

The Incarnation Word

January 2014

Presiding Bishop's Christmas Message



For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:6

Isaiah pronounces these words to a people who remember the yoke of slavery laid on their shoulders. They've been waiting for this child, whose birth transforms that yoke into a mantle of authority. They are promised that this authority will continue to grow as the peaceable commonwealth is established – with justice and righteousness for all, and for ever.

This promise is spoken anew to people in every age, to those who have lived under oppression or in dark depression, to the hungry and ill and imprisoned. The birth we celebrate offers hope, in Word made flesh, who comes among us to heal and walk this way with us. The mantle of authority on his shoulders begins in the swaddling clothes of a child born in the humblest of circumstances. Yet that authority is recognized even by foreigners from far away. That mantle of authority does continue to grow, through a life offered for others, raised into new life, and passed on to new generations of fleshly

God-bearers. Wherever justice and righteousness is done, that authority is growing, borne on the shoulders of the Prince of Peace.

He comes again, bearing the grace of the One whose image he wears in flesh. Seek him, sing his new song, declare his glory, and tell out the good news to all the nations: God reigns, and he is coming bearing righteousness and truth on his shoulders.

May you discover that humble authority born again on the edges of the world's notice. May that royal inheritance and authority of the stable be born in you, enliven your heart, and rest on your shoulders. Bear it abroad in peace, this year and throughout the ages.

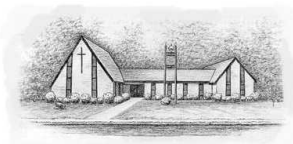
**The Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori
Presiding Bishop and Primate
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The Episcopal Church of the Incarnation

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The Rt. Rev. W. Andrew Waldo Bishop of Upper S. C.
The Rev. Jenny Gettys Rector
The Rev. Pat Gotautas Deacon
Mrs. Ann Batchler Parish Sec. / Bookkeeper
Mr. Hal Tyson Choir Director and Organist

2014 Vestry

Bobby Love	864-487-7256
Ree Batten	864-590-2641
Scott Glidden	704-473-7318
Sara Harding	864-463-7922
Danny Stacy	864-489-7401
Lori Thompson	504-982-4576
Carla Winter	864-489-2636

ex officio, David Taylor	Treasurer	864-838-5602
ex officio, Renée McFalls,	Vestry Clerk	864-487-0049

Deacon's Corner

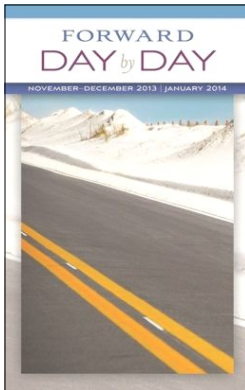


2014, a new year with new resolutions: lose weight, exercise more, turn off the TV and read more. Make my body and mind better. What though about our souls?

I was talking to some people the other day about sustaining our spirituality. We know that God listens to us all the time, but how much time do we listen to Him?



Building or maintaining our relationship with God can be the greatest resolution we ever make. Setting aside time with God and maintaining it can be the greatest gift we ever give ourselves. Everybody has to design their own "God time". Forward Day by Day is a magazine that you can get at the church. It gives you the Bible readings for each day and has a




meditation that helps guide you through the church year. Those readings combined with prayer time can be a great start to helping build your time with God.

Make it a habit and your "God time" will become an amazing part of your life. May 2014 be a year filled with God rich blessings and may your spiritual life be one filled with the light and life of Christ.

