

**LIVE STREAM Sunday at 10a**

**CHURCH OF ST DUNSTAN**

800 N. Johnson ♦ P. O. Box 81 ♦ Mineola TX 75773

Sunday Service: 10:00 a.m. and LIVESTREAM via Facebook  
Virtual Morning Prayer: Mondays at 11 a.m.  
Adult Study: Wednesdays at 11 a.m., Parish Hall & via Zoom  
Women's Bible Study, every Wednesday at 5:00 p.m.  
Men's Bible Study, 2nd and 4th Saturdays at 8:30 a.m.

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Website: [www.churchofstdunstan.org](http://www.churchofstdunstan.org)

Office hours: Monday-Thursday, 9-5, closed 12-1 for lunch



To learn more about St. Dunstan, click on the black QR code at left, the blue QR code at right is a giving link.



*Blessings on you and yours during this Christmas season.*

The Church of St. Dunstan  
800 N Johnson Street  
P. O. Box 81  
Mineola, TX 75773



- ◆ Established in 1947, The Church of Saint Dunstan was named for St. Dunstan who was the Archbishop of Canterbury, statesman and reformer circa 909-988
- ◆ The Rt. Rev. Fraser W. Lawton is the 7th Rector at St. Dunstan
- ◆ The Church of Saint Dunstan is part of the Diocese of Dallas and has been designated a pro-Cathedral working with other congregations in Northeast Texas
- ◆ St. Dunstan is home to parishioners from five counties: Wood, Smith, Rains, Van Zandt and Hunt

# SCRIPTORIUM

THE CHURCH OF ST. DUNSTAN

## A LETTER FROM OUR RECTOR

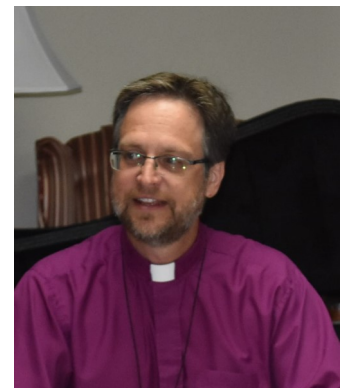
Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The holidays are upon us and their traditions have begun. One of these is the now-annual "Keep Christ in Christmas" campaign. Perhaps some of you are not familiar with it. It began when people began to push back against the move to say "Happy Holidays" instead of "Merry Christmas." I've already seen the first few postings this year on social media. I certainly appreciate the intent behind this sentiment. Christmas is the celebration of Jesus' incarnation. This was a hugely important historic event, as God entered our humanity - His own creation - in order to bring us salvation via the cross. Jesus' birth is indeed a cause for celebration. The push from others to change the greeting comes from a desire to not "exclude" anyone and to recognize that we all, culturally, observe a festive season, while not all of us are Christians. This seems to be less of an issue, in general, in our part of Texas. Nonetheless, I do support and encourage us to say "Merry Christmas" as we greet one another at this time of year. However, the very existence of this "controversy" is of some benefit to us. In the first place, it may help us realize how counter-cultural Christianity truly

is. On the whole, whatever we may think of the past and our heritage, this is not a truly Christian country. A country dominated by true Christian faith and morals would look very different than the one in which we live. This should give us some pause about how we think about our culture and to what degree we can embrace it and to what degree our faith sets us apart. Secondly, and flowing from this realization, this question of our Christmas greetings and expressions calls for some reflection. More than our words, our actions and attitudes display our true beliefs. A greater witness to our faith than our "Merry Christmas" is our attitude in crowded stores, when desired products are absent, when we deal with our less-favorite family members, when our Christmas celebration is actually about worship and thankfulness rather than impressive gifts. Even though the "Christmas season" has been unleashed in stores and movies, we are only at the beginning of Advent. (Advent isn't about daily gifts leading up to Christmas, but is a distinct liturgical season). Advent is a season of anticipation and remembrance. We recall *why* we

needed the incarnation, the promises of God to bring us salvation, and of the reality of Jesus' return. I encourage you to devoutly observe Advent in order to shape your Christmas celebration and to help you in your living of your faith in the midst of a foreign land (or perhaps a better idea is a foreign time - that of waiting for our Lord). By all means, say "Merry Christmas" with passion and gusto, but let it be icing on the cake of a heart of gratitude and awe at the goodness of God!

The Lord be with you,  
+ Fraser



The Rt. Rev. Fraser Lawton,  
Rector and Assistant Bishop,  
Diocese of Dallas

### SAVE THE DATES:

#### ONGOING:

- **Sunday service 10AM & via LIVESTREAM on Facebook.**
- **Mondays at 11AM**—Morning Prayer via Zoom
- **Tuesdays at 5PM**—Prayer in the Nave
- **Wednesdays at 11AM**—Bible study with Bp. Lawton
- **Wednesdays at 1:30PM**—Intercessory Prayer, location varies. Check with Veronica Lawton or Lee Spence
- **Wednesdays at 5PM**—Women's Bible Study
- **2nd & 4th Saturdays at 8:30**—Men's bible study

