



Our Sponsored Child in

Please remember that Jesus Our Savior is continuing to sponsor Marvin Ntale during this time. The monthly cost of \$30 helps with food, clothes and school costs. The Coronavirus is hitting Uganda especially hard and all financial help is appreciated.

Please put your donation in with your offering envelope. Thank you!

Answer to Bible Quiz: B
(See Matthew 2:1; Luke 2:1-7.)



2nd Chance Computer



We just received some wonderful news! A \$15,000.00 grant from the Antone and Marie Raymus Foundation of Manteca was awarded to 2nd Chance Computer. It was a terrific boost since most local students are doing on-line learning, and not all of them received school issued laptops. With some of this money, Terry purchased 50 Chromebooks from Tri Valley Recycling in Stockton and on a second round, an additional 64 Chromebooks for \$25.00 each. Of course, he then goes through each, scrubbing them if needed and installing a new version of Cloud Ready Chrome OS. He then sends out a group e-mail asking for requests with a limit of 3-5 per school site. With this new set of Chromebooks, Terry delivered to La Loma Junior High, Hanshaw Middle School, Franklin Elementary, Wilson Elementary, Gregori High School, Enochs High School, Elliott Continuation High School, Peterson Independent Studies in Modesto; Riverbank High School; and Empire Elementary, Stroud Elementary and Siphred Elementary in Empire. In addition, he has also brought Chromebooks to the Modesto City Schools Foster Program and desktops to Community Hospice in Modesto.

Please keep this wonderful ministry in your prayers!

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"



The Savior's Voice

Volume 12, No. 7

November/December 2020

Fr. Woodrow's 50th Anniversary Ordination Celebration has been Rescheduled!

"Each of us is an innkeeper who decides if there is room for Jesus."

—Neal A. Maxwell

from the Newsletter



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A Hillshire Farms basket and a Stella Rosa wine basket were presented to Fr. Woodrow on November 29 by Seth Simas. Fr. Woodrow noted that he has spent more years in the Anglican Church (29) than the Catholic Church. He also said that he found the Pope Paul VI sermon from his ordination. "He is a gift from God," said Fr. Tom.



The celebration will be rescheduled to a future date when we are once again holding in-church services. The remaining gifts, donations and cards will be presented at that celebration. We look forward to a wonderful celebration of Fr. Woodrow's ministry!

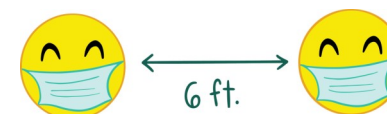
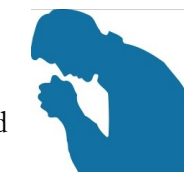
A Prayer for Putting on a Face Mask

Creator God, as I prepare to go into the world, help me to see the sacramental nature of wearing this cloth. Let it be a tangible and visible way of living love for my neighbors, as I love myself.

Christ Jesus, since my lips will be covered, uncover my heart, that people would see my smile in the crinkles around my eyes. Since my voice may be muffled, help me to speak clearly, not only with my words, but with my actions.

Holy spirit, as the elastic touches my ears, remind me to listen carefully and caringly to all those I meet. May this simple piece of cloth be shield and banner and may each breath that it holds, be filled with Your love. In Your name and in that love, I pray. Amen.

Rev. Richard Bott, Moderator, Presbyterian Church of Canada



Please do your part and show your Christian love and concern for all and soon we will be worshipping together in church again!



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
Sarah Pine.....Sexton

Vestry

James O'Neill.....Senior Warden
Nathaniel Pine.....Junior Warden
Seth Simas.....Treasurer
Mary Scott.....Secretary

Joan Court June Simas
Audrey Foster Linda York
Mary Harnisch

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



Liz Basham
Mary Harnisch
June Simas
Jim O'Neil
Linda York

Editor.....Fr. Woodrow Gubuan
Design & Format.....Mary Scott



2020 Comes to a Close

by Audrey Foster

As this year comes to a close, I am finishing a book of daily devotions that I have "finished" each year for the last four or five. The messages still give me a lot to think about so I keep starting over. The book is Jesus Calling by Sarah Young and it is written as if God is speaking to the reader. Every meditation is based on 2 or 3 scriptures which are listed at the bottom of the page. Here is one from November 9 based on passages from Luke, Deuteronomy and 2 Corinthians:

"Sit quietly with Me, letting all your fears and worries bubble up to the surface of your consciousness. There in the Light of My Presence, the bubbles pop and disappear. However, some fears surface over and over again, especially fear of the future. You tend to project yourself mentally into the next day, week, month, year, decade; and you visualize yourself coping badly in those times. What you are seeing is a false image, because it doesn't include Me. Those gloomy times that you imagine will not come to pass since My Presence will be with you at *all* times.

