



Food Basket Ministry

Bob and Sharon Neller: Please don't forget our ongoing ministry of donating food donations to The Food Initiative of Greater Stanislaus for the holiday season.

The demand is greater than ever and Sharon comes into the church about every 4-6 weeks to pick up the donations and makes a delivery every month. Please remember the needy for the holiday season.

Answer to Bible Quiz: B
(See Luke 1:5, 39-41.)



Jesus Our Savior Anglican Church

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We're on the web!

JesusOurSaviorAnglicanChurch.org

Mission Statement: "To Know Christ and to Make Him Known"

2nd Chance Computer



We are happy to report that for the fourth year in a row, Second Chance received a \$25,000 grant from the Antone & Marie Raymus Foundation.

To date, we have prepared and delivered 650 Chromebooks so far this school year.

Recent deliveries include Empire and Denair school districts; Modesto City Schools—La Loma, Davis High, Burbank Elementary, Franklin Elementary, Person Independent Study and the Youth Navigation Center of Stanislaus County through Human Services. There was also an employee of the Stanislaus County Office of Education who requested some Chromebooks to send to Nigeria.

We try to deliver Chromebooks every 3-4 weeks. We still have another 400-500 to purchase and deliver. The demand keeps growing.

We appreciate your continuing support and prayers!



The Savior's Voice

Volume 15, No. 4

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Advent/Christmas Schedule

Fr. Woodrow provided an Advent Gospel Reflections book for daily scripture readings and reflections. Parishioners are urged to read the daily scriptures and share their thoughts during the Sunday Services.

- ★ 4th Sunday of Advent/Christmas Eve service—10:00 a.m.
- ★ Christmas Day service—11:00 a.m.

"It is Christmas in the heart that puts Christmas in the air."

—W.T. Ellis

from the Newsletter



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Advent Meanings



During Advent, which begins this year on December 3, many churches and families use wreaths to symbolize watchfulness and increasing joy as Christmas approaches. Colors for the candles vary, with some traditions using blue (for hope or creation) and others preferring purple (for royalty, humility or penitence).

The four candles that each represent a week in Advent also signify hope, peace, joy and love. (The third candle is often pink.) In the center is the white Christ candle, representing Jesus as the light of the world. That candle is lit on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

The round, green Advent wreath has special meaning of its own. It symbolizes eternal life and the unending love of God, who sent his only Son to earth to die in our place.

from the Newsletter



Jesus Our Savior
Anglican Church

The Most Rev. Foley Beach,
.....Archbishop, ACNA
The Rt. Rev. Dr. Eric Menees
.....Bishop
The Rev. Woodrow Gubuan
.....Rector
The Rev. Tom Foster
.....Rector Emeritus
Mary Scott.....Secretary
Marilu Vasquez & Crew ...Sexton

Vestry

Linda York.....Senior Warden
Seth Simas.....Treasurer
Mary Scott.....Secretary

Audrey Foster Nancy Thomas
Greg Matteson
June Simas

The Vestry meets the third Sunday of every month following the service.



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INTERESTING Facts & Trivia

contributed by Linda York



Good luck in 2024! Here is a southern “good luck” recipe. Hopping John is a traditional New Year’s Day dish. It is said that eating this “black-eyed peas dish” on January 1st will bring you good luck all year long. Black-eyed peas, also known as cowpeas were introduced to America by enslaved Africans who grew them in small gardens on rice plantations.

Recipe: 4 thick-cut bacon slices (better than ham which can also be used)
1/2 cup yellow onions, chopped
2 cups of black-eyed peas or 2 10oz packages of frozen black-eyed peas may be used
1/2 cup of white rice
1/4 tsp of cayenne pepper

When ready to serve, toss with 1/4 tsp salt and 1/4 tsp black pepper
Cook bacon and onions until bacon is crisp and onions are soft.

One pot recipe: black eyed peas, rice, 1 cup of water and cayenne pepper. Cover and simmer over low heat until rice is cooked, about 25 minutes. Add bacon and onion mixture. Toss with salt and pepper. Serve immediately with collard greens or spinach, cornbread and sliced tomato if you want.

“Hoppin John’s” meaning is black-eyed peas represent coins. Collard greens or spinach represent paper bills. Cornbread represents gold. Tomatoes (sliced) represent good health.

