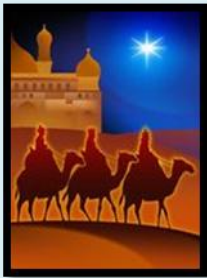


NEVERTHELESS- January 2012

St. James the Less, Episcopal Church
125 Beverly Road, Ashland, VA 23005 (804) 798-6336
www.stjamestheless.com



Calendar of Events

Jan. 1:

NO 8am service.

**10am: A Service of Lessons
and Carols**

Jan. 8:

10am: Epiphany Play

Jan. 10:

7:00pm: Vestry meeting

Jan. 26-28:

**Annual Council of the Diocese
in Reston, VA**

***The church office will be closed
on Jan. 2 and Jan. 16.***

A Letter from the Rev. David T. Anderson

It is with great delight that I write this brief word to you; it means the time to be among you is here!

The edginess of Advent was truly real for me, as I lived in a time of expectation, excitement, and a bit of anxiety about what all might be unfolding, by the grace of God. But now we are together; now together we can embrace this new season of Epiphany that arises out of the past Advent and twelve days of Christmas, and will also lead us into Lent.

Epiphany attends to the truth that our celebration of the incarnation, of God in the flesh, is not past. Rather it is the present reality that continues to unfold in our midst. And so we peer into the evidences of God with us. Biblically, we will read about Jesus' baptism, and about how those around him perceived this great thing that God is doing through him. He touched them deeply, so deeply they beheld his glory.

We are invited to do the same: to be touched by God. We will focus on how that light of Christ shines so wondrously for us to behold. I love the hymn that rhythmically repeats it over and over: Christ before us, Christ behind us, Christ beside us, Christ all around us, Christ within us, let all around us be Christ. To have the heart and mind that is so focused on that is truly a blessing!

Let us come and worship together, even on those days it might seem to feel better to stay at home in the warmth and comfort of PJ's. Here at SJTL we will rejoice in the warmth of the eternal light, that guides our love of those in our homes, and our love for those everywhere we go.

The Rev. David T. Anderson



Episcopal Presiding Bishop's Christmas 2011 Message

“Jesus comes among us to remind us of a world living together in peace, to reclaim and make real that vision of creation for all humanity and all God’s creatures.”

See, your salvation comes – Isaiah 62:11

The great prophets before Jesus proclaimed a vision of a nation and a people redeemed. We continue to share that yearning – as the Christmas hymn puts it, “the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.” We’ve seen abundant hopes spring up in the past year across the Arab world and Eastern Europe, and in the global Occupy movement. Those voices seek a world of greater justice, communities in which decisions and the gifts of creation are more available to all. Our understanding of salvation is most profoundly about justice in community, and as Christians we believe that help and healing for all are grounded in the incarnate presence of God – among us and within us.

We look for salvation to the one who came among us in the most humble way, a helpless child born in a scandalous way to a poor peasant couple. The Incarnation, God with us, changed the world in ways that we insist are leading to the ultimate healing of all creation. “See, your salvation comes,” says the prophet in every age, yet it is not yet fully come upon us. We live in hope for its fullness. May hope be nourished within us, in each and every human being and community, for the journey toward God’s healed and holy future.

That proclamation of coming salvation is a part of Isaiah (Isa 62:6-12) that will be read in some congregations at Christmas, but if you don’t hear it, go and read the whole of it. Its centerpiece speaks of what that salvation looks like:

The Lord has sworn...

*I will not again give your grain to be food for your enemies,
and foreigners shall not drink the wine for which you have labored;
but those who garner it shall eat it and praise the Lord,
and those who gather it shall drink it in my holy courts. Isa 62:8-9*

That is not a vision of pristine isolation, but a vision of comfort and healing to a people frequently at war, occupied, or exploited by superior forces. The fear of powerful others taking and using for themselves the produce of the poor is healed and transformed into a society in which the gifts God provides will be shared by all. For when salvation comes, that society will be called:

*‘the Holy People, The Redeemed of the Lord’; and you shall be called,
‘Sought Out, A City Not Forsaken.’ Isa 62:12*

Jesus comes among us to remind us of a world living together in peace, to reclaim and make real that vision of creation for all humanity and all God’s creatures. That world is put right as relationships between God and humanity are set right. The relationship between God and human being cannot be set right without equal healing of relationships between us mortals. See, your salvation comes! Will we welcome that healing?

**The Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori
Presiding Bishop and Primate
The Episcopal Church**



JANUARY

FEBRUARY

BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|--|---|
| 2 Chris Starrett | 4 Max Rhodes |
| 3 Will Seymour, Bill Burgoyne,
Kathryn Roberts | 6 Bob May |
| 4 Lee Chambers, Hunter Fines | 9 Richard Hubbard |
| 6 Jim Sanders | 10 Alice Lewis, Devon Ericksen |
| 8 Aleta Meyer | 11 Diane Kubala |
| 9 Virginia Meade | 12 Hilarie Street, Nate Miles |
| 10 Ashton Cobb | 14 Betty Carol Stevenson, Steve Pickett |
| 12 Lara Brown, George Field | 19 Derrick Rosser |
| 13 John Bowers | 20 Erin Seymour, Olivia Hoar |
| 18 Bob Jones, Barbara Olin,
Jennifer Batten, Yancey Jones Sr. | 22 Grace Gibson, Jenny Tarbox,
Tristan Sayed |
| 19 Dale Hill, Danah Massey | 24 Reagan Strnad |
| 21 Mark FitzHugh | 25 Roy Lynn, John Wade, Forrest Lewis |
| 22 Jim Cobb | 29 Lula Hopkins |
| 23 Sarah Suydam | |
| 25 Tyler FitzHugh | |
| 27 Fran McConnell, Brett Bajcsi | |

ANNIVERSARIES

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 Matthew and Barbie Dix | 2 John & Melissa Hoar, Norman & Diane Kubala,
John Traweek & Elizabeth McDade |
| 15 Larry and Debbie Ham | 13 Richard & Janet Taylor |
| 31 Will and Amy Burgoyne,
Alex Carter and Cami Stiles | 24 Bryan & Rebecca Cline |

**If we have missed your name, please notify the church office @ 798-6336.*

Announcements:

Because of the time of year, we are sending this newsletter via e-mail. If you wish a hard copy, they will be available in the tract rack in the narthex.

A.C.E.S. & Peter-Paul Center: There is always a need for food and toilet articles during January and February. Please contributions and place them in the designated boxes in the main hallway. Thanks you for your constant support.

E.C.W: Episcopal Church Women will meet at Imperial Plaza for lunch with Immanuel Church on Monday, Feb. 6. Detailed information will be posted at a later date.