

**December, 2015**

**Vol. 35  
Issue 12**

Dear Friends,

During the month of December, we have the holy season of Advent when we recall Jesus' promise to us that He will come a second time ushering in the completion of the Kingdom of God in creation, and we celebrate the first coming of the Christ on Christmas. The beginning of the Church year with Advent is a reminder that we always need to be prepared for the coming of Jesus. The prophets of old told the Israelites to keep the faith and hold fast as God would come into the world to save them from their trials, and that promise came true when "The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth." (John 1:14). Jesus tells us in the Gospels that we will see "the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory." (Matthew 24:30). As we say in the mystery of faith in Rite 2, Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

To be Christian, we must hold fast to the mysteries of faith. God's greatness and God's covering of mercy that he has for us is far greater than we can imagine. However, with God all things are possible. There are many people we will read and hear about during Advent and Christmas, but there are

# The Philippian

**The Philippian  
St. Philip's Episcopal Church  
3643 Aurora Drive  
New Orleans, LA 70131-5599**

two I would like to mention that help prove this point. One is Elizabeth the mother of John the Baptist, and the other is Mary the mother of Jesus. Elizabeth was Mary's cousin and much, much older, and it was believed that because of her sin she had not been able to have children. An angel went to her husband Zechariah and told him they would have a child. Zechariah didn't believe the angel. He was wrong as Elizabeth did have a child. John would become the one to preach to the world to prepare the way of the Lord. Get ready for the coming of the Christ Jesus. Mary, too, was visited by the same angel and told she was the one to bear the Christ. In a great moment of fear, the angel told Mary not to be afraid. Mary was told "with God nothing will be impossible." (Luke 1:37).

As we are just beginning these seasons of mystery and miracle, may we all have faith to know that our salvation has come into the world, and we have a covering of God's mercy and love. I pray we keep in mind that whatever is happening in our lives and whatever our fears and doubts may be that we never forget the words of the angel Gabriel that with God, nothing is impossible.

In Christ,

*Fr. Steve +*

### **End of Life Planning**

End of life planning is not something most of us want to deal with, but making wishes known for you and those you love is important and can relieve much stress when our earthly life ends. Information on end of life advanced planning and the things we all need to know when someone in our family dies is now available. Please contact Fr. Steve to make an appointment to receive this information and to make certain your wishes are known.



### **The Vestry and Vestry Notes**

1. The vestry was informed by the rector that Lisa Cairns is retiring as of February 28, 2016. The search for a new musician is underway.
2. The retiring vestry members are Susette Bradley and Mark Bullard. They will be the nomination committee for candidates for vestry. The vestry was reminded that to be qualified to stand for vestry a person must be a confirmed communicant in good standing and a giver of record.
3. The roof in the church recently began to leak during a 10:30 service. The company that replaced the roof last year was contacted and will make the necessary repairs.
4. The stewardship process is underway, and the budget process was discussed. The budget for 2016 will be adopted by the vestry at either the December or January meeting.
5. A flier to advertise the availability of the parish hall for rental will be produced.

### **December Church Opening**

Joy Kaler, Grace Benson

### **Office Hours:**

9:00 AM - Noon, Mon.-Fri.

Bookstore Hours: 9:00 AM - Noon, Sunday

Office & Bookstore: 394-2408; Fax: 394-2450

Email: [stphilipsno@msn.com](mailto:stphilipsno@msn.com)

Website: [stphilipsno.org](http://stphilipsno.org)

## Regular Worship Schedule

### Weekend Services

#### **Sunday:**

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite I  
9:00 AM Coffee and Fellowship  
10:30 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite II  
**Sunday School up to 12 yrs old**  
11:40 AM Coffee and Fellowship

#### **Saturday:**

5:00 PM Holy Eucharist, Rite II

### Weekday Services

#### **Monday:**

8:30 AM Morning Prayer  
2:00 PM The Landing

#### **Tuesday:**

8:30 AM Morning Prayer  
6:30 PM Adult Bible Study

#### **Wednesday:**

9:00AM Holy Eucharist  
followed by Adult Bible Study

#### **Thursday:**

8:30 AM Morning Prayer

## *Special Christmas Services*

### **Christmas Eve**

**Thursday, December 24th, 4:30 PM**  
Rite II Family Service with Christmas Pageant

### **Christmas Eve**

**Thursday, December 24th, 10:00 PM**  
Solemn Christ's Mass (Incense will be used)

### **Christmas Morning**

**Friday, December 25th, 10:00 AM**  
Rite II



## First Fridays

**December 4th— Grace Benson Christmas Party**  
Consider signing up to host a First Friday. It's a wonderful opportunity to share time with your church family and have lots of fun too!  
Call the office to reserve your month today!  
**504-394-2408**



