



The Messenger

A place for worship and Christian growth in the knowledge and love of God

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ,

For this January edition of the Messenger, as we enter into a new year, I continue to reflect on a Christmas message from our Presiding Bishop, The Very Rt. Rev. Michael Curry, and a Christmas message from our Diocesan Bishop, The Rt. Rev. Russell Kendrick.

Our Presiding Bishop begins his 2018 Christmas message, distributed through the “Episcopal Church Office of Public Affairs” (<https://www.episcopalchurch.org/public-affairs>) - Dec 18th, 2018), with the following words. “Love came down at Christmas, because God so loved the world, that he gave.” Michael Curry continues, “In the Third Chapter of John’s Gospel, Jesus says at one point, “God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that all who believe in him should not perish but have everlasting life.”



“For years,” Presiding Bishop Curry continues, “I’ve often thought that that passage only referred to Jesus giving his life as a sacrifice on the cross. And to be sure, that is part of what it means. But some years ago I was reading a commentary by Raymond Brown, on the Gospel of John, and Professor Brown said that that passage not only speaks of Jesus willingly giving his life on the cross, but it actually speaks of Christmas, of God giving his very self, his very son to the world, not for anything God could get out of it, but for the good and the welfare and the well-being of the world. Of us.”

God loves us. Love is the essence of God. Anything that is of love is God, and anything that is not of love, is not of God. At times, that can be difficult to remember even though we are reminded in Holy Scripture. Loving thy neighbor as thyself. In a recent message posted on Dec. 24th, 2018 from our Diocesan Bishop, The Rt. Rev. Russell Kendrick, Bishop Kendrick spoke about one of his recent visits to Panama City; meeting and listening to the lives that have changed. Some, though certainly not all, after all the damage and devastation caused by Hurricane Michael, have changed for the good. In particular, as Bishop Kendrick says in his “View from the Bishop’s Chair” (www.diocgc.org), there is a story he shares that begins with a title: **“When the fence came down, we became friends.”**

In the Bishop’s words, Bishop Kendrick writes, the story that has stayed with me is the one told by a man about his neighbor with whom he had feuded for years. They had argued about petty things, like dogs messing up a yard, and children inadvertently crossing property lines. So in order to avoid each other, a big fence was built. Each planted trees and shrubs to further block their view to each other’s property.” Bishop Kendrick continues, “Then, on the 10th of October, with one powerful sloop of wind, the fence was gone and so too the trees. The man said, “When the fence was gone, we had to learn to live together. It was that same neighbor who let me plug an electrical cord into his generator. He gave me a pallet of bottled water. When the fence came down, we learned to become friends.”

Bishop Kendrick, writing about this experience on the day before our Savior’s birth, reiterated how struck he was by the phrase, “when the fence came down, we learned to become friends.” With this story, Bishop Kendrick writes how he was reminded of “...a more ancient story... A story in which the Word became flesh and lived among us.”

What I love about these two Christmas responses, from our Presiding Bishop and our Diocesan Bishop, is the truth that God came to us in love and to love. Bishop Kendrick continues with his story about the fence, “In the incarnation, the fence between heaven and earth has come down revealing to us the God of eternal, absolute love who seeks to know us as one of us.” Bishop Kendrick reminds us that we are called to join God in the building up of God’s kingdom here on earth as it is in heaven. “One way to do so,” Russell continues, “...is to pay attention to the fences that divide us, enslave us, and sorely hinder us... from the holy work of friendship.”

I love how our Presiding Bishop brings his Christmas message to a close especially in relation to our Diocesan Bishop’s message. “Love came down at Christmas.” Bishop Curry concludes his message by saying, “That’s what love is. To give, and not to count the cost. To give, not for what one can get, but for what the other can receive. That’s what love is. God so loved the world, that he gave.”

