

DECEMBER
2018
VOLUME LVIV
NUMBER 10



HOUGHS NECK CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH NEWSLETTER

310 MANET AVENUE, QUINCY, MA 02169
617-479-8778

HNCC@COMCAST.NET
WWW.HNCONG.ORG

FROM THE PASTOR

Reverend Stephen Vandergrift

Time is a precious gift from God. There is a kind of mystery about time in the season of Advent. As we await the fulfillment of God's promise of Emmanuel – "God with us," we can become conscious of time in at least three dimensions. In the first dimension time is experienced as a SEASON. Every year, Advent comes to us as a blank canvas on which, day to day, we can paint anew our imaginings and memories of Christmases gone by and those yet to come. The season of Advent is a glorious span of time throughout which we wait and watch, and wonder.

The second dimension is time as a DAY. This year there are twenty-three days in Advent, beginning on Sunday, December 2nd, and concluding on Christmas Eve. Sometimes it can become a little frightening as one day seems too quickly to move into the next and we begin to fear that we will not be prepared to receive the Babe of Bethlehem. Shall each day simply bring more anxiety? Will the joy that each day can bring slip by us? Each day of Advent is time pregnant with spiritual possibility – a gift, a free gift, with no strings attached. Turn off the TV, put some relaxing seasonal music on, close your eyes and breathe deeply and celebrate the gift of a new day - make your TO DO list and enjoy the day as you check off each task. Remember, celebrate the nine you accomplish and don't despair over the one that wasn't.

The third dimension is time as the MOMENT - the moment you decide to say, "I love you," the moment you're inspired to offer that random act of kindness, the moment you embrace your spouse, your son or daughter, and whisper a word of thanks. Moments. Advent is full of them - seize them! And then there is that moment when you are sitting in the candlelit sanctuary on Christmas Eve; the season has passed, the days are gone by, no more time to shop and bake. You close your eyes and, for a brief moment, time is transcended...and in that moment of grace you are taken to a stable twenty centuries past and there you kneel at the manger. You can smell of hay, hear the lowing of animals, and you, along with that motley group of strangers, exude the awe and wonder that surrounds this holy family. As you open your eyes, returning to the present moment, you become more conscious of yourself in relationship to God and others. You have experienced the eternal present and found the source of holy healing for the broken places in yourself and in the world. There you sit in silence...then, wonderously, a baby cries... You smile. God has come into the world. Emmanuel! And God is eternally with us. Amen.

Blessings and peace,

Pastor Steve



POINSETTIA PROJECT

Sponsored by **Seaside Social Club** (formerly known as **MOTHERS Club**)

____ Small Plant \$10

____ Large Plant \$20

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

Orders may be mailed to the church at 310 Manet Ave., placed in the offering plate at Sunday worship or given directly to Nancy Jacobs. The due date is **Friday, Dec 9th**. Make checks payable to **MOTHERS CLUB**. Orders can also be emailed to Nancy at jacobs0511@gmail.com.

Your Name _____ Phone _____

SEASIDE SOCIAL CLUB

December 11, 2018



Members of the Seaside Social Club will celebrate the season with their annual Christmas Party to be held at 7:00 on December 11, in the fireplace room on the lower level of the church. Everyone is asked to bring a festive gift basket valued at \$20 for the gift exchange. The baskets should be wrapped in cellophane or similar item so the contents are visible. Also members are asked to bring either an appetizer or a dessert to share. We will have some fun and games and will share some gift wrapping tips.

There will be a business meeting at 6:30 before the party begins. This event is for members and their guests.



CHRISTMAS POST OFFICE

If you would like to send Christmas greetings to your friends who attend church regularly now you can.

Christmas Post Office will be open on three (3) Sundays: Dec 9 Dec 16 Dec 23

Please address your cards and put them in alphabetical order. This really helps it run smoothly.

The Diaconate will deliver cards to shut ins with their Christmas gift. These cards have to be in the Post Office basket by Sunday Dec 16.

Shut ins are:

Gloria Brummitt	Barbara Houston	Beth Little	June Paul	Martha Chase	Anne Baxendale
Susan Allen	Sandra McCauley	Paula Younie	Diane Robbins	Joan Kirby	Dick Shaw



**The Houghs Neck Congregational Church
Sunday School presents
In Bethlehem Inn**

Be firsthand observers of the events that occurred on
the night Christ was born

Sunday, December 16, 2018
during 10am Service

Following the service, the celebration will continue
with a potluck luncheon. All are Welcome!!!



