



# Cross & Crown

News of the Ministry & Mission of R. E. Lee Memorial Church, 123 W. Washington St., Lexington, VA December 2007

## Sundays in Advent

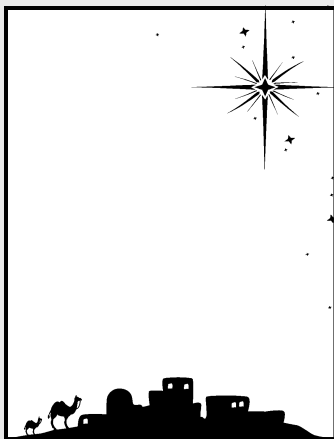
During the Sundays in Advent, we will continue to celebrate Rite I at the 8 a.m. service and Rite II at 10:30. On Dec. 2 & 9, there will be special music at the 5 p.m. service.

## Christmas Eve

5 p.m.  
Children's Pageant  
and Holy Eucharist, Rite II

10:30 p.m.  
Musical Prelude

11 p.m.  
Festival Holy Eucharist  
Rite I



## Christmas Day

10:30 a.m.  
Holy Eucharist, Rite I

### Parish Office Closing

The Parish Office will be closed from Christmas Day through January 1. It will reopen on January 2.

## From the Rector...

"Buddy, it's fruitcake weather!" signaled for Truman Capote the annual commencement of a magical, memory-filled tradition with a spinster cousin. As Christmas approached each year, Capote (Buddy) and his "friend" set about to make fruitcakes as gifts. *A Christmas Memory* is a powerful story because it evokes the power of memory woven about tradition.

Growing up, my family had many Christmas traditions, some seemingly handed down by our parents: searching the woods for cedars from which to harvest decorating greenery; buying our Christmas tree on the 23rd and decorating it on Christmas Eve; my Father reading on Christmas Eve *The Defective Santa Claus* (a cute story of a father's ill-fated efforts to have a "real" Santa visit his home); our stockings being left at the foot of our beds "by Santa" Christmas morning (which we eventually realized was mostly about our parents getting a few extra winks before all joy broke loose!); always having a Christmas fire roaring in the living room whether or not the weather warranted one.

Some traditions we children developed: while searching the woods for greenery also cutting a small pine to decorate as the children's tree downstairs; stringing a small tree in the yard with festive lights (a project that grew and grew with the tree over the years!); wishing aloud every Christmas Eve that it would snow that night whether or not the weather warranted such a wish.

And some traditions were personal, such as helping my Step-Grandmother make her famous cheese straws and my being inspired one year by my Mother to actually *make* some gifts rather than just buy them all.

Christi and I have established some Christmas traditions for our family: cutting our own tree and decorating it the day after Thanksgiving, making gifts for family and friends, baking *potica* (an Old Country pecan filled pastry), giving the children a Nutcracker each Christmas, exchanging keepsake tree ornaments, having a fire whether or not the weather warrants one.

I'm looking forward to learning about and experiencing the Christmas traditions of R.E. Lee Church: the special music on the First Sunday of Advent, the holiday outreach to those in need, the children's Christmas Pageant, the Midnight Mass.

Traditions make and nourish memories that strengthen relationships, deepen love, and enrich meaning in our lives. Christmas itself is a tradition through which Christians keep alive the memory that "God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son." What are your Christmas traditions? Hold to them, add to them, and share with one another the memories that these traditions evoke and preserve.

## Notes on the Season from Daniel

On Sunday, December 2, the First Sunday of Advent, the choir and guest musicians will offer Bach's famous Advent Cantata 140 "Sleepers, wake!" as part of the 10:30 service.

I love that phrase, "Sleepers, wake!" It catches me off guard when I get too caught up in my own projects (which is most of the time!). In Advent those words work themselves into my consciousness and pop up at odd times, saying – wait a minute; take a deeper look. There is so much beauty, so much love around us.

Look! Listen! As the chorale says,

*No eye has known the sight, no ear heard such delight...*

If you'd like an easy Advent meditation take a look at Hymn 61, the chorale on which the Cantata is based. It is a beautiful text based on Matthew 25:1-13, the parable of the bridesmaids, and a wonderful way to begin the church year.

I hope the cantata will be a meaningful wake-up call this Advent!

Guest musicians joining the Parish Choir on December 2 will be Stephanie Shaner, soprano; Benjamin Weil, baritone; Linda Douglas, violin, and James B. Stewart, cello.

### **Christmas Choir**

The Parish Choir would like to invite guest singers to join us for the Christmas season. The choir practices Thursday nights through December, and we are hoping that some of you who cannot come year-round will consider singing for Christmas.

### **5:00 Advent services (December 2 and 9)**

Singers and instrumentalists are invited to help with the music these two Sunday afternoons. We'll have a variety of traditional and new Advent carols and songs.

