



The Church of the Messiah  
50 State Route 24 West,  
Chester, NJ 07930  
Phone: 908-879-7208

# The Messenger

December, 2021



The Rev. Margaret Otterburn, Rector

Carol King, Editor

Email: [messiahchester@earthlink.net](mailto:messiahchester@earthlink.net)

Website: [www.messiahchester.org](http://www.messiahchester.org)

## Regular Sunday Worship Schedule

- 8:00 am Holy Eucharist (spoken )  
indoors in sanctuary  
and via Zoom
- 10:00 am Holy Eucharist (w/ music)  
indoors in sanctuary & live-  
streamed on Facebook

## Mid-Week Worship Schedule

- Mon 8:00 am Morning Prayer via fcc \*
- Tue 8:00 am Morning Prayer via fcc \*
- Wed 8:00 am Morning Prayer via fcc \*
- Wed 9:00 pm Compline via Zoom
- Thu 8:00 am Morning Prayer via fcc \*
- Fri 8:00 am Morning Prayer via fcc \*

\* fcc services are by free conference call

## Messiah Vestry:

Rev. Margaret Otterburn, Rector  
John P. Treasurer

Elected Wardens: serving until (year)

(2022)	(2023)
Merica G	Dani P

Elected Members: serving until (year)

(2022)	(2023)	(2024)
Jackie M	Susan O	Debbie B
	Craig R	Julie C
	Dave S	Kathy K

When you receive this, your December Messenger, know you are in the season of Advent. You are called to do at least two specific things during this season. One is to prepare for Christ's coming into the world. What does this mean for you? Is it something smothered by all the other aspects of preparation you know that await you? No doubt that will include all the gift ordering and maybe actual shopping in stores. Then there are groceries to buy and the baking to do, plus the cards to write or messages to send. It often seems the preparation list gets longer the more you think about it. With all these needs you might be thinking, "when and how do I prepare for Christ's coming into the world?" I suggest you will benefit greatly by taking a few minutes each day to ponder that very question. You will be feeding your spirit, your soul. As your soul is the part of you that will last for eternity, I hope you think it is important to nurture it!

The other thing to do is to realize Advent is a time of waiting. Children get excited as well as impatient about waiting for Santa which is often what Christmas means to them. But I invite you to see the waiting as intentional. Just as Mary's pregnancy, as far as we know, took the normal 9 months and she needed to wait all that time for her baby to be born, so you are asked to wait for the birth of Jesus.

How do you "see" the nativity, and the Holy Family? Is Mary a white woman who looks like a pregnant American teenager with her white fiancée? Some years ago, I had the experience of discussing what Mary and Jesus looked like with my high school boys' group in Newark. They were all either African-American or Latino youth living in the Newark "projects." From our

conversation I understood they all assumed Jesus was white and so were Mary and Joseph. Any pictures they had seen cemented this understanding. When I refuted it and said that Jesus would have looked like one of the Latino teens, they were amazed. In fact, one young man was named "Jesus" but pronounced as a Latino name. So, it was a little ironic to say "Jesus" looked like "Jesus."

You know Jesus came in to the world as middle eastern, in that culture and with that appearance. Yes, he came into God's very diverse world. It is a world with people of many different skin colors, facial features, body sizes. He spoke Aramaic and maybe Hebrew and/or Greek. He did not speak English or look like you. God intentionally created diversity in this world. You are different from other peoples but all are part of God's creation. "God so loved the world...." people quote. Yes, God so loved the whole world with all its intentional diversity. Nowhere in the Bible does it say white is best. This year I invite you to celebrate all God's creativity in a world of very diverse people. As you do this, I hope it will remind you of the need to care for others as you care for our planet earth, and hope that the decisions recently made at Glasgow are implemented.

I also hope you will remember this when you see all the white nativity scenes this Christmas. I hope you will prepare and wait expectantly, patiently, and reverently for the coming into our world of the One who is the babe of Bethlehem and Christ the Lord. Amen.

