

The Messenger

December 2018 • Vol. XLII, No. 4

Advent Retreat Your Story and the Christmas Story

Saturday, December 8, 9am - 12:00noon
Led by Lynette Sparks, John Wilkinson

Christmas is a time for stories, and in our *Year of Stories*, we will use this time together to explore our own stories and how they connect to the story of Jesus' birth. In small and large groups, using scripture, music, poetry and prose, join us to help prepare your heart (and our world) for the coming of this good news.

In order to help in our preparation for food and materials, please **RSVP** to the church office by December 4.

Holiday Bell Choir Concert

Sunday, December 9, 4:00pm,
ROC SALT Center (68 Ashland at
Averill, in the South Wedge)

The Third Church Ringers, Celebration Ringers, Covenant Ringers, and Junior High Ringers will present a joint holiday concert. Enjoy an hour of holiday selections, both sacred and secular, in the beautiful setting of the ROC SALT Center building.

Hosted by the Friends of Historic Calvary-St. Andrews, the concert is free of charge; donations will be accepted to support this historic space.

December 24, 2018: 4:30pm, 8:00pm and 11:00pm

Christmas Eve

Festival of the Nativity 4:30pm in the Sanctuary

A candle-lighting service that tells the Christmas story through pageantry and song.

Communion Service 8:00pm in the Chapel

A candle-lighting service with Holy Communion

Service of Lessons and Carols

11:00pm in the Sanctuary

A service of lessons and carols that culminates with candle-lighting that welcomes in Christmas Day.

A Rochester Festival of Lessons and Carols recorded at Third Church last January will be broadcast on WXXI FM 91.5 at 11:00pm Christmas Eve, or can be streamed live at classical915.org.

Advent Living Waters Service

Note Location!

Monday, December 10, 7:00 p.m. at ROC SALT Center, 68 Ashland (at Averill)

Our Advent Living Waters Service — a service of contemplation and preparation featuring prayers and music — will be held this year at ROC SALT Center, the site of the former Calvary-St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church and the location of a new mission initiative of the presbytery supported by Third Church.

If you've never experienced this beautiful space, please join us, and invite a friend. In addition to music offered by our wonderful ensemble, the Celebration Ringers will be offering bell music for the season.

Street parking is available on Hickory or Averill; you may also park at Postler & Jaeckle, at the corner of South Avenue and Averill. Following the service, brief tours of the center will be available.



THIRD VOICE

Dear Friends,

Sometimes we hear the phrase “Christmas story” without fully grasping its significance. What a story it is!

SETTING: The wilderness, a journey, a barn/stable/manger

CHARACTERS: Mary, Joseph, an angel, then some more angels, shepherds, the Magi, innkeeper, all those animals, and countless other onlookers

PLOT: You know it, but think about it...an unexpected pregnancy, a perilous journey, an unlikely birth amidst difficult circumstances – fear, joy, uncertainty, deep faith

If you were to tell the story to a stranger, or a child, or a Christmas “veteran,” how would you tell it? What details would you emphasize? Where would your voice reflect one emotion or the other?

And this question, which is an ongoing question in our Year of Stories – where do you see yourself in the story? Are you one of the shepherds who received the good news? Are you one of the angels who praised God? Are you a wise man, or woman, journeying to see this baby? I know we really can’t be Mary or Joseph, but for literary sake, are we one of them, and if so, what are we feeling and experiencing?

This seems obvious to say, but worth saying, that the Christmas story did not end with the birth of the Christ child. In many ways, it began there and continues to unfold in profound ways even as we prepare for Christmas 2018. And rather than observing how it unfolds, we are characters in the story. We are stewards of the good news, and our central task, perhaps the central task of faith itself, is to enact the



Christmas story, to embody the good news of what the theologians call “incarnation” in our daily lives.

So a different question, not so much where do you find yourself in the Christmas story, but how does the Christmas story get lived out in your life? How do you embody the joy and peace and hope and love of the season? When you encounter people each day, how do you reflect this unlikely narrative? When you think about the challenging issues we face in our communities and nation, how do you reflect the unlikely, unexpected news of the birth of the Christ child? Not whether, but how?

