

THE CLOVER

ST. PATRICK'S NEWSLETTER

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From the Senior Warden, Olen Taylor

As we come to the end of yet another extraordinary year, I thank God for you and our clergy. Because of your love for and commitment to St. Patrick's and each other, our parish has been able to safely worship in-person and fellowship. We continue to give thanks for God's grace and blessings upon our parish, families and loved ones.

As we approach the new year, pray that we continue to grow in our faith and love for one another and that St. Patrick's can resume making a visible difference in our community.

I wish you all a blessed and very Merry Christmas!

On Advent and the Wreath

Advent is the beginning of the church year, starting with the fourth Sunday before Christmas and continuing through the day before Christmas. The name is derived from a Latin word for "coming." The season is a time of preparation and expectation for the coming celebration of Jesus' birth, and for the final coming of Christ "in power and glory." So, during Advent, we are called to ponder the meaning of both the 1st and 2nd coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and to consider what it means for our lives.

We are all familiar with the Advent wreath, a circle often of greenery, marked by four candles that represent the four Sundays of the season of Advent. A candle is lit as each Sunday is celebrated in Advent.

Advent wreaths are used both in churches and in homes for devotional purposes. The candles may be blue, purple, or lavender, depending on local custom. We at St. Patrick's use three purple and a pink candle. The pink candle is lit on the third Sunday in Advent. Also at St. Patrick's, we include a white candle in the center known as the "Christ Candle," symbolizing the light of Christ that has come into the world. The Christ Candle is lit on Christmas Eve.

The four candles are said to symbolize the Christian ideals hope, love, joy and peace. In researching, we could not find a reliable Episcopal church source that identified which Sunday in Advent corresponds to which symbol. That's something to work on.

St. Patrick's Episcopal Church

Christmas

Eve Service

6:00PM

COFFEE HOUR

Please plan to attend Coffee Hour in the Memorial Garden area immediately following service on

Sunday, December 19th

Though we'll be outside, appropriate COVID gathering protocol will remain.

2021 Harvest of Souls a Success

This year's Harvest of Souls Committee introduced new fundraising features. Colorful donation boxes to be filled with loose or spare change were given to parishioners. A safe, COVID-19 aware, silent auction featuring new, exciting items was held in the Parish Hall following the service. The committee's fundraising goal was \$5,000. The latest report is that the goal has been exceeded! What an excellent job!!

Many thanks to co-chairpersons Keane Wilkinson, Pamela Hurley and Elois McRae and the committee members and all who helped make HOS successful.

What's Happening with the Memorial Brick Garden?

Thank you for your support! The memorial benches are beautiful. The Memorial Brick Project committee certainly planned to have the engraved bricks laid by now. However, sales are slower than anticipated. This is certainly understood given the financial environment created by the pandemic over the past almost 2 years.

The committee is working to have all of the engraved bricks in the cross laid soon. We only have a few bricks to sell to complete the cross.

We've sold just a small number of the 4"x 8" bricks. So, to engrave them and lay a small quantity is more costly than planned. However, the committee is working on a solution so that they may be laid in the not too distant future.

2022 Commitment Cards

Thank you for pledging to provide financial support to St. Patrick's so that it can accomplish its spiritual and community missions and remain operational. If you didn't yet submit your commitment card, you may obtain one at church and return it there or you may submit it online via the church's website: www.stpatricksepiscopalchurch.org.

Do you shop on Amazon?

If you do, you can contribute to St. Patrick's by visiting smile.amazon.com, Amazon's feature that donates a small percentage of your purchase to your selected charity. Login as usual then select St. Patrick's in West Palm Beach as your charity.

Gratitude To Our Tech Team

Through these many months of the pandemic, St. Patrick's has been graced by the diligent and faithful gifts of our parishioners Letitia Sharry, Janice Ellis and Keane Wilkinson. We give our deepest gratitude and appreciation! We also thank Jaiden Pennyfeather for his valuable contributions during his breaks from college. Some of our youth are currently learning the live-stream process. If you have a chance, please share a word of appreciation to the team members.

Bible Study

Join Bible Study on Wednesdays at 7:00PM via Zoom. Current study is the Book of Romans. Sessions are led by Deacon Hurley and Mrs. Debbye Raing. Email the church office and request to receive the Zoom connection information.



When Christmas Comes

(Excerpt)

Ann D. Lutz

When Christmas comes,
The ancient words which tell us of His birth
Will tell again of Bethlehem
Where God came down to earth.

When Christmas comes,
We'll see again the wise men, shepherds, sheep
Around the Christ Child
Mary laid upon the hay to sleep.

When Christmas comes,
God's peace and love will light the world
with gladness
And those who live within that light
Will know not death nor sadness.

And so we pray for each and all
As Christmas Eve draws near,
The best of all God's gifts this night
And through the whole new year.