*God bless you this Advent and Christmas.*  
**Margaret+**



# DECEMBER CALENDAR



W—F	Dec	1-3	10 am - 5 pm	Festival of Trees set-up at Chester Barn
week	Dec	4-11	see page 3	Festival of Trees at Chester Barn - see schedule on page 3.
Weds.	Dec	1	10 am-5 pm	Morning Prayer (spoken) by free conference call - please contact Margaret (not church office) (repeats each We
Weds.	Dec	1	2:30 pm	EfM afternoon group (repeats each Wednesday)
Weds.	Dec	1	7:00 pm	EfM evening group (repeats each Wednesday)
Thurs.	Dec	2	11 am - noon	Bible study
Sat	Dec	4	9:30 - 11:30 am	Gingerbread House making
Sun.	Dec	5	8:30 am	Holy Eucharist in the church (repeats each Sunday)
Sun.	Dec	5	10:00 am	Holy Eucharist, in church, with music by Laura or soloist, live-streamed on Facebook (repeats each Sunday)
Sun.	Dec	5	10:00 am	Holy Eucharist, Live stream at <a href="http://www.facebook.com/messiahchester">www.facebook.com/messiahchester</a> (repeats each Sunday)
Sun.	Dec	5	11:30 am	Coffee Hour at <a href="https://zoom.com">zoom.com</a> (repeats each Sunday)
Mon.	Dec	6	8:00 am	Morning Prayer (spoken)—free conference call - contact Margaret, not church office — (repeats each Monday)
Mon.	Dec	6	2 - 3:30 pm	<a href="#">Bible study (repeats each Monday)</a>
Tues.	Dec	8	8:00 am	Morning Prayer (spoken) by free conference call - contact Margaret, not church office —(repeats each Tuesday)
Fri	Dec	10	4 pm - 7 pm	Homeless Solutions
Sun.	Dec	12	after church	Festival of Trees take-down and return to Messiah
Tues.	Dec	14	7 pm	Vestry Meeting
Weds.	Dec	15	12 noon	Book & lunch group
Fri	Dec	17		Deadline for January issue of <i>The Messenger</i>
Sat.	Dec	18	10:30 am	Pageant Rehearsal— followed by pizza
Sat	Dec	18	5 pm	Blue Christmas service
Sun.	Dec	19	8:00 am	Holy Eucharist in the church
Sun.	Dec	19	10 am	Christmas pageant followed by Holy Eucharist, in church and live-streamed on Facebook
Sun.	Dec	19	1:00 pm	Gather at church for car-pools for Christmas caroling at Chester Area Senior Housing & Little Brook
Tues.	Dec	21	4:30 pm	Decorate church, then party in the parish hall (food and drinks provided by Mike and Margaret
Fri	Dec	24	9 pm	Christmas Eve Eucharist (“Midnight Mass”) in church and live-streamed on Facebook
Sun.	Dec	26	10:00 am	Morning Prayer in church and via Zoom
week	Dec	27-31		No services or programs

State and diocesan guidelines may still change our “best-laid plans,” causing last-minute changes to the calendar.

**Please keep watching your weekly e-mails.**

## Christmas at Messiah

This year our Christmas Eve service, "Midnight Mass" or Holy Eucharist, will be at 9 pm, Friday December 24<sup>th</sup>. Please wear a mask. You are invited to sing the closing carol and hum all the others. We are delighted our Bell choir will be playing.



Our Christmas Day service of Holy Eucharist will be at 10 am. It will also be available by Zoom.

On Sunday, December 26<sup>th</sup> there will be a service of Morning Prayer at 10 am also available by Zoom.

## December Anniversary

Dec. 26  
Carol & Frank H.



## December Birthday

Dec. 3  
Matthew U.



## Thrift Shop Schedule

Thursdays 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm  
Saturdays 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

50% off sales: Dec. 9<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup>  
\$1 dollar sales: Dec. 16<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>

Closed for Christmas Day  
Saturday, Dec. 25<sup>th</sup>

## Festival of Trees Schedule December 4<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>

Even if you cannot be a volunteer, please attend this festive event. Bring a friend or neighbor if you can. The tickets are not expensive, and each one purchased helps support the important work of the SRC.

Sat.	Dec. 4	10 am - 6 pm
Sun.	Dec. 5	12 noon - 6 pm
Mon.	Dec. 6	12 noon - 6 pm
Tues.	Dec. 7	12 noon - 6 pm
Weds.	Dec. 8	12 noon - 6 pm
Thurs.	Dec. 9	12 noon - 6 pm
Fri.	Dec. 10	12 noon - 8 pm
Sat.	Dec. 11	10 am - 6 pm

Read more on page four!

