



Scepter



Reflection From the Rector's Desk

By The Rev. Dr. Richard C. Bauer



“We meditate to filter our collective distress through a shared experience of silence and stillness, embodying a calm (in community) that helps us to cultivate inner peace as individuals.”

In the face of adversity, cultivating inner peace is not only a vital personal practice but also a means to navigate through life's complexities with resilience, grace, and balance. Whether we encounter external challenges (like personal loss, financial struggles, or societal upheaval), or experience internal turbulence (like anxiety, anger, or self-doubt), the ability to find calm in the midst of chaos is an essential skill for those of us who truly want to 'be well' in this life. Because in times of turmoil, inner peace provides us with sanctuary—a place to rest our minds, center our emotions, and find clarity. But cultivating inner

peace is not a one-time fix; it's a life-long journey into heightened self-awareness, iterative practice rooted in our commitment to maintaining a harmonious state of being.

Inner peace, often referred to as "peace of mind" or "emotional calm," can be understood as a state of mental and emotional stability where we're free from inner conflict. It's the ability to accept and embrace life as it is, without being constantly swept away by the chaos of our shifting emotions or our external circumstances. It speaks to the sense of balance that allows us to respond to the world with patience, under-

standing, and compassion. But cultivating inner peace doesn't mean that we become immune to stresses or difficult emotions, but rather: that we can experience and process them without allowing them to disrupt our overall well-being.

Nonetheless, in a world that constantly demands our attention, finding moments of peace can seem challenging, particularly when external events push us to feel anxious, frustrated, or overwhelmed. Yet, it is during these very challenging moments that inner peace becomes most necessary, allowing us to restore our senses of perspective and regain our emotional control, helping us to navigate life's obstacles with greater equanimity. And so it is: that cultivating inner peace always begins with self-awareness. In challenging times, our thoughts, feelings, and actions become reactive, driven by fear, worry, or frustration. But heightened self-awareness allows us to notice when these emotions are arising, giving us the opportunity to step back and assess a situation before reacting. And by practicing this kind of mindfulness, we can become attuned to our inner states, recognizing patterns of thought (or emotional responses) that may not serve us well.

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Special points of interest:

- • *Worship services and Parish hours are on the back cover of the Scepter*
- • *Staff and Vestry Members are listed on the back cover of the Scepter*

Reflection

For this reason, we come together every Wednesday here at St. Edward's to think about what we think about, and to talk about how we tend to react to what we think about. At our weekly Contemplative Eucharist, we allow our awareness of external stressors to be heightened, in a shared experience, so we can practice sitting in silence and stillness with big problems that are beyond our control. Indeed, we meditate to filter our collective distress through a shared experience of silence and stillness, embodying a calm (in community) that helps us to cultivate inner peace as individuals. And many of us are coming to recognize: by sitting quietly and observing our thoughts without judgment, we can create a separation between our spirit-centered selves and our mental chatter. We can acknowledge the transient nature of our afflictive thoughts and emotions and learn how to observe them at a distance.

To this, we often consider the "Welcoming Practice" of Christian contemplatives on Wednesdays, reminding us that inner peace is, at its core, about acceptance. Because challenging times often bring with them circumstances beyond our control, and resistance to these circumstances only leads to frustration for us. But the practice of acceptance involves our acknowledging what is happening in the present moment without judgment or denial, recognizing that certain situations are outside of our influence, and rather than fighting against them, we simply must accept them as they are. But through the rich invitation of shared worship and thanksgiving, we also acknowledge that acceptance does not mean resignation; that it does not imply that we give up or stop striving for improvement. Instead, it means that we embrace a willingness to recognize reality as it is, and commit ourselves to finding peace with what we cannot change.

And when we're able to open ourselves to the model of Jesus as Lord and teacher, we come to experience in very personal ways that inner peace is often nurtured by the cultivation of Christ-like compassion and gratitude. Compassion involves recognizing the suffering of others and responding with kindness and empathy, like our Lord. And when we practice compassion, we shift our focus away from our own difficulties and extend care to those around us, donning an outward focus that can help alleviate feelings of isolation or despair, as it reminds us that we are all interconnected in our human experience.

In the same way, we come to recognize that gratitude is another powerful tool for cultivating inner peace. In challenging times, it is easy to become fixated on what is going wrong in our lives. However, gratitude shifts our perspective to focus on the positive aspects of life, no matter how small they may seem. And by regularly acknowledging the things that we are grateful for—whether it's the support of loved ones, a beautiful sunset, or simply the gift of another day—we train our hearts and minds to focus on abundance rather than scarcity. Indeed, by fostering gratitude, we create a foundation of positivity that supports our ability to remain centered during times of challenge.

And this naturally brings us to name that one of the most important aspects of cultivating inner peace is building resilience—the ability to bounce back from adversity. And while resilience is not about avoiding pain or hardship, it is about developing the strength to endure it with a sense of hope and purpose...perspective. When faced with challenges, it's always helpful for us to reframe the situation in a way that emphasizes the potential for growth and learning. For example, rather than viewing a difficult period as a setback, we can re-

frame it as an opportunity for personal growth or a lesson that will strengthen us in the long term. And by shifting our focus from "the problem" to the potential for transformation, we find ourselves located in the blessed contemplative discipline of building our emotional resilience, of intuiting Resurrection in the face of Crucifixion as a means to preserve our inner peace.

As followers of Jesus and bearers of 'Good News', we are most certainly called to cultivate inner peace during challenging times. Here, and now, we're beckoned to develop self-awareness, acceptance, and resilience, and to nurture practices that promote well-being, such as mindfulness, gratitude, and unflappable hope for the future. And by developing these habits, I trust that we create a foundation for inner peace, a stillness that allows us to navigate life's storms with clarity, grace, and strength. And so, while the external world may be unpredictable and tumultuous, may the peace of Christ that we cultivate within ourselves be a steady anchor, helping us to stay grounded, even in the most challenging of times.

Rick+



Parish Office Hours



Scepter

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If you're the last person to leave the building following Sunday services or an event, please take the time to make sure all the lights are turned off (including the rest rooms) the thermostat is reset and the doors are locked.

