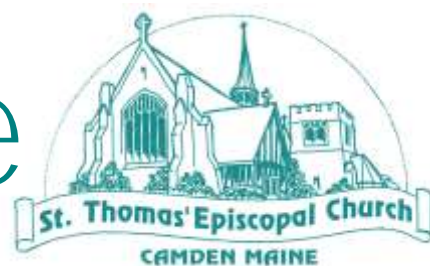


Chapter & Verse

THE NEWSLETTER OF ST. THOMAS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH
DECEMBER 2018



The Twelve Days of Christmas



The Twelve Days of Christmas: The Meaning Behind The Song

The twelve days of Christmas are the twelve days between Christmas Day, Dec. 25th, the birth of Jesus, and the Epiphany, Jan. 6th, the day Christians celebrate the arrival of the Magi (Wise Men) and the revelation of Christ as the light of the world.

The Christmas song, "The Twelve Days of Christmas" may sound silly and contrived to many of us. But it actually had its origins in religious symbolism - and with a serious purpose. It dates from a time of religious persecution. The song, "The Twelve Days of Christmas," was written as a kind of secret catechism that a person could sing in public without fear of arrest. It was a learning tool or memory aid to Christians in fact.

Popular folklore says that the song can be taken at two levels of interpretation: the surface meaning, and the hidden meaning known only to the Christians involved.

So here are the days, and the Christian teaching associated with them.

1. The partridge in a pear tree is Jesus.
2. The two turtledoves are the Old and New

Testaments.

3. Three French hens stand for faith, hope and love.

4. The four calling birds are the four Gospels.

5. The five gold rings recall the Hebrew Torah (Law), or the Pentateuch, the first five books of the Old Testament.

6. The six geese a-laying stand for the six days of creation.

7. The seven swans a-swimming represent the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit: apostles, prophets, teachers, miracles, healing, tongues, interpretation

8. The eight maids a-milking are the eight Beatitudes.

9. Nine ladies dancing are the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

10. The ten lords a-leaping are the Ten Commandments.

11. Eleven pipers piping represent the eleven faithful Apostles.

12. Twelve drummers drumming symbolize the twelve points of doctrine in the Apostles Creed.



If you think Jesus being symbolized as a partridge in a pear tree sounds blasphemous, remember:

"Jerusalem! Jerusalem! How often would I have sheltered thee under my wings, as a hen does her chicks, but thou wouldst not have it so." (Luke 13:34 and Matthew 23:34).

"My true love gave to me...."

"True love" refers to God, the God of love.

Go forth, to sing and praise the Lord!

Lisa+



Children's Pageant

The children are practicing for this year's Christmas pageant. It will take place during the 4:30pm Christmas Eve service and all children are welcome to participate. We are retelling the nativity story through gospel verses with songs and carols alongside the narration. There will be costumes for extra angels, animals and shepherds. Please encourage any visiting children or grandchildren to come to the Sunday school room by 4pm if they would like to pick out a costume so they can join the fun! We have a basic cast but would love some more actors and actresses! If you know of any interested children, they are also welcome to join us on Sunday, December 16th and 23rd at 9am in the Yellow Room to join in our rehearsals.

We would be most grateful for any help on Christmas Eve behind the scenes in the Yellow Room assisting children into their costumes. Please contact Rachel Bickham (troyandrachelb@hotmail.com) if you can help with this or have any questions about the pageant.

We look forward to sharing the joy and wonder of the Christmas story with you all.

Rachel Bickham

Keeping in touch:

Advent greetings to all of you:

In this season of expectation and hope, as we wait and watch for the birth of the Christ Child, please know that the St Thomas community is continually in my prayers. I look forward to formally reconnecting with our parish family as your Deacon on Sunday, January 6. In the reflection that follows, listening is lifted up—a way for us to express our care and concern for one another, as followers of Christ. I pray that I will listen thoughtfully and with an engaged heart when I am back among you. I yearn to reconnect with the stories of your lives.

Deacons Calling The Beloved Community to Action

This was the theme of the recent New England Deacon's Network conference, held in Framingham, MA. Deacons from Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New Hampshire and Maine, together with their Bishops, formed a dynamic learning and worshipping community. It was a privilege and joy for me!

Our presenters were The Rev Melanie Mullen, a member of Presiding Bishop Michael Curry's staff and Director of Reconciliation, Justice and Creation Care for the Episcopal Church, coupled with Darreby Ambler, founder of Wayfinders, a Maine-based discernment program for every person of faith.

