

# The Bells of St. Giles

St. Giles  
Episcopal Church  
Northbrook, Illinois

Volume 57 Issue 11  
December 2011

## Please Join Us!



**Lessons & Carols:** Sunday, December 18 • 4:00 PM

**Christmas Eve:** Family Eucharist • 4:30 PM  
Special Prelude Music • 10:30 PM  
Festival Eucharist • 11:00 PM

**Christmas Day:** Holy Eucharist, Rite 1 • 10:15 AM  
(spoken service —  
with sermon, hymns & carols)

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## Our Schedule

### Sundays

Holy Eucharist Rite I 8:00 AM

Christian Formation 9 AM

Holy Eucharist Rite II 10:15 AM

### 3rd Sundays of the Month

Healing & Anointing  
at both services

## 'The Irrational Season: Advent in Art, Word & Music'

**TUESDAY • DECEMBER • 13 • 7:30 PM**

Join the Rector for an evening of exploration — as we look at the ways in which writers, musicians, and artists have interpreted the meaning of Advent, this wonderful season of expectation. The prophecies, the annunciations to Zechariah and Mary, Mary's visit to Elizabeth — all have captured the imaginations of creative minds over the centuries. Sign up in the narthex. We'll meet in the multipurpose room of the education building. Dessert will be served!



**St. Giles  
Episcopal Church**

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Northbrook, IL 60062  
Phone: 847-272-6622  
Fax: 847-272-7664  
[www.saint-giles.org](http://www.saint-giles.org)

**Office Hours**

Monday: By appointment  
Tues-Thurs: 9 AM - 2 PM  
Friday: Office closed

**Vestry**

Bill Perley,  
Senior Warden

George Miller,  
Junior Warden

Ellie Bonebrake

Jim Brooks

Cindy Conrad

John Hanzel

Curt Jones

Martha McGuire

Gloria Simon

Nancy Stoddard

Linda Williams

Tracey Solano, Clerk

Gloriann Harris, Treasurer

Ned Libby, Bookkeeper

Tom Page, Parish  
Chancellor

**Staff**

The Rev. Cynthia J. Hallas  
Rector

The Rev. Lee Gaede  
Deacon

The Rev. Belinda Chandler  
Assisting Priest

Jim Brown  
Director of Music

Esther Freilich  
Parish Administrator  
[admin@saint-giles.org](mailto:admin@saint-giles.org)

The "Rector's Reflection," usually found here, returns in January. This month's offering is from the Rev. Belinda Chandler, who served as Priest-in-Charge during the Rector's sabbatical.

## Advent Meditation



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

*Then the angel departed from her. (Luke 1:38)*

During the season of Advent we rejoice in the call and response of Mary. When God's messenger was sent, she was open to receive him. She accepted the challenge of the unknown, leaving security behind. She trusted God to provide for and shelter her on her journey. Mary is the faithful one who believed that the promise made to her by the Lord would be fulfilled. She is a model for us as we prepare to receive the Lord.

This Advent season, take some time to reflect on Luke 1:26-56. Use the following meditation to guide you as you ponder the Scripture:

Mary, Mother of God, you risked saying yes to being pregnant with the Holy One.  
*May I also overcome my fears and take the risks that spiritual growth requires of me.*

Mary, Mother of God, you offered the hospitality of your womb as a dwelling place for God.  
*May I continually open the womb of my heart to all who need a welcome there.*

Mary, Mother of God, you awaited the long nine months of the child's gestation.  
*May I wait patiently when spiritual growth seems to come far too slowly.*

Mary, Mother of God, you did not know how the birth of your child would affect your life.  
*May I trust in God's presence to protect and guide me when I face uncertainty.*

Mary, Mother of God, you cared for and nurtured the divine life within you.  
*May I daily do the same through prayer and right action.*

Mary, Mother of God, you experienced the pain of contractions as you birthed the Holy One.  
*May I have the courage to bear the pains of my inner growth.*

Mary, Mother of God, you found kinship with your pregnant cousin Elizabeth.  
*May I recognize the Elizabeths who sustain and encourage me.*

Mary, Mother of God, you felt the child within you stirring and kicking.  
*May I deepen my awareness of God's stirrings in the midst of my life.*

Mary, Mother of God, when the divine child pushed forth from your womb he uttered his first cry.  
*May I believe in the goodness within me that is yet to resound.*

Mary, Mother of God, the newly born child in your arms engendered awe, mystery, and wonder.  
*May I, too, reverence and be awed by the way the Holy One enters my life.*

During this season of Advent, may God guide you as you follow the example of Mary.



