




THE FISHERMAN



Advent and Mystery

- The Rev. Farrell Graves, Ph.D.



Throughout Advent (in the northern hemisphere, at least), we move closer and closer towards the darkest part of the year. Day by day, in less than two-minute increments, we grow into days that are ever more dark than light. At the solstice, we turn the corner and begin to work our way past the equinox towards summer, when light exceeds darkness. The church year begins in *Advent* in part because this parallels our own life journey. As we grow up, we first work hard to succeed in worldly matters. We go to school, perhaps take SATs and enter college, start a career, get married—all worldly things as we try to make our way in society. At some point, however, we may have a conversion. We may pass the solstice of life and have a Christmas experience in which we recognize what is most important, what lasts even beyond death. We then enter a period of increasing light. Just as the progress of the cosmic year is a necessary process, so is this journey for all humans. No one reaches the light without first going through the dark. The darkness is not evil, but sets us up to grow spiritually. Out of our experience of darkness, we begin to focus our attention on the hope that leads to resurrection, to *Easter*.

As dark becomes light, we start to see how integrated every facet of existence is. No aspect of the human being is inherently evil. Darkness is a necessary part of the whole. It is only evil when we mistake it for the end goal, when we think that the ways

of the world are supreme. Our attempts to succeed in this world are part of our path, part of what teaches us. There is a beauty in darkness, the beginning of a mystery that slowly unfolds towards light. Everything has its place. Feelings of anger and frustration are only bad when misdirected. Jesus displayed anger at the moneychangers, frustration with his disciples in *Gethsemane*. Ego in and of itself is not evil. We need to take care of ourselves. It is only evil when we think our own egos are more important than others' egos, as if God loved us more, or perhaps even think that our egos are more important than God.

Light means nothing without darkness. As we move towards the darker part of the year, we have an opportunity to experience the beautiful mystery of how everything is purposefully balanced. *Advent* is our chance to be at peace with the darkness, even to find joy in its mystery even as we look towards the light. This is how we repent during *Advent*. It is how we think anew rather than denigrating that which must be.



- Farrell +



A Voice from the Deacon's Bench

The Rev. Deacon J Miller

Once again I am in my garden weeding. This time it is digging up the little oak trees that have over populated quite aggressively our mulched beds. It is tedious but I am game because it is a beautiful day to be outside. As I vigorously dug out each little tree I turned the soil over once and smoothed it out. It is only a short time before I realize as I am turning over the soil I am planting other little oak trees with all the acorns lying on top of the soil that dropped from the oak tree! I shook my head. What to do? I decided to continue weeding my mulch bed and tending to God's creation planting new little oak trees. Maybe my fat little front yard squirrels will do some digging looking for them and lose some weight. Mind you this is not the gang of twelve, "squirrels" that run the back yard, use the brick path like a **NASCAR** road way and shake the tall trees while they play until one falls from the top.

All of this weeding leads me to thinking about *Advent* and my personal spiritual vineyard. It is time to weed out my self's egotistic consciousness as this holy season of preparation approaches. This is not easy for me or maybe even for you as we often don't see our true selves or look into our hearts and see our own darkness or sin. It takes discipline not to rush through Advent as we prepare for our families holiday preparation or even



church duties, service, music changes and the greening of the sanctuary? Later as I took a deep breath I found in my book shelf a book by Evelyn Underhill on *Advent* meditations. Evelyn Underhill was considered a pioneer in the revival of Christian spirituality and growth. Many of Evelyn's later retreats were on finding God's presence in their life. She emphasizes God's presence in all his creation, especially the incarnation of God in Jesus Christ. *Advent* is the season dedicated to our preparation of Christ's coming, a renewal that he comes to us again and again in our spiritual hearts and souls. Evelyn reminds us that it is up to us to keep our hearts channel open to him. She says, "He comes every time bringing a fresh gift of his life and on that life we depend. We should think of the whole power and splendor of God pressing in upon our small souls. In him we live and move and have our being."