I hope and pray that we, as followers of Christ, can be reminded of God’s love for us in this New Year. To experience that love, to embrace that love, and to share that love with one another. **Amen.**

Fr. Tim +

AT ST. FRANCIS

At St. Francis of Assisi Episcopal Church, our Sunday mornings begin at 9 a.m. with Christian formation for adults in the conference room, and children's Sunday School in the Sunday School classroom. Worship is at 10 a.m. with nursery provided. We utilize both Rite One and Rite Two Holy Eucharist, with organ and choir. Refreshments and conversation take place after the service in the Parish Hall. The Holy Eucharist is also celebrated at Noon every Wednesday.



ST. FRANCIS ACTIVITIES

Tai Chi for Seniors

Free Tai Chi classes for Seniors is offered in the Atrium Monday and Wednesday from 9:15 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.

St. Francis' Readers

Meet the third Monday of each month at 2:00 p.m. in the Library.

Tuesday Women's Bible Study

All women are invited on Tuesday mornings at 9:45 a.m. in the Conference Room.

Women of St. Francis (WOSF) Luncheon

Takes place the second Tuesday of each month at 11:30 a.m. All ladies are invited. Please bring a lunch item to share.

Hospice Card Crafters

Meet the first Wednesday of each month at 10 a.m. in the Conference Room. No experience needed.

Monthly Parish Supper

This month Parish Supper is on Wednesday, January 23 at 6 p.m. Please see the announcement in the next column.

Adult Choir Rehearsal

Thursdays at 6 p.m. in the Choir Loft.

Senior Moment Café

Meets Fridays from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. in the Great Room.

Episcopal Church Women (ECW)

ECW meetings resume this month on Saturday, January 12 at 9 a.m. in the Parish Hall. Light refreshments will be served.

Prayer Shawl Guild

Meets at 1:30 p.m. in the Great Room.

Adult Education

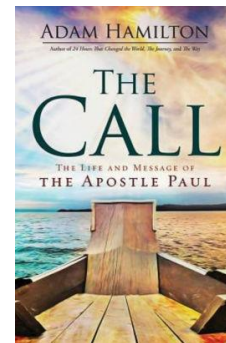
Meets at 9 a.m. in the Conference Room on Sundays.

Children's Sunday School

Is being revamped, and the date classes resume will be announced.

AT ST. FRANCIS

ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAM BEGINNING JANUARY 6, 2019



The new Adult Christian Education Program starts Sunday, January 6, 2019, 9 a.m., in the Parish Hall. The six Sunday program is: "The Call" authored by Adam Hamilton and is the story of the Apostle Paul, whose writings continue to shape the lives of one-third of the world's population, a man second only to Jesus in his impact and influence on the Christian faith, and whose witness defines what it means to be a follower of Jesus Christ. It was a call – a call to turn the world upside down.



JANUARY PARISH SUPPER

January 23, 2019

Life on the West Florida Piney Wood Frontier
Speaker: Dr. Brian Rucker, Pensacola State College

Dr. Brian Rucker will present "**Life on the West Florida Piney Wood Frontier**" at our January Parish Supper. Frontier life was hard. Learn just how hard in this dynamic story of our ancestors delivered by a seventh generation Santa Rosan. Supper will be served at 6 p.m. The meal will be catered by Nancy's Haute Cuisine of Pensacola. Tickets are \$8 and available at the Parish Office beginning January 15, or, in the church atrium on Sunday, January 13 and 20. Tickets are not sold at the door. Dinner choices are:

Homemade Meatloaf

OR

Feta & Pancetta Chicken

(served with mashed potatoes, vegetable medley and bread).

Vegetarian meal: Eggplant Parmesan

Dessert: Beth's Famous Banana Pudding

Remember to tell us your meal choice!

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS AND SCRIPTURE January 2019

January 6
The Epiphany

January 13
*First Sunday
After Epiphany*

January 20
*Second Sunday
After Epiphany*

January 27
*Third Sunday
After Epiphany*

February 3
*Fourth Sunday
After Epiphany*

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah
60:1-6
Psalm
72:1-7, 10-14
Ephesians
3:1-12
Matthew
2:1-12

Isaiah
43:1-7
Psalm
29
Acts
8:14-17
Luke
3:15-17, 21-22

Isaiah
62:1-5
Psalm
36:5-10
1 Corinthians
12:1-11
John
2:1-11

Nehemiah
8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10
Psalm
19
1 Corinthians
12:12-31a
Luke
4:14-21