## Parents Holiday Shopping Day Out!

Didn't get all of your shopping done on Black Friday? Bring the kids to play with us **December 5th, 11:00am to 2pm** and take some time for yourself to get out and shop. Movie, crafts and light snacks will be provided. Donations accepted.



## The 3rd Annual Caroling and Pub Crawl

to benefit United Churches of Algiers will be on **Friday, December 11th**. Meet at the Dry Dock from **5:30pm-6:30pm** to register for this fun event! Then, get a map and song book and follow along. The donation is \$5.00 per person.



## *Angel Tree 2015*

See designated collection areas in the chapel. Opportunities to give are still available. We are collecting toys and clothing for the children in several families and items for the homeless and two of our local animal shelters. There is a sign-up sheet available to people who want to participate in the Narthex. In order to make deliveries by Christmas, **all items will be due by December 13th**. Please see Callie Fitzgerald or Kayce Stackel with any questions about the Angel Tree program.

## Sanctuary Farm and Wellness News.....

Hello Wellness Fans!

November 18th, we had a great Wellness Wednesday. We talked about the importance of the health of our digestive tracts and how we can get them healthy and keep them healthy. This is one of my favorite topics because when you think about it, you can work very hard to source and prepare nutrient rich foods, but if your digestive tract is in bad shape, you will not be able to properly digest or absorb those valuable nutrients. One of the essential elements of a healthy gut is the presence of right balance of 80% good bacteria to 20% or less bad. Much has been said in recent health news advocating for the use of probiotic formulas and probiotic fortified foods. However, use of these items, once again, puts control of ingredients into the hands of others. I spoke about the use of fermented foods as an alternative that gives more of the control back to us as well as actually “colonizing” our guts rather than just supporting existing good bacteria. Fermented foods are a digestive health powerhouse and making them at home is easy, safe, inexpensive and truly an art form. I know this as my kitchen has become a lab.

The next **Wellness Wednesday** will be **Wednesday, January 13th, 6:30pm in the Parish Hall**. We will revisit this topic and dig a little deeper. I will show you how you can easily make kefir, a fermented milk drink, similar to yogurt with many times the benefits. You can do so much with kefir from smoothies to cheese. Also, I am working with some other special guests who can show us how to make other “good for you” fermented foods. This will be one not to be missed! Mark your calendars and think about sharing this opportunity with your friends.

For those of you who haven't heard, it was not in God's plan for us to receive the USDA grant to quickly expand our program. It will be up to us to join together to make these dreams become reality. We have developed a plan which you will hear more about in the near future. If you want to know more, visit [www.sanctuaryfarmspc.org](http://www.sanctuaryfarmspc.org). Lots of love, Mimi

### December Readings

- 6th Second Sunday of Advent**  
Baruch 5:1-9  
Canticle 16 (Luke 1:68-79)  
Philippians 1:3-11  
Luke 3:1-6
- 13th Third Sunday of Advent**  
Zephaniah 3:14-20  
Canticle 9 (Isaiah 12:2-6)  
Philippians 4:4-7  
Luke 3:7-18
- 20th Fourth Sunday of Advent**  
Micah 5:2-5a  
Canticle 3 (Luke 1:46-55)  
Hebrews 10:5-10  
Luke 1:39-45, [46-55]
- 24th Nativity of Our Lord Christmas Eve**  
Isaiah 9:2-7  
Psalm 96  
Titus 2:11-14  
Luke 2:1-14, [15-20]
- 25th Christmas Day**  
Isaiah 9:2-7  
Psalm 96  
Titus 2:11-14  
Luke 2:1-14, [15-20]
- 27th First Sunday After Christmas**  
Isaiah 61:10-62:3  
Psalm 147  
Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7  
John 1:1-18



December Acolytes

- 6th Sophia Lucurto
- 13th Douglas Stinson
- 20th Jamie Camardelle
- 24th 5PM Douglas Stinson  
10PM Volunteer
- 25th Christmas Day 10 AM  
Volunteer
- 27th Sarah Hargrave

 ***To Serve your Church is to Serve God***  
Volunteers are needed in all areas of church service!

**Ushers, Hospitality, Altar Guild, Choir,  
LEMs, Lectors, Acolytes,  
General Maintenance, etc.**

These groups are all very important and in need of new members. To sign up, contact the office or Melissa Zrabkowski at 504-952-8190.

