

Week of December 10 - 17, 2017

Living in the Spirit

Sunday, December 10th

- 8:30 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II
- 9:00 am Choir Practice, choir room
- 9:30 am Intergenerational Christmas Cards for Community, parish hall
- 10:30 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II
- 5:00 pm Advent Lessons & Carols, nave**

Wednesday, December 13th

- 11:00 am Healing Eucharist, nave

Friday, December 15th

- 9:00 am Pack for Beans & Rice, parish hall

Saturday, December 16th

- 9:00 am Beans & Rice Distribution, narthex

Sunday, December 17th

- 8:30 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II
- 9:00 am Choir Practice, choir room
- 9:30 am Intergenerational Cookies for Community, parish hall
- 10:30 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Save the Date...

- Dec 17th Intergenerational Cookies for Community, 9:30 am
- Dec 24th Christmas Eve Services, 5:30 pm & 8:00 pm
- Jan 7th Annual Parish Meeting, 11:45 am

Weekly & Monthly Reminders

Healing Eucharist	Dec 13th	11:00 am	Nave
Sit Quiet	Dec 13th	5:30 pm	Nave
Pack for Beans & Rice	Dec 15th	9:00 am	Parish Hall
Beans & Rice	Dec 16th	9:00 am	Narthex
Bunco	Dec 21st	6:30 pm	Parish Hall
Vestry Meeting	Jan 7th	1:00 pm	Parish Hall
Men's Prayer Breakfast	Jan 13th	8:00 am	Parish Hall



*Advent Lessons & Carols
Tonight at 5:00 pm
Don't miss this very special service!*

2017 Stewardship Campaign Summary

The Stewardship Campaign for this year has been completed. As everyone knows, we started and finished our campaign a bit earlier than we normally do, in order to be able to have a compensation package ready for the Search Committee to use when we resume our rector search in January 2018.

First, I want to thank you, our parishioners, for helping make this campaign a success. You have replied with enthusiasm, filling out and turning in your pledge cards. You replied with faith, pledging to give towards our future. Thank you for your faith and your charitable hearts.

I am happy to report that our stewardship campaign was very successful. We received a total of 51 pledge cards, either filled out on paper or done online. These 51 pledges include two new pledges, with more than half of you increasing your pledge, helping us to reach our goal.

If you have not turned in your pledge card, and you would like to, it is not too late! Pledge cards will continue to be accepted through the end of the year.

The vestry is now taking these pledges and creating our budget for next year, including creating a rector compensation package for our search committee. You will hear more details at our annual meeting in January.

Thank you again, and God bless you all!

Doug Smedley Jr.

Church Happenings

Advent Lessons & Carols, TONIGHT at 5:00pm

Advent Lessons and Carols will be presented by the Holy Spirit choir directed by Peg Thompson. Lessons and Carols is a service of prayers, music, and scripture readings which tell the Old Testament prophecy of the coming of a savior and culminates with the Angel Gabriel announcing to Mary that she will soon bear God's son. This service will be held on December 10th at 5:00 pm in the nave of Holy Spirit. Come experience this beautiful and meaningful service. There will be a reception following. Invite your friends!

Healing Eucharist, Wednesday, December 13th at 11:00 am

In need of a mid-week boost? Come join us for a quiet, service of healing December 13th at 11:00 am. Those who wish to stay are welcome to stay for a brown bag lunch immediately following the service.

Angel Tree

Once again Holy Spirit is participating in the Angel Tree outreach ministry. We will have 25 angels from around our area to help give a special Christmas to this year. Angels will be available for pickup Sunday, Dec 3rd, in the narthex. All gifts are due back Dec 17th.

Cards & Cookies for our Community, Sundays, December 10th & 17th at 9:30 am

Come help us make cards and decorate cookies for those who serve our community. Sunday, Dec 10th at 9:30am we will make holiday cards expressing our thanks to the men and women who protect and serve our community. Then, Sunday, Dec 17th at 9:30am we will decorate cookies to provide them a sweet treat. Hope to see everyone both Sundays!

Cookie Swap & Share, Sunday, December 17th at 9:30 am, parish hall

Swap and/or share cookies. For swapping, place 1/2 dozen in baggie and attach your recipe. Swap as many bags as you bring. For sharing, bring a plate of cookies to be enjoyed by all during Christian Ed hour.

Christmas Flowers & Wreaths

Flowers and greens for Christmas services are made possible by your generous donations. The flowers & wreaths in the nave during the Christmas services are a significant addition to our annual celebration of the birth of Christ. They are given to the glory of God in memory of loved ones or in thanksgiving for family members or for our many blessings.

To contribute flowers, sign up on the sheet in the narthex or email the office **by Sunday, December 17**, so that it may be included in the Christmas bulletins. The amount is voluntary, but the usual contribution is \$30. Make your check payable to Holy Spirit with "Christmas Flowers" on the memo line. Thank you for contributing to the beauty of our Worship Services.

