

❖ ST. TIMOTHY'S PARCHMENT ❖

Volume 21 Issue 12

December 2023

Dear St. Timothy Folk,
It's Advent!!

We have entered Advent, the season of anticipation and expectation in which we reflect on the coming ("advent") of Christ – his coming in the past as a babe in Bethlehem, his coming at the end of time to reign over all things, and his coming to us in our lives in the present. It is difficult not to get swept up in the flood of holiday and Christmas music, celebrations, shopping, cooking, and "stuff". Advent invites us to take time out to reflect on the messages of Advent, listen for God's voice and be aware of God's presence within and around us.

This is also the season for our Annual Parish Meeting, which will take place Sunday, December 3rd, after the Gospel reading at the 11:00 a.m. service in place of the homily. A financial statement of the Parish through October 31st will be available and short reports will be given. We will not have a Potluck lunch, but we will have Coffee Hour. On Wednesday, December 6th, we will have a supper marking the Feast of St. Nicholas with food with a Greek flavor. On Sunday, December 10th, we will celebrate our Holiday Dinner at 5:00 p.m. Please be sure to sign up!

An important part of Advent is preparing for the annual remembrance of our Savior's birth, the feast we call Christmas. This is a year when December 24th falls on Sunday, so we have both the

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Recording Sunday Service and Posting to Facebook

This has become a vital part of the ministry of St. Timothy's. Many of our members are not able to join us and many now have distant family and friends joining us via our weekly video posts. Our new equipment allows us to record and broadcast our service live from the back of the church. The equipment is in place but needs to be monitored. Jess Shirley is looking for interested members to train and join in the rotation of operating the recording and sound equipment. Anyone interested in being a part of our A/V production, please contact Jess Shirley.

Links to Sunday Services

<https://www.facebook.com/sttimscalhoun>
or <https://www.sttimothycalhoun.org/>
You may have to scroll down when you get to Facebook.



St. Timothy's Episcopal Church Vestry Minutes November 26, 2023

Present: Rev. Linda Pineo (Priest in Charge), Lisa Dunbar (Senior Warden), Beth Vaughn, Jess Shirley, Kelli DeGuire

Absent: Lyle Currier (Junior Warden), Louise Purdy

Called to Order with Prayer

Designate Secretary for this meeting - Kelli

Approval of previous minutes - All

Treasurer's Report October - Approved

Items to be added to the Vestry Agenda

Facilities Request - Pulpit lights are blinking; discussed plans to repair.

Professional Cleaning of Kitchen - \$800 approved to be taken from Building

Fund for professional cleaning of the Parish Hall tile. Discussed moving ice machine.

Action Items

Report from Priest in Charge

Discussed more formal training of LEM/Lector Training.

Confirmation - Harrison, Zelly, and Alex on January 28th

Advent – spoken Lord's Prayer not sung, Rite II.

Annual Church Meeting

New vestry members

Lisa to prepare report: Year in Review and Looking Forward

- Continued on page 2

50th Anniversary - Jan. 28th

Discussed using processional torches. May need a new stand built. Also discussed inviting past members and having new Acolytes serve

Established VPOD for each service through December

Committee reports and Updates

Education

Adult education - Charlie and Kelli will do a book study starting in January

Youth - t-shirt fundraiser approved

Instructional Eucharist – Rev. Linda will choose a date

Outreach – reviewed report

Future Calendar

December meeting - December 17 briefly at coffee hour, new Vestry members invited to attend.

Adjourned with prayer



The committees current projects include -Adopt a Child/Family from VAC for Christmas; Items to include in

VAC Senior Boxes for Christmas; Purchasing gifts for the Calhoun Senior Center holiday party; and a “50 for 50” birthday celebration we can all participate with. More information will follow in early December. All are welcome to participate with any of these projects.

Christmas Poinsettias

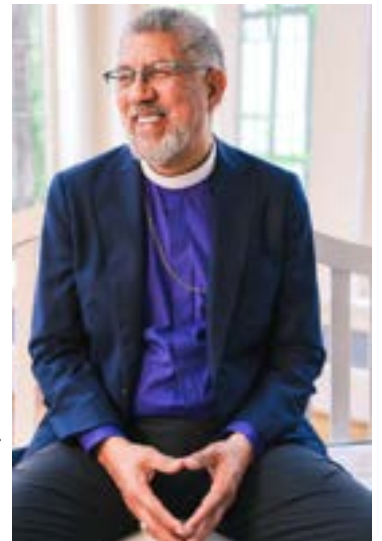


Please sign up to order your Christmas poinsettias. An order sheet will be included with your church bulletins. Price is still \$10 each. The last day to order is Sunday, 12/17.

The Bishop is Coming!

