



St Margaret's Notebook

December 19, 2007

From the rector

The scene on the front of the Christmas card was of

Joseph and Mary standing outside of the Inn.

Mary is thick with child and both appeared to be exhausted and annoyed.

Inside the card it says,

“I thought YOU were going to make the reservations!:

Tis the season for joy, excitement, new beginnings and STRESS

especially if you are the one in charge of festivities,

especially if you are “It” as my Mama used to say.

The stress can wear you flat out, taking all of the glee away.

“Don’t get so caught up in your shopping... or baking... or preparing...

or Christmas card writing that you forget to pay attention

to your friends and family,” the experts warn.

Now I’m not advising that we should strip away all the trappings –

particularly the sending of Christmas cards.

I love receiving the notes, the photos and the narratives.

Merely seeing a signature conjures up thoughts and prayers.

Looking at the photos and reading the stories

- a new baby (or babies as the case may be),

- a wedding, a beach trip, a new house, a baptism.

renews my awareness of the temporal nature of this life.

Before long, I am remembering those who have died this year

and those absent from the photos and signatures.

I remember the Christmas long ago when my own Mama died.

Tis the season to remember the one constant - the eternal in the temporal -

Jesus Christ, God incarnate, the Word made Flesh

who dared to live among us,

who promises to be with us to the end of the age.

Merry Christmas, dear parish family!



Advent

The Rev. Meredith Olsen

Last Sunday we lit the third candle, the pink one, in our Advent wreath. You may have asked yourself, “Why do we have three purple candles and one pink one? What does it mean?” Purple is a color used in penitential seasons and services and the candles match the altar paraments and clergy vestments. The pink candle is lighted on the third Sunday of Advent, Gaudate Sunday. Gaudate is Latin for “rejoice”-- the Introit and the Epistle reading for the day began with the word rejoice; “Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say rejoice.” “The Lord is near”(Philippians 4:4-6). The pink candle signifies the rejoicing. On this Sunday we have reached the midpoint of Advent and are rejoicing because the wait is almost over. The past two Sundays our readings have focused on themes of watchfulness, waiting, judgment, and preparation. While these themes are still sounded, the emphasis shifts towards the birth of the Messiah and the readings focus on hope, anticipation, joy and rejoicing in preparation for Christmas. As we light the four candles on the Advent wreath on Sunday, let us all rejoice in the coming of Christ into our lives past, present and future!

In addition to Gaudate Sunday, this week also began the use of the great “O” antiphons of the church. Many of you might be thinking, “What on earth are the “O” antiphons? I have never even heard of them!” Most likely though you have heard them and just didn’t know it. The past two Sundays we have sung a verse from the popular Advent hymn, “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” – which is a paraphrase of the “O” Antiphons. The text of the hymn was translated by John Mason Neale, a leader in the Oxford Movement within the Anglican church (1833-1845). The tune was written by Thomas Helmore in the 1850’s and is based on plainsong phrases in Mode 1.

The “O” antiphons are a special group of antiphons used on the seven days preceding Christmas Eve (December 17- 23) in the office of Evening Prayer. An antiphon is a short verse sung before and after a psalm or canticle such as the Magnificat. The appointed antiphon was sung before and after the Magnificat. Each verse begins with the word “O” and they were all sung to the same chant melody, Mode 2, a solemn setting. Their origins are not really known, however, eighth century Roman manuscripts included them as did the Benedictine Abbey of Fleury even earlier. Early medieval English practice moves the use of them a day

earlier (December 16) and added or rediscovered an eighth antiphon as well. This week in the church year has been called in the past *Sapientiatide*, or wisdom tide. Each “O” is a title for the Messiah and each one also refers to Isaiah’s foretelling of the coming of the Messiah. The antiphons are:

- ✓ December 17: O Sapientia (O Wisdom)
- ✓ December 18: O Adonai
- ✓ December 19: O Radix Jesse (O Root of Jesse)
- ✓ December 20: O Clavis David (O Key of David)
- ✓ December 21: O Oriens (O Dayspring)
- ✓ December 22: O Rex gentium (O King of the Nations)
- ✓ December 23: O Emmanuel
- ✓ O Virgo virginum (O Virgin of virgins- only found in English use for the 23rd)

If you read in reverse order the initial letters of the second word an acrostic is formed. The text reads *ero cras* meaning “Tomorrow I will come” in Latin. This acrostic only works with later translations from approximately 1500 A.D. on because it uses the seven antiphons and not the earlier versions which contained first twelve antiphons and then later eight.