By Blair Lord



On November 17th, St. Edwards received the blessing of Bishop Audrey Scanlan's visit. She preached a beautiful sermon, which included a heartwarming shoutout to vestry member and man of many hats Bob Mosebach. During the vestry meeting after the 10am service, Bishop Audrey put a question to us. Rather than the one she had been asked in her interview with the Bishop of Connecticut, "Who is Jesus?" she prompted, "Where have you seen God this week?" Many of us have witnessed God in nature, in prayer, in contemplative meditation, in neighbor, and in relationships that can uplift or challenge us. It's not always easy to perceive God in the day-to-day. However, it makes sense that when we pay attention to where God might show up, or where we don't expect Him to show up—lo, there He is!

Looking for Him in our communities is proving timely. For our congregation, and for the Episcopal Church, we discussed our observations and concerns. We strive for deliberate attention to parishioner needs,

especially end-of-life care. Our fiduciary responsibility is also bearing fruit in a presently balanced budget. Our vestry explored the tug-and-pull of honoring traditions and looking to new opportunities to adapt, invite, and grow. For now, much as we would love to bring in young families, there's immense value in meeting people where they are through outward-facing events and programs like Trunk or Treat, Camp Pokémon, Pridefest, and Crafts for the Homebound. Statistically, what keeps people in the church most consistently is small-group spiritual formation. Fortunately, St. Edward's has them in spades and will continue to foster formation. The vestry shared details about these ministries with the bishop.

Please join me in thanking Bishop Audrey for her loving guidance and encouragement! We pray for her quick recovery from surgery, and in our hearts, we will carry her answer in that interview: "Jesus is my role model."



By Michael Simone

Like the Magi, we can respond with our best gifts — our industry, our devotion, our very lives. We disciples are Christ's tangible presence in the world. That same Child whose light brought such joy to the Magi now, through us, offers his mercy to every person.

Through us, every day, Christ feeds multitudes; he heals, teaches and guides countless people. Through individual volunteers and major institutions, through simple acts of kindness or worldwide coordinated efforts, the world can encounter, through the Christian community, the enduring, tangible presence of Christ.



Military News

Please keep in your prayers those close to us who are serving in the military.

★Richard Mutari

Please advise Michelle Bentley in the Parish office or HJ Miller@ Outlook.com if these names should remain on our list:

- ★Justin Carnahan
- ★Brandon Fox
- ★Gordon Frankenfield
- ★Matt Fuhrman
- ★Jack Hawk

- ★Drew Johnson
- ★William Justice
- ★Anthony Koser
- ★Alex Kube
- ★John Lewis
- ★David Peck
- ★Capt. Andrew Pfeiffer
- ★Mike Spurr
- ★David Sternberg
- ★Clayton Tennes
- ★Connor Tennes
- ★Evan Westgate
- ★Seamas Whitesel
- ★1st Lt. Thomas Whitesel



Thank You, Sue Bianco!



Sue with one of the smaller Altar cloths

**By Julie Hoff
Altar Guild Chairman**

After 43 consecutive years as an active member of St. Edward's Altar Guild, Sue Bianco is officially retiring from service at the end of 2024. Sue joined the Altar Guild in 1981 when St. Edward's was a fledgling mission meeting in the Union Hall on Nissley Road. Throughout the years, she has served as the flower chairman, assistant Altar Guild Chairman, and Altar Guild Chairman.

She holds the title of "Linen Lady" earned by being the faithful steward of all the altar linens. For years (she can't recall exactly how many) now, Sue has been the one who hand washes and irons all the altar linens used for worship. She recalls, as a child, watching her mother do the same thing. Sue's husband, Tony, has even built her a special ironing board to make ironing the nine foot fair linen more manageable!

Sue is also an excellent seamstress. Over

the years, she has put those skills to use by repairing vestments and linens. She made all the storage bags for our silver and constructed protective covers for the altar.

All of this has been carried out in Sue's quiet, unassuming way. She is a much loved and respected member of the Altar Guild and that will not change! Please join us in thanking her for her years of service and dedication to St. Edward's!!!

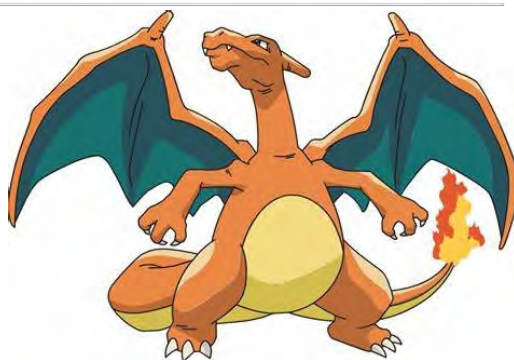


Pokémon



Winter - Wednesdays
January 22nd - March 26th

Spring - Wednesdays
April 30th - May 18th



Teletubies

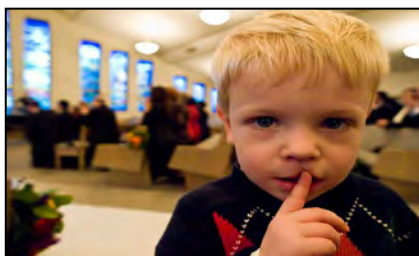


The Stauffers dressed for Halloween

“How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is given! “



Slow Down,



Be Quiet



It's Advent

Kid's Corner

Irons prepare for Trunk or Treat



Rick Dombach and Granddaughter



Prophecy Tree

Make this Christmas craft to display special names for Jesus.

What you need:

- Large wooden craft stick
- Small green wooden craft sticks
- Scissors
- Ruler
- Bible
- Permanent marker
- Craft glue
- Optional: star stickers or craft jewels

What you do:

1. Place the large stick on a table vertically, like a tree trunk.
2. Cut the green sticks into pieces that measure 4", 3½", 3" and 2½".
3. On each green stick, write a name for Jesus from Isaiah 9:6 — Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. (Write small or ask an adult for help.)
4. Use a dot of glue to attach each green stick to the large stick, like tree branches.
5. Decorate your Christmas tree with stickers or jewels.

