

St. Paul's Epistle

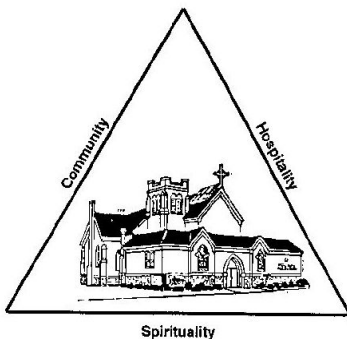
An Inviting Community of Christ's Disciples

Volume 41, Issue 12

December, 2018

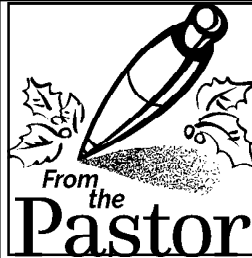
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Advent is the time in the church calendar when we spend time thinking about the birth of our Savior. We will again be lighting the advent candles this advent season. Each candle represents a virtue Jesus brings to us: Hope, Love, Joy and Peace. This year, as we talk about Jesus and the virtues He brings, I want to expand each virtue. Hope will be paired with Stand, to have hope we must **Stand** as a people of faith. Jesus' Love must **Refine** our hearts to seek justice. His Joy will lead us to **Do** something to be part of Abraham's inheritance. And finally, Jesus' Peace will **Welcome** us like Mary and Bethlehem welcomed God in flesh to earth. I invite you all to experience Advent anew again this year and join me in seeking the Christ child through the scripture over the next four weeks.

This year 100% of our Christmas offering will again go to help those in need. One half will go to the UMCOR domestic natural disaster fund that helps communities long after the cameras have packed up and moved on to the next important story. It will help families recover from the hurricanes in Florida and the Carolinas, as well as the people who are suffering such loss in the wildfires out west. The money you give will help faith communities rebuild so they can focus on serving the people, and it will help mission teams rebuild the community one building at a time. The other half of the offering will continue to support the EASY program right here in our own community, reaching local kids with help in school and in life.

I know this time of year can be very busy, but I hope you will remember that Jesus is the reason we celebrate and keep Him first in all you do this Christmas season.

Merry Christmas,

Pastor Paul



Thought for the Month:

Kind words can be short
and easy to speak but
their echoes are truly
Endless.

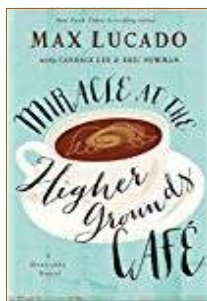
-Mother Teresa

**St. Paul's Family and
Choir Christmas Caroling**

**Wednesday, December 5
6:00 PM**



**December 2
Coins for Communion
to benefit Lima Salvation Army**



**St. Paul's Book Club will meet
on Saturday, December 8,
at 9 AM to discuss the book
"Miracle at the Higher Grounds Cafe"
by Max Lucado.
All are welcome to join the book club!**



Upcoming Events for St. Paul's

Newsletter
deadline:
the **16th**
of each month

Christian Symbol

Five-Pointed Star



The star of Bethlehem is often shown as a five-pointed star. Roughly shaped like a human being, it symbolizes Christ's incarnation. It also calls to mind the wise men's journey: "After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, 'Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him'" (Matthew 2:1-2, NIV).

St. Paul's Epistle

is published by St. Paul's
United Methodist Church

Subscription Rate: NONE

Secretary	Gail Fessler
Newsletter	Jone Lane
Organist	Linda Holman
Pianist	Lois Cook
Choir Director	Judy Chaffins
Custodian	Dave Decker

Seniors Day Out
Tuesday, December 18
at Noon
in the fellowship Hall

Congratulations!

Making the Grades:
Elida High School
Megan Emmons - Senior
 Honor Roll II
Makayla Bok - Sophomore
 Honor Roll I

Elida Middle School
Savannah Emmons - 7th Grade
 Honor Roll I
Cameron Emmons - 5th Grade
 Honor Roll II

Spencerville High School
Jenson Nagy - Senior
 Honor Roll II



December 21st
 Winter officially begins,
 BRRRRRRR!!