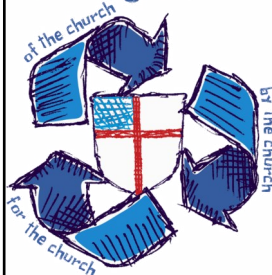
The kitchen needs to be cleaned in preparation for the Bishop’s visit and our 50th birthday! A list of things to do has been posted on the refrigerator. Watch for notices about dates and times to participate in accomplishing the tasks.

We have contracted professional cleaners to help with some of the bigger jobs. If anyone has questions, please contact Janet Lonvick, jrslonvick@gmail.com or call 512-944-3170.



The Right Rev. Robert Christopher Wright is the 10th bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Atlanta. He was elected on June 2, 2012.

Evangelism



The Evangelism committee is working hard to get our name out in the community, and it seems to be working! We were surprised last Sunday when it was discovered that we had given out all of our Welcome Bags already! What a good problem to have!

The committee is entering the “Snowmen Spectacular” contest at the Calhoun Rec this year. We are building a snowman of St. Nicholas (the original Santa Claus.) Please consider sponsoring us for the entry fee of \$30 and another \$20 for materials.

AND you can help by:

- liking and sharing **every** post from St. Timothy’s on social media
- inviting a friend to church
- inviting a friend to Wednesday night dinner

Plans are underway to create a video that showcases what makes St. Timothy’s special. Stay tuned for updates on this important project!

Fourth Sunday of Advent and Christmas Eve. At 11:00 a.m. we will have a regular Eucharist for Advent IV, and then the Altar Guild and Flower Guild will quickly decorate and set up for Christmas Eve. There will be two Christmas Eve services. The first, at 4:00 p.m., will be a family service with lessons and prayers and Communion. This is a good service for families with children and grandchildren, and for those who prefer not to drive after dark. The other service will be at 11:00 p.m. with a time of Christmas carols beginning at 10:30 p.m. This service will be the full Eucharist for the Feast of the Nativity of our Lord with hymns, lessons, homily, prayers and Communion. This will be preceded by a festive gathering for food and fellowship at 9:00 p.m.

We are still very happy to receive pledges for 2024.

Advent blessings!

Rev. Linda+



Sign up to participate!

Sign-up sheets are posted on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall for upcoming events. Please sign-up to attend as well as what you would like to bring to add to the festivities.

Sign-up for:

- Dec. 6th St. Nicholas Festival meal
- Dec. 10th Annual Christmas dinner
- Dec. 24th Festive Gathering on Christmas eve prior to the 10:30 carol singing and 11:00 pm service

Any questions, contact a member of the Parish Life Committee.



- Dec. 5 Louis & Sally Tonsmeire
- Dec. 8 C. K. & Ilene White
- Dec. 14 Tom & Chareen Chaapel
- Dec. 23 Charlie & Linda Phelps



A gathering on Nov. 10-11, 2023, at The Cathedral of St. Philip in Atlanta where more than 500 delegates to the Diocese's 117th Annual Council leaned in to learning new ways of being church.

Bishop Wright instituted the Bishop's Cross to acknowledge and celebrate the ministries of exemplary clergy, and lay people throughout the diocese. These special people embody the diocesan purpose statement: we challenge ourselves and the world to love like Jesus, as we worship joyfully, serve compassionately and grow spiritually.

Father Louis Tonsmeire, Sr., was awarded The Bishop's Cross for decades of inspirational leadership.

CONTACTS

Office: 706-629-1056 or timothyschurch@gmail.com

Follow us on Facebook at St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, Calhoun, GA or our webpage

www.sttimothycalhoun.org/



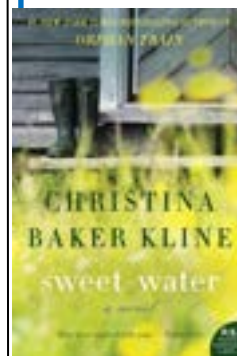
- Dec. 1 Frank Wilson
- Dec. 8 Stephanie Lackey
- Dec. 10 Sabrina Falkenhagen
- Dec. 10 John McCoy
- Dec. 11 Sam Tomasello
- Dec. 12 Jess Shirley
- Dec. 13 Chris Lonvick
- Dec. 15 Grace Bramblette
- Dec. 20 Gene Jones
- Dec. 21 Carol Frost
- Dec. 23 Emmie Camp
- Dec. 23 Andrea Scott
- Dec. 26 Steve Vedrody
- Dec. 28 Kerry Dunbar

NO
First Sunday brunch on Dec. 3rd.
Our Annual Holiday Dinner will be on
Sunday Dec. 10th.

COVER TO COVER

Book Club

All are welcome to join our Church Book Club. We meet at the Parish House starting at 6:30 PM with discussion beginning at 7:00. On Monday, Dec 18, we'll discuss SWEET WATER by Christine Kline. "Cassie Simon, an artist living in New York City, is willed a house a sixty acres of land in Sweetwater, Tennessee, by her grandfather ... Impulsively, Cassie decides to move to the town where her mother, Ellen, died tragically when Cassie was only three." All are invited to join us for great reads and good conversation! Contact Roberta, 678-773-5655, with any questions.