HAPPY DECEMBER BIRTHDAY!!
WISH A HAPPY BIRTHDAY WITH A SMILE, A CALL
OR A CARD TO OUR NOVEMBER BIRTHDAY FOLKS!

DECEMBER

- | | | | |
|----|------------------------|----|-------------------------|
| 1 | Beth Little | | |
| 4 | Joyce Flibotte | 25 | Cynthia Carlson Jansson |
| 5 | Karen Bishop | | Lois Zulauf |
| 7 | Rick Praetsch | 27 | Kurt Johnson |
| 8 | Mark Paul Jr | | Wayne Batson |
| 10 | Harry Olson | 31 | Arthur Davis |
| 11 | Kathleen Little Taylor | | George Oakes |
| 12 | Bonnie Sparks Schaefer | | |
| 14 | Patrick Flibotte | | |
| 15 | Judy Blowers Crowley | | |



Anne Baxendale
Linda DellaCroce
Linda Beck
Marie Blanchard
Bob Craig
Mary Giggey

Edward Duddy
Elizabeth M. Orchard
Sheena Giggey Curley
Leah Davis
Melissa Hughes
Jane Neale

Martha Chase
Jaime Toby
Joan Kirby
Beth Little
Laurie Mulligan
Kelly Stewart Cassier

Paula Younie
John White
Sandy White
Eileen Menz

December 2018 Daily Lectionary

These Scripture readings are from the two-year daily lectionary of the Presbyterian Book of Common Worship (Westminster John Knox Press, 1993). The readings from the three-year Revised Common Lectionary for Sundays and Festivals are not included in this document.

December

Saturday, December 1
Morning: Pss. 63; 149
Evening: Pss. 125; 90
Zech. 14:12–21
Phil. 2:1–11
Luke 19:41–48

BEGIN YEAR 1

Sunday, December 2
1st Sunday of Advent
Morning: Pss. 24; 150
Evening: Pss. 25; 110
Isa. 1:1–9
2 Peter 3:1–10
Matt. 25:1–13

Monday, December 3
Morning: Pss. 122; 145
Evening: Pss. 40; 67
Isa. 1:10–20
1 Thess. 1:1–10
Luke 20:1–8

Tuesday, December 4
Morning: Pss. 33; 146
Evening: Pss. 85; 94
Isa. 1:21–31
1 Thess. 2:1–12
Luke 20:9–18

Wednesday, December 5
Morning: Pss. 50;
147:1–11
Evening: Pss. 53; 17
Isa. 2:1–4
1 Thess. 2:13–20
Luke 20:19–26

Thursday, December 6
Morning: Pss. 18:1–20;
147:12–20
Evening: Pss. 126; 62
Isa. 2:5–22
1 Thess. 3:1–13
Luke 20:27–40

Friday, December 7
Morning: Pss. 102; 148
Evening: Pss. 130; 16
Isa. 3:1–4:1
1 Thess. 4:1–12
Luke 20:41–21:4

Saturday, December 8
Morning: Pss. 90; 149
Evening: Pss. 80; 72
Isa. 4:2–6
1 Thess. 4:13–18
Luke 21:5–19

Sunday, December 9
2nd Sunday of Advent
Morning: Pss. 24; 150
Evening: Pss. 25; 110
Isa. 5:1–7
2 Peter 3:11–18
Luke 7:28–35

Monday, December 10
Morning: Pss. 122; 145
Evening: Pss. 40; 67
Isa. 5:8–17
1 Thess. 5:1–11
Luke 21:20–28

Tuesday, December 11
Morning: Pss. 33; 146
Evening: Pss. 85; 94
Isa. 5:18–25
1 Thess. 5:12–28
Luke 21:29–38

Wednesday, December 12
Morning: Pss. 50;
147:1–11
Evening: Pss. 53; 17
Isa. 6:1–13
2 Thess. 1:1–12
John 7:53–8:11

Thursday, December 13
Morning: Pss. 18:1–20;
147:12–20
Evening: Pss. 126; 62
Isa. 7:1–9
2 Thess. 2:1–12
Luke 22:1–13

