

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



December 2018 Vol. IX, Issue 12



Christ Is Born!



Vicar's Message

Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas 2018

May our Lord's grace, peace, and love be with our St. Bartholomew's family.

The Lord has been very supportive of our church over the last year. Our thanks and love to God for his generosity and his protective hand in our church throughout 2018. I am particularly thankful for being allowed to be a part of the lives that God has brought to St. Bart's over the years. God's Spirit lives with us as witnessed by the very faithful that are always present and giving to their church family. Sometimes we recognize how much God freely gives to us but there is so much that is given that we don't recognize. All the necessities of life come from God. Thank you Lord for sustaining and protecting us. Amen.

We are starting a new church year with the beginning of Advent. Advent is a time in our Spiritual lives that we yearn for the coming of our Lord and our deliverance into the new creation that awaits the faithful. This year Christmas Eve falls on a Monday and the last Sunday of Advent falls on the Sunday before. It may be difficult to make two services back to back. There is so much going on in our society during this period to compete for our time: Dreaded Black Friday, Debt, Gift Worries, Extra Work Hours, Travel, Holiday Stress, and so forth challenge the Spiritual message of God's peace and forgiveness. It challenges the love that awaits us in our Sanctuary. There is another message that we should pay attention to: our soul's health.

Probably at no other time during the year are we attacked as much by demons that strive to destroy what I call healthy love of God and our neighbor. A season that is for the Glory of God becomes a season where very little thought is given to the One that has given the ultimate, His

Only Son, so that we could be delivered from hell. This is a season where divorce and separations destroy what was once bonded together in love. This divorce and separation occurs with our relationship with God as well as those that have been significant in our earth journey. This is the devil's best time of the year for those that are weak in faith and have lost sight of what is under that Star over Bethlehem. The subject is "LOVE".

My brothers and sisters let love be in your every thoughts. Love for God, Love for family, Love for neighbors, Love for our church. Where there is Love, there we will find God. Where there is anger, hate, of lack of love we will not find God but we will find who opposes God. I am convinced that without love there is absolutely no chance of reaching the Kingdom of God. For God, love has the ultimate say in the judgment of our lives.

Let us become aware of the need for love and let us work for a better understanding of love in our daily relationships with our neighbors and with God during this most precious season made for us. Beth, Zach, and I extend our love to our St. Bart's family and our blessings for a very Merry Christmas.

Faithfully in the Love of Christ, fr lance+

Editor's Note We hope you are enjoying the Newsletter and we welcome your comments and suggestions.

Deadline for next issue is December 23, 2018.

Contact: Annette Jones - (386) 454-8585 or pgrscoot97@aol.com



From our Senior Warden...

Carol Griffin 386-497-2292

Christmas is a time of giving and receiving. St. Bartholomew's continues to give and reach out to our community this month by participating in the annual Christmas Parade. We may never know how our participation in these outreach events may affect another's life but we are a giving church, as demonstrated with the generous donations and hard work during our Thanksgiving Basket drive. Our actions give others a glimpse of what it means to have a loving God in our lives.

"For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16"

As members of St. Bartholomew's we also receive much in return. The fellowship with each other, the support when help is needed, the joy of worshipping together and sharing God's word in Church as well as Bible Study and the Evening Study group, watching our youth grow up before our eyes with a firm foundation and last but not least, the love and nurturing we receive from Father Lance.

I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and pray that you continue to *“let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven. Matthew 5:16”*



My Christmas “God Wink”

Submitted by Carol

In December 2015 this was included in a weekly update from one of Hugh’s Gideon Newsletters. Due to the many activities I did not get around to reading it that year until Christmas Day. It was a very emotional day being the first Christmas without my mother Jane, but as soon as I read it, I knew she was with us and sending me a message that “all was well”. As Squire Rushnell states, there is no such things as a coincidence, but rather “God Winks” letting us know that he is always with us. Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas.....

