



ALL SAINTS'  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

December 2011-January 2012

## “Anticipation & The End Times”

*The Rev. Rick Dunham, Interim Rector*

Dear People of All Saints', Is it too dramatic to say that we live in advent times? Advent is a season of anticipation. It is a time of preparation for—well, something. In our case, Advent is a time to prepare for the end and I mean the Big End! I'm talking the End Times, the end of the age. Preparing for that takes some serious work.

I don't do that work very well. I don't do it any better than I prepare for my own end but that won't keep either end from happening! Meantime, I'll duck the matter and busy myself by sending Christmas cards and buying gifts. Or, I might go a different route and play the Scrooge role. Either path can be an avoidance tactic.

Unfortunately, ducking the matter doesn't alter the advent nature of the times. These are pensive times, times which are "a changing." From our politics to our economy, to our health, to our educational system, to our housing, to our climate, everything seems to be in flux. No one seems to have a clear vision as to what is going on or how to live through these times.

We seem to be on the cusp of new ways of living that might well seem like the end of the age. While that may indeed be the case, who says that change has to be bad? Who says that the world to come won't be better than the world as it is? If we live in a pensive time, it is also an incredibly creative time! Maybe the changes that are happening are going to be worth the discomfort and disruption? The point is that we just don't know.

One thing we may overlook about the Advent of Jesus is that he brought with him the end of the

age. To that extent, we know the end of the story. The End Time we need to prepare for has already happened! The old B.C./A.D. is real. It may not look it, but everything that has happened for the last 2000 years has occurred in a different context from the events prior to that time. As paradoxical as it is, we are called to prepare for an unknown future that has already arrived.

*“We seem to be on the cusp of new ways of living that might well seem like the end of the age.”*

How do we prepare for the End Time or for the yearly celebration of the Incarnation? In light of the tremendous changes going on around us, it may seem mundane, but keeping Advent traditions has the power to ground us. We may use Advent wreaths, or we decorate, or have

crèches. Most years, I try to reread Dickens, A Christmas Carol and Cricket on the Hearth.

I never tire of those stories. They ring so true! What can be more important than remembering that we are preparing for the End Times—an end time ushered in by the Incarnation. What can be more important than examining one's life in light of the Author of the new age and its Judge? Scrooge did that and look how he turned out.

The story of Scrooge's conversion is one of the most hopeful in all of literature, at least to me. It offers hope to all who are jaded by the daily grind and continuous doses of negativity. Plus, the end of the story offers the best direction for life that I know: "and it was always said of him, that he knew how to keep Christmas well, if any man alive possessed the knowledge. May that be truly said of us, and all of us!" When I think of preparing for endings, in particular, when I think of preparing for the End Times or for my

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# The Messenger

All Saints' Episcopal Church

The Rev Rick Dunham, Interim Rector

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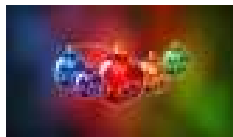
## Wishing You a "Happy Liturgical New Year"

from Arlene Long, Music Director

On the first Sunday of Advent every year, Jean Abney wishes me "Happy New Year!" Only thing is, it's always late November when Advent 1 occurs. At first, I was very confused, until Jean explained that she was speaking of the Liturgical Year. I have come to relish this thought with gratitude.

This year, Advent 1 was on November 27, and as I write this article, we are now walking through the four Sundays of Advent toward Christmas. This year, Christmas Day and New Year's Day fall on Sundays. Epiphany follows quickly on January 6, and we are thrust into the seven Sundays of Epiphany Season as we struggle joyfully to grasp the significance of this mysterious event called Christmas. This quick succession of changing seasons turns our interior world on end if we are awake to it.

- *Advent – Every heart waits, not sure of what is coming.*



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own end, Scrooge's conversion always comes to mind. What better way to live? What better way to prepare for the Advent of a new age and new life than to keep Christmas well? To that I say, AMEN and join Tiny Tim in proclaiming, "God bless Us, Every One!"

Fr. Rick Dunham

## Banns of Marriage

I publish the Banns of Marriage

between

Richard Eldon Dunham and

Debra Ann Wingfield.

If any of you know just cause why they

may not be joined together in

Holy Matrimony,

you are bidden to declare it.

This is the first time of asking.