December 31, 2018
New Years Eve

Upcoming Events for St. Paul's

December 2, 2018
 1st Sunday of Advent
 "Hope"



December 9, 2018
 2nd Sunday of Advent
 "Love"



December 16, 2018
 3rd Sunday of Advent
 "Joy"

December 23, 2018
 4th Sunday of Advent
 "Peace"

Christmas Eve
December 24, 2018
 Early Service 6:00 PM
 Late Service 10:00 PM
Both services will include
Candlelight

December Missions

Annual Christmas Cookie and Goodie Walk Sunday, December 16

All are invited to come to the Fellowship Hall following the worship service to sample and purchase those yummy sweets you think of at Christmastime. Buy items for yourself, your holiday party, a neighbor, or as a gift exchange item. The proceeds from this event are given to the "Crafty Creatures" small group for quilt supplies. Quilts are made to take to nursing homes, American Township Fire Department, and Child Advocacy Center of Crime Victim Services. Prayer quilts and shawls are also made to be given to those in need of extra prayers and comfort.

Cookie and candy donations are needed to make this event successful. Please bring your items to the church on Saturday morning, December 15, between 9 and 11, or early Sunday morning. If you have any tins that could be recycled from last year, place them in the church office. So, mark your calendar and come to experience the Christmas spirit at St. Paul's to help continue this mission outreach of our church.



The St. Paul's Special Christmas offering will be designated for the following missions:

- ½ to UMCOR, domestic natural disasters.
- ½ to Elida After School Youth Program (EASY).

Hat and Mitten Christmas Tree.

St. Paul's special Christmas tree for hats, mittens and scarves will help to keep those less fortunate stay warm this winter. Consider buying insulated men's and women's sized gloves for the tree to compliment the many knitted scarves and hats that are donated.



Hymn History

“Silent Night”

1818

From “Then Sings My Soul” 150 of the World’s Greatest Hymn Stories
by Robert J. Morgan

Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel. Isaiah 7:14

It was Christmas Eve in the Austrian Alps. At the newly constructed Church of St. Nicholas in Orberndorf, a Tyrol village near Salzburg, Father Joseph Mohr prepared for the midnight service. He was distraught because the church organ was broken, ruining prospects for that evening’s carefully planned music. But Father Joseph was about to learn that our problems are God’s opportunities, that the Lord causes all things to work together for good to those who love Him. It came into Father Joseph’s mind to write a new song, one that could be sung organless. Hastily, he wrote the words, “Silent Night, Holy Night, all is calm, all is bright...” Taking the text to his organist, Franz Gruber, he explained the situation and asked Franz to compose a simple tune.

That night, December 24, 1818, “Silent Night” was sung for the first time as a duet accompanied by a guitar at the aptly named Church of St. Nicholas Oberndorf.

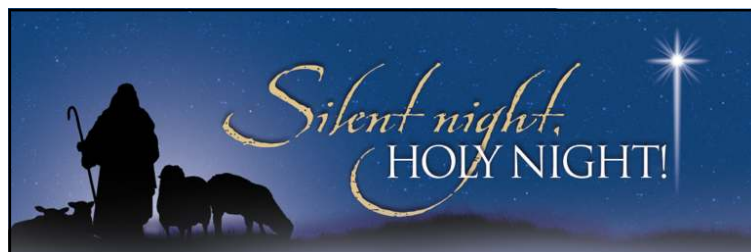
Shortly afterward, as Karl Mauracher came to repair the organ, he heard about the near-disaster on Christmas Eve. Acquiring a copy of the text and tune, he spread it throughout the Alpine region of Austria, referring to it as “Tiroler Volkslied.”

The song came to the attention of the Strasser Family, makers of fine chamoisskin gloves. To drum up business at various fairs and festivals, the four Strasser children would sing in front of their parents booth. Like the Von Trapp children a century later, they became popular folk singers throughout the Alps.

When the children—Caroline, Joseph, Andreas, and Amalie—began singing “Trioler Volkslied” at their performances, audiences were charmed. It seemed perfect for the snow-clad region, and perfect for the Christian heart. “Silent Night” even came to the attention of the king and queen, and the Strasser children were asked to give a royal performance, assuring the carol’s fame.

“Silent Night” was first published for congregational singing in 1838 in the German hymnbook. *Katholisches Gesang*. It was used in America by German-speaking congregations, then appeared in its current English form in a book of Sunday school songs in 1863.

Were it not for a broken organ, there would never have been a “Silent Night.”