When a future-oriented worry assails you, capture it and disarm it by suffusing the Light of My Presence into that mental image. Say to yourself, 'Jesus will be with me then and there. With His help, I can cope!' Then come home to the present moment, where you can enjoy peace in My Presence."

While in the Purple Tier, Jesus our Savior will observe:

- ◆ Morning Prayer bulletin will be mailed to all
- ◆ Communion-in-the-car 10am to 11am on Sundays
- ◆ Communion at home by request
(Fr. Woodrow 209 482 2454)



Pray for the next tier when we can celebrate inside the Church, hopefully by Christmas!



The church continues to pay rent, utility bills, office supplies and salaries. With your financial support during this difficult time, the church will continue to thrive. Please mail your offering to the church or to Mary Scott. The offering is counted and deposited about every 2 weeks. Thank you for your support!



Christian Symbols

Advent Wreath

The Advent wreath is a symbol of watchfulness and increasing joy as we anticipate Jesus' birth. The wreath's circular shape symbolizes eternity, or life without end. The candles remind us that Jesus is the Light of the World — he brought light and life to a dark world (see John 1:4-5). On each of the four Sundays of Advent, we light a new candle. As the light grows, so does our hope and joy.

from the Newsletter

A Holiness Invasion

"Advent" means "coming," of course, and the promise of Advent is that what is coming is an unimaginable invasion. The mythology of our age has to do with flying saucers and invasions from outer space, and that is unimaginable enough. But what is upon us now is even more so — a close encounter not of the third kind but of a different kind altogether. An invasion of holiness. That is what Advent is about.



—Frederick Buechner, *The Clown in the Belfry*
From the Newsletter

Special Dates

- Second Sunday of Advent.....December 6
- Third Sunday of Advent.....December 13
- Fourth Sunday of Advent.....December 20
- First day of winter.....December 21
- Christmas Eve.....December 24,
- Christmas Day.....December 25
- New Year's Eve/Watch Night.....December 31

- ★ Gabe Simas November 4
- ★ Trent Simas November 4
- ★ Fr. Tom Foster November 5
- ★ Fr. Woodrow Gubuan November 6
- ★ Ruth Gubuan November 14
- ★ Mary Harnisch November 21

✠ Fr. Woodrow Gubuan 50th Ordination Nov. 28



Bible Quiz

Which of the four Gospels name(s) Bethlehem as the place of Jesus' birth?

- A. Only Luke
- B. Matthew and Luke
- C. Mark and John
- D. All four

*Answer on page 8
from the Newsletter*

- ★ Abraham Foster December 1
- ★ Rachel Allanigue December 7
- ★ Gregory Matteson December 9
- ★ Luna Anderson December 14
- ★ June Simas December 21
- ★ Neal Mitchell December 22
- ★ Claude Knighten December 23
- ★ Kasandra Foster December 24

✠ Nathaniel & Sarah Pine December 8 18 years
✠ Fr. Tom Foster 65th Ordination December 22

*If we don't have your birthday or anniversary,
please let Mary Scott know.*



- ◆ Tom D.
 - ◆ Russell
 - ◆ Shirley E.
 - ◆ Art E.
 - ◆ Velmer R.
 - ◆ Mary Lee
 - ◆ Claude K.
 - ◆ Doug C.
 - ◆ Margaret M.
 - ◆ Kay K.
 - ◆ Don G.
 - ◆ Pat L.
 - ◆ James H.
 - ◆ Stephanie O.
 - ◆ Pat
 - ◆ Jackie P.
 - ◆ Dorothy Schuyler family—comfort
 - ◆ Jackie, David & Chris —comfort
 - ◆ For all medical personnel, first responders and all who serve this country.
- ◆ Margie M.
 - ◆ Jim H.
 - ◆ Tatum
 - ◆ Ruby L.
 - ◆ Richard T.
 - ◆ Bob Z.
 - ◆ Genie B.
 - ◆ Luci B.
 - ◆ Joan C.
 - ◆ Pamela J.
 - ◆ Jenny A.
 - ◆ Juanita T.
 - ◆ Rex A.
 - ◆ Mary H.
 - ◆ Margaret
 - ◆ Liz B.