- *God's Blessings,*
Deacon Jean



*The motto of the order reads:
 For His Sake,
 I am but one, but I am one.
 I cannot do everything, but I can do something.
 What I can do, I ought to do.
 What I ought to do, by the grace of God I will do.
 Lord, what will you have me do?*



Mary and Martha Chapter



Sometimes we sing out motto, but usually we say it in unison at the beginning of our devotional service at each meeting. We remind ourselves daily that we are not called to be strong and healthy and *Superwoman*, but to do the best we can do. Even if that is just to pray for others, some days that's enough. And one person in the group is not expected to carry the load of our many projects. Rather, we all pitch in to the glory of God, loving his people and working together and accomplishing something.

*DOK meets the second Saturday of every month at St. James.
 10am - noon
 All are welcome.*

When you read an article written by a Daughter, it is usually signed FHS. It's why we do what we do -

- Susan Sprouse

For His Sake



The Operation Christmas Child (shoebox project) can bring great joy to a child in need and their family in more than 100 countries around the world. *St. James the Fisherman* sent 22 shoeboxes to children around the world this year.

Thank you so much to everyone who packed a shoebox.

Ruth Ann Campbell, Coordinator



- Barbara Freeman

The ECW Fundraisers were highly successful this year. Thanks to all who participated in any way – donating, working, selling, cleaning up, and purchasing. All assistance is appreciated. The *Yard Sale* brought in a little over \$1,315, which was \$265 more than last year. This year we had **NO** craft sale due to lack of contributions previous years. The *Quilt Raffle* brought in \$1,210, which was over \$552 more than the previous year.

Thanks to Terrie Collins and Ruth MacDonald for their generous, beautiful contributions. The *Basket Raffle* was also successful with 14 baskets of a variety of items in them – 2 more baskets than last year. \$875 was raised on this portion of sales – almost \$480 more than last year! The *Bake Sale* was enjoyed by all with wonderfully created goodies of all types! We raised \$925, almost \$650 more than last year. Expenses for the large banners purchased this year cost approximately \$200 – well worth the cost. This brings the money raised to a total of just over \$4,125, which will be spread out over our various charities throughout the year.

Again, thanks to the entire congregation!



see photos page 8



- Ruth Ann Campbell, St. James' SBIC rep.

Ruth Ann Campbell attended the *South Brunswick Interchurch Council (SBIC)* monthly *General Board Meeting* on Monday, Monday, November 20th, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. at *The Lords Food Pantry* in Shallotte.

The Lords Food Pantry has served 3,805 children, 5,322 adults and 4,238 seniors for a total of 13,365 January through October 2023.

The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) distribution at *The Lords Food Pantry* served 115 families in October, or 369 individuals (109 children, 150 adults, and 110 seniors).

The **SBIC** also distributes *Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP)* boxes to preregistered Senior clients. We received 80 boxes in October. We distributed 56 boxes on October 14, and 24 on October 21.

The Lords Food Pantry periodically receives *Brunswick Wellness Coalition* food boxes (similar to Senior boxes) and receives produce at the *Food Pantry* through this program.

The **SBIC** distributed 37 *Healthy Opportunities Pilot Program (HOP)* boxes in October. The *St. James HOP Team* (Ruth Ann Campbell, RoseMary Stalter, Susan Dickerson, Lenna Jane Gray, Peter Biddle, and Peter Tietjen) continues to assist Bonita LeGoullon, the **SBIC HOP** Coordinator.

The Lords Food Pantry received 4,103 pounds of food in October from the **PORCH** collection.

The **SBIC** packed 175 *Thanksgiving Dinner Boxes* on Friday, November 17 and distributed them on Saturday, November 18. Thanks to everyone who donated food and/or money, and thanks to everyone who helped pack and distribute!

Coastal Race Productions is partnering with the **SBIC** to collect food as *Miles for Meals*. The **SBIC** will have a booth the day before race day and runners will bring food when they pick up their race packet. This will be monthly from October 2023 through April 2024 and then begin again in October 2024. The October collection was in Ocean Isle Beach.