Friday, December 14
Morning: Pss. 102; 148
Evening: Pss. 130; 16
Isa. 7:10–25
2 Thess. 2:13–3:5
Luke 22:14–30

Saturday, December 15
Morning: Pss. 90; 149
Evening: Pss. 80; 72
Isa. 8:1–15
2 Thess. 3:6–18
Luke 22:31–38

Sunday, December 16
3rd Sunday of Advent
Morning: Pss. 24; 150
Evening: Pss. 25; 110
Isa. 13:1–13
Heb. 12:18–29
John 3:22–30

Monday, December 17
Morning: Pss. 122; 145
Evening: Pss. 40; 67
Isa. 8:16–9:1
2 Peter 1:1–11
Luke 22:39–53

Tuesday, December 18
Morning: Pss. 33; 146
Evening: Pss. 85; 94
Isa. 11:1–9
Eph. 6:10–20
John 3:16–21

Wednesday, December 19
Morning: Pss. 50;
147:1–11
Evening: Pss. 53; 17
Isa. 11:10–16
Rev. 20:1–10
John 5:30–47

Thursday, December 20
Morning: Pss. 18:1–20;
147:12–20
Evening: Pss. 126; 62
Isa. 28:9–22
Rev. 20:11–21:8
Luke 1:5–25

Friday, December 21
Morning: Pss. 102; 148
Evening: Pss. 130; 16
Isa. 29:9–24
Rev. 21:9–21
Luke 1:26–38

Saturday, December 22
Morning: Pss. 90; 149
Evening: Pss. 80; 72
Isa. 31:1–9
Rev. 21:22–22:5
Luke 1:39–48a (48b–56)

Sunday, December 23
4th Sunday of Advent
Morning: Pss. 24; 150
Evening: Pss. 25; 110
Isa. 33:17–22
Rev. 22:6–11, 18–20
Luke 1:57–66

Monday, December 24
Nativity of the Lord /
Christmas Eve
Morning: Pss. 122; 145
Evening: Pss. 132; 114
Isa. 35:1–10
Rev. 22:12–17, 21
Luke 1:67–80

Tuesday, December 25
Nativity of the Lord /
Christmas Day
Morning: Pss. 2; 146
Evening: Pss. 98; 96
Zech. 2:10–13
1 John 4:7–16
John 3:31–36

Wednesday, December 26
Morning: Pss. 116;
147:1–11
Evening: Pss. 119:1–24;
27
2 Chron. 24:17–22
Acts 6:1–7
Acts 7:59–8:8

Thursday, December 27
Morning: Pss. 34;
147:12–20
Evening: Pss. 19; 121
Prov. 8:22–30
1 John 5:1–12
John 13:20–35

Friday, December 28
Morning: Pss. 2; 148
Evening: Pss. 110; 111
Isa. 49:13–23
Isa. 54:1–13
Matt. 18:1–14

Saturday, December 29
Morning: Pss. 96; 149
Evening: Pss. 132; 97
Isa. 12:1–6
Rev. 1:1–8
John 7:37–52

Sunday, December 30
1st Sunday after
Christmas
Morning: Pss. 93; 150
Evening: Pss. 89:1–18;
39:19–52
Isa. 62:6–7, 10–12
Heb. 2:10–18
Matt. 1:18–25

Monday, December 31
Morning: Pss. 98; 145
Evening: Pss. 45; 96
Isa. 26:1–6
2 Cor. 5:16–6:2
John 8:12–19

Contact Information

FOR ALL

PASTORAL CONCERNS:

Please contact the church office at 617-479-8778, by email hncc@comcast.com or mail to 310 Manet Ave Quincy, MA 02169

HNCONG.ORG

FOR THE BULLETIN:

Please remit in writing to church office by Thursday for the following Sunday or hncc@comcast.net or mail to 310 Manet Ave Quincy, MA 02169

FOR THE NEWSLETTER:

Please remit in writing to Christine Keating by the 15th of the month to appear in the following month's newsletter. cmon1695@hotmail.com or mail to 16 Thomas St. Quincy, MA 02169

WEEKLY SERVICE OF WORSHIP

**Sundays
at 10:00 a.m.**

Reverend Stephen Vandergrift

There is a potluck Coffee Hour each Sunday in the Conference Room after our service. All are welcome, please join us! We serve coffee, tea and whatever goodies are donated. Please volunteer to make and serve coffee and clean up!