

# St. Bartholomew's Newsings

St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church, P.O. Box 906, High Springs, FL 32655  
<http://www.stbartshighsprings.org>      [www.facebook.com/stbartshighsprings](http://www.facebook.com/stbartshighsprings)

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## **A Christmas Message from Bishop Howard**

**It is my great privilege today to wish each of you a very Merry Christmas. And it is even more my privilege today, to share with you the reason I believe Christmas indeed is such a joyful time in our lives. You know in each of our lives, this very moment, I know it is true in my life, there is something going wrong. Each and every one of us has some concern, some worry we are fretting about something. There is some anxiety. Maybe a loved one is very sick or has even died recently. Maybe we are in the middle of a bad relationship or addicted somehow to something or someone to whom we ought not be addicted. The prophet Isaiah saw that sort of thing happening in life and he called it the "Great Darkness." He talked about how the people were walking in darkness. How they were moaning, fretting, worrying about their future, about their life, about the very fate of their families and their nations. Now, for Isaiah that Great Darkness had to do with internal political divisions among the Jewish people and threats of assault from outside. For you and me and our lives today, the darkness that we know is different than it was for Isaiah but, spiritually it is much the same. We still need deliverance, we still need to be touched and healed and we need to be reassured that life is good and worth living. Well, Isaiah described that situation in our lives but, then he went on ahead to prophesy and to tell us what the answer to that darkness would be. And when he did, he said that a Great Light would come. A Great Light would come in the darkness to show the way to lighten the load, to ease the burden, to reassure us, to love us, and to heal us.**

**Christmas, Christmas is the coming of that Great Light. I love the Christmas message as Luke tells it--how he begins with the angels speaking to the**

shepherds and telling them not to be afraid. And why were they to be unafraid, why were they to lose that fear. They were to lose it because the angels told them that a Savior was being born unto them--a Savior, one who would drive away the darkness, the worry, the anxiety of their lives. One who had truly come to heal them, to touch them and to share the very love of God with them. Born unto them, born unto us this day, is a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And may we know that joy and may the darkness lift from each of our lives as we come to know him, love him and trust him.

May each of you have a very Merry Christmas, and may this be a time of coming to know and love that Savior, Jesus Christ our Lord, more and more.

Merry Christmas,



**Fr. Lance will send his Newsletter message separately.**

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**Editor's Note**

. We hope you are enjoying the Newsletter and we welcome your comments and suggestions.

**Deadline for next issue is January 21, 2018.**

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**A HAPPY  
NEW YEAR**

*From our Senior Warden...*

*Charles Jones 386-454-8585*

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**☺☺ Lessons for January ☺☺**

**January 7<sup>th</sup>:** Genesis 1:1-5; Psalm 29; Acts 19:1-7; Mark 1:4-11

**14<sup>th</sup>:** 1 Samuel 3:1-10,[11-20]; Psalm 139:1-5,12-17; 1Corinthians 6:12-20;  
John1:43-51

**21<sup>st</sup> :** Jonah 3:1-5,10; Psalm 62:6-14; 1Corinthians 7:29-31; Mark 1:14-20

**28<sup>th</sup> :** Deuteronomy 18:15-20; Psalm 111; 1Corinthians 8:1-13; Mark 1:21-28





## January Birthdays

## Anniversaries in January



Jan 2 – Bob Barnas

4 – John Fifer

5 – Betty Anne Ayers

10 – Cornelia Swann

12 – Ken Hornby

14 – Stacy Marston

22 – Carla Tibbitts

26 – Mike Wright

26 – Stefanie Sauble

26 – Zach Horne

None known

*Congratulations to Each of YOU! If your name does not appear here, please contact your Editor to have it added for next time.*



## Childrens Activities and Family Fellowship Sunday School Teaching Schedule for 10am Services:



Jan. 7<sup>th</sup>: Samantha  
Betty

Jan. 14<sup>th</sup>: Sheryl  
Ben

Jan. 21<sup>st</sup>: Samantha  
Cherie

Jan. 28<sup>th</sup>: Ben  
Cornelia

### Upcoming Children & Youth Events:

~ Wed. Jan. 3<sup>rd</sup>: No Youth Group – Christmas Break

~ Wed. Jan. 10<sup>th</sup>: Youth Group

~ Wed. Jan. 17<sup>th</sup>: Youth Group

~ Wed. Jan. 24<sup>th</sup>: Youth Group

~ Wed. Jan. 31<sup>st</sup>: Youth Group



The following pictures were taken at the exciting events at St. Bart's over the past month. Thanks to Jane Woodward and Cherie Harris for the pictures Enjoy!



Finishing the playground and garden with mulch.

Those who participated in our Float in the High Springs Christmas Parade





Christmas Pageant "Journey to Bethlehem"



Youth Cookies and Caroling at Plantation Oaks with Bill Crossman



Cleaning and Greening the Church

## STRANGE FACTS ABOUT THE USA

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The following are some strange facts about America that most Americans would be shocked to learn...

