

RELIGION

Bishop Deeley presides over Advent Festival

BY DAVE GUTHRO
ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE
OF PORTLAND

PORTLAND — In preparation for Christmas, more than 250 people gathered at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Portland as Bishop Robert P. Deeley presided over the Advent Festival of Lessons and Carols on Dec 11.

During the festival, a tradition that dates back to the 19th century, the story of salvation was shared through nine Scripture readings or “lessons,” which were interwoven with

prayers, Christmas carols and hymns. The lessons began with Genesis and the fall of man in the Garden of Eden and continued with the promise of the Messiah and the Incarnation.

“It is with great joy that we hear again the narrative of our salvation; of God’s creative love and the human family’s rejection of that love; the message of hope prophesied in the time of old; the glorious message of the Incarnation, revealed and accepted by Mary, heralded by the angels, and sent out to the whole world by the proclamation of the Gos-

pel,” Bishop Deeley said.

The festival was a celebration of the Light coming into the world. During the evening, candles were lit one by one as each lesson was shared. Before the ninth and final lesson, the light was passed from candle to candle throughout the congregation, similar to what is experienced at the beginning of Easter Vigil Mass.

“Lord, you are the giver of all good gifts. May we always remember to share our gifts with others for the glory of your name,” the bishop prayed as the altar servers prepared to share

the light with those gathered.

During the evening, the congregation joined in praying for unity among all Christians, for peace and justice in the world, for the poor, the hungry, the oppressed, the sick, the lonely, the aged and for children.

“Let us remember that his message of our salvation joins us in union with the whole world in every time and place — with all the holy ones, the countless multitude who have placed their hope in the Word made flesh,” the bishop said.

The festival, a longtime

tradition at the cathedral, was a multicultural celebration with readings and hymns offered in English, Arabic, French, German, Italian, Polish and Spanish.

Among the many moving moments of the evening was the singing of “Silent Night” in five languages, including a verse in Polish sung by two children, ages 7 and 10. Members from the St. Louis Parish Children’s Choir, who are ages 5 to 10, later sang “Przydz Gwiazdeczko,” bringing smiles to many faces. The hymns and carols also included “Betelehemu,”

a traditional Nigerian carol; “Il Est Ne, Le Divin Enfant,” “Star Carol” and “O Come, All Ye Faithful.” All were chosen to complement the Scripture passages.

The music was performed by the Immaculate Conception Liturgical Choir led by Christopher Pelonzi, cathedral music director. Choir members were accompanied by 18 musicians, who provided accompaniment on the bass, cello, clarinet, flute, French horn, guitar, harp, oboe, organ, percussion instruments, piano, trombone, trumpet, viola, violin and violoncello.

Things to Do
Religion

BANGOR — Organ and piano concert by Robert and Nancy Ludwig, 8 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 31, St. John’s Episcopal Church, 225 French St., followed by a festive reception. Concert preceded at 7 p.m. by a Eucharist for the Eve of the Feast of the Holy Name. Donations to benefit Bangor Area Homeless Shelter.

BANGOR — Glad Tidings Church Thrift Store, 1033 Broadway, 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Tuesday-Friday. gtcbangor.com or facebook.com/gtcbangor.

BANGOR — Bangor Community Chorus welcomes singers to participate in this nonaudition, diverse chorus, which rehearses weekly, 6:30 p.m. Tuesdays, First United Methodist Church, 703 Essex St. Winter seasonal program will be “Under Winter Moon.” Stacy George, 333-0980 or sgeo8@roadrunner.com.

BANGOR — Sermon by the Rev. Arthur Vaeni, Sunday, Dec. 27, Unitarian Universalist Society of Bangor, 120 Park St. 947-7009 or UUBangor.org.

BANGOR — Soul Movement for the Holidays with rhythm and blues, soul and gospel music and simple stretches and moves designed to bring comfort, joy and gratitude into the holiday season, 6-7:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 7, Maine Holistic Center, 81 Main St. \$10. Suzanne Kelly at

745-3157 or suziekr@gmail.com.

BANGOR — Kids Bible Club, 5:30-7 p.m. Wednesdays, Glad Tidings Church, 1033 Broadway. For kindergartners through eighth-graders. Choose from sports or crafts, followed by Bible time and a light meal. 947-0324, ext. 15, or Facebook.com/GTCBangor.