November 5 was a beautiful day for the *CROP Hunger Walk* at Mulberry Park and the River Walk in Shallotte. There were 66 walkers. The **SBIC** collected \$3,500 in sponsorships and over \$15,000 thus far from donations. Monies are still coming in. Deb Claxton, the Walk Coordinator, wishes to thank everyone for their participation and donations.

SBIC In the Spirit

No grants were received in October. The **SBIC** has been awarded a \$2,000 *Landfall Grant* and will receive it in November. The **SBIC** applied for an *Ocean Ridge Grant* for \$3,997 for Christmas boxes. Peggy Antunes has volunteered to take the lead on grants. Thanks, Peggy!

Our realtor came to the *Executive Board Meeting* on November 13 and explained the results of the appraisal on the *SoundHouse* and presented us with some options. A counter offer will be submitted to the seller. The **SBIC** is working on a plan for a Capital Campaign.

The **SBIC** is waiting for a meeting in January with *New Beginnings* on their proposed shared use of the *SoundHouse*.

The **BSRI** parking lot will be closed on May 18 and September 27, 2024.

The next **Executive Board Meeting** is scheduled for **Monday, December 11, 2023** with the **General Board Meeting Monday the 18th**, both at 10am in *The Lords Food Pantry*, 3610 Express Drive, Shallotte. Masks are optional.

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact your St. James Representatives Ruth Ann Campbell at **910-575-1247** or at no1nanie@atmc.net; or Alternate Jan Comfort at **864-353-7034** or at comforj@clemsun.edu.

or check us out at our website
www.thelordsfoodpantry.org

Until next month...



Santa vs Jesus?

- Susan Weber

It's that time of year again, when stores are decked out with *Christmas bling* and we are bombarded by media with *Christmas music*, *Christmas movies* and ads ordering us to shop now! There will also be some "*Jesus is the reason for the Season*" reminders, exhorting us to abandon the commercialism and focus on the true meaning of *Christmas*. This usually results in a struggle; are we wrong to get caught up in the fun? Should feeling joy as we decorate our houses inside and out make us feel guilty?

I was thinking the other day "Why does it have to be either/or? Why can't we embrace both fully?"

The answer is, of course we can!

The key, I believe, is to celebrate whatever we do mindfully, with our whole hearts; hearts that are full of God's love. Be fully present in the moment, whether it is addressing Christmas cards (pray for the recipients as you write), baking cookies, or reading and praying an *Advent* devotional; don't let your mind be distracted by your "*To Do*" list. It is easy to get caught up in the traditional Christmas activities; we've had years of practice, and we see and hear them all around us. At the same time, there are so many ways you can sink into *Advent* and prepare your heart for the coming of the *Greatest Gift*. One obvious way is to celebrate liturgy together each week and let the lighting of the *Advent* candles be a reminder of what is to come. The challenge is to find the smaller, daily moments. Here at *SJTF* we will once again be offering free *Advent devotionals*; a nice invitation to go deeper in our prayers and study, and a way to spend more time in stillness and communion with the *One* who centers us. Perhaps you might keep an *Advent journal* and list one thing a day you did or you saw someone else do (or both!) that embodies kindness and Christ's love for others; I guarantee that the more you look for this, the more you will see. There are many ways to volunteer in the community, but also consider phone calls or notes to friends and family who may be lonely, in ill health, or grieving the loss of a loved one. Maybe this is the year you dust off your own personal *Advent wreath* and light it each night. Maybe you pray

for the driver who cuts you off instead of cursing them. Enjoy both singing "*O Come, O Come Emmanuel*" as well as "*Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree*" - embrace this season in its fullness!

I wish you all a *Holy Advent* as you prepare your hearts for the *One* who is the source of *Christmas Joy* and Peace, and I look forward to seeing you in those Christmas sweaters.





Views from the Pews

While setting up the book table for the yard sale the ladies came upon a book called "THE RULES"

This month...