- *Christmas – The birth of New Life changes EVERYTHING.*
- *Epiphany – With the Magi, we recognize the Light and its invitation to follow that Light.*

The music we hear and sing reflects this fast-moving progression of liturgical seasons, happening not only on the calendar, but more important, in our Interiority:

- *We yearn and prepare:* Wait for the Lord.
- *We are in awe:* Gloria in excelsis Deo!
- *We celebrate the Light:* This, this is Christ the King.

As we sing, let us allow ourselves to FEEL the yearning, to BE in awe, to CELEBRATE IN JOY as we begin to absorb the significance of the Light that has come into THE world and into OUR world. HAVE A BLESSED NEW YEAR.



## Stewardship Update

Jim Tyree, Stewardship Co-Chair

As this year's stewardship efforts come to a close, Cathy and I would like to thank you all for the opportunity to serve our God and our church as your stewardship co-chairs. Each time we become involved in a stewardship program, our relationship with God and our neighbors is strengthened. Also, we would like to thank the parishioners who witnessed, made phone calls, and provided secretarial and accounting support.

We are joyful for those of you who got the "stewardship message" this year, and there are many of you.

Looking forward ("leaning forward" as Fr. Rick would say) to Advent, Christmas, and then to 2012, we pray that you will adopt stewardship as a way of life. For, as Bishop Lillibridge so accurately says, "Stewardship is about faithraising, not about fundraising."



**B**ack in the '80's, Gary and I developed a missionary program called "Episcopal Youth for Social Action," in which high school youth from around the USA traveled to locations along the Texas-Mexico border. The youth and sponsors spent a week of "transformational" work and cultural indoctrination, not only within themselves but also in the lives of those we encountered. Hebrews 13:2 reminds us "Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares." While each week's itinerary included a myriad of projects ... painting houses, sprucing

up church buildings, visiting an orphanage and interacting with the kids, hauling drinking water into cardboard shack barrios, teaching VBS ... the greater transformation was evident in the youth themselves. One group from North Carolina, during their trek back home, wrote a litany pledging to continue their newfound passion to reach out to those in need within their own community ... the folks of the Appalachian mountains ... something they had no desire to do previously. Their fear had been shattered by their experience ... finding the Divine Love moving within.

While most of us cannot travel to faraway places, we can all be motivated and empowered by God's love, as opportunities abound to reach out to those in need within our own community and in the broader world. Fear limits; love expands and embraces. It is the unifying bond of our universe, and we have great opportunities to hear and embrace the voices of those in need.

Our Compassionate Living Ministries do exactly that, whether the need be in our local area, the jungles of Africa, or the streets of Haiti. As Divine Light reaches in to our hearts, we are well able to reach out to our neighbors, those we know we are to love as our very own selves. This is the mystery of incarnation, and, properly understood, unveils the incredible dignity of what it means to be a human being as the temple of the Holy Spirit. As we approach our new year with all its challenges and opportunities, let us not lose sight of our interconnectedness with all others on the planet who are our sisters and brothers in Christ. Jesus humbled himself and became as one of us so that we, too, might be so humbled to be like Him. Compassionate, Divine Love reaching out to its very own self makes all things new.

Won't you join the members of our Compassionate Living ministry and participate in the transformation of our world? May we hear these words addressed to each and every one of us personally and collectively: "Fear not!" God has chosen each of us to bear his Son into the world, and therefore shall our name also be "Emmanuel," "God is with us." With such a name, much is expected. Please consider contributing some expression of your Presence to the work of our volunteers as we make our world a better place for all and contribute to the building up of the Kingdom. Become the gift and be that gift for others.

