



# ST. AIDAN'S STAG & STAFF

*St. Aidan's mission: To grow as a faith family so that everyone will experience God's love.*

DECEMBER 2020

VOLUME XXV NUMBER 12

## Christmas Services

### Christmas Eve

Drive-in Service

3:30 pm Christmas Music

4:00 pm Eucharist

### Christmas Day

Recorded Service

Available from 8:30 am



## St. Aidan's Season of Light

### Wednesday Evening Taize Services – December 2, 9, 16

An opportunity to step out of the anticipated December rush and discourse of COVID to have a time of quiet reflection on the meaning of this season. The Advent Taizé services will be recorded live each Wednesday of Advent at 7:00 pm, and posted online at [facebook.com/staidanshartford/live](https://facebook.com/staidanshartford/live).

### Advent Boxes

Each household will receive an Advent Box, delivered before Thanksgiving. The box will have an advent calendar, activities, and prayers for each week of Advent.

### Longest Night Church Visit - Monday, December 21

Lanterns are traditionally burned on the Winter Solstice to symbolize the light within each of us and to bring light to the longest night of the year. Families will be asked to return the white paper bag luminarias [from the Advent Box] to church and place in the container at the front door of the church before December 21. The luminarias will be lit outside on this evening and the church decorated for visiting by appointment. Watch the ENews for information.

### "Blue Christmas" -- Wednesday, December 23

This service acknowledges the "blue" feelings we have at Christmas time. For many who have lost a loved one, this is a time of sharp loneliness. For others, who have lost a relationship, health, a job, or had a financial setback it may be a time of pain, confusion, or fear. This is not a joyous season for everyone. More information about this service will be in St. Aidan's ENews.



## St. Aidan's

## CHRISTMAS COOKIE SALE

To order by

# DECEMBER 1

call Linda Weber --

262 442 3364

**Bakers and decorators are also needed. Let Linda know if you want to help.**

**See poster on page 6!**

**Please post on your social media!**



Alice's springerle -- what's your specialty?



It's official!



Intrepid priest and usher -- what winter weather? It's Wisconsin!



The view from the vehicles.



Dear Friends,

For most of my adult life, I have lived on an academic calendar, preparing for students returning for classes in the fall, engaging in learning experiences with them through final exam period in the spring, and reading the names of the senior class at graduation. I enjoyed working with faculty members during in-service sessions as we planned for the coming academic year. I realize that I am just programmed to live in a cycle of time and perhaps that is why the sacred cycle of the church year gives me a sense of groundedness and security.



As we come to the close of this church year, I am remembering how COVID-19 shaped the Lenten and Easter seasons, and the very long "season after Pentecost." This has been a time of uncertainty and adjustment rather than a time of participation in the death, resurrection, and life of Jesus Christ. It seems that the usual timing of our lives has been interrupted and the signposts are unclear. We have been separated from one another and we may also feel separated from the continuity of the sacred cycle

... the sacred cycle of the church year gives me a sense of groundedness

that roots us in our Christian tradition. I believe that what feels most acute during this time of heartbreaking loss is our connection with the transcendent, which is why our participation in online and "distanced" Advent gatherings this year is so important. We can continue to make the Christian story our own by remaining open to the holiness of the season, as these new formats fuse liturgy with the celebration of living.

We all miss the joy of gathering, sharing our experiences, and knowing that others in our faith community are traveling this journey with us. As we now observe the daylight hours growing shorter, and we anticipate a Wisconsin winter, I pray that we will enter this season of Advent holding fast to the roots of our Christian tradition. Let us remember that at our baptism we were programmed to live our lives according to sacred time and we can remain hopeful in the promise that Christ brings true light into our lives. We will soon celebrate the anniversary of Christ's birth and in a real sense we can begin to participate in this real event. These are our signposts.