There are many volunteer jobs you can do to help make this event a big success!

## The Christmas Pageant Is Coming! December 19<sup>th</sup> 10:00 AM Service

"Children" 1 Month to 90 Years are welcome to participate! Please let Margaret know if you are interested in being part of this joyous celebration.

Laura and Dani will help to create a story for all to share in .

The pageant will replace the regular readings and sermon. Holy Eucharist will follow the pageant.

Rehearsal will be the day before: Saturday the 18<sup>th</sup>, at 10:30 AM.. Our virtual pageant for Christmas 2020 was fun, but we all look forward to being together (masked) in person this year.



## "Plus One" Campaign

This is a very simple way to remember families in need. When you go to the supermarket, just add one item to your cart. Your single item, added to everyone else's single item, will make a huge difference.



## Creating Gingerbread Houses

Saturday, December 4<sup>th</sup>, 9:30 am – 11:30 am

This fun activity takes place in the parish hall. You are invited to come on Saturday, December 4<sup>th</sup> and create your own gingerbread house. The fun begins at 9:30 am.

Materials are provided (a box on a board, crackers, frosting, and candy). We also welcome contributions to our supplies.

This year, we will make sure each family has separate supplies; nothing will be shared.



*And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you*

## Advent is a Season for Quiet Contemplation

Beginning November 28<sup>th</sup>, we move into a new church year, which begins with the season we call Advent. Advent takes us through four Sundays and leads to Christmas day, December 25<sup>th</sup>.

Advent is intended to be a season of quiet, contemplative waiting. That's not easy to achieve in our society with its frenzied pace, but it can be very good for the soul.

## Caroling at CASH and Little Brook

December 19<sup>th</sup>

We will be caroling outdoors at the **Chester Area Senior Housing** at 1 Cole Court and at Little **Brook Nursing Home** in Califon on December 19<sup>th</sup>. We will gather at the Church at 1 pm and can carpool together. Those interested in caroling are asked to contact Julie to confirm.

Caroling books are available and Vicki W. will be providing guitar.

Anyone interested in preparing holiday gift bags consisting of a bookmark and a card for the residents can do so during coffee hour.

Supplies will be made available to provide each resident with jingle bells.



## Angel Tree Gift-Giving for Children in Transitional Housing

This holiday season we will be providing gifts to four Homeless Solutions families comprising twelve children ranging in age from 2-12. Each child's needs and wishes are posted in the on-line SignUp Genius [Messiah Angel Tree](#). The age and size for each child is itemized in the SignUp description. You can adopt a child and sign up for all the child's slots, or you can choose an item or two to fit your budget.

Gifts can be wrapped. If possible, also place them in a gift bag because we will sort the gifts by family. Please leave the gifts at the altar during church service, or at the office during weekdays.

If you prefer not to go into stores, you can choose to make a donation and ask that a shopper get materials.

Thank you to the many members who have already filled slots. A special thank you also goes to Community of St. John Baptist Superior Sister Monica Clare, who will be knitting hats and mittens for each child.

## Festival of Trees

**Volunteers Needed to Assist Nov. 27<sup>th</sup>-Dec. 12<sup>th</sup>**

Messiah serves in many capacities to support this annual event for the **Senior Resource Center**. Tree decorating workshops are currently offered. The event is scheduled for Dec 4-11 at The Barn in Chester, and we participate in both the setup and breakdown before and after the event and serve as on-site volunteers during the event. Contact Margaret if you are interested in serving. Dates are as follows:

**Sat November 27 @ 2pm** come to Messiah and help bring out all the items from the FOT storage space in the basement into the lower parish hall ready for truck and car loading on the next day

**Sun November 28th SRC Move-In Day @ the Barn:** Sunday after Thanksgiving 11:30 AM - work as long as you wish. All our supplies are stored in the basement of the Church of the Messiah. We rent/borrow a truck and volunteers help load and unload the supplies at either the church location or at the Barn destination. Many hands make the task shorter!! Strong arms and legs are needed as some of the items are quite heavy. Men's service groups are particularly welcome to help with this day.

**Week After Thanksgiving SRC Help Decorate the Barn interior:** 10 AM -5 PM We will be decorating the venue space during the week prior to the Festival and will need lots of help hanging strings of lights, decorating all the window sills, hanging wreaths, decorating trees that are only for show, getting Santa's corner decorated, arranging the items for sale on our craft/gift tables, setting up the "Kid's Korner" where crafts are offered, etc. Lots to do!

