



The
Parish
Post

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Holy Innocents'
Episcopal Church
Beach Haven, NJ

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2020

A Community of Faith, Sharing the Love of the Holy Spirit,
Seeking and Serving Christ in His Creation.

The Parson's Place

MERRY CHRISTMAS and a HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Twinkling lights, Christmas trees, angels and cherubs, the occasional Christmas carol, red and white Santa hats, elf shoes (of course!) a fresh crisp piney scent –

Ahhh, the Christmas season....wait, it IS still Christmas, right?

After a moment of awe and wonder, at all that my eyes beheld, I turned the corner of the aisle, grabbed the 50% off Halloween candy and headed toward the register. It was only the day after Halloween and Christmas was already on the shelves. “What about Advent?!” Actually what about November? Wait, and WHERE DID DECEMBER GO?!

That happened fast.

It can be a little disorienting.

Sometimes it seems we have lost the way to Christmas...maybe we aren't sure how to find it again, underneath today's colorful wrappings and wreaths...or maybe its trimmings are set out in plain sight, but too early so we pass them over. Maybe we've forgotten what the joy and gladness feel like...and we long to feel them again. We want to begin again. First, that is a completely normal feeling. There is nothing like anticipation and there's nothing like a new beginning. And now we are about to be in 2020.

To begin again means that we must give ourselves the gift of permission to stop and simply “be” in the present, to rejoice in *the now of Christ*.

Many of us find ourselves with a particular need to get Christmas (the day and the season right, maybe for out-of-town family or the in-town family, or just to keep the peace. We want it to be perfect. I mean Norman Rockwell perfect, not messy, but Hallmark perfect. Advent in its darkest time of the year helped us prepare for this Light, as we searched, waited, experienced expectation, and put the focus of our efforts toward the coming of Christ, a Light in the midst of darkness.

I am experiencing my second Christmas as clergy and my first here at Holy Innocents'. I've also been waiting and praying, preparing and discerning, and here I am, a bright shiny new rector, also messy and FAR from perfect.

Continued on next page

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I am the same, but I am also different. Lucky for me, I am enjoying the ride. And that's one of our needs, isn't it? That we enjoy the ride, we know the darkness will not overcome it, as we hallow the tide of Christ's birth year after year. And year after year from it, we are the same, but we are also changed.

So, we're here, YESSSSS! It IS still Christmasss!

The Light of Life, the Word, was made flesh and came into being in Bethlehem, announced by prophets and angels. Our celebration is like kindling in our souls, almost unnoticed, yet very real and warm, wrapped in joy, love, relief, and perhaps our own personal longing to find peace and contentment in daily living. We carry the Light that shines in the darkness within us.

We can proactively become part of creation itself by living in the *now of Christ* during this season and into the new year!

We can ease up a bit about pleasing the world and embrace joy which comes from faith in the Word that was in the beginning and has no end. Celebrate with your own authenticity (even if it's messy) and we are able to find joy in the gift of that discovery.

The world seeks a similar discovery, clinging to Christmas as a means of expressing a desire for hope and peace in a world that is starved for it. What if that October merchandizing eagerness carries within it a deep-held societal wish that the Spirit of Christmas could last for more than one day.

Newsflash, it does! We are in the middle of 12 whole days and actually if we give ourselves that gift of being in the now, we know God loves us every day.

It's our turn to allow God to work through us to share the Light of Christ in the dark places of the world...and this joy, it will be ours forever.

May your new year be full of blessings, joy, and love!

--

Caroline +
The Rev. Dr. Caroline Carson
Rector, The Episcopal Church of the Holy Innocents
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Thank You

A great big thank you for filling shoe boxes (25) full of "goodies" to be sent overseas through Samaritan's Purse to children who don't know Christmas.

The school supplies, hygiene items and toys will brighten the children's days and they will also have an opportunity to learn about Jesus.

Thanks and hugs, *Ruth McLaughlin*

COFFEE HOUR SIGN-UP

Our weekly Coffee Hours will be ongoing unless there is an announcement of a cancellation.

There is a signup calendar on the bulletin board for those of you who wish to take a turn to provide refreshments.

You may call me at 1 (814) 598-4973 if you have any questions.

Thanks so much! ~ Ellen Kehr





*"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God."
(English Standard Version, Colossians 3:16)*

Please give special thanks to our choir members who have given of their time and talent this fall, offering beautiful music to enhance our worship services. We had a very busy and fulfilling end to the year!

The choir will take its annual winter break this January, and rehearsals will resume on February 5th at 7pm.

