



# *Cares, Prayers and Current Affairs*

A Newsletter from St. Joseph's Episcopal Church

Dec 2018

Greeting to all brothers and sisters in Christ! I pray your time of Thanksgiving with family and friends was uplifting filled with comfort food and loads of reminiscing and laughter! We have so much for which to be thankful in a world where we unconsciously take so much for granted. Most of us have never really been hungry while millions of people do not know from day to day where their next meal will come. Most of us have never been homeless yet millions of people even children have no place to call home and are exposed to the elements on a daily basis. When I find myself asking God...why me Lord.... it is followed with a statement to myself... why not me. For I am no better than the least of God's children and no less than those who have everything. God's goodness and mercy is a mystery.

This past month St. Joseph's had a service of giving thanks. It was a quaint and humbling service. The collection raised that day was donated to one of our sister churches that suffered damage from Hurricane Florence. We are thankful that no one in our church family suffered any major damage. Our Presiding Bishop Curry will be making a Post Hurricane visit to East Carolina. On Saturday, December 8th he will be at St.

Anne's Episcopal Church at 4:00 (711 Henderson Drive Jacksonville NC 28540) and on Sunday December 9th he will be at St. James Parish at 2:00 (25 South 3rd Street in Wilmington NC 28401.) The public is invited to attend. Each of these gathering will provide an opportunity for those who have been doing the work of recovery and relief to share their stories and to allow the Bishop to respond pastorally. There will be a Q&A session and a reception. To God be the Glory that He has brought us full circle to the beginning of the church year as we celebrated the first Sunday of Ad- vent. On the last Sunday of November, we celebrated Christ the King Sunday! After Christ resurrection we are constantly in wait of His second coming... a time of which not even the Angels in Heaven know but yet we wait in hope of His promise. Now that we have entered into Advent... we wait with great expectancy to celebrate Christ birth. The colors on the altar can be purple or blue, the colors for winter. Our color at St. Joseph's is blue for this Ad- vent season. The word Advent means "coming" and during this season Christians prepare for Jesus coming. We look to Advent as a time for light and preparation. The four virtues recognized are hope, love, joy and peace. On the first Sunday we lit the candle of hope. It will be followed by followed by love, joy and peace. The third candle celebrates and honors the Virgin Mary and is represented by a rose colored candle. The fifth candle is white and is called the Christ candle... lit on Christmas day. For Jesus is the light of the world. We will have service on Christmas Eve at 6:00.



## Health Notes

Please, please be a part of the solution of avoiding illness.

- Get your flu shot
- Wash hands or use sanitizer after blowing your nose.
- sneeze into inside of your bended arm.
- In a public setting, use a wipe to sanitize anything others may have touched such as door handles.
- If you are ill....stay at home.
- Intinct sacrament bread rather than drink from the cup.
- If you have flu like symptoms.... do not hesitate ... go to the doctor for many serious illnesses mimic the flu.

This is the time of year that we guard against the flu by getting our annual shot and consider booster shots or vaccinations against other debilitating illnesses such as pneumonia, shingles and etc. It is far better to endure the momentary sting of a needle rather than to experience the illness that can end life. It is true what they say... An ounce of prevention is worth of a pound of cure.



## HOME COMING WEEKEND

SAVE THE DATE

March 29 -31, 2019

All Members and Friends of St. Joseph's Episcopal Church, please save this date and plan to attend this three-day celebration of Family and friends. Invitations and notices are in the making for this grand occasion. Please notify your extended family. More details are forth coming. All should have received their RSVP and order forms for the Homecoming



### Cantata

"Hallelujah Jesus is Born!"

St. Joseph's and choirs in the community are coming together and preparing for their annual Cantata under the direction of Sharon McNair. This year there will be two performances. On Saturday, Dec. 22, the performance will be at Haymount Presbyterian beginning at 4:00. On Sunday Dec. 23rd. the Cantata will be held at St. Josephs beginning at 4:00. During this time we will have a silent auction, crafts for sale and a 50/50 raffle.



