



From the Rafters

Vol. IIII
Issue 11
December
2018

Our Mission

We are a people rooted in worship, branching out into the world.

Special Services and Events for Advent and Christmas

Wednesday, December 5 at 6:00 pm

Dinner and Visit from St. Nicholas, Bishop of Myra

A parish-wide event to enjoy casual fellowship, intergenerational activities, a delicious meal, and a visit from St. Nick, who'll bring treats and stories for all. RSVP to the parish office, cor@episcopalgreenwood.org

Thursday, December 6, at 6:30

Ladies Ornament Exchange

Ornament exchange (\$10 max), delightful conversation and light fare at the home of Camilla Cathcart, 134 Sheffield Dr.

RSVP to Chris Jayne, chjayne@gmail.com

Sunday, December 16, at 6 PM

A Service of Nine Lessons and Carols

A parish-wide celebration with our finest music, a hearty, festive reception, and a special offering for our Advent mission project. This year we will enjoy the 100th anniversary of the Service of Nine Lessons and Carols, first celebrated at King's College in 1918. Nursery available.

Monday, December 24: Christmas Eve Services

4:00 PM Children's Christmas Program and Eucharist

10 PM Choral Eucharist; Special Music begins at 9:45

Christmas Day Service

10 AM Holy Eucharist, gather in the Choir

Sunday, December 30

8:30 AM Holy Eucharist I

10:30 AM Holy Eucharist II

No Sunday School

See Rafters Insert for Schedule of Those Serving

Silence - An Advent Meditation

"Ah... so I hear you spend time in a Trappist monastery... Soooo... what do you do there?"

I get this question a lot. I think, sometimes, that hiding right behind it are the questions "Why?" and, especially the perpetually curious, "Whatever for?"



The answer to all these is the same... Silence... A stillness and a silence that settles over me: mind, soul, and body.

We are surrounded by sound. We are encompassed by and drowning in noise- nattering, nagging, roaring, buzzing, raging, rushing noise. As we move through our days all unaware, it becomes the primary occupation of our minds: answering the calls, the texts, the emails, the timers, and the Voices.

This dust storm howls through our minds and souls so constantly we no longer heed its presence. It wears on us, assaults and degrades us.

We contribute to our own suffocation by percussive static, a frenetic motion of busy-ness that reverberates endlessly in our souls and stifles living Breath. We move constantly, berate our own souls and selves for being still, for any thought of disconnecting from our wired world. We carry devices that insist we participate in festivals of ragged clamor, we ingest drinks and foods meant to keep us moving so we can remain peripherally engaged in a multitude of restive interactions that cannot carry the weight of our souls' gasping need for authenticity and real Presence.

We reject (unconsciously) relationships of deep foundation, formed over years of stillness and reflection; perhaps over one ongoing conversation carried out through decades of reflection. Instead we choose minute (both pronunciations) encounters while grabbing a coffee on the way to the next thing. Those close relationships we do have suffer the loss of Kairos to Chronos.

What do I do at the monastery?

I enter the grounds. I take what feels like my first deep breath in months.

I go to my deeply silent and tiny, still, peaceful room, I take a deep breath... and, usually, I fall asleep.

In the middle of the afternoon. For hours. Not a “nap.” Not a pause in the middle of a daily rush so I can jump up and guiltily run around trying to accomplish tasks postponed.

Here there is no Outlook calendar, no “to-do” list. The time is all Kairos: seasonal time, God’s time. The liturgical Hours rule the days. Prayer shapes the day... for me and for the monks.

So, I *sleep*. Deeply. A baptism of rest, washing away frantic motion and settling me to quietness of soul and mind.

That first afternoon, night and the next morning I sleep. Like my soul has not known rest since the last visit. I rise for the Hours and meals and then I sleep. There are no texts, no emails, no phone calls. There is no talking in the sleeping area. There is true rest. And I sleep.

When I wake up, I breathe. I pray. I pray a lot. Not wordy prayers. Prayers of a soul’s stillness and silence. I need not rush off to anything. So, I don’t need to hurry God either.