I'm sure most of you have seen a lot of published information that speaks to the benefits of singing, and specifically, singing in a choir. Guess what – it's all true! The benefits are endless, as anyone in our wonderful choir can tell you. We love to welcome new members. The requirements are minimal: sing with all your heart in offering to the Lord, and love to laugh. Yes, we laugh a lot – and we all know that laughing also has its benefits!! If you think you may be interested, pray about it, and please contact me to get the "scoop". We would love to have you join us. The more, the merrier!

Happy New Year!
Ellen Dondero, Minister of Music
ejdondero@comcast.net

SAVE THE DATES!!

2019 SPRING CONCERT SERIES

Saturday, February 8 at 1pm
Classical Music Jam

Saturday, March 14th at 4pm
The Nocturnes Big Band

April TBD

Saturday, May 9th at 4pm
Jimmy Merchant Jazz Trio with vocalist

Saturday, June 6th at 4pm
Capital Singers of Trenton



GIVING STRATEGIES FOR 2020

Did you know that you might be able to make charitable contributions from an IRA?

These gifts, also known as "charitable IRA rollovers," would otherwise be taxable IRA distributions.*

If you are 70 ½ or older you can make your contribution to Holy Innocents' directly from your Traditional IRA simply by instructing the plan administrator to make the transfer directly to Holy Innocents' as a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD). Your gift will be transferred directly to Holy Innocents' and will not be reported as taxable income and will count toward your minimal distribution requirements for 2020. You are allowed to transfer up to \$100,000 a year to charities of your choice.**

And, most important, your generous support will help sustain Holy Innocents' work bringing about transformation, renewal, and positive change in our community and beyond. Your Stewardship Committee is working to bring you a Coffee Hour speaker who can discuss this with us in more detail. Stay tuned!

**Always check with your tax advisor for advice on how withdrawals from your IRA will affect your tax situation.*

***Information reprinted from The Episcopal Church Foundation website*

Holy Innocents' Episcopal Church is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization. Your gift will qualify as a charitable contribution and is tax deductible, to the extent of the law.



God's Blessings to everyone celebrating a birthday or anniversary in January

Birthdays

Stokes Carrigan IV	04
Kneeland Whiting	05
Thelma Schoenfeld	13
Sydney Stevens	05
Amanda Harrison	07
Justin Dumhart	12
Caroline Carson	12
Judith Krom	13
Diane Entrikin	17
Margaret Rose Kleber	18
Richard Vaughan	18
Jane Arlin	19
Edith Dumhart	21
Susan Walls	26
Jonathon Goddard	30

Anniversaries

Barry and Nicole Baxter	22
Jerry and Gail South	22
Howard and Edith Dumhart	30

If we have missed your birthday / anniversary, we apologize!

PLEASE let us know by calling the office so that we may update our records.

DISHING WITH THE DEACON



Dear Ones,

Now that the rush, joy, activities, and holiness of Christmas is a beautiful memory, I offer this poem to you as the perfect next step. ~ Love to you,
Your Deacon

The Work of Christmas

When the song of the angels is stilled,
 When the star in the sky is gone,
 When the kings and princes are home,
 When the shepherds are back with their flock,
 The work of Christmas begins:
 To find the lost,
 To heal the broken,
 To feed the hungry,
 To release the prisoner,
 To rebuild the nations,
 To bring peace among others,
 To make music in the heart.

Howard Thurman



The following parishioners have graciously volunteered to assist with our worship and/or have donated either candles or flowers for the altar for the month of **January**

JANUARY ALTAR GUILD

- 5th - Jackie Sparks
- 12th - Jackie Sparks
- 19th - Ruth McLaughlin, Diane Entrikin
- 26th - Carol Hammond, Florence Boulden

JANUARY FLOWER GUILD

- 5th - Joyce Hillyer
- 12th - Kim Sparks
- 19th - Carol Hammond
- 26th - Joyce Hillyer

JANUARY ALTAR DONATIONS

- 5th - Frank & Ruth McLaughlin
- 12th - Frank & Ruth McLaughlin
- 19th - David & Deborah Hunter
- 26th - The Cashels

JANUARY USHERS ~ Volunteers needed

If you are able to volunteer as an usher at anytime during the month of January please contact Rob Meyer at 609 618-3914 or rmeyer1394@aol.com

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Will be held on Sunday, January 12th, in Martin Hall immediately following 9:30 am Worship.
A lite brunch will be served.