Third Church will offer many ways to enter the story in this holy season. That starts with Sunday worship, of course. It will include classes, retreats, concerts. It will also include opportunity to share your time and financial resources. I do hope you will get involved as you can, to let the power of the Christmas story work its wonder on you.

Bonny, Kenneth and Ann join me in wishing you and yours a joyous Christmas and every blessing in the New Year. May you find yourself in the story and be transformed by it, so much so that you are emboldened to share it with a world hungry for its hope.

Faithfully,

Worship Schedule

DECEMBER 2

First Sunday of Advent

Communion, People’s Emergency Fund

8:30am Worship in Chapel

10:45am Worship in Sanctuary

Jeremiah 33:14-16

"A Family Story"

John Wilkinson preaching

DECEMBER 9

Second Sunday of Advent

8:30am Worship in Chapel

Communion

10:45am Worship in Sanctuary

Luke 3:1-6

"John’s Story, Part I"

John Wilkinson preaching

DECEMBER 16

Third Sunday of Advent

8:30am Worship in Chapel

Communion

10:45am Worship in Sanctuary

New Members received

Gloria in D by Antonio Vivaldi

Luke 3:7-18

"John’s Story, Part II"

John Wilkinson preaching

DECEMBER 23

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Christmas Joy Offering received

8:30am Worship in Chapel

Communion

10:45am Worship in Sanctuary

Luke 1:39-55

"Mary’s Story"

John Wilkinson preaching

DECEMBER 24, CHRISTMAS EVE

4:30pm Worship in Sanctuary

Festival of the Nativity

8:00pm in the Chapel

Communion Service

11:00pm in the Sanctuary

Service of Lessons and Carols

DECEMBER 30

10:45am Worship in Sanctuary

A Service of Lessons, Stories and Carols

Milestones

Lifting up Our Joys

Marriage

Hope and Ken Herting on the marriage of son, Cullen to Alyssa on October 28, in Apache Junction, AZ

Birth

Mandy and John Agins on the birth of Samuel Agins on November 3. We celebrate with grandparents **Jane and Mark Carden!**

Praying for the Bereaved

For Sue, **Dave, Callan, Mich and Ty Joseph** on the death of Dave's father Richard Joseph on October 21.

For **Jack Mould, Ann McMican and Leah Mould** on the death of Jack's mother Marilyn Mould on October 23.

For **Becky, John, David and Ethan Meyers** on the death of Becky's father David Wilbur on October 21.

Bruno, Pati, Benjamin and Nicholas Primerano on the death of Bruno's father Domenico Primerano on November 13.

For **Vernie Grammer and family** on the death of her sister, Helene Fuller on October 7.

Christmas Baskets

It's that time of year again – Christmas Basket sign-ups! Please come by the Christmas Basket table each Sunday to sign up to purchase, pack, and deliver a Christmas Basket for local families from schools #3 and #35 and RAIHN graduates. Monetary donations can also be made to purchase gift cards that accompany each basket. We also will be collecting girls' and boys' undies, socks, and tights, and all sizes mittens and hats for the children from both schools and RAIHN.

For more information, please feel free to contact Meg Bishop at margo2587@aol.com or 864-423-7069.

Next Exploring

Membership Luncheon Sunday, December 9, 12:00pm in Johnston Hall

If you are new to Third Church and would like to know more about us, or are interested in exploring membership, we invite you to our next Exploring Membership Luncheon. You can bring your questions, get to know our pastoral staff, and meet other folks new to this place. Our conversation is informal, and emphasizes the many ways to connect. Childcare is available; please let us know in advance if you need it. Our luncheon conversation will conclude by 1:30pm. For those that are ready to join in membership, the next step is a New Member Gathering offered that same afternoon following the luncheon from 1:30-2:30pm, or can be arranged at another mutually convenient time.

To **RSVP** or learn more, contact Lynette Sparks (271-6537, ext. 106 or lsparks@thirdpresbyterian.org).

Advent Wreath Making Sunday, December 2 following the 10:45am Worship Service in the Celebration Center

Please join us to create a wreath to use for family devotion in the home during the season of Advent.