1. Good luck visits those who count the peas on their plate for an idea of how much luck will come to them.
2. The custom of eating all but 3 of the peas promise a trio of benefits — luck, wealth and romance.
3. Legend has it that Sephardic Jews served black-eyed peas during Rosh Hashanah in the hope of fertility and good fortune.

How can you go wrong? It tastes good, too!

Thank you!

I want to thank the wonderful “gals” on the Altar Guild who make my small part on the Guild so much easier. We, also have an awesome Coffee Hour!



Christian Symbols

ROSE — This flower, often shown as stylized artwork, is a symbol for Advent, the promise of the Messiah and Jesus’ nativity. A white rose represents the Virgin Mary, and a red rose stands for martyrs. A wreath of roses symbolizes heavenly joy.

from the Newsletter/Newsletter

Answer to the Kid’s Page: Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.

Christmas crackups.... Enjoy these kid-friendly holiday jokes!

What did Adam say the day before Christmas?

♦ *It’s Christmas, Eve!*

What does the gingerbread man put on his bed?

♦ *Cookie sheets.*

What do you sing at a snowman’s birthday party?

♦ *“Freeze a jolly good fellow!”*

What is a Christmas tree’s favorite candy?

♦ *Ornamints.*

What goes “Oh, Oh, Oh”?

♦ *Santa walking backward.*

Why did Rudolph get a bad report card?

♦ *Because he went down in history.*

from the Newsletter/Newsletter



Bible Quiz

Elizabeth, an older relative of Mary the mother of Jesus, was miraculously pregnant at the same time as Mary. What was the name of Elizabeth’s husband?

- A. Aaron C. Joseph
- B. Zechariah D. Simeon

*Answer on page 8
from the Newsletter/Newsletter*



- ♦ Art E. ♦ Bob Z. ♦ Hillary B.
- ♦ Margie M. ♦ Liz B. ♦ Patrick M.
- ♦ Claude K. ♦ Kay K. ♦ Kate B.
- ♦ Tatum ♦ Bill S. ♦ Katie H.
- ♦ Rex A. ♦ Genie B. ♦ Moses
- ♦ Laura C. ♦ Katie H. ♦ Bill S.
- ♦ Carol C. ♦ Mary Lee ♦ Steven S.
- ♦ Pamela J. ♦ Luci B. ♦ Stacy V.
- ♦ Eller T. ♦ Norma P. ♦ Gary B.
- ♦ Pat L. ♦ Ruby L. ♦ Willie G.
- ♦ Enid B. ♦ Sharon S. ♦ Shelby Y.
- ♦ Doug C. ♦ Shelby ♦ Justin
- ♦ Margaret M. ♦ Pine Family ♦ Mary H.
- ♦ Harris Family ♦ David & Kat

For all medical personnel, first responders and all who serve this country.



- ★ Jim O’Neill September 28
- ✠ John & Allina Gubuan September 10 1 year
- ✠ Fr. Tom & Audrey Foster September 11 68 years

- ★ Joseph-Woodrow Gubuan October 3
- ★ Sharon Neller October 6
- ★ Linda York October 7
- ★ Honey-Dawn Gubuan October 10
- ★ Alyana Fajardo October 11
- ★ John-Felix Gubuan October 16
- ★ Isabella-Rose Gubuan October 22
- ★ Paige York October 24
- ★ Edward Williams October 28
- ★ Audrey Foster October 29
- ✠ Bob & Sharon Neller October 2 47 years
- ✠ Claude & Kay Knighten October 2 14 years
- ✠ Larry & Luci Beyers October 4 54 years
- ✠ Fidel & Raquel Fajardo October 7 16 years
- ✠ Jennifer Edward Williams October 4 24 years

- ★ Fr. Tom Foster November 5
- ★ Fr. Woodrow Gubuan November 6
- ★ Xia Fajardo November 6
- ★ Vincent Fajardo November 9
- ★ Raquel Fajardo November 14
- ★ Ruth Gubuan November 14
- ★ Mary Harnisch November 21

- ★ Romeo Pardilla December 1
- ★ Jomar Fajardo December 3
- ★ Rachel Allanigue December 7
- ★ Gregory Matteson December 9
- ★ Angelica Williams December 12
- ★ June Simas December 21
- ★ Claude Knighten December 23
- ★ Kasandra Foster December 24
- ✠ Nathaniel & Sarah Pine Dec. 8 21 years
- ✠ Willy & Marilen Gaa Dec. 27 36 years

Sprinkle and split

A sprinkle of pepper and a dab of soap illustrate a big concept from God's Word.