Jeremiah
1:4-10
Psalm
71:1-6
1 Corinthians
13:1-13
Luke
4:21-30

John Griffing
John Boden

Averette Culver
Neil Merrifield

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Don Johnson
John Griffing

Mary Jo Mann
John Boden

Neil Merrifield
Nancy Storey

ACOLYTES

Lonnie Lorren
Barbara MacNeil
Averette Culver

Finn Youberg
Nancy Storey
Leon Mayberry

Amy Reyes
Mark MacNeil
David Stratford

Lonnie Lorren
Barbara MacNeil
Averette Culver

John Griffing
David Stratford
Leon Mayberry

Bob Brownlie
Flash Gordon
Cathy Griffing

Flash Gordon
Jack Grimley
Kim Grimley

LECTORS / INTERCESSORS

Brad Wilson
Bob Menzer
Susan Drinkwater

Ann Woll
Mark MacNeil
Alice Lane

Pat Rooney
Tricia Briska
Cathy Griffing

Chip Wood
Janet Wood

Freida Palmer
Carol Start

USHERS/GREETERS

Leo Cyr
Sally Weber

Mike Lane
Alice Lane

Herb Woll
Ann Woll

Tom Brown
Lita Brown

JoAnn Considine
Jean Gibson

OBLATIONERS

Bill Davis
Maria Davis

Harry Kastanakis
Leo Cyr

Finley Holmes
Judy Holmes

Dana Miller

Sarah Backus

NURSERY MINISTRY

Lindsey Hutto

Erin Currie

Alice Davis

1st Sunday

2nd Sunday

ALTAR GUILD
3rd Sunday

4th Sunday

1st Sunday

COFFEE HOUR

Potluck
Sunday!

Potluck
Sunday!

**TO VOLUNTEER TO HELP WITH COFFEE HOUR, PLEASE PUT YOUR NAME ON THE SIGN-UP SHEET IN THE PARISH HALL OR CALL CHRIS MILLER @ 932-2861 OR HELEN LAUCELLA @ 850-501-7411.
(SUBMIT RECEIPTS TO CHRIS IN THE OFFICE FOR REIMBURSEMENT.)**



WORSHIP SCHEDULE ~ January 2019

Wednesday, January 2 <i>The Holy Name</i>	12:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist Rite Two Chalice: Don Johnson Lector: Alice Lane
Sunday, January 6	The Epiphany 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite One
Wednesday, January 9 <i>Julia Chester Emery</i>	12:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist Rite Two Chalice: Averette Culver Lector: Kim Grimley
Sunday, January 13	First Sunday After Epiphany 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite One
Wednesday, January 16 <i>Confession of St. Peter</i>	12:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist Rite Two Chalice: David Stratford Lector: Bob Menzer
Sunday, January 20	Second Sunday After Epiphany 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite Two
Wednesday, January 23 <i>Conversion of St. Paul</i>	12:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist Rite Two Chalice: John Griffing Lector: Kim Grimley
Sunday, January 27	Third Sunday After Epiphany 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite Two
Wednesday, January 30 <i>The Presentation</i>	12:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist Rite Two Chalice: Don Johnson Lector: Bob Menzer
Sunday, February 3	Fourth Sunday After Epiphany 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite Two
Wednesday, February 6 <i>Absalom Jones</i>	12:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist Rite Two Chalice: Averette Culver Lector: Alice Lane

PRAYER LIST

January Birthdays: 1/7 Haven Slay, 1/9 Millie Rush Currie, 1/11 Jennie Smith, 1/12 Eric Schurger, 1/13 Deborah Stratford, 1/19 Steve Jimenez, 1/22 Darrell Gossett, 1/23 Don Johnson, 1/24 Bill Davis, 1/28 Harriet Gossett, 1/29 Michael Henderson, B.J. Jimenez

January Anniversaries: 1/24 Bob & Barbara Ogden, 1/26 Lynn & Sue Parker, 1/29 Ace & Kathy Cannon