I stand in the incense permeated, prayer saturated Church or kneel in the chapel and I breathe. I wait. Sometimes I pray.

The Hours come each in their own time.

After Compline (the last Hour) is Grand Silence until after Mass the following day. There is to be no speech until the end of Grand Silence, not even the polite little niceties. Grand Silence releases us from the expectation of interaction. One is free to be

still without the need to respond. In a monastery, Silence is a presence, a comfort, a Refuge. It is not something to endure, but something wrapped around you like a heated blanket after a trauma, a transfusion of peace.

It is anticipation – not of the next thing to *do* – but of Presence and being, anticipation of God’s plan and the ever-arriving Christ.

As we move into and through Advent, we sometimes miss Anticipation of Presence, the intense imminence of the Ever-arriving Christ in the anxiety and furor of ending semesters and financial quarters, in the forward rush of meals and celebrations and presents. We could all perhaps do with a little stillness and a little Silence. We cannot, perhaps, enter monasteries, but we can walk a little more, permit ourselves a little silence, a little space.

A cloying cacophony
of dust, howling
and deathly dry
assaults my ears,
desiccating my soul.
‘Til a madness
of thirst
overwhelms all my being
occupies my every thought.

Sacred, quickening Silence enters
as the prelude
to a drought-ending storm;
the breeze bearing
the first misted drops
whispers of
the blessed deluge.

Within the Hours’ procession
begins the rain
to speak itself—
falling with power,
flowing from holy time
and quiet hearts,
drenching my soul.

~ Josie Ryan

My Personal War on Christmas

Our family attends the 4 PM Christmas service, where the candles glow against the falling darkness and warm the hearts of those who come with family. I love this service, when far-away and irregular visitors arrive. I am happy to see them because, if I could attend only one service a year, it would be this one. This is what a church should look and be like.



A favorite moment came shortly after Nicholas accepted the call to be our priest. He had volunteered (?), been coerced (?), or invited (?) into narrating the story of the crèche, and did well until the sudden and unexpected arrival of Caspar, Balthazar, and Melchior at the end of the procession. Nicholas recovered in time to reply, “And, oh look, here come the Wise Men two weeks early.”

I joined the Episcopal Church because of an instant love affair with the liturgy. Never do I feel nearer the body of Christ than during the return trip from the communion rail.

My understanding of Eucharistic worship grew greatly a few years back when the adult forum studied Joan Chittister’s elegant and informative book, *The Liturgical Year*. It melded my EM experience as a lay reader to the ecclesiastical seasons those readings represent: Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, and the long season after Pentecost.

So. Happy New Year! Or, as liturgical Christians call it: Advent. On Dec. 2 we embark on Year 3 of the Sunday Eucharistic Lectionary that takes us to the end of a three-year study of much of what is essential in the Holy Bible.

And therein lies the problem. By the first Sunday in December our non-liturgical brothers and sisters in Christ will be two or three weeks deep into the secular, commercial Christmas. I don’t have a problem with that; it is part of Advent “preparation” for the coming Christ child.

I do struggle, however, with the fake “War on Christmas” when Christmas doesn’t arrive until late in the night, the early morning of Dec. 25. The War on Christmas, to me, is misnamed. It has become a War on Advent, that season of which Joan Chittister says:

Advent is about learning to wait. It is about not having to know exactly what is coming tomorrow, only that whatever it is, it is the essence of sanctification for us. Every piece of it, some hard, some uplifting, is a sign of the work of God alive in us. We are becoming as we go. We learn in Advent to stay in the present, knowing that only the present well lived can possibly lead us to the fullness of life. It is while waiting for the coming of the reign of God, Advent after Advent, that we come to realize that its coming depends on us (60, 62).

So we put up our family Christmas tree sometime near Dec. 24, and we leave it up and let its lights shine through all twelve days of Christmas, no matter what the neighbors may think. And I wage my personal war on Christmas from Dec. 25 until Jan. 5, hoping the Three Wise Men won’t jump the gun again.

