

THE MESSENGER

ST. AUGUSTINE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, MORROW, GEORGIA

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Sunday Schedule

8:30 a.m. ZOOM Eucharist Rite I
9:30 a.m. ZOOM Adult Forum
10:30am ZOOM Eucharist Rite II
11:30 a.m. Zoom Coffee Hour

Wednesdays

5:00 p.m.

ZOOM Evening Prayer

Office Hours

10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
M-W-F

Telephone: 770-961-9353

Parish Mission Statement

To restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ by providing a safe, loving and inclusive environment, celebrating community diversity, and sharing God's gifts with all people.

December 2020

Contacts

Father Chris - 404-372-9420
Philip Kyle - 404-234-1227
JoAnn Blackstock - 516-642-6562

From the Desk of The Senior Warden

Dear Friends,

It's November. Fall has come and almost gone. The leaves are almost all off the branches and I'll be providing my own imitation of a leaf come January. We will be having our Annual Church meeting in January by Zoom. The date will be provided at a later time. We really need everyone possible to attend. We will be voting for our vestry at that meeting.

I have some good news for you this month. We have power back in the Parish Hall. We had asked several electricians out to give us quotes on the repair of the weather-head. They were all stumped. They could not figure out what the Power Co. wanted us to do. After a call to GA Power, they sent a field electrician out to look at the weatherhead. He could not find anything wrong. He reattached the power and we didn't have to spend \$3000.

Our church received a \$2500 grant from the Diocese to help us purchase a computer and projector for services on the inside (when we get there), and a sound system so that we can have services outside while allowing Father Chris to keep his voice. Also, while our church is still unoccupied, we will participate in a green audit. I would like to see what we can do.

One comment concerning Christmas, we will have a Zoom Service at 8:00 pm on Christmas Eve.

Finally, I would like to give thanks for all of you. Recently for your prayers, but also for your help and support, while I have been Senior Warden. I couldn't have lasted my 3 year term without you.

Christmas Blessings and Thanks to All,

Phil

Advent 2020 at St. A's

Advent I, November 29

8:30 a.m. Eucharist Rite I
9:30 a.m. Adult Forum
10:30 a.m. Eucharist Rite II
11:30 a.m. Zoom Coffee Hour

Advent II, December 6

8:30 a.m. Eucharist Rite I
9:30 a.m. Adult Forum
10:30 a.m. Eucharist Rite II
11:30 a.m. Zoom Coffee Hour

Advent III, December 13

8:30 a.m. Eucharist Rite I
9:30 a.m. Adult Forum
10:30 a.m. Eucharist Rite II
11:30 a.m. Zoom Coffee Hour

Advent IV, December 20

8:30 a.m. Eucharist Rite I
9:30 a.m. Adult Forum
10:30 a.m. Eucharist Rite II
11:30 a.m. Zoom Coffee Hour

Events Calendar

December 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
SUNDAY SCHEDULE 8:30 a.m. Eucharist Rite I 9:30 a.m. Adult Forum 10:30 a.m. Eucharist Rite II 11:30 a.m. Zoom Coffee Hour		1	2	3	4	5 10:00 a.m. ZOOM Vestry Meeting
6– 2nd Sunday of Advent All on ZOOM 8:30 a.m. Eucharist Rite I 9:30 a.m. Adult Forum 10:30 a.m. Eucharist Rite II 11:30 a.m. Zoom Coffee Hour	7	8	9 5:00 p.m. ZOOM Evening Prayer	10	11	12
13– 3rd Sunday of Advent All on ZOOM 8:30 a.m. Eucharist Rite I 9:30 a.m. Adult Forum 10:30 a.m. Eucharist Rite II 11:30 a.m. Zoom Coffee Hour	14	15	16 5:00 p.m. ZOOM Evening Prayer	17	18	19
20– 4th Sunday of Advent All on ZOOM 8:30 a.m. Eucharist Rite I 9:30 a.m. Adult Forum 10:30 a.m. Eucharist Rite II 11:30 a.m. Zoom Coffee Hour	21	22	23 5:00 p.m. ZOOM Evening Prayer	24 Christmas Eve Service 8:00 pm	25 Christmas Day	26
27– 1st Sunday after Christmas All on ZOOM 8:30 a.m. Eucharist Rite I 9:30 a.m. Adult Forum 10:30 a.m. Eucharist Rite II 11:30 a.m. Zoom Coffee Hour	28	29	30	31		

Advent

The word “Advent” is derived from the Latin word *adventus*, meaning “coming,” which is a translation of the Greek word *parousia*. Scholars believe that during the 4th and 5th centuries in Spain and Gaul, Advent was a season of preparation for the baptism of new Christians at the January feast of Epiphany, the celebration of God’s incarnation represented by the visit of the Magi to the baby Jesus ([Matthew 2:1](#)), his baptism in the Jordan River by John the Baptist ([John 1:29](#)), and his first miracle at Cana ([John 2:1](#)). During this season of preparation, Christians would spend 40 days in penance, prayer, and fasting to prepare for this celebration; originally, there was little connection between Advent and Christmas.