Faith In Action

Worship Attendance:

November 4, 2018	91
November 11, 2018	79
November 18, 2018	88
November 25, 2018	76

Financial Giving

Weekly Need for
Unified Ministry Budget
\$3,466.00



Unified Ministry Giving:		Other:
November 4, 2018	\$4,644.00	\$3,265.90
November 11, 2018	\$2,229.00	\$222.00
November 18, 2018	\$6,130.00	\$317.00
November 25, 2108	\$10,556.95	\$2,750.00

Sunday School Attendance

November 4, 2018	6
November 11, 2018	7
November 18, 2018	2
November 25, 2018	4

Greeters

December 2, 2018	Margie Best & Jone Lane
December 9, 2018	Tony & Shirley Shoup
December 16, 2018	Marty & Kathy White
December 23, 2018	OPEN
December 30, 2018	OPEN

Flower Calendar

December 2, 2018	Dan & Margie Best
December 9, 2018	Mike & Kim Crates
December 16, 2018	Jack & Cindy Swihart
December 23, 2018	Poinsettias
December 30, 2018	Poinsettias

Hospitality Cart

December 2, 2018	Book Club/ Lois Cook
December 9, 2018	Roger & Jackie Henderson
December 16, 2018	OPEN
December 23, 2018	Choir/ Judy Chaffins
December 30, 2018	OPEN

Daily Bible Readings

Saturday 12/1

Psalm 33, 107:33-43, 108
Malachi 3:13-4:6
James 5:13-20, Luke 18:9-14

Sunday 12/2

Psalm 111, 112, 113, 146, 147
Isaiah 1:1-9
2 Peter 3:1-10, Matthew 25:1-13

Monday 12/3

Psalm 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, Isaiah 1:10-20
1 Thessalonians 1:1-10
Luke 20:1-8

Tuesday 12/4

Psalm 5, 6, 10, 11, Isaiah 1:21-31
1 Thessalonians 2:1-12
Luke 20:9-18

Wednesday 12/5

Psalm 12, 13, 14, 119:1-24
Isaiah 2:1-11
1 Thessalonians 2:13-20
Luke 20:19-26

Thursday 12/6

Psalm 18, Isaiah 2:12-22
1 Thessalonians 3:1-13
Luke 20:27-40

Friday 12/7

Psalm 16, 17, 22, Isaiah 3:8-15
1 Thessalonians 4:1-12
Luke 20:41-21:4

Saturday 12/8

Psalm 20, 21, 110, 116, 117
Isaiah 4:2-6
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
Luke 21:5-19

Sunday 12/9

Psalm 114, 115, 148, 149, 150
Isaiah 5:1-7
2 Peter 3:11-18, Luke 7:28-35

Monday 12/10

Psalm 9, 15, 25
Isaiah 5:8-12, 18-23
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11
Luke 21:20-28