I came away with a deeper conviction about the power of purposeful, deep listening—that the holy work of becoming God's beloved community first asks of us that we share and receive each other's stories. Jesus used stories to help teach about eternal truths—what matters most. Our church calendar year takes us through the Story of God in creation, helping us to live the loving, liberating, life-giving story.

"Our stories speak of God", we deacons were reminded. Story sharing, we learned, involves truth telling—trusting the Holy Spirit to move and open up a way of reconciling, abundant love amidst authentic "give and take". How do you live out your heart's 'call'? Is your soul life being nurtured and

'offered up'? How do you engage your passion as a deacon?

Our Presiding Bishop has a vision for Episcopal parishes, as part of the Way of Love. A story sharing practice is a vital part of a Jesus-centered life within a congregation, to grow and deepen relationships. As we develop our comfort with story sharing, we can then engage our neighbors, friends and colleagues, as ambassadors of Christ in the world.

-The Rev. Abby Pettee, Deacon



Thank You!!

"Giving is an expression of gratitude for our blessings"

-Laura Arrillaga-Andreessen

I'm thankful for all of St Thomas' Angels.

Once again you have shown your gratitude for the many blessings of our lives by giving so graciously to the Knox County Homeless Coalition Christmas initiative.

This year we were blessed with providing gifts for 13 families and you opened your hearts to those families who are in need of our help.

A special thanks to Francina, Pam, Rosalee and Gwen for helping track, and wrap and deliver our gifts.

Joanne Ryan, Outreach Coalition



Eucharistic Ministers

LEM's anyone?

We have added several new acolytes to our worship teams on Sundays, now it's time to add more adults.

Calling all ADULTS or older TEENS who wish to be trained as Lay Eucharistic Ministers (LEMs) for either the 7:30 or the 10:00 service.

At the 7:30 service, the LEMs The Lay Eucharistic Ministers carry the cross in and out, light candles, ring the bell, acolyte and help administer the chalice. *Full training is provided.*

At the 10:00 service, the LEMs assist with administering the chalice, and ring the bell during the Eucharistic prayer during worship on Sunday mornings, and occasionally-- if comfortable--fill in as needed. *Again, full training is provided.*

We currently have 3 LEMs who rotate Sundays at both of our services. We could use double that number. Now's your chance to see what really goes on up there in the chancel, but more importantly, to serve at the table of the Lord.

Lisa+

Next
Chapter & Verse
Deadline
Tuesday, February 26, 2019

Overheard in conversation:
"When the organ starts to play....."

In all my years on the organ bench I only noticed this recently. How curious! Do we ever say, "When the flute begins to play..." or "When the drum begins to play...." or "When the voice begins to.....?"

Is it because organists are frequently not visible? I am in the organ pit, some organists are in the rear of the church in a balcony or loft.

What do you think?

Jane Schroeder
Minister of Music
music@stthomascamdenme.org



Notes from Jane

A huge thank you to **Edmund Hartt** for taking on the stewardship of the Tower Bells! I will continue to program in the hymns to play daily at 11:50 a.m. and 5:50 p.m. and changing them according to re-

fect which part of the liturgical year we are in. Currently, in Advent, I have programmed in the following:

Hark! A thrilling voice is sounding #59
Rejoice, rejoice, believers #68
The King shall come when morning comes #73
Savior of the nations, come #54
The great forerunner of the morn #272
In the bleak midwinter #112
I come, the great Redeemer cries #116
Prepare the way, O Zion #65
Creator of the stars of night #60
O come, O come, Emmanuel #56
Let all mortal flesh keep silence #324

The numbers refer to where the hymns/chants are located in our *The Hymnal 1982/The Hymnbook*.

Maybe we could have a contest to see who can identify which hymn plays when?!?

Jane Schroeder
Minister of Music

Time Capsule

The
Corner Stone



The contents of the original
Time Capsule from 1922



Edmund Hartt, Junior Warden
Placing items inside the Time Capsule



The 2018 replacement
Time Capsule

On a windy morning, November 14, 2018 while masons were working on renovating the church all facing Chestnut Street, a time capsule was found. Sadly, its contents had been completely destroyed by water. Over the following week items were gathered by Parishioners to replace the time capsule. It was blessed on Sunday, November 18 by visiting priest, The Reverend Dr. Paul Tunkle and replaced in the hope it would be found in tact by a future generation.

The Explanation of Provenance included in the replacement capsule.

