The Lighthouse
Monthly Newsletter
December 2012

In response to Christ's divine humanity, St. Dunstan's strives to seek, love, and serve God, welcoming all to:
+ Gather in worship
+ Serve people in need
+ Care for the environment
+ Listen and respond to each other

Advent & Christmas Worship

Sunday, December 2, 8 & 10am 
First Sunday of Advent
(8am service is spoken; 10am service includes hymns & other music.) Between services & after the 10am service, join us for Advent crafts. Make your own Advent wreath & learn how to use it!

Saturday, December 8, 2-5pm 
Advent Quiet Day: “Inviting Christ In”
All are welcome. Call the church office at 238-2781 to register.

Sunday, December 9, 8 & 10am 
Second Sunday of Advent
Sunday school meets during the 10am service. Children ages 3 - 10 will meet to explore the story of the Annunciation, when Mary agreed to give birth to Jesus.

Sunday, December 16, 8am & 10am 
Third Sunday of Advent
Service of Lessons & Carols
Join us for special music and a festive reception. Pageant Costume Pickup for families with kids who would like to participate in our Christmas pageant on December 24!

Friday, December 21, 7pm 
Longest Night Service
A special service for people struggling with grief, anxiety or loneliness in the holiday season.

Sunday, December 23, 8 & 10am 
Fourth Sunday of Advent
Pageant rehearsal for main parts & Greening of the Church after the 10am service!

Monday, December 24, 3pm 
Family Service with Pageant
Kids of all ages are welcome to participate! Call the church office at 238-2781 to learn more.

Monday, December 24, 9pm 
Christmas Eve Eucharist
Music, candles, mystery and joy, and hot cider afterwards!

Tuesday, December 25, 10am 
Christmas Day Eucharist
A simple service celebrating the Christ Child.
Advent: Yearning Counterbalanced with Promise, Despair with Hope, Darkness with Light

As Episcopalians—Christians in the Anglican tradition—our liturgy is the core of our common life, the strong thread binding us together and connecting us to our past. Yet our liturgy, our worship, is not static and unchanging. We follow the same pattern, season by season, but we also change our music and prayers, season by season, to emphasize the stories and themes of each season of the church’s year – the better to discover where those stories and themes are echoed in our daily lives.

One of these times of change is almost upon us: the transition from the now-familiar patterns of our Autumn worship (known to liturgy geeks as OTII—the second half of the long Ordinary Time season that follows the Feast of Pentecost in late spring) into the liturgy of the Advent season. Our worship in Advent, gathered and crafted from the riches of the Prayer Book, the Hymnal, and other music and liturgy resources from around the Anglican world, is intended to emphasize the central themes of the season: Repentance, Waiting, and Comfort.

Repenance

Advent is a penitential season, though the church places less emphasis on it today than it did a generation ago. Because our Advent Scripture readings and hymns place such an emphasis on anticipating the Second Coming, Christ’s coming again to restore our broken and hurting world, I find it useful to think of Advent as a time for corporate repentance, in contrast to the more personal penitential themes of Lent. Together, we name the darkness of our world and the sins of our society; we lament our complicity in our neighbors’ suffering; and we call upon God to bring redemption and healing once again.

A lot of Advent music is set in a minor key, which to Western ears gives it a mournful and serious sound. Minor-key hymns like “Signs of endings all around us” and “What is the crying at Jordan” give voice to our inner ache as we read the daily news and contemplate humanity’s ongoing struggles. We use Eucharistic Prayer C in Advent, known to some as the “Star Trek” prayer – but look beyond the planets and suns, and notice the strong themes of penitence and expectation.

Waiting
Expectation brings us to the second strong theme: Waiting. The most familiar symbol of Advent, the Advent wreath with its four candles lit Sunday by Sunday, is a symbol of intentional waiting: marking time, building towards the fulfillment of Christmas Day, the Feast of the Incarnation. We sing hymns and songs of waiting, too – hymns like “God is working his purpose out, as year succeeds to year”; songs like “Wait for the Lord, his day is near”, which we sing each Sunday after the candle-lighting; and the beloved and beautiful “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel,” begging God to intervene in human history and set our wrongs right – both then, two thousand years ago in Bethlehem, and now, again, and always.