By the 6th century, however, Roman Christians had tied Advent to the coming of Christ. But the “coming” they had in mind was not Christ’s first coming in the manger in Bethlehem, but his second coming in the clouds as the judge of the world. It was not until the Middle Ages that the Advent season was explicitly linked to Christ’s first coming at Christmas.

Advent symbolizes the present situation of the church in these “last days” ([Acts 2:17](#), [Hebrews 1:2](#)), as God’s people wait for the return of Christ in glory to consummate his eternal kingdom. The church is in a similar situation to Israel at the end of the Old Testament: in exile, waiting and hoping in prayerful expectation for the coming of the Messiah. Israel looked back to God’s past gracious actions on their behalf in leading them out of Egypt in the Exodus, and on this basis, they called for God once again to act for them. In the same way, the church, during Advent, looks back upon Christ’s coming in celebration while at the same time looking forward in eager anticipation to the coming of Christ’s kingdom when he returns for his people. In this light, the Advent hymn “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” perfectly represents the church’s cry during the Advent season:

*O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appears.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

While Israel would have sung the song in expectation of Christ’s first coming, the church now sings the song in commemoration of that first coming and in expectation of the second coming in the future.

Source: <https://www.christianity.com/christian-life/christmas/what-is-advent.html>



1 Corinthians 13 Christmas Version

If I decorate my house perfectly with plaid bows, strands of twinkling lights, and shiny balls; but do not have love, I'm just another decorator.

If I slave away in the kitchen, baking dozens of Christmas cookies, preparing gourmet meals, and arranging a beautifully adorned table at mealtime; but do not have love, I'm just another cook.

If I work at a soup kitchen, carol in the nursing home, and give all that I have to charity; but do not have love, it profits me nothing.

If I trim the spruce with shimmering angels, and crocheted snowflakes, attend a myriad of holiday parties, and sing in the choir's cantata; but do not focus on Christ, I have missed the point.

Love stops the cooking to hug the child.
Love sets aside the decorating to kiss the spouse.
Love is kind, though harried and tired.

Love does not envy another's home that has coordinated Christmas china and table linens. ^[1]_{SEP}



Love does not yell at the kids to get out of the way, but is thankful they are there to be in the way.

Love does not give only to those who are able to give in return, but rejoices in giving to those who cannot.

Toys will break, pearl necklaces will be lost, golf clubs will rust.

But giving the gift of love will endure



Author Unknown

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

Submitted by JoAnn Blackstock

Keep In Your Prayers

Parishioners

Thomas Abbott
Joann Blackstock
J.B. Burke
Mikki Jackson
Judy Erhardt-Sinor
Evelyn Fowlkes
Glenda Frederick
Mandy Gray
Dalila Hunter
Susana Kyle
Lidia Lower
Ronica Malvea
Kim McDonald
Cindy Moody
Jamie & Richard Rasche
Claron Robinson
Suzanne Ross &
Judy Thompson
Henry & Elsa Sisco
Donna Smith
Becky Weaver
Maisie Williams
Thelma Williams

Those On Active Duty In The Military

Henry Olcoroafor
Dylan Reynolds
Paris Reynolds

Those Beyond Our Parish

Julie Baima
Ben Cash
Jeffrey and Monica Caudle
Rylee and Blayke Caudle
Tim Condrey
John Conti
Judith Faith Crocker
Rachel Daniel
Dallas Ellis III
Evelyn Fry
Tim Gilbert & Family
Brooklyn Gilbert
David Harwood
Jason Honea
Paul Hull
Alyssa Johnson

Haylee Kane
Chuck Kennedy
Ken Kennedy
Laurie Lopez
Jimmy Martin
Luke and Heath Martin
David McDonald
Cathy McWilliams
Brian Mesch
Arline Mikolaitis
Maureen & Joseph O'Brien
Paula & Scott Payne
Odette Pisanti
Harriet Pope
The Prock Family
Christa Reynolds
Carolyn Seals
The Rev. Spencer Simrill and Family
Bernice Sterling
Mozelle Vample
Belinda Watson
Dorothy White
Susan Windham

Former Members and Parish Friends

The Rev. Terri Brice
Catharine Groover
Jessie Hardin
Kathryn, Justin & Jason
Jimmerson
Graham & Sunshine Maddux
Sidney and Ray Reynolds

Happy Birthday

Ronica Malvea	12/03
Lena Williams	12/03
Ijeoma Obi	12/08
Yvonne Chevannes	12/09
Maisie Williams	12/11
Elaine Beal	12/13
Chidinma Obi	12/13
Deborah Barwise	12/16
Emmanuel Barlay	12/21
Catherine Ogbuka	12/26

Happy Anniversary

Henry and Elsa Sisco	12/10
Nkechi and Bradshaw Ifi	12/27

Keeping you Smiling at Christmas Time

Santa Claus has the right idea - visit people only once a year.