I thought it might be interesting to share these rules with the ladies of the church. They are old rules for catching the heart of "Mr. Right" and were set up by one author's Grandmother in 1917. It claims "THE RULES" will show you how to treat yourself with respect and dignity—and demand that men do likewise. This book was published in 1995. The Authors claim THE RULES still work. Read on and tell me what you think!

THE RULES

1. Be creative unlike anyone else.
2. Don't talk to a man first (and don't ask him to dance)
3. Don't meet him halfway or go Dutch on a date.
4. Don't call him and rarely return his calls.
5. Always end calls first.
6. Don't accept a Saturday night date after Wednesday.
7. Always end the date first.
8. Stop dating him if he doesn't buy you a romantic gift for your birthday or Valentine's Day.
9. Don't see him more than once or twice a week.
10. No more than casual kissing on the first date.
11. Don't tell him what to do.
12. Don't expect a man to change or try to change him.
13. Don't open up to fast.
14. Don't date a married man.
15. Be easy to live with.

I shared them with my husband Gary while sharing a bottle of wine. He asked me, "Well how did we do?" I just raised my eyebrows and grinned.





OCTOBER 30. 2023

I had looked forward to this evening with joyful anticipation
 Basking in childhood memories of Halloween trick-or-treating
 Like as not with a warm coat covering whatever I had cobbled together after
 I outgrew my cousin's discarded dance recital costumes.
 One year I was a pilgrim, feeling that I was prematurely celebrating Thanksgiving.
 Now, the Christmas decorations are already on offer at Walmart
 in every town with a population greater than ten thousand
 And every dollar store that dots the intersections between them.
 But it was the music that drew us here
 And now we are disappointed, even as we feel sad for our friend Lynn Dean.
 This poem is for him.



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GHOST MUSIC

Gloomy and bare the organ-loft,
 Bent-backed and blind the organist.
 From rafters looming shadowy,
 From the pipes' tuneful company,
 Drifted together drowsily,
 Innumerable, formless, dim,
 The ghosts of long-dead melodies,
 Of anthems, stately, thunderous,
 Of Kyries shrill and tremulous:
 In melancholy drowsy-sweet
 They huddled there in harmony.
 Like bats at noontide rafter-hung.

by Robert Graves (1895 – 1985)



Editor's Note: DANG! Apologies to Jan Comfort on not getting her full poem submission into last month's Fisherman! Here it is in its entirety. Holiday's best to Mr. Lynn Dean and family.



Raisers of Ransoms for Causes of Care



Quilters of Joy!

*special thanks to
Terrie Collins*

&

Ruth MacDonald



- photos courtesy Ruth Ann Campbell & Jan Comfort

Weavers of Christmas Spirits

"bless you" to all who helped create these gems!

Bakers of Absolute "YUM"!

bon appetit for this winning repast made from so many hearts!

*Thanks to All
and for All, a Great Night!*





WE ARE...



*photos courtesy
Ruth Ann Campbell*



Turkey Box Wranglers for Worthy Causes



The South Brunswick Interchurch Council (SBIC) was able to provide Thanksgiving Turkey Dinner Boxes to 175 families in need in the South Brunswick area thanks to the generosity of all the St. James Fisherfolk who donated \$20 each to help provide food for the turkey boxes. St. James also provided the 320 cans of green beans for the boxes. In addition, five folks (Gary, Barbara and Jon Freeman, Ruth Ann Campbell, and Dan McDonald) helped the SBIC pack the boxes. Thank you all so much.

Ruth Ann Campbell
St. James SBIC Representative





A Servant's Heart

by Susan Weber

You don't have to look very hard at our SJTF community to find people who serve our church with dedication and love. As I stopped by *Bliss Hall* recently, I saw several of these people setting up, dropping off baked goods and arranging the beautiful raffle quilt and gift baskets. The display that caught my eye and stopped me in my tracks, though, was the large collection of homemade, beautifully boxed and decorated candy. Not a detail was left undone, down to the bags for shopping and the fun, eye-catching sign; all the work/labor of love, of our very own Candyman - Paul Bertelsen. This 90+ year old gentleman exemplifies to me what it means to have a servant's heart. He has served as our Verger, and his coffee hours and pot luck contributions are always a treat. Though struggling with some health challenges recently, he manages to maneuver his walker into place at our Sunday liturgies. He is an inspiration to me personally and a gift to all of us in so many ways. God's Light shines very brightly in all he does, and he makes wonderful candy.



