



Cares, Prayers and Current Affairs

A Newsletter from St. Joseph's Episcopal Church

January 2018

HAPPY NEW YEAR to all brothers and sisters in Christ as well as to all who have yet to hear the Good News and Glad tidings that unto us a child was born and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace! There is indeed a special joy that is in the air that cannot be wrapped in paper or adorned with bows and tinsel. It cannot be put on layaway nor charged to your Visa, MasterCard, Discover nor American Express! It is FREE... ours for the hearing, accepting and believing in God's promises. The Highest and honorable position... A Prince of Peace, not born in a Temple or palace to a Queen or King but in a stable in the presence of sheep and donkeys to a young village girl of 14 or 16 who was betrothed but not married to a carpenter. God in the flesh laid on a bed of hay in a trough that held grains and feed for animals ,no fine linens or silk material for comfort but strips of cloth in which he was swaddled for warmth. In this season of Advent we lit a candle every Sunday. Each candle represents the virtues of the Christ child. Hope, peace, joy and love. The final candle represents Christ Himself. For the church family that has moved away and for those who are not able to attend services... the church is beautifully decorated. Along the walls from the organ to the door of the Sacristy is garland lit with clear lights with red and gold balls. There is a gold bow at the center of each set of windows. At the top of each window is a bow fashioned out of grapevine also with red and gold balls. In the first alcove that is in the at the far end of the front doors is a nativity set with a Moravian star hanging above it. On the Gospel side of the church in the 2nd alcove is a Christmas tree with multicolored lights and ornaments. This year instead of purple, we used the

alternate color blue at the altar. The grill facing the people and near the organ are 3 gold candle sticks to represent the Trinity. The linen on the altar reads... "Prepare Ye the Way". On Friday, the 21st... we had our annual social. It was well attended. This year we had a traditional Christmas dinner under the direction of Chandra Francis. We had turkey, roast beef and ham, dressing, cranberry sauce, macaroni and cheese and a green salad and rolls. For dessert there was an assortment of cakes and pies. The meal was delicious ... the atmosphere was filled with love and laughter. Members of the church joined forces with their crafting skills and used this opportunity to raise a wee bit of money for the church while giving others an opportunity to do some last minute shopping. Our Crafters were Vikki Clark who fashioned cross stitched ornaments in frames. The pictures were religious symbols and symbols of Christmas. Mary Mac Shields, who is on loan to us as a diaconate candidate through the end of this month, decorated a miniature tree of beaded earrings and Celtic knotted necklaces. She also donated knitted Comfort dolls some of which were made to send to the children of Rwanda. She also teamed up with Jan Mumford and together they made house guest baskets filled with all the things overnight guest tend to forget to pack, Cloth organizing bags, fans in a carrying bag to protect it from damage in a ladies purse, and traveling shoe bags. A shawl and a stole was also crocheted by Jan. Carol Graham made an assortment of beautiful scarfs and matching head bands. Last but certainly not least ... Bernice Motley and her apprentice, Jan Mumford made Baby blankets while Bernice made matching booties and toboggans. All baby blankets, hats and booties not sold will be blessed and donated to the NIC Unit at Cape Fear Hospital which is an on-going project of the Daughters of the King. A 2019 Calendar and Directory have been made and is on sale by order for \$20. We are still in need of photos of the Stewart family, the Cones, Kerna and Caleb McFarlin, the Dummits, Sylvester Washington and grandgirls and Dr. Johnson. Please see Vikki Clark for orders! On Saturday at 4:00, members of Saint Joseph's choir and members of other choirs throughout the city of Fayetteville join forces and put on a Christmas Cantata

under the direction of Sharon McNair. This year's theme was Hallelujah, Jesus is Born! This year there were two performances. The first was at Haymount Presbyterian Church on Rosehill Road. On Sunday afternoon the final performance was at St. Joseph's and as always.... there was a packed house! The music and singing raised the roof and filled everyone with the spirit of Christmas. On Monday, Christmas Eve we had service at 6:00pm. Though there were a faithful few in attendance....as always, the service was beautiful. On Monday December the 17th members of the city under the leadership of Mr. Daws of the Historical society came with a group of 25 to tour our Sanctuary and Parish Hall. Our own Historian, Vernell Hamilton, Samuel Lloyd, and Carol Graham served as host during the tour, filling in bits of information and details known to the parishioners not found in records. The group enjoyed cookies and hot coffee, cider and hot chocolate in the festively decorated Parish Hall. Our Historian, Mrs. Hamilton just recently went on tour of The Holy Lands and returned with a DVD of her journey which she presented to the church. We will announce when the presentation will be made.