Comfort
Repentance... waiting... and hope. Hope, comfort, joyful anticipation – that’s the final big theme of Advent, the third note in a rich and beautiful chord. We walk in darkness, but we wait for light, knowing that, in the words of Zechariah’s song, the dawn from on high will break upon us, in the tender mercy of our God. We sing hymns of joyful expectation, like “Comfort, comfort ye, my people,” and “The desert shall rejoice and blossom like a rose.” This year, we will use service music composed by Franz Schubert – its warm and lovely tones will offer a counterpoint to the solemn minor tones of other music of the season: yearning counterbalanced with promise, despair with hope, darkness with light.

May this Advent season in your life and that of your household be shaped and graced by these themes, as is our life together as the people of St. Dunstan’s.

In peace,

Miranda+

A Special Message from Fr. Michael Ramsey-Musolf
Dear Friends,

For those of you who were not able to be at church on Christ the King Sunday, I want to follow up my announcement with a heartfelt note to all St. Dunstanites. As I announced on that day, this academic year will be my last at St. Dunstan’s, a piece of news that is bittersweet.

The “sweet” part is that my partner Darrel and I will be moving to Western Massachusetts to realize a new opportunity for us: two faculty positions at the
University of Massachusetts at Amherst. I will be a professor of physics and the director of a new theoretical physics center that is being established upon my arrival. Starting such a center has been a dream of mine for several years, and the prospect of doing so now is exciting. Darrel, who is completing his Ph.D. in housing policy this month, will be a tenure track assistant professor in his field, a new venture for him. Finding two faculty positions for an academic couple in these difficult budgetary times for state universities is challenging, to say the least. So the opportunity at U Mass is compelling.

The “bitter” part is leaving St. Dunstan’s. I cannot begin to describe how much St. Dunstan’s has been a “God–send” for me this past five years that we’ve been in Madison. Your love, warmth, and enthusiastic embrace of my ministry have blessed, sustained, and inspired me in ways I can only begin to fathom. And I will go forth from St. D’s enriched by new friendships that I trust will continue to grow and bloom.

During these years we have also been through some significant changes together: Mo Lewis’ last year or so as rector, Bob Lambert’s interim ministry, and the energizing launch of Miranda’s tenure as rector. I have valued getting to know and work with all three of these gifted priests, whom I now count as friends and colleagues – not to mention the several other clergy members of the congregation. But I want to sing the particular praises of Miranda and her compassion, wisdom, authenticity, and insightful pastoral leadership. She is a gift that I know you treasure and will care for, just as she treasures and cares for you.

As I mentioned in church, there is a Latino colloquialism I learned at my former parish in Los Angeles, All Saints Highland Park, a predominantly Latino congregation, that I think applies to St. Dunstan’s: “chispa” – which denotes having “pizazz”. St Dunstan’s has this character of chispa not only for the spirit of warmth, humor, and sometimes off-the-wallness that pervade our community. It also has chispa for the cutting-edge and courageous ministry you have undertaken in the Diocese and broader community on behalf of full inclusion of all in the Body of Christ. As I reflect on the journey you have traveled on this ministry, I am moved, inspired, and proud.