## December Birthdays/Anniversaries

### Birthdays:

- 1 Erick Cerveny
- 2 Margaret Pearson
- 4 Merlin Lehman
- 5 Lynne Adams
- 8 Warren Pearson
- 10 Coleman Solano

### Anniversaries:

- 10 Bob Robinson & Ellie Bonebrake
- 27 Tom & Cindy Conrad  
Belinda Chandler & Henry Austin
- 28 Tom & Mary Grant



## Where Love Is

At a Vestry meeting earlier this year, during a period devoted to bible study, I made the comment, "I am reminded of that short story by Tolstoy whenever I come upon this particular passage." I looked around and was greeted with a table of blank stares. I continued: "'The Guest,' one of his short stories, incorporates the passage." Not a glimmer of recognition. It would have taken too long to elaborate, so I let it drop.

A few weeks later, a member of the Vestry approached me saying that he had looked for the story I mentioned and hadn't been able to find anything. Hmm... I tried to look it up on line and eventually found it, but under the title "Where Love Is, There God Is Also." I write this to you now, in the December *Bells*, because although the passage in question is not one we would call a Christmas passage, Tolstoy's story is set at Christmastime.

I found two translations. The one I prefer begins: "In the city lived Martin Avdeich, a shoemaker." The story runs about 10 pages, too long to be copied into an issue of the *Bells*, so I leave it to you to find it, either on line or in a library. When you have found and read the story, you will also have found out the passage. Happy hunting. (I will have a few copies printed and set out in the narthex.)

— Bill Perley  
Sr. Warden

## December Lectionary Readings

### December 4 (Advent 2)

Isaiah 40:1-11  
Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13  
2 Peter 3:8-15a  
Mark 1:1-8

### December 11 (Advent 3)

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11  
Psalm 126  
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24  
John 1:6-8, 19-28

### December 18 (Advent 4)

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16  
Canticle 15  
Romans 16: 25-27  
Luke 1: 26-38

### December 24 (Christmas Eve)

Isaiah 9:2-7  
Titus 2:11-14  
Luke 2:1-14  
Psalm 96

### December 25 (Christmas Day)

Isaiah 62:6-12  
Titus 3:4-7  
Luke 2:8-20  
Psalm 97

Have YOU  
gotten your flu shot yet?

### Parish Register

Burial —  
Helen Louise Neaylon  
November 11, 2011



## 'Tis the Season

I'm sorry to report that our St. Bede's Library has only one volume devoted exclusively to the present church season. But it's an interesting book, so let's take a look. *Advent: Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord*, by Molly McConnell (call number 263/MAC), is a slender volume (119 pages) illustrated with black-and-white drawings and some wonderful antique woodcuts and engravings. Although meant mainly for children, it is worthy of adult attention, too, especially if your knowledge of what Advent is all about is a bit wobbly.

The first section covers Advent customs: advent wreaths, advent calendars (and how to make them), the crèche, Christmas trees, gift giving, and caroling. The second section discusses Advent's saint days: Andrew the Apostle (November 30); Nicholas — of course! (December 6); Ambrose (December 7); Lucy (December 13); and Thomas the Apostle (December 21). The third through sixth sections of *Advent* provide readings for each day of the season's four weeks. The readings include Biblical quotations, prayers, and hymns. The book's final section is what we've all been waiting for: "Christmas Is Here."