PUZZLE

CLUES ABOUT CHRISTMAS

The Old Testament contains many details about Jesus' birth. Can you uncover what Isaiah prophesied?

Directions: Use the code to write the letters and complete Isaiah 9:6-7, NIV.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13

N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

For to us a _____ is _____, to us a _____
 is _____, and the government will be on his shoulders.
 And he will be called Wonderful _____
 _____ God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the
 greatness of his government and _____ there will be no _____
 He will reign on David's _____ and over his _____
 establishing and upholding it with _____ and righteousness
 from that time on and _____ Isaiah 9:6-7, NIV

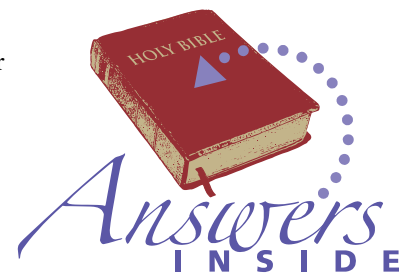
Answers: child, born, son, given, Counselor, Mighty, peace, end, throne, Kingdom, Justice, forever



Bible Quiz

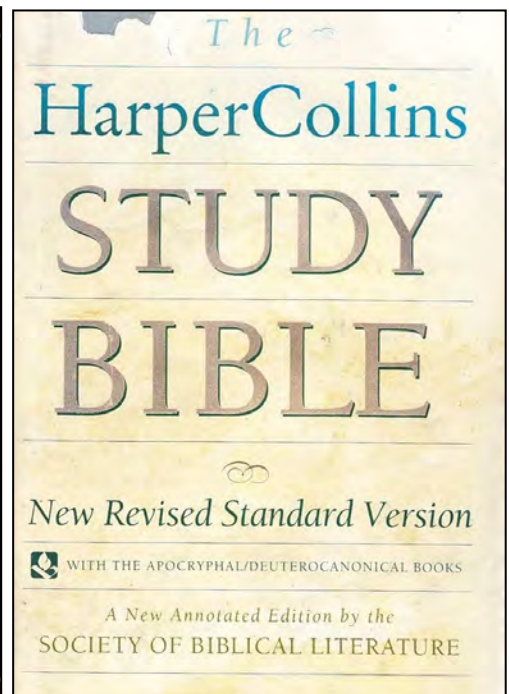
Who was governor of Syria when Joseph and Mary traveled to Bethlehem for a mandated registration, or census?

- A. Theophilus
- B. Herod Antipas
- C. Pontius Pilate
- D. Quirinius



Answer: D (See Luke 2:1-7.)

Join The Challenge!



Bible Reading Plan Dec. 1 to Dec.31

Proper 28

1-Dec	Romans 11:25-15:33	1:1-2:10	
2-Dec	Romans 16; 1 Corinthians 1:1-4:13	19-Dec	Hebrews 2:11-6:20
3-Dec	1 Corinthians 4:14-7:40	20-Dec	Hebrews 7-10
4-Dec	1 Corinthians 8:1-12:11	21-Dec	Hebrews 11-13
5-Dec	1 Corinthians 12:12-15:28	22-Dec	James 1:1-4:10
6-Dec	1 Corinthians 15:29-16:24; 2 Corinthians 1-2	23-Dec	James 4:11-5:20; 1 Peter 1:1-3:12
7-Dec	2 Corinthians 3-7	24-Dec	1 Peter 3:13-5:14; 2 Peter 1-2
8-Dec	2 Corinthians 8-12	25-Dec	2 Peter 3; 1 John 1:1-3:12
9-Dec	2 Corinthians 13; Galatians 1:1-4:11	26-Dec	1 John 3:13-5:21; 2 John; 3 John; Jude 1:1-16
10-Dec	Galatians 4:12-6:18; Ephesians 1:1-14	27-Dec	Jude 1:17-25; Revelation 1-4
11-Dec	Ephesians 1:15-5:14	28-Dec	Revelation 5:1-9:11
12-Dec	Ephesians 5:15-6:24; Phillipians 1-2	29-Dec	Revelation 9:12-14:8
13-Dec	Phillipians 3-4; Colossians 1	30-Dec	Revelation 14:9-18:24
14-Dec	Colossians 2-4; 1 Thessalonians 1:1-2:12	31-Dec	Revelation 19-22
15-Dec	1 Thessalonians 2:13-5:28;		
16-Dec	2 Thessalonians 1 Timothy 1-5		
17-Dec	1 Timothy 6; 2 Timothy		
18-Dec	Titus; Philemon; Hebrews		

Blessed Lord, who hast caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant that we may in such wise hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them; that, by patience and comfort of thy holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which thou hast given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lived and reigned with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.





December

<p>1</p> <p>FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Ask God to open your heart and eyes to ways you can promote reconciliation and healing in your community.</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Luke 21:25-36. How do the symbols of the Advent season help you understand the story of Jesus?</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Isaiah 58. How does this reading challenge you to think about feasts and festivals differently?</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Matthew 4:18-22. How do these verses from Matthew inspire you to read Scripture with new eyes?</p>
<p>6</p> <p>Pray along with the Collect for Advent 1, found on page 211 of <i>The Book of Common Prayer</i>.</p> <p>eyes?</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Call or write a letter to a family member with whom you would like to have a closer relationship.</p>	<p>8</p> <p>SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Read Luke 1:45. Share your faith story with one new person this week.</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Read Luke 3:1-6. How does the story of John the Baptist fill your heart with hope?</p>
<p>11</p> <p>Turn your heart and mind toward giving thanks for this time of reflection, refreshment, and renewal.</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Psalm 100. Take some time to just sit outside and let the air wash over you, taking away the stress and worry of the moment.</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Pray along with the Collect for Advent 2, found on page 211 of <i>The Book of Common Prayer</i></p>	<p>14</p> <p>Discern if there is a special blessing or gift you can share with your church, a local ministry, or with your community.</p>	<p>15</p> <p>THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT</p>
<p>16</p> <p>Put your phone on airplane mode and leave it in a dresser drawer for an hour or two.</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Make a commitment to ask one of your all-stars to come to church with you in the next month.</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Luke 1:59-80. If you lost the power to speak for nine months like Zechariah did, what would be your first word of praise?</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Do you have amends or apologies you need to make? Do your best, with God's help, to make those changes.</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Pray along with the Collect for Advent 3, found on page 212 in <i>The Book of Common Prayer</i></p>
<p>21</p> <p>Gabriel helped Mary to understand her part in God's story. Who has shared an important lesson or their presence with you this week? Thank them today with a call or note.</p>	<p>22</p> <p>FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Have a conversation with someone you might not normally visit with today.</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Take a nap and thank God for the gift of Jesus and for peace at Christmas.</p>	<p>25</p>