Pray for Healing: Lonnie Barlow, Wyatt Blancheri, George Bokas, Stephen Barona, Mike Bosworth, Alan Bunt, Martha Bunt, Tammy Cantrell, Penny Carter, Lessie Cauthen, Anna Clausen, Sky Currie, Fred Daniel, Bill Delavan, Marzell Ellis, Jan Flanigan, Valorie Griffing, Phyllis Ham, Jennifer Henderson, Clauzell Holloway, Mary Howard, Josephina Jimenez, Elizabeth Kenworthy, Nicole Kostic, Kristie Kroh, Brenda Lawrence, Cline May, Leon Mayberry, Liza McKee, Bryan & Karen Noa, Rosemary Noel, Mariah O'Hara, Jessica Ogden, K.K. Owen, Lynn & Sue Parker, Marlana Peña, Jan Reddit, Katlynn Salzman, Marianne Stanky, Savannah Stanky, John Stearns, Bob Stine, Bob Stine, Jr., Genia Weidler, Pat Wilson

Pray for the Departed: Edie Garcia, William Green, Alexis Loes

Pray for Active Duty Military: Martin Bunt, Michael Christiansen, Matthew King, Doug Kroh, Daniel Lane, Bryan Lucas, Kenneth Marshall, Tyler Mathews, Shane Murtha, Anthony Olson, Josh Payne, Dylan Price, Jason Pritchett, Ryan Schuler, Karri Styron, T.J. Teicher, Kevin Walsh, Nicolas Zbikowski



During the service on Sunday, January 20, we will welcome and hear from The Rev. Holly Ostlund about a ministry providing direct relief to the poor throughout Latin America and the Caribbean. Rev. Ostlund will share personal witness about Food for the Poor's mission to care for the destitute as a means of living out the Gospel mandate to love one another.

The Rev. Holly Ostlund is a priest of the Diocese of Southeast Florida and is a graduate of the University of Tennessee, Barry University, and the Episcopal Seminary of the Southwest. Rev. Ostlund has served at several churches in south Florida and also served as a church planter for her diocese. Holly loves to spend time with her son Grant, who lives in Vermont.

Please join me in welcoming Reverend Ostlund.

NOAH'S NURSERY



Birth-Kindergarten (age 0-5) meets in the nursery during the church service. "Busy Bags" are in the Narthex each Sunday morning for those children attending church.

January Nursery Assistants

9:45 a.m. til Communion

January 6	Dana Miller
January 13	Sarah Backus
January 20	Lindsey Hutto
January 27	Erin Currie
February 3	Alice Davis

CHILDREN/YOUTH/PARENT/ FAMILY MEETING

Plan to attend this important meeting on January 27 in the Parish Hall following Coffee Hour. During the beginning phase of 2019, we will be strategically exploring new ways to reach our children/youth/families.

All are welcome to attend this meeting regardless of how much time you are able to invest. With the Children/Family Task Force, our goal is to completely revamp the way we are handling children/family ministries and education, and we need your help. One of the most important ways to accomplish this is by collaborating with children/youth/parents to understand what the needs and desires are for our kids and for their parents.

Your ideas and suggestions, large or small, are welcomed. Creative ideas are especially welcomed! Please join us for this very special meeting. We have an exciting year ahead of us!

LOOKING FOR SOME SUPPORT? THE CIRCLE OF CARE CAN HELP!

St. Francis is in the process of developing a support group to meet the needs of the congregation and community. This group is open to all in the church that need a support community for any reason. We will also invite people in our community that are primary caregivers of someone that is homebound.

Kim Giryluk, newly elected vestry member, will lead the discussions. Kim has a Masters in Clinical Social Work and is currently working at Pathways for Change in Pensacola. She has experience with therapy for individuals, families, and groups. At Pathways for Change she is working with homeless women veterans, in a substance abuse program for men and counseling individuals and families.

Kim will be developing topics for the weekly support group based on the needs of those in attendance. Some topics may include:

Personal Journey & Purpose
Feeling Peace & Contentment
Loving God Giving of Ourselves & Trusting Him
Just For Fun, Humor in the world of our Creator
Facing Pain & Troubles - Embracing Pain
Losing a Loved One

Please contact Kim Giryluk 856-305-2946 if you would be interested in joining a support group and what kind of support topics would be beneficial.

