, March 9-11 in East Troy, May 18-20 in Clintonville, and November 9-11 in Poynette. See more at <http://lutheranmeninmission.org/events/oytl.html>. If you have already attended a course think about how God may be calling you to serve on staff in 2012.

## The Anglican Digest

St. Peter's receives a copy of *The Anglican Digest* four times a year. You will often see articles in our newsletter from the *Digest*. It is a wonderful publication. St. Peter's parishioners may receive the publication for one year on an introductory offer. Are you interested? Please tell Mary Buerosse of your interest. Did you know that the Dean of Nashotah House, The Rt. Rev. Edward L. Salmon, Jr., is on the Board of Trustees of *The Anglican Digest*?

## Senior Warden's Reflection by Andy Marks

### *Have A Little Faith.*

It is that time again! The Christmas music has begun. In fact, on some radio stations, the old familiar songs began running two weeks prior to Thanksgiving. The TV commercials are in full swing and are trying once again to persuade us to make this the best Christmas ever by doing our shopping early and at their stores. To make life even easier, *Black Friday* has now been moved to Thursday night. The competition to get our dollars has never been greater. And while it seems most of us try not to get caught in this feeding frenzy, we get pulled in like we're in an undertow of a giant wave, all the while lamenting the loss of the true meaning of the holiday. Finding our way to a meaningful Christmas can be challenging, but part of the problem is that we tend to look in the wrong direction. By constantly focusing our attention outward at all the hoopla rather than searching the depths of our inner selves, we miss one of God's greatest gifts, *Faith*. In the end, faith is all we are left with and all we ever truly need. Faith, however, is illusive and needs to be developed and nurtured.

The greatest satisfaction I experience in teaching middle school mathematics at St. Joe's occurs with the students I've taught for two consecutive years. In my 7th grade Pre-Algebra class, students learn the basic concepts of Algebra and Geometry that are essential building blocks for a solid mathematical foundation. The next year in 8<sup>th</sup> grade Algebra, students begin to apply these concepts and explore more advanced and complex topics. As my students develop a proficiency in Algebra, I am amazed how far they have progressed over the two-year period. I am even more excited to see the high level of confidence they have achieved in their math ability without even being aware of it. I believe it's the same with faith. By being consistent in effort and desire, faith will grow. And the more effort we put forth, the more it will empower us, whether we know it or not. Ultimately the true meaning of Christmas will always be with us ..... if we have a little faith.

## The World of More

Christians are privileged to live in "The World of More". When God transports people from the darkness of sin "into His marvelous light" (1 Peter 2:9), a whole new life opens up. Romans 5 tells us of the *more* that we have in Christ: We have been "reconciled to God through the death of His Son" (v.10) and therefore have "peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ" (v.1). We have access to God and His grace (v.2). Rejoicing in trouble is possible because we understand that it's an opportunity to grow in character through trusting Him (v. 3-4). The Holy Spirit who lives in us pours the love of God into our hearts (v.5). And sin no longer has the same hold on us (6:18). As Christians, we have unlimited access to a real "World of More." Wouldn't it be selfish not to invite others to join us in that special world?

\*The birth of Christ brought God to man, but it took the cross of Christ to bring man to God.

\*Christ was born here below that we might be born from above.

\*The Light of the World knows no power failures.

## What We Sing: # 76 “On Jordon’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry”

This popular Advent hymn was presented to the British public under somewhat false colours. John Chandler (1806-1876), who translated it from the Latin, published it in 1837 in his *Hymns of the Primitive Church*. In fact, the original Latin hymn, ‘*Jordanis oras praevia*, is not from the early Church but dates only from the eighteenth century. ‘*Jordanis oras praevia*’ was the work of Charles Coffin (1676-1749) and first appeared in the *Paris Breviary* of 1736. Coffin was born in Buzancy in the Ardeens. He became principal of the College of Doimans-Beauvais in the University of Paris. He wrote more than 100 Latin hymns, several of which have been translated and have found their way into English hymn books. (This is the only hymn of his in our Hymnal.) John Chandler was educated at Corpus Christi College, Oxford and succeeded his father as vicar of Witley in Surrey. He collected and translated many hymns from the early Church. (Hymn # 124 “What star is this” was written by Coffin but altered by Chandler.) On Jordon’s Bank has been considerably altered by various hymnal editors, partly to bring the English words more into conformity with the original Latin text than was the case in Chandler’s rather free translation. The original hymn is below with the changes that we sing as noted:

On Jordan’s bank the Baptist’s cry  
Announces that the Lord is nigh;  
Come then and hearken, for he brings (awake and hearken for he brings)  
High tidings of the King of kings. (glad tidings of the King of kings)

Then cleansed be every breast from sin;  
Make straight the way for God within;  
Prepare we in our hearts a home, (and let each heart prepare a home)  
Where such a mighty Guest may come.

For thou art our salvation, Lord,  
Our refuge, and our great reward;  
Without thy grace we waste away,  
Like flowers that wither and decay.

Stretch forth thine hand, to heal our sore, (To heal the sick stretch out thine hand,)  
And make us rise and fall no more; (And bid the fallen sinner stand;)  
Once more upon thy people shine, (Shine forth, and let thy light restore)  
And fill the world with love divine. (earth’s own true loveliness once more.)

To him who left the throne of heaven (All praise, eternal Son, to thee,)  
To save mankind, all praise be given; (whose advent doth thy people free;)  
Like praise be to the Father done, (whom with the Father we adore)  
And Holy Spirit, Three in One. (and Holy Spirit evermore.)

Nearly all modern hymnals print the amended version of the fourth verse which was first used in *Hymns Ancient and Modern* in an effort by the compilers to follow Coffin’s original Latin words more closely.

## “Gladde Things” - Author Unknown

Of gladde things there be four,  
ay four:  
A Larke above ye olde nest  
blithely singing,  
A wild rose clinging in safety to a rock, a Shepherd  
bringing

A Lambe found in his arms,  
And Christmase Bells a-ringing

Good Tidings! Advent is a season abounding with symbolism. The poem called “Gladde Things” is a Christmas poem of centuries past. In truth, it reads almost like a fourteenth century Christmas card. However, a bit of ancient lore might help to give us a richer meaning of the words the author has written. After all, from a twenty-first century perspective, we might find ourselves wondering why the four things would include a bird, a flower, a shepherd, and bells.

To begin with, a lark is a bird which symbolizes merriment—as it was believed that the lark sang hymns at the gates of heaven. In fact, it was the lark that announced the coming of the day. Because of the bird’s boundless energy, it is said that lark is also the symbol of hope, happiness, and good fortune. Early Christians identified the five petals of the rose with the five wounds of Christ. On a side note, throwing rose leaves into an open fire is said to bring good luck. There can be no doubt that the Shepherd carrying a lamb in his arms is a symbol of Christ as the Good Shepherd, who brings salvation to all. Christmas Bells call people to prayer and worship and are used to remind us of heavenly things which reign supreme over the things of this world. Bells symbolize the joyful sending forth of the glad tidings of the good News. Knowing the symbolism of the four “gladde things” brings a deeper, richer understanding of the lovely poem. The same can be said of our Advent season itself. Immerse yourself into the symbolism of this holy season, and in so doing bring an element of mystery into your Advent experience, and deepen the joy of this holy time. -The Rev. Melanie L. McCauley, Zion

Charles Town, WV—via *The Anglican Digest*, Winter, 2011