Thank you to Robert Nichols for the great photographs!

The Time Capsule

November 14, 2018 was a gray and windy. This was the morning crew working restoring the church wall facing Chestnut Street discovered a corner stone that was hollow. Upon further investigation, there was a time capsule, a metal box of copper and lead that was presumably place there when the structure was built in 1922. Unfortunately, water had seeped in and all of the content had completely disintegrated.

There was a very narrow window of opportunity to replace the time capsule, in hopes that future generations might be more fortunate in its discovery. Primary efforts were made by Elizabeth Moran, church archivist; Edmund Hartt, Junior Warden; and Jane Schroeder, Minister of Music to fill a small water tight container to be placed in the hollow.

The contents of the new time capsule include:

- ◆ Church Profile
- ◆ Service Leaflet, November 18, 2018
- ◆ The Choir Invisible Music
- ◆ Church Directory 2018
- ◆ Pictures of past Rectors*
- ◆ 2018 Annual Report
- ◆ Two pages from the current website to show who the Rector and staff were at the time*
- ◆ Explanation of Provenance*
- ◆ 2018 Coins:
 - 2- \$1
 - 2 – 50 cent pieces
 - 2 – Quarters
 - 2 – 2018 minted pennies

The new time capsule replaced the old on Monday, November 19, 2018.

*These paper items were laminated in an attempt to insure safety from potential water damage.

Thinking Ahead

In November we put to rest two long-standing members of the parish: Stormy Bok and Anne Edmonds. All my life it has been a privilege to play for the person we remember at a funeral or memorial service. Sometimes I have not known the person while here: it is still an honor to play for those folks, to learn of their lives. These two services were especially meaningful since I knew these two very different women, all they gave of themselves to St. Thomas' and all that St. Thomas' meant to them.

What I did not know was that each woman had very specific requests for music (as well as who was to sing) for their services. For each one I had only a week or two to put all of this together, to practice and rehearse and one of those weeks was Thanksgiving week. I scoured my music, consulted all my professional colleagues, put in requests via Inter Library Loan (I know Anne would be proud!) in order to fill these requests. Anne had lived through World War II in England: survived being sent out to the country during the war; survived her father being killed at the end of the war; survived being blinded in one eye by a bomb explosion. Anne requested Benjamin Britten's *War Requiem* which had so much significance for her. This was the one request I could not honor; I trust that Anne understood and appreciated my efforts.

Rev. Lisa is compiling a short form for a parishioner to fill out with requests for what kind of service you would like; e.g. Rite I, Rite II, readings, interment in the Memorial Garden, etc. We will also include questions as to what hymns are meaningful to you. It would be best if I can sit down with you in person to discuss your wishes; what is feasible, what would require some advance research, planning and rehearsal. **Then we will file this form**

in the church office so it is available to the Rector and the Minister of Music as well as your family. Think of this truly as a gift to you and to ease your loved ones as they plan your service.

Jane Schroeder
Minister of Music
music@stthomascamdenme.org

Possible Rector's classes for 2019

Several potential classes could be offered in the new year:

- ◆ A class about Angels, history to present day.
 - ◆ The Great Emergence (Phyllis Tickle) a discussion about the upheaval the church goes through about every 500 years. We're part of one, now.
 - ◆ I AM. A video about the interconnectivity of all things.
 - ◆ Celtic Spirituality
 - ◆ A book study?
 - ◆ The 7 Ways of Love (by Presiding Bishop Michael Curry)
 - ◆ Discerning Your Spiritual Gifts
- Let me know what appeals to you!

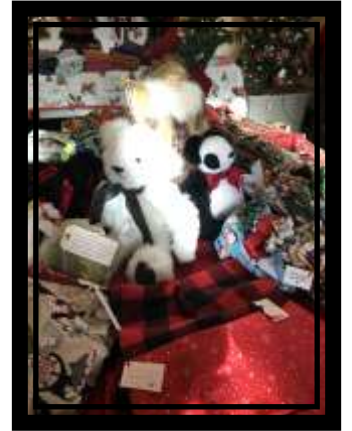
Lisa+

CLYNK

Our Clynk balance is up to a little over \$60! Thank you to those who have been donating bottles and cans!!

If you would like to help St. Thomas' by donating your bottles and cans, please stop by the office and pick up a Clynk bag and label from Raylene during regular office hours.

