



*Cares, Prayers  
and Current Affairs*

December 2020

Tis the Season!

Greetings to all St. Joseph's church family and friends! To God be the Glory! I trust all had a great Thanksgiving! The elections are over and there is positive hope for the coming new year. As we move into the Advent season, there is much for which to be thankful.

We have been assured that we now have not one but two potential vaccines for the COVID 19 virus. In January we will have an administration who states that he is here to serve all the people as one United States.

What a wonderful feeling it is to go into the season of Advent without the tension of the unknown brought on by the 2020 election. Tis the season of hope, love, joy and peace. The season when long ago in the city of Bethlehem a bright star appeared over a stable. It was an unlikely place for a King to be born. Instead of a bed of rich Mahogany, lined with the finest linens or silk, there was a trough lined with hay where barn animals feed for the Prince of Peace to lay his precious head.

In hindsight it made sense, for Christ came to serve the poor, the infirmed, the forgotten, the widowed, the orphans, and the lonely. By God's grace and mercy, when Christ's own people denied his station as the Son of God, He made salvation available to all mankind both Jew and Gentile. We have much to celebrate. The King of the World! Our King! What joy there is in being a child of the King!

2020 may go out as the most unsettling year of all times. But we can rejoice in the hope for a better new year!

## **What's Been Happening At Saint Joseph's!**

Every Sunday the morning service is streamed live for all who are unable to attend service. Two Sundays ago we were honored to have the Rev. Canon Molly Roberts, canon for the Diocesan Life and Leadership. She spoke during morning services on the symbolism of the butterfly in the resurrection. The butterfly starts out in the darkness of a cocoon and emerges as a beautiful life... ready to take flight. She wore a beautiful stole embroidered with butterflies.

Since our last publication we have been quite busy. Saint Joseph's strives to be a small mecca for missions. We pray that it continues to grow. It's all about taking the church into the community.

We glorify God by sharing our time and gifts with others outside the 4 walls of the church. As we share our love and plant seeds of righteousness, it is our hope that others will join our mission to follow Christ. Jesus himself traveled from place to place, spreading the good news as should we.



## **CWU**

Saint Joseph's was the gathering place for all the surrounding churches to bring blankets, socks, shirts and other needs for the Farm Workers of Newton Grove. It was a great turn out and together we filled a 16 passenger bus from floor to ceiling. The Church Women United sponsored this mission. This organization includes women from all the surrounding churches in the Fayetteville area. There are approximately 65 members. The next mission involves collecting needs for the homeless for the cold weather ahead such as socks, toboggans and gloves.



## **ECW**

The women of Saint Joseph's met recently to discuss the changing of the curtains in the Butler Parish Hall. It was decided that a team of three will select fabric or beautiful valance for the window dressing. Everyone agreed that the light through the windows without a curtain enhances the beauty of the Hall. In that all fundraisers are banned due to the virus, it was decided that the women contribute monthly dues, the amount, of each one's choosing to the ECW account so that the balance continues to grow.



## **Brotherhood of Saint Andrew**

The Brotherhood of Saint Andrew inducted a new member into their fold on the first Sunday of

Advent. Mr. Akiel Lettesome, the son of Chandra and Tyrone Frances was the new inductee. They meet each Wednesday for bible study and are responsible for collecting food for needy children.



## **DOK**

This is the month we will present baby blankets, booties, hats and sweaters to the NIC Unit at Cape Fear Hospital. Unfortunately, Mrs. Santa Clause and her little Elf will not be able to deliver them in person due to COVID. Anyone interested in learning or interested in joining this mission, please see Deacon Shields, Jan Mumford or Bernice Motley.

There is a 52 day prayer journey sponsored by the Daughters of the King. Please see your E-mails for details.



## Bible Trivia

Remind believers to submit the \_\_\_\_\_ and its officers.

- A. Army
- B. President
- C. Government
- D. Authority

**Answer:** (C. Government / Titus 3:1)

## Bible Humor

Why couldn't any one play cards on the ark?

**Answer:** The animals were on the deck!



## December Birthdays

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

## *Recipes*



**Old  
Fashion Pound  
Cake**  
By Bernice Motley

PREHEAT OVEN TO 300 DEGREES  
(Use an x-large bunt pan)

12 eggs  
1lb butter  
4c sugar  
4c all purpose flour  
2 tsp vanilla  
cream butter and sugar to fluffy  
alternate eggs and flour

add vanilla

Bake for 90 min.

Note: If using a regular size pan, it will make 4 additional small loafs.

By Bernice Motley



## **. Vikki's Meatloaf au Gratin**

2 lbs extra lean ground beef OR 1 lb ground beef and 1 lb pork sausage

¼ c egg substitute OR 1 egg

1 c reduced fat sharp cheddar cheese

1 small onion (about ¼ c)

1/3 c plain breadcrumbs

1 ½ TBS Worcestershire sauce

1 TBS Dijon mustard

½ tsp pepper

Mix all ingredients except ¼ c cheese. Form into a dome in a meatloaf pan. Bake at 350° for 50 minutes (60 minutes if using sausage). Sprinkle rest of cheese on top and bake an additional 10 minutes. Let set 5-10 minutes before slicing. Serves 8.