~ *Victor Borge*

Nothing's as mean as giving a little child something useful for Christmas.

~ *Kin Hubbard*

Do give books - religious or otherwise - for Christmas. They're never fattening, seldom sinful, and permanently personal.

~ *Lenore Hershey*

Christmas: the only time of year you can sit in front of a dead tree eating candy out of socks.

~ *Anonymous*

Christmas is a time when everybody wants his past forgotten and his present remembered.

~ *Phyllis Diller*

One of the most glorious messes in the world is the mess created in the living room on Christmas day. Don't clean it up too quickly.

~ *Andy Rooney*

Never worry about the size of your Christmas tree. In the eyes of children, they are all 30 feet tall.

~ *Larry Wilde*

Three Wise WOMEN would have asked directions, arrived on time, helped deliver the baby, bought practical gifts, cleaned the stable, made a casserole, and there would be peace on earth!

~ *Anonymous*

Once again, we come to the Holiday Season, a deeply religious time that each of us observes in his own way, by going to the mall of his choice.

~ *Dave Barry*

Someone Else's Obituary

Our church was saddened to learn this week of the death of one of our most valued members, Someone Else.

Someone's passing creates a vacancy that will be difficult to fill. Else has been with us for many years and for every one of those years, Someone Else did far more than a normal person's share of the work. Whenever there was a job to do, a class to teach, or a meeting to attend, there was one name on everyone's list: "Let Someone Else do it."

Whenever leadership was mentioned, this wonderful person was looked to for inspiration as well as results; "Someone Else can work with that group."

It was common knowledge that Someone Else was among the most liberal givers in our church. Whenever there was a financial need, everyone just assumed Someone Else would make up the difference.

Someone Else was a wonderful person, sometimes appearing superhuman. Were the truth known, everybody expected too much of Someone Else.

Now Someone Else is gone. We wonder what we are going to do.

Someone Else left a wonderful example to follow, but who is going to follow it? Who is going to do the things Someone Else did?

When you are asked to help, remember—we can't depend on Someone Else anymore.

--Freedom is not the right to do as you please, but the liberty to do as you ought!

--Author Unknown

Submitted by
JoAnn Blackstock.



RIP Someone Else

News from The National Church

Online Advent calendar offers a glimpse into the lives of Holy Land Christians

American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem
Posted Nov 16, 2020



There's no better place to watch and wait for the birth of Jesus than the Holy Land.

Beginning on December 1 the American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem (AFEDJ) will launch a Holy Land Advent calendar to offer a daily glimpse into the lives of Holy Land Christians and the humanitarian ministries of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem.

Start each day of Advent with a splash of joy by opening a door to a photo or a brief video and news from one of the Episcopal ministries in the region.

During this unsettled time, the AFEDJ Holy Land Advent calendar offers a way

for individuals and families to participate in a meaningful daily Advent devotion.

Each day offers a fresh opportunity to learn more about the Christian witness of the current-day followers of Jesus in the place where he was born, lived, and ministered.

Who knows what you'll discover behind each new door at www.afedj.org/advent?

AFEDJ is a nonpolitical, nonsectarian 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to transforming lives of the vulnerable and displaced in the Middle East through support of the schools, hospitals, and centers for children with disabilities that are owned and operated by the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem in Palestine, Jordan, Israel, Syria and Lebanon. Learn more at www.afedj.org.

Source: [Online Advent calendar offers a glimpse into the lives of Holy Land Christians – Episcopal News Service](#)

St. Augustine's Episcopal Church
P.O. Box 169
1221 Morrow Road
Morrow, GA 30260
770-961-9353
www.staugustinemorrow.org

ST. AUGUSTINE'S VESTRY 2019-2020

Elaine Beal	Communications
JoAnn Blackstock	Finance & Stewardship
John Flaherty	Buildings
Teresa Hale	In Reach
Phil Kyle	Sr. Warden
Clyde Weller	Grounds
Jean Marie Simon	Christian Formation (Youth)

CLERGY

Rev. Chris Starr	Interim Priest
The Rt. Rev. Robert Wright	Bishop of Atlanta