Here, in part, is what the book has to say about Saint Lucy: "St. Lucy's name, from the Latin word for light, *lux*, makes her a special Advent saint whose feast points toward the coming light and love in our lives at Christmas. ... There are legends [about Lucy] that have produced many beautiful customs, especially in Scandinavia. One of them, well known in Swedish families, is the celebration of her feast day by proclaiming the youngest daughter the Lucia Queen. On the morning of the feast day, she wears a white gown and crown of lighted candles. ... " I first learned of that custom when I was a young editor working on an article about Sweden. I was told to write a caption for a photo I was given; it showed a teenage girl wearing a headful of candles. What, I asked myself, is THIS? I soon found out, and I've carried an image of that photo around in my head ever since. It pops up every year at this time.

As for Saint Ambrose, the one whose life is celebrated on an unfortunate day (December 7), you'll have to see the book to learn about him. If the line into our St. Bede's Library is too long, you can get it from Amazon.com for \$9.95, the same price we paid for it 20 years ago.

— Doug Downey

## Music News

### CHRISTMAS LESSONS & CAROLS

**Sunday, December 18, at 4:00 PM**

One of the most glorious services of the year is the perfect time to invite family and friends to join you at this special retelling of salvation history and the Christmas story. The choir has been working many long hours to prepare a beautiful selection of music — interspersed with hymns and carols for all to sing. This year, the choir will offer music by Bach, Handel, Roland Martin, and Peter Warlock as well as carol arrangements by John Rutter and David Willcocks.

### CHRISTMAS EVE

**Saturday, December 24, at 4:30 PM**

This less formal Family Eucharist will include many of the more familiar Christmas carols for all to sing. Instrumental musicians of all ages are invited to come play on the carols. Please see me if you are interested.

### CHRISTMAS EVE

**Saturday, December 24, at 10:30 PM**

The choir will offer selections from the Christmas portion of Handel's *Messiah* during this special prelude to the 11:00 p.m. Festival Eucharist.

### CHRISTMAS DAY

**Sunday, December 25, at 10:15 AM**

Familiar Christmas hymns and carols for all to sing!

— Jim Brown  
Director of Music



## Poetry Musings

This poem explores what waiting for the Christ child might have been like for Mary and Joseph. What was it like for them as a young couple? What was it like for them individually? How did the momentous message given to Mary weave through the anxious but exciting experience of waiting for a baby to be born? The poem asks gentle questions, sometimes touched with humor, that bring together our waiting in Advent with Mary and Joseph's waiting during the weeks before Jesus was born.

Kathryn Cramer Brown is a poet and artist who lives in Harrisonburg, Virginia.

— Linda Williams

### To Bethlehem

I have a question, God . . .  
Did confidence fill  
every space in Mary  
not occupied by child?

*Were there no tears*  
which Joseph dried with  
homespun cloth and silly jokes  
about the situation God  
had put them in . . .

No panicked moments when  
the resources of the flesh  
grew weak and the donkey's  
ride was harder than expected . . .

Were there moments when  
belly laughs acknowledged  
the return to willingness to  
entertain a dream . . .

Did Mary always know  
or with every step  
did she need to say again  
"Here am I, Servant of the Lord."

— Kathryn Cramer Brown

*This poem has also been included in a booklet of Advent readings that is available to parishioners during the Advent season.*

## Junior Warden's Report

In 1966 the Beatles came out with a hit song titled "Eleanor Rigby." It's a bleak tune featuring a chorus about lonely people with no place to call home. Eleanor Rigby died in the church, and nobody came to her burial. Fr. Mackenzie walked away from the grave, and no one was saved. Whenever I hear the song, it makes me think about our faith.

I thought about this song last month. It was one of those cold gray November Sundays, and I was returning to St. Giles around 1:30 in the afternoon to spread wood chips in the community garden. As I pulled into the parking lot, one of our fellow parishioners was loading up her car and locking the church doors after having prepared for and then hosted coffee hour. This was at least an hour and a-half after the service was over. (I guess "the service" never really ends, but that's a different topic.) I had been at coffee hour, and it was obvious she had spent a lot of time and effort in preparing and presenting a large amount of delicious food for us. And now, much later, she had cleaned the narthex and was packing up by herself.