Women's Spirituality Group



have yet to try it, I am here to encourage you to give it a try. What we hope for in 2025 is for a time of peaceful and thoughtful prayer and discussion as we begin each month. There is something that is very simple and comforting about gathering at the start of each month, in simple prayer, meditation, and discussion that gives us the opportunity to look inward and express what is in our hearts and minds so that we can venture with a renewed sense of faith, mission, and ministry each month. Our gatherings do not exceed 90 minutes and we offer tea, coffee, and pastries. Join us in 2025. And, we are always looking for different voices to lead discussions. The Women's Spirituality Group is a great refreshment for the new year!

By Michelle Bentley

As we lean into Advent to close out 2024, and will spend time, in ministry, at our Annual Christmas Cookie and Craft sale, the Women's Group is very much looking forward to beginning our 2025 year with our first gathering on

Saturday, January 4th at 10 AM in the lounge. For those of us who have participated in this group since its inception, it has been a most fruitful experience of fellowship, prayer, meditation, and discussion. For women who have thought about joining our group, but



Sunday Prayer



Sunday Evening Prayer, at 7:00 PM:

We use the 1979 *Book of Common Prayer* and the readings for the Sunday Lectionary. It is a quiet service and a good way to end the weekend and prepare for the week to come. :

Anyone interested can send me an email to be put on an email distribution list:

drutledge1225@gmail.com

Sunday Evening Prayer@ 7:00pm
Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84700614072>

Meeting ID: 847 0061 4072

Passcode: SunEP



Widow's Group



The Widow's Group will meet on Wednesday, December 4th at 11:30 AM at The Blue Collar for lunch. We hope you can join us!!

For more information contact:
Peggy Hanzelman: 717.390.4944
phanzelman@comcast.net or:
Ethel Lawrence: 717.314.8993

Include your news and announcements in the next Scepter.
Due date for January will be:
December 20th.
Send articles and announcements to:



Men's Group



Saturday Men's Group: 2nd Saturday of the month from 8 AM -10 AM. **Join us for two hours of fellowship**, including Morning Prayer. Coffee and donuts will be served. **Next meeting** Saturday, December 14th.





ST. EDWARD'S 2024 CHRISTMAS COOKIE & CRAFT SALE

**SATURDAY – DECEMBER 7TH 8 AM UNTIL
WE ARE SOLD OUT!**

Join us in this St. Edward's fundraising tradition by baking your favorite confections for us to sell!

Sign-up sheet for bakers & volunteers is in the parish hall.

We need bakers!!!

Thank you for your support!

Ripples of Kindness



The beauty of giving lies in its ripple effect. One kind deed can inspire another, setting off a cascade of generosity that travels far and wide. This ripple effect extends the impact of a single act across communities and generations, fostering a culture of kindness and compassion. When we give, we not only uplift the recipient but also set an example for others.

This can encourage more people to engage in acts of kindness, perpetuating a cycle of generosity that strengthens community bonds and nurtures a more empathetic society.

In essence, the transformative power of giving during Christmas is a testament to our ability to positively impact the world around us. It's a reminder that in giving, we receive the greatest gifts of all — love, gratitude, and the satisfaction of making a difference. As we embrace the spirit of the season, let us be mindful of the profound impact our actions can have and strive to be catalysts for positive transformation through our acts of kindness.

Taizé Worship



Saint Luke Episcopal
209 South Market St.
Mount Joy, PA.
The first Saturday of every month @ 5pm.

Interested in experiencing meditative worship with candlelight, chanting with live musicians (harp, piano, flute, guitar), scripture interspersed with short periods of silence? Join us as Br. David Rutledge, Br. A. J. Robins or The Rev. Martha Harris lead worship.

Upcoming musicians:

December 7 - Beth Warren
 January 4 - William Wright

Saturday Eve Mass



340 Locust Street
 Columbia, PA 17512

St. Paul Episcopal,
340 Locust St., Co-
lumbia

Rev. Martha Harris conducts a Saturday evening eucharist at 5 PM one Saturday each month. Dates for upcoming Saturday evening services are:

December 21 Carols played on a lovely pipe organ
 January 18th

St. Nicholas Mass with Live Nativity Animals

Saint James Lancaster



Saturday, December 7
 Beginning at 3:30 PM

Celebrate the life and gifts of St. Nicholas of Myra with live nativity animals and a joyful procession!

3:30 PM – Visit with live nativity animals
 4:30 PM – Greet St. Nicholas as he arrives by a horse-drawn carriage
 5:00 PM – Mass and story time with St. Nicholas

Prior to the mass, children are invited to leave their shoes in the chapel, where they'll find a special gift from St. Nicholas when they return! Refreshments will be served in the narthex immediately after the service. Held rain or shine.