Christmas in Heaven

Dr. Albert Simpson Reitz

I've had my first Christmas in Heaven
A Glorious, wonderful day.
I stood with the saints of the ages,
who found Christ the Truth and the Way.
I sang with the Heavenly Choir:
Just think, I who longed so to sing!
And oh, what celestial music
we brought to our Savior and King!
We sang the glad songs of redemption,
How Jesus to Bethlehem came,
And how they called His name Jesus,
That all might be saved through His name.
We sang once again with the angels,
The song that they sang that blest morn,
When shepherds first heard the glad story
That Jesus, the Savior, was born.
Oh, how I wish you had been there:
No Christmas on earth could compare
With all the rapture and glory
We witnessed in Heaven so fair.
You know how I always loved Christmas;
It seemed such a wonderful day,

with all of my loved ones around me
The children so happy and gay.
Yes, now I can see why I loved it:
And oh, what a joy it will be
When you and my loved ones are with me:
To share in the glories I see.
So dear ones on earth, here's my greeting:
Look up 'til the day dawn appears,
And oh, what a Christmas awaits us,
Beyond all our parting and tears.

KUDOS ...to Rosina Dennis and those who helped her with the St. Bart's Thanksgiving "baskets". Twenty dinner "baskets" which included a card good for a meat of the family's choice, were delivered (by the Fire Department and the Police Department) and were much appreciated by those who might not have had a special Thanksgiving Dinner otherwise. Thanks for all your efforts.

See the Facebook offer put out by the Fire Department below:

High Springs Fire Department

We are pleased to offer this complete Thanksgiving dinner to our neighbors in need this holiday season, courtesy of [Saint Bartholomew's Episcopal Church](#).

If you or someone you know, need this bounty, please call the station at @ 386-454-2056, PIO Kevin Mangan @ 352-354-2627, or message us here on Facebook. Delivery is included!

We have over a dozen of these kits to giveaway, and we would be forever thankful if we could distribute them all today. Thank you.





Chalice Bearers -December

12/2 -Wes
12/9 -Annette
12/16 -Gregg
12/23 - Annette
12/24 -Margaret
12/30 - Margaret



Lay Readers -December

12/2 - Samantha Shiver
12/9 - Margaret Palmer
12/16 -Our Youth
12/23 - Gabby Harris
12/24 - Charles Jones
 Annette Jones
12/30 - Beth Treese



December Birthdays

Dec 4 – Ed Lundy
5 – Trevor Ellis
8 – Pat Doughty
10 – Zemira Young
12 – Anne Lundy
12 – Michelle Shiver
17 –Cindy Hinote

22 – Danielle Marston
25 – Jesus
30 – Shirley Mogensen
30 – Tracie Munn

Anniversaries in December

20 – Susan & David Hansen
24 – Alma & Art Moegenberg



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

☞☞ Lessons for December ☞☞

December 2nd: Jeremiah 33:14-16; Psalm 25:1-9; 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13;
Luke 21:25-36
9th: Baruch 5:1-9; Canticle 4; Philippians 1:3-11; Luke 3:1-6
16th: Zephaniah 3:14-20; Canticle 9; Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:7-18
23th: Micah 5:2-5a; Canticle 3; Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-45, (46-55)
30th: Isaiah 61:10—62:3; Psalm 147; Galatians 3:23-25; John 1:1-18



Hostess List for December



Dec 2 – Potluck

Dec 9 – Tracie & Chad M

Dec 16 –Cornelia S

Dec 23 – Ruthann S & Carie D

Dec 30 – Jane W & Gregg & Sharon P

Note: If you would like to volunteer to bring a light snack and drink for after one 10 AM Church Service, please contact Sharon Scianimanico 386-454-8280.



Cornelia Swann retired as Chair of our Hostess Committee as of December 2018 and she was honored for all her years of service at our Thanksgiving Feast by a grateful church family with Accolades, Praises and a gift of a Mixed Plant Basket.

Congratulations on a job well done, Cornelia!





Advent Wreath

What the Advent Candles Symbolize

The Candles symbolize that Jesus is the Light of the World.

