



December 2018

FROM OUR PRIEST-IN-CHARGE THE REV. DR. ROB CAVANNA

Dates to Remember

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|----|---|
| 2 | 1st Sunday of Advent
Guardian Angels Annual Meeting. Labyrinth will be here all month. |
| 7 | 7:00pm Christmas Around the World, with Chris Falteisek Free Will Offering. Refreshments follow in the Parish Hall! |
| 9 | 2nd Sunday of Advent/
Sweet Shoppe |
| 11 | 7:00 pm Blue Christmas Service of Solace and Comfort |
| 15 | 11:00am - 1:00pm. Sunday School/Youth Birthday Party/Lunch for Jesus |
| 16 | 3rd Sunday of Advent
Inter-Generational
Advent/Christmas Pageant:
Christmas Around the World!
You don't want to miss this special Pageant. |
| 23 | 4th Sunday of Advent |
| 24 | 5pm Festive Choral Candlelight Eucharist and Anglican Sherry Toasts in the Parish Hall Following the Liturgy! |
| 25 | No services today! Have a Blessed and Happy Christmas! Drive safely! |
| 30 | 1st Sunday after Christmas and New Year Celebration! |

How to Reach Us

Address	1326 4th St. PO Box 65
Office Hours	Wed/Thurs/Fri 10:00am-2:00pm
Fr Rob's	Wednesday 10:00am-12:00pm
Phone	763-441-5482
E-mail	office@holyltrinityelkriver.org
Website	Holytrinityelkriver.org
Twitter	Robert Cavanna
Facebook	www.facebook.com/ HolyTrinityElkRiver

WAITING IN HOPE: PRAYING THE LABYRINTH!

The new Church Year begins on December 1, 2018. We shift from Year B to Year C in the Revised Common Lectionary (RCL). This is the guide for our Sunday scripture readings which many other churches use too. During the month of November we prayed and reflected on Stewardship with weekly bulletin inserts the last being on **The Quiet Promise of Jesus' Kingdom. The theme of our Stewardship campaign** was Transforming Generosity. We had one In-Gathering of Pledge Cards on Sunday, November 25th and will have another one this coming Sunday, December 2, 2018. Thank you very much for your **generosity with your Pledge and if you still haven't pledged, please prayerfully consider doing so as this will help us continue to do God's** work outside our church walls as well as maintain our buildings. It **may appear that with our Parish Hall loan paid off that all's well** financially. Yet there is always on-going maintenance, personnel wages and the dollars it takes to keep us operational and viable very day. Again, thank you for your past generous financial support and for your 2019 Pledge. It will help us build a budget as well as pay the every day expenses of running a faith community.

Besides celebrating All Saints Day on November 4th and having an Annual Thanksgiving Eve Eucharist on November 21, 2018, we also had a very successful Annual Regional Holiday Bazaar on November 10th. Thank you to everyone who made it the smashing success it was this year.

Our theme for Advent is Waiting in Hope. Everyone needs hope. **That's the beauty of Advent - waiting in anticipation for Christ's** coming bringing hope and light to each of us. We will open the new Church Year and Advent on December 2, 2018. A integral part of **waiting is also watching so I'd like us to focus this month on** Watching.

Have you ever been to Heathrow Airport in London? One of the things that used to be fun about driving to Heathrow Airport was, as you approached the airport, the road took you through a tunnel under the main runway and as you entered the tunnel there was this large airport notice on the side of the road - **"WATCH FOR THE SIGNS."** We used to laugh because this road sign sounded so much like an apocalyptic warning such as we hear during the season of Advent.

It is amazing how often the word "watch" comes up in Scripture and it is clearly one of the main characteristics of a faithful Christian disciple, that we WATCH. So why watch? What does it mean, to watch and why should we watch?

To watch is not the same as to look or to see – it is rather, looking attentively for something – keeping alert and awake so as not to miss it – like watching for the signs for Terminal 2 at the airport. Watching is hard – **it takes effort. Doesn't it? Did you ever have** the experience of driving to the MSP Airport in a snowstorm or bad weather and the layout seemed to change, construction was going on everywhere, and keeping your eye on the road and watching for the signs to your terminal was extremely difficult and you really had to be alert – or you would miss it? So watching demands attention, focus, being awake, keeping alert.