- #1 In more than half of all states in the United States of America, the highest paid public employee in the state **is a football coach**.
- #2 It costs the U.S. government **1.8 cents** to mint a penny and **9.4 cents** to mint a nickel.
- #3 Almost half of all Americans (**47 percent**) do not put a single penny out of their paychecks into savings.
- #4 Apple has **more money** than the U.S. Treasury.
- #5 The state of Alaska is **429 times larger** than the state of Rhode Island. But Rhode Island has a **significantly larger population** than Alaska does.
- #6 Alaska has a longer coastline than all of the other 49 U.S. states **put together**.
- #7 The city of Juneau, Alaska, is about **3,000 square miles** in size. It is actually larger than the entire state of Delaware.
- #8 When LBJ's "War on Poverty" began, **less than 10 percent** of all U.S. children were growing up in single parent households. Today, that number has skyrocketed to **33 percent**.
- #9 In 1950, **less than 5 percent** of all babies in America were born to unmarried parents. Today, that number **is over 40 percent**.
- #10 The poverty rate for households that are led by a married couple is **6.8 percent**. For households that are led by a female single parent, the poverty rate is **37.1 percent**.
- #11 In 2013, women earned **60 percent** of all bachelor's degrees that were awarded that year in the United States.
- #12 According to the CDC, **34.6 percent** of all men in the U.S. are obese at this point.
- #13 The average supermarket in the United States wastes **about 3,000 lbs of food** each year. Meanwhile, approximately 20 percent of the garbage that goes into our landfills is food.
- #14 According to one recent survey, **81 percent** of Russians now have a negative view of the United States. That is much higher than at the end of the Cold War era.
- #15 Montana has **three times** as many cows as it does people.
- #16 The grizzly bear is the official state animal of California. But no grizzly bears have been seen there **since 1922**.

#17 One recent survey discovered that “a steady job” is the number one thing that American women are looking for in a husband, and discovered that 75 percent of women would have a serious problem dating an unemployed man.

#18 According to a study conducted by economist Carl Benedict Frey and engineer Michael Osborne, 47 percent of the jobs in the United States could soon be lost to computers, robots and other forms of technology.

#19 The only place in the United States where coffee is grown commercially is in Hawaii.

#20 The original name of the city of Atlanta was “Terminus”.

#21 The state with the most millionaires per capita is Maryland.

#22 One survey of 50-year-old men in the U.S. found that only 12 percent of them said that they were “very happy”.

#23 The United States has 845 motor vehicles for every 1,000 people.

#25 48 percent of all Americans do not have any emergency supplies in their homes whatsoever.

#26 There are three towns in the United States that have the name “Santa Claus”.

#27 There is actually a town in Michigan called “Hell”.

#28 If you have no debt and also have 10 dollars in your wallet then you are wealthier than 25 percent of all Americans.

#29 By the time an American child reaches the age of 18, that child will have seen approximately 40,000 murders on television.

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Chalice Bearers/Acolytes

January

1/7 - Gregg/Gabby

1/14 - Annette/Samantha

1/21 - Wes/Samantha

1/28 - Margaret/Gabby



Lay Readers

January

1/7 - Debra Wright  
Margaret Palmer

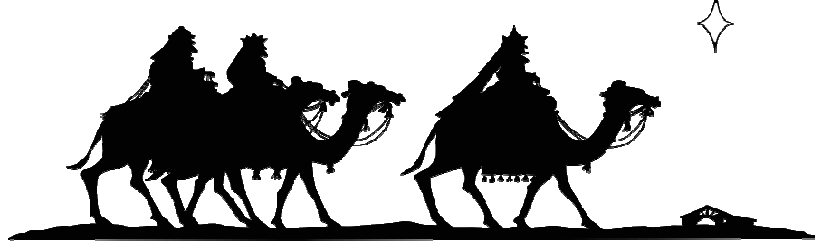
1/14 - Gregg Pelfrey  
Beth Treese

1/21 - Gabby Harris  
Annette Jones

1/28 - Samantha Shiver  
Debra Wright



## The Mysterious Magi



The Three Kings, or Magi, are mentioned only in the Gospel of Matthew. Few details are given, and most of our ideas about them come from tradition or speculation. Scripture doesn't say how many wise men there were; it is generally assumed three, since they brought three gifts.

The Three Kings recognized Jesus Christ as the Messiah while he was still a child, and traveled thousands of miles to worship him. With determination, they followed a star which led them to Jesus. By this time, Jesus was a child, not an infant, implying they arrived a year or more after his birth. Their gifts symbolize Christ's identity and mission; gold for a king, incense for God, and myrrh, used to anoint the dead. God honored the wise men by warning them in a dream to go home by another route and not report back to King Herod.

*After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him." Matthew 2:1-2*

*On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route. Matthew 2:11-12*

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Our church activities were mentioned in the December issue of the Observer newspaper, page 4, as follows: **'St. Bartholomew's Church sent a lot of meals to Puerto Rico, which had very heavy hurricane damage.'**

Thanks to Pete and Jane for arranging this using the emergency meals we had on hand from Farm Share. Also, Art Moegenberg took several cases of the meals to the VA Hospital where they were given out to the veterans. Beth Treese and Gloria Sims-Fargas and others also helped in distribution of the meals. Great job on the part of all in caring for our fellow man!

*"... Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me," Matt. 25:40 (KJV)*

## A New Year With The Lord

A new year is about to unfold  
With new opportunities to explore  
Doors will open for new experiences,  
New adventures with the Lord

Remember not the former things,  
The things of this past year,  
The Lord will do new things in us,  
Much more than we are aware

For He will make a way for us  
As we put our trust in Him  
And He will guide our every step  
By His presence we have within

What God has placed within our hearts,  
We find we'll be able to do  
If we look for the opportunities,  
We'll see the door to go through

We mustn't let anything hold us back  
But rise up and take our place  
And be all that God wants us to be  
With a fresh touch of His grace