On each of those twelve blessed days, I try to wish everyone I meet a Merry Christmas – which is often greeted with surprise, and sometimes returned gracefully (in which case I offer up the appropriate seasonal gift, be it the partridge in a pear tree or five golden rings).

Most often though, it is greeted with weariness and lethargy. Those who have been celebrating for 40-50 days are “Christmas-ed” out. Their War on Christmas has left them with battle fatigue, the war zone still littered with dead trees at the curb.

Advent is a time of patient and purposeful waiting for the Lord to once again enter our lives to fulfill a new yearly cycle of Christian living and recommitment.

HAPPY NEW YEAR (a few weeks early)!

~ Chuck McDonnel

Advent Formation – Sundays at 9:30

Traditional Adult Forum in Emmaus Hall

Adrian Little will lead this group to consider a theme of “coming together.” We’ll begin with a study of the Blind Men from Hindustan. It is a tale that appears (in slightly different forms) in sacred literature of Hindus, Jains, Parsis and Buddhists. Each religion takes different meanings from the story, and we’ll see what we, as Christians, might take from the same story.

Parents’ Forum – Bride’s Room

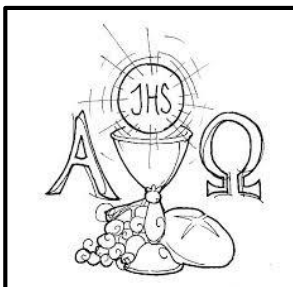
This will be a casual, small-group conversation led by a rotation of willing participants. Each week we’ll view a video from the series, “Interrupted by Hope,” and consider how its points and insights might apply to parents of the Episcopal tradition.

Kindergarten through 8th Grade Programs - Youth Room and Sunday School Room

Kids will resume their Sunday school curriculum focusing on seasonal stories – the Annunciation, the Holy Family, the birth of Jesus, and the Magi.

EYC Programs

December 2 – Bowling Night at Expo 300
December 9 – Holiday Party, 6:30 to 8 at the Russells’ Home
December 16 – Parents’ Meeting after the 10:30 service



**Holy Communion
at Wesley Commons
Tuesday, December 18,
11 AM
Private Dining Room**

Fr. Bolle will celebrate this much-loved tradition. Bring a friend; all are welcome and all baptized persons are invited to receive. Lunch together usually follows.

Mitchell Felton is Moving



With mixed feelings of pride and grief, we share the departure of our Youth Coordinator, Mitchell Felton. Mitchell has led our EYC faithfully since September 2016 but has entered the discernment process for ordination in the Episcopal

Church. The next step of the process will have Mitchell doing an internship at All Saints in Clinton, SC, beginning January 2019. His last day with us will be Sunday, December 16. We wish him well on this next stage of his journey.



**EYC Youth Basketball
Greenwood Family
YMCA -
Come out and
support our
teams!**

Girls Peak Basketball:

Saturday, December 1, 9:15 AM, Our Lady/COR vs St. Mark
Sunday, December 16, 2:15 PM, Our Lady/COR vs South Main
Thursday, January 3, 6:45 PM, Our Lady/COR vs St. Mark
Sunday, January 13, 2:15 PM, Our Lady/COR vs First Presbyterian

Jr Boys Basketball:

Friday, November 30, 6:00 PM, COR vs First Baptist
Friday, December 14, 6:00 PM, COR vs South Main Green
Sunday, December 16, 3:45 PM, CIR vs South Main Blue
Friday, January 4, 6:45 PM, COR vs First Baptist
Friday, January 11, 6:45 PM, COR vs St. Mark

Senior Boys Basketball:

Thursday, December 6, 7:30 PM, COR vs Harris
Thursday, December 13, 6:45 PM, COR vs St. Mark Grey
Sunday, January 6, 3:45 AM, COR vs St. Mark Tan
Sunday, January 13, 4:30 PM, COR vs Our Lady



December 5, 6:00 pm Visit from St. Nicholas

Come and enjoy good food and fellowship in Emmaus Hall or pick up a

carry out box to take home. Adults \$5, children \$3, family maximum \$15. Email the church office at cor@episcopalgreenwood.org by Monday, December 3 to reserve your plate.