In Isaiah 21:8, the Lord says "Post a watchman." Let him announce what he sees. "Upon a watchtower I stand, O Lord, continually by day, and at my post I am stationed throughout the night." In the ancient world, large watchtowers were placed overlooking the fields – and watchmen would look out day and night for thieves or animals who would try to make off with the crops. The watchman would also monitor the approaches to the city walls. He would watch day and night for any signs of the approach of an enemy. At the sign of danger he would sound a warning and the town would shut its gates and prepare for battle. The night was divided into watches and at the end of each watch, a trumpet would be blown.

Very soon, this function of the watchman was transferred metaphorically to the prophet. **The prophet's job was to watch, to literally be a seer –** a watcher – to watch for the signs of **God's activity and then blow the trumpet –** warn the people of what he saw. Watching became perhaps the distinctive activity of the prophet. Watching carefully for signs – and then interpreting them correctly for the people, and sending a clear clarion call for action.

In Mark, Chapter 13, there is the same sense of urgency. And there are three verbs used in the Greek, one after the other, to describe what the faithful disciple should be doing. First, in verse 33 – blepete – look. Keep your eyes open. Look carefully at your life, at the world. Like driving to an unfamiliar airport – look attentively. Then, in the next verse – arupneite – **stay awake. Don't live your life half asleep. Have you ever had the experience of driving for several hours and someone wakes up in the car and says, "Have we been through a certain town?" And although you're driving, you just can't remember. "I drove through that whole town and don't remember a thing." We can live our lives like that –** half asleep, daydreaming through life. Jesus says, no, stay awake.

And then finally, at the climax in verse 37, "What I say to you – I say to all – gregoreite – WATCH. Watch for the signs. First – look carefully; second – stay awake; and third – watch for the signs.

One of my favorite movies is A Night To Remember with Kenneth More. It was made in the 1950s and is the story of the sinking of the Titanic. The scene which has always stayed with me is one which came soon after the Titanic had been struck by an iceberg. On the bridge of the Titanic the terrified crew was scanning the horizon, looking desperately through binoculars for signs of hope, and there – miraculously – just fifteen miles away, was **another ship, the USS California. Everything would be fine. They'd be rescued. So they** started frantically sending Morse code messages to the California – SOS. But tragically, at 11:00 pm the telegraph officer on the California had turned off the receiver and gone to sleep. The messages were not received. So on the deck of the Titanic they sent up dozens of distress rockets. The sky was lit up by them.

And then comes the scene in the movie which has stayed with me. The crew on board the California clearly sees the distress rockets. They were only fifteen miles away and the sky was brightly lit up. But the crew knew that it was the maiden voyage of the Titanic and so **they just chuckled and said wow, they're having a great party –** all those fireworks. The terrible irony. They didn't truly see what was there – they misinterpreted the signs, they did not look carefully, they fell asleep.

Wake up and watch! That is the message of Advent. The effect of Advent on you and me should be like the blast of a cold shower after you've gotten out of bed, sleepy and bleary-eyed. **Wake up: Wachet auf. In Advent God is trying to wake us up. 'I don't want you to sleepwalk through life or drift aimlessly through life. I want you to wake up and be fully alive – and then you will see clearly.'** **WAKE UP. And then, secondly, gregoreite – Watch. Watch for the signs – the signs of the Kingdom.**

Keep awake and watch for the signs. That image from the Titanic, of the officers on board the California watching the distress rockets and laughing, as the great ship slowly began to **sink into the deep, is quite haunting. Isn't it?**

I wonder if God is sending us distress rockets? Is our planet going the way of the Titanic? Are the Occupy encampments all over the world sending us a sign? Are we looking carefully? Are we asleep? Are we misinterpreting the signs?

What if God is sending you distress rockets in your own personal life? Are there signs in your life which are telling you that things are not right – that you maybe need to change, to **repent, to alter course before it's too late? For part of the urgency of Advent is the promise of judgment, both globally and personally. Perhaps something is keeping you asleep. Perhaps a habit, or denial, or betrayal or some numbing substance? Maybe God's trying to wake you up so that you can rub your bleary eyes and see clearly.**

Look clearly and honestly at your life – and take action. Now. For now is the time to waken **out of sleep. That is the watchman's trumpet call – the clarion call of Advent.** Perhaps tonight God will convince you that the time is right. Now is the time for you – a choice to be made and a decision to be taken.

This Advent God is calling you to waken out of sleep, to look carefully and honestly at your life and to watch for the signs. What signs do you see? For the time is fulfilled, the Kingdom of God is upon us.