Sometime in the ninth century a poem titled *The Christ(I)* was written by an Anglo Saxon poet by the name of Cynewulf. His poem is based on the “O” antiphons, expanding them with rich scriptural material and patristic commentary (writing of the Church Fathers). The Church associates itself with the prophets’ longing for the Messiah’s coming and calls Christ to come and save his people. The major theme of both the poem and the “O” antiphons themselves is Christ’s human and divine natures; the significance of Christ’s incarnation for the redemption of man.

For those interested in learning more about Advent I suggest the following two websites:

- 1) www.fullhomelydivinity.org (Anglican)
- 2) www.fisheaters.com (Catholic)

The Christmas Season

Christmas: it’s not just a day - it’s a season! Sure you’ve heard of the song, but there’s more to it than just the carol. The Church celebrates Christmas from December 25th all the way through the Feast of the Epiphany on January 6th. After all, we have plenty to celebrate. Christmas is the time of the great exchange—when the divine became human so that the human could

(Continued on page 3)

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

December 22

10:00 am Christmas Pageant practice



December 24

5:00 pm Pageant participants arrive in parish hall.

6:00 pm Holy Eucharist and Christmas pageant

10:30 pm Carol singing (Please note the Carol singing will begin promptly at 10:30 pm. We have a guest Trio from the Community Choir performing.)

11:00 pm Christ Mass - Holy Eucharist

December 25-January 2 Church office closed

December 26

NO MID-WEEK SERVICE

December 30

10:00 am Morning Prayer Only

January 2

NO MID-WEEK SERVICE

January 6

6:30-8:00pm Epiphany Party at Hazel's

Epiphany Party

All are invited to the annual Epiphany party at the home of our Rector, Hazel Glover, on Sunday, Jan 6th from 6:30 - 8:00 pm



Directions to Hazel Glover's: West on Hwy 166 toward Bowdon. Travel 4 . 4 miles past the end of the bypass and turn left on FARMER'S HIGH Road. Stay on Farmer's High for 2 . 7 miles until it turns into VICTORY CHURCH ROAD (bear to the left at the pecan grove). Travel another 2 . 3 miles and house is on the right. 2701 Victory

(Continued from page 2)

become divine, when God took on human form so that the image of God might be restored to fullness in us.

While we rejoice in the mystery of the Incarnation (literally, God “taking flesh”), there are several feast-days within the Christmas season that explore different facets of this event. January 1st—the secular world’s New Year’s Day—is the church’s Feast of the Holy Name which remembers circumcision and naming according to Jewish Law. This feast confronts us with the scandal of particularity—that Jesus did not take on generic human flesh, but was born at a particular time and place among a certain people: God’s chosen people. The Feast of St. John the Evangelist on December 27th celebrates the witness and testimony of John, author of the Gospel, the Letters, and perhaps the Book of Revelation, who so eloquently spoke of the divinity of Jesus in the first chapter of his Gospel. The Feast of St. Stephen—the first Christian to die for his faith—on December 26th and the Feast of the Holy Innocents—the children of Bethlehem murdered by

King Herod (Matt 2:16–18)—on December 28th remind us of the end of the Incarnation: humanity receives God’s ultimate gift of love...and kills him. And yet, the wonder of the Incarnation and the Resurrection is that death never gets the last word—for the Feast of Epiphany on January 6th is a feast of baptism. As we are joined with Christ in a death like his, so we rise from the water to new life in him, the God who humbled himself to be born as one of us.

