

JACOB'S LADDER

St. Jacob's Lutheran Church

Pastoral Devotion for January

Light for the World

Isaiah 60:1-9, Ephesians 3:1-12, Matthew 2:1-12

It wasn't through loud trumpet blasts, nor were messengers dispatched from far off lands. The magi received the good news through simple means; by the light of a star. They followed the light in order to worship the newborn King of kings.

Each year we hear this story and quickly focus on the wise men and their gifts, perhaps missing the central part of the story. Jesus was born that man no longer should die. Through Christ, salvation has come into the world. As the angel told the shepherds, this is good news for all people.

The Magi were foreigners, Gentiles, yet God got their attention in a simple way, by the light of a star, and led them to the savior of the world. Who are the outsiders today? What signs will God use in order to speak to them? It's probably fair to say that wise men bearing gifts of gold won't be passing through their town, and it's not likely that a star will lead people to any particular church building.

The truth is, God calls his people to be light for the world revealing that which was made known so long ago. Jesus Christ, born in Bethlehem, is the Messiah, the Lord. Through him, God has brought salvation to our fallen world. People of God, arise, share the good news. Light has scattered our darkness forever.

Prayer: Shine your light upon me, O Lord, that I may share the good news of your Son Jesus Christ. Amen.



Pastor Nuottila's sermons are posted on our church website. Please pass this word along to anyone who cannot worship with us on Sundays.

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Birthday's of the Month

02 – Carroll Lindler	13 – Brandon Slice	21 – Sherrie McTeer
03 – Jackson Wallace	13 – Samantha Dietrich	25 – David McClain
04 – Jack Howard Ballentine	15 – Mimi Foster	27 – Letha Sites
07 – Don Pierce	15 – Kenzie Foster	27 – Henry Clark
08 – Frances Bowers	16 – Tori Lambeth	27 – Kim Meetze
09 – Wendy Rauch	17 – Lorene Cannon	27 – Bryson Metze
09 – Brilynn Floyd	17 – David Nuottila	28 – Doug Rister
12 – Todd Ballentine	18 – David Ellisor	31 – Nate Nickel
13 – Allen Lindler	18 – Gage Shealy	
13 – Brian Dietrich	19 – Pearl Cribb	



Worship and Music

On December 2nd, the Children's Choir sang "O Promised One, O Prince of Peace, Emmanuel, Messiah, come. May we see your Light and walk your way." The adult choir followed by singing "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus", "Waiting for a King", and "Waiting for the Promise" on the Sundays of Advent and "The Birthday of a King" on Christmas Eve.

The ancient prophesies that we read in the season of Advent tell us that the people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. That great light, the light of the world, was born as a helpless baby in a lowly cattle stall in the tiny village of Bethlehem. No one knew the significance of that birth, except a few shepherds to whom the angels appeared. It wasn't until later, 12 days later according to the calendar, that a visit from three men, who had studied the ancient prophesies and followed the guiding of a strangely bright star, revealed that this child Jesus was indeed the promised one ... Emmanuel ... the King of kings ... the light for whom the dark world had been waiting.

On January 6th, we celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany, which commemorates the arrival of the Magi and the giving of their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh to the holy child. The combined choirs of St. Jacob's and New Hope Lutheran Churches will present a mini-cantata at 9 a.m. at New Hope and 10:30 a.m. at St. Jacob's. Following each of the scripture readings, a special anthem will be sung to tell the story ... from ancient prophecy ... to the birth of Jesus ... to the Epiphany, which is the revealing of the Christ child as God incarnate, the light and salvation of the world.

Advent – waiting for the light and preparing for the second coming of Christ

Christmas – the birth of the light as a humble baby who would walk with us in this world

Epiphany – the revelation to the world that Jesus **IS** the light for whom we have waited

Soli Deo Gloria!

(To God alone the glory!)

Laurie

From the Pastor's Heart

"Arise and shine, your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you." Isaiah 60:1

For centuries, astronomers have plotted the courses of the stars in order to keep track of time and the passing of the seasons. Navigators of ships used the stars to help guide them to their destination. And long ago, ancient cultures shared stories of mythical characters whose constellations may be seen as people gazed at the night time sky. Much has been learned by tracking the many points of light that pierce the darkness of night.