Pray that we keep our eyes open, that we stay awake and that we watch for the signs in our lives that are telling us new things or pointing us in new directions. We will do this as we wait in hope for the coming of Our Savior into our hearts again and the hearts of those around us. Make use of the labyrinth this Advent. Use it on Sunday after our Coffee Fellowship or at other times during the week if you have a key or at office times on **Wednesday, Thursday and Friday when Jen is in the office. It's a wonderful spiritual tool that will surprise and impact you the more you use it.**

Don't forget our Annual Inter-Generational All Parish Advent/Christmas Pageant on Sunday, December 16, 2018. We will learn about the many customs of different countries, sing beautiful hymns and be together with our youth as we continue "waiting in hope" for Jesus.

Lastly, please come to our Annual Christmas Candlelight Festive Eucharist on Monday, December 24, 2018, at 5:00 pm. We will have a Hymn Sing-A-Long at 4:40 pm with a very moving and meaningful liturgy following it at 5:00 pm. I know that some of you open gifts on Christmas Eve. Please prayerfully consider coming to church before you open your gifts, enjoy some sherry and toast and go home and open your gifts with the rest of the evening being wholly yours.

Have a very rewarding Advent full of new beginnings and eye opening insights as you wait for the coming of the Christ Child! May your Christmas be truly a happy one filled with peace and joy for you and your family! Our faith community has been truly blessed with each of you and all our new people. Thank you for all you do and have given in time, talent and treasure to build up the Body of Christ here at Holy Trinity! Stay well, be good of heart, and let go, let God! Pray every day that our lives and example continue to attract people to Jesus Christ and Holy Trinity! Have a Blessed Advent and Christmas season!

Your faithful servant,

Fr. Rob+

On November 7th, Father Rob, Bea Bastyr and I had a Liturgy Meeting to discuss Advent texts and themes. The theme this year is one of expectation: "Waiting in Hope". Father Rob is offering an Advent Retreat for ALL on Saturday, December 1st from 10:15 until 12:30. This is a wonderful opportunity to remove ourselves from the hectic pace of holiday hustle and bustle and to quietly reflect upon the reason and season of Advent and what it means to each of us in our journey. Also, preparations for the Christmas Pageant (Dec. 16th) are in full swing! I hope that you are looking forward to the time of reflection and preparation for the celebration of the Nativity of Jesus at Christmas during the next several weeks.

Joyfully,

Kate

SERVICE

DICK ANDERSON

I hope everyone had a nice thanksgiving with family and friends, looking back I want to thank everyone that helped at the bazaar. Coming up on December 7th we have Christmas Around The World Friday at 7:PM I am looking forward to it as it will be a wonderful start for the Christmas season. The Christmas Pageant is December 16th, during the Holidays some of us will be traveling to visit family and friends, I hope everyone has safe travels.

God Bless and Merry Christmas

Dick and Ginny



Advent Devotional

You will receive or have already received an Advent booklet of scripture readings, **reflections and prayers or the season. It's titled 2018 Daily Advent Devotionals - Surprises Along the Way.**

The hope is that you will take a few minutes each day to read them. They center around the theme of hunger and the fact that 40 million Americans go hungry. This figure includes children, the working poor, the unemployed and homeless people.

If you should need additional copies, please see Fr. Rob. There are enough for every person to have their own copy. Have a Happy and Blessed Advent!!

HTEC BAZAAR 2018 ANOTHER FABULOUS SUCCESS!

Thank you...

To all who donated, worked, baked, crafted, shopped, organized, and contributed time, talent, baskets, muscle, money and bright ideas. We served over 70 chili, sweet potato and chicken soup lunches and filled many orders to go. We were thrilled by the amount of **traffic we had consistently throughout the day. We have been blessed with many "regulars"** who support us every year. Over 50 gift baskets, many holiday crafts and dozens and dozens of baked goods were purchased. We sold 680 tickets for the onsite raffles. Thank you to all who donated gift baskets, crafts and baked goods. The bazaar brought in approximately \$5,500.00 after expenses. We are so blessed to have such remarkable and generous people in our midst. Both setting up and cleaning up afterwards went efficiently and quickly thanks to the many hands who pitched in. Every effort made a difference. Thank you again.

Kate & Linda

The Makings of a Conspiracy

Over a decade ago, a few pastors were lamenting how they'd come to the end of an Advent season exhausted and sensing they'd *missed it* – the awe-inducing, soul-satisfying mystery of the incarnation.