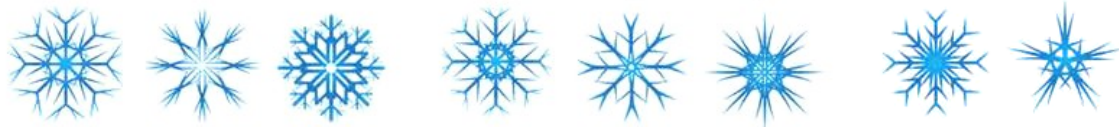
Love and Blessings,
Pat



January 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 1st Christmas 8:30 HE I 9:30 Fellowship 10:30 HE II	30	31	1 No Service	2 6:30 EfM	3	4 9:30 DOK
.....Jenny on vacation.....						
5 2nd Christmas 8:30 HE I 9:30 Breakfast. 10:30 Lessons & Carols with HE II 5:00 Epiphany Service	6 Epiphany 	7	8 6:00 HE/Healing 7:00 Choir	9 6:30 EfM	10 Rector's Sabbath	11
12 1st Epiphany 8:30 HE I 9:30 Christian Ed. 10:30 HE II 11:45 Worship Committee Meeting	13	14	15 6:00 HE/Healing 7:00 Choir	16 6:30 EfM	17 Rector's Sabbath	18
19 2nd Epiphany 8:30 HE I 9:30 Christian Ed. 10:30 Confirmation 11:45 Reception 12:15 Vestry Mtg.	20 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	21 7:00 Vestry Meeting	22 6:00 HE/Healing 7:00 Choir	23 6:30 EfM	24 Rector's Sabbath	25
26 3rd Epiphany Fourth for food 8:30 HE I 9:30 Christian Ed. 10:30 HE II	27	28	29 6:00 HE/Healing 7:00 Choir	30 6:30 EfM	31 Rector's Sabbath	

January Servers' Schedule



Date	Jan. 5 10:30	Jan. 12 10:30	Jan. 19 10:30	Jan. 26 10:30
Acolyte	Tim Beaty	Ellis Greene	Alaina Hartman	Michael Darnell
OT Lector	Lori Thompson	Scott Glidden	Luke Harding	Cynthia Glidden
NT Lector	Renée McFalls	Jamie Greene	David Taylor	Pam Bradburn
Intercessor	Bobby Love	Leslie Brown	Danny Stacy	John Gelok
Eucharistic Minister	Michael Darnell	Frank Barnwell	Betty Tucker	Leslie Brown
Altar Guild	Jackie Hoffman LaDonna White Carla Winter	May Ella Blanton Charlotte Hartman Pam Bradburn Hope Greene Marty Marett	Dawn Bridges Jennie Hamrick	Sudie Gelok Cindy Love Lois Beam
Greeters	Love Family	Greene Family	Stacy Family	Gelok Family
Nursery	Sara Harding	Marty Marett	Lois Beam	Renée McFalls
Kids' Chapel	Luke Harding	Volunteer Needed	David Taylor	Ree Batten
Godly Play	None	Carol Pirkey Cynthia Glidden	Jessica Fowler Cindy Love	Marty Marett Lois Beam
Coffee Hour	Breakfast	Marty Marett	Dawn Bridges Jennie Hamrick	Sudie Gelok
Counters	Bob Friedman Ben Torres	David Taylor Cynthia Glidden	Bobby Love Ann Torres	John Gelok Scott Glidden

Buildings & Grounds

Playground



The new playground is here, and it's fabulous! A huge thanks to all those who gave their time (many taking off work to do so) to assemble it all and to feed the workers:

James Batten
Ree Batten
Lois Beam
Eddie Bridges
Miles Gettys
Cynthia Glidden
Scott Glidden
Joe Hamrick
Jude Harding
Luke Harding
Miriam Harding
Reuben Harding
Sara Harding
Seth Harding
Virginia Harding
Bobby Love
Cindy Love
Danny Stacy
Martha Stacy
David Taylor
Lori Thompson
Arnold Tucker
Carla Winter

We spent an exciting couple of days in the freezing cold digging holes and sinking poles in concrete and assembling the play structure. We did have a few setbacks -

like when we hit a water line with the augur and sent a geyser of water into the air, quickly turning the yard into a red mud swamp. Luckily, though, Danny Stacy was able to turn off the water at the street. David Taylor made a run to Buford Street and in no time Luke Harding and James Batten had repaired the water line and we were back in business. A few folks came back Saturday morning to put on the finishing touches, working hard to get it done before the rain came. We were just putting away the tools and heading in to lunch when it started pouring.

We still have a few more things to do: attach the roof and install the frog and whale spring riders. Then we'll have the mulch delivered and attach the swings and finally mount the sign. Then enjoy years of play and fun!

So, on behalf of the Incarnation Kids, thank you. Thank you to the Forts who made it all possible. Thank you to the folks at KorKat who found us so many discounts and made all this equipment fit our budget. And thank you to everyone who worked so hard to assemble it, especially those who don't have children or grandchildren who'll play here. May the playground be a beacon of Christ's love for our family and our community, inviting and welcoming children for years to come.



Christian Education

Godly Play Sundays, 9:30-10:15

We have some new stories to start the new year!

January 12 - Epiphany
The wise men bring very special gifts for the very special baby. I wonder what the gifts might mean?



January 19 - Baby Jesus Presented to God
Jesus' parents bring him to the temple to present him to God. I wonder what the others in the temple might say?

January 26 - Mary, the Mother of Jesus
Mary was an ordinary girl like many other girls until an angel came to her and gave her good news. I wonder what that news might mean for her life?