Blessings to you all at Christmas from your Senior Warden, Cathy Chatham

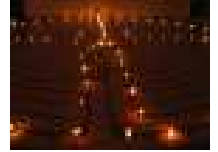
# Advent-Epiphanany Calendar

## CALENDAR

December 6	Wisdom class; Midday Eucharist; Food Pantry; LEM/Lector meeting @ Jones' home
December 7	Yoga; Cursillo; Youth Formation; CCP; Choir rehearsal
December 8	CCP; <b>Second Advent Labyrinth Walk</b>
December 9	Tai Chi
December 10	<b>Confirm not Conform</b>
December 11	<b>Acolyte training</b>
December 12	CCP; Wisdom class
December 13	Wisdom class; Midday Eucharist
December 14	Yoga; Cursillo; Youth Formation; CCP; Choir rehearsal
December 15	CCP; Third Advent Labyrinth Walk
December 16	Tai Chi
December 18	<b>Christmas Music @ St. Christopher's, Portland</b>
December 19	CCP
December 20	Midday Eucharist; Food Pantry
December 21	Yoga; CCP; Choir rehearsal
December 22	<b>Church decoration; CCP; Fourth Advent Labyrinth Walk</b>
December 24	<b>No-rehearsal Christmas Pageant; Rite II Holy Eucharist</b>
December 25	<b>Christmas Day single 10:00 a.m. Rite II service</b>
December 26	<b>Office closed</b>
December 27	Midday Eucharist
December 31	<b>New Year's Eve Labyrinth Walk</b>
January 1	<b>Holy Name: single Rite II service @ 10:00 a.m.</b>
January 2	<b>Office closed</b>
January 3	Midday Eucharist; Food Pantry
January 4	Yoga, CCP, Choir rehearsal
January 5	CCP, Labyrinth Walk
January 6	<b>Southern Convocation Epiphany Service</b>
January 9	Finance Committee meeting; CCP; Wisdom class
January 10	Wisdom class; Midday Eucharist; <b>New Tai Chi class begins</b>
January 11	Yoga; Cursillo; Youth formation; CCP; Choir rehearsal
January 12	CCP; Labyrinth Walk
January 13-14	Tai Chi
January 15	Vestry meeting
January 16	<b>Office closed in observance of MLK Day</b>
January 17	Wisdom class; Midday Eucharist; Food Pantry; Tai Chi
January 18	Yoga; Cursillo; Youth formation; CCP; Choir rehearsal
January 19	CCP; Labyrinth Walk
January 20-21	Tai Chi
January 22	<b>Pre Council Southern Convocation meeting @ All Saints'</b>
January 23	CCP; Wisdom class
January 24	Wisdom class; Midday Eucharist; Tai Chi
January 25	Yoga; Cursillo; Youth formation; CCP; Choir rehearsal
January 26	CCP; Labyrinth Walk
January 27-28	Tai Chi
January 29	<b>Annual Parish Meeting and Pot Luck</b>
January 30	CCP; Wisdom class
January 31	Wisdom class; Midday Eucharist; Tai Chi
February 16-18	<b>DWTX Council, McAllen</b>
February 20	<b>Office closed in observance of Presidents' Day</b>
February 22	<b>Ash Wednesday</b>
February 24-25	<b>Dinner &amp; Show</b>
February 28	<b>Supper Club reorganization</b>



Midday Eucharist every Tuesday in December



Special Advent Labyrinth Walk every Thursday



Decoration of Church December 22nd



No-rehearsal Christmas Pageant December 24th



Annual New Year's Eve Labyrinth Walk



Southern Convocation Epiphany Service January 6th



Annual Parish Meeting January 29th

## Search Committee Update

*Mary Carpenter, Search Committee Co-Chair*

### We have names!

We met with Rev. Ed Dohoney, the Diocesan Deployment Officer, recently to receive the names of candidates for our rector search. Ed was grateful for the extra time granted him (originally we were to get names from him in October) because a couple of people showed up on his radar who were not on it in October. We have an excellent field of candidates.

*Please keep the Search Committee in your prayers as the discerning process deepens.*

### We have a Parish Profile!

Look for an eblast soon announcing the Parish Profile. It will be available on our web site and on the bulletin board by the labyrinth. Laura Shaver, the Diocesan Communications Officer, did a lovely job of capturing our essence from the Parish Profile Workshop and the Parish Profile Questionnaires.

### What's Next?

The Search Committee will send out letters and the Parish Profile to the candidates on our list requesting information from them (resumés, copies of sermons or publications by the candi-

date, etc). From the responses, we will decide who looks best to serve the needs of All Saints'. We will send teams of three out to the candidates' parishes to meet them and to learn more about them.

### What can our congregation expect?

Expect the Search Committee members to be tight-lipped about who is on the list, who is not on the list and about when they are going to visit someone. Confidentiality is key in this process: to prevent people from lobbying for a particular candidate, and to protect the relationship of candidates with their congregations (some folks might get a little peeved if they knew their priest was looking at another parish).

We are excited and we want to tell you all about the candidates. We can't. And, it is not necessary. The Holy Spirit is guiding us. We and the candidates are in God's hands and will allow the dance of discernment to unfold for us to receive our next rector.

