

December

Volume 20 Issue 12

Church of the Holy Spirit has a special ministry for the elderly of the area.

December 6	10:00 A.M.	Holy Eucharist Rite II
December 13	10:00 A.M.	Lessons and Carols
December 20	10:00 A.M.	Holy Eucharist Rite II
December 24	4:00 P.M.	Holy Eucharist Rite II
December 27	10:00 A.M.	Holy Eucharist Rite II

Rev. Anne Abdy Vicar
Jim Anderson Senior Warden
Jim Anderson Junior Warden

Church of the Holy Spirit

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From the Desk of Rev. Anne

December 2020

Dear Good People of Holy Spirit,

We are in the season of Advent. It is a new beginning in our lives as we join the faithful through the centuries in waiting, in hoping and praying for the coming of the Savior. In previous years during this holiday season many would be distracted by the commercialism of Christmas and lost in the hustle a bustle of holiday planning. This year is a different Advent for us all. It is an Advent of Covid-19 precautions, mask wearing, physical distance, self-isolation with the possibility of loneliness and weariness. But even in this Advent there are lessons to be learned.

Advent, the Church's new year, begins not by looking behind but looking forward. But how do we do that? At the beginning of the Eucharist, the celebrant states, "Lift up your hearts," and the people respond, "We lift them up to the Lord." To lift up our hearts means we need to change our perspective. We stop thinking of what we need or want and we refocus our attention on God. Let's together shift our hearts by remembering the promises and look for the signs that God sends us in this Advent season.

Hidden in this season is also the patience that comes with waiting for the fulfillment of God's promise—the sending of the Messiah. So we lift up our hearts in hopeful patience. Let's together focus on this promised Hope which lifts our hearts above our worries and troubles of our lives. In this Advent season as we lift up our hearts and focus on God, dare we dream together to see God's intentions for our lives and our world?

Have a blessed Advent season.

Blessings,

Rev. Anne

Holy Spirit's Vision Statement

Church of the Holy Spirit has a special ministry to the elderly of the area. We provide a place of liturgical corporate worship, spreading the Word of God through the community as a part of the greater church in the Diocese of Oregon, the nation and the world. We envision growth and look for ways to help that happen.

Holy Spirit's Mission Statement

We strive to serve God, to serve our community, and to serve ourselves through Christ who lived and died for us.



October Financial Report

\$2,673.34	Income
\$1,356.34	Expenses

Thank you everyone that mailed their November pledge to Holy Spirit.

Holy Spirit
P.O. Box 1398
Sutherlin, Oregon 97479

The collection plate will be placed in the back of the church. Please turn in your pledge form. The Treasurer needs the forms to prepare the church 2021 budget.

Did you buy something and give it to the church? Do you want credit for that purchase or reimbursement? Please submit your receipts no later than Dec. 27th so we can pay them in this calendar year.

BAC November 14, 2020

Present: Rev. Anne Abdy, James Anderson, Senior Warden, Gwen Best, Treasurer, Donna Anderson, Clerk, and Carlie Corbin via phone.

Absent: Janet Ryall, Co-Treasurer

Opening Prayer: Rev. Anne opened the meeting with a prayer.

Minutes: October minutes were approved as corrected.

Vicar's Report: Rev. Anne completed 6 weeks of CREDO workshops. The last session was workshops on topics of self-care.

Rev. Anne will ask a former parishioner to continue updating Holy Spirit's Facebook Page.

Rev. Anne will follow up with Carter Hawley to see if the new communications director will be able to take over our website.

Rev. Anne had a Zoom call with the Bishop and clergy around the diocese. The discussion was regarding the rise in COVID-19 around the state and the need to revisit the church re-engagement action plan..

Treasurer's Report: The October report was approved as submitted. We are well within the overall budget for this year,

Senior/Junior Warden's Report: The Sexton suggested fencing is needed around the graves in the Memorial Garden. Jim suggested using funds from the Memorial fund for the fencing. The BAC voted to purchase a plaque for Mrs. Wersen whose ashes were buried in the Memorial Garden.