BANGOR — Free community meal, 12:30 p.m. Sundays, Columbia Street Baptist Church, 63 Columbia St. 945-6616.

BELFAST — Belfast Area Friends Meeting, Religious Society of Friends (Quakers), silent, unprogrammed meeting for worship, 11 a.m. Sundays, The Lounge at First Baptist Church, 95 High St. Take the path through the Peace Garden to enter the Friends’ worship space. Handicapped accessible. Child care available. 338-3080 or 930-3518.

BLUE HILL — Simmering Pot free community meals, 2:30-6 p.m. Mondays, First Congregational Church of Blue Hill, 22 Tenney Hill. Local produce often featured. Worship services, 10 a.m. Sundays. Donations accepted. 374-2891.

BUCKSPORT — Holiday Mass schedule, 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 31; 10:30 a.m. Friday, Jan. 1, St. Vincent de Paul, 60 Franklin St.

CAMDEN — Coffee and Sunday school, 9:30

a.m.; worship service, 10:45 a.m. Sundays; prayer, 7:30-8 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays; devotion and prayer gathering, 7 p.m. Wednesdays; men’s group, 7-9 a.m. Saturdays, Chestnut Street Baptist Church, 29 Chestnut St. 236-2195. For men’s group information, call Brian Vanden Brink at 236-3922.

CAMDEN — Testimony meetings, 7:30-8:30 p.m. Wednesdays; Sunday service, 10-11 a.m.; Sunday school for up to age 20, 10-11 a.m., Christian Science Reading Room, 1 Central St., open to listen to chats, lectures and read inspirational magazines, noon-3 p.m. Tuesday, Thursday and Friday; 5:30-7:30 p.m. Wednesday; 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday. Men’s group, 7-9 a.m. Saturdays, second-floor high school classroom. 236-4040.

CASTINE — First Sunday of Christmas and Holy Eucharist with the Rev. Richard Armstrong, celebrant and preacher, 9 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 27, Trinity Episcopal Church, 150 Perkins St. Refreshments. Church school, 9 a.m. second and fourth Sundays.

CASTINE — Sermon, “A Life-Saving Religion” by the Rev. Deane M. Perkins, minister at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Belfast, 10:30 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 27, Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Castine Meeting House. 326-9083 or minister@uucastine.org or office@uucastine.org.

CASTINE — Sermon, “What Child is This?,” by the Rev. Tim Hall, 9:30 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 27, Trinitarian Congregational Parish of Castine, 68 Main St. Special offering to benefit the Deacons Fund. Refreshments. 326-9486 or tcpoc.org.

CASTINE — Holiday Mass schedule: 4 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 31, Our Lady of Holy Hope, 137 Perkins St.

DEXTER — Kids Bible Club for children in kindergarten-grade five, 5-7:30 p.m. Wednesdays, New Hope Baptist Church, 130 Spring St. 924-7419 or NHBCDexterFacebookpage.

DEXTER — Coffee fellowship, 8 a.m.; prayer in pastor’s office, 8:30 a.m.; Sunday school, 9 a.m.; worship services, 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Wired Youth Fellowship for grades six-12, 5:30 p.m. Sundays, New Hope Baptist Church, 130 Spring St. Prayer meetings, 6 p.m. Wednesdays; Ladies Bible Study on “The Fruit of the Spirit,” 10 a.m.; special Sunday school class for couples who have children or plan to have children, focusing on marriage. Food pantry distribution, 8:15-9:15 a.m. first and third Saturdays each month. NewHopeDexter.org or NHBCDexterFacebookpage or 924-7419.

ELLSWORTH — New City Reach ministry, 10:30 a.m. Sundays, 27 High St. Free food and testimonies Tuesdays. Jerm-

el Mcwhorter at 249-0303 or church at 412-0660.

ELLSWORTH — Saturday sanctuary sessions explore faith, religion and spirituality, 4:30-6:30 p.m. second and fourth Saturdays of the month, St. Andrew Lutheran Church, 175 Downeast Highway. Supper is potluck with theme, topic and menu posted on StAndrewME.org and Facebook usually the Wednesday before. No alcohol or tobacco. 667-7641.