## Season's Greetings from Your Senior Warden

*from Cathy Chatham, Senior Warden*

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. There are many opportunities to gather together as a community over the next weeks. I have listed a few in brief and you can find more information in each weekly e-blast, "This Week at All Saints." (If you are not receiving this important email communication, please call the parish administrator, Beverly Randolph, who will update your information!)

1. Each Thursday in Advent, you are invited to symbolically "walk to Bethlehem" to enrich your Advent preparations, 5:30 – 7:00 p.m., with Fr. Rick offering a short Evening Prayer service in the Oratory at 5:15 p.m.
2. Youth and adults ... whether you are already an Acolyte or want to know more about becoming an Acolyte, this is for YOU. Fr. Rick will hold an all-important, not-to-be-missed, training session on Sunday, **December 11** at 2:00 p.m.
3. During the 5:30 p.m. Christmas Eve service, we offer our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual *no rehearsal* Christmas

Pageant. Youth of all ages are invited to participate, and if you need costume advice or assistance, we will have items available prior to the service to "deck you out."

4. Also, check out the calendar for a listing of all holiday worship services, noting that Christmas and New Year's Day scheduled offerings are **one service** at 10:00 a.m. on both those Sundays.
5. Ring in the New Year, or I should say, Walk in the New Year ... on the Labyrinth. Between 7:00 and 9:00 p.m., join with scores of others in this meaningful, quiet way to welcome in the coming year.
6. NEW ... All Saints' will host a convocational Epiphany service on January 6, 2012. Plan to join with others from our larger family as we gather to celebrate the manifestation of Christ to the World. (Time/details to be announced)
7. And don't forget to mark your calendar for our annual Parish Meeting, January 29, 2012.

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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**Service Schedule**

Sunday: 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite I  
Sunday: 9:00 a.m. LifeStreams, Rite III  
Sunday: 10:00 a.m. Coffee and Conversation Hour  
Sunday: 10:00a.m.-10:40 a.m. Adult/Youth Spiritual Formation  
Sunday: 11:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II  
*Nursery/Child Care available for Sunday services*  
Tuesday: 11:30 a.m. Midday Eucharist  
Thursday: 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. Labyrinth Walk  
Visit our website: [www.allsaintscorpuschristi.org](http://www.allsaintscorpuschristi.org)

**UPDATE ON CLIFF MAUS VILLAGE**

**December, 2011**

On behalf of the board of Cliff Maus Village, I am eager to update you on our progress. The news is good. We have hired a new manager, Amanda Morales, who started November 16 and is already whipping things into shape. Amanda has experience in the field of low-income housing and has many connections within that network. She is full of energy and confidence, very computer literate, and we are thrilled to have her with us.

We also have a new maintenance system, with one excellent maintenance man, Bert Luna, and a contract with Bella Construction to back up any work that requires more than one person. The landscape company Cactus Properties, that we hired a few months ago, is also working out well. We feel very confident that we are moving forward and will continue to increase our occupancy.

The video about CMV by Michael Rains is finished and is a very professional and beautifully done narrative about Cliff Maus. We will show it at Diocesan Council in February and will also give a report on this ministry of the Episcopal Churches in the Corpus Christi area. We now have nine board members, representing five of the seven churches in the trust, and we are hoping to enlarge our board further, including all seven churches.

We received a grant from our generous benefactor, the Rachal

Foundation, to help with our employment transition. We have also received a matching grant up to \$25,000 from the Diocese of West Texas, and Good Shepherd has already donated \$10,000 to the match. We are very grateful for the generosity of those who are giving to us, as well as those who are offering their time and expertise to this ministry. If anyone feels so moved, there are ways you can donate to help our matching grant process. Please ask any member of the CMV board or in the church office for information.

Again, I want to thank everyone who has contributed to our efforts at Cliff Maus Village. It truly "takes a village," and we are so gratified to see how the Spirit is working in this ministry.

*Phyllis Finley, CMV Board President*

**Continued from Page 5**

We will gather for ONE SERVICE at 10:00 a.m. and scrumptious food will follow, pot-luck style.

Throughout Advent, Christmas and into Epiphany and beyond, let us keep in mind the amazing blessings of God in this place. Let us keep in mind the blessing of each other and our community formed by Christ. I am blessed to serve as your Senior Warden, as I continue to feel the presence of Divine Love at work in this place. I pray that you and yours have a Blessed and Holy Season! *Cathy Chatham*