Following the birth of our Lord Jesus, there were others who also looked to the stars, one star in particular. The Magi from the East followed this star which led them to Bethlehem. By marking the exact time when they first saw the star and following its light westward, the wise men were led on a journey upon which they encountered Christ. Once they reached their destination, God revealed to them the one born as his own redeeming light. It is in this epiphany that Jesus is revealed to the world as God's ultimate outpouring of love.

The celebration of the Epiphany of our Lord is the proclamation that long before we could have ever stumbled our way out of darkness, God's light has come to us. Through our Baptism, God makes us children of the light. In our thankful response to God's grace, we carry the light of Christ into the world so that others can experience the fulfillment and wonder of God's promise of a Savior. It is through loving God above all else and serving our neighbor in the name of Christ, that we let our light shine. Our Lord calls each and every one of us to serve as a beacon leading others to the truth of the gospel, just as that single star led the Magi so many years ago.

As we begin a new year in ministry, I would invite all of our church family members to consider the ways in which you proclaim the gospel and share God's love. We have the opportunity to engage in so many missions of the NALC and within our mission district.



Here in Chapin, we can feed the hungry, give aid to the poor, provide shelter and welcome those who have no place for worship. St. Jacob's is uniquely positioned to serve our neighbors in town, and the many who live in developing communities all around us.

We also have the opportunity to serve Christ through our service to others around our country and world. I am so pleased that many of our church family members have embraced the mission work of Pastor Stephane Kalonji and I in the Congo. Several other congregation have also joined St. Jacob's in supporting this important mission. Through your efforts and generosity, pastors have Bibles from which to teach and preach, many hungry children are fed, and a community of God's people have a relationship of faith and love with a congregation who will pray for them and minister to them in times of trial. Jesus calls us all to follow his example of love and service for the sake of the least among us. I would also invite those who have not considered attending Sunday school and one of our weekly Bible studies to give it a try. As Christians and disciples of Jesus Christ, daily reading of Holy Scripture is essential and weekly gathering for worship and learning is most beneficial for those growing in faith and hope. There is no better time to begin such practice than during Epiphany, the season of light.

Since the birth of Christ, the time of our lives is no longer marked by plotting stars and our destination is no longer found by tracking celestial bodies. Our time and our destination are caught up in Jesus Christ. To use a metaphor, the books of Holy Scripture serve as the stars of our celestial journey and Christ our compass. Led by God's Holy Spirit, we travel through life's journey always remembering to let our light shine before others, so that all may see that in Christ the light of the world has come.

Grace and peace,
Pastor David Nuottila

Council Briefs

St. Jacob's Lutheran Church Congregational Council Briefs December 4, 2018 Meeting

Council noted Good Things at St. Jacob's this month included that the Thanksgiving Eve service was very good. The altar arrangement was beautiful for the Thanksgiving Eve service. A special thank you to Robin & Gerald Lindler for preparing the harvest arrangement. The Wednesday morning Bible study is continuing to be enjoyed by those attending. Others are encouraged to come join this group on Wednesday mornings at 9:30 a.m. There was over 300 slices of cake collected for the HUB. Another thank you to Angela and Laurie for your continuing success with the new Children's Choir. Everyone is enjoying hearing all these LITTLE people carry a BIG sound!

Pastor Report- Pastor David noted that he recently attended a meeting for the NALC in Hickory, NC.

Pastor David announced that December 2nd was his one year anniversary at St. Jacob's Lutheran Church. Pastor said he has really enjoyed his last year with the church and looks forward to where we are headed as a congregation.

Pastor David also attended a PCAT Workshop at St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Salisbury, NC. This meeting focused on restructuring the NALC. Pastor David feels that we need to get the message regarding the NALC to our local community. We are partners of these congregations.

Pastor David noted two important dates. Pastor will hold Service for the "Longest Night" on December 19th. Pastor David said that he enjoys doing this service every year and he will look at moving it to the traditional date of December 21st for the following year. We were unable to accommodate the traditional December 21st date for this service in 2018. There will also be a first time ever Christmas morning service on December 25th. Pastor David will continue this Christmas morning service every year at St. Jacob's Church. He is very excited about bringing this special service into St. Jacob's.