Advent Fundraising for Children's Scholarships

Beginning Sunday December 2nd through Sunday December 23rd, we will hold our annual scholarship fundraiser to assist children – in the parish, the Westside neighborhood, and the CO3R tutoring program – who would like to attend Camp Kanuga at Resurrection, but do not have the funds to enroll. Camp Kanuga Day Camp is held annually during the month of July. It is a full week of fun, learning to share, and engaging in leadership activities, all in a Christian environment. In a world so full of discrimination and hate, let us step forth and be disciples of God's love. Your gift to the Christ Child could be a gift of love to those less fortunate. Let your generosity shine forth.

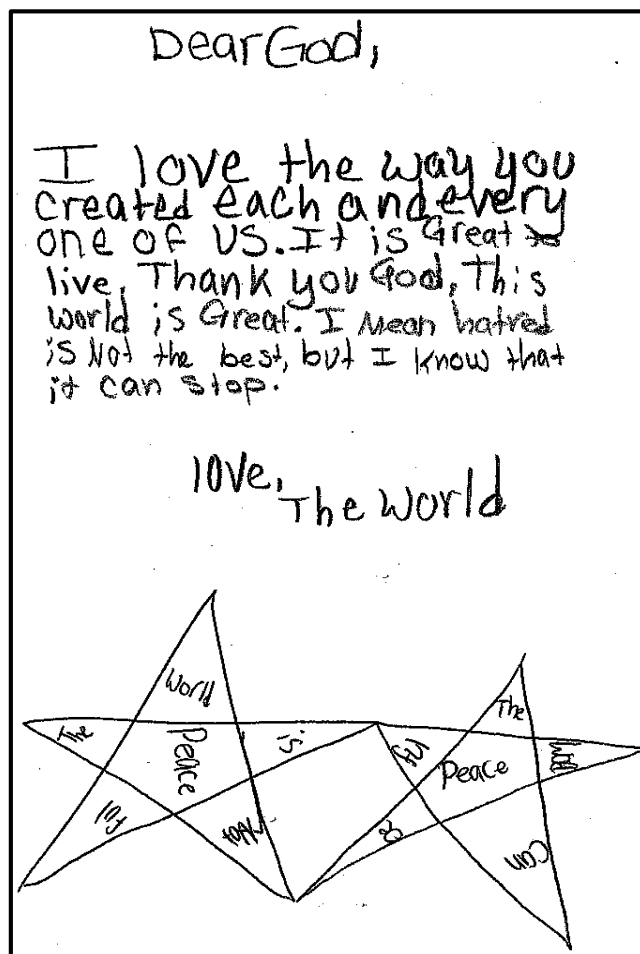
Special Invitation to All Parishioners

Remember the **Christmas Flowers and Special Music Fund** for your memorials and thanksgivings for Christmas 2018. These funds allow us to decorate and fill the church with seasonal music, live flowers, and evergreens for the Advent Wreath and Christmas Eve and Epiphany services. Your contributions help us create a holy and blessed environment that is fitting for our church and our guests. Please join me in celebrating this glorious season with family and friends. "Christmas at Resurrection" brings us together as a community of believers and welcomes new friends and strangers among us. The price is \$25 and the deadline is Monday, December 17. *Thankfully,* Noonie Fennell, Altar Guild Chairman

From the Altar Guild: Altar flowers are given to the Glory of God and enhance the beauty of the

altar for all of us. There is one Sunday available for altar flowers for next year. The date is Sunday, September 2, 2019. If you would like this opportunity to remember someone or offer a thanksgiving, let Denise know in the office. Also, another tender and fitting way to remember those we love is to fund the Presence Candle for a month. The cost is \$50 for the month payable to COR and memo Presence Candle. Denise will be the one to receive your choice thoughtful wording. The months of May, June, and July are available for this offering. As an example, the Presence Candle remembrance for September is "given in memory of our beloved sisters, Diana Ray Boyce and Debbie Fennell Youngblood, **by Joe and Noonie Fennell.**" We hope you will consider this offering. *Gratefully,* The Altar Guild