*Questions? Call Daniel Brinson at the Parish Office, 463-4981.*

**St. Francis Choir (2nd grade – middle school)**

December 5 at 3:15, Rehearse at Trinity Methodist

December 12 & 19 at 4:30, Rehearse at R. E. Lee Church

**God's Children Sing will not meet during December**

## Christmas Eve Pageant Rehearsals Scheduled!



The children of our parish will present a pageant at the 5 p.m. service on Christmas Eve. There will be three rehearsals:

*Sunday, Dec. 16*

during the 9:15 Sunday School time

*Sunday, Dec. 23*

during the 9:15 Sunday School time

*Christmas Eve at 3:30*

During the Christmas Eve rehearsal, children will get their costumes.

Out-of-town guests and those who can't attend rehearsals are still invited to join us on the 24th. There will be a place for everyone!

Youth and adults are welcome to help with pageant preparations.

Our thanks to Anna Staton for once again serving as our pageant director! If you have questions, contact Anna at 261-1735.

## **Communion Instruction for Children**

Our Rector is offering Communion instruction for children of the parish age four and up. If your child is now taking communion or if you would like them to begin taking communion, you are invited to come with them to take part in this session.

The instruction will be offered on Wednesday, Dec. 19, at 4 p.m. in the church. Please call or e-mail Kay in the Parish Office if you'd like your child to participate ([hornerk@releechurch.org](mailto:hornerk@releechurch.org) or 463-4981).

### **IN THE PARISH REGISTER**

#### *Baptisms*

Albert Jenner Lewis III, son of Amber & Jay Lewis

Helen Aurelia Simpson, daughter of Peter and Laura Simpson

## **Glorious Gifts**

The 11th annual "Glorious Gifts, a Marketplace for Missions," will be held from noon until 2 p.m. on Sunday December 2 and 9 in the Fellowship Hall of Trinity United Methodist Church. (Please enter the church via the doorways in either the back parking lot or the side alley.) Agencies represented this year will be Habitat for Humanity, Heifer International, Hospice, Project Horizon, The Free Clinic, RARA, RATS, and the Society of St. Andrew. Celebrate the true meaning of giving at this time of the year, as we celebrate God's greatest gift to us – the birth of His Son!

## ECW Advent Luncheon

Tuesday, December 11 at Noon  
Lexington Country Club

*All the women of the church are invited to join us for this parish tradition of delicious food, lively company, and music of the season hosted by the Episcopal Church Women.*

*Daniel Brinson, our choir director and organist, will present the program for our entertainment.*

*Your check for \$16 is your reservation. Send it to ECW treasurer Laura Stearns, 7 Houston St., Lexington, no later than Friday, Dec. 7*

### Bazaar Update

The annual bazaar was a splendid success thanks to the efforts of so many who pitched in with time and talent!

The ECW will meet on Tuesday, Dec. 4, at 10 a.m. in the Conference Room to hear the report of the Annual Bazaar proceeds and to make preliminary plans for the 2008 budget.

### Poinsettias and Memorials



In celebration of the nativity of our Lord, we make our church festive with poinsettias and greens. To participate in this effort, make your check payable to R. E. Lee Church, mark it "Flower Fund," and drop it in the collection plate or mail it to the Parish Office. If you would like, you may list a memorial with Kay Horner in the Parish Office no later than Sunday, Dec. 16 (hornerk@releechurch.org or 463-4981).

### Youth Gatherings

**Middle School Youth, Sundays at 6:30**    **High School Youth, Tuesdays at 6:30**



### The Kitchen—it's Done!

Hallelujah! At long last the kitchen in the Parish House is completely refurbished and newly equipped with all stainless steel cabinets, a new upright freezer and new ice maker, as well as a new floor, new ceiling and new lighting. It is bright and cheery and we extend thanks to Molly Brown, Sarah Lanford, Elise Sprunt, the Property Committee, and others who planned this process so well, and to Tom Hart, who served as general contractor for the project.

We also offer special thanks to all those whose contributions helped to make this possible, and remind everyone that further contributions would be most welcomed.

The Vestry and the Property Committee are working on a plan for oversight, maintenance, and procedures for use of the new kitchen. Instructions for operating the dishwasher are posted in the kitchen.

The kitchen now has an ice machine, so there is no need to buy ice. The icemaker is located in the alcove between the kitchen and the Parish Hall where the upright freezer previously stood.

To avoid clutter on counters, please take your dishes home with you. Dishes that are to be picked up at a later date should be stored under the counter.

### Christianity and Culture

**Sundays at 9:15 in the Parish Hall**

December 2

*No program due to Annual Parish Meeting*

December 9

*Kafka, the Absurd, and the Question of God*  
Roger Crockett

December 16

*Kafka, the Absurd, and the Question of God*  
Roger Crockett

December 23 & 30, No program.

