



Caroline Oakes: Mind and Spirit Advent, repentance, and "seeing with a bigger mind"

Those focusing on the practice of repentance in this season of Advent may be encouraged to learn that, according to biblical scholars both ancient and new, the word "repentance" means something very different and far more powerful than what we may have learned in Sunday school. In Scripture, the original Greek word that "repentance" is translating is "metanoia," which does not mean feeling sorry for yourself for doing bad things. The word "metanoia" means literally "beyond mind," beyond perception," or "going into the

larger mind." This more accurate translation brings a radical difference in meaning throughout Scripture. As just one example, the first message of Jesus in the Gospels — "Repent: The Kingdom of heaven is at hand" — is now understood as "See with a larger mind: The Kingdom of God is at hand." "Metanoia means seeing beyond our ego-driven, me-oriented, binary thinking that breaks everything down into good/bad, either/or," says Franciscan monk Richard Rohr. "Metanoia embraces an inclusive and unitive

both/and view; it looks for reasons to include the other, rather than looking for reasons to reject the other." I am reminded of the young California mother, who, like all of us, has been watching the news coverage of the Syrian refugees trekking thousands of miles with their children to flee the danger and devastation of their own country. She said, "Having two toddlers of my own, one day it occurred to me how exhausting it must be for parents to be carrying their toddlers for all those miles. I have

two toddlers of my own, and I know how hard it is to carry them for even half an hour." The young mother put together a crowd-source fund for 1,500 baby carriers, connected with 20 other mothers and flew to Lesbos Island to meet the ferries filled with refugee families. She and her friends greeted each of the young parents, gave them the baby carriers, and showed them how to strap them on. The looks of surprise and relief and joy and gratitude on the faces of the young refugee parents, and the hugs exchanged between

strangers — now friends — were unforgettable. This young mother saw beyond the mind — she saw "we," not "us and them." "Metanoia is not a moralistic or even churchy word at all," says Rohr. "Metanoia is a clear strategy for the enlightenment of the world." Caroline Oakes serves on the staff of Trinity Buckingham Church in Buckingham, as Associate Minister for Spiritual Growth and Mission. Follow her on Facebook and on Twitter at @carolineoakes.



New pianist plays at Pleasant Ridge

Paige Rumble, a senior at Central Bucks East, is the new pianist at Pleasant Ridge Church in Danboro. She will accompany the congregation weekly. Rumble has been studying piano for more than eight years, the past six years with Mark Ingerman. She has studied at the Philadelphia International Music Festival and Oberlin Conservatory's Cooper Piano Festival. Rumble is planning to pursue a career in piano performance. She will sing at the Christmas Eve service at 4 p.m. Dec. 24.

St. Philip's offers warm Christmas

St. Philip's Episcopal Church has designed its Christmas Mass schedule to accommodate as many people as possible. The former one-room schoolhouse at 10 Chapel Road in New Hope will have candlelight Mass with music at 4, 7 and 10 p.m. on Christmas Eve and a quiet Mass Christmas Day at 10:15 a.m. "Did you know there are about 80 homeless people living between Doylestown and New Hope?" asked the Rev. Michael Ruk, the priest at St. Philip's. "Yes. And Jesus was homeless. So we're inviting everyone attending to bring a gift of new socks with them, which we can then distribute to homeless people all winter long. We want to really kindle the Christmas spirit here all year." Everyone is welcome, not only parishioners. New socks for children and adults in all sizes, colors and styles will also be welcome and should be brought unwrapped. For information, visit stphilip-snewhope.org/christmas or phone Ruk at 215-862-5782.



The Rev. Michael Ruk, priest at St. Philip's Church, New Hope, will collect gifts of new socks at Christmas services to distribute to the homeless.

Trinity Solebury junior and senior choirs perform Handel's "Messiah"

The Senior and Junior Choirs of Trinity Episcopal Church, Solebury, will perform Handel's "Messiah" Part I and selections from Part II and III, at 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 20. The 55-voice choir and 16-piece chamber orchestra will be conducted by Timothy Harrell, organist-choirmaster at Trinity Church. Featured soloists are soprano Rochelle Reed, countertenor Nicholas Tamagna, tenor Stephen Sands and baritone Brian Chu. This is the 17th consecutive year that "Messiah" has been performed at Trinity. The performance will include the Madrigal Singers from Bucks County Community College, whose director is Rochelle Reed, Trinity's soprano soloist and full-time faculty member at Bucks, where she conducts three choral ensembles and teaches voice. Tamagna was the 2011 winner of the Nico Castel International Mastersinger Competition at Carnegie Hall. He was the first prize recipient of the 2012 New York Lyric Opera Theater Com-