There were several members of Council whose term ended in December 2018. Pastor David gave each one of these Council members a thank you gift and thanked each Council member for their service and dedication to St. Jacob's Church.

Staff Support- The Team is continuing to advertise the position for Director of Youth and Family Ministries. The first job candidate was interviewed by the Interview Committee on November 27, 2018. More interviews are being scheduled with additional candidates.

Spiritual Life- The Worship and Music Team have finalized the plans for the Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and the December 30th services. The Worship and Music Team met to discuss and clarify the role of the team and the tasks ahead for 2019.

Short Term- The kitchen improvements will begin in January 2019. The cabinet alteration and kitchen flooring will most likely be the first project that takes place on the construction schedule. (**THE KITCHEN WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE FOR USE BEGINNING JANUARY 14 UNTIL THE END OF FEBRUARY.**)

The digital sign will take 6-8 weeks to be constructed off-site and then will be installed on the existing brick structure. The stained glass windows covering project has been completed. Thanks to Chad Lindler for recommending that the gutters be cleaned out during this project!

Parish Life- The Up and Going Group enjoyed an early Thanksgiving meal on November 15, 2018. A group of 23 members and guests enjoyed a meal at Shealy's BBQ in Batesburg-Leesville. Helen Lindler provided the devotion. A very special thank you to Gerald Lindler for driving the bus!

Support of Ministries- Brandon Slice continues to work on getting pricing on the phone and internet service for St. Jacob's Church. Brandon will install the video system for the church nursery in the next 2 weeks. Brandon is also continuing to research video recording opportunities for the church shut-ins.

UPCOMING INFORMATION

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP– Our next coffee fellowship will be on January 6th, following the service in the Fellowship Hall.

INSTALLATION OF CHURCH COUNCIL– Newly elected Church Council members will be installed on Sunday, January 6. Please keep all of our Church Council members in prayer as they begin a new year of leadership for our church family.

CHURCH COUNCIL RETREAT – The Church Council will meet for their first annual Council Retreat during the second weekend of January. On Friday, January 11th, council members and their spouses will share a covered dish dinner in the fellowship hall beginning at 6:30 p.m. Ministry Team reports will be received that evening. Council members will then meet on Saturday, January 12th from 9:00 a.m. through 3:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Information and a retreat agenda will be sent to all council members prior to the retreat

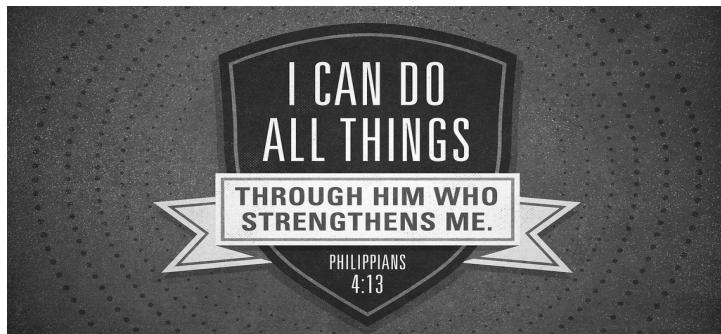
CALLING ALL ST. JACOB'S YOUTH MEMBERS - In January, we will begin meeting once again on the *first* and *third* Sundays each month. Our first meeting will be Sunday, January 6th at 4:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. There are several things to begin planning for, including a spring Carolinas Mission District Youth Retreat in March and a summer mission trip. Pass the word and plan on attending! See you then!

NEW COMMUNION WARE AND ASSISTANT TRAINING - In November, the Altar Guild purchased two new pouring chalices and a new wine flagon for use during Holy Communion. With these new vessels, St. Jacob's will be better stewards of the communion elements shared during our worship. All those who serve as communion assistants are asked to attend one of the scheduled training sessions in January. Holy Communion assistant training will be held at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, January 6th and Sunday, January 13th.

UP AND GOING MEETING FOR JANUARY – Please make plans to attend our soup pot luncheon on Thursday, January 10th at 11 a.m. in the fellowship hall. Everyone is asked to bring 3 can goods per person for WE CARE. Also, we will touch base following the service on January 6th at the back of the Sanctuary to verify who is bringing what for the soup.