- photos courtesy Susan Weber

WE ARE A Christian Community of Loving, Caring Members Who Reach Out to Welcome Others Through Social Action, Ministry and Inspirational Sacramental Worship

THE FISHERMAN




The Best Gifts...

The Parishioner Care Group (yes, we changed the name), had its organizational meeting, with nineteen (19) men and women willing to help their brothers and sisters in the St. James family. Now we need help from the whole congregation. If you hear of someone in our family in need of help, who is sick, hurt or shut in, PLEASE LET FR. FARRELL, DEACON JEAN, DEACON MIKE, OR THE CHURCH OFFICE KNOW. This is the best format for our Care Group to obtain the names of those we need to reach and help on a CONFIDENTIAL basis. Please help us to help our brothers and sisters in Christ.

FOYER GROUPS....

GATHER YOUR GANGS FOR A JANUARY GO!

Check with Office Dave for any posted information.



New Year, New Face, New Place!

St. James the Fisherman has embarked on a capital campaign called **Fresh Face Forward** to address the many needs to maintain and improve the building, and to increase our visibility and parking on Main St. The 2024 campaign will kick off with the **Second Annual GALA**, to be held on **Sunday, February 4th**, at the **Seabreeze Restaurant in Brick Landing**. More details will follow, but please circle the date on your calendar. We had such a great time last year, and this year's event promises to be even better! **Silent Auction Items**, unique and fabulous would be due on **January 15th!** For more information, please contact Ginny Coltharp, Jan Comfort or RoseMary Stalter!

Grounds Cleaning
Friday Dec 29th, 8-10am





PARISH ANNUAL MEETING

Dec 3rd
One Service
Only
9am



SEA NOTES

"A Quartet
for
Christmas"
Dec 2nd - 3rd
BCC
Odell
Williamson
Auditorium

DOK

Meeting: Saturday Dec 9th, 10-12am
Meals of Love: Tues Dec 12th, 10:15-11

ECW

Meeting: Wed Dec 6th 12 -1pm
Lockwood's Folly Restaurant

SBIC

Exec Board Mtg: Dec 11th
Gen Board Mtg: Dec 18th
both 10am at *The Lord's Food Pantry*

SPIRITUAL STUDIES

Wednesdays 10:30-11:30am

FINANCE CMT.

Tuesdays 9:30am

VESTRY

Sunday Dec 3rd, 12 - 1pm

The Snows of Liturgical Jargon

PURPLE: Sacrifice/Penance

RED: Martyrdom WHITE: Purity



Feast of St Thomas

Dec 21st

Christmas

Dec 25th

Feast of St Stephens

Dec 26th

Feast of St John

Dec 27

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Dec 4 Richard & Marilyn Seidler, Bonnie Dolph
Dec 6 Stephanie Lynott
Dec 9 Al Haley
Dec 10 Bill Chase
Dec 11 Susan Sims Pritts
Dec 12 Cathryn Clinton
Dec 16 Nancy Dougherty, Farrell Graves
Dec 17 Patricia Nunnenkamp
Dec 23 Gayle Robertson
Dec 24 Stephen & Gayle Robertson, Brett Lee Coe
Dec 27 Chris Walters, Denise & Jamey Reagan,
Michael Ligon
Dec 30 Bill Somers
Dec 31 Bruce Zawacki

*If your birthday or anniversary is not listed here, please contact
David Brownfield to correct our information.*

Clergy Breakfast Dec 28th 9-10am

Christmas Services

Dec 23rd 5:30pm

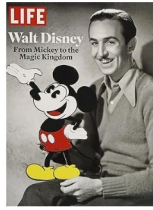
Dec 24th 9am & 5pm & 9pm

Dec 25th 9am

New Year's Eve 8am & 10am



National Egg Nog & Fruit Cake Month



Walt Disney born

Dec 5, 1901

Hanukkah

(aka Chanukah) 8 day floating Jewish festival celebrating the recovery of Jerusalem and rededication of Second Temple in 2nd Century BCE.