Old Business: Jackson Corbin will maintain the Memorial Garden on a monthly basis.

New Business: Gwen Best reported on the Lion's Club Branches of Love annual Christmas Tree project. The BAC voted to purchase a tree, decorations, lights & extension cord, and gift. The ECW total cost will be \$120 for the Branches of Love project.

Closing Prayer: Rev. Anne closed the meeting with a prayer.

Next BAC Meeting: December 12, 2020 at 2 PM. in person unless otherwise notified.



The Episcopal Church Women

Due to COVID-19 ECW will not be decorating a Branches of Love Christmas tree. Instead a Lion's Club tree will be purchased for \$20, and up to \$60 was voted on to purchase tree ornaments, and lights for a tree. A \$40 donation will go towards the purchase of a gift. The gift shopping will be done by the school with the donated funds.

ECW will sponsor Hospitality following the December 6th service. We will follow all the state guidelines for distancing and diocesan guidelines for serving.



Stan Donahoo
Charlotte Lutz

December 3rd
December 31st

Altar Guild



There is a form in the back of the church on the offering plate for donating flowers for Christmas Eve. The flowers are given in memory of loved ones.

Monday, December 21st at 1:00 P.M. we will make evergreen swags for Christmas Eve. The church will be "Greened" at that time, and prepared for Christmas Eve service. The workshop will depend on state guidelines in December.

Lesson and Carols

There will be a Lesson and Carols service with Holy Communion on December 13th.

Lessons & Carols services in the Anglican tradition began in 1878 and was formalized as a Christmas service in 1880 by the Bishop of Truro, later Archbishop of Canterbury, Edward Benson, An Advent version of the service - normally carried out as a procession with lessons and carols - developed slightly later at King's College

(<http://www.kings.cam.ac.uk/events/chapel-services/nine-lessons.html>) and is now celebrated around the world, normally as an evening service on the first or second Sunday in the season of Advent. During the service, scriptural readings are interspersed with choral presentations and hymns, all of which recall mankind's longing for liberation from sin and death, and our hope and expectation for the both the first and second coming of Christ the Lord.

Advent (<https://episcopalchurch.org/blog-category/Advent/Advent>)

Livestream Christmas Concert

December 19 @ 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

Chamber music for the Christmas season, featuring instrumentalist from Portland Baroque Orchestra and Trinity musicians! Unlike concerts with an in-person audience, virtual attendance at our livestreamed concerts will be on a pay-what-you-can basis. Simply visit the Music Series page and follow the links to our ticketing page (live soon), where you can purchase tickets at various price levels, based on you ability to pay.

Please contact the music office, music@trinity-episcopal.org, with questions or concerns - www.trinity-episcopal.org/music.

Why Poinsettias Are the Official Christmas Flower



Poinsettias are native to Central America, particularly southern Mexico, and they're actually colorful leaves, not flowers. So

why do we consider them the official Christmas flowers anyway? The reason we associate poinsettias with the holidays comes from an old Mexican legend. A young girl named Pepita was sad that she didn't have a gift to leave for the baby Jesus at Christmas Eve services. Her cousin tried to comfort her and said that Jesus would love any present from her, even the smallest one. With no money to buy a real gift, Pepita picked a bouquet of weeds that she walked past on the way to church. (Other versions of the story say an angel came to her and instructed her to pick the plants.) When she got there, she left the weeds at the bottom of the nativity scene. All of a sudden, the weeds transformed into beautiful red flowers. This is why Christmas colors are red and green. From that day on, they became known as "Flores de Noche Buena," or "Flowers of the Holy Night."

Poinsettias get their American name from Joel Roberts Poinsett, the first U.S. ambassador to Mexico, who brought them to the states from Mexico in the early 1800s. They didn't become traditional holiday decorations until the entrepreneurial Ecke family started promoting them a century later.