As I worked in the garden, another one of our fellow parishioners showed up by himself and went to work in the memorial garden. He spent about two hours, some of it on his knees, planning and preparing a resting spot for someone's ashes. I tried to give him a hand, mostly just holding one side of the measuring tape we used to find the right spot for the ashes.

I know both of these people and so do you. I consider myself lucky whenever I get a chance to talk with them. I know our church, our faith, and what it does for us. So I have to ask: Are we alone? Can we be saved?

Yours in Christ,  
George Miller  
Jr. Warden

## MEN'S BOOK CLUB MEETING

Tuesday, December 13

7:00 PM

The Landmark Inn  
Shermer Road, Northbrook



## 'The Great Awakening: A Different Road Home' January 6 & 7, Rosemont

Does the idea of religious "revival" scare you just a bit? Do you think such a thing doesn't jive with Episcopal sensibilities? Are you afraid the Church's best days are behind it? Well, think again! Bishop Jeffrey Lee invites all members of the Diocese to join him, along with pre-eminent religious author/scholars Diana Butler Bass (*A People's History of Christianity*) and Brian McLaren (*A Generous Orthodoxy*) as we celebrate our identity as a hopeful, faithful people. Worship will be planned by Dent Davidson, Diocesan Missioner for Liturgy and the Arts. This is an extraordinary opportunity to experience joyful liturgy, hear world-renown speakers, and exchange ideas with others in the diocese. Let's get a large group from St. Giles to attend! Indicate your interest by signing up in the narthex or speaking with the Rector. For more information, visit [www.seaburynext.org](http://www.seaburynext.org) or call Ruth Frey at 847-328-9300, ext. 56.



— an open invitation to —

### The Great Awakening: A Different Road Home (Epiphany 2012)

Come celebrate with Chicago Bishop Jeffrey Lee and eminent authors Brian McLaren & Diana Butler Bass as they light fires, issue permission slips, and dismiss fears about the church's future. It's all part of The Great Awakening, and it's a festival you don't want to miss.

**When:** Evening of January 6; party continues the morning of January 7

**Where:** Crowne Plaza Hotel O'Hare  
5440 N. River Road, Rosemont

**Cost:** \$25 per person/ \$100 for a group of 5;  
register at [www.seabury.edu/events](http://www.seabury.edu/events)

This is not a spectator sport! With worship planned by renowned liturgist Dent Davidson, the program will include energetic presentations, a special Eucharist, and time to think, pray, discuss, and get on with the business of shouting our joy.

*Sponsored by Seabury and the Episcopal Diocese of Chicago.*



#### Bishop Jeffrey Lee

Lee, who was consecrated as Bishop of Chicago in 2008, is author of *Opening the Prayer Book* in the New Church's Teaching Series and is a member of the faculty of the CREDO Institute.



#### Brian McLaren

McLaren is an author, speaker, and leading spokesperson for the emergent church movement. He was called one of America's 25 most influential evangelists by *Time* magazine.



#### Diana Butler Bass

Bass, a church historian, writer and much sought-after speaker, is the author of numerous books, including *The Practicing Congregation*, *A People's History of Christianity*, and *Christianity for the Rest of Us*.



