

# The Sentinel

December 2016

## **Priest's Ponderings**

By the time you read this, we will have already observed a Sunday of Rite One. I am glad that I can't read minds as I would have detected a gasp from many of you when I announced the opening page number on the First Sunday of Advent. At least you are spared the Great Litany that we include in Lent!

So why do we shift liturgical gears in Advent? There are several reasons.

First, I cringe to think that most of you want to come to church every Sunday and hear the same prayers from Rite Two year round. I may be wrong, though!

Second, Advent is a season of expectation of a grand event of celebration with the coming of Christ into the world at Christmas. The lofty tone of the liturgy prepares us for the celebration that is to come.

Third, it is good for us to be in touch with our roots and heritage. The language of Rite One was very typical in the former Book of Common Prayer in 1928 and other versions of the Prayer Book. When Rite Two was introduced some 40 years ago, it was considered folksy and even disrespectful of God. He seemed our "good buddy," and not a being worthy of our awe, respect, and even fear.

But why is Advent considered a penitential season? Take a look at the lessons each week. They speak of Jesus' Second Coming. Should we not be penitent as we contemplate such an event? The weather outside is dreary, so being somber and penitent is not too difficult for any of us.

Will I ever change my mind about the liturgy and use Rite Two throughout the year? Probably, but I hope not. In the meantime, endure or enjoy the change, whichever is your preference. The most important charge I can give you is to be ready and expectant for an amazing thing to occur. That much is certain!

RSC+

## **Membership Quiz**

Who is a retired electrician? Harry Spain

Who is a computer programmer? Rich Webb

Who works at Louisiana Pacific Building Products Corporation? Cindy Reese and Leigh Smith (but not for long!) ☺

Who works in hotel management? Sandi Windorfer

Who works for the Tennessee Lottery? Debbie Denning

## **Christmas Benevolence 2016**

This year we are working with the Salvation Army Angel Project and buying gifts as requested by individuals. Kudos to the congregation for adopting all of our families on the very first Sunday that the program was offered! Our thanks to Dari Shadwick for being our parish coordinator. Turn-in day is Sunday, December 11th!



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## **Special Events Calendar**

*Saturday, December 3rd*  
Youth Group at 5:00 pm

*Tuesday, December 6th*  
Vestry at 6:30 pm

*Wednesday, December 7<sup>th</sup>*  
Christmas Pageant Rehearsal  
at 6:00 pm

*Sunday, December 11th*  
Angel Tree Gifts are Turned In

*Friday, December 23rd*  
Sentinel Article Deadline

*Saturday, December 24th*  
Holy Eucharist and Carols 5:00 pm  
Lessons & Carols 10:30 pm  
Choral Eucharist & Carols 11:00 pm

**Happy Birthday!**

Mike DeWeese	12/3
Ann Lovejoy	12/5
Don Denning	12/11
Cathy Caster	12/11
Leon McAulay	12/14
Harry Spain	12/17
Mark Croxall	12/22
Steve Croxall	12/22
Karen Cate	12/23
Judy Stewart	12/24
Mary Jane McFarland	12/28
Jim Cate	12/31

Let us know if we missed one! We do not know unless you tell us. ☺

**Lay Assignments**

December 4th  
 Eucharistic Ministers: Jane Emery & David Gaines  
 Lector: Harry Spain  
 Crucifer: Jonathan Dupuy  
 Ushers: Larry Emery & Joe Reese  
 Altar Guild: Karen Cate & Joan Wells  
 Coffee Hour: The Deweeses

December 11th  
 Eucharistic Ministers: Denise Kem & Cindy Reese  
 Lector: Denise Kem  
 Crucifer: Alex Magnis  
 Ushers: Don Jones & Mike Deweese  
 Altar Guild: Mary Elizabeth Womack & Betty Odom  
 Coffee Hour: Joan Wells

December 18th  
 Eucharistic Ministers: Tony McFarland & David Gaines  
 Lector: Tony McFarland  
 Crucifer: Jonathan Dupuy  
 Ushers: George Brummett & Rick Webb  
 Altar Guild: Sandra Womack & Janet Deweese  
 Coffee Hour: The McFarlands

December 25th  
 Eucharistic Ministers: Father Courtney  
 Lector: Father Courtney  
 Crucifer: Father Courtney  
 Ushers: Father Courtney  
 Altar Guild: Father Courtney  
 Coffee Hour: Father Courtney

**The Saint of the Month**

**The Saint of the Month**  
**Nicolas, Bishop of Myra**  
*c. 342*

**December 6th**

Nicolas, Bishop of Myra was a historic 4th-century Christian saint and Greek. Bishop of Myra, in Asia Minor (modern-day Demre, Turkey). Because of the many miracles attributed to his intercession, he is also known as Nikolaos the Wonderworker. His reputation evolved among the faithful, as was common for early Christian saints, and his legendary habit of secret gift-giving gave rise to the traditional model of Santa Claus through Sinterklaas, a Dutch celebration in early December where gifts are exchanged.