I encourage you to participate in *St. Aidan's Season of Light* events including the Wednesday Advent Series, attend the Friday Morning Prayer on ZOOM, the Sunday Morning Prayer service, and the Drive-In Eucharist. You will hear the Christian story that is familiar and recognize the patterns in our prayers. We are accustomed to marking time on the calendar, and as faithful people we are programmed to live a life of sacred time. Let us share in this season of Advent with Christians around the world, anticipating Christ's birth and allow the light of hope shine into our lives.

Your Sister in Christ,  
Esther +

If we believe that God created us and everything on the earth, God must love us. If you find yourself giving and giving --pause. Is your name on the list of those you bless?





## Laura and John Johnston

Laura and John Johnston are relatively new to St. Aidan's.

But the couple has jumped into the action, refusing to let the coronavirus pandemic become an obstacle. The Johnstons helped the church women's group with an estate sale this summer and pitched in to do some yard work around the church this fall.

"Really, from the first time we were guests there, the sense of community was amazing," Laura said of attending St. Aidan's. "We've enjoyed it. We're sorry we didn't have much time with Father Lars (Skoglund) before he left. We met Pastor Esther (Kramer) last week at the parking lot service."

The Johnstons are looking forward to the day that services inside the church will resume, but recently had a good experience with the drive-in service. "I really give them credit – Mike Weber in particular – trying to orchestrate the acoustics," Laura said. "It's not perfect. You get some feedback on the radio. But you get to see Pastor Esther up in the window and she pokes her nose out. It's nice. It's as good as it gets in these times."

John and Laura both come from Catholic backgrounds, although John was baptized in the Lutheran church. They attended St. Gabriel's in Hubertus but decided to test other churches in the Hartford area before settling on St. Aidan's.

The couple lived in Richfield before moving to Hartford eight years ago. John operated a machine tool service company in Big Bend and Laura had her own human resources consulting practice. She said she is still doing consulting work on a limited basis.

John and Laura have been married 38 years and have two daughters and four grandchildren. Daughter Holly lives in Mukwonago, and Shelly is in Lake Geneva. Granddaughter Abby recently got married at Disney World in Florida, but the couple could not attend the wedding due to the pandemic.

Laura was born in Mexico but moved to the southwest side of Milwaukee when she was two years old, while John grew up as a farm boy near Green Bay. She attended Hamilton High School in Milwaukee, and he went to Greendale High School. They met when both worked for Kearney & Trecker, a machine tool building firm which was located on National Avenue in West Allis.

These days they stay busy with hiking, gardening, and travel, although the opportunity for travel is limited right now. Laura said they have visited 47 states, with only Alaska, Hawaii, and Idaho remaining on their list. The couple loves the Southwest and the East Coast, although John remembers a trip to Vermont that did not go so well. "We spent a week in Vermont one day," John said. "It was just awful." Laura said a scenic drive took a bad turn when the couple drove on some back roads and got hopelessly lost.

John is an avid gardener and relishes working as a planter, weeder, and harvester.

"We do lots of garlic and onions," John said. "That lasts all season until next year." Tomatoes, potatoes, peas, squash and herbs are also part of the plan.

Another joy for John and Laura is their 15-month-old puppy, Ruby, a Shih-Poo (Shih-Tzu and Toy Poodle mix). "She's been a good reason to get out and walk every day during this pandemic," Laura said. "She doesn't care about the pandemic. She wants to walk. Although she's lonesome because we don't have anyone in the house, no friends or family or anything. She's used to being spoiled by all the family members, and she doesn't know what happened to them. "We like to hike the Ice Age Trail, so that's a good trail to tire her out on."

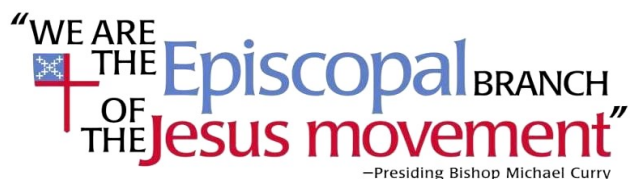
The couple lives in the Borland Farms subdivision in the city of Hartford. "Our next-door neighbor is a working farm," Laura said. "So, we're in the city but very much in the country."