# ST. GILES EPISCOPAL CHURCH ~ DECEMBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				<b>1</b> Extraordinary Kids, 9:15-Noon  Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 PM	<b>2</b> <b>Office Closed</b>	<b>3</b> Campanella Choir 9 AM – 4 PM  Overeaters Anonymous 10:30 -11:45
<i>Campanella Choir uses the church Sundays, 5 - 8 PM</i>						
<b>4</b> <b>2 Advent</b> 8 AM: Holy Eucharist, Rite I 9 AM: Formation 10:15 AM: Holy Eucharist, Rite II	<b>5</b> <b>Office Hours by Appointment</b>	<b>6</b> Campanella Choir, 6 - 8 PM	<b>7</b> Extraordinary Kids, 9:15 AM- 2:45 PM  Campanella Choir, 6 - 8 PM	<b>8</b> Extraordinary Kids, 9:15-Noon  Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 PM	<b>9</b> <b>Office Closed</b>	<b>10</b> Campanella Choir 9 AM – 4 PM  Overeaters Anonymous 10:30 AM-1 PM
<b>11</b> <b>3 Advent</b> 8 AM: Holy Eucharist, Rite I 9 AM: Second Sunday Breakfast 10:15 AM: Holy Eucharist, Rite II	<b>12</b> <b>Office Hours by Appointment</b>	<b>13</b> Cathedral Shelter Pick-Up  Campanella Choir, 6 - 8 PM  "Advent in Art, Word & Music," 7:30 PM	<b>14</b> Campanella Choir, 6 - 8 PM  HRN Director's Meeting, 6:30 PM	<b>15</b> January <i>Bells</i> Submissions Due  Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 PM	<b>16</b> <b>Office Closed</b>	<b>17</b> Campanella Choir 9 AM – 4 PM  Overeaters Anonymous 10:30 -11:45 AM
<b>18</b> <b>4 Advent</b> <b>Healing &amp; Anointing</b> 8 AM: Holy Eucharist, Rite I 9 AM: Formation 10:15 AM: Holy Eucharist, Rite II Lessons & Carols, 4:00 PM	<b>19</b> <b>Office Hours by Appointment</b>	<b>20</b> Campanella Choir, 6 - 8 PM  Vestry Meeting, 7:30 PM	<b>21</b> Campanella Choir, 6 - 8 PM	<b>22</b> Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 PM	<b>23</b> <b>Office Closed</b>	<b>24</b> <b>Christmas Eve</b> 4:30 PM — Family Eucharist  10:30 PM — Special Prelude Music  11 PM — Festival Eucharist
<b>25</b> <b>Christmas Day</b> 10:15 AM — Holy Eucharist, Rite I  (spoken service, with hymns & carols)	<b>26</b> <b>Office Closed</b>	<b>27</b> Campanella Choir, 6 - 8 PM	<b>28</b> Campanella Choir, 6 - 8 PM	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> <b>Office Closed</b>	<b>31</b> Campanella Choir 9 AM – 4 PM  Overeaters Anonymous 10:30 -11:45 AM



St. Giles Church  
3025 Walters Avenue  
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[www.saint-giles.org](http://www.saint-giles.org)

Look for us on Facebook!

Time-Sensitive Material



## From the Deacon's Desk



Since Bishop Jeff arrived, the deacons of the diocese have been encouraged to issue a charge to the Diocesan Convention and to the Diocese. The first year, we challenged the people of God in this diocese to supply mosquito nets to fight malaria. Thousands were assisted. The next year, the challenge was for school uniforms, which would allow children who live on less than a dollar a day in places world-wide to attend school. Once again, the generosity of the diocese was overwhelming. Last year, we urged the people of the diocese to learn about the water needs of our brothers and sisters around the world and then purchase shares in the creation of clean water systems.

The deacons have issued yet another charge this year, but this year we are working locally. Each parish that has a deacon will have the direct involvement of the deacon in leading the effort. We are charged to give the Gift of Warmth to the homeless and hungry in our local communities, by providing new socks, hats, gloves, and scarves either directly or by contributing \$10 which we will use to purchase these items in bulk. This is a year-long effort.

As you all know, I am still pretty new to the Northbrook community. Rather than rushing in, I would like to receive suggestions for places to send our contributions. Please e-mail me at [leegaede@aol.com](mailto:leegaede@aol.com) with your ideas. One suggestion I have already received would be to take these items and perhaps some "pop top" foods to the homeless "village" in the Wheeling Forest Preserve. We can also probably work with Northfield Township Food Pantry. I am also sure the Hunger Resource Network will have some ideas for us. But let's all get creative, and let's all get involved. I plan to kick off the contribution phase on Sunday, January 1. Perhaps we can help to make 2012 a little happier and easier for our homeless and hungry brothers and sisters. If you have questions or want to volunteer, e-mail me or give me a call.

In Christ's Service,  
Lee Gaede (847-702-0891)