What you need:

- Shallow dish
- Water
- Black ground pepper
- Toothpick
- Dish soap
- Bible

What you do:

1. With the dish on a table, fill it halfway with water. Don't jiggle the dish.
2. Sprinkle pepper on the water.
3. Dab the toothpick into a drop of soap. Then touch its tip to the center of the water and observe.
4. Read Psalm 103:8-12. How does this experiment illustrate God's forgiveness?
5. Explain the science behind this experiment: The soap disturbs the water's surface tension. The soap molecules don't want to interact with the water. This repels the water molecules from the soap, causing the floating pepper to also move to the sides.



HAPPY NEW YOU!

Changing the calendar each January is a reminder that God makes all things new.

Directions: Use the clues and the calendar code to complete 2 Corinthians 5:17, ESV.

JANUARY 2024						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
	God	night	word	in	love	Jesus
7	glory	therefore	speak	give	light	Christ
14	saw	beginning	anyone	waters	help	is
21	he	again	through	earth	made	while
28	new	if	and	creation		

- The second Monday _ _ _ _ _
- The last Monday _ _
- The 16th _ _ _ _ _
- One day before the 20th _ _
- The day before the first Friday _ _
- The last weekday of the second week _ _ _ _ _
- The day after the 20th _ _
- The day after 18th _ _
- The first day of the second weekend _
- The last Sunday _ _ _
- The last day of the month _ _ _ _ _

Answer on page 7
From the Newsletter Newsletter



The Rector's Message

THE CALLS OF ADVENT, CHRISTMAS, EPIPHANY

ADVENT'S CALL: *'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.'* According to John the Baptist, the way to prepare is by REPENTANCE – a change to a new mind and a new heart coupled with the fruits “ in keeping with repentance.”

Translated to our own situation: This is how we prepare for the coming of the Lord. We use this Advent season as the time to repent of our sins – to change our life, to review and to renew our life through prayer and works of love, mercy, kindness, forgiveness and humble service.

CHRISTMAS' CALL: *“¹¹ He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. ¹² Yet to all who did receive him, he gave the right to become children of God— ¹⁴ The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.”* This call is best articulated by the poet Alexander Pope: *“What does it profit me if Jesus is born in thousands of cribs all over the world, and He is not born in my heart?”* (And I will add)... *in my home?”*

Translated to our own situation, I would like to suggest VISITING as *the Word making a dwelling among us:* **VISIT: SOMEBODY THIS CHRISTMAS. Or INVITE SOMEBODY TO VISIT YOUR HOME THIS CHRISTMAS.**

EPIPHANY'S CALL: *“On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down*

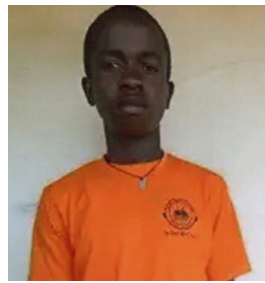
and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.” This is the manifestation of the Lord to the world, represented by the three wise men – and their response.

Translated to our own situation, we, too can give gifts “by opening our treasure chests” – by opening our hearts to give a piece of ourselves. This is what we can give back to the Lord and to give to one another. **So, what's in your treasure chest today? Your money? Your time? Your pride? A grudge, perhaps, from something someone did long ago? A sin that you have been unwilling to let go of? A hardened heart that you're unwilling to give to anyone? More simply, can we say: my most precious gift --- is me.**

James Huntington



ADVENT



Shared Blessings Update

by Audrey Foster

As part of our Mission Outreach, Jesus Our Savior sponsors a needy child in Uganda, Africa: Marvin Ntale. We send \$30 monthly to Shared Blessings, a non-profit Christian organization based in Modesto, so that Marvin can go to school, where he receives two nourishing meals daily. Schools in Uganda are not free; families of the children must buy uniforms, pay for their own books and supplies and cover staff salaries. This makes getting an education out of reach for the children of the poor. However, Shared Blessings has been supporting the efforts of Uganda director, Moses Ssebagala, whose dream of building a school for the local poverty-stricken children has materialized. Beginning with a handful of volunteer parents doing the labor to start a rough jungle school, the project has grown into several sturdy buildings that provide excellent training for over 400 students. They are nourished in spirit, as well as mind and body. Moses and staff are zealous about sharing the good news of Jesus with them.