By Vikki Clark

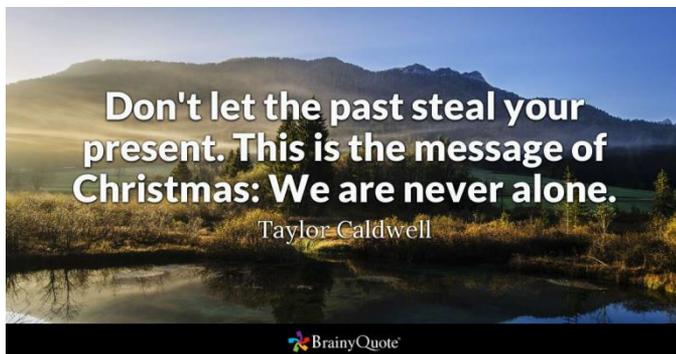


### From Chandra Francis

This is a time when you can make changes that will release you from the past. You have considered for some time the direction your life might take, but now you will have the fortitude to take action. Do not be afraid of what your future holds. You can only live in the moment. Trust that I will never leave you nor forsake you. Be strong and of good courage. Deuteronomy 31:8 "And the Lord, He is the one who goes before you. He will be with you, He will not leave you nor forsake you; do not fear nor be dismayed."



## From our Senior Warden



## Deacon's Notes

It's nice to have a first in this unsettling year, 2020. On Thursday, November 19, St.

Joseph's hosted a Red Cross Blood Drive. People from all around the community came and gave the gift of life. Did you know that every pint of blood given saves three people's lives?

The remarkable set up in our parish hall was done by a staff of women who miraculously set up and closed out in amazing time.

The drive provided nineteen pints of blood. We missed our goal of twenty pints by one. The Red Cross workers were very pleased by our first effort to host the event. They encouraged us to host again in the coming year. Thanks go to the following members of our parish for giving and helping set up: Sharon McNair, Olu Mumford, Tony Ferguson, Jan Mumford, Chandra Francis.

The extra bonus that resulted from the blood drive is that a deep cleaning was carried out in the parish hall. Mae Butler must have been rejoicing in heaven.

As we look toward a new year please let me know of ways that you can think of

serving our community. A mantra in the Episcopal church is “People don’t care what you believe, they care about what you do.” Ours in a giving church that is always “doing.”

May your Advent be a time of waiting and contemplating God’s.

God’s peace, Deacon Shields



### **From Rev. Clark**

Richard Rohr was born in Kansas in 1943. In the midst of a world at war, Rohr came of age and at the tender age of 18 entered the Franciscan religious order in 1961. Later, in 1970, Rohr was ordained priest and is currently serving as head of the Center for Action and Contemplation in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

In addition to running the center, he has written extensively about the Christian life. One of the concepts Rohr has expounded upon is the concern of a *third way*. This *third way* is in addition to the two ways in which we tend to function. The first way might be agreement with

people and opinions which resemble ourselves and assuming a position of power from that agreement. The second way is to assume a position of power over and against those who do not look like us and may not agree with us. If you notice, each of these positions are about power. Richard Rohr identifies the third way as being based on love.

Rohr surmises that we begin to love as the starting point and not the afterthought of our position of power we will begin to realize that we have not been very loving at all and that we are often seeking to meet our own needs through our relationships. Seek those who agree with us and avoiding those who call our thoughts into question. I'll let Richard finish the thought as he can do a much better job than I:

“The Christian way is to risk the attachments of love—and then keep growing in love. All of life is a lesson in learning to love more deeply and truly.

As we start trying to love, we begin to realize that we're actually not loving very well. We are mostly meeting our own needs. The word for this is “codependency.” This kind of love is still impure and self-seeking and thus is not really love at all. So, we have to pull back

and learn the great art of detachment, which is not aloofness but the purifying of attachment.

Our religion is neither solely detachment nor attachment; it's a dance between the two. It's neither entirely isolation, as symbolized by the desert, nor is it complete engagement, as symbolized by the city. Jesus moves back and forth between desert and city. In the city, he feels himself losing perspective, love, and center; so, Jesus goes out to the desert to discover the real again. And when Jesus is in the desert, his passionate union with the Father drives him back to the people in the city.

The creative, transformative dance between attachment and detachment is sometimes called the Third Way. It is the middle way between fight and flight, as Walter Wink describes it. Some prefer to take on the world: to fight it, change it, fix it, and rearrange it. Others deny there is a problem at all. "Everything is beautiful," they say and look the other way. Both instincts avoid holding the tension, the pain, and the essentially tragic nature of human existence.

The contemplative stance is the Third Way. We stand in the middle, neither taking the world on from another power position nor denying it for fear of the pain it will bring. We hold the hardness of reality and the suffering of

the world *until it transforms us*, knowing that we are both complicit in evil and can participate in wholeness and holiness. Once we can stand in that third spacious way, neither directly fighting or fleeing, we are in the place of grace out of which genuine newness can come. *This is where creativity and new forms of life and healing emerge.*

Rohr, R. (2018, June 4). The third way. Retrieved from <https://cac.org/the-third-way-2018-06-04/>

Priest-in-Charge..The Rev. Ralph Clark  
The Rev. Deacon Mary Mac Shields  
Senior Warden...Mr. Tyrone Francis  
Junior Warden...Mr. Karl Vaughn  
Director of Music.. Mrs. Sharon McNair  
Newsletter Author....Ms. Jan Mumford  
Newsletter Editor.....Mr. Sam Lloyd