It has – and continues to be – a blessing and a privilege to serve as a priest at St Dunstan’s. I look forward to many more months of joyful service to the Lord together, and to remaining part of each others’ families as Darrel and I

St. Dunstan’s Episcopal Church 6205 University Ave., Madison WI 53705 608-238-2781
www.stdunstans.com
follow our journey to a new geographic home. God bless you. I love you. Michael+

Oversight and Stewardship Ministries

Vestry Highlights:
• The rector and the Liturgy and Worship committee will continue to prayerfully develop liturgical plans for worship at St. Dunstan’s. As part of their ongoing evaluation process, they recognize that some practices that are tried don’t work and won’t be used again. Other items appeal to some parishioners but not to others. Miranda read Thomas Cranmer’s “Of Ceremonies”.

http://liturgy.co.nz/bcp-of-ceremonies/10177
• The vestry discussed healthy communication practices.
• Pictures of vestry members will be posted in the Gathering Area.
• The senior warden is researching gift acceptance policies.
• Pledge payments in 2012 may not reach the budgeted amount. However, due to increased income in other areas, total 2012 income may exceed total budgeted income.
• As of November 14 the finance committee had received 47 pledges totaling $133,067
• The Outreach Committee sent $2,000 from outreach funds to the Haiti Project in response to Hurricane Sandy.
• Outreach Committee has made the following allocations from the Outreach line in the 2012 Operating Budget:
  Episcopal Network of Economic (ENEJ) $500
  Middleton Outreach Ministry (MOM) operating expenses $2500
  Diocese of Newala in Tanzania $500
  Worker Rights Center $500
  Madison-area Urban Ministry $500
• The Hewsons donated a bench that has been installed in the Pine Island.
• Exterior lighting repairs will be made.
• The vestry approved having a Craft & Bake Sale at St. Dunstan’s on December 1. All proceeds from the bake sale will support Middleton Outreach Ministry. Crafters will donate 20% of their earnings to be distributed by St. Dunstan’s outreach committee.

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Elizabeth Wroblewski, Vestry Recorder

Could it **BE** Easier to Pledge?? It’s Not too Late!

Please consider this note a gentle nudge: if you’ve lost your pledge card, give us a call and we’ll get you another. Or clip and use the pledge card below:

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2013 Financial Pledge Card
St. Dunstan’s Episcopal Church  6205 University Ave.  Madison, WI  53705

My/our total intended pledge for 2013 is _____________________ to support the ongoing life and ministry of St. Dunstan’s.

I/we plan to pay this in  □  half-year  □ quarterly  □ monthly  □ weekly installments.

I/we would like pledge envelopes.  □ Yes  □ No

Name (s)
Address
(Street)  (City)  (Zip)
Phones: H________________________ W or C
E-mail:
Pledges are welcome at any time, but it will help our budgeting process to receive all pledges by Sunday, November 18, 2012.

As a member of the St. Dunstan’s community, what are you most committed to – excited about – fed by?

Where do you see need for growth or change?

Thank you for sharing your thoughts.

If your life has been too hectic, do take the few minutes it would require to determine your own level of giving, then bring it to church on Sunday or drop your pledge in the mail. If you have questions, again...give us a call. If this is not a year when you feel able to make a pledge, do let us know that, too. And if you have already turned in your pledge, thank you, thank you, thank you.

Questions? Contact Sharon Bloodgood  848-3146 or sbloodgood@charter.net

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www.stdunstans.com
Important Administrative News for the People of St. Dunstan’s

Annual Report—We all want to know what’s going on at St. Dunstan’s! All committee/chair contact persons are invited to submit a report for the 2012 Annual Report. Please submit your report to office@stdunstans.com by Wednesday, January 9, 2013.

Annual Meeting—Mark your calendar for the annual meeting on Sunday, January 27, 9 am. We’ll hear from our rector, wardens, and treasurers about the state of the parish. We’ll elect officers for 2013 (junior warden, senior warden, vestry members, deputies to Diocesan convention). We’ll look ahead as we learn about the 2013 budget and plans for the coming year.

Nominees—If you are nominated for an office for 2013, please send your candidate bio to office@stdunstans.com by Wednesday, January 9, 2013.