From the Parish Register...

Baptism:

**Allison May Anderson 11/1**

Rite of Christian Burial:

**Hal Clayton Welch 11/14**

Outreach and Evangelism Committee (O&E)

The next O&E meeting will be **January 20th at 6:30pm** in the **Ministries Center**.

We have been working with our neighbors to develop a civic association in this area and St. Philip's hosts the meetings. We believe this is a great opportunity for us to get to know our neighbors and welcome them to our great church home. Please join us if you live in the neighborhood or would like to be involved.

We have compiled the church event list through Easter. Committee members will receive an email of the list soon. If you would like to see an event happen at St. Philip's or would just like to help out, please contact Mimi.

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★ **St. Phillips and the Westbank Art Guild** ★  
★ *The Art Show was a great success and raised* ★  
★ *\$533.00 for St. Philip's.* ★  
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We Can Help!

***St. Philip's is offering tutoring!***

Tutoring sessions are being offered here at the church Monday through Friday, 3:00PM to 6:00PM. Anyone who needs or knows someone who needs help, contact the church office at 394-2408 or Jamie Camardelle 208-0054.

Altar Guild for December

- 6th Betty Gaudet, Mary Olsen, Don Schwarzenbach,  
Frances Webb
- 13th Joy Kaler, Connie Brechtel, Anne Cain
- 20th Mary Ann Bass, Grace Benson, Anne Lewis,  
Pamala Judd
- 27th Pat Blackman, Martine Lowe, Joy Miller

## Serving Our Worship in December

### 8:00AM Eucharist

#### Lectors

- 6th** Frances Webb  
**13th** Allen Hero  
**20th** Allen Hero  
**24th** **4:30 PM** Susan Smith  
**10 PM** Susette Bradley  
**25th** **10AM** Jamie Camardelle  
**27th** Rob Zrabkowski



#### Lay Eucharistic Ministers

- 6th** Frances Webb  
**13th** Allen Hero  
**20th** Norma Gatlin  
**24th** **4:30 PM** Brett/Jean Heintz  
**10 PM** Ken Bradley  
**25th** **10AM** Mark Bullard  
**27th** Rob Zrabkowski

#### December Ushers

- 6th** Pamala Judd, Morris Judd  
**13th** Jim Lyon, Jim Olsen  
**20th** Mary Ann Bass, Casey Bass  
**24th** Volunteer  
**25th** Volunteer  
**27th** Melissa Zrabkowski, Brett Heintz

#### December Hospitality Guild

**St Mary Team**  
**Team Captain: Pat Blackman**

Joy Kaler, Frances Webb, Jean Heintz, Elena White  
Sylvia Schwarzenbach, Vicki Korosi

## Serving Our Worship in December

### 10:30 AM Eucharist

#### Lectors

- 6th** Alicia Schwarzenbach  
**13th** Tiffany Stinson  
**20th** Susan Smith  
**27th** Pat Blackman



#### Lay Eucharistic Ministers

- 6th** Don Schwarzenbach  
**13th** Brett Heintz  
**20th** Sherri Hammatt  
**27th** Pat Blackman

#### December Church Closing

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>6th</b> Frances Webb<br>Mark Bullard | <b>20th</b> Kayce Stackel<br>Susette Bradley |
| <b>13th</b> Norma Gatlin<br>Susan Smith | <b>27th</b> Bobbie Durkovich<br>Susan Smith  |

#### October Financial Statement

<b>Income:</b>	<b>\$23,112.00</b>
<b>Expenses:</b>	<b>-\$18,150.00</b>
<b>YTD Projected Net Income:</b>	<b>-\$28,116.00</b>
<b>YTD Actual:</b>	<b>-\$13,896.00</b>

**Bring in your aluminum soda cans  
and Jamie Camardelle will turn them  
in for recycling and cash for our  
church !**