**Charles Gardner**  
Senior Staff Writer

*"Really, from the first time we were guests there, the sense of community was amazing," Laura said of attending St. Aidan's."*



John at the Grand Canyon. Laura and niece in Mexico



How to reach us —

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### **Vestry Wardens**

Donna Dinco, Sr. Warden

Sandy Koeller, Jr. Warden

### **Vestry**

Pat Gardner

Micki Hoffmann

Brian Schrunk

Gary Stage

### **Vestry Clerk**

Linda Weber

### **Stag and Staff**

Newsletter of St. Aidan's Episcopal Church

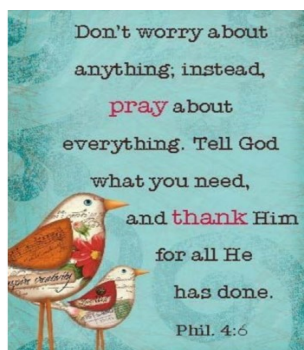
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Micki Hoffmann, Editor

Contact: mphoffmann70@gmail.com

or 262-673-2903



### **Prayer Chain**

If anyone has a prayer need for someone or something, please call the church office.

The St. Aidan's family is sad to announce the death of **Phyllis E. Paquette**. She passed away Saturday, November 14, 2020. Born May 6, 1945, the daughter of Henry and Jane (nee Shippe) Boyd. Phyllis graduated from ARMS Academy in Shelbourne Falls, Massachusetts and then from St. Mary's School of Nursing in Bay Side, New York. On November 27, 1965, Phyllis married the love of her life, **Jerry Paquette**. Phyllis is survived by her husband Jerry, her sons Kenneth Allen Paquette, Kevin Paul (Delene) Paquette, and her daughter Kelly Anne (Andrew) Hellmann. She is also, survived by five grandchildren: Nicholas, Spencer and Jenna Paquette, Emily Hellman and Katie Paquette. Our deepest sympathy to the whole Paquette family.



### **Advent/Christmas Books from the Women's Roundtable Library**



for your reading pleasure! Request a book to borrow by sending your name and snail mail address to Connie Ott and it will be sent within 3 days. [cott@chorus.net] No records are kept -- return the book[s] when you can!

***Waiting in Joyful Hope*** - small booklet (purse size) with brief

scripture, reflection, meditation and prayer for each day (Order of St.

Benedict - Collegville, MN)

***The Nativity Story***, from the movie - developed from the screenplay by

Mike Rich - reads like a novel. 34 chapters, 194 pages (Angela Hunt)

***Sacred Journey*** - Woman's Book of Daily Prayer - scripture on Sunday, reflection and questions each weekday, entire year in the book (Jan Richardson - Methodist)

***Living well through Advent 2016 - Practicing Simplicity with All your Heart, Soul, Strength and Mind*** - each Sunday a reflection and each weekday a quote and reflection (multiple authors - Living Compass)

***Our December Hearts*** - 2-3 page chapter for each day of Advent and Christmas season (Anne McConney - Episcopal priest)

***Speaking to the Soul*** - Daily readings with focus on the Saint's days of the season - short daily reading (2/3 to 1 page) - (Multiple authors - Vicki Black - episcopal deacon - once in Diocese of Milwaukee)

***Daysprings - Meditations for Advent*** - daily scripture and 1-2 page meditation for each day (Sam Portaro, formerly Episcopal Chaplain to the University of Chicago)





Alice's

How are you doing? I am getting pretty tired of the Covid House Arrest, but I know it is the safest thing for us right now, and we are lucky we can do it. I remember this feeling from college the last two weeks or so before Christmas or Easter vacation, or maybe the last trimester of pregnancy -- impatient for things to change but nothing you can do but plod through it. And we will get through it.