12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS KINDNESS

- 

1 Make care kits for unhoused people in your neighborhood. Include socks, gloves, water bottles, personal hygiene, and snacks.
- 

2 Leave a good review of a restaurant or local business that you love.
- 

3 Take flowers to the nurse's station at your local hospital – the nurses will know who needs them most.
- 

4 Buy extra groceries for the local food bank.
- 

5 Sing Christmas Carols, play board games, or just visit with senior citizens at a nursing home.
- 

6 Purchase some extra dog or cat food and drop it off at an animal shelter.
- 

7 Bring coffee to construction workers, police, crossing guards, or anyone working outside.
- 

8 Volunteer an afternoon at a soup kitchen.
- 

9 Bring the neighbor's garbage can and recycling bins back in after trash day.
- 

10 Pay for the order of the car behind you in the drive-through.
- 

11 Leave water bottles and snacks out for mail/delivery people.
- 

12 Double the dinner you are preparing and deliver it to someone who could use it.





STEWARDSHIP
A Way of Life

ST. EDWARD'S STEWARDSHIP 2025

“As living witnesses of God’s abundant mercy and love, made known to us through the life and teaching of Jesus Christ, we’re sincerely blessed as a community, entrusted with the privilege of bearing something of our Lord’s holy and eternal light to one another, and to the world beyond the physical boundaries of our parish home. And in this upcoming season of repentance, anticipation, and preparation, in a time where we’re each invited to look inward, reassessing the room that we make for the stuff of God, it feels right that we also ponder the practical matter of how we each contribute to our shared life in the stewardship of our spiritual home.” – Father Rick

Here we are at First Advent, the beginning of a new liturgical church year and the beginning of our Stewardship Campaign for 2025. As we discern our stewarding, through our committed financial gifts, may we thoughtfully contemplate how our faith enlivens our hearts through the abundance of our shared lives in Christ. Our “Stewardship Stories” kick-off on First Advent with Father Rick speaking with us at our 8 AM and 10 AM services.

During the subsequent three Sundays in Advent we will hear from members of our parish family at both services. Please join us during these important moments of shared parish life.

**December 1st -
December 22nd Sunday
Stewardship Stories
from our St. Edward's
Parish Family**

**Be on the lookout this
week for your 2025
Stewardship Letter &
Pledge Form**

**Fourth Advent
December 22nd Pledge
Ingathering**

**We request your
prayerful
consideration for your
2025 pledge. We give
our deepest thanks to
you for your past
giving.**



**ST. EDWARD'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

**sainteds.org
717.898.6276**

stedsoffice@comcast.net



**EXPERIENCE THE JOY OF THE SEASON
AT ST. EDWARD'S!!**

**OUR SANCTUARY WILL BE OVERFLOWING WITH
CANDLELIGHT, DECORATIONS, AND
BEAUTIFUL MUSIC!**

**WE WILL BE OFFERING TWO SERVICE
OPPORTUNITIES AT
4:30 PM AND 7:00 PM**

LET'S SPEND CHRISTMAS EVE TOGETHER!!!

*We will have a Christmas Day message by Father Rick on the
St. Edward's YouTube Channel.*

*Sunday, December 29th, we will hold our Rite One 8:00 AM and Rite Two 10:00
AM services with our coffee hour in between.*

Needle Arts

The Needle Arts Ministry meets Tuesday at 1 PM in the lounge area.

Members of this group, plus volunteer crafters, work all year to create a variety of items for the cookie/craft sale. They also make items such as prayer shawls and baptism blankets, as well as hats and scarves to be donated to any in need.

All are invited to be a part of this enjoyable and productive group. Yarn, patterns and "expert assistance" are available, so you do not need to have a project started to join in the fun.

Remember, everyone's always welcome to pop up at a Needle Arts meeting on Tuesdays at 1 PM in the lounge. No reservations required-just bring your sense of humor with you.



Irene Achey helping to untangle some of the yarn that was donated.



Gail Irons and Donna Holwager pricing and organizing crafts for the Cookie Craft Sale December 7th.



Many skeins of yarn were recently donated.



Our yarn supply has recently been replenished.



Hand made gifts



How many days 'till Christmas?



The newly supplied yarn will be used to make prayer shawls, baptismal gifts, scarves and hats



Prayer shawls ready to be given to any one in need of comfort.



Post It Note pads



Handmade pillows



HEMPFIELD AREA FOOD PANTRY

Current requests

- Canned Tuna
- Canned Kidney Beans
- Canned Black Beans
- Canned Fruit
- Canned Yams
- Dry Black Beans
- Spaghetti Sticks
- Canned Spaghetti Sauce

The mission of the Hempfield Area Food Pantry is to show the underserved the gracious love of God by feeding the body, mind and soul of it's clients with dignity!

The pantry is open Mondays and Wednesdays from 10 am to 1 pm



Books for Prisoners	Ends Dec. 5
Jesse Tree	Ends Dec. 8
Soles for Souls	March 5 – April 13, 2025
Feed My Starving Children	March 27-30, 2025
Race Against Racism	April 2025
Blood Drive	May 20, 2025

Collection of food for the Hempfield Food Pantry in the narthex is ongoing.

Community Aid News

Community Aid has expanded the payouts to partner organizations for donated items!!! Below is a list of items you can bring to Community Aid, mentioning they are for St. Edward's Episcopal Church (*Our Partner Number is 40036*). We will receive credit for quarterly payouts that assist our Faith-in-Action ministry. Community Aid has always accepted these items, but in the past, they did not give credit to partner organizations for electronics, toys, and household goods.

Clothing	Electronics
Shoes	Toys
Accessories	Household goods



Do You Need A Ride To Sunday Worship?



If you have a longing to be at St. Ed's in person to worship on Sunday mornings, please contact the church office and a driver will pick you up.

If you are willing to add your name to the schedule to be a driver, please contact the parish office as well.

UTO Thanksgiving Campaign 2024



This year, St. Ed's donated \$57.00 to the United Thank Offering. Thank you for your generosity. UTO distributes 100% of what is collected to support innovative mission and ministry throughout The Episcopal Church and Provinces of the Anglican Communion.

2024 Turkey Drive What A Blessing!



Thank you for bringing in your turkey donations for the Hempfield Area Food Pantry! The 2024 Turkey Drive provided 13 turkeys that will provide Thanksgiving meals to those in our local community. That translates into over 195lbs of turkey!! Great job!