LUTHERAN WOMEN – Our next meeting is January 20th at 4:30 pm in the fellowship hall.

LUTHERAN MEN – Please plan to meet on January 20th at 6 PM in the fellowship hall. Watch your worship folders for more information.





The Power of Prayer by Pastor David



The author of the book of James, Jesus' very own brother, writes an epistle to the Church in which he exhorts believers in Christ to encourage one another in their faith. James teaches us to pray for those for whom there is genuine concern. James writes, "Confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working" James 5:16.

Here at St. Jacob's, we have so many who believe in the power of prayer. I have been with folks praying for healing, for peace of mind and for calming of fear. I have also been with others to offer thanks to God in a variety of situations. I enjoy those times when I am able to pray with members of our church family and hear the petitions they bring to our Lord.

We also have a congregation that cares very much for the people whom they love, folks who are known to them, but perhaps not to the congregation as a whole. Each week, as we say the Prayers of the Church, I offer the congregation time to pray for those, who are on their hearts and minds either out loud or in the silence of their hearts. There were very few, at first, who would actually speak a name of a loved one aloud. I have noticed, lately, that more have become comfortable doing so. I also am convinced that many more people are praying in the silence of their hearts. Truly, at this point in our worship, we are a community in prayer.

Each month, the narthex prayer board becomes filled with names. I understand it has been the practice in recent years to recite each of these names during the Prayers of the Church. Given the length of this list, and our growth as a community in prayer, it is time that we offer the opportunity for others to speak the names of those loved ones on our prayer board in prayer, either out loud, or in silence. As James teaches us, it is not the voice of the one who recites the prayer, it is the faith through which the prayer is offered.

As pastor, I will continue to speak out loud the names of our church members appearing on our prayer list. I will also continue to allot time for the congregation to offer to God the prayers for those whom they love. I would also suggest that we continue to list on the prayer board, the names of those for whom there is genuine concern. Be sure that you have the person's permission before hand, so that we may continue to list them in our worship bulletin while ensuring personal privacy. Be certain, the prayers offered by the community at worship are powerful as they are working. God knows the needs of those for whom we pray, just as he knows the faith in which you offer your prayers in love toward your neighbor. May the Lord bless you as you pray for those whom you love.



A special thanks goes out to each and every one of our volunteers that gave of their time and talents to assist with the worship services and all the processes that goes with the Advent season.

St. Jacob's is blessed to have such wonderful people willing to assist with the many events that are taking place in the church life. We wouldn't be able to accomplish what we do without each one of you!

Thanks!



Memorials & Acknowledgements

November 25, 2018 - December 16, 2018



- In memory of Walter Metze to Current by Dean and Reba Stromwall
- In memory of Veterie Slice to Current by Jerald and Ann Hancock, Jerry and Janna Davis, Mary Margaret Judd, Peggy Moates, Byron and Gail Parker, Norma Zwart, and Piedmont Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc.
- In honor of Gerald Lindler for another safe and entertaining bus ride to Digital Sign by Up and Going
- In memory of Walter Metze to Building Fund by Leon and Helen Lindler
- In memory of Veterie Slice to Lutheran Women by James Haack and Patricia Woodard
- In memory of Morris Creps to We Care by Robert and June Lindler
- In memory of Morris Creps to Building Fund by Eddie and Gail Epting
- In memory of Morris Creps and Emily Ballentine to Digital Sign by David, Tina, Jacob, Andrew and Tyler Kibler
- In memory of Veterie Slice to Digital Sign by Gary and Joan Marco
- In memory of Walter Metze Jr. and Veterie Slice to Lutheran Men by Lorene Cannon
- In memory of Veterie Slice to Lutheran Women by Chad and Caroline Lindler
- In memory of Veterie Slice to Digital Sign by Tommy and Ruby Slice
- In memory of Veterie Slice to Lutheran Women by JL and Janet Lindler
- In memory of Walter Metze to Lutheran Men by JL and Janet Lindler
- To Lutheran Women and Building Fund for Use of Fellowship Hall by The Sullivans
- In memory of Emily Ballentine to We Care by Robert and June Lindler
- In memory of TC Covington to Current by Gerald and Robin Lindler
- In memory of Fred Shealy to Building Fund by Donald and Judy Turner
- In memory of Henson and Myrtis Roof to Digital Sign by Leon and Helen Lindler
- In memory of James C Lindler, Greta and Grover Sandel, and Kelly Lindler Watts to We Care by Robert and June Lindler