Christian Formation Ministries

Start the New Year Healthy at Basic Fermentation Class

Learn to make yogurt and sauerkraut! Both of these foods are prepared through fermentation, but by different processes. This class will guide you through the process of making yogurt and sauerkraut. You will go home with started jars of both of these foods and recipes to make them. We will also discuss other fermented foods and the health benefits of fermented foods. This class, taught by Mary Eberle of First Step Renew, is on January 3 (6:00–9:00 p.m.) at St. Dunstan’s Episcopal Church.

To register, email Mary at info@first-step-renew.com. Registration is $30. If you are interested in participating but the registration fee is a barrier, please contact Rev. Miranda at 238–2781 or rector@stdunstans.com.
KATHY HANSEN’S OUTREACH MOMENT
On Sunday, October 14, St. Dunstan’s welcomed Kathy Hansen, MOM Executive Director. Kathy spoke of MOM’s accomplishments so far this year as well as the organization’s hopes and aspirations for the months ahead. We enjoyed meeting her and learning more about this important local organization that is offering needed support for people in our community. To find out more about upcoming MOM events as well as the way to volunteer your time and talents, check out their excellent website at momhelps.org.

MOM NEEDS WINTER COATS
And, you responded! Thank you for the generous donations of winter clothing and beautiful knitted items. MOM clients will be very happy to have these wonderful selections to keep them warm throughout the colder days ahead.

HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS
Middleton Outreach will once again be sponsoring their popular “Home for the Holidays” event on December 8th and 9th at the Middleton Performing Arts Center. The highlights are the presentation of a live radio show, “It’s a Wonderful Life,” along with a pre-performance reception and silent auction. Tickets are available at the MOM office or at Willy St. Co-op West. Mark your calendars for a festive beginning to the holiday season. For more information, check the website middletonholidays.org.

------Submitted by Janet Bybee

Sharing Tree for Middleton Outreach Ministry Goes Up in Gathering Space Our parish family always celebrates the season of giving by generously helping those in need. Our Sharing Tree went up in the Gathering Space on November 18, a tradition that marks this time of caring for others.
Twelve people have been selected from the Middleton Outreach Ministry “Sharing Christmas” program. Each person has 3 wishes. There are cards for each person on the tree which states gender, age, and wish with specifics. Find a card that strikes your fancy, and sign up on the posted list so that we know who took which card. Bring the gift back by Sunday, Dec. 9th, either wrapped or unwrapped, with the card from the tree firmly attached. The people we’ll be shopping for range in age from 1 month to 77 years.

If you are a knitter, there are also cards (with yarn bows) for each knitter to take – bring back a hat, mittens or scarf (wrapped or unwrapped) with the card firmly attached by Dec. 9th. If you prefer to contribute financially to the project, write a check with "sharing Christmas" in the memo and we will do the shopping.

Would you like to do your “Sharing Christmas” shopping in honor of someone on your own Christmas list? Pick up one of our slips to tuck into a greeting card, to tell your loved one that a gift has been purchased in their honor for a household in need. Questions: Connie Ott cott@chorus.net, Miranda Hassett rector@stdunstans.com or Janet Bybee lbybee@chorus.net.
also decorated the church for All Saints’ Day. Here are some photographic mementos of this special time:

*Joss Paper Frontal*

Joss paper is a Chinese custom for honoring the dead. It symbolizes money for the spirit world. Joss paper is burned at funerals and on other occasions to honor departed ancestors, to make sure they have plenty of “spirit money” to have all they need in the other world. We believe that God meets all needs in the afterlife. But we, too, honor and pray for those who have gone before. We used the simple beauty of joss paper to create a frontal for our altar, this All Saints’ Day.
The Banquet at the End of Time

In many of the world’s cultures, people honor their beloved dead by offering them food – real or artificial. It’s a way to share a family meal with the ancestors, remembering and symbolically including those who are no longer at the table. We don’t follow this custom, but food and memory are closely linked for us as well. Many of can think of a food that we identify with one of our family “saints,” like my Grandma Clarine’s moose stew. (She was a Mainer!) Christianity offers us the image of the Great Banquet at the end of time, when we will gather around God’s table to celebrate with all the faithful departed. Imagine your family saints cooking that meal, ready to welcome you. What would be on the table? ....
Finally, we wrote the names of our saints on the windows with window markers, as a “Cloud of Witnesses,” inspired by this text from Hebrews 11 about the faithful departed: “Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.”