As a festival season, we return to the bright colors of white and gold in the sanctuary. The joyful *Gloria in excelsis* that begins with the angels’ song to the shepherds returns to our liturgy as well. Just as the Advent wreath has grown progressively lighter, in Christmas the church bursts forth with light to proclaim the arrival of Jesus, the true dawn from on high that breaks upon all those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death who guides our feet into the way of peace.

2008 EYC SKI

- When?** February 15 - 18, 2008. Be at St. Margaret's at 10 am on Friday to load up. We will return on Monday around 6 pm.
- Where?** Skiing at Ski Beech & Sugar Mountain, Boone NC. Staying at Valle Crusis Conference Center
- Who?** All St. Margaret's youth in 6th - 12th Grades.
- Cost?** The base cost for the trip is \$400 if you are skiing and \$420 if you are snow boarding. Price includes lodging, meals, equipment rental, lift tickets, a tee shirt and transportation (Add \$20 for lessons at the slope and more to rent a ski bib). Confidential scholarship money is available.
- Deadline?** A non refundable deposit of \$150 is due upon registration, which must be received by January 6th. The balance is due on or before Sunday, February 3rd.

Priest in Baghdad has a Christmas greeting

by: Debbie Shew

A priest of the Diocese of Atlanta is serving this Christmas as a U.S. Army chaplain in Baghdad. He has a photo greeting for his family and friends -- and the people of our diocese.

This message of the season's true meaning was sent

this week in an e-mail to the Diocese of Atlanta from Chaplain and Army Capt. Eric Thompson. Thompson is a priest of this diocese and now serves as battalion chaplain for the 56th Multifunctional Medical Battalion at LSA Anaconda/Balad Air Base, outside Baghdad.



A 2004 graduate of the School of Theology at Sewanee, he was sponsored for ordination by Holy Cross Episcopal Church, Decatur, and served first as a chaplain at Ft. Benning.

Thompson and the 56th deployed to Iraq just after Thanksgiving, and he reports that they are "settling in." Please keep them and all those deployed in harm's way in your prayers as they face Christmas away from home, and pray, too, for their loved ones.

(Eric was a Postulant at St. Margaret's in the Summer and Fall of 2003).

Annual Christmas Pageant



Final practice for the pageant will be on Saturday morning at 10:00 am in the sanctuary. All participants are invited to Jumpin Joey after the practice on Saturday.

The pageant will be presented on Christmas Eve at the 6pm Eucharist. Please have the Children in costume at the church at 5:00 pm on Christmas Eve.

Adult Sunday School

Will be studying Lecture 12 on 12/9/2007, "The Causes of Christian Persecution." This will conclude Part 1 of our series. We will then have two new lectures on the following Sundays, 12/16 and 12/23, from a series entitled "Jesus in the Gospels." These lectures have come recommended by some of the class members and may be a series we will study in the future. There will be NO class on 12/30, but we will start with part 2 of "The Study of Early Christianity-from Jesus to Constantine" on 1/6/2008. All are welcomed.

By the grace of God
the Bishop of Atlanta

will ordain

Maurice Edwin Beckham, Jr.
Hugh McPhail Grant
Christopher Daniel Girata
Stuart Craig Higginbotham
John Foster Herring
Penny Annette Nash
Thelma Monique Panton

To the Sacred Order of Deacons
In Christ's One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church

on the twenty-first day of December, two-thousand and seven
at seven o'clock in the evening

Cathedral of St. Philip
2744 Peachtree Road, NW
Atlanta, GA 30305

Your prayers and presence are requested.

Clergy: red stoles Reception follows



*Because of your loyal support and kind generosity, we celebrate another year of giving help and sharing hope.
 Many thanks. Merry Christmas. St. Margaret's Community Outreach*

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Alice Long, long-time Volunteer Coordinator for the Paper Pantry Program of St. Margaret's Community Outreach, was honored for her years of service and dedication at St. Margaret's ECW Christmas luncheon held on Tuesday, Dec. 11. St. Margaret's member Elaine Holmes has graciously accepted the responsibility Paper Pantry scheduling and coordination. Thank you, Alice and Elaine.