Members that are Shut-in or in Health Care Facilities

Michael Lindler
250 Leaning Pines Trail
Lexington, SC 29072
Ph: 803-356-4100

Frances Bowers,
756 Haltiwanger Rd.
Chapin, SC 29036
Ph: 803-345-5802

Letha Sites
1024 Freshly Mill Road
Irmo, SC 29063
Ph: 803-345-2300

Janet Lindler
221 Crooked Creek Road
Chapin, SC 29036
Ph: 803-345-5640

Pearl Cribb
220 Fox Lake Drive
West Columbia, SC 29170
Ph 803-957-4663

Serving Assistants for December 2018

Ushers— Jan 6, 13—Wade Slice, Don Dease, Eddie Zeigler,
Leonard Slice
Jan 20, 27—Albert Lindler, Donald Pierce, Arthur Langley,
Jeff Kleckley

Acolyte — Jan 6, 13, 20, 27—Cora Wallace

Lay Reader— Jan 6, 13—A.J. Peebles
Jan 20, 27—Helen Lindler

Date Communion Assistants

Jan 06 — Melissa Lindler, Judy Dease, Don Dease, Lorene Cannon
Jan 13 — David Kibler, Eddie Zeigler, Randy Rushe
Jan 20 — Micky Johnson, Cheryl Johnson, Bob Ziemer
Jan 27 — Bob Ziemer, Judy Dease, Gloria Ziemer

Kitchen Contact Person — Robert Lindler

Lay Communion Teams Homebound — Billy & Sherrie McTeer

Preschool Sunday School— Jan 6, 13, 20, 27—TBD

Elementary Sunday School— Jan 6, 13, 20, 27—TBD

Middle & High Sunday School — Jan 6, 13, 20, 27—

Don Dease, David Kibler,
Billy McTeer

Nursery—December

Jan 06 — Crystal Wallace
Jan 13 — Nicki Peebles
Jan 20 — Kendra Monts
Jan 27 — Raine Lindler

Flowers—December

Jan 06 — Jason & Melissa Wicker
Jan 13 — Jeff & Margaret Kleckley
Jan 20 — Jo David
Jan 27 — Deryl & Rhonda Metze

Cemetery Grass Cutting for Dec—Support from Ministries Teams and volunteers from the congregation as needed.

Church/Office Grass Cutting for Dec—Support from Ministries Teams and volunteers from the congregation as needed.

2019 Council Members

Danny Shealy—**President**— shealydr@netscape.com
Julie Shealy—**Secretary**—julieshealy3@gmail.com
Don Dease—deaserus@bellsouth.net
Barry Rice—wbarryrice@gmail.com
Frances Slice—No Email Address
David Kibler—jkibler@scana.com
A.J. Peebles—AndrewJPeebles@gmail.com
Sherrie McTeer—mteer1208@hotmail.com
John Riser—johneriser@gmail.com
Carroll Lindler—clindler3@sc.rr.com

Up and Going



Up and Going members and guests gathered on Thursday,

Dec 13th, in the Fellowship Hall at 11AM to enjoy the annual Christmas Party. Business was conducted. The Treasurer's Report was received. Juliette Martin offered prayer for Gloria Livingston, a long time traveler with the Up and Going. Gary Marco read Christmas Bible verses and the group sang responding Christmas Hymns. Joan Marco lead in playing several Christmas Carols with each of us playing chimes. This music was very pretty and all enjoyed playing the Chimes. Gary gave the meal blessing. The food tables were heavily laden with containers of delicious Holiday foods and desserts. Each person brought their special dish for our enjoyment. Thanks to each of you for this special meal.

Gary and Joan passed out BINGO cards and we played until each person had won a "white elephant" gift and candies. Much laughter and many comments were made as each won in bingo and then opened their chosen gift; especially if one tried to steal another's gift. So much fun for us all!!