Health Notes

We sincerely hope that everyone will skate through these winter months without a cold or the flu but in the event you were not up to this challenge the best thing to do is to rest....drink all the fluids you can, include vitamin C in your intake. Wash down and sanitize everything you use so as not to re-infect yourself and others. If you are running a fever .. please go to your doctor and do not hesitate. If it is the flu...the medication the doctor prescribes works only if you get it within the first 48 hours. Nurses and doctors out there....please correct me if I am incorrect! Thank you! Please, please be a part of the solution of avoiding illness. *Get your flu shot * Wash hands frequently * 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

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!"

Both performances of the Cantata were a great success. We had a full house on Sunday. Photos are on the webpage and Facebook.



Christmas Social

The Christmas Social was a great success. Photos are on the webpage and Facebook.



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!



This year a large donation of non-perishable food items were delivered to operation blessing in time for Christmas. Thank you Karen Washington for spear-heading this effort. 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. Morning Prayer never takes a holiday and Bible Study will resume on Wednesday Jan. 2nd, 2019 ! We are studying the book of Leviticus! Please Join us.



Episcopal Campus Ministry
Episcopal Campus Ministry keeps our young college students connected to the work their parents started in the Episcopal Church. It is nearly time for Mary Mac Shields that initiated this effort to pass the gauntlet off to a member of St. Joseph's. Thank you to Sharon McNair for

answering the call to serve. The students are no longer children but this effort will take a village to keep the momentum going so if you are willing to help....please let your desires be known.



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.

>>>>><<<<<<<<<



BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIES FOR THE MONTH OF January.

Birthdays in January

- 9th Samuel Lloyd
- 23rd Gene Graham
- 25th Monique Braxton

>>>>><<<<<<



Bible Humor/Trivia

Bible Trivia

Who was the most famous prophet in Israel's

History?

- A. Isaiah
- B. Elijah
- C. Amos
- D. Ezekiel

Answer (B. Elijah)

Bible Humor: When was the longest day in the Bible?

Answer: The day Adam was created because there was no Eve.



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!

STEWARDSHIP:

When one thinks of stewardship a multitude of ideas comes to all who hear it and I will not change that with one article in the newsletter. But what I hope to do is to start a conversation in the St. Joseph community about stewardship.

The scriptures speak often of being a good steward of what has been given us. Moreover, if we believe that all things come from God, then the ability to work and receive income comes from God as well. This is the time that most persons expect me to ask for more money. If you have more to give St. Joseph could certainly put the funds to good use. But what I want to focus on this month is pledging.

Think about how each of us manages our home budgets. I suspect we know how much money will be coming into the home each month and we plan to pay our bills and expend our fund accordingly. Now, imagine you don't know how much money will be coming in each month, but you still must plan to pay your bills. How do you budget the cashflow if you don't know how much is coming in? This is what we are asking the vestry to do when we don't pledge an amount to the church;

we are asking the vestry to plan expenditures without know if the money will be there to pay them. If you have ever had to do that at home, you know how nerve racking that can be. Please help the vestry plan for 2019 by declaring a pledged amount for the year.

NEWS:

Fellowship hour for the month of December will be compliments of the Brotherhood of St. Andrew.

REMEMBERING IN PRAYER:

Though we have no one among our parishioners that have lost a loved one this month, however, please be prayerful for those who have. The sting of death has no respect of person nor holiday and it makes holidays difficult for those who have lost someone to be joyful during this time of the year. It is also difficult for widows and widowers whose house once rang out with noise and chatter and children running through the house while the smell of roasting turkey hung in the air. Also there are those whose children have moved far away and are now having Christmas for their own children and grandparents cannot make the long journey. There are adults who cannot afford to go home and may be feeling sad and forgotten. Be a good neighbor and a good friend and reach out to those in need and alone.

HELP NEEDED:

Sam Lloyd, our Parish Administrator, needs someone to prepare and manage acquiring grants for St. Joseph's. Sam has been doing this for more than 10 years and has acquired six grants totaling over \$35,000 in grant money for our church. We need someone willing to take over this very important responsibility. Please see Sam Lloyd for information. Your church will thank you and God will bless you.

THE CHUCKLE CORNER.