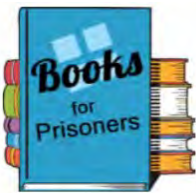
2024 Jesse Tree Project
Ends December 8



Our annual and traditional “season of giving” that benefits the foster children of COBYs during the holidays has been a long-time favorite of this parish. All the names on the “mitten tree” were quickly claimed. You are asked to bring your wrapped gifts to the church and place under our Jesse Tree by December 8. We will aim to deliver the gifts to COBYs on December 9.

Questions? Please direct questions to Leslie Arnold at Larnold897@aol.com

Books For Prisoners
Ends December 5



Thanks to the overwhelming generosity of St. Edwards, we were able to supply the Lancaster County Prison with 100 specific requests from the Chaplain’s Office:

- 30—NIV Bible
- 30—NLT Bible
- 20—The Purpose Driven Life
- 20—The Shack.

This is in addition to the books you have already provided. Books have long served as a bridge to the outside world for incarcerated people. They allow people cut off from their normal lives — and often from their families — to engage with thinking and ideas that can open their mind and stories that transport them anywhere on earth and beyond. Thank you!!!

Prayers Requested For:

Joey (nephew of parishioner)

Saskita (niece of parishioner)

Great News! Rahim Siblings Scheduled to Leave Afghanistan

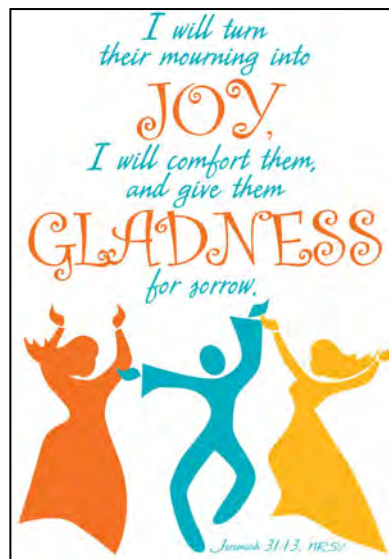


Meet Muska, Muneebullah and Haseebullah Rahim. This picture was taken four years ago

The Rahim siblings are scheduled to fly to Doha on December 4, the capital of Qatar. Qatar is considered to be one of the safest travel destinations. As of this writing, we don’t know how long they will need to stay in Doha. They will go through more medical tests but it is the last stretch of this long-awaited journey to the United States.



As you know, we have been looking for a house that could fit the Rahim family comfortably when they arrive. If you have any knowledge of a 4-bed, 2-bath house, contact Beth Lynch or Randy Westgate.



I sometimes forget that I was created for Joy
My mind is too busy
My heart is too heavy for me to remember
that I have been called to dance the sacred dance of life
I was created to smile
To love
to be filled up and lift up others
O Sacred One
untangle my feet from all that ensnares
Free my soul that I might Dance
and that our dancing might be contagious.

- Hafez



A Prayer For Spiritual Growth

When my spiritual vision is foggy, help me to find my way.

When my understanding is incomplete, open my mind and increase my patience.

When my indifference blocks my senses, touch my heart.

When worry or fear raise their voices, speak to my faith.

Let your Spirit permeate my longings as well as my living and my loving. Amen.

—Peggy Ferrell, *Prayers and Poems*

Bishop Audrey Scanlan Visits November 17th

Pictures by Mary Snyder and Bishop Scanlan's Facebook



By Audrey Scanlan

Visitation at St. Edward's, Lancaster. What a beautiful morning! Music, lots of Confirmations, Receptions and Renewal of vows, crafts during coffee hour with live music and a moving conversation about God with the vestry, afterwards. Church on a scooter! Thanks to The Rev. Dr. Rick Bauer and congregation and to Glenn Scanlan, my faithful handler.



+Audrey reads the prayer



+Audrey delivers her sermon



Fr. Rick reads the Gospel



Jay Miller



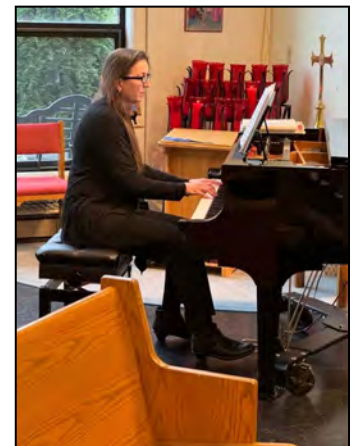
Rayelenn Casey



Fr. Rick and Bishop Scanlan deliver announcements



Fr. Rick and Jay Miller



Karen Waddill

Bishop Audrey Scanlan Visits November 17th

Pictures by Mary Snyder and Bishop Scanlan's Facebook



Ruthie Miller, Valerie Weller, Mary Snyder, Bruce Lynch, Art Hagan are "officially" received/confirmed/reaffirmed into the church



Our confirmands



Fr. Rick and the Confirmands



Meredith Lord and Sally Lederer



Eric & Valerie Weller



Wendy Souders and Linda Lentz



Eucharist



Sandra Klick



Gia Zapata



Fr. Rick with Bruce & Beth Lynch and Ruthie Miller



The Bishop's Visit



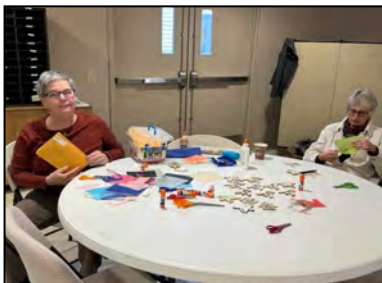
Church on a scooter!



Gifts for the Bishop



Coffee Hour Band



Beth Lynch and Donna Holwager with coffee Hour



Buddy Yeager and Peter Weber



Karen Waddill and the choir



Hosted by Father Rick and Blair Lord

Our November viewing had a “get used to different” moment when it convened on the second Sunday of the month.

Even so, we were ready to jump into The Chosen’s telling of a striking moment from the Gospel of Luke: Jesus’s visit to and rejection at Nazareth. The Gospels of Matthew and Mark portray this event, too, but with a notably different outcome and variant details from Luke’s account. This dramatic telling brought both Jesus and us to the edge!