For many of us, we were drowning in a sea of financial debt and endless lists of gifts to buy. We struggled to find the connection between our Christmas to-do lists and the story of Jesus' birth.

An overwhelming stress had overtaken worship and celebration.

The time of year when focusing on Christ should be the easiest was often the hardest. Somehow, this had become the new normal.

So, in 2006, three pastors, Chris Seay, Greg Holder, and Rick McKinley, decided to try something different. They called it the Advent Conspiracy movement, and came up with four tenets—Worship Fully, Spend Less, Give More, Love All—to guide themselves, their families, and congregations through the Christmas season.

WORSHIP FULLY



Nearly every character in the Christmas story that encountered our King responded in the same way: **worship**. Let's make the conscious effort to reorient our hearts toward Christ. Christmas began with worship, may it end with worship.

SPEND LESS



In our hearts we know mindless consumption is not the way to celebrate Jesus. But spending less does not mean spending nothing. Rather we will thoughtfully evaluate what companies and causes we support through our purchases.

GIVE MORE



The best gifts celebrate a relationship and most often they require our time and energy. Relational giving means that we think about the other person—who they are and what they care about. We focus more on giving our undivided presence and less on a pile of presents under the tree.

LOVE ALL



Christmas is a chance to move closer to those in crisis. We will love others as Jesus has loved us. The poor and hurting of our world can be reached by God through the way we choose to celebrate Christmas.

The movement started small—just a handful of churches who would try this experiment and make the Advent story personal again. That first Christmas they got creative, changed their traditions, and ended up raising enough money for a water-well in West Africa.

The news spread quickly, a book was written, videos were created, and along the way a revolution was born.

Today

Over the last decade, thousands of churches have celebrated with more relational traditions, partnered with more organizations, and have channeled more resources to the poor, marginalized, and forgotten.

Advent Conspiracy is about the entire body of Christ at work in the world. As we worship fully, spend less, give more, and love all, something begins to happen that is greater than any single person, church, or denomination. As the Church, we are telling the story of Jesus to the watching world.

Our prayer is that more churches join together to live out the story of Jesus' sacrificial love. God is not finished with our world and He is inviting us deeper into the



HOLY TRINITY
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
and
*Chris Falteisek, noted musician
and entertainer, present*

*Christmas Around
the World*

Friday, December 7, 2018 | 7:00 p.m.
1326 4th St. NW, Elk River, MN | (763) 441-5482

This Holiday Concert will feature songs, stories
and photographs with an emphasis on Nordic
Christmas customs, traditions and music.

Free Will Offering – Limited Seating Available (First Come, First Serve)
This concert invitation is extended to adults.
Punch, Coffee, Christmas Cookies and Bars served following Concert

Chris Falteisek has composed and recorded 17 albums. His most
recent album project is "Christmas Cheer." Chris has performed in
the United States and Europe.
Visit his website at www.falteisek.com for more information.



BLUE CHRISTMAS
SERVICE
of SOLACE and COMFORT

**TUESDAY
DECEMBER 11, 2018
7:00PM**

A Community Wide Service for
Those Living with Loss, Depression,
Anxiety and Struggle!

ALL ARE WELCOME!

HOLY TRINITY
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

763-441-5482
1326 4th Street
Elk River, MN
www.HolyTrinityElkRiver.org




How to walk the labyrinth

Unlike a maze, a labyrinth has just one path, so there are no tricks to it and no dead ends. It is a two-way path, so you may meet others coming or going on the path.

Three stages of the walk

- Purgation (Releasing) ~ A releasing, a letting go of the details of your life. This is the act of shedding thoughts and distractions. A time to open the heart and quiet the mind.
- Illumination (Receiving) ~ When you reach the center, stay there as long as you like. It is a place of meditation and prayer. Receive what is there for you to receive.