How Santa Saved Christmas ! One Christmas when my three children were young...Cabbage Patch dolls and Star Wars Action Figures and accessories were all the rage. As most

dutiful mothers who laid away, purchased and had every i ' dotted and t ' crossed in wait for Christmas Eve night. The children were asleep and all the work began to set the stage for all that was hidden in places they could not find nor reach. Each year as the children got older posed a challenge in that they could reach higher with all their sneaking and peeking! The hour arrived and the children were up! Their little eyes were all aglow for they really must have been good that year for Santa had filled all their wishes and more! So I thought ...when I saw one little sad face on the only boy of the house. I inquired as to the cause of such a display of disappointment amongst all that lay out before them. As it turned out...the little fellow had his heart set on the Death Star ship (or something). So I asked my son to describe this coveted item not received. As he described in detail this item I realized how familiar that sounded and that it was indeed among the purchases. I sent him on a wild goose chase around the house in the event Santa was playing a cruel trick. I racked my brain ... trying to remember just where I had hidden this toy! AH HA! It was next door at my mother-In-laws house! I made a quick call and dashed over, retrieved it! No time to wrap it nor hide it so I leaned it up against the chimney outside. I called for the frantic child and said ..." Oh my goodness " I shouted! Santa must have dropped it just as he was going down the chimney and here it lay ... in the snow! All was well now... even though Santa lied. Ms. Santa saved Christmas for a sad little boy. How do you know when you are getting old?

* You know you are getting old when you sink your teeth into a juicy steak and they stay there!

* You know you are getting old when your knees buckle and your belt won't.

* You know you are getting old when your back goes out more than you do!

A Gem or two of Wisdom It's nice to be important, but it is more important to be nice! There is none so deaf as the person who does not listen. Dear friends and loved one....I stumbled upon a book destined for the trash bin but it was filled with such perils of wisdom, thought provoking sayings and quotes and though it pokes fun at getting old I truly

believe laughter is great medicine and I will be sharing with you ! Thank you Bernice... for it was upon your desk on which I stumbled.... thank you for rescuing this book from which it was intended. So my dear friends and family....until the next newsletter...train your mind to see the good in everything. Positivity is a choice. The happiness of your life depends on the quality of your thoughts! Be Blessed!



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 3rd Saturday @ 12: 00
Absalom Jones coord mtg Jan 5 @10:00 in Goldsboro
All Sunday Meetings are held immediately after service



Rev. Ralph's Corner

Blessed Epiphany! This feast of the church always falls on the 6th of January and marks the arrival of the gentiles from the east, often called the three wisemen. It just so happens that this feast falls on a Sunday this year, so we can celebrate the revelation of the Christ child on the actual day! Epiphany is a Greek word that means manifestation because this is the first time the infant Jesus was revealed, or manifested, as the Christ to Gentiles like you and me.

This is the first celebration this year but there will be others like the homecoming festive the last weekend of March. This weekend will be full of celebrating. We will celebrate the returning of families and friend of St. Joseph, we will remember our patron namesake, Saint Joseph, whose feast we are transferring from 19 March. Finally, we will be celebrating the gift of the presence of our bishop, The Right Reverend Robert Skirving who will be joining us during the weekend. It is a great time to be part of St. Joseph parish!

This month in the Way of Love defined by Bishop Curry I want to address bless. As a reminder the Way of Love is to turn, learn, pray, worship, bless, go, rest. The word bless is defined by the Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church as an authoritative pronouncement of God's favor. We bless food and items of importance to us. When I was a chaplain in the Army, I blessed a whole lot of crosses, crucifixes, and saint medallions for persons who wanted some tangible item that would remind them of God's presence and blessing them made the item even more special for the person.

Another way to consider blessing is the blessing we give to each other. When we help each other out, we are being a blessing for the other. Stated another way, when we help each other out we are pronouncing God's favor on the other person. This is how we are to function in community, to pronounce the favor of God on one another. The Christian community is to be a reminder to each other of the relationship with God that God desires with each of us. Finally, when we reach out to someone who is not a member of the Christian community, we are showing that person they too are favored by God. This is what we are to do as a Christian community, to demonstrate that each of us are blessed by God and also are a blessing from God. How are you going to be a blessing this year?

"For I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord.
"They are plans for good and not for disaster,
to give you a future and a hope."

Jeremiah 29:11

The image features two Christmas trees in silhouette against a vibrant sunset sky. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a bright orange and yellow glow that transitions into a darker orange and red as it goes up. The trees are positioned in the center-right of the frame. The overall mood is warm and hopeful.

Happy New Year