A letter from a child of our parish found on a clipboard after the 10:30 service on November 11. May it bring you hope for the new year. ~ Elizabeth Floyd



The Altar Flowers/greenery are given to the Glory of God and:

December 2: in thanksgiving for our children and grandchildren **by Joe and Noonie Fennell.**

December 9: in memory of Simons Ravenel Lucas, Anna Natalie Bettis Lucas, Elizabeth Simons Lucas Burns, Howard L. Burns, James C. and Maude Burns, Simons Lucas Chase, Mary Elizabeth and James Padgett, Jane Jeter, Virginia Self and William Aubrea McDaniel, Jr. **by Anna and James Padgett and Family.**

December 16: in memory of Ralph and Margaret Longley and Christion and Alma Fiske, parents and grandparents of **Christine Jayne.**

December 23: in memory of Clyde B. and Sara E. Simmons, Charles H. and Martha G. Arnold, by Ann Arnold.

December 24 – Christmas Eve – Monday – Open to all Parishioners

December 25 – Christmas Day – Tuesday – Open to all Parishioners

December 30: in thanksgiving for Edie and Buster Brooks on the occasion of their wedding anniversary by their children and grandchildren and for our church family **by Jon and Nancy Newlon.**

The Presence Candle: given in memory of Ronald Little and Susan Page by Adrian and Jennifer Little

Parish Connections...

Music	Donna Brooks 992-3738 dbrooks@nctv.com
Altar Guild	Noonie Fennell 223-7769 cfennell@nctv.com
Acolytes	Norm and Roxy Fawcett 227-3421 fawcett@nctv.com
Children's Ministries	Elizabeth Floyd 223-5426 elizabeth@episcopalgreenwood.org
Youth Ministry	Mitchell Felton 344-8033 mitchellwfelton@gmail.com
Adult Formation	Chuck McDonnell 229-7701 mcdonnell.chuck@gmail.com
Daughters of the King	Noonie Fennell 223-7769 cfennell@nctv.com
Episcopal Church Women	Susu Wallace 229-5690 swbwallace@gmail.com
Readers/ E.M.s	Denise Brown 223-5426 denise@episcopalgreenwood.org
Giving Records	Lindsey Farver 223-5426 finance@episcopalgreenwood.org
Columbarium	Joe Fennell 223-7769 jdfennell@nctv.com
CO3R Tutoring	Chuck McDonnell 229-7701 mcdonnell.chuck@gmail.com
Ushers/Greeters	Adrian Little 223-0027/ a.p.little@live.com

Resurrection Family News

BIRTHDAYS

01 - Evelyn Bowers
 01 – Eric Gonzales
 01 – Anna Bettis Padgett
 03 – Andrew Hodges
 04 – Virginia Glenn Donaghy
 04 – Owen Harte
 05 – Pat DeYoung
 06 – Judith Adams
 06 – Meisha Cobb
 06 – Susa Hinkel
 06 – Emma Jones
 07 – Katherine McDevitt
 10 – Michael Floyd
 10 – Riley Floyd
 10 – Lee Roper
 11 – Gray Putnam
 12 – Nick Kent

13 – John Tennis
 14 – Kevin Whitehead
 16 – Elizabeth Padgett
 17 – Karen Whitfield
 19 – Ashley Woodiwiss
 20 – Mary Joe Ferguson
 22 – Lucas McMillan
 22 – Frank Wideman
 26 – Abney Wallace
 27 – Charles Ferguson
 27 – Jimmy Jones
 27 – Becky McDaniel
 28 – Janet Munns
 30 – Buster Brooks
 31 – Laurie Thompson

ANNIVERSARIES

12 – Evan and Doris Clay
 16 – Tom and Joanne Hochheimer
 16 – Charles and Ginger Long
 18 – Jim and Mary Bright
 20 – Buster and Edie Brooks
 21 – Albert and Dean Faden
 22 – Jeffrey and Robin Lanford
 27 - John and Hope Scurry
 27 – Chuck and Leslie McDonnell
 28 – Peter and Rita Marshall
 28 – Archie and Summer Booker
 29 – James and Marilyn Gobble
 30 – John and Judy Parks
 30 – Benjamin and Shana Southard-Dobbs

If the parish office does not have your birthday or anniversary, please share these dates with us.