Tuesday 12/11

Psalm 26, 28, 36, 39
Isaiah 5:13-17, 24-25
1 Thessalonians 5:12-28
Luke 21:29-38

Wednesday 12/12

Psalm 38, 119:25-48, Isaiah 6:1-13
2 Thessalonians 1:1-12
John 7:53-8:11

Thursday 12/13

Psalm 37, Isaiah 7:1-9
2 Thessalonians 2:1-12
Luke 22:1-13

Friday 12/14

Psalm 31, 35, Isaiah 7:10-25
2 Thessalonians 2:13-3:5
Luke 22:14-30

Saturday 12/15

Psalm 30, 32, 42, 43, Isaiah 8:1-15
2 Thessalonians 3:6-18
Luke 22:31-38

Sunday 12/16

Psalm 63, 98, 103, Isaiah 13:6-13
Hebrews 12:18-29, John 3:22-30

Monday 12/17

Psalm 41, 44, 52, Isaiah 8:16-9:1
2 Peter 1:1-11, Luke 22:39-53

Tuesday 12/18

Psalm 45, 47, 48, Isaiah 9:1-7
2 Peter 1:12-21, Luke 22:54-69

Wednesday 12/19

Psalm 53, 119:49-72, Isaiah 9:8-17
2 Peter 2:1-10a, Mark 1:1-8

Thursday 12/20

Psalm 50, 59, 60, Isaiah 9:18-10:4
2 Peter 2:10b-16
Matthew 3:1-12

Friday 12/21

Psalm 40, 51, 54, Isaiah 10:5-19
2 Peter 2:17-22, Matthew 11:2-15

Saturday 12/22

Psalm 55, 138, 139
Isaiah 10:20-27
Jude 17-25, Luke 3:19

Sunday 12/23

Psalm 8, 24, 29, 84
Isaiah 42:1-12
Ephesians 6:10-20, John 3:16-21

Monday 12/24

Christmas Eve
Psalm 89:1-29, Isaiah 59:15-21
Philippians 2:5-11

Tuesday 12/25

Christmas Day
Psalm 2, 85, 110, 132
Zechariah 2:10-13
1 John 4:7-16
John 3:31-36

Wednesday 12/26

Psalm 72, 111, 113
Isaiah 28:9-22
Revelation 21:9-21, Luke 1:26-38

Thursday 12/27

Psalm 80, 146, 147
Isaiah 29:13-24
Revelation 21:22-22:5
Luke 1:39-56

Friday 12/28

Psalm 93, 96, 148, 150
Isaiah 33:17-22
Revelation 22:6-11, 18-20
Luke 1:57-66

Saturday 12/29

Psalm 18, Isaiah 12:1-6
Revelation 1:1-8, John 7:37-52

Sunday 12/30

Psalm 20, 21, 23, 27
Isaiah 25:1-9
Revelation 1:9-20, John 7:53-8:11

Monday 12/31

Psalm 46, 48, Isaiah 26:1-9
2 Corinthians 5:16-6:2
John 8:12-19



Halloween

St. Paul's Neighborhood Trick or Treat Mission & EACC Trunk or Treat October 25, 2018



Connecting With...



Congratulations to Travis and Julie Bok on the birth of their daughter, Kassidy Leigh Bok, born on Friday, October 26. She weighed 4 lbs. 5 oz. and was 18 ½ inches long. Her very proud siblings are Makayla, Anika and Terry. Grandparents are Dennis and Kim Metzger. She has many aunts, uncles and cousins to help spoil her.



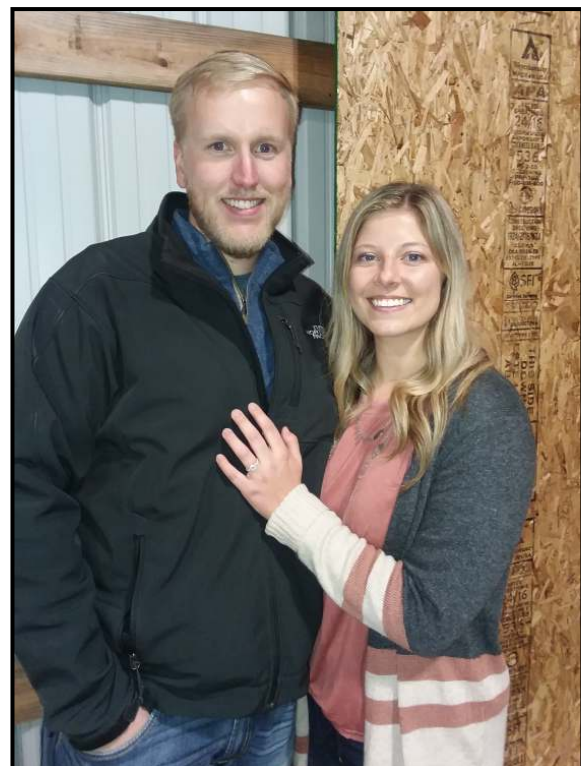
*St. Paul's Family,
Thank you for the beautiful flowers that we received for Kassidy! They brightened our day and Terry loved the balloon! We want to also thank you for all the prayers, messages and cards we received during this crazy time in our life! Thanks to the Crafty Creatures for the beautiful prayer blanket! It's perfect!*

We are truly blessed with a wonderful church family! We are happy to report that Kassidy is doing well at home.

*Love,
Travis, Julie, Makayla, Anika, Terry & Kassidy*

Congratulations

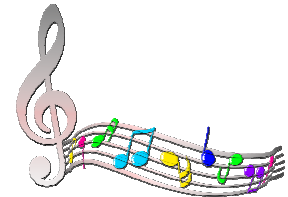
Congratulations to Tahler Sdao on her engagement to Ben Wetherill, on November 11, in the presence of many family and friends. Tahler is the daughter of Steve and Tracy Sdao. A wedding date has not yet been set.



Remember When...