Dec 7-15, 2023

9 States of December

Delaware	Dec 7, 1787
Pennsylvania	Dec 12, 1787
New Jersey	Dec 18, 1787
Indiana	Dec 11, 1816
Mississippi	Dec 10, 1817
Illinois	Dec 3, 1818
Alabama	Dec 14, 1819
Texas	Dec 29, 1845
Iowa	Dec 28, 1846

Geminid Meteor Shower

The most active meteor shower of the year, the Geminids arrive just after a waning gibbous Moon but still look skyward after 9pm for peak viewing.

Dec 13

Dec Birth Stuff

Turquoise, Tanzanite, Zircon (red berry) Holly, Narcissus (paperwhite)
fortune, success, purity



Almanac - December 2023



National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day

At 07:48am (local time), Dec 7th, 1941 on the island of O'ahu, Hawai'i, US Naval Base at Honolulu was caught in a surprise attack by Japanese forces that began America's military official entry into WWII. 2,403 Americans were lost with 64 Japanese servicemen.

Dec 7, 1941

Battle of the "Bulge"

(aka, the Ardennes Offensive) Last major German offensive of WWII. Fighting five weeks, this push into the Western Front between Belgium and Luxembourg ended with a crushing defeat for Hitler's forces but at a cost of 104,000 German and 83,000 Allied casualties.

Dec 16, 1944 - Jan 28, 1945

St. Nicholas Day

Dec 6

National Brownie Day

Dec 15

Underdog Day

Dec 16

Wright Brothers Day

Dec 17

Anglo-Saxon Decembers

"Yule Monath" *pre-Christian*

a pagan burning log

"Heligh(Holy) Monath"

post-Christian

Christ the Redeemer



Kwanza

Celebration of family, culture, community & harvest

Dec 26 - Jan 1

U.S.S.R.

Officially dissolved

Dec 8, 1991

US Bill of Rights

Instated

Dec 15, 1791



Full "Cold" Moon

reaches "peak"

7:33am

Tuesday, Dec 26

Winter Solstice

Dec 21 10:27pm

least daylight hours

Louisiana Purchase

United States essentially doubles its size with the purchase of some 885,000 square miles from France for the "then sum" of \$15 million (\$340,000,000 today).

Dec 30, 1803

Unluckiest Day

For thousands of years, this day was chosen as "worst of the worst" to start new ventures of any type. It was the day King Herod ordered all male children killed in attempt to stop the coming Christ.

Dec 30


Toy Stories - Most Popular American Toys by Era

1910's - 30's: Imagination: wooden trains, yo yos, doll houses 1940's: Wooden Lego's, construction toys

1950's: Barbie debuts, Mr Potato Head, tops 1960's: GI Joe, Etch a Sketch, play cookers

1970's: Star Wars ('nuff said) 1980's: Rubik Cube 1990's: Game Boy 2000's Wii 2010: Xbox, Playstation