**Sunday December 12th SRC Take-Down Day @ the Barn:** Please come any time from 9 am on, and stay as long as you are available. We do the reverse of Move-In day with the added task of un-decorating some trees and the venue space, boxing up all the FOT materials/supplies, loading and hauling everything back to the church basement. Once again, many hands make the task lighter, especially since we had five days to decorate the space and only one to undecorate it this time!!

**Provide holiday cookies for the SRC refreshment table.**

Due to COVID we will offer wrapped snacks and bottled water/juice boxes. Donations are welcomed.



## Thank you to:

- The many people who serve all year, so often unmentioned and unnoticed:
- Our wardens, Merica G. and Dani P., and all our vestry members. Vestry members' names are listed in the sidebar on page one.
- Our worship has continued throughout this time of challenges (Covid related) and we thank Dani P., John P., and our Music Director Laura C. for wonderful and dedicated service.
- John P. is also our treasurer, working very hard to make sure our financial position is in good order, enabling our leaders to understand it.
- Carol K. for creating this outstanding Messenger each month, and has completed her sixth year as editor; and Susan O., who now assists Carol.
- Chris M. for doing so many maintenance jobs all around the church.
- Mary Ellen and Jim T., for taking the non-perishable food donations and the produce in the summer to the two food pantries (Chester and Washington Township) every week.
- Frank and Carol H., for the flowers and Advent arrangements each week.
- Frank H., for all the work he did in the community garden.
- Our administrator Sue U., who works very conscientiously in the office to ensure everything runs smoothly.
- Thrift shop team led by Diane C.—members include Linda O., Priscilla O., Mary Ellen T., Margaret and several non-Messiah volunteers.
- Homeless Solutions regular teams of Julie C., Melinda M., Judy K., and Margaret.
- The grounds team led by Craig R.,—John D., Mike O., Ginny M., Debbie B., and Margaret. They have worked several days keeping the grounds in good order.
- Kathy K., our finance chair, and her committee.
- All who have or will have completed their pledges for 2021 for our church.
- All who have made a pledge for 2022 for our church.



## Homeless Solutions Meal Preparation Saturday, November 20<sup>th</sup> and On-Going

We now have an on-line SignUp Genius link for this ministry:  
[Messiah Homeless Solution SignUp](#)

This is an opportunity for “hands-on” ministry: cooking and serving the dinner at the Morris County Homeless shelter called Homeless Solutions. We serve there at least once a month (12+ times each year). Anyone aged 9 years or older is welcome to help. The sign-up sheet is also on the board in the parish hall. We will be serving next on Saturday, November 20<sup>th</sup> and on Friday, December 10<sup>th</sup>.

Thank you to Terry L., Linda O. and Margaret for their service this month. Each month we also have an on-call slot to fill. Upcoming service dates are Friday, December 10; Saturday, January 15<sup>th</sup>; and Friday, February 11<sup>th</sup>.

If you would like to know more about what is involved, talk to Margaret or any of the people who have already been there. We intend this ministry to be a way to serve “hands-on” instead of just sending money; **but** serving about 35 people (the number currently housed there) costs roughly \$50 each time. Your financial support is also welcome. If you can sponsor a meal or part of a meal, please mark “Homeless Solutions” on your check.

John Hancock  
address \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_  
*Church of the Messiah*  
*One Hundred* DOLLARS \$100.00  
*Homeless Solutions* *John Hancock*

## Neighbors in Need

“Neighbors in Need” in December is **Chester Food Pantry**. Donations of *shelf stable foods* or *personal care items* are most welcome. Always-needed items include:

- oil, vinegar, salad dressing, mayo,
- powdered & shelf-stable milk
- canned chicken, soups, veggies
- body wash, shampoo & conditioner
- paper towels/tissues/napkins
- feminine hygiene products
- cereal, rice, pasta flour, sugar, cake mix

### Blue Christmas Service Saturday December 18<sup>th</sup> at 5 pm



If you find Christmas a challenging time because you are experiencing a time of sadness, this service is especially for you. You are invited to come to our Blue Christmas service on Saturday December 18<sup>th</sup> at 5 pm. There will be Christmas music, an opportunity to light candles and Holy Communion with healing offered.