Intergenerational Advent Gatherings

As part of the Qabats program, we are inviting interested congregation members to join us for the three Wednesdays of Advent (December 5, 12, and 19) for a shared meal and community time with Qabats. Our time together will center on "The Story of the Nativity" focusing on the story, songs, and devotions of this season of preparation.

John Wilkinson and Becky D'Angelo-Veitch will lead our interactive time together. Those not participating in children's choirs on Wednesday nights should arrive at 6:00pm for dinner and community building activities lasting until 7:15pm. Although we would love to have people with us for all three weeks, please feel free to join us as you are able.

There is a suggested donation of \$10 per person to cover the meals for those three weeks, but all are welcome. To help us plan for food, **RSVP** to Becky D'Angelo-Veitch at rveitch@thirdpresbyterian.org or 271-6537, ext. 118 (walk-ins are always welcome).

Christmas Decorations

If you would like to make a donation to help support the cost of our Christmas decorations, please send your check to the church office marked "Christmas Flowers" and note clearly the names that should be included in the Christmas Eve bulletin.

I would like this gift to be:

- In loving memory of: _____
- In honor of: _____
- In celebration of: _____
- A donation from: _____

The deadline for receiving donations is Friday, December 14.



**Adult Spiritual Formation:
A Year of Stories**

Sunday Seminars

Sundays at 9:30am, Johnston Hall

December 2 – The Spirituality of the Enneagram, Susan Rupp

December 9 – Prayer, Beth Struever

December 16 – The Story of Bethlehem Today, Susan Orr, Stated Clerk, Presbytery of Genesee Valley

December 23 – The Christmas Pageant (A Reading) – Mary DuBois

December 30 – See you on January 6!

Living in the Word:

**Bible Study in Community
Sundays at 9:30am, Parlor**

December 2 – Advent 1

Thessalonians 3:9-13 and Luke 21:25-36

Led by Ernest Krug

How do we remain hopeful in difficult times? : Stories of faith

December 9 – Advent 2

Philippians 1:3-11 and Luke 3:1-6

Led by Paul Gongloff

What is repentance really all about?: Stories of turning

December 16 – Advent 3

Isaiah 12:2-6 and Luke 3:7-18

Led by Dianna Daunton

How do our lives reflect the love of God?: Stories of showing God's face

December 23 – Advent 4

Hebrews 10:5-10 and Luke 1:39-45 (46-55)

Led by Ernest Krug

Our songs of praise for what God has done: Stories of praise

December 30 – See you on January 6

Thursday Voices:

12:00noon, Johnston Hall

December 6 – led by John Wilkinson

December 13 – led by Lynette Sparks

December 20 – led by Ernest Krug

December 27 – See you on January 3

Welcome New Member Profiles

Sarah McPike: Sarah is mother of two amazing boys, Logan, 20 and Maddox, 10, and sometimes plays Mother Hubbard to her neighbor kids Bisi, Desire, Ezeriaha, and Seun, bringing them to church! Sarah loves costuming and fashion design, and has been with Geva theater for about 11 years. She's a full time barber at the Gentlemen's Barber here in Rochester, and enjoys '40s and '50s culture, music, fashion, and cars (she used to own a '57 Chevy). Sarah says she looks forward to her time and service spent at Third Church and meeting and getting to know everyone.



Sarah McPike

Eleanor Hopke: Eleanor and her husband retired from Clarkson University in Potsdam and moved south to Rochester a year and a half ago. She says it was a great decision for them, and they are enjoying the local arts and music opportunities. At Third Church, Eleanor enjoys the Thursday Voices discussion group, and says she is trying her best to keep up with the Celebration Ringers!



Eleanor Hopke

Sarah Pisaniello and David Markakis: Sarah and David are engaged to be married next summer!

Sarah began attending Third Church after she moved back to Rochester, having first come here as a student and graduating from the University of Rochester. She loves to cook, camp, read judicial opinions, and hang out with her cat, "Wishful Thinking." Sarah works at Willow Domestic Violence Center on their development team.



Sarah Pisaniello and David Markakis

David is an avid musician (you can spot him in the choir!), a chess player, (retired) Quidditch player, and a social justice student. He works as a Data Quality Analyst at Measures for Justice, a nonprofit that collects data on the criminal justice system nationwide. David grew up in Rochester and hasn't escaped yet!