Grapple Sundays, 9:30-10:15

THREE WISE MEN



Our pre-teens are having a blast discovering new things about themselves and about their Lord. Their topics for January will be:

January 12 -
What would Jesus play on His iPod?
We'll talk about how to make good choices about the music we listen to.

January 19 -
Is God a Party Pooper?
The great news is that God encourages us to have fun!

January 26 -
Can Being a Christian ever be Fun?
We'll talk about what's really fun and what it's like to have a relationship with our wacky, fun-loving Lord.

Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday, February 2 after each service



Each year youth from churches worldwide stand outside their churches on Superbowl Sunday with soup pots. They ask worshippers to give just one dollar each to fight hunger. Our Grapple students will participate in this initiative this year. They'll register to be part of the program, and they'll collect money on Sunday, February 2. They'll then count what they collect and report the total to Souper Bowl of Caring. But they'll send every penny collected to the soup kitchen here in Gaffney to tackle hunger right here. They'll be able to see that, if everyone worldwide gives just one dollar,

Prayer List

The Sick:

Landry Brown
Katherine Buchanan
Micki Kaderabek

Those on the DOK prayer list

The Homebound and

Those with Long-Term Needs:

Drew Brady
Vince Caggiano
Butch Childers
Miller David
Peggy Fort
Isaac Gelok
Bill Glidden
Barbara Gupton
Frances Higgins
Frances Humphries
Nancy Jude
Jim Kennedy
Stephanie Parris
J. L. Peake
Marcia Peake
Bruce Risher
Suzanne Searson
Keith Smith
Jim Spigner
Mary Threadgill
Bruce Tyson

Those Serving Overseas in the Military:

Hannah Green

Thanksgivings:

The birth of Gabriel Barnwell, son of Johnathon and Brandy Barnwell.

The Deceased:

Tom Friday

Birthdays

Ben Torres	Jan. 1
David Taylor	Jan. 2
Trip Hartman	Jan. 4
Hannah Green	Jan. 4
Glenn Stacy	Jan. 6
Bobbie Albert	Jan. 8
Leslie Brown	Jan. 8
Wayne Zimmerman	Jan. 9
Joe Hartzog	Jan. 9
Ellen Zimmerman	Jan. 10
Pat Throneburg	Jan. 12
Patterson Greene	Jan. 12
Lois Beam	Jan. 13
William Meade	Jan. 15
Arnold Tucker	Jan. 16
Bob Friedman	Jan. 28

Anniversaries

Miles and Jenny Gettys	Jan. 22
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Attendance

Wednesday, November 27	35
Sunday, December 1	37
Wednesday, December 4	25
Sunday, December 8	49
Wednesday, December 11	37
Sunday, December 15	56
Wednesday, December 18	27
Sunday, December 22	50
Tuesday, December 24	80
Sunday, December 29	34

Bishop's Visitation



On Sunday, January 19, Bishop Hultstrand will be here for our annual Bishop's visitation. It will be a full day! Mark your calendar for all the opportunities to interact with a bishop.

takes a daring step in her faith and her church life. Bishop Hultstrand will preach and celebrate the Eucharist.

Reception at 11:45

We'll congratulate Carol Pirkey and greet Bishop Hultstrand over munchies.

Vestry Meeting at 12:15

The day will conclude with a chance for the vestry to meet with Bishop Hultstrand. We'll celebrate the joys and share the challenges of life at Incarnation with the bishop and hear how his office can be of assistance to us.



Adult Education at 9:30

Come hear from Bishop Hultstrand and ask him all your deep theological questions. He'll take the time to be with us this morning.

Confirmation Service at 10:30

Carol Pirkey will be confirmed at this glorious service. Come support her as she

the amount raised is staggering and can actually make a difference in the fight to end hunger.

Adult Ed - God in the Headlines Sundays, 9:30-10:15 Starting January 12



The news is full of theological issues - from the obvious issues like abortion or capital punishment to the more subtle issues like treatment of the poor or responding to

injustice in other countries. We'll take the time to explore some of those issues together. Bring in articles you found interesting or perplexing. We'll select a few to read and discuss, looking for what the Bible has to add to the discussion. It should be an interesting and enlightening way to do Bible Study together.

Volunteer

Looking for a new way to serve in the new year? Our Nursery and Children's Chapel programs are always looking for volunteers. Come be blessed by the Incarnation Kids!