January-June 2008

*"Good & Evil in the Garden of Eden:  
Sexuality, Moral Freedom,  
and Human Nature."*  
Led by Tom Litzenburg

# Serving in December

## Readers and Chalicists

### **December 2**

- 8:00 Hank Humphreys, Sarah Lanford, Penny Henneman, Rob Apgar, Punky Dod  
10:30 Dane Boston, Alice Furgerson, Buster Lewis, Pat Gibson

### **December 9**

- 8:00 William McCorkle, Gerry Locher, Holt Merchant, Hank Humphreys, Pam Simpson  
10:30 Farris Hotchkiss, Ellen Ivy, Mary Webster, Buster Lewis, Clara Belle Weatherman

### **December 16**

- 8:00 Russell Knudson, John Milford, Sharon Massie, Sharon Peters, Hank Humphreys  
10:30 Bill Noell, Steve Riethmiller, Holt Merchant, Renae Patrick, Gloria Smitka

### **December 23**

- 8:00 Rob Apgar, Sarah Lanford, Pam Simpson, Gerry Locher, Sharon Massie  
10:30 Alexandra Brown, George Brooke, Doug Ayers, Mary Doyle, Alice Furgerson

### **Christmas Eve**

- 5:00 TBA  
10:30 William McCorkle, Judy Glick, Holt Merchant, Peter Fyfe

### **Christmas Day**

- 10:30 Chalicists: Renae Patrick, Melissa Cox

### **December 30**

- 8:00 Holt Merchant, John Milford, Rob Apgar, Punky Dod, Hank Humphreys  
10:30 John Campbell, Dan Coffey, Roger Crockett, Peter Fyfe, George Brooke

## Lemonade Brigade

- December 2 Wally & Dot fogo  
December 9 The Webster Family  
December 16 TBA  
December 23 TBA  
December 30 Anne Lamont

## Acolytes

### **December 2**

- 8:00 Walker Cross  
10:30 Brittigan Coffey, Talmadge Coffey, Thomas Bartenstein

### **December 9**

- 8:00 Will Shehan  
10:30 Marshall Walden, Forrest Walden, Matt Hinks

### **December 16**

- 8:00 Marshall Walden  
10:30 Joe Crittenden, Condé Crittenden, Mary Lawrence

### **December 23**

- 8:00 Walker Cross  
10:30 Grier Cross, Sydney Cross, Kris Hoolahan

### **Christmas Eve**

- 5:00 Marshall Walden, Forrest Walden  
10:30 Joe Crittenden, Condé Crittenden

### **Christmas Day**

- 10:30 TBA

### **December 30**

- 8:00 Jacob Lawrence  
10:30 Will Shehan, Anne Tatum Wright, Madison Wright

## Greeters at 10:30

- December 2 Steve & Peggy Riethmiller  
December 9 Louis and Katherine March  
December 16 Steve and Susan Lawrence  
December 23 John and Drusie Milford  
December 30 Wally & Dot Fogo



## **Kids' Night Out**

Friday, December 7  
6 to 9 in the Parish Hall

Crafts and activities for the kids!  
Time off for the parents!

*There is no charge, but please bring a food donation for the RARA Food Pantry. To reserve a place for your child in December, please contact Susan Lawrence at lawrences@rockbridge.net.*

**To Those Who Serve:** Our thanks to all who serve during worship. If you find you cannot serve on the date assigned, please secure a substitute and notify Kay in the Parish Office, 463-4981 or [hornerk@releechurch.org](mailto:hornerk@releechurch.org).

*Bishop of the Diocese*

The Rt. Rev. F. Neff Powell

*Rector*

The Rev. F. Thomas Crittenden

*Director of Music:* Daniel Brinson

*Parish Administrator:* Kay Horner

*Treasurer:* Buddy Atkins

*Financial Secretary:* Anita Ramp

*Volunteer Coordinator:* Lynne Lorrier

*Sexton:* Connie Bryant

*Clergy Associates:* The Rev. John A. Furgerson;

The Rev. Dr. Thomas V. Litzenburg; The Rev.

Dr. Jackson P. Hershbell; The Rev. Dr. Robert

Crewdson

**Vestry 2007**

Buddy Atkins

George Brooke III

Molly Brown

John Burleson

Roger Crockett

Susan Cross

Libby Cumming

Bridget Kelley-Dearing

Bob de Maria

Bob Glidden

Cindy Mullen

Woody Sadler

Brian Shaw

Gretchen Walden

Jonathan Webster

- 1 Jake Lawrence
- 2 Martha Apgar  
Laura Lanier  
Gloria Smitka  
Robert Tharp
- 3 Meg Mason  
Tyson Wilson
- 4 Lynne Gilbert  
Ed Kritzer
- 5 Adelaide Simpson
- 6 Anna Crockett  
Howard Pickett
- 8 Aminee Roberts
- 9 John Knapp  
Gretchen Walden
- 10 Sis Warner
- 11 John Smitka
- 12 MJ Mayerchak
- 13 Anne Lamont
- 14 Kelcy Brewbaker  
Robin Eddy

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- 15 Stan Kruger  
Jay Lewis  
Carol Woodcock
- 16 Kay Pless
- 19 Merce Brooke  
Roger Crockett
- 20 Sarah Massie  
Mary Curtis Stolarz
- 22 Mac Gilliam
- 23 Chris Russell
- 25 Pat Bury
- 27 Joy Harris
- 28 Eve Macheras
- 30 Maggie Lawrence  
Jake MacDonnell  
Jay Sailer
- 31 Jeanne Day