He was born at Patara, Lycia in Asia Minor (now Turkey). In his youth he made a pilgrimage to Egypt and the Palestine area. Shortly after his return he became Bishop of Myra and was later cast into prison during the persecution of Diocletian. He was released after the accession of Constantine and was present at the Council of Nicaea. In 1087, Italian merchants stole his body from Myra, bringing it to Bari in Italy. Saint Nicholas is the patron saint of sailors, merchants, archers, repentant thieves, children, brewers, pawnbrokers and students in various cities and countries around Europe.

**Quote of the Month**

“At this Christmas when Christ comes, will He find a warm heart? Mark the season of Advent by loving and serving the others with God's own love and concern.” -Mother Teresa

**Recipe of the Month: Bruce's Lemon Meringue Pie**

1 1/2 cup sugar, 1/3 + 1 tbsp. corn starch, 1 1/2 cup water, 3 egg yolks -slightly beaten, 3 tbsp. butter, 1/2 cup lemon juice.

Mix all of the above in a medium sauce pan. Heat and stir constantly on medium heat until it comes to a boil. Boil 1 minute, then pour into a baked 9 inch pie shell.

**No Weep Meringue**

1/3 cup sugar, 2 tbsp. sugar, 1 tbsp. corn starch, 1/2 cup water, 4 large egg whites.

Combine 1/3 cup sugar, cornstarch and water in small sauce pan.

Stir constantly until thickened. Beat egg whites with 2 tbsp. until soft peaks form, then pour in cornstarch mixture. Beat until still peaks form. Spread on pie, sealing at the edges, spread mixture with a spatula. Bake at 350 degrees for 12 minutes.

**Bonus Recipe of the Month: Meghan's Jalapeno Popper Dip**

2 (8 ounce) packages cream cheese, room temperature, 1 cup mayonnaise, 1 cup shredded Mexican blend cheese, 1/2 cup grated Parmesan cheese, 1 (4 ounce) can diced green chilies, 1 (4 ounce) can diced jalapeños or 4 fresh seeded, jalapeños diced finely (add more if you like it hotter), 1 cup Panko breadcrumbs  
 1/2 cup grated Parmesan cheese, 1/4 cup melted butter.

Mix the first 6 ingredients together and spread the dip into a greased pie pan or a 2 quart baking dish. In a bowl, mix Panko breadcrumbs, remaining 1/2 cup Parmesan cheese, and melted butter until incorporated. Sprinkle crumb mixture evenly over the dip and bake in a preheated 375°F oven for about 20 minutes or until top is browned and the dip is bubbly. Serve with chips, crackers, or baguette slices.

**Church Services will be held at the regular times on  
 Sunday, December 25th**

### ***From the Loft***

The Advent and Christmas seasons are wonderful times for praising God through music. Just think of all the lovely Christmas carols that are so familiar to us. What would the holidays be without music?

Keeping this in mind, the St. James Choir is preparing special music for the season. The anthems on each of the four Advent Sundays will lead us through the weeks of anticipation and preparation. The fourth Sunday, December 18, will include the Children's Pageant presentation, entitled "Who is this Baby?", and features the carol, "What Child is This?"

And finally, Christmas comes! Our 5 PM Christmas service will include traditional carols sung by the congregation. At 10:30 PM, a service of Lessons and Carols will be presented, featuring readings from scripture with musical selections by the choir. The Christmas Eucharist Service, following at 11 PM will include favorite Christmas carols and a special anthem.

As a special treat, on Sunday, January 1st, we welcome back Patty Johnson, the daughter of Judy Stewart. Patty will be singing during the offertory at the 10:30 service. She plans to sing "Mary, Did You Know?" a beautiful contemporary Christmas song.