GUILFORD — Food cupboard, 1:30-3 p.m. Wednesdays, Guilford United Methodist Church, 3 School St. For Elliotsville, Willimantic, Blanchard, Abbot, Guilford, Sangerville, Parkman, Wellington and Cambridge.

GUILFORD — Worship, 10 a.m. Sundays, Guilford United Methodist Church, 3 School St. Coffee hour, 9-9:50 a.m. Choir rehearsal, 9:15 a.m., in the sanctuary.

HOWLAND — Exodus Bible study, 10-11 a.m. Tuesdays; \$4 lunch, 11:30 a.m. Wednesdays; worship, 9-10 a.m. Sundays, Howland United Methodist Church, 23 Coffin St. 862-4281.

LIMERICK — Regular services by Pastor John Short Jr., 10 a.m. Sundays, Maine Life Gate Christian Church, 3 Foss Road. Saturday service, 6 p.m. Sermons posted at Facebook.com/MaineLifeGateChristianChurch. 793-2610 or info@mlgchurch.com.

LINCOLN — Acts Bible study, 6:30-7:30 p.m. Mondays; free community suppers, 5-6 p.m. Wednesdays; Sunday school, 9:15 a.m.; social hour, 10-10:45 a.m.; followed by worship, 11 a.m. Sundays; informal contemporary evening worship, 6-7 p.m. Sundays, First United Methodist Church, 8 Lee Road. 794-8443.

SEARSMONT — Searsmont United Methodist Church seeks pianist or organist to play for its services, 9-10 a.m. Sundays. Elsa at 342-5294 or the Rev. Ed Bove at 785-4140 or 401-525-6866.

SEARSPORT — First Congregational Church is selling a collection of recipes from 1600s to today, including history, stories and original photographs, \$20 each. Free ebook editions with each purchase. Pick up a copy of the book at Hamilton Marine, Colonial Gables, Belfast Area Chamber of Commerce, Searsport Antique Mall, Safe Harbor Church events and at the church, 8 Church St. Will ship for an additional \$6 per book. Mail check or money orders to Jessica Hall, Searsport First Congregational Church, P.O. Box 261, Searsport 04974.

STONINGTON — Holiday Mass, 8 a.m. Friday, Jan. 1, St. Mary Star of the Sea Church, 10 Granite St.

For a complete listing of calendar items or to submit your event, visit www.bangordailynews.com.

let us

Worship together

United Methodist

Orono United Methodist Church

36 Oak St, Orono • www.oronouncm.com
Orono United Methodist Church • 866-4605
email: oronounc@gmail.com
9:45am Adult/Youth Sunday School
11am Worship
w/ Children's Sunday School
Pastor Steve Smith
Handicapped Accessible (Parking Lot)

Grace United Methodist Church

193 Union Street, Bangor
942-8320
Worship Service & Sunday School 10AM
Everybody Welcome
www.gbgn-umc.org/gracumcbangor
Handicap-Accessible • Nursery Provided

Hampden Highlands United Methodist Church

44 Kennebec Rd., Hampden
Worship & Sunday School 10 a.m.
Nursery Provided • 862-4195
www.hampdenhighlands.me
office@hampdenhighlands.me handicap accessible

1st United Methodist Church of Brewer

40 South Main St., Brewer • 207-989-7310
Worship 11 a.m. Sunday
Pastor Harbour Mitchell
harbour@midcoast.com
Handicapped accessible / Nursery available

Orthodox

Scriptural Traditional Worship + God's Peace and Love
An evangelical outreach of the Orthodox Church (OCA) is now organizing in Bangor.
Sunday Worship, teaching and Lunch: 10:00 am at 243 French Street (in the rear).
Come, taste and see that the Lord is good!