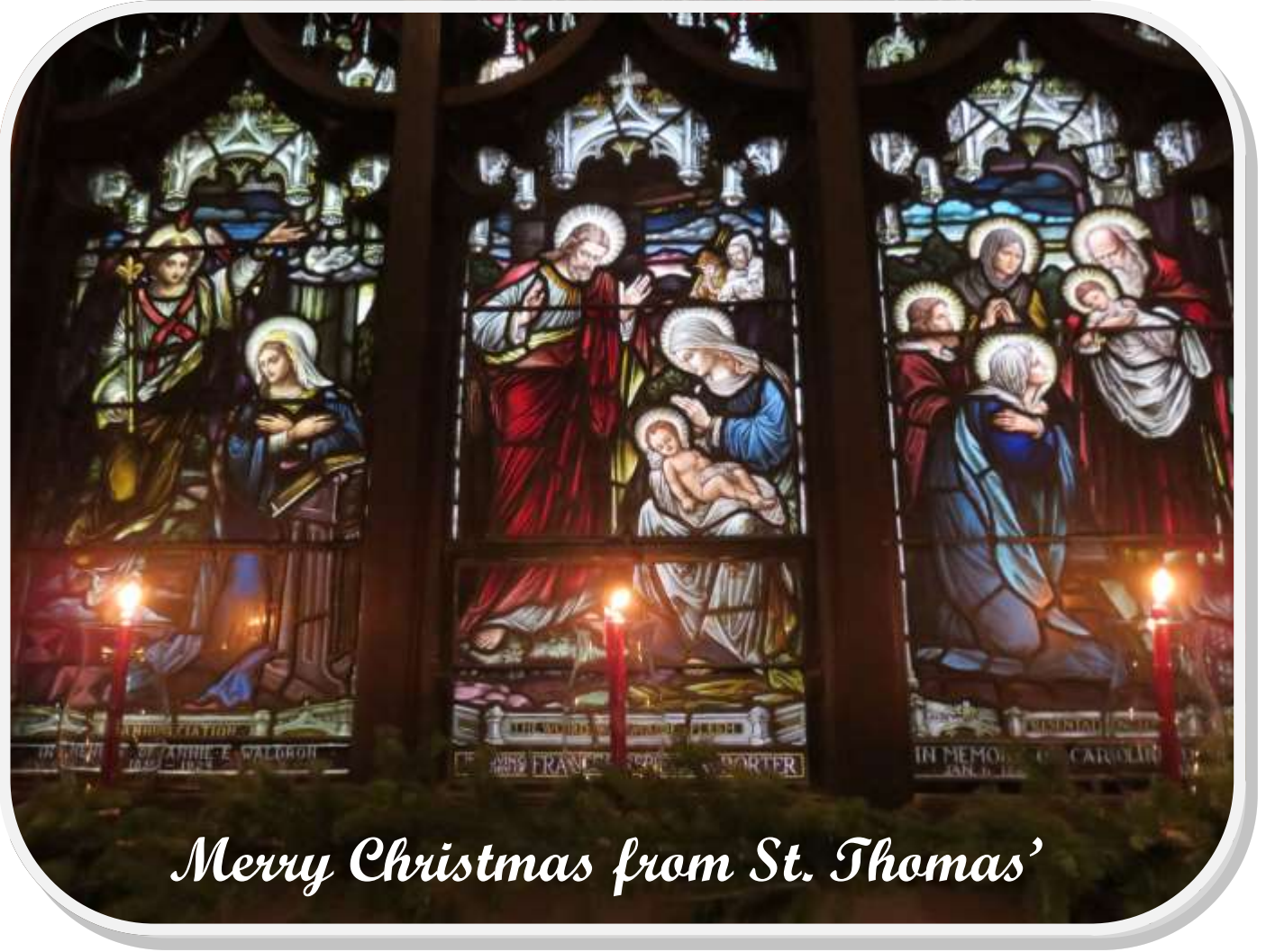
Thank you for helping us do our part for the environment while helping St. Thomas'!!





Christmas fair 2018





Merry Christmas from St. Thomas'

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VESTRY

Carlos Mello, Senior Warden (2021) ❖ Edmund Hartt, Junior Warden (2021)

Terry Mello, Treasurer ❖ Elizabeth Moran, Clerk

Susan Fockler (2019) Barbara Kent Lawrence (2019)

Eileen Morelli (2020) ❖ Suzanne Scott (2020) ❖ Fred Bucklin (2021) ❖ Elizabeth Moran ❖ (2021) ❖ Sarah Groman (2021)

STAFF

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