ADVENT CALENDAR 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 Worship Advent 1 Read Luke 21:25-36. How do the symbols of the Advent season help you understand the story of Jesus? Where do you see them in your worship today?	4 Turn Read Isaiah 58. How does this reading challenge you to think about feasts and festivals differently? How might this lesson change the way you celebrate or recognize this holy season?	5 Learn Read Matthew 4:18-22. How do these verses from Matthew inspire you to read Scripture with new eyes? Try reading several different translations of this passage. See how the language might change your reading of it.	6 Pray Pray along with the Collect for Advent 1, found on page 211 of <i>The Book of Common Prayer</i> . Set a timer for three minutes to sit in silence and hear what God might be saying back to you.	7 Bless Call or write a letter to a family member with whom you would like to have a closer relationship. Make plans in the new year to chat on the phone or meet over Zoom or in person. Let them know how much you love them and look forward to knowing them better.	8 Go Read or watch your local news. Ask God to open your heart and eyes to ways you can promote reconciliation and healing in your community.	9 Rest Spend at least 45 minutes outside today, without doing yard work or fixing lights or redoing bows on the garland. Take some time to just sit outside and let the air wash over you, taking away the stress and worry of the moment. Read Psalm 100 before and after your outside time. See how this psalm may help you rest and recharge your spirit.
10 Worship Advent 2 Read Luke 3:1-6. How does the story of John the Baptist fill your heart with hope?	11 Turn Turn away from the busyness of the world right now. Turn your heart and mind toward giving thanks for this time of reflection, refreshment, and renewal.	12 Learn Read Luke 1:45. Share your faith story with one new person this week. It can be someone you have known for a while who has not heard the faith part of your story.	13 Pray Pray along with the Collect for Advent 2, found on page 211 of <i>The Book of Common Prayer</i> . As you are out and about for the rest of this week, notice the people you pass. Ask God to bless them in their lives and work. See how this changes the way you go about your week.	14 Bless Spend a significant amount of time today discerning if there is a special blessing or gift you can share with your church, a local ministry, or with your community. Ask God to inspire and equip you with the fortitude and tools to make this gift something truly memorable and heartfelt.	15 Go Go out of your way to have a conversation with someone you might not normally visit with today. Ask God to open your heart to hear this person as God does.	16 Rest Put your phone on airplane mode and leave it in a dresser drawer for an hour or two. Whatever happens in that time, you can handle later. Give this time to yourself and Jesus, to rest and recharge for the week ahead.
17 Worship Advent 3 Imagine the faces you'd like to see at church — an all-star list of folks you want to worship with. This could be people you know from summer camp when you were a kid, people who might have already died, people you work with — all your favorites. Commit to pray for those folks this week. And make a commitment to ask one of your all-stars to come to church with you in the next month.	18 Turn Do you have amends or apologies or adjustments you need to make? Ask God to open your heart and mind to those opportunities for reconciliation and growth. Thank God for the gifts of mercy and love, and the courage to make the changes necessary. And then do your best, with God's help, to make those changes.	19 Learn Read Luke 1:59-80. When Zechariah's speech returns, he praises God. If you lost the power to speak for nine months like Zechariah did, what would be your first word of praise? Share this with your family, friends, and on social media.	20 Pray Pray along with the Collect for Advent 3, found on page 212 in <i>The Book of Common Prayer</i> . How will prayer guide you through the rest of the week? Set aside special time today to focus your intentions on stirring up peace and spreading joy.	21 Bless We know that angels are God's special messengers to us, and that Gabriel spent intentional time with Mary, helping her to understand her part in God's story. Who has shared an important lesson or their presence with you this week? Thank them today with a call or note.	22 Go Go out into your neighborhood today. Where is God at work? Ask God to show you how you can celebrate that good work and name God's presence in your community.	23 Rest Set aside 30 minutes to spend in silence with your best friend today. Sure, it may feel a little weird to be silent on the phone or while sitting next to each other on the couch or across the table. Just give it a try. Make sure to set aside time after your silence to pray for each other and to say thanks for the time of rest.
24 Rest Advent 4 The conventional wisdom is that new parents should rest when the baby is resting. Make sure you take some time out to rest with Baby Jesus — and marvel in the wonder of a fresh, new, clean, shiny, tiny, precious start. Take a nap and thank God for the gift of Jesus and for peace at Christmas.						



.....from the editor

A Nod to Clement Clarke Moore - Jan Comfort

T'was the night before Christmas and all through the church
Not a creature was stirring, and I did a thorough search

The church, now empty after many glad sounds
Was eerily quiet, both building and grounds

I sat in the dark, enjoying the quiet
(If you've never done this, I think you should try it)

When out in the graveyard there arose quite a clatter
I sprang from my pew to see what was the matter

Then what to my wondering eyes did appear
St. James, not St. Nicholas, and he was quite near

He was not in a sleigh, but a boat, dontcha know
Powered by horsepower not reindeer – no snow

The boat was filled with gifts from above
Faith, hope, and love and the greatest is love

St. James smiled at me when he saw my shocked face
How did he get here, this particular place?