December 21, 1997
Children's Musical



December 10, 2011
Choir dinner and outing to
Kenny G concert in Van Wert



December 13, 2015
Children's Bell Choir



Our Church History

A Relay for Life fundraiser luncheon was held after the church service on February 14. Homemade soups, relishes, chips, and homemade cake and cookies were served to the congregation.

The 2010 Elida High School graduates were honored with a breakfast provided by the Nurture Committee in May. Dan Best and Gene Craft, Lois Cook, higher education chair, and Sue Theodore, Nurture chair, joined the graduates and their parents for breakfast. They were also recognized during the worship service. The graduates for this year are Derek Bible, Molly Fessler and Jacinda Fletcher.

Marty and Kathy White hosted a Koinonia Class meeting at their home on October 3, 2010. Seventeen members were present. Corinne Piper, Judy Chaffins, and Shirley Moser sang the AARP version of Julie Andrews' "My Favorite Things." Refreshments were served after the business meeting. A fun time was had by all!

On November 1, 2010, Bob Evans manager, Domenick Stoner, presented Pastor Ruth a check for \$159, which was earned by our congregation eating at the Bob Evans Restaurant.

A Refocus Summit was held on March 23, 2011. Those attending were Dan and Margie Best, Judy Chaffins, Lois Cook, Linda Craft, Art and Linda Holman, Maedene Holmes, Don and Mary Irvin, Lavonne Segovia, Tim and Corinne Piper, Pastor Ruth Solo, Marty and Kathy White, and Jan and Jamie Wyant. A luncheon was served and ideas were suggested to get our church "refocused."

Easter Sunday was celebrated on April 24, 2011, with the church decorated with many Easter Lilies and the chancel choir singing "A Never Ending Allelulia." The Chancel Choir is directed by Judy Chaffins and Lois Cook provided the accompaniment. The choir members are Dan Best, Linda Craft, Jerry Crates, Lynda Evans, Norm Grigsby, Ruth Hardy, Ginny Hollar, Linda Holman, Maedene Holmes, Wilbur Hurd, Myrna Metzger, Martha Vazquez, Jamie Wyant and Jan Wyant.



October 3, 2010
Koinonia Meeting at White's House
Singing Julie Andrews AARP version of
"My Favorite Things"



March 23, 2011
Refocus Summit

The People of St. Paul's

Thank You

*My St. Paul's Family,
The wedding at Disney was
great. We are getting settled
into our routine here- bingo
tomorrow night! Ha ha
Miss you all. Love you all.*

Bev Nesbitt

*Dear Friends at St. Paul,
Thank you so much for the
beautiful flowers, cards,
hospital visits, and prayers
during my recent hospital
stay. Its nice to be part of
such a wonderful Christian
family.*

*God Bless,
Deb Hurd*

Remember in Prayer

Recovering from Surgery or in the Hospital

Deb Hurd

Homebound Members

Hazel Dunn
Glenna Kohli

Those in Need of Healing, Support, Strength & Encouragement

Ted Lennox
Ray and Phyllis Trigg

In the Military & Missions

Oliver Fessler
Nathan Stewart

With Deepest Sympathy

*Our sympathy to Ted and Jan
Sodders on the death of Jan's sister,
Thelma Shields. A memorial service
was held on November 17.
Cards may reach Ted and Jan at:
205 N. Greenlawn Ave.,
Elida, OH 45807*

*Our sympathy to the Family of Phyllis Hines who passed
away Sunday, November 18. She is survived by her
husband Jim and 4 children, Debra (William) Hect, Vicki
(Ronald) Schmidt, James R. (Sarah) Hines and Jennifer
(Rodney) Bryant. A memorial service was held at the
church on November 23.
Condolences will reach Jim and the family at:
2601 Whippoorwill Ave., Elida, OH 45807.*

Blessing of the quilts on Sunday, November 18. Shirley Shoup, Margie Best and other members of the Crafty Creatures small group lay hands on the quilts during the blessing.



67 Operation Christmas Child shoe boxes were blessed on November 18, before being delivered to WTLW to be shipped to needy children around the world.



Meetings

December 3, 2018
PPR...7:00 PM

December 4, 2018
Trustees...7:00 PM

December 5, 2018
Worship Mtg...
to follow caroling

December 10, 2018
Finance ...7:00 PM

No Ad Council Mtg.