DID YOU KNOW?



My Nursing Career

I was in the fifth grade when I had my tonsils taken out at the hospital. While there, I noticed nurses taking care of other children in a very kind way. That is when I first decided to become a pediatric nurse. I read every book in the Cherry Ames nurse series. Each book had Cherry performing a different type of nursing like Army Nurse, Visiting Nurse, Clinic Nurse, Cruise Nurse and many more.

I attended nursing school in Chicago in 1961 and did the pediatric rotation in my senior year. On the first day of rotation, I was assigned to pass medication to all my young patients. Almost every child needed an injection. It was a very traumatic experience for my young patients but especially for me. I decided I did not want to be a pediatric nurse after all!

After graduation from a 3-year program in 1964, I was hired as a nurse for the Red Cross Blood Program. It was an exciting time for me because I was on an airplane for the first time and far away from home. I was trained in Wichita, Kansas and then went to the Great Lakes Navy Center for more experience in taking blood. The program in Chicago had still not started so I did other activities, like taking a First Aid class and participating in a disaster station for people whose apartment building burned down. I learned a lot about the Red Cross and its activities, but after three months, the administration decided to let us leave because the blood program had still not started.

That was the beginning of my nursing career. I had many short-term jobs at nursing homes and hospitals in between longer periods of employment. One of my long-term jobs was at an Industrial Clinic in Chicago that serviced different industrial companies in that area. That was an interesting job taking care of patients with different injuries. I learned to take x-rays on an ancient machine, and one of the doctors would take the x-ray before I was out of the room. I was afraid I would not be able to get pregnant due to radiation exposure, but I was able to have two healthy children! I also worked at a residential facility for mentally retarded children and adults as a staff nurse and then lead nurse.

In 2007 and 43 years later, I retired from my last job at a multi-specialty clinic. Yes, I worked at a variety of nursing jobs, and I always felt like my hero, Cherry Ames. I am so thankful for all the experiences I had (good and bad), and the people I cared for and worked with during my nursing career.

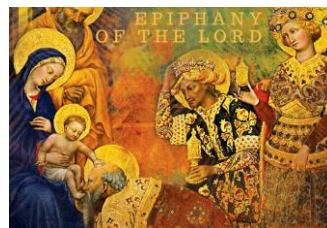
Nancy Storey



“FIRST FRIDAY’S WITH THE FATHER”

On the first Friday of every month from 9-11 a.m., all adults are invited to join our Rector, Fr. Tim, who will introduce various topics of reflection with open ended conversation. This is also an excellent opportunity where various thoughts, ideas, questions and suggestions can be raised and discussed openly as a group with the rector. The first Friday with the Father begins February 7.

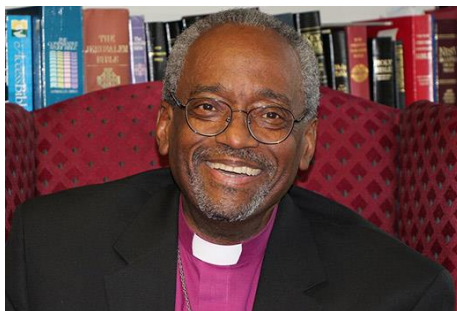
First Friday’s with the Father will meet in conjunction with Senior Moment’s Café in the ‘Great Room’ (AKA the Youth Room) across from the library. Senior Moment’s Café meets every Friday from 9-11 a.m., so please feel invited to attend weekly or anytime you are available on Friday mornings. Senior Moments is an excellent opportunity to get to know other adult members of the church through open conversation in a relaxed atmosphere with coffee and refreshments.