There are four candles, one for each Sunday leading to Christmas and a fifth candle for Christmas day. The four Sunday candles are usually tapers. There are variations in the coloring of the candles, often there are three purple and one pink candle. Occasionally, all of the candles are purple. The central candle is usually a large white pillar candle.

The purple represents repentance. The pink symbolizes joy. The central candle is called the Christ candle and is not lit until Christmas day. When you light the candle it is customary to read a few verses of scripture that relate to meaning of the candle.

The First Candle (The Candle of Prophecy/Hope)

The first candle is sometimes called the candle of prophecy because it symbolizes the promises the prophets delivered as messages from God; promises that foretold Christ's birth. Others consider the candle to be a symbol of the hope we have in Christ and so it is called the Hope candle.

The Second Candle (The Candle of the Way)

The second candle shows that Christ is the Way. Christians are lost in sin and Christ is the Light sent into the world to show them the way out of darkness.

The Third Candle (The Candle of Joy)

The third candle indicates that the only lasting Joy to be found in life on earth is through Christ. All other joy is fleeting and does not last.

The Fourth Candle (The Candle of Peace)

The fourth candle reminds that Jesus comes to bring Peace to both the world and to people's hearts. Without Christ there is no peace in this world.

The Fifth Candle (The Christ Candle or Christmas Candle)

The fifth candle represents Christ himself who is born to save people from their sins. It is a celebration of the fulfillment of prophecy as represented in Christ's birth and hope in the final fulfillment when Christ comes again and Christians join him.



Childrens Activities and Family Fellowship

Sunday School Teaching Schedule for 10am Services

Dec. 2 nd :	Betty Sheryl	Dec. 9 th :	Betty Cherie
Dec. 16 th :	No Sunday School – Christmas Pageant!		
Dec. 23 rd :	Sheryl Cornelia	Dec. 30 th :	Betty Cherie

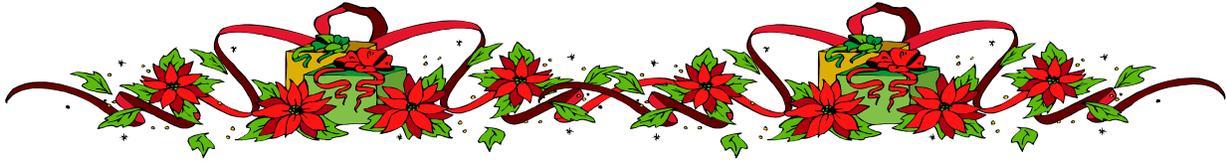
Upcoming Children & Youth Events

- ~ Sat. Dec. 1st: Spaghetti Dinner & BINGO Night
- ~ Wed. Dec. 5th at 7pm: Youth Group
- ~ Sat. Dec. 8th: High Springs Christmas Parade
- ~ Wed. Dec. 12th at 7pm: Practice for Pageant
- ~ Sun. Dec. 16th at 10am service: Christmas Pageant!
- ~ Wed. Dec. 19th at 7pm: Youth Group
- ~ Wed. Dec. 26th & Jan. 2nd: NO YOUTH GROUP – BREAK!!



Christmas Flowers for the Altar

Wouldn't you like to see our church decorated with beautiful **poinsettias** during Christmas? If you would like to provide one or more plants to be used in this way, please fill out one of the **Poinsettia Order Forms** available in this newsletter and also in the Parish Hall, and turn it in or mail it , along with your check or cash. Your poinsettias will be ordered as soon after the first of December as they become available. (Your plants can be taken home after Christmas.)



**St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church
Poinsettia Order Form**

Name _____

Telephone number _____

Number of **poinsettia plants** ordered at a cost of **\$10.00**

each _____ . **Check or cash must accompany**

order. Make checks payable to "St. Bartholomew's and put "poinsettia" in memo line.

Turn completed form in to church office or mail to:

PO Box 906

High Springs, FL 32655

Is your plant in honor ? _____ or in memory ? _____

Name of loved one _____

Thank you for your order. These poinsettia plants will be used to beautify our sanctuary during the Christmas Holiday. You may take them home after Christmas.