TBA
Missions

Sundays
Sunday Sch...9:00 AM
Prayer...9:30 AM
Fellowship...9:30 AM
Worship...10:00 AM

Wednesdays
Chancel Choir.7:00 PM

DECEMBER 2018

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

Anniversaries

*Roger & Jackie
Henderson
December 4; 47 yrs.*

*Shara & Dennis Bowsher
December 19*

*Larry & Gloria Brunk
December 21; 50 yrs.*

*John & Val Kuenzli
December 27*

*Denny & Janna
Thompson
December 29; 40 yrs.*

*Ron & Karen Bible
December 30*

*Mike & Kim Crates
December 31*

						1 A.J. White Lena Whetstone
2 Lavonne Segovia Michael Craft	3	4	5 Shirley Adams David Segovia	6 Gerald Crates Teresa Grigsby Sue Theodore Lisa Wurster	7	8
9	10	11 John Segovia Phyllis Trigg	12	13	14	15 Taryn Piper
16	17	18 Mary Holmes Pamela Moser	19	20 Ruth Burgoon Mary Steiner	21	22 Kara Woeller
23	24 Linda Craft	25	26	27 Deb Hurd Megan Wyant	28	29 Tiffany Emmons Tammy Segovia
30 Cameron Emmons Tristan Gaghen	31 Jack White					

Featured Recipes from St. Paul's Cooks

Ham Loaf

By Robert Potter

Ingredients		Instructions
4 lbs.	Ham loaf	Mix all ingredients.
3	Eggs	Place in one large loaf pan or 2 small loaf pans. Garnish with pineapple.
1/4 to 1/2 cup	Brown sugar	Bake at 350 degrees for 1 1/2 to 2 hours.
1/2 cup	Corn flakes (Crumbs)	Glaze:
Juice of 28 oz. can	Pineapple Chunks	Heat till well mixed. Drizzle over ham loaf a few times while baking.
	Save pineapple for garnish	
	Glaze:	
1 cup	Brown sugar	
1/2 cup	Honey	
1/2 cup	Orange juice	



Pie Crust

By Linda Holman

Ingredients		Instructions
4 cups	Flour	Blend flour, salt, and sugar in a large bowl. Using a pastry blender, cut the shortening into the dry ingredients.
2 1/2 tsp.	Salt	Whip the egg in a small bowl, add the vinegar and water. Pour over the dry ingredients.
1 Tbl.	Sugar	Mix with hands until it forms a ball. Roll out on a lightly floured board.
1 1/2 cup	Crisco shortening	Makes 2 double crust pies.
1	Egg (whipped)	Filling:
1 Tbl.	Vinegar	Mix flour with sugar, then mix with the fruit.
1/2 cup	Water	Place in the bottom crust, dot with butter, and cover with top crust. Sprinkle with sugar.
	Filling:	Bake at 425 degrees for 15 minutes, then 375 degrees for 20 to 30 more minutes or until pie begins to bubble.
4 cups	Cherries, raspberries, or blueberries	Enjoy!
1/3 cups	Flour	
3/4 to 1 cup	Sugar	
Dots of	Butter	

St. Paul's United Methodist Church

105 E. Main St.
Elida, OH 45807

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Our Web Address:
www.elidastpaulschurch.org

Our Facebook page
Elida St. Paul's Church

Twitter Account
@ESPCHURCH



Living Our Faith

Many Happy Returns

Somehow, not only for Christmas,
But all the long year through,
The joy that you give to others,
Is the joy that comes back to you.

And the more you spend in blessing
The poor and lonely and sad,
The more of your heart's possessing
Returns to you glad.

—John Greenleaf Whittier



A Merry Balance

In Luke 10:38-42, Martha gets a bad rap. After all, we need Marthas to get things done and to show hospitality. (Note that Martha is the one who opens up her home to Jesus in the first place!)

Marthas are needed in December, but holiday preparations shouldn't shift our focus from the reason for the season. When we become "worried and distracted" as Martha did (v. 41, NRSV), we're tempted to trade God's "one thing" (v. 42) for the world's many worthless things. Yet if we're only like Mary, we may forget to let the world know who we're celebrating!

So this Christmas, keep a proper balance between your inner Mary and your inner Martha. Take time to "be Mary," kneeling at the manger, so that all the merry things you do as Martha have meaning and serve the newborn king.