### Wednesday Lunch Group

This lunch group continues to meet on Wednesdays at noon in the lower level. Participants can bring a bag lunch if they wish. We are reading articles from “The Christian Century” which Margaret provides. Please ask her for copies.

Jesus said, *“Therefore I say unto you, Be not anxious for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than raiment?”. . . . . or toys? or electronics? or new furniture? or cars? or Black Friday madness? or Cyber Monday deals?*



### Where Do Our Donations Go?

Jim & Mary Ellen T. bring donated food items to Chester and Long Valley food pantries.

Margaret brings baby food and diapers to North Porch.

### What Does the Church Believe on Public Policy Issues? Make Your Voice Heard.

The Office of Government Affairs of The Episcopal Church represents us on critical public policy issues, advocating for positions taken by our bishops. It is easy to learn what those positions are on the website of our church: [www.episcopalchurch.org](http://www.episcopalchurch.org). Click on Ministries, then on Office of Government Affairs.



There you will find a list of Action Alerts that spell out the church’s position on such matters as the Cuban embargo, the Arctic Refuge Protection Act, gun reform, immigration reform, voting reform and police reform. It is easy to add your voice on these issues on the website. You can find a letter on each issue, add your own thoughts, and immediately email it to your representatives in Washington. You can also sign up to receive email alerts from the Office of Government Affairs.

*Dave S., Vestry member (Social Justice)*

### Senior Resource Center (SRC)

The SRC continues to offer great programs for seniors. mostly offered remotely due to the Covid -19 crisis. We now offer many classes mostly here in the sanctuary because our air system has special filters. You can find out more by visiting the SRC web site: [www.srcnj.org](http://www.srcnj.org). If you have questions about the SRC please talk to Margaret.

# Opportunities to Grow in Faith

## Inquirer's & Confirmation Classes

There could be a Confirmation class for students 8<sup>th</sup> grade and older. Students who attend can be Confirmed next year if they so choose. Parents of students in this age group are encouraged to speak with Margaret for details about the class.

There could be teenagers from District churches joining our group. An adult Inquirer's class is offered either on a Sunday after worship or during the week. Please talk to Margaret if you are interested in attending. A class usually lasts for 5 sessions.

The class is for those unfamiliar with the teachings of the Church in general and/or the Episcopal Church in particular. During the class, we allow time for discussion of any questions you may have. A booklet is provided with reading assignments.

After completing the class, you may choose to be confirmed by the Bishop at a local church or at the diocesan cathedral. If you were

**Confirmed** in another tradition, you can be **Received** by the Bishop at this service.

If you feel you would like to renew your Confirmation vows, you can choose to do that at the service. The Bishop will lay hands upon you and pray for you, similar to the way she welcomes and prays for Confirmands.



## Education for Ministry, EFM

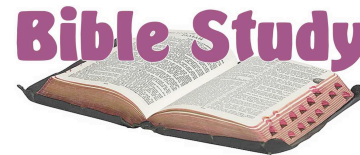
(for all of us, nothing to do with ordination)

We have two groups meeting on Wednesdays, one from 2:30-4:30 p.m. with participants mostly coming here (sitting well apart from one another) as well as on Zoom. The other from 7-9 p.m. meets by Zoom call. The Zoom number is available from Margaret.



## Bible Study

There are two **daytime** Bible study groups. One meets in-person in the lower parish hall on **Mondays, 2 – 3:30 pm**; and is currently studying the Gospel of John. The other meets on **Thursdays, 11: 00 – 12:00 noon** by free conference call; and is currently studying the Gospel of Luke . Contact Margaret for the conference call code. Since schedule conflicts often arise in the busy month of December, please watch weekly announcements or confirm dates and times with Margaret.



If you would like to have specific readings for a particular week, please talk to Margaret. You are welcome to come to one or both of these groups. Bibles are provided, or you can bring your own. A study guide is available for each class. ask Margaret for one.

*Start where you are.  
Use what you have.  
Do what you can.*

Arthur Ashe



*With the new day comes new  
strength and new thoughts.*

Eleanor Roosevelt

## Poetry Corner

In the bleak mid-winter  
Frosty wind made moan,  
Earth stood hard as iron,  
Water like a stone;  
Snow had fallen, snow on snow,  
Snow on snow,  
In the bleak mid-winter  
Long ago.