Nominations for Election at the Annual Parish Meeting

For Vestry Class of 2022

Bruce Hillyer
Tom Jacobsen
Dave White

For Warden

Kay DeCicco ~ Senior Warden
Bill Kehr ~ Junior Warden

Representatives to Diocese Convention

Representatives	Alternates
1. Kay DeCicco	1. Mary Jane Mannherz
2. Janine Kleber	2. Rob Meyer
3. Pat Peacock	3. TBA

Delegates to Atlantic Convocation - 2020

1. Chuck Hall
2. Gail Jacobsen
3. Tom Jacobsen

EIGHT FAMILIES IN BONDAGE FOR 6 YEARS NOW FREE

Earlier this month, IJM supported local authorities near Bangalore on an urgent rescue operation to free 29 people who were forced to chop wood for the last six years. The man who allegedly abused and exploited them is currently absconding from police.

These eight families—including 10 children—originally came to Bangalore six years ago to work for a different employer. After six months, the suspected slave owner paid that employer 80,000 rupees (about \$1,100 USD) so the laborers would work for him. He also gave each family a payment “advance” of 40,000-60,000 rupees—which actually became a debt to repay—and promised them good work and fair wages.

For the next six years, however, this new owner began taking the families around to forested areas across Karnataka and Tamil Nadu states to chop eucalyptus trees, which are used to make scaffolding at construction sites. He moved the families every two or four weeks and forced them to work more than 13 hours a day with only short breaks for meals, and only one day off every few weeks.

Life in bondage became brutal for these families. They slept for six years in makeshift tents and ate only what they could buy with a few cents every day. None of them had ever been to school, and they could not access medical care or interact much with the outside world.

After confirming IJM’s investigations on the abuse these families faced, proactive government officials brought the laborers to safety on November 16 and have filed initial police reports to hold the alleged slave owner accountable for his crimes.

IJM expressed gratitude for the Assistant Commissioner in this case, who led his first-ever bonded labor rescue with focus and victim sensitivity. He followed best practices for rescuing the laborers and ensured their official testimonies, health check-ups and Release Certificates—which break their false debts from the owner—were all completed in one day.

“We are appreciative of the proactive government team which took the lead in this compelling rescue operation,” says IJM Bangalore’s lead social worker. “I hope this rescue will restore these laborers to their lost identities as they begin their lives in freedom.”

The rescued families have been returned safely to their home village and will join IJM’s two-year aftercare program for bonded labor survivors, which helps them learn new life skills, get children in school, and build stable plans for the future. Police will continue searching for their abuser and seek to hold him accountable under India’s anti-trafficking laws.

UNTIL ALL ARE FREE!

Thanks, Gail South, 609-709-5365 gtsouth@comcast.net

January 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 <i>Parish Office Closed</i> 	2 1:00p MJ 5:00p EP 7:00p AA	3 <i>Parish Office Closed</i>	4
5 9:30a Holy Eucharist <i>Second Sunday after Christmas</i> 9:30a SS	6 9:00a MP <i>The Epiphany Of our Lord Jesus Christ</i> 7:00pm Collaborative Service @ St. Stephens	7	8 NO CHOIR	9 1:00p MJ 3:00p BSP 5:00p EP 7:00p Vestry 7:00p AA	10 <i>Parish Office Closed</i>	11
12 9:30a Holy Eucharist 9:30a SS ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISH	13 9:00a MP	14	15 NO CHOIR	16 1:00p MJ 3:00p BS 5:00p EP 7:00p AA	17 <i>Parish Office Closed</i>	18
19 9:30a Holy Eucharist 9:30a SS	20 <i>Parish Office Closed</i> 9:00a MP 	21	22 NO CHOIR	23 1:00p MJ 3:00p BS 5:00p EP 7:00p AA	24 <i>Parish Office Closed</i>	25
26 9:30a Holy Eucharist 9:30a SS	27 9:00a MP	28	29 NO CHOIR	30 1:00p MJ 3:00p BSP 5:00p EP 7:00p AA	31 <i>Parish Office Closed</i>	

AA ~ Alcoholics Anonymous BSP ~ Bible Study in Parsonage CR ~ Choir Rehearsal ECW ~ Episcopal Church Women ~
 EP ~ Evening Prayer LEG ~ Ladies' Exercise Group MJ ~ Mah Jongg MP ~ Morning Prayer SS ~ Sunday School

Rector's Office Hours

Monday ~ 9:30a-4:00p Tuesday ~ 9:00a-4:00p Wednesday & Thursday ~ 9:00a-1:00p

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THANK YOU ALL!!!

Please be sure to patronize & thank the businesses that
so very generously purchased ads for this Parish Post year!

Enos/Kleber Family ~ The Hillman Family ~ Carl & Carroll Sheppard

Larry & Pat Peacock ~ The Hughes Family ~ Jay & Lyn Cranmer

Bill Martin ~ Judy Hamilton

These ads greatly help defray our publishing costs!

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January 2020



~Sunday Morning Rite II Worship Service~
9:30 a.m.