THE SEASON OF EPIPHANY

The Season of Epiphany consists of four to nine weeks, from the Feast of the Epiphany on January 6 through the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday. The length of the season varies according to the date of Easter. The gospel stories of this season describe various events that manifest the divinity of Jesus. The coming of the Magi is celebrated on the Epiphany. The Baptism of our Lord is observed on the Sunday after Epiphany. The gospels for the other Sundays of the Epiphany season describe the wedding at Cana, the calling of the disciples, and various miracles and teachings of Jesus. The Last Sunday after the Epiphany is always devoted to the Transfiguration. Jesus’ identity as the Son of God is dramatically revealed in the Transfiguration gospel, as well as the gospel of the baptism of Christ. We are called to respond to Christ in faith through the showings of his divinity recorded in the gospels of the Epiphany season.

PRESIDING BISHOP MICHAEL CURRY TRAVELING TO CENTRAL GULF COAST



Next weekend, Presiding Bishop Michael Curry will be traveling to the Central Gulf Coast for a pastoral visit to connect with and hear the stories of those whose lives and communities were impacted by Hurricane Michael in October of last year. There will be two community forums in which all are welcome and invited to attend, giving those in attendance a chance to share their stories of living through the storm and offer insight into what life has been like in the aftermath. This will be an opportunity for Presiding Bishop Curry to listen and respond pastorally, and for those gathered to offer prayers and blessings of support for one another

Saturday, January 12 at 10 a.m.

Holy Nativity Episcopal Church
222 North Bonita Ave - Panama City, FL 32401

Saturday, January 12 at 3 p.m.

St. James Episcopal Church
800 22nd St - Port St. Joe, FL 32456

There will also be a brief reception following each community forum to allow time for those in attendance to connect with one another and with Presiding Bishop Curry.

TREASURER'S REPORT AS OF NOVEMBER 30, 2018

	MONTHLY <u>11/18</u>	ANNUAL <u>YTD</u>	YTD <u>BUDGET</u>	ANNUAL <u>BUDGET</u>
Pledged Offerings	\$21,010	\$ 202,830	\$ 214,768	\$234,292
Open Plate Offerings	\$ 1,626	\$ 23,204	\$ 22,565	\$ 24,616
Previous Year Pledge	\$ 0	\$ 400	-0-	-0-
Other Income	\$ 416	\$ 21,764	\$ 12,950	\$ 14,127
Total Income	\$23,052	\$248,198	\$250,283	\$273,035
Expenses	\$23,291	\$257,194	\$ 258,816	\$282,345
Net Ordinary Income	(\$ 239)	(\$ 8,996)	(\$ 8,534)	(\$ 9,310)
Non-budgeted Income	\$ 907	\$ 4,003	\$ 6,083	\$ 7,300
Non-budgeted Expense	-0-	(\$1,197)	(\$ 917)	(\$ 1,000)
Total Net Income	\$668	(\$6,190)	(\$ 3,368)	(\$ 3,010)
Checking/Savings/Investments	\$32,589 (Includes \$23,671 ECW Funds)			
Endowment Fund	\$210,230 (Statement Balance as of 10/31/18)			

November's total income is \$24,198 and expenses are \$23,291 resulting in \$668 net income.

For the first eleven months of 2018, Pledge Offerings are \$202,830, which is \$11,938 under budget and Open Plate Offerings are \$23,204, which is \$639 over budget. Year-to-date expenses are \$258,816, which is \$8,534 over budget.

The November Financial Statements are posted on the Bulletin Board for your review. If you would like copy, please ask Chris in the office.

Leon J. Mayberry, Treasurer

St. Francis of Assisi Episcopal Church

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Office e-mail: stfrangb1@stfrancisgulfbreeze.org

Website: www.stfrancisgulfbreeze.org

Office hours: Monday thru Friday 8:30 a.m. ~ 5:00 p.m.

YOUR 2019 VESTRY

Leon Mayberry, Sr. Warden & Treasurer

Helen Laucella, Jr. Warden

Amy Guidry, Clerk

John Boden

Kim Girylyuk

Kim Grimley

John Petoskey

Rosemary Spain

Carol Stark

Vestry Support

McGee Lorren, Financial Consultant

St. Francis' Staff

The Rev. Tim Backus, Rector

Cathy Griffing, Organist and Choirmaster

Bill Lucas, Sexton

Chris Miller, Parish Administrator