### Christmas Social

In the spirit of Christmas.... St. Joseph's will host its annual Christmas Social on Friday December 21st. This Christmas social will be more festive in activity. We will have a formal dinner with all the fix-ins while enjoying the sounds of Christmas. Our Souvenir Church Calendar will be unveiled and on sale along with St. Joseph's very own cook book and a silent auction to and a 50/50 drawing. We are looking forward to seeing each of you there. Stay tuned to your weekly bulletin for the date of St. Joseph's on tour at Christmas time.



### The Brotherhood of St. Andrew

The men of the church belonging to the Brotherhood meet each Wednesday at 4:00. They have bible study. They are partnered with TC Berrien School and provide school supplies and snack items. They ban together when asked to participate in funerals, usher for functions, provide security in the parking lot for events, volunteer in the community, and also visit the sick. Two members are graduates of EFM (Education for ministry) and currently have two members

now in the program. Bro. Carl Vaughn is in his 3rd year and Bro. Keith Walcott is in his first year. Of the Brotherhood members 5 participate in Cursillo. St. Joseph's Brotherhood of St. Andrew's is AWESOME!



DOK The Daughters of the King meet every 3rd Saturday at 11:00. The various missions we participate are donating toys for kids in need for the Christmas, donating non-perishable items to the Operation Blessings Ministry on Ramsey St., donating school supplies to the dept. of social services for the children they serve, we serve on the altar guild, crochet blankets, booties and caps to the NIC Unit at Cape Fear Hospital. If you are interested in joining this group of women who dedicate their lives to prayer and service... please see our president, Karen Washington.



Morning Prayer and Bible Study  
Come and be counted among the faithful!  
Morning Prayer numbers are climbing  
Jacobs Ladder. It is a refreshing way to begin your day with God among others who are of like mind in Christ. Bible Study will soon need to add a table to the gathering. Today we were 15 strong around the table. Rev. Ralph leads us into a unique way of reading, studying and understanding the bible. Although we have been gathering for a year.... we are still slow walking around God's Mountain with Moses after the Exodus from Egypt. Join us...all are welcome!



Episcopal Campus Ministry  
Episcopal Campus Ministry keeps our young college students connected to the work their parents started in the Episcopal Church. It offers support of

familiarity for those who are away from home for the first time. It says to the students...we are here for you. On November 14th St. Josephs' hosted a chilli supper in the parish hall. Stay connected to our website for the next lunch event.



### Unsung Angels!

A special thanks to all who have heard the call for more angels and are quietly stepping up in donating water, and food items for fellowship hour. God loves a cheerful giver and so do we!



### Cursillistas Amongst Us !



### Cursillo Grouping

St. Joseph's has nine Cursillo members and meet and meet over lunch and share the goodness of God. We are encouraged by hearing individual testimonies. Thanks to Samuel Lloyd for orchestrating this gathering.

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### BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIES FOR THE MONTH OF DEC.

#### Christmas Birthdays

- 13<sup>th</sup> Chandra Francis 18<sup>th</sup> Nicolas Joseph
- 17<sup>th</sup> Victoria Mc Nair 26<sup>th</sup> Tyrone A. Francis, Sr.
- 27<sup>th</sup> Barbara Joseph 28<sup>th</sup> Robert Hamilton, Sr.
- 29<sup>th</sup> Barbara-Anne Joseph

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### Bible Humor/Trivia

#### Bible Trivia

Which Prophet was taken to heaven without dying?

- A) Daniel

- B) Elijah
- C) Amos
- D) Hosea

Answer B. Elijah (2 Kings 2.: 11 )

### **Bible Humor**

What were the  
Phoenicians famous for?

Answer:

Blinds



#### ***ANNOUNCEMENTS:***

*WELCOMING VISITORS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS are now at  
the beginning of the service!*

#### *Piano Keys Update!*

As you may recall that members of the church are symbolically purchasing the keys to the Baby Grand with donation of \$88 per Key! There are many keys still available. Let's get your name on the chart! You are welcomed to purchase as many keys as you like. Thank you to all who have participated thus far!

Bereavement: Pray for Ray Shewfelt, grandfather of Vikki Clark who has gone to his eternal rest. May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

Newcomers! We are thrilled to have Lisa, Matt, and Stacy Dummit join us. They are affiliated with Ft. Bragg.