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 18-Dec Diana Rash, Mary Alice Cochran
- 19-Dec Gregory Cary, Roy Richards, Betty Jo McCoy
- 21-Dec Jim Cunningham, Christy Hitchcock, Ellen Brady-McGaughey

- 22-Dec Rose Coker
- 23-Dec James Morgan, Gerald Gristick
- 24-Dec David Lovvorn, Sidney Powers
- 25-Dec Meredith Austin, Turner Markwalter
- 26-Dec Hollis Miller, Bob Uglum
- 28-Dec Anna Rash, Lynne Mengel
- 29-Dec Joe Lee Palladino
- 30-Dec Chris Brown, Harris Holmes
- 31-Dec Jim Richards, Amberly Brown

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 08-Dec Glenn & Melissa Folds
- 21-Dec Harris & Elaine Holmes
- 22-Dec Jim & Bonnie Cooper
Gregory & Carolyn Cary
Lorene Flanders & Paul Campbell
- 28-Dec James & Marlene Uglum
Eric & Laura Lenaeus

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 01-Jan Lorene Flanders, Dylan Gristick
- 03-Jan Emma Engel
- 05-Jan Carole Mitchell
- 06-Jan Taylor Gordon
- 08-Jan Angie Hall, Gordon Ramsey
- 09-Jan Elizabeth Crafton, Gail Lumpkin, Sandy Stephens, Troy Baker
- 10-Jan Taylor Foreman
- 11-Jan Mary Nell Akin, Liz Key, Beth Richards, Mavis Watts
- 12-Jan Meg Popwell
- 14-Jan Michael Williams
- 15-Jan Lin Reed, Dede Chase, Mathew Basil
- 17-Jan Trey Fleck
- 18-Jan Gittle Sciolis
- 19-Jan Tim Jones
- 20-Jan Mary Katheryn Denmon, Bill Doxey, Ronnie Hitchcock
Bonnie Cooper
- 22-Jan Hue Maierhofer
- 23-Jan Van Wilks, Benjamin Doxey, Ron Harrell
- 24-Jan Peg Irwin, Will Denney
- 25-Jan John Yates, Georgia Meagher
- 27-Jan Jon Berard, Kathryn Coe, Bunchie Engel
- 28-Jan John Gerber, Sally Bobick
- 29-Jan Martha Goodson
- 31-Jan Olive Godwin

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- 08-Jan James & Mary Wiggins
- 16-Jan Bob & Debris Covell
- 18-Jan Russ & Mary Sarnier
- 30-Jan Max & Sandy Stephens

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Dec 22 Christmas pageant practice - 10:00 am
- Dec 23 NO EYC
- Dec 24 Christmas Eve
6:00 pm Christmas Pageant
10:30 pm Carol Singing
11:00 pm Christ Mass
- Dec 25 - Jan 2 Church office closed
- Dec 30 NO EYC
- Jan 6 Annual Epiphany party at Hazel's house
6-9:00 pm
- Jan 9 Adult Education Presentation / Discussion:
Bruce Bobick, *Deciphering Medieval Religious Paintings through Numerology*
- Jan 11-13 SR DYC, Camp Mikell
- Jan 16 Teachers/ Parents pilgrimage meeting
- Jan 20 Annual Parish Meeting - 10:00 am
Election of 4 New Vestry members.
- Jan 28 Clergy Conference, Camp Mikell
- Feb 5 Shrove Tuesday, Mardi Gras Low Country Boil (J2A fundraiser)
- Feb 6 Ash Wednesday Services:
12:00 noon & 7:00 pm
- Feb 13 Intergenerational Lenten Supper Series: Harry Potter
- Feb 15-18 Youth Ski Trip to Valle Crusis
- Feb 20 Intergenerational Lenten Supper Series: Harry Potter

December 23, 2007

	9:00 am	11:00 am
Crucifer	Jay Sullivan	William Keene
Book Bearer	Allison Gordon	Alice Sawyer
Taper	Gareth Hoffman Lucy Hughes Parrish	

Altar Guild Susan Souigny, Lisa Crafton, Andra McGill, Diane Fulkerson, Gloria Johnston