Our God, Heaven cannot hold Him  
Nor earth sustain;  
Heaven and earth shall flee away  
When He comes to reign:  
In the bleak midwinter  
A stable-place sufficed  
The Lord God Almighty  
Jesus Christ.

Enough for Him, whom cherubim  
Worship night and day,  
A breastful of milk  
And a mangerful of hay;  
Enough for Him, whom angels  
Fall down before,  
The ox and ass and camel  
Which adore.



Angels and archangels  
May have gathered there,  
Cherubim and seraphim  
Thronged the air;  
But only His mother  
In her maiden bliss  
Worshipped the Beloved  
With a kiss.  
What can I give Him,  
Poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd  
I would bring a lamb,  
If I were a Wise Man  
I would do my part, —  
Yet what I can I give Him,  
Give my heart.

[Christina Rossetti](#) - 1830-1894

Hope



Peace



Joy



Love







## Flower Ministry



Would you like to honor a living person or memorialize your beloved deceased? Altar flower donations are an excellent way to do so! Even though most of you are not worshipping in person, the flowers are always on display and are given to you or taken to someone who is sick or has a specific need.

If you attend church in person, you can sign up on the flower chart, then send your check to the office. You can also send your request in via USPS mail, or by emailing it to the office. You can make a request for the type or color of flowers you would like to have displayed. The suggested donation is \$25.

## Definitions You Never Knew

*Submitted by Hardee K., (Vestry & Treasury retiree)*

The *Washington Post* runs at least two word contests a year. Here are the winners of some of them.

### WORD ALTERATIONS:

Readers take any word from the dictionary, alter it by adding, subtracting, or changing one letter, and supply a new definition.

**Bozone** (n.), the substance surrounding stupid people that stops bright ideas from penetrating. The Bozone layer, unfortunately, shows little sign of breaking down in the near future.

**Cashtration (n.):** The act of buying a house, which renders the subject financially impotent for an indefinite period.

**Giraffiti** (n.): Vandalism spray-painted very, very high.

**Sarchasm (n):** The gulf between the author of sarcastic wit and the person who doesn't get it.

**Hipatitis** (n): Terminal coolness.

**Osteopornosis** (n.): A degenerate disease.

**Decafalon:** The grueling event of getting through the day consuming only things that are good for you.

**Glibido:** (v): All talk and no action.

**Caterpallor: (n):** The color you turn after finding half a grub in the fruit you're eating.

*Knowledge is knowing that a tomato is a fruit;  
wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad.*

— Miles Kington

## Looking Ahead to 2022



### No December Book 'n Movie Night Next Date is Tuesday, January 4<sup>th</sup>

There will be no Book & Movie night in December. On January 4<sup>th</sup> we will gather at 6:30 pm to discuss the book of the month, which will be *The Ragged Edge of Night* by Libbie Hawker.

The monthly movie begins at 7:30 pm. It is free, as are the coffee and snacks! You are welcome to join us (lower parish hall.) If you did not read the book you are still very welcome to come, just for the movie. You can also join the conversation by Zoom. Contact the office for the Zoom information.

## Feast of the Epiphany

Sunday January 2<sup>nd</sup>

We will celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany with some lessons and carols of Christmas if the congregation is then permitted to join in singing all the carols. If not, we will celebrate with a service of Holy Eucharist as usual at both the 8:30 and 10 am services.



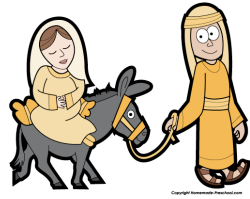
## Annual Meeting

Our annual meeting will be held in February. At this meeting we will elect a new warden, three vestry members each for a three year term. We also elect three Diocesan Convention delegates. The position of treasurer is not covered by the election but we will be appointing a treasurer (we hope our treasurer, John P. , will continue to serve and be given a vestry position.) Please talk to the wardens, Merica and Dani, or to Margaret if you wish to be on the vestry or are interested in learning more about this ministry.

Little donkey, be careful, be wary.  
 She you carry tonight will give birth.  
 Joseph, find them a bed if you're able,  
 even a manger in a stable.

**This night**

Jesus is born to Mary.  
 God comes into our life on earth.