Saving Grace Calendars - We love to help other great causes. St Francis took care of the animals and we can too. Saving Grace has calendars available for \$15.00 ea. and the proceeds go directly to animals in their care in Roseburg. If you would like to order a calendar please make your checks out to Holy Spirit and write in the Memo that it is for Savings Grace Calendars. Mail the checks to us or drop it in the offering plate. We'll bulk order them through the church for you.

Linus Oakes Service



Services will resume once the mandated restrictions have been lifted by the administration of the facility. Individuals will be required to follow mandated precautions (wear masks, 6 foot physical distancing, no hand shakes or hugs.)

Rotation List For December



December 6th
EM: Carlie
Lector: Jackson
Intercessor: Gillian

December 13th
EM: Charlotte
Lector: Lessons & Carols readers
Intercessor: NA

December 20th
EM: Donna
Lector: Gwen
Intercessor: Dayle

December 24th
EM: Charlotte
Lector: Gwen
Intercessor: Gillian

December 27th
EM: Carlie
Lector: Jim
Intercessor: Gwen



There's not much to say about December this year. After a lonely Thanksgiving comes an even more empty set of chairs around the dinner table. Phoning helps the loneliness but doesn't heal that absence of love conjured up by family picture albums and old home movies. If your family and friends are computer savvy you can skype or Zoom each other's faces, voices live on screen as the little identifying mannerisms that make them who they are as the ghosts of Christmas past. What's missing is the feeling of love's presence. Still, that technology helps a bit. And, after all, there are relatives whom we hope are in Saskatchewan under ten feet of snow, but comfortable.

Sometimes it is hard to understand that we are in a true pandemic. When masks were first required I had the urge to wear an old Halloween mask for fun. But I didn't because I understood people were dying out there. I recall the stories told to me by my aunts who were WW1 Red Cross nurses during the 1918 flu pandemic. My Aunts Inez and Amy gave me the long, cold stare as they related how rapidly people were dying in our town of North Bend. There is an old abandoned garage across the main highway from the city library. It's a big gray square of concrete holding a very large basement. The overflow of corpses was so great that they were stacked up like cordwood, and filled it completely. City records say only 500 people died in that flu plague, but the old timers who were there say it was three times that. I'm just telling their story, and I could see in the faces of my aunts they were telling the truth. I still grow cold when I think about it.

How shall we pray for those who won't wear a mask and gather in larger groups? We know so much more now than 1918. Denial is the disease of alcoholics and career politicians. We know so much more now that we can rise above these shortcomings. But we also know people will choose to believe only what they want to hear. Governors will mandate the wearing of masks, the closing of restaurants and schools and even order us to rat on anyone who isn't complying with the orders. Ironically, like the Nazi Youth Corps who turned their own parents in for lack of obedience. Can we ever go to that extreme?

I think not. Americans have a very strong tendency to stand in defiance against that kind of tyranny. But still, Christmas has always been the one bright spot facing the winter doldrums. A virus that looks like a WWII mine for shipping lanes is taking that all away. We have to tell ourselves that we can hang on safely until we get that promised flu shot that's also raised the stock market. Let's pray for that. Pray for the sick, feed the hungry, go the second mile and pray for our leaders. Please wear a mask and stay away from crowds. In the face of everything, God is truly with us and He will never abandon us. That's what Christmas is really all about.

Your brother in Christ,
Jim Anderson



December 2020

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
		1	2	3  Stan Donahoo	4	5  Hospitality
6 Holy Eucharist Rite II 10:00 A.M.	7	7	9	10	11	12 BAC Meeting 2:00 P.M. In person.
13 Holy Eucharist Rite II 10:00 A.M.	14	15	16	17	18	19
20 Holy Eucharist Rite II 10:00 A.M.	21	22	23	24 Christmas Eve Service 4:00 P.M.	25	26
27 Holy Eucharist Rite II 10:00 A.M.	28	29	30	31  Charlotte Lutz		



Episcopal Church of the Holy Spirit
P.O. Box 1398
Sutherlin, Oregon

December Events

BAC Meeting	12th
Lesson & Carols Service	13th
Christmas Eve Service	24th