**Turkey Trivia
from the Old
Farmer's 2020
Almanac**
*Contributed by
Linda York*

- ◆ There are several theories about how turkeys got their name. One story claims that Christopher Columbus heard some birds say “tuka, tuka,” and his interpreter came up with the name tukki, means “big bird” in Hebrew.
- ◆ Ben Franklin thought the turkey would be a better national symbol than the bald eagle. According to the Franklin Institute, he wrote in a letter to his daughter: “For my own part, I wish the bald eagle had not been chosen as the representative of our country; he is a bird of poor moral character; he does not get his living honestly...like those among men who live by sharpening and robbing...he is generally poor; and often very lousy. Besides, he is a rank coward; the little king-bird, not bigger than a sparrow, attacks his boldly and drives him out of the district...For in truth, the turkey is in comparison a much more respectable bird, and withal a true original native of America. Eagles have been found in all countries, but the turkey was peculiar to ours...”
- ◆ The average person in the United States will eat 15 pounds of turkey this year.
- ◆ The loose red skin attached to the underside of a turkey’s beak is called a wattle. When the male turkey is excited, especially during mating season, the wattle turns scarlet. The fleshy flap of skin that hangs over the gobbler’s beak is called a snood and also turns bright red when the bird is excited. The wild turkey is one of the more difficult birds to hunt. It won’t be

brush with a dog, instead, hunters must try to attract it with different calls. Even with two seasons a year; only one in six hunters will get a wild turkey.

- ◆ By the 1930’s, almost all of the wild turkeys in the U.S. had been hunted. Today, thanks to conservation programs, there are plenty of wild turkeys--- they even invade cities!
- ◆ A male turkey is called a tom, a female is a hen, and a youngster is a poult.
- ◆ The domestic tom can weigh up to 50 pounds, the domestic hen up to 16 pounds. The wild tom can weight up to 20 pounds, the wild hen up to 12 pounds.
- ◆ The wild turkey can fly! (It does, however, prefer to walk or run.) the domestic turkey is not an agile flyer, though the bird will perch in trees to stay safe from predators.
- ◆ The average life span of a domestic turkey, from birth to freezer, is 26 weeks. During this period of time, it will eat about 75 pounds of turkey feed. The average life span of a wild turkey is three or four years. It generally feeds on seeds, nuts, insects and berries.
- ◆ The wobbly little thing on the turkey’s chest is the turkey’s beard and is made up of keratin bristles. Keratin is the same substance that forms hair and horns on other animals.
- ◆ Only male turkeys, or toms, can gobble, and they mostly do it in the spring and fall. It is a mating call and attracts the hens. Wild turkeys gobble at loud sounds and when they settle in for the night.

Candy Cane Trivia



The ubiquitous Christmas **candy cane** is a **symbol** of the simple roots of **Christianity**, one so old that we have all but forgotten its origin. The **candy** takes the shape of a shepherd’s crook, representing the humble shepherds who were first to worship the newborn Christ.

“Legend has it that the **candy cane** dates back to 1670, when the choirmaster at the Cologne Cathedral in Germany handed out sugar sticks among his young singers to keep them quiet during the Living Creche ceremony,” Schildhaus says. “In honor of the occasion, he bent the **candies** into shepherds’ crooks.”

In Indiana, a **candy** maker wanted to make a **candy** that could be a reminder of Jesus Christ, so he made the Christmas **candy cane**. He started off with a stick of pure white hard **candy**. ... He then stained it with three stripes which showed the scourging Jesus received, and symbolized the blood shed by Christ on the cross.



*The
Rector’s Message*

**ADVENT AS WAITING FOR
THE END OF THE PANDEMIC**

One of the results of the pandemic that I see, among many others, is that the Church has come **home** to where it started. In Acts 2, we read this description of the early Church: “⁴⁶Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at **home** and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷praising God and having the goodwill of all the people.”