Along the way I have developed a great appreciation for the tech gismos that allow me to chat with my children, grandchildren, and friends, attend meetings, join in with my book club -- all without ever having to leave the house. But it's not the same. At the moment, the FaceTime I enjoy the most is my grandson Sam who lives in Germany, calling once or twice a week to tell me he has loaded the dishwasher and it is running and where is Buster the Dog, Nana? It is a little bit of everyday normalcy.

I'm giving you a recipe this month which I **wish** was the answer for the flu, you know, that flu. But it's not. It's just a good hearty soup with enough kick to clear your sinuses and gently warm you up. Feel free to toss in a little leftover chicken or ham if you like.

### Flu Buster Soup

- 1 T. oil
- 1/2 small onion chopped
- 2-3 cloves garlic peeled and chopped
- 1 t. minced ginger
- 1 potato peeled and chopped
- 1/4 t. turmeric or curry powder
- heat the oil and sauté together and then add:
- 1/2 head cauliflower chopped
- 1 medium zucchini chopped
- 2 large carrots chopped
- 2 stalks celery chopped
- Salt and pepper
- 4 C. vegetable or chicken broth
- 1/4 t. cayenne pepper
- Juice of 1 lemon

Simmer together for 15 minutes or until the vegetables are soft. Puree with a stick blender, thinning if necessary (I used some apple juice).

Serve with plain yogurt or sour cream.

Alice Pollock

DECEMBER 2020



## Laura's Christmas

For those of you challenged by modern art --

Left to right: Angel, Shepard, goat, Mary, Joseph, Shepard, Tree, Jesus in purple in the middle. Cow in front.

Thank you so much to Laura and for all children who inspire us!

## December Birthdays & Anniversaries

1 Susan Trewyn  
2 Vivien Olson  
4 Sarah Stage  
8 Lisa Lake  
11 Fred Paddon  
13 Virginia Komp

20 Thomas Pirc  
Linda & Mike Weber  
22 Gabriel Mercado  
31 Maggie Dhein & Lee Schuldt

### How to Build a Bridge

First, agree to meet the "other" after you gather a truckload of understanding, some drinks, food and time.

Bring chairs and music, find a rolling field of grass down some lonely country road where you won't be bothered by the day's bustle and grime.

Sit down together and talk. Or eat. Or drink. Open your eyes and listen. Open your ears and hear. Open your heart and climb into that person's body as that person climbs into yours. Remove one chink of personal armor at a time, set it on the ground in full sunlight. As the facade crumbles, a bridge will form under your feet, rising toward heaven, you think, lifting you above all this petty human debris.

David James

St. Jude's Episcopal Church in Fenton, Michigan



HikingArtist.com



## *Senior Warden's Message --*

The liturgical season of Advent marks the time of spiritual preparation before Christmas. The lessons I taught kids in the Upper Room during Advent were my favorite lessons to teach. I enjoyed asking questions and anticipating their answers and conversation. When you ask kids, "What is Advent?" "What are we waiting for?" "What kinds of things do you wait for?" "What feelings do you have as you wait?" their responses are very animated, and there is excitement as they talk about the things they 'wait' for – especially when Christmas is so near. Remembering these Advent lessons encouraged me as I wrote for a Fall Ministry or Mission Development grant from the Diocese. I hope this advent program, "*St. Aidan's Season of Light*," will bring renewal and hope, light and connectedness to our faith community and the greater Hartford community as well. While we typically regard Advent as a joyous, hopeful season, it is also intended to be a time of preparation. As we prepare for the birth of Jesus, "*St. Aidan's Season of Light*," will be our individual and collective guide. The authors of the annual "World Happiness Report" wrote, "**The key to finding happiness during this time is not through social distancing but rather through distance socializing .... Maintaining ties to friends, colleagues and family is crucial.**"

St. Aidan's advent program includes:

**An Advent Taizé Service:** An opportunity to step out of the anticipated December rush and discourse of COVID to have a time of quiet and reflection on the meaning of this season. The Advent Taizé services will be recorded live each Wednesday of Advent at 7:00 p.m. and will include music. The services will be posted online at [facebook.com/staidanshartford/live](https://facebook.com/staidanshartford/live).