Additionally, “Physician, Heal Yourself” introduced Lazarus as a prominent figure in Jesus’s life well before the man’s famous resurrection (Lazarus’s resurrection, just to be clear). A tomb did make an appearance, however, as Jesus and his mother Mary grapple with the repercussions of confronting their neighbors. We had an opportunity to reflect on the powerful image of a tomb and learn more about real-world examples of how such tombs look. They, too, differed from many of our expectations. Thank you everyone who took part in the illuminating discussion!

This month, we are resuming on the first Sunday, **December 1st**. It’s the start of Advent, too, and many ministries related to stewardship. It’s fitting that the next episode, “Clean, Part 1,” will see the apostles return from their first missions to usher in God’s kingdom through preaching and divine healing. They find themselves caught in a flurry of emotions about their new role and its impact on the communities they encountered during their travels. But they find that challenges back home in Capernaum need to be tended to as well.

We look forward to watching and talking with you after the 10am service. Please join us in the parish hall at 11:45am and bring your lunch.

If you’re looking ahead in your calendars, we will view the follow-up episode, “Clean, Part 2,” on **January 5th, 2025**.

If you would like to catch up on seasons 1, 2, or 3, you can access The Chosen for free at thechosen.tv. You can also download The Chosen App to your Amazon FireTV, Apple TV, or Roku, and on your phone from the Apple Store or Google Play Store. It is available for streaming on Amazon Prime, Hulu, and Peacock.

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 18 AT 5:30 PM

Potluck Supper



Potluck supper - bring your favorite dish - main course, salad, bread, or dessert - enough for 4-5 people

Bring your own place setting - plates, utensils We will provide beverages and cups

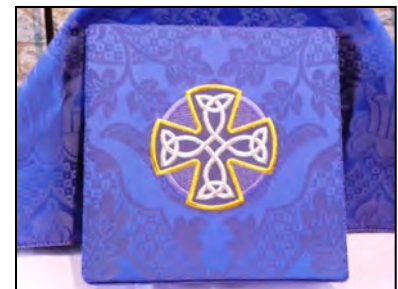
There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex

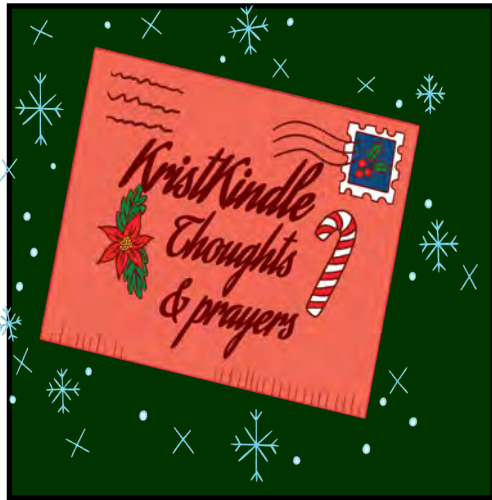
Advent Colors: Sarum Blue

Advent marks the beginning of the liturgical new year and is a time when we ponder the coming of Christ in time, as the Babe of Bethlehem, and at the end of time as our Judge and Redeemer. The word advent comes to us from the Latin meaning “to come”.

As a way to mark this season of expectation and hope, we wear blue vestments. This is a recovery of an ancient English tradition stemming from Salisbury Cathedral, and so it is referred to as Sarum blue. (Sarum being the ancient Latin name for Salisbury.) While the deep blue conveys a feeling of solemnity, because of its association with the Blessed Virgin Mary, it also conveys the Advent themes of hope and expectation. On the Third Sunday of Advent, we see hints of pink on the vestments, marking that Sunday as Gaudete Sunday, reflecting the opening words of the ancient introit appointed for the day: Rejoice in the Lord, always!

One of the season’s symbolic colors, blue also represents hope. During Advent, we wait in hope to celebrate again God’s coming in human form. We also look forward in hope to Christ’s coming in glory at the end of the age. Purple symbolizes the royalty of Jesus, the coming Prince of Peace, and the penitence with which we receive him. Some congregations also use pink or white candles in Advent wreaths, with pink symbolizing joy and white symbolizing the Christ Child.





The Krist Kindling "Reveal" will be a soup and salad lunch time event on Saturday, January 18 in the Parish Hall at noon. Doors open at 11:45. Please bring your own table service (bowls and drinks provided), a crock pot of soup, a salad, bread/rolls, or a dessert to share. Please send an RSVP text or email to me with a note about what item you plan to bring by January 11. It is important not only for food planning, but also so that you can be seated with those with whom you were partnered.

If you signed up to participate, you should have received an email with the name of the person, couple, or family you will be sending a message to over

the three weeks of Advent. NOTE a change that was in the email. Please **MAIL all three card or messages unsigned** (sign Krist Kindle as has been the tradition) via U.S. mail. I hope it won't be a problem for anyone to NOT send an email or text or make a phone call. This way, it will carry on the element of surprise. Please let me know if this is not workable for you!

If you think it likely that those receiving your messages will recognize your handwriting, please disguise it - enclose a typed or printed message or ask another person in your household to write the message. Don't put a return address label on the envelope!