With in-person Church worship and other activities mostly on hold or greatly limited because of the pandemic, there is a renewed realization and appreciation of the role of the **home**: the family, the parents and the children in particular in keeping the life of the Church alive and operative. Since family is more together at home, there are more opportunities for praying together, for bible reading and sharing, for reaching out to the elderly and sick family members.

With the stay at **home** rule, the social distancing, the limitation on gatherings and on the number of attendees and the like, we find more time for ourselves and for close family members. It gives us the opportunity to rearrange how we prioritize and spend our time. It gives us time to think of ourselves and our families, of our health and wellbeing. It reminds us of the biblical rule ... “love your neighbors as you love yourself, with emphasis on loving yourself as taking care of your health and your wellbeing.

While loving ourselves is good, it is not an end in itself. It is just a beginning point to seeing the needs of others. This brings us to look at the interruptions in the economy and the consequent unemployment surge, which impact **the Church in the homes** as well. We are forced to re-set our budget to have enough for housing mortgage or rent, for food and medicines. We face more challenges with the intensification of forms of poverty: more beggars in the streets, more homeless people literally outside our doors. Lines to food and shelter centers are becoming longer and longer. These are outreach opportunities for us: for the church in the homes to reflect together on how to be present among the most needy and poor. How to be more

giving and generous and merciful.

We have no solutions to propose except the offer of our witness consisting of charity and mercy. Our wearing a mask, washing our hands, social distancing are simple ways of witnessing to love and mercy when we consider the health and well-being of ourselves and of those around us. With the vaccines, an end may be in sight. But let the memory of the virus and the lessons learned keep us hopeful, generous and merciful.

James H. Johnson



Advent Traditions

“The way you celebrate Christmas can be a gift in itself,” said Fred Rogers, “handing on traditions that will give your child a feeling of continuity, comfort and joy in all the Christmases to come.” In American homes, common Advent traditions include wreaths, calendars and logs. Did you know about these European traditions?

- In Normandy, children used to set fires in fields during Advent. The flames killed caterpillar eggs and drove away rodents. The tradition reflected good conquering evil, just as God’s perfect Son rescues us from sin.
- On December 13, Scandinavian countries honor Saint Lucy (or Lucia), a third-century martyr who, according to legend, brought food to people in the catacombs during winter. For light — and to be able to carry as much food as possible — she wore a wreath of candles on her head. On St. Lucy’s Day, the oldest daughter gets up early and brings sweet rolls to family members. The tradition reminds Christians that Jesus is a gift of light and love for our dark world.

From the Newsletter/Newsletter



The Bishop's Corner

The Rt. Rev. Eric Vawter Menees

Dear brothers and sisters, I hope you had a blessed Feast of Christ the King earlier this week. I also want to wish all of you a very happy Thanksgiving!

Thanksgiving Day has an interesting history in our country. Thanksgiving became an official holiday in the United States in 1863 under President Lincoln. Days of thanksgiving were called sporadically since the first European settlers came to what's now the United States, often around the time of harvest. One of the most well known examples was when the governor of the Plymouth Colony appointed a day for praise and thanksgiving for the Pilgrims in 1621.

Before those settlers had reached our shores, days of thanksgiving along with days of fasting had been called in England since the Reformation. If the country was facing something like a war then a day of fasting may be called, if there was some wonderful national event like peace, a day of thanksgiving would be called.

It's good to have a set day in our national calendar, but we must remember the adage from Jaroslav Pelikan that "tradition is the living faith of the dead, traditionalism is the dead faith of the living." Many Americans have turned away from church, but they still see Thanksgiving as a time for turkey dinner, or pilgrim decorations, or football games. There's nothing bad about those things individually, but there is a problem when a day dedicated to give thanks to God, a day centered around a living faith, gives way to a traditionalism of familiar customs with no actual thanksgiving.

We're facing a difficult Thanksgiving not

being able to gather with family or eat the foods we normally have, but it's my hope that in having to forgo so many of those customs, we can focus more on the original meaning and purpose of Thanksgiving Day. Thanksgiving isn't about a turkey, Thanksgiving is about reflecting on the year you've had, looking for the blessings and the ways God has worked in your life, and turning to him and expressing your gratitude for his role in your life.