#### News:

Fellowship hour for the month of December will be compliments of the ushers, altar guild, sexton, wardens, and priest.

#### The Chuckle Corner.

Once upon a time when I was young and two of children were still in grade school while my older daughter and

my niece were in high school. Though most would think we lived on a farm but trust me... the farmers in Sampson county would not claim us. We literally lived with a menagerie of farm animals and pets on 3 acres of land including a pond. We had an Appaloosa, a pony, 3-5 goats at a given time, ducks, a goose, rabbits , 2 great Danes and two cats, and at the time 1 husband.

The children and I were about to depart for the day to school. I at the time was teaching and as dress code mandated... I was in a suit jacket, skirt, and matching pumps. Just as I was about to lock the door.... I heard all sorts of screaming from the kids. I looked up and in my horror my two Danes decided duck was on the menu for the day.... each with a part of the duck and going in opposite directions. My son had mounted the female Dane while my niece was whaling away at the male Dane. Here I go ....Mom to the rescue running across the yard in my pumps and suit! I took over subduing the female Dane, opening her mouth therefore freeing the duck. The children wrestled, yanked and pulled at the Dane's back towards the house. I held the duck with its wings at its sides... not seeing any injuries. I tried to nudge the duck to fly back over to his designated area of the pond that was fenced in. The poor duck was in such shock....he just knew he was a dead duck and did not respond to my nudging. So I walked him over and gently lowered him to the ground. The duck lived for many years after that and never flew over the fence again. I'm sure if the farmers were looking on... they had a good laugh! We did too but much later. Just another day in the life of ME !





## CALENDAR

Birthday Celebration:	1st Sunday
Vestry:	2nd Sunday of each month
Healing Sunday and Visitation :	3rd Sunday
DOK NEW INDUCTEES:	EVERY SUNDAY except 3rd Sunday until otherwise notified
DOK:	3rd Sunday
Knitting & Crocheting Min:	3rd Saturday @1:00
Brotherhood of St Andrew:	Every Wednesday @4:00
Choir Rehearsal:	Every Thursday @ 4:30
Cursillo Reunion Group	Every 3 <sup>rd</sup> Saturday @ 12: 00
Roger-Breece Xmas Svc	13 <sup>th</sup> @6:00
Decorate Church	15 <sup>th</sup> @10:00
Historical Tour	17 <sup>th</sup> @10:00
Christmas Social	21 <sup>st</sup> @ 6:00
Christmas Cantanta (Haymount)	22 <sup>nd</sup> @ 4:00
Christmas Cantata (St. Josephs)	23 <sup>rd</sup> @4:00
Christmas Eve Service	24 <sup>th</sup> @ 6:00

All Sunday Meetings are held immediately after service



### Rev. Ralph's Corner

Happy New Year! Well, the church year at least. We are off again telling the story of our

relationship with God as we move through the year. We start with advent as we prepare for the coming of the Christ child who we celebrate during Christmas. Then we remember the revelation of Jesus to the gentiles with the Epiphany. After that, it is time to prepare yet again through the season of Lent and the activity of Holy Week. After these solemn memories we celebrate the

resurrection of our Lord during Easter and the gift of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. Then we are in the season of doing the work of the church as we wait for the coming of the Lord again.

This month in the Way of Love defined by Bishop Curry I want to address worship. As a reminder the Way of Love is to turn, learn, pray, worship, bless, go, rest. Worship is a word that gets used a lot but defined infrequently. The Oxford English Dictionary defines worship as the feeling or expression of reverence and adoration. In the context of the church we think of worship as something we do on a Sunday morning, but I want to invite us to consider a broader definition. Worship is anything we do to nurture our relationship with God. This might include gathering with the community and celebrating our relationship with God but it could also include cleaning up litter to care for God's creation, working at the food bank to help persons who need food, caring for animals who are part of God's creation too. All these things can be worshipful events as long as we do them to honor God and God's creation. How will we worship during this new year? However we chose to worship, I am hopeful this year we all rediscover our risen Christ again in a new way.