And why did he choose us, out of all of mankind?
Why, he wanted to thank us, if we didn't mind

All this I just knew when I looked at his face
Understanding passed 'tween us, just like God's grace

Then he spoke a few words ere he went on his way
"Thank you all for what you do every single day!"

When he was gone, I thanked God above
For His Great compassion, His great love

You see, love is the answer, no matter the question
It's an imperative, not a suggestion

Let's love our neighbors, every single one
Just as God loves us, and gave us his son

THANK YOU - EVERYONE for ALL SUBMISSIONS!
TERRIFIC ORIGINAL PIECES JUST IN TIME FOR CHRISTMAS!
Next year's article deadline: December 15th - no rest for us package-rippers..
Please send all emails to waltfam@atmc.net

did you know...

The holiday tune "Jingle Bells" was originally titled "The One Horse Open Sleigh"?
Penned in September of 1857 by James Lord Pierpont at Simpson Tavern in Medford, MA,
it was thought to have been written for a Sunday school choir for Thanksgiving - not
Christmas - and, citing it's birth place, may have been a popular drinking song of the time.



Feeling Lost for the Holidays?



Check out these previous homilies

From St. James' own website:

stjamesthefisherman.net

From YouTube:

[YouTube.com](https://www.youtube.com)

Christian Consciousness Today

Find a quick and easy link
at the bottom of his weekly emails!

 **YouTube**

**Christian
Consciousness
Today**

Fr Farrell would like to invite you to
visit his YouTube channel,
"Christian Consciousness Today."
If you miss a sermon, please go to
[YouTube.com](https://www.youtube.com)
and check for weekly updates!



Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God - Ephesians 5:2

Directors of Ministries

WORSHIP - Ginny Coltharp

Acolytes - Susan Sprouse
Altar Guild - Ruth Fernandez/JoAnn Jenkins
Daughters of the King - Nancy Dougherty
Ruth Fernandez
Eucharistic Ministers/Visitors - Clergy
Music - Lynn A. Dean
Newcomers/Greeters - Clergy
Nursery - Clergy
Ushers - Bill Chase

PROGRAMS - Ginny Coltharp

Christian Education - Father Farrell Graves
Episcopal Church Women - Barbara Freeman
Jan Comfort
Stephanie Lynott
Foyer Groups - Ruth Fernandez
Holy Stitchers - Barbara Freeman
Coffee Hour - Weekly Hosts
Parish Dinners - Vestry/ ECW

OUTREACH

Angel Tree - DOK S Sprouse, R Fernandez
Operation Christmas Child - R A Campbell
Food Cards for Homeless - DOK A Murphy
Christmas in July (school supplies) - DOK
Waccama School Partnership -DOK T Colins
Neighbor 2 Neighbor - Rev. Dec. Jean Miller
BFA Food Pantry/Second Helpings- G Weber
Thanksgiving Dinner Boxes - R A Campbell
Meals of Love - DOK - Jeannie Reopel
Support the Girls - Ruth Ann Campbell
Lobster Sale - Bill Chase
Crop Walk - Ruth Ann Campbell
UTO - Mary Klinedinst
The Fisherman - Chris Walters

St. James the Fisherman Episcopal Church

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The Rt. Rev. Robert Skirving - Bishop
The Rev. Farrell Graves, PhD - Rector
The Rev. Jean Miller - Deacon
The Rev. Michael Ligon - Deacon
Lynn A Dean - Choirmaster & Organist

Vestry

Ginny Coltharp - Worship
Jan Comfort - Communications
Ruth Ann Fernandez - Outreach
Kit Goff - Sr Warden, Graveyard
Kathleen McDonald - Grounds
RoseMary Stalter - Parish Life
Peter Tietjen - Jr Warden
Greg Weber - Finance, Ways & Means

**"You Are Now Entering the Mission Field.
Go Therefore and Make Disciples of All People."**



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