If you love Christmas, and Christmas music, please think about joining us for these services. And if you'd like, we'll even save a seat for you up in the loft! Jane Emery

### ***Vestry News***

In November the Vestry heard:

- Plans for the 2017 Stewardship Campaign
- A proposed budget for 2017
- Chairs for the Choir Loft arriving in early December
- Repairs on the gaps in the outside walls of the church have been completed
- Plans for the Salvation Army Angel Tree
- Plans for Tom Joy's Christmas Store and Boxtops for Education
- A renewed commitment for 2017 to feed the homeless
- That Security cameras were not needed at the present time
- That Louise Jones and Father Courtney are in discernment of a holy water font

### ***Parish Financial Highlights***

November's financial information was being prepared at the press time of this newsletter. Our treasurer, Jim Cate, reports a surplus for the year to date to be around \$2,000.00. Let's remain faithful so we can end 2015 in the black.

### ***Christmas Pageant News***

The Annual Christmas Pageant will be on Sunday, December 18th, at the late service. Our thanks to Lisa Cate, Leigh Smith, and Elaine Reed for being shepherds of the shepherds! Rehearsals are a Pizza Party on Wednesday, December 7<sup>th</sup> and after church on December 11<sup>th</sup>.

### ***HELP WANTED: Christmas Eve***

We need readers, chalice bearers, and acolytes for our Christmas Eve services. Interested? See Father Courtney.

### ***Christmas Flowers***

A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the parish hall. Cost is \$25.00

### ***Outreach News***

The December donations for Room in the Inn are gloves and hats (adult sizes only: xl, xxl, xxxl) Drop off is beside the piano bench in the nave of the church. Kudos to all for their faithfulness and generosity this year!

### ***Youth Ministry***

We have two programs for the youth of the parish.

Teenagers and middle schoolers join Father Courtney and Lacey Lyons for dinner and discussion on the first Saturday of each month. Join us on Saturday, December 3rd, at 5:00 pm to chat and chew.

Sunday Schoolers will explore...

The Stories of Christmas  
 December 4 - Mary's Story  
 December 11 - Joseph's Story  
 December 18 - Jesus' Story  
 December 25 - Shepherds' Story

### ***Taekwondo News***

With the end of the year fast approaching and the holidays upon us, this is the time of year when we should take time from our busy schedules to look back over the past year in order to identify the challenges we faced and how we dealt with them. This is a time for reflection and giving thanks to and for those who have helped us along the way. Too frequently we get caught up in the trappings of the holidays—the social and shopping side—and miss out on the real essence of what this season should be. Take the time now to reflect and evaluate how you met your challenges and goals this year.

### ***Tom Joy Outreach***

We are collecting items for the Annual Christmas Store, which will be on Wednesday, December 14th. (Volunteers are needed to assist on that day, too!) Our ongoing collection of Boxtops for Education welcomes your participation. Donations for both causes can be left on the Outreach Table in the Parish Hall. See Louise Jones for more information.

**Contact Us**

St. James the Less Episcopal Church  
411 West Due West Avenue  
Madison TN 37115  
Phone: 615.865.4496  
Website: [www.stjamesmadison.net](http://www.stjamesmadison.net)

**Weekly Schedule**

*Saturday*  
Priest in Office - 2:30 PM to 5:00 PM  
Communion - 3:00 PM

*Sunday*  
Holy Eucharist – 8:00 AM  
Adult Sunday School – 9:30 AM (none the 18th, or 25th)  
Choral Holy Eucharist – 10:30 AM  
Sunday School (ages 5-12) – 10:30 AM

*Wednesday*  
Choir Practice – 7:00 PM (none the 28th)

*Monday & Thursday*  
Community Taekwondo – 5:00 PM

**St. James the Less  
Episcopal Church**

411 West Due West Avenue  
Madison, TN 37115

**News from the Diocese of Tennessee**

Episcopal School of Nashville will hold Admission Open Houses over the next few months. If you know of a child in PreK - 3rd grades looking for an outstanding school opportunity, please pass along this information.

**Admission Open House Dates/Times**

- Friday November 11, 2016 - 9:00 - 11:00 AM
- Friday December 2, 2016 - 9:00 - 11:00 AM
- Friday December 16, 2016 - 9:00 - 11:00 AM
- Friday January 6, 2017 - 9:00 - 11:00 AM

**Stewardship Results!**

At press time we have collected approximately \$130,000 from 42 pledges with several pledging units remaining in discernment. Our thanks to Tony McFarland for his faithful service as Stewardship Chairman and Jim Cate for keeping the tally.....and the books!



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