The January Meeting will be held at the home of Bob and Gloria Ziemer on Thursday, January 10th at 11AM. We will cook a pot of soup. Sign up on the Bulletin Board your choice of soup item to bring. Frances Slice will have devotions and Gloria Ziemer will have the program. Each person is asked to bring 3 cans of food for We Care. This is a good way to start the New Year since We Care's pantry will be low.

Love,
Helen Lindler

REMINDERS:

Worship Folder Information due by 2 PM each Tuesday.

Newsletter Information is due on the 15th of each month.

JANUARY 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Church Office Closed → Pastor on Vacation →	2	3	4	5
6 Council Installation Coffee Fellowship following service (FH) 3 PM Communion Assistant Training (S) 3 PM Children's Choir (FH) 4 PM Youth (FH)	7	8	9 7 PM Choir (FH)	10 11 AM Up & Going Soup Pot Luncheon at Bob & Gloria Ziemer's 6:30 PM Bells (FH)	11 6 PM (FH) → Council Retreat	12 9 AM-3 PM (FH)
13 3 PM Communion Assistant Training (S) 3 PM Children's Choir (FH)	14	15	16 7 PM Choir (FH)	17 6:30 PM Bells (S)	18	19
20 3 PM Children's Choir (S) 4:30 PM LW (FH) 4 PM Youth (O) 6 PM LM (FH)	21 Church Office Closed → Pastor Seminary Retreat Jekyll Island	22	23 7 PM Choir (FH)	24 6:30 PM Bells (FH)	25 → Married Couples Retreat Check in 3 PM	26
27 Married Couples Retreat Return to Chapin 3 PM Children's Choir (S)	28	29	30 7 PM Choir (FH)	31 6:30 PM Bells (FH)		

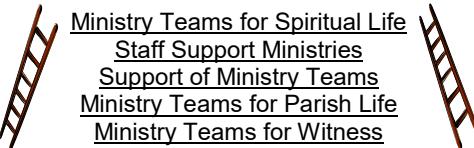
ST. JACOB'S FACILITIES CALENDAR DEFINITIONS (FH) Fellowship Hall; (O) Office; (S) Sanctuary; (K) Kitchen; (AR) Activity Room; (MR) Music Room; (PR) Purple Room; (OR) Orange Room; (LR) Lesson Room

ST. JACOBS LUTHERAN CHURCH
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CHAPIN, SC 29036

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stjacobschurch@hotmail.com
www.st-jacobs.org
Office Hours:
Monday thru Thursday 9AM-2PM
Sunday School: 9:15AM
Worship Time: 10:30AM

January 2019 Issue

JACOB'S LADDER



Ministry Teams for Spiritual Life
Staff Support Ministries
Support of Ministry Teams
Ministry Teams for Parish Life
Ministry Teams for Witness
Short Term Ministries

**RETURN SERVICE
REQUESTED!**

Schedule of Events in January 2019

January 1	Church Office Closed Pastor on vacation	January 20	3 PM Children's Choir (FH) 4 PM Youth Meeting (O)
January 2	7 PM Choir Practice (S) Pastor on vacation		4:30 PM Lutheran Women (FH) 6 PM Lutheran Men (FH)
January 3	6:30 PM Bells (FH)	January 21	Church Office Closed Pastor away at seminary retreat Jekyll Island, GA
January 6	Coffee Fellowship after service (FH) Installation of Council Members 3 PM Communion Assistants Training (S)	January 23	7 PM Choir Practice (FH)
	3 PM Children's Choir (FH) 4 PM Youth Meeting (FH)	January 24	6:30 PM Bells (FH)
January 9	7 PM Choir Practice (FH)	January 25	Married Couples Retreat Camp St. Christopher, Charleston , SC
January 10	6:30 PM Bells (FH)	January 26	Married Couples Retreat St. Christopher, Charleston , SC
January 11	7 PM Council Retreat (FH)	January 27	Married Couples Retreat St. Christopher, Charleston , SC
January 12	9 AM-3 PM Council Retreat (FH)		Reverend Henry Pawluk, Preaching
January 13	3 PM Communion Assistants Training (S)	January 30	7 PM Choir Practice (FH)
	3 PM Children's Choir (FH)	January 31	6:30 PM Bells (FH)
January 16	7 PM Choir Practice (FH)\		
January 17	6:30 PM Bells (S)		