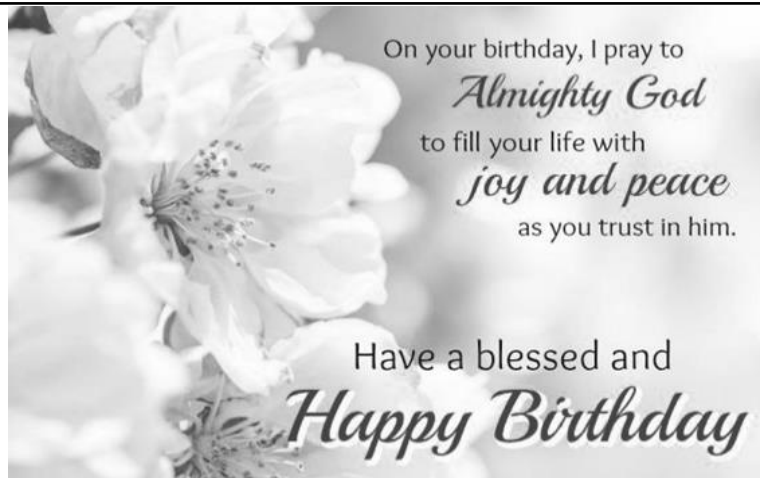
Union (Returning) ~ As you leave, following the same path out of the center as you came in, you enter the third stage, which is joining God, your Higher Power, or the healing forces at work in the world. Each time you walk the labyrinth you become more empowered to find and do the work for which you feel your soul is reaching.

Guidelines for the walk

Quiet your mind and become aware of your breath. Allow yourself to find the pace your body wants to go. Since the path is two-way, those going in will meet those coming out. You may “pass” people or let others step around you. Do what feels natural. Walk the labyrinth with an open mind and an open heart.

World-Wide Labyrinth Locator is at <https://labyrinthlocator.com/>

The Modern Labyrinth Movement was founded at Grace Cathedral.



On your birthday, I pray to
Almighty God
 to fill your life with
joy and peace
 as you trust in him.

Have a blessed and
Happy Birthday

Special Blessings to all our December Birthday Trinitarians!

01 – Mariatu Andersen	12 – Carol Weber
02 – Camden Marquette	18 – Matt Krogman
05 – Jackson Stewart	31 – Ginny Anderson
11 – Julie Raitz	

WHY BLUE IN ADVENT?

Advent marks the beginning of the liturgical new year and is a time when we ponder the coming of Christ in time, as the Babe of Bethlehem, and at the end of time as our Judge and Redeemer. The word advent **comes to us from the Latin meaning "to come."**

As way to mark this season of expectation and hope, we wear blue vestments during Advent. This is a recovery of an ancient English tradition stemming from Salisbury Cathedral and so is sometimes referred to as sarum blue. (*Sarum* being the ancient Latin name for Salisbury.) While the deep blue conveys a feeling of solemnity because of its association with the Blessed Virgin Mary it also conveys the Advent themes of hope and expectation. On the Third Sunday in Advent we see hints of pink on the vestments marking that Sunday as Gaudete Sunday reflecting the opening words of the ancient introit appointed for the day: *Rejoice in the Lord, always!*

Altar Guild

Gail Weber
612-850-4250

Meals on Wheels

Call or see
Cheryl Ecklund
763-443-8637

Senior Choir
and Contemporary
Ensemble Singers
and Musicians

Call or see
Bea Bastyr
763.441.4068

Chalice
Bearers
Acolytes

Contact the Church office

Feed My Starving
Children

Entire parish
Contact the Church Office

Women's Group

Call or see
Linda Krieger
763-441-7072

Men's
Group

Call or see
Ben Bastyr
763.441.4068

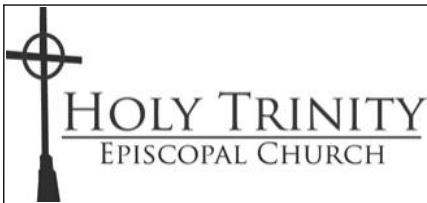
Feast Days in December

21st	St Thomas, Apostle
26th	St Stephen, Deacon and Martyr
27th	St John, Apostle and Evangelist
28th	Holy Innocents



Looking Ahead to January:

January 1	The Holy Name of Jesus
January 6	The Epiphany
January 18	The Confession of St. Peter the Apostle
January 25	The Confession of St. Paul the Apostle



Ministry Rota

If you are unable to fill your volunteer position, please make your own substitution and leave word with the office. Thank you!