Ronald and Sharon Greaves: Ronald and Sharon came to Third Church after the closing of their previous congregation, Laurelton United Presbyterian Church, this past spring.

Ronald was born and raised in Brooklyn, NY. He spent most of his life in education as a teacher and administrator. Ronald loves reading and long walks in the park.

Sharon has lived her entire life in Rochester and was a lifelong member of Laurelton Church. She is a retired high school math teacher, and enjoys gardening, knitting, and cooking.



Ronald and Sharon Greaves

Children's Ministry News

Becky D'Angelo-Veitch, Children's Ministry Coordinator, 271-6513, ext. 118, rveitch@thirdpresbyterian.org or **Mary Ann Rutkowski**, Associate Director of Music, 271-6513, ext. 101 or mrutkowski@thirdpresbyterian.org

Children's Ministry

In **Sunday School** this month, we will be studying the prophecy from Micah and the Christmas story as told in Luke.

The **Worship Table** schedule is as follows:

- **December 2** – Communion Sunday – no class is assigned to the table
- **December 9** – 1st - 3rd grade
- **December 16** – Special Music – no class is assigned to the table
- **December 23** – 4th - 5th grade
- **December 30** – **no Sunday School** – all children welcome at the table. Nursery care will be available.

Qabats in December will be fully intergenerational! See article on page 3 for details.

Annual Junior Choir Cookie Sale

December 16 after 10:45am Worship

Come one, come all to coffee hour on Sunday, December 16! Junior Choir members will be hosting their annual cookie sale, which benefits the Children's Music Fund. This will help fund our spring choir trip, as well as future events like Camp Cory. \$5 suggested donation per plate of cookies. We are grateful for your support!

The B.E.A.T. BOX (Building Excitement at Third)

Jane Carden, Youth Ministry Coordinator, 271-6513, ext. 107 or jcarden@thirdpresbyterian.org, www.thirdchurchofthelake.org
Peter DuBois, Director of Music, pdubois@thirdpresbyterian.org

Christmas at

Cameron

The congregation is invited to join youth in supporting Cameron Community Ministries this Christmas



season. Specifically buying gifts for Cameron youth!

Gifts should cost \$15 - \$20, and be appropriate for boys or girls ages 13 - 18.

Suggested gifts: Sports jerseys/clothing, Baseball hats, handheld electronic games, Mp3 players, headphones, sunglasses, posters, movies, makeup, nail polish, hair accessories, jewelry, room decorations, personal care gift sets (Axe, Bath and Body Works, etc)

All gifts should be UNWRAPPED and can be left in Jane's office.

LAST DAY TO DONATE GIFTS IS: Sunday, Dec. 9 at YOUTH.

SAVE THE DATES - February 17-23, 2019

Intergenerational Mission Work Trip

Join us during February Break Week to the Coastal Bend of South Texas to assist our neighbors whose lives were upended by Hurricane Harvey. This trip is being jointly sponsored by the Outreach and Youth Committees. More specific details will be coming soon.

For more information, contact Lynette Sparks at lsparks@thirdpresbyterian.org or 271-6537, ext. 106.



Third Presbyterian Church
Stewardship 2019

Heartfelt thanks to all who have made a pledge to support Third Church in 2019. If you have not yet made your commitment for the year ahead, don't worry—it's not too late. Please remember the place that Third Church has in your life, and the important role it plays in the community, as you prayerfully consider your pledge. There are many ways to make your commitment:

- **Complete a pledge card** (if you do not have the one that was mailed to your home in November, you can pick one up in the church office), and return it to the church office
- **Send a confidential email** to Carol Foster at cfoster@thirdpresbyterian.org.
- **Make a pledge online** at bit.ly/pledgetothirdchurch

Know that no pledge is too small, and that every dollar makes a difference. If uncertainty about the future is holding you back, know that we understand that circumstances sometimes change—there are no punishments if you are unable to fulfill your pledge as you originally intended.