petition and recently performed Messiah at Avery Fischer Hall at Lincoln Center. Sands is a founding member and executive director of the internationally award-winning Antioch Chamber Ensemble. His extensive discography includes the recent releases of a CD of Bach Motets and the Complete Haydn Masses with the Choir of Trinity Wall Street. Chu teaches on the voice faculties of Rowan University and Muhlenberg College. Equally at home in opera and oratorio, he

has been a soloist with groups including The King's Noyse, Washington's Cathedral Choral Society, Piffano, the Choral Arts Society of Philadelphia, the Bach Choir of Bethlehem, and the Caramoor and Carmel Bach festivals, and has sung roles under specialists William Christie, Will Crutchfield and Peter Schreier. Admission is \$20 for adults and \$10 for children 12 and under. Tickets are available at the door, at 6587 Upper York Road (Route 263) and Sugas Road. For details, call 215-297-5135.

Lahaska United Methodist Church

Rte. 263 & Street Road, Lahaska, PA 18931
 Pastor: Dr. Roy Lewis ~ Ph: 215-794-0688

Sunday, December 20th at 10:00am
Cantata

Thursday, December 24th
 6:30pm Family Service
 8:00pm Candlelight Service

Christmas Sunday,
 December 27th at 10:00am
Carols and Scripture

TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH
 BUCKINGHAM, PA

Christmas Worship

December 24

4 pm: Family Service
 9 pm: Music of the Season
 9:30 pm: Christmas Eve Service with Trumpet & Choir

Christmas Day

10 am: Contemplative Eucharist in Historic Trinity Chapel

SAVE THE DATE: January 10, 10:15 am
 Children's Epiphany Pageant

2631 DURHAM ROAD, BUCKINGHAM, PA
 WWW.TRINITYBUCKINGHAM.ORG • 215-794-7921

CARVERSVILLE CHRISTIAN CHURCH
 United Church of Christ

Christmas Eve Service
 Thursday, December 24, 2015

7:00 PM Musical Prelude
 9:30 am - Contemporary Worship Service & Church School
 11:11 am - Word and Worship Service
 5:30 pm - Children's Christmas Celebration

7:30 PM Candlelight Worship Service
 Rev. Thomas C. Wray, Pastor

3736 Aquetong Road, Carversville
 215-297-5166
 www.carversvilleuicc.org
 Worship & Sunday School, 10 AM

Joyful Joyful
 God of Glory Lord of Love!
 we adore Thee

Palisades Area Lutheran Churches
 Christmas Eve Services

<p>Christ Lutheran Church Pipersville: 7:00, 9:30 & 10:00 pm Phone: 215-766-8730</p> <p>Christ Lutheran Church Springtown: 7:00 pm Phone: 610-346-8055</p> <p>Evangelical Lutheran Church Durham: 5:00 pm & 7:30 pm Phone: 610-346-8500</p> <p>St. Peters Lutheran Church Riegelsville: 7:00 pm Phone: 610-749-0830</p>	<p>St. Luke's Lutheran Church Ferndale: 7:30 pm Phone: 215-804-0863</p> <p>Trinity Lutheran Church Pleasant Valley: 7:00 pm & 10:30 pm Phone: 610-346-7282</p> <p>Upper Tinicum Lutheran Church Upper Black Eddy: 7:00 pm & 9:00 pm Phone: 610-982-5545</p>
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www.engageinfaith.org

Celebrate the Christmas Season
 with the family of
 Doylestown United
 Methodist Church

December 20 – Fourth Sunday of Advent
 8:15 & 11:00 am – Traditional Services
 9:30 am – Contemporary Worship Service & Church School
 11:11 am – Word and Worship Service
 5:30 pm – Children's Christmas Celebration

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services, December 24
 4:00 pm – Traditional Worship with Sanctuary Choir (Nursery provided)
 5:30 pm – Contemporary Worship – Unplugged with Power of Grace, Youth Choir and Youth Bells. (Nursery provided)
 7:00 pm – Contemporary Worship with Sounds of Faith, Brothers in Christ. (Nursery provided)
 9:00 pm – Traditional Worship with Communion and Harpist,
 11:00 pm – Traditional Worship with Communion and Harpist, Alison Simpson.

December 27 – Family Worship Sunday – Everyone Welcome
 8:15 am – Traditional Worship
 9:30 am – Non-traditional Worship (Nursery provided)

215-348-5224 | Rte. 313 between 202 & 611
 www.doylestownumc.org | Doylestown