#### THIS MONTH:

- **DEC 6: 5PM**, Children / Youth Event
- **DEC 16: 10AM**, Vestry meeting  
**5PM**, St. Mark's Posada, Mt. Pleasant
- **DEC 17:** Hanging of the Greens (bring finger foods)
- **DEC 21:** Note, from 10AM-2PM, the Master Gardeners will have use of the Parish Hall
- **DEC 24: Christmas Eve services, 10AM & 8PM**
- **DEC 25-28** —Office will be closed—No service will be held on Christmas Day
- **DEC 30: 3PM**, APNET: Lessons & Carols at St. Wm. Laud in Pittsburg

**DECEMBER 6TH FROM 5-7PM  
CHILDREN / YOUTH SERVICE  
PRAISE ★ WORSHIP ★ FOOD**

## ACOLYTE, ALTAR GUILD AND LECTOR SCHEDULES

### Acolytes for December:

- 3 Tommy & Karen Campbell
- 10 Milton H./ Lee Spence
- 17 Howard & Kathi Ladewig
- 24 **10AM**—Milton H./ Lee S.  
**8PM**—Chuck & Mary Lu F.
- 31 Wes Smith / Patti Corbett

### Lectors for December:

- 3 Diana Davault
- 10 Pam Duncan
- 17 Mary Achziger
- 24 **10AM**—Lorraine Evans  
**8PM**— Mary Lu French
- 31 Patti Corbett

### Altar Guild for December:

- 3 Shirley Tennant /  
Angela Walters
- 10 Margie Jennings /  
Cazzie Husbands
- 17 Lee Spence / Anita Reese
- 24 **10AM** Margie Jennings /  
Cazzie Husbands  
**8PM** Bonita Howell /  
Shirley Tennant
- 31 Bonita Howell / Lee Spence

**THERE WILL BE TWO SERVICES ON  
DECEMBER 24th: 10AM & 8PM.  
NO SERVICE ON CHRISTMAS DAY**



## ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OUTCOMES

The 2023 Annual Parish meeting elected new Vestry members, APNET Council members and delegates to the 2024 Diocesan Convention.

Elected to the Vestry beginning in January 2024 for a term of three years are H. Ray Dean, Sr. and Wesley K. Smith.

There is one Vestry member who is stepping down with

one year to go on his term. Howard Ladewig has been appointed to fulfill this Vestry seat that expires at the end of 2024.

With the average Sunday attendance increasing over the last year, St. Dunstan now earns 2 seats for the Diocesan Convention in 2024. Those elected as delegates are Lee Spence and Tim Boswell with Tommy Campbell and

Sharon Langlais as 1st and 2nd alternates.

APNET Council members, Veronica Lawton and Pam Duncan were re-elected to represent St. Dunstan.

We are thankful for the leadership and hard work of our outgoing Warden, Jim Lea and Jr. Warden, Bonita Howell and Vestry member, Ray Pendley, who stepped down.

**New Vestry  
members for  
2024:  
Ray Dean, Sr.  
and  
Wesley Smith**

## HANGING OF THE GREENS—SAVE THE DATE!

Hanging of the Greens is a long standing tradition at The Church of St. Dunstan. On the third Sunday in December, parishioners gather to decorate the church with festive greens and poinsettias. The Christmas tree will be up to adorn with trim. This year the date falls on December 17th.

December 17th is also POTLUCK Sunday. In lieu of a dish to prepare, everyone is asked to bring

finger foods to enjoy while the decorations are put in place for the season.

Keep in mind that multiple poinsettias will be used to brighten the altar during the Christmas season.

Envelopes for poinsettias will be placed on the Flower Chart bulletin board and in the hymn books beginning with the Sunday following Thanksgiving. »»»



## ECW SENDS THANKS!

The officers and members of the ECW wish to thank everyone for their generosity and support for the Stew Luncheon and Gift Basket sale. The event exceeded all expectations and raised over \$3,200. These funds will be used to support ministries in all counties represented in our Parish, including Kindness Kottage, Rains County Good Samaritans, St. Paul's Food Pantry Ministry and others. Special thanks to Jim Lea, Mike Rodieck and Stan Brosky for their assistance.



Photos courtesy of Marcia Smith

## LESSONS AND CAROLS

If you have not participated in St. Wm. Laud's Lessons and Carols, an APNET event, you are truly missing something very special. Lessons and Carols will take place on Sunday, December 30th at 3PM. St. Wm. Laud is located at 601 Lafayette Road in Pittsburg, TX.

The liturgy is presented in English and Spanish and incorporates all clergy from the Northeast congregations of APNET.

The organ selections are moving and include traditional seasonal hymns.

Following the service, St. Wm. Laud serves a holiday table that is sure to put on a few pounds! But it's the holidays, right?!?

Mark the afternoon of December 30th for a wonderful program and a great way to meet members from other Northeast Texas congregations and their clergy.

Keep in mind that APNET also sponsors excellent quarterly bible studies. More to come...

**LESSONS  
AND  
CAROLS**  
❄️  
**December 30<sup>th</sup>**  
**3:00 PM**

## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

### Birthdays:

- DEC 1 Janice Wisner
- 3 Barbara Bennett  
The Rev. Jeffrey Reed
- 7 Margie Jennings
- 11 John Mays
- 15 Anita Reese
- 24 Larry Walters  
Sharon Langlais  
Jeanne Greenawalt
- 31 Billy McGuyer  
Jack Vail

### Anniversaries:

- DEC 28 Stan & Christine Brosky
- 31 Marcie & Jack Vail

*Happy Birthday &  
Happy Anniversary  
from your St. Dunstan  
family!*