Readings

	First Reading	Psalms	Second Reading	Gospel
Jan. 5 Christmas 2	Lessons and Carols			
Jan. 12 1st Epiphany	Isaiah 42:1-9	Psalms 29	Acts 10:34-43	Matthew 3:13-17
Jan. 19 2nd Epiphany	Isaiah 49:1-7	Psalms 40:1-12	1 Corinthians 1:1-9	John 1:29-42
Jan. 26 3rd Epiphany	Isaiah 9:1-4	Psalms 27:1, 5-13	1 Corinthians 1:10-18	Matthew 4:12-23

Just for fun...

Some people are kind, polite, and sweet-spirited... until you try to sit in their pews.

Many folks want to serve God, But only as advisors.

It is easier to preach ten sermons than it is to live one.

The good Lord didn't create anything without a purpose, but mosquitoes come close.

Quit griping about your church; If it were perfect, you couldn't belong.

Peace starts with a smile.

Coincidence is when God chooses to remain anonymous.

Forbidden fruits create many jams.

God doesn't call the qualified, He qualifies the called.

God promises a safe landing, not a calm passage.

If God is your Co-pilot, swap seats!

Worship



Poinsettias

Our Christmas altar is surrounded by beautiful poinsettias as a way to remember and celebrate those we love. They're given

in memory of...

- Our Parents by Mike and Pam Bradburn
- Our Parents and Grandparents by Eddie and Dawn Bridges
- Robert Ellison, Dennis Petty, and Ron Petty by Ann Ellison
- Father Fort by the Gelok Family
- Gwen Hart and Olga Simon by Eddie and Dawn Bridges
- June Jones by Danny and Martha Stacy
- Margaret Love by Bobby and Cindy Love
- Barbara Neff by Jack Neff
- Lisa Clement Parker by Frank and Tera Barnwell
- Casey Patton by Lori Thompson
- Paul Reinders by Jessica Fowler and Family
- Frederick Schofield by the Tucker Family
- Doris Stacy by Danny and Martha Stacy
- Paul Taylor and Dean Taylor by David Taylor
- Jeanette Tyson by Hal Tyson and Bobbi Albert
- Bill Winter by Carla Winter

in honor of...

- Clay Childers and Kayla Livingston by Jennie Hamrick
- All Deployed Troops by John and Kim Guthrie

in thanksgiving for...

- Our Church Family by Ronnie and Leslie Brown
- Our Church Family by Miles and Jenny Gettys
- My Family and My Church by Pat Gotautas
- My Church Family by Carla Winter



Epiphany Service Sunday, January 5 at 5:00 pm

Once again this year we'll celebrate the coming of the magi with the other Episcopal Churches in our convocation. We'll all gather at:

Church of the Epiphany
121 Ernest L. Collins Avenue
Spartanburg.

We'll remember the many ways God is revealed to us in readings and songs of celebration. Then we'll share the Eucharist together. Come celebrate the season together and help fill Church of the Epiphany for their patronal feast.

Men's Choir Sunday, January 12 at 10:15

The men did such an amazing job with the anthem in December that we're going to try it again. All the men of the church are invited to join in singing "We Three Kings" (hymn 128) during the 10:30 service on the first Sunday after the Epiphany, January 12. Most will find the hymn quite familiar, so our only practice will be at 10:15 on that day. Come make a joyful noise!

Worship in Epiphany



The season of Epiphany is when we remember the many ways God is revealed to us. The overarching symbol is the star that lit the sky over Bethlehem, pointing to the newborn Lord. You'll notice star imagery throughout our services this season.

We'll use Eucharistic Prayer C, with its reference to "the vast expanse of interstellar space." And our offertory sentence will be Isaiah 60:1, "Arise, shine; for your light has

come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you."

In Epiphany we talk about Jesus as the Light of the World. Light is what dispels the darkness of sin and ignorance with hope and grace. These themes are summed up perfectly in our Song of Praise for the season, Hymn 7, a Charles Wesley classic.



Christ, whose glory fills the skies,
Christ, the true, the only Light,
Sun of Righteousness, arise,
Triumph o'er the shades of night;
Dayspring from on high, be near;
Day-star, in my heart appear.

Dark and cheerless is the morn
Unaccompanied by Thee;
Joyless is the day's return
Till Thy mercy's beams I see;
Till they inward light impart,
Glad my eyes, and warm my heart.

Visit then this soul of mine,
Pierce the gloom of sin and grief;
Fill me, Radiance divine,
Scatter all my unbelief;
More and more Thyself display,
Shining to the perfect day.

This Epiphany may we all be filled with the light of Christ's love - and may we shine that light onto all we meet.