If we do that we'll have the Thanksgiving we truly need this year. Many of us have struggled with fears, anxieties, and stress since the pandemic started. It's easy to look at and focus on all of our concerns and our failings, especially this year. What Thanksgiving forces us to do is look at the ways God has been with us through all of that. We may have drifted from Him, but He's been there with us through all of 2020. God has been working in ways we can't truly know to support us and strengthen us in everything we've faced. Too often in our lives we take the blessings he gives us for granted. We have much to give thanks for this year. Please spend some time both individually and with your families reflecting on this. If ever there's been a time in our lives when this country has needed a true day of Thanksgiving it's this one.

I hope you all have a blessed Thanksgiving Day!

Your servant and bishop,

Bp. Eric Menees
bishop@anglicandsj.org



**ANGLICAN DIOCESE
OF SAN JOAQUIN**

OUR MISSION

As the Anglican Diocese of San Joaquin We Will Call and Equip Laity and Clergy to Bring People to and Disciple Them in a Saving Relationship with Jesus Christ.

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REFLECTIONS From your Vestry

Audrey Foster: Our life as a church family has been greatly disrupted by the state regulations regarding Covid 19. It took us only a short while to realize how much we missed worshipping together and commemorating the special events that give meaning to our days... birthdays, anniversaries, graduations, special feast day, burial services. Our rector, Father Woodrow, and the vestry are earnestly and prayerfully trying to balance our way forward in a way that reflects trust in our loving Creator and observation of state safety protocol. We can't plan very far into the future because dynamics keep changing, but we will stay strong in the knowledge of our loving Lord, who never changes. "Let not your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me." (John 14:1) These simple, yet powerful words of Jesus remind us where our confidence lies and where our unity as a church family begins. ☺

June Simas: This pandemic to some extent has provided time to reflect on what is important, and the difference between what I want and what I need. GOD has provided all the things I need. What I want is to be grateful, generous and kind to all that I come into contact with during this stressful time. ☺

Christmas Traditions Around the Globe

Although Americans celebrate the holiday with candlelight services, piles of gifts, large feasts, lights and trees, people in other countries mark Jesus' birth in many interesting ways:



- Nine days before Christmas in Mexico, Las Posadas processions reenact Joseph and Mary's search for a place to stay in Bethlehem.
- Instead of decorating trees, Italians place fruit on small wooden pyramids.
- On Christmas Eve, the streets of Caracas, Venezuela, are blocked off so people can roller-skate to church.
- Ukrainian Christmas trees often feature an artificial spider and web. According to a folk tale, a poor woman who couldn't afford decorations awoke one Christmas morning to find that spiders had "trimmed" her children's trees with delicate webs.
- In Brazil, the gift-bringer is known as Papai Noel (Father Noel), who lives in Greenland, according to legend. When he arrives in Brazil, he wears silk clothing because of the summer heat.
- It's considered bad etiquette to send red Christmas cards in Japan because funeral notices are customarily printed in red.

From the Newsletter Newsletter

Seth Simas: I'm still distance learning, helping students as much as possible while dealing with tech issues. ☺

Mary Harnisch: The pandemic is teaching me more about God and if he is getting our attention, as I go out and about. I see so much hate. I am hurt by that. I wonder, who is the voice they are listening to — the evil spirit or the Holy Spirit. I ask God to search my heart to see if I am worthy of God's love. Only our prayers will help change our hearts. I feel so alone, but know that I am not. God bless you all. ☺

Mary Scott: I'm feeling a little discouraged right now that we are back in the purple tier with more restrictions, like not being able to hold in-church service. But as I look around, I still see many people not wearing masks or wearing them improperly and that brings it home that is one of the reasons. It has been proven that social distancing and wearing masks is one of the best defenses against catching the coronavirus. I feel that is a small way to show love and concern for our fellow Christians.

I look forward to the vaccine being widely available and our lives safely returning to a new normal. ☺

Linda York: I keep wondering: "Will this ever be over and back to normal again?"

Meanwhile, I play my 45's, sing along with them, do Yoga exercises and have begun re-reading all the books in my closet, in boxes.

So I stay inside, social distance myself and wash my hands quite a lot. OMG, I've become a house cat. HANG IN THERE, FOLKS, nothing lasts forever. MEOW! ☺