Over several years we have had pictures and reports of Marvin that show him growing from a poorly nourished boy, unsure of himself, into a capable young man. Recently, the sponsorship program provided

chickens to the older students as a small business venture. Marvin has done well with the project and his chickens have multiplied.

Marvin has been raised by his father, who is not always stable or dependable. Now 17, Marvin attends Shared Loved High School and is an industrious student who performs well. His favorite subject is math and he has dreams of becoming a doctor, so he with kindness, can minister to children who have medical needs. He asks us to pray for his studies and his progress toward this goal. You can also help support Marvin by contributing to the sponsorship fund. There is a box with Marvin's picture on the coffee hour table where you can drop some money or you can put a check in the offering plate with a note that it is for Marvin. It is a privilege and an opportunity to have such a tangible way to share our blessings in such a meaningful way.

Shared Blessings International Christian Ministries



Shared Blessings International Christian Ministries provides aid to orphans in devastated areas primarily located in Uganda, India, and Myanmar. This organization is a faith based ministry that exists to extend the love of Jesus Christ to children in poverty stricken circumstances.

If you would like to sponsor a child in Uganda, India or Myanmar, please see Audrey Foster, or go online to sharedblessingsicm.org

Your \$30 monthly donation will go a long way to help a needy child.



The Upside-down of Christmas

Theologian Halford Luccock once saw a shopper “who looked like an animated Christmas tree with packages dangling from every limb.” When he retrieved some dropped bags, she grumbled that Christmas “turns everything upside down.”

Luccock replied, “That is just what it was made for!”

He explained: “Christmas is a story about a baby, and that is a baby’s chief business, turning things upside down. ... A baby in a family divides time into two eras, just as Christmas does. There is B.C., which means ‘before child,’ and A.D., which means ‘after deluge.’”

When God became flesh, the lowly, last, least and lost were exalted, added Luccock. As a result, “the locked-up treasures of kindness and sympathy come from the inside of the heart, where they are often kept imprisoned, to the outside of actual expression in deed and word.” The Christ-child “enables all [people] to get at the best treasures of their lives and offer them for use.”

from the NewsletterNewsletter



Unclaimed Property

Submitted by Seth Simas

Check this out! An interesting way to search for money that may belong to YOU! Each state has “unclaimed property” which includes monetary funds that were turned over to the state because of inactivity on an account or an uncashed check. States cannot use these funds for anything, so it just sits there. Well, you may find something for yourself or a family member (living or deceased).

If you are interested, go to this website:

www.ucpi.sco.ca.gov OR search “unclaimed property CA.”

In the search fields, enter your name and the city you live in (or lived previously). I found it easier to omit the address if you have moved around. Click on “Search” and see what appears. I never find anything in my name, but have found money for my siblings. You may find something and all it takes is a few minutes to search.

Your Light has Come



In the introduction to his book *For All God's Worth*, theologian N.T. Wright says, “Christmas is God lighting a candle, and you don’t light a candle in a room that’s already full of sunlight. You light a candle in a room that’s so murky that the candle, when lit, reveals just how bad things really are. The light shines in the darkness, says St. John, and the darkness has not overcome it.”

For that reason, Wright explains, Christmas isn’t a dream or a momentary escape but reality. And the same is true for Christianity. “Either Jesus is the Lord of the world and all reality makes sense in his life, or he is dangerously irrelevant to the problems and possibilities of today’s world,” he adds. “There is no middle ground. Either Jesus was, and is, the Word of God, or he, and the stories Christians tell about him, are lies.”

from the NewsletterNewsletter



“Although no one can go back and make a brand new start, anyone can start from now and make a brand new ending.”

—Carl Bard