Worship Services Sunday, December 24th

Every few years, December 24 falls on a Sunday and ends up doing double duty. When that happens, the morning is the Fourth Sunday of Advent and the evening is Christmas Eve. This year is one of those years. With that in mind, we'll make a few adjustments to our worship schedule.

Sunday, December 24, 2017 Worship Schedule

- 8:30 a.m. No service
- 10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist celebrating the Fourth Sunday of Advent, No music
- 5:30 p.m. Holy Eucharist celebrating Christmas Eve complete with Christmas Hymns
- 8:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist celebrating Christmas Eve complete with Christmas Hymns

We hope you'll join us for Advent 4 in the morning and one of the Christmas Eve services that evening.

Finally, a note of thanks in advance to the Altar Guild, which will complete the transformation of the Church for Christmas following the morning service.

Father Bill Blackerby, Interim Rector

Financial Update

Contributions

Thank you for your generous support of our parish. Below is a summary of the contributions received during the week ending on Sunday, December 3, 2017.

Pledged.....	\$3,867.42
Unpledged.....	\$ 970.25
Beans and Rice	\$ 10.90
Christian Education	\$ 10.00
Flowers	\$ 30.00
Outreach	\$ 14.17
Taste of the Spirit fundraiser	\$ 15.50
Total Contributions	\$4,918.24

Avg Sunday Attendance

	Sept	Oct	Nov
8:30am	9	12	13
10:30am	60	59	56
Total	69	70	69

Diocesan Connection

There are so many wonderful events happening throughout our Diocese.

Be sure to visit the diocesan website, www.dioala.org, for details.

Check out the bulletin board in the parish hall for a few highlights.

Food for Thought: Feed My Sheep – January 27th, 9am – 1pm, St. Stephen's

A diocesan wide worship for your parish to learn about the importance of implementing and supporting food based outreach in your community presented by the Diocesan Department of Mission & Outreach. Cost: \$10 per person (lunch included). Register at dioala.org or see Tara for more information.

Please pray for...

Bishops and Clergy: Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury; Michael Curry, Presiding Bishop ECUSA; Kee Sloan, Alabama Bishop; Bill Blackerby, Interim Rector; Stan Wright, Priest Affiliate

Diocesan Prayer Cycle: Our companion dioceses of the Virgin Islands & its bishop, Ambrose; We pray for the Diocese of Alaska and its bishop, Mark; Episcopal Church Women; University of the South, Sewanee, Tennessee

Ministries and Programs within The Church of the Holy Spirit: Vestry, Beans & Rice, Outreach Ministries

For Nation and Local Community: Donald Trump, President; Kay Ivey, Governor; Communities of Calera, Alabaster, Helena, Maylene, & Pelham

For all people everywhere, especially: the victims and those impacted by the wild fires in California

Healing & Guidance for members, relatives and friends of Holy Spirit: Roxie & Stan Wright; Bud Montgomery, Henry (Carol Smedley); Kim & Luke Sloan, Nila Whetsell, Roy Wolfe, David, Obie, Brian, Bill & Debbie (Katy Brooks); Karen Marshall (Allyson Agee); Will Graham; Lou Malone, Barbara (Sharon Poset); Charlotte Callough (M.E. Spencer); Jimmy Lee (Rodney Dilbeck); Betty Marek; Val Autrey; J.T. Peterson; Dawn Mango (Harriet & Bill Meeks); Gladys McKay; Paul Clausmeyer; Ted Smith (Sally Jorgenson); Nan Vodde; Harriet & Bill Meeks; Catherine Frison, William Davis, Barbara Banks (Robbie McCoy); Bill Sorensen; Kindle Stamps (Mandy Curry); Claire Stephens (Carrie May); Dallyne & Jim Jones (Glenda Jones); Sherry Bowlin; Gene Thrailkill (Eileen Dilbeck); Alan & Leslie Cooley (Janet Cooley); Bobbie Bruce (Amanda Willbanks); Shirley Marshall (Allyson Agee)

For those serving in the armed services: Mark McKay (Gladys McKay)

For all who have died, especially Betty Patricia Watkins, may light perpetual shine upon them.

Upcoming Birthdays: Christy Crumpton (12/12), Sharon Greer (12/15), Karla Clem (12/17), Glenda Jones (12/18), Debra Dickey (12/20), Nicholas Matthews (12/20), Logan Power (12/20), Suzanna Rawlins (12/23), Steve Smith (12/24)

Upcoming Anniversaries: Pam & Ryan Leonard (12/12), Jean & John Williams (12/20)

The Rev. Bill Blackerby, Interim Rector

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Tara's Office Hours: Tues, Wed, & Thurs – 9:00am to 1:00pm

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