Don’t worry if you missed it – All Saints’ will roll around again next November! If you have ideas about visual and hands-on ways to honor and remember our saints, email Rev. Miranda at rector@stdunstans.com.
Advent Begins on Sunday, December 2!
Join us that morning for wonderful Advent music and the lighting of the first candle in our Advent wreath! Pick up candles for your own Advent wreath at home – we have a few metal wreaths available, as well. Between services and after the 10am service, help us decorate our Jesse Tree and our new church Advent calendar.

The first Sunday of Advent is the beginning of the new church year. In our lectionary, we’ll begin Year C, the third year of our three-year cycle of Bible readings. In Year C, our primary Gospel source will be Luke, and our Old Testament readings will focus on the Prophets.

Theme for Advent Quiet Day: "Inviting Jesus In"
Please join us Saturday, December 8, 2012, 2–5pm for an afternoon of shared silence, guided reflection on images of Christ’s coming, and an exploration of how we might make space for Christ's coming into our lives. Our Quiet Day will be led by the Rev. Jonathan Melton, the new Chaplain at St. Francis House, the Episcopal campus ministry at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. This event is free and open to all. You are invited to bring a nonperishable food item for the Middleton Outreach Ministry Food Pantry (www.momhelps.org). Please RSVP by Monday, December 3: sign up in the gathering area, or contact the church office at office@stdunstans.com or by calling 238–2781. Child care will be provided; please let us know if you are bringing kids, and their ages.

The Longest Night: A Liturgy of Light in the Midst of Darkness
Christmas can be a painful time. Grief, anxiety, poor health, and other burdens can make us feel alone in the midst of others’ celebrations of the season. The longest night of the year, the winter Solstice, falls just a few days before Christmas. On Friday December 21st at 7 pm, we will gather together out of the darkness of the season for a quiet, solemn worship service. Please join us for a time of Scripture, music, prayer, candle lighting, and communion. Feel free to invite friends who might appreciate this time set apart to name the darkness in the world and in our lives, and to prepare our hearts for the coming of the light of Christ. Contact the Rev. Miranda Hassett at 238–2781 or rector@stdunstans.com for more information or with any questions.
**Christmas Greens & Poinsettias**: Celebrate someone or something important to you with a gift for Christmas decorations. Please write your dedication on the sign-up sheet in the Gathering Area. Suggested donation is $20 (but no amount is too small). Write "Christmas Flowers" on the memo line of your check or on envelope containing cash. Envelopes are available in the Gathering Area. All dedications must be received by December 16.

**Epiphany Lunch the First Event of 2013!**

The annual Epiphany Lunch will be held at 12:30 on Saturday, January 5th. We will know the location shortly. This event is open to men and women and is a way to celebrate the end of the Christmas season and welcome the New Year together. We will share lunch and conversation – and perhaps a little "trivia". Watch for sign-up starting Sunday, Dec. 16th on the bulletin board.

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Sunday Services: 8 and 10 am  
Evening Service: First and Third Sunday 6 pm  

6205 University Avenue  
Madison WI 53705  
Phone: 608-238-2781; website www.stdunstans.com  
The Rt. Rev. Steven Miller, Bishop of Milwaukee  
The Rev. Dr. Miranda K. Hassett, Rector  
The Rev. Dr. Michael Ramsey-Musolf, Assisting Priest for Ministry Development  
Elizabeth Wroblewski, Parish Administrator  
Martin Ganschow, Music Ministries Leader  
Shirley Laedlein, Senior Warden; John Ertl, Junior Warden  
In case of pastoral emergency, please contact the Rev. Miranda Hassett at (608) 469-7085.