In the weeks ahead, look for updates about Stewardship 2019 participation and progress toward our goal in the *Messenger* and online. Your generosity sustains the worship, outreach, and fellowship of Third Church. Thank you.

Ann Haag Remembers the Sanctuary Fire

Almost 30 years ago, there was a devastating fire in the sanctuary that destroyed the chancel. I was serving on Session at the time, and I joined the Restoration Committee that formed in the fire's aftermath.

Fire Chief Huether shared with Session that when the firemen had arrived, the fire was very close to a "flashover." To fight that would have required either putting a hole in the roof or knocking out some of the windows. Since his sister was a nun he recognized the value of the windows, and told us he would have opted for the roof. The Chief also showed us a paper collar and string from a candle which had been picked up from the Arnold Park balcony. There was no wax at all—it had been liquified and completely absorbed into the seat cushion.

The week after the fire we had a communion service. I can still picture the blackened hole where the pulpit and organ had been. I also remember the smell of smoke that permeated everything. For weeks the odor soaked into my clothes every time I went to church, even though we were worshipping in the Celebration Center during the entire reconstruction period.

The Restoration Committee met weekly during the rebuild. We were lucky with the timing—because it was winter, we were able to have two crews working back-to-back for a total of 16 hours a day. We were also lucky that the original drawings for the pulpit were still in the archives and that the master woodworker who rebuilt it had just retired and had time to devote to the project.

The committee set an ambitious goal to return to the sanctuary by Easter. Amusingly, Choir Director Ted Hollenbach did not trust our deadline estimate, and opted not to have the Chancel Choir prepare the Hallelujah Chorus for Easter because he thought it would sound bad in the Celebration Center, and he assumed we would still be worshipping there despite the aggressive work schedule of the repair crews. As it turns out, we returned to the Sanctuary early, on Palm Sunday. I call that chapter of our story "the Twelve Week Miracle."



The Season of Giving

The close of 2018 is upon us, and it is time to start wrapping up the year. One of the many things on the to-do list is year-end finances. Have you made all the charitable contributions you planned to in 2018? Are you using the new tax laws regarding itemized versus standard deductions to their best effect?

Another task for many of us in this season is gift-giving. Have you considered offering a gift to people in need? Conversely, are you struggling to find something for the person who has everything?

A donation to Third Church can fill all these needs. A contribution made before the end of the year will be fully deductible on your 2018 taxes. Your gift will support the mission and ministries of the church, including those that serve our neighbors and friends: Dining Room Ministry, Food Cupboard, Christmas Baskets, Tutoring, Children's Arts and Enrichment, RAIHN, and more. You can make your gift in honor of the person on your list who is impossible to shop for, or in memory of someone close to them.

In the next week, you will receive a letter and email offering you the opportunity to help Third Church close out the year on firm financial footing. May the sharing of your gifts bring you much joy.

Generosity UPDATE

In addition to contributions toward your stewardship pledges, this month you offered gifts and donations:

In Memory of Ronald Jones.

Your contributions through **Meals with a Meaning** raised over \$8,300 for the church.

Your participation in the **East Avenue Grocery Run** generated over \$44,000 from registrations, donations, and sponsorships. This funding will help to support 26 hunger programs in the Rochester area, including our Dining Room Ministry and Food Cupboard.

You donated \$1,228 for the **People's Emergency Fund**, which provides assistance to people who come to the church seeking help to prevent evictions and utility shut-offs. We will hold the next special offering for the People's Emergency Fund on December 2, 2018.

You also donated \$645 to the **Peace and Global Witness Offering**, which addresses systems of injustice across the world and here at home.

Through a generous gift of an appreciative Third Church family, the **Third Presbyterian Church Choral Scholars Fund** has been established to help support the vital contribution of our choir soloists and section leaders.

Thank you for your generosity.

Third Church Staff Profile

Name: Jane Carden, Youth Ministry Coordinator

Joined Third Church staff: Fall 2007

My earliest memory of church is... an Easter service with the troops when my father was stationed in Heidelberg, Germany. It was held in a large hangar so there was no organ, but a few of the soldiers played guitars and violin. I remember being enthralled with the beauty of the sound as it bounced off the metal sides of the building.