**Little Donkey, Be Careful**

by Carol Goodwin King, © 1997 — all rights reserved—used by permission of the author

This text is intended to be sung to the French folk tune we know as *Bring a Torch, Jeanette, Isabella*. It was particularly challenging for the poet, because the French language falls naturally into dactylic and trochaic meter, while our English language is more naturally iambic. In addition, the rhyme scheme is highly unusual: A, B, C, C, A, B. Clearly a children's hymn, nonetheless each verse ends by stating the joyful mystery of the Incarnation. This hymn text was "officially" published by the Episcopal church publishing house.



Baby lamb, you must waken from slumber.  
 See the light shining all around.  
 "Sheep and shepherds, the infant admire;"  
 this you are told by angel choir.

**Praise now**

blessings too great to number.  
 God's love, here in our world is found.



Camels, travel the desert slowly.  
 Magi, follow the heavenly sign.  
 Myrrh and frankincense now offer.  
 Bring all the gold that's in your coffer.

**This day**

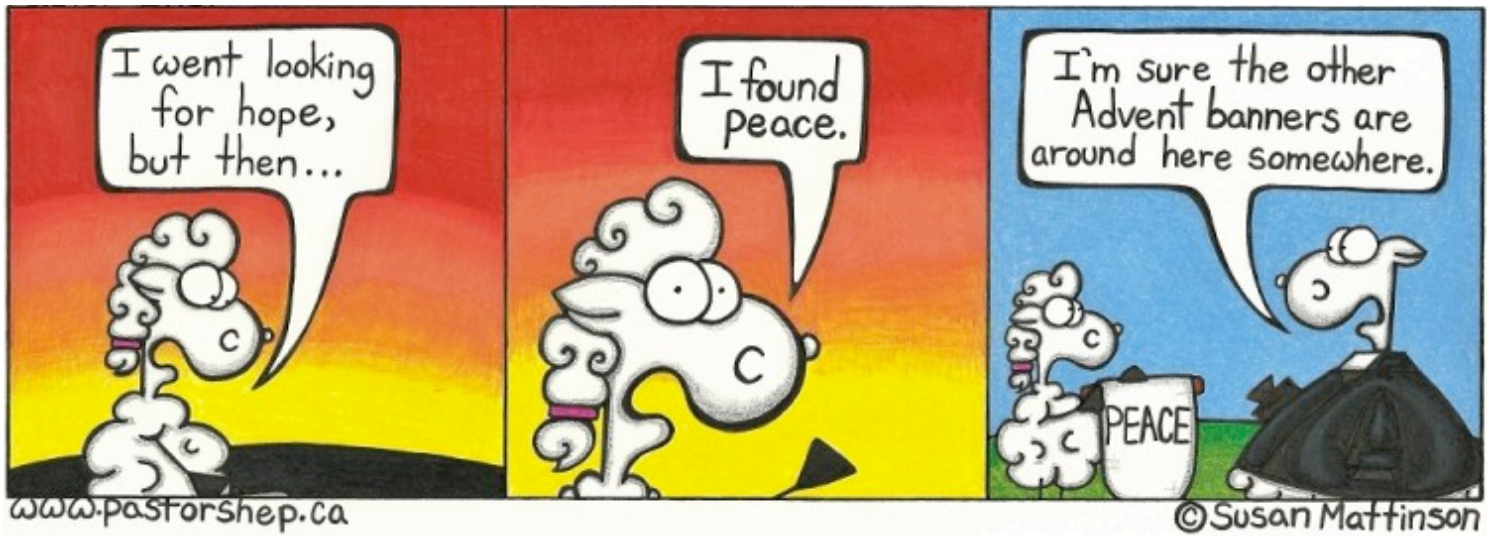
ever be know as holy.  
 God comes into your life and mine.

**Outreach**

On Thursday, November 19<sup>th</sup>, the Outreach Committee met and recommended allocating contributions to:

- ◆ Bishop's fund for special needs in parishes
- ◆ Episcopal Convent, Mendham
- ◆ Alleluia fund (Diocesan outreach)
- ◆ Episcopal Relief & Development
- ◆ Operation Chill Out (help local veterans)
- ◆ Prison ministry
- ◆ Haven of Hope (local outreach)
- ◆ Afghan letter writing (our girls take part)

The vestry will make the final decision in December.  
 Watch for \$ amounts in the January Messenger!



*Fundraising is the  
 gentle art of teaching  
 the joy of giving.*

—Hank Rosso