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A monthly calendar is posted on the bulletin board in the Parish Hall for sign up to offer flowers for the altar. Post your name, "in honor of ...", and submit

your payment to the indicated flower guild person listed for the month. Remember checks for \$30 are not made to the church.

The Outreach Committee thanks you for your help in filling the *Little Red Wagon*. For December VAC requests that we provide breakfast cereal. These are the items they are needing to refill their pantry.



Together we emulate Christ!



... is a global nonprofit working to eradicate poverty and hunger through sustainable, values-based holistic community development. Heifer International distributes animals, along with agricultural and values-based training, to families in need around the world as a means of providing self-sufficiency. Recipients must agree to "pass on the gift" by donating animal offspring, as well as sharing the skills and knowledge of animal husbandry and agricultural training with other impoverished families in the community. St. Timothy's will again offer the opportunity to participate in this effort. Charry Chaapel will have donation forms, gift cards, etc. available during coffee hour after church service.

Jesus came as Light into our dark world ...

- The **first candle** symbolizes **hope** and is called the "Prophet's Candle." The prophets of the Old Testament waited in hope for the Messiah's arrival. The purple color symbolizes royalty, repentance, and fasting.
- The **second candle** represents **faith** and is called "Bethlehem's Candle." Micah had foretold that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem, also the birthplace of King David. The second candle is also purple to symbolize preparation for the coming king.
- The **third candle** symbolizes **joy** and is called the "Shepherd's Candle." To the shepherd's great joy, the angels announced that Jesus came for humble, unimportant people like them, too. In liturgy, the color rose signifies joy.
- The **fourth candle** represents **peace** and is called the "Angel's Candle." The angels announced that Jesus came to bring peace--He came to bring people close to God and to each other again. This color is also purple to represent the culmination of love through the Messiah.
- The (optional) **fifth candle** represents **light and purity** and is called "Christ's candle." It is placed in the middle and is lit on Christmas Day. This candle is white to represent pure light and victory.



Advent is a time of expectation and hope filled with rich traditions. "Advent" means "arrival" or "coming," and it prompts us to pause each day in December and remember why Jesus came at Christmas.

The word "Advent" is derived from the Latin word *adventus*, meaning "coming," which is a translation of the Greek word *parousia*. Most know Advent today as a time of anticipation and expectation of the birth of Christ. However, Advent began as early as the 4th and 5th centuries as a time of fasting and prayer for new Christians. The first mention of Advent occurred in the 300's A.D at a meeting of church leaders called the Council of Sargossa. It gradually developed into a season that stretched across the month of December. Advent lasts for four Sundays leading up to Christmas. The Advent season not only symbolizes the waiting for Christ's birth but also for his final return.

The Advent wreath is a symbol of the season, with a candlelit each of the four Sundays leading up to and on Christmas Day. The light of the flickering candle flames reminds us who Jesus is: "In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." (John 1:4-5). Advent candles are often nestled in the evergreen wreath. Additional decorations, like holly and berries, are sometimes added. Their red color points ahead to Jesus' sacrifice and death on the cross, shedding his blood for our sins.

Pinecones can symbolize the new life that Jesus brings through His resurrection. Families begin lighting a candle on the fourth Sunday before Christmas, and they light another candle each subsequent Sunday.

December 6th is a day when we remember Saint Nicholas, the fourth-century saint who became an inspiration to many through his kindness and generosity. On Wednesday night, Dec 6th, a dinner celebration of the Feast of St. Nicholas will be held. The theme will be Greek food. Janet Lonvick and Rita Collins will be the hosts.




It's Snow Time!

VISIT AND VOTE FOR YOUR FAVORITE SNOWMAN

110 Recreation Drive, Calhoun
Dec. 1-17, 2023

COMMUNITY-WIDE SNOWMAN BUILDING COMPETITION

Visit our snowman entry! St. Timothy's is proud to participate in the first annual Snowman Spectacular at the Black & Gold Park just off of McDaniel Station Road. The Evangelism Committee developed the idea and many hands helped to construct St. Nicholas, the original Santa Claus.



It started with laundry baskets and strips of plastic trash bags. Please vote at our snowman or at church for our entry to win the Peoples Choice prize.





The true story of Santa Claus begins with Nicholas, who was born during the third century in the village of Patara in Asia Minor. At the time the area was Greek and is now on the southern coast of Turkey. His wealthy parents, who raised him to be a devout Christian, died in an epidemic while Nicholas was still young. Obeying Jesus' words to "sell what you own and give the money to the poor," Nicholas used his whole inheritance to assist the needy, the sick, and the suffering. He dedicated his life to serving God and was made Bishop of Myra while still a young man. Bishop Nicholas became known throughout the land for his generosity to those in need, his love for children, and his concern for sailors and ships.