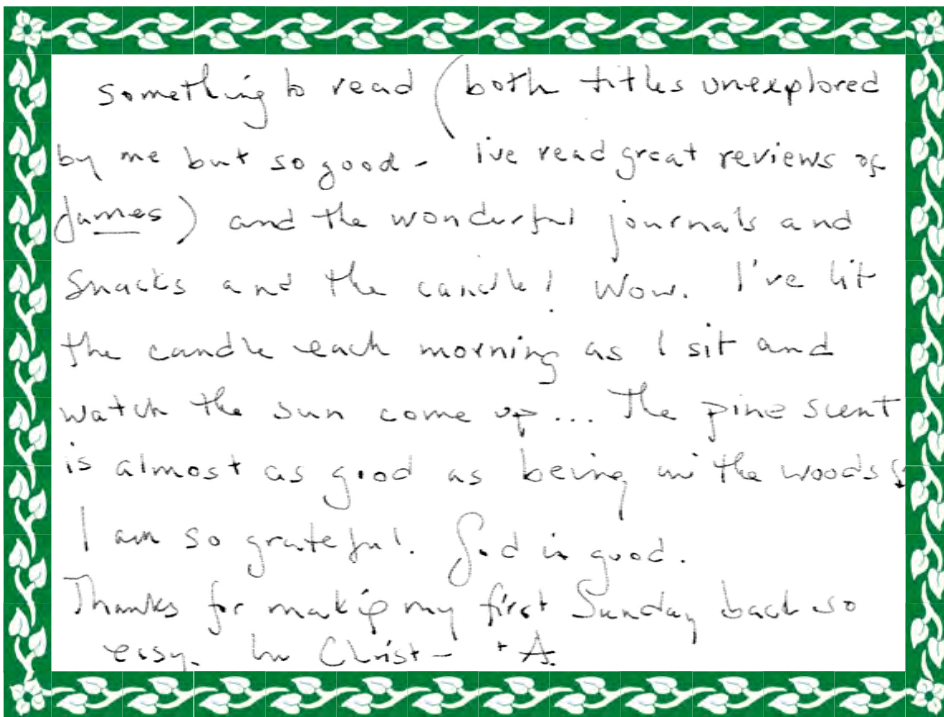
Thank you for your patience with our evolving Advent activity, now in its 35th year!

Meredith Aul

717-575-2119

miamessages@gmail.com

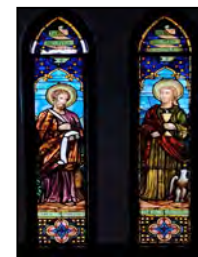
Bishop's Thank You for Gifts



By Joyce Kamm



Joyce and Mother Dina at St. Mathew's Episcopal Church In Sunbury, PA. High Church with "smells and bells" as they say, complete with incense, Eucharist at the altar rail, processional cross, Patrick at the organ. A lovely worship experience!



The magnificent stained glass



Patrick and Dina Ishler

Coffee Hours

Pictures by Mary Snyder

One of the foundations of our weekly fellowship is our Sunday coffee hour. From 9 AM to 10 AM each Sunday, we offer folks a chance to gather, as one community, between the services, as well as the space we hold for our fantastic Coffee House Band to perform.

Join us at a coffee hour, sign up to serve as a coffee hour host, participate in our craft activities, or, if you hold musical gifts, contact Randy Westgate about joining the Coffee House Band.



The Bishop enjoying the live music



Art Hagan, Valerie Weller and Julie Hoff crafting!



Stenciled ornaments



Coffee hour is always a great time to meet folks!



Liz Yeager and Beth Lynch



Bev Achey and Michelle Bentley



Father Rick and Eric Weller



Bob Mosebach, Jay Miller, Betty Simora, Seth Hake, Beth Hake, Mike Freshwater(hidden) and Randy Westgate

Services in November

Pictures by Mary Snyder



Peter Weber



Blair Lord



Kiki Davis-Brugmann



Kathleen Spencer



Linda Jones



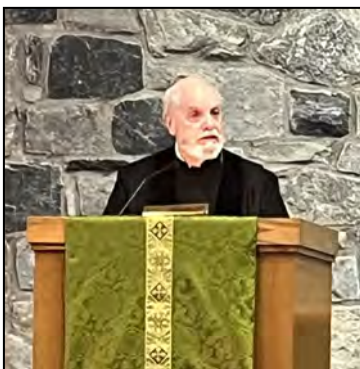
The Choir is an important part of every 10 AM service



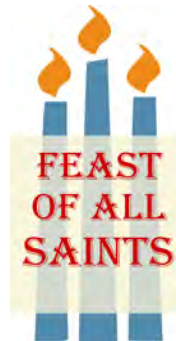
Jeanne Mosebach



Debra Fast , Kevin and Ellen Milligan



Bob Mosebach's Homily



Fr. Rick's sermons



Vanessa Helsel, Jay and Lori Miller



Fr. Rick and Vanesa Helsel



The Gospel

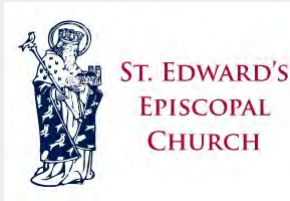


The Eucharist



Men's Anthem





2453 Harrisburg Pike

Lancaster, PA 17601

Phone 717-898-6276

Email: stedsoffice@comcast.net

www.sainteds.org

BCP p 818

O God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, our only Savior, the Prince of Peace: Give us grace seriously to lay to heart the great dangers we are in by our unhappy divisions; take away all hatred and prejudice, and whatever else may hinder us from godly union and concord; that, as there is but one Body and one Spirit, one hope of our calling, one Lord, one Faith, one Baptism, one God and Father of us all, so we may be all of one heart and of one soul, united in one holy bond of truth and peace, of faith and charity, and may with one mind and one mouth glorify thee; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

LOOK FOR US ON THE WEB!
www.sainteds.org

Conversation

When people enter into difficult conversations with honest love - able to deeply disagree and be disagreed with, without questioning the human dignity of the other - they have chosen to what they belong: love, reconciliation, and God.

Br. Lucas Hall, [SSJE](#)

Staff

The Rev. Dr. Rick Bauer,
Rector

Michelle Bentley, Parish
Administrative Assistant

Karen E. Waddill,
Director of Worship Music

Parish Office Hours

Tuesday-Friday:
11AM – 4:00PM

Vestry (year term ends)

- ✦ Mike Freshwater(2027)
Vestry Clerk
- ✦ Richard Irons (2025)
- ✦ Ethel Lawrence (2027)
- ✦ Blair Lord (2026)
Vestry Clerk
- ✦ Beth Lynch (2025)
Senior Warden
- ✦ Jay Miller (2026)
Junior Warden
- ✦ Bob Mosebach (2026)
- ✦ Mary Snyder (2025)
- ✦ Kathy Spencer (2027)

Worship Services

Sunday Services

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite I (said)

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite II

Wednesday

12 Noon: Contemplative Eucharist,
Meditation, and Healing Prayer

[HTTPS://SAINTEDS.ORG/](https://sainteds.org/)