Baptist

Columbia Street Baptist Church
Sharing the resources of Christ in downtown Bangor and beyond.
SINCE 1845
Worship Service, Sunday at 10:15am
The Mansion, Sunday at 6pm
www.csbcbangor.org • 207-945-6616
Rev. Dr. Stan Moody 63 Columbia St, Downtown Bangor

HERMON BAPTIST CHURCH (848-5749)
S.S. 8:45 a.m., Worship 10 a.m. & 6 p.m.
Finish 2015 Worshipping With Us!
Wednesday at 6:25 p.m.
AWANA/Teens/Prayer Mtg.
www.hermonbaptistchurch.org,
(www.truelife.org)

Bible Baptist Church
Preaching The Lord Jesus Christ
† KJV Bible • Great Hymns †
“The Way Church Used To Be”
Sun. 10 AM, 6 PM; Thurs. 6:30 PM
Children’s Church Sun. 10 AM
Caring nursery provided for all services
945-9952 619 Hammond St., Bangor

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. David Henry
Worship Service 10:15 am
Loving Childcare Provided
Sunday School 9:00
56 Center St., Bangor • 945-9694
fbcbangor.org

GOOD NEWS BAPTIST CHURCH
Independent, Fundamental, King James Bible
Sunday School for everyone 10 a.m.
Sunday Worship Services 11 a.m. & 6:00 p.m., Wed. 6:30 p.m.
Currently meeting @ 750 Hogan Rd.
in the Quality Inn conference room
www.gnbcbangor.com

Catholic

SAINT PAUL THE APOSTLE PARISH
BANGOR • BREWER
HAMPDEN • WINTERPORT
217-6740
WEEKEND MASSES
Saturday
4:00PM St. John's Bangor
4:00PM St. Joseph's..... Brewer
Sunday
7:00AM St. Mary's Bangor
8:30AM St. Gabriel's..... Winterport
8:30AM St. Mary's..... Bangor
10:30AM St. John's..... Bangor
10:30AM St. Matthew's..... Hampden
5:30PM St. Teresa's Brewer
Confession:
Saturday
2:30 PM to 3:45 PM, St. John's, Bangor
3:00 PM to 3:45 PM, St. Joseph's, Brewer
Sunday
4:30 PM to 5:15 PM, St. Teresa's, Brewer

The Parish of the Resurrection of the Lord
827-4000 • MASS SCHEDULE
Thursday - December 31st
☞ 6PM - St. Ann's, Bradley
Friday - January 1st
☞ 10AM - Holy Family, Old Town
Saturday
☞ 4PM - Holy Family, Old Town
☞ 5:30PM - St. Ann's, Indian Island
Sunday
☞ 8AM - Holy Family, Old Town
☞ 9:30AM - St. Ann's, Bradley
☞ 11AM - Our Lady of Wisdom / Newman Center, Orono

Quakers - Friends

Meetings for Worship
Bar Harbor Area 207-610-0555
Belfast Area 207-930-3518
Eggemoggin Reach..... 207-348-6686
Narramissic Valley (Bucksport) 207-326-8789
Orono..... 207-884-4763
For details go to: quakerfinder.org

Christian Science

First Church of Christ, Scientist
939 Broadway at Hobart St., Bangor
Service Times: Sunday 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday 7:00 p.m.
Christian Science Reading Room
Tue & Sat 10-1; Wed 4:30-6:30
Nursery Provided at all services. 947-7421
www.christiansciencebangorme.com

Congregational

First Congregational Church of Brewer, UCC
www.firstcongregationalbrewer.org
fcgongbrw@oxfordnetworks.net
Worship Services
Sundays 9:30am and 6pm

Second Congregational Church CCCC
607 S Main St., Brewer • 989-7930
An Evangelical, Congregational Church
Sunday School ... 9:15
Worship 10:30
Reverend Dick Reynolds • Brewer4CChurch.org

Episcopal

St. John's Episcopal Church
225 French Street, Bangor, Maine
ANCIENT & MODERN 947-0156

Sunday, December 27th
Christmas Lessons & Carols – 8 am & 10 am in the Church. (Childcare provided)
Thursday, December 31st
Feast of the Holy Name
– 6 pm in the Church.
Organ Performance in the Church at 7 pm.
www.stjohnsbangor.org
Child Care Provided

Presbyterian

Pilgrim Orthodox Presbyterian
“Living New Lives in Christ”
Worship Services 9:30am & 6pm
375 Mt. Hope Ave., Bangor
942-8054
www.pilgrimopc.org

To list your service contact Barb at 990-8140 or email bmower@bangordailynews.com