<u>Ministry</u>	<u>December 2</u>	<u>December 9</u>	<u>December 16</u>	<u>December 23</u>	<u>December 30</u>
Greeter:	Nancy/Nel	Jane Lindenfesler	Dick Anderson	Ginny Anderson	David Raitz
Child Care:	Alex Stewart	Alex Stewart	Alex Stewart	Alex Stewart	Alex Stewart
Usher:	Gary Wedl	Dick Anderson	Ben Bastyr	Larry Brugger	Dan Krieger
Acolyte:	Deb Krogman	Matt Krieger	Eric Andersen	Wiltie Russell	Jon Lloyd
1st Reader:	Daryl Herrmann	Carl Newberg	Gail Weber	Marion Marshall	Jane Lindenfesler
2nd Reader:	Mary Brugger	Eric Hawkins	Mary Dare	Ken Schultz	Daryl Herrmann
Prayers:	Marion Marshall	Sherrill Newberg	Jane Lindenfesler	Kate Hansen	Marion Marshall
Chalice 1:	Mary Dare	Larry Brugger	Julie Raitz	Molly Liberto	Jane Lindenfesler
Chalice 2:	Kate Hansen	Linda Krieger	Mary Brugger	Scott Svoboda	Mary Dare
Counter:	Deb Krogman	Molly Liberto	Linda Krieger	Jennifer Warner	Deb Krogman
Coffee:	Bea & Ben	Molly and Jeanne Mary		Molly & Jeanne	Julie




Our Mission Statement

Holy Trinity is a diverse, multi-cultural, growing, dynamic faith community rich in liturgy and music that serves Christ in all persons.

HOLY TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH			HTEC VESTRY MEMBERS		
Priest-in-Charge	Fr. Rob Cavanna	320-339-4852	Senior Warden	Sue Nagorski	612-868-9263 C
Deacon	Rev. Georgia Steele	651-338-7346	Junior Warden	Tim Ecklund	763-276-1434 H
Parish Admin.	Jen Haag	612-685-6139	Service	Dick Anderson	612-812-2581 C
Director of Music	Bea Bastyr	763-441-4068	Liturgy	Kate Hansen	763-441-6061 H
Head Usher	Dan Krieger	763-441-7072	Education	Molly Liberto	763-742-2692 H
Altar Guild Chair	Gail Weber	612-850-4250	Evangelism	Nancy Lloyd	763-370-9598 C
Women's Group Co-Chairs	Linda Krieger Kate Hansen	763-441-7072	Pastoral Care	Christine Peterson/ Sandy Sisson (temp)	612-968-3445 H
Men's Group Chair	Ben Bastyr	763-441-4068	Treasurer	Jeff Nagorski	763-234-5000 C
Youth	Molly Liberto	763-742-2692	Vestry Clerk	Joyce LeClaire	763-263-7740 C



December 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Every Sunday: 10:00 Holy Eucharist and Sunday School 11:20 Coffee Fellowship						1 9:00am Women's Group Meeting
2 First Sunday of Advent Guardian Angels Annual Meeting Labyrinth open for Prayer and Meditation! See Deacon Georgia.	3	4	5 10:00am-12:00pm Fr. Rob's office hours and Fr. Rob by appt.	6 6:30 Contemporary Rehearsal 7:30 Sr. Choir Rehearsal	7 7:00pm Christmas Around the World, with Chris Falteisek	8
9 10:00 am 2nd Sunday of Advent/ Sweet Shoppe Labyrinth open for Prayer and Meditation! See Deacon Georgia.	10	11 7:00 pm Blue Christmas Community Gathering Service of Solace & Comfort	12 10:00am-12:00pm Fr. Rob's office hours and Fr. Rob by appt.	13	14	15 11:00am - 1:00pm. Sunday School/ Youth Birthday Party/Lunch for Jesus
16 Third Sunday of Advent Annual Christmas Pageant Labyrinth open for Prayer and Meditation! See Deacon Georgia. Finance Committee and Vestry Meets in the Church.	17	18	19 10:00am-12:00pm Fr. Rob's office hours and Fr. Rob by appt.	20	21 St Thomas, Apostle	22
23 Fourth Sunday of Advent Labyrinth open for Prayer and Meditation! See Deacon Georgia.	24 4:40pm Christmas Eve Hymn/Carol Singing 5:00pm Festive Candlelight Eucharist/Sherry Toasts follows Liturgy	25 No services today! Merry Christmas! Put a picture somewhere of a Nativity scene.	26 St Stephen, Deacon and Martyr	27 St John, Apostle and Evangelist	28 Holy Innocents	29
30 First Sunday after Christmas Labyrinth open for Prayer and Meditation! See Deacon Georgia. /New Year Celebration	31					

Have a safe, Happy and Blessed New Year!