**Advent in a Box:** Each household will receive an Advent Box, delivered before Thanksgiving. The box will have an advent calendar, activities, and prayers for each week of Advent. One activity will be to decorate a white paper bag as a luminaria. The luminaria will then be used for the longest day celebration on December 21<sup>st</sup>.

**Winter Solstice Drive-by:** Lanterns are traditionally burned on the Winter Solstice to symbolize the light within each of us and to bring light to the darkest night of the year. Families will be asked to return their white paper bag luminarias to church and place in a closed container at the front door of the church. Volunteers will set the luminarias around the front of the church, along the garden and patio. Parishioners/families will be invited to drive-by to see the display on December 21<sup>st</sup>, the longest day of the year.

**Walk- in the church visitation:** We will follow *new* Way Forward Task Force guidelines that allow visitations for special occasions, such as viewing a decorated church! CDC guidelines for distancing and masking will be followed. The visitation will be posted with ample time for parishioners to plan for attendance. (Standard Guideline #2 For General Visitation - Walk-In).

**Blue Christmas service:** This will be a recorded, online service on December 23<sup>rd</sup>. Advent and Christmas can be a time of joy, as they can also be a time of pain or loss; and during this pandemic we have each had our own share of pain, loss, frustration, or stress. A Blue Christmas service would remind us of the message of hope the season brings.

Implementing "*St. Aidan's Season of Light*" will strengthen our congregation's identity - bringing St. Aidan's community together, even though distancing socially, to strengthen our mission and purpose of being God's light to our faith family and the greater Hartford community.

***"The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; For a child has been born for us, a son given to us. He will be called wonderful counselor, prince of peace ..."***

Blessings,

Donna Dinco



# CHRISTMAS COOKIE SALE

**St. Aidan's Episcopal Church**  
**Prepaid Curbside Pickup at church**

**Saturday, December 12, 2020**  
**10 am -1 pm**

Mixed cookies 1 lb. \$8.00  
Decorated sugar cookies  
Baker's dozen \$12

**Prepaid orders only**

**Order by December 1**

To order call Linda

262 442 3364

Pay by check or credit card

St. Aidan's ECW  
670 E. Monroe  
Hartford WI 53027



Farmers earn a **STAGGERING 66%** from EVERY bag

Chocolate bars build fermentation tanks

Art pays for school tuition, doctor bills

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- put over \$2.5 million DIRECTLY into farmer pockets
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- plant hundreds of thousands of coffee trees
- improve crops, increase yields
- save thousands of gallons of water
- elevate small producer artists in Croix des Bouquets

With YOUR help, we've been building prosperity with Singing Rooster's small producer partners. We appreciate where and how you spend your money! Seriously, thanks.

### New Gift Idea Catalog

Check out our new gift bundles that will delight everyone on your list. We posted a [gift catalog on Facebook](#).



### NEW Gift Cards @ Singing Rooster

Not sure what to send this year?

Singing Rooster's gift card allows recipients to choose the PERFECT item: Haitian coffee, chocolate, and/or art. **Buy a gift card today -->**

<https://singingrooster.org/gift-card/>

## The Haiti Project - URGENTLY needs your help!



The Haiti Project asks  
What can \$10 do?

School at St. Marc's is in Jeopardy for lack of funding

The Haiti Project is in an awful position.

For the first time in 30+ years it is a very real possibility that the Haiti Project will be unable to fund the school of St. Marc's in Jeannette, Haiti, which has provided so much education and hope for the children and families there.

The community of Jeannette, just like here, is really struggling. In Haiti, however, a donation of even \$10 goes a long ways . . .

**Go to this site to learn more and donate!**

<https://donorbox.org/haiti-project-asks-what-can-10-do>

Thank you!

ST. AIDAN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

STAG & STAFF