Children's Church Julie Parrish

Lay Readers	9:00 am	11:00 am
	David Lovvorn	Jim Uglum
	Alex Brookhuis	Van Wilks

Ushers	9:00 am	11:00 am
	David Hoffman	Anne Norrell
	Laura Hoffman	Richard Smith

Thrift Shop
Dec 21 - 29 Thrift Shop

PAPER PANTRY Martha Goodson, Elaine Holmes

VESTRY PERSON OF THE MONTH Ron Adams

DECEMBER 24, 2007 - CHRISTMAS EVE

	6:00 pm	11:00 pm
Crucifer	Ariel Reynolds	Andrew Gordon
Book Bearer	Jack Bernhardt	Anna Rash
Taper	Julia Bernhardt Mary Katheryn Denmon	Allison Gordon Zachary Gordon

Lay Reader	6:00 pm	11:00 pm
	Alex Brookhuis	Taylor Gordon
	Rose Dufour	Jim Mathews

Ushers	6:00 pm	11:00 pm
	Kevin Bernhardt	George Lenaeus
	Randy Denmon	Jim Rash

Altar Guild Susan Souigny, Jeanne Condrey, Marcy Alexander

December 30, 2007

	10:00 am
Crucifer	Jay Sullivan

Altar Guild Julie Lindahl, Marion Foreman, Julie Foreman, Andra Morris, Alice Jakubiak

Lay Readers	10:00 am
	Bill Brewer
	Hugh Mitchell

Ushers	10:00 AM
	Bruce Bobick
	Tm Parmer

Thrift Shop
Jan 4
10:00 - 1:00 pm Beverly Colditz, Amanda Reynolds
1:00 - 4:00 pm Emily Cumming, Max Stephens

Jan 5
10:00 - 1:00 pm Roseanne Godsey, Elzine McKinnon

PAPER PANTRY Martha Goodson, Elaine Holmes

PRAYER LIST

Our parish family: Nicole, Katherine, Sumner, Luke and Jack, Larry, Joann

Family and friends: Ethan, Annalee, Jackie, Lainey, Eddie, Jon, Betty, Angela, Steve, Jamie, Virginia, Hubert, Bryan, Randy, Nicky, Georgina, Edward, Caitlin, Stan, Larry, Brenda, Tina, Hope, Connie, Joan, Philip, Simone, Andrew, Eileen, Ray, Esther, Kathleen, Anne, Theresa, Tina, Cooper, Lee, Billie, Mary Anne, Murphy, Lois, Paul, Clem, Lisa, Cy, Frank

Military: Walker, Steven, Drew, Lyle, Doug, Jessie, Matthew, Sarah, Robert, Marshall, Will, Jordan

Deaths: Brad Bradberry, Jeff Creel

PRAYER REQUESTS may be submitted or removed by emailing Julie at Stmargarets@charterinternet.com or by phone 770-832-3931.

ST. MARGARET'S VESTRY

Julie Cain - Sr. Warden
Randy Coggins - Jr. Warden
Ron Adams
Jeanette Bernhardt
Bruce Bobick
Cindy Hull
Catherine Minor
Hugh Mitchell
Bill Parrish
Judy Reed
Lin Reed
Susan Souigny

VESTRY COMMISSIONS

- Parish Life** - Judy Reed, Randy Coggins
- Pastoral Care** - Susan Souigny, Jeanette Bernhardt
- Worship** - Cindy Hull, Jeanette Bernhardt, Ron Adams, Judy Reed
- Grounds & Operations (Acquisitions / Strategic planning)** - Lin Reed, Randy Coggins, Julie Cain, Bill Parrish, Bruce Bobick
- Christian Formation** - Catherine Minor (Youth), Bruce Bobick (Adult)
- Finance** - Bill Parrish, Randy Coggins, Lin Reed, Susan Souigny, Cindy Hull
- Outreach** - Hugh Mitchell, Bruce Bobick



St Margaret's Episcopal Church
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Carrollton, GA 30117

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Rector: Hazelgllover@charterinternet.com

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