Your prayers are asked:

For the sick and those with particular needs: Barbara Brock, Doris Clay, Carol Dean, David DiBenedetto, Tom Ellerbe, Mary Joe Ferguson, Chris Jayne, Phyllis Kocik, Jeff Lanford (Surgical Mission Trip), George Rush, Mason Shirley, Grace Smith, Elsie Speer, Sissy Tennis, Nancy Van Waldick, Winnie Bolle (Fr. Bolle’s stepmother), Larry Boots (Beth Wood’s father), Jim Chambers (Domer Ridings’ brother-in-law), Linda Criswell (Paul Criswell sister), Bubba Fennell (Joe Fennell’s brother), Hazel Hammett (Connie Hammett’s mother), Pinckney Irwin (Bill Irwin & Elizabeth Beasley’s father), Jeanette Little (Adrian Little’s mom), Jimmy Loftis (Amy Alley’s father), Earl McCombs (Mary Ann Cooper’s father), Joe Shirley, Jr. (Jean Shirley’s son), Elsie Speer (Sandra Lewis’ mother), Bill Waggener (The late Elizabeth Schuler’s son-in-law), Anne Cheshire Wideman (Frank Wideman’s sister), Webb Wright (Dyan Webb’s nephew), The Brown Family (Mary Jo Tolbert’s care givers), Trina Hoffert, Craig Loner, Bill Martin (Bruce and Trisha Craven’s friend)

For those in the service of our country: Will Carroll, Aaron Crowe, Cameron Roberts, Grant Roberts, Zack Sanders, Trip Wash, Michael Webb, Noah Woodiwiss

- We remember in Resurrection hope David Lindsey, father of Mary Alice Poore, who died November 5.
- We remember in Resurrection hope Jim Anderson, brother of Sara Kummer, who died November 5.
- We remember in Resurrection hope Anna Cay Hawes, wife of Rev. Peter Hawes, who died November 12.
- We remember in Resurrection hope William Love, father of Renee Love, who died November 17.
- We remember in Resurrection hope Elizabeth Jervey, who died November 24.

Please send additions/deletions to the prayer list or family news and prayer concerns to Denise at denise@episcopalgreenwood.org or call 223-5426.

Including the Church in your will ensures its life into the future and offers your witness to generations to come.

We give thanks for your giving, which makes the ministry of Resurrection possible!

	Pledges (Actual)	Pledges (Budgeted)	Unpledged/Plate (Actual)	Unpledged/Plate (Budgeted)	Expenses (Actual)	Expenses (Budgeted)
Last Month	\$29,530	\$33,975	\$1,427	\$5,833	\$15,959	\$28,109
Year to Date	\$338,351	\$339,750	\$24,109	\$49,857	\$339,499	\$391,044



From the Rafters

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Email: cor@episcopalgreenwood.org

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Church of the Resurrection

Vestry Members

Ms. Janis Puzar, Senior Warden
Mr. Joe Fennell, Junior Warden
Mr. Adrian Little, Vestry Clerk
Mr. John Cobb
Mr. John Harte
Dr. Cecily Hughes
Mr. Hugh Jones
Mr. Walker Moore,
Ms. Perrin Roper
Ms. Anne Wells
Mr. Lou Wynne
Mr. Craig Church, Treasurer
Mr. Abney Wallace, Assistant Treasurer

Clergy and Staff

Fr. Stephen Bolle, Interim Rector
Ms. Donna Brooks, Organist/Choir Director
Ms. Denise Brown, Administrative Assistant
Mr. Mitchell Felton, Youth Ministry Coordinator
Ms. Elizabeth Floyd, Coordinator of
Christian Formation
Ms. Lindsey Farver, Financial Contractor
Ms. Rachel Childs, Sunday Sexton