My favorite place to visit...Siesta Key, FL or on the Oswegatchie River in the Adirondacks. I do my best thinking and recharging on the water.

My favorite food is...fresh strawberries.

My favorite movie or TV show is...Dances With Wolves. My all time favorite TV show is definitely M*A*S*H, but currently I'm really enjoying The Crown.

My favorite hymn is... "Still, Still, Still," a Christmas hymn that used to play on our revolving Christmas Tree stand when I was young. It always brings warmth in to my heart.

My favorite trait about myself is...I don't give up. Well at least not very often.

My "go to" scripture passage is...Psalm 150: 6, "Let everything that has breath, Praise the Lord." Years ago I saw this passage carved into a large cross that was at the top of a Colorado mountain. It centered me then and it centers me today.

I sensed a call to do what I'm doing...when I least expected it! When my daughters were in middle school my church asked me to consider taking the position of Christian Education Director. My first answer was "no thank you!" but at the urging of friends I reconsidered. Thank you for the nudge, Dodie Kasiske!

If I weren't doing what I'm doing, I'd be...a nurse, but I've always wanted to breed dogs.

One thing I like about my work at Third Church is...the kids! They are remarkable, exceptional, incredible, amazing young people who care deeply about their world and their neighbors. They fill me with hope for the future!



Third Presbyterian Church



THIRD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

- **John Wilkinson**, Pastor
- **Lynette K. Sparks**, Associate Pastor
(Outreach and Evangelism)
- **Ernest F. Krug**, Parish Associate
- **Peter A. DuBois**, Director of Music/Organist
- **Mary Ann Rutkowski**, Associate Director
of Music
- **Alden Wright**, Assistant Organist
- **Rebecca D'Angelo-Veitch**, Coordinator of
Children's Ministry and Congregational Life
- **Jane S. Carden**, Coordinator of Youth Ministry
- **Rachel Norton**, Director of Stewardship,
Development, and Communications
- **Roderic P. Frohman**, Pastor Emeritus

To reach any of our staff, call Third Presbyterian Church at (585) 271-6513



9th Annual East Avenue Grocery Run a Huge Success



Thanks to our wonderful volunteers, runners, walkers and sponsors, the East Avenue Grocery Run raised nearly \$45,000 for local food pantries! These funds will cover expenses for our Third Presbyterian Church Dining Room Ministry and Food Cupboard, and provide much-needed support to 26 other hunger programs in our area.

Our 9th annual event attracted 1,229 registered participants, who contributed more than 2,200 pounds of food to our Foodlink Food Drive!

This race comes together each year because of your generous support through hours, donations and participation. Thank you for helping us create such a fantastic day and helping put our faith in action.

Special Music Sunday

December 16 at 10:45am

The Chancel Choir, Soloists, and Orchestra will offer the sparkling and brilliant Baroque masterpiece *Gloria in D*, RV 589 by Italian master, Antonio Vivaldi (1678 - 1741). Featured soloists will include Heather Holmquest, soprano, along with mezzo-sopranos Megan Graves and Caroline Nielson. Additionally, as Prelude that morning, Assistant Organist Alden Wright will be joined by the orchestra in the *Organ Concerto in F*, Op. 4, No. 4 by George Frideric Handel. Two Baroque gems to inspire us as we continue our Advent preparation for the birth of the Christ Child.

Not a great deal is known about Vivaldi's life, at least in comparison to what is known of other musical giants of the eighteenth century. He was famous and feted during his lifetime both for his virtuosity as a violinist and as a composer. Toward the end of his life, however, and soon after his death, he and his music passed into a state of neglect – not unlike what happened to the music of J. S. Bach following his death. After almost a century, many of Vivaldi's works were rediscovered almost as a byproduct of the rediscovery of the works of J. S. Bach that was occurring in the mid-19th century. It is no wonder then, in light of this circumstance that the first modern performance of this *Gloria in D Major* did not occur until 1939! And in the ensuing 80 years, it has grown to be one of the most popular Baroque works for chorus and orchestra.

Support for Special Music presentations is provided in part by the Lois V. Parker Special Music Fund. A Special Music Offering will also be received that morning to fully fund this presentation.