

The Episcopal Church of Our Saviour

Rich in history, a visible & living church welcoming everyone to the family of Christ.



Dear friends in Christ,

On the first day of Christmas my true love gave to me... I'll bet you are all humming now and filling in the words 'a partridge in a pear tree.' The twelve days of Christmas, begins with Christmas Day and ends on the day of Epiphany, January 6. On that day the season of Christmas flows into the season of Epiphany. The word 'Epiphany' comes from two Greek words 'epi' and 'phaino' which mean "to show forth" or "appear." In the Epiphany season we are more intentional about 'showing forth' Christ and making him known to others. 'Making Christ known to others' was the primary focus when we, members of the Episcopal Church of Our Saviour, were talking about what our core values were. Our new mission statement describes it well: "Rich in history, a visible & living church welcoming everyone to the family of Christ." We are proud of our history, but not stuck in the past. We want to be visible and alive and welcome others to Christ. We take the message of Epiphany "making Christ known" seriously. We share Christ with each other in our fellowship events and pastoral care; we share Christ with others in the community when we volunteer at S.H.A.R.E, Upper Room, Veterans Ministry and help with Foster Parents, we share Christ in the world when we give to outreach like the mission in Haiti. Did you know that our church raised over \$1200 to send to a mission in Haiti when missionaries from Holy Trinity Church came and spoke at Our Saviour? We have generous hearts and a desire to help whenever and wherever we can. I am reminded of a poem by Howard Thurman, an African-American theologian, educator, and civil rights leader, called Now the Work of Christmas Begins:

When the song of the angels is stilled,
when the star in the sky is gone,
when the kings and princes are home,
when the shepherds are back with their flocks,
the work of Christmas begins:
to find the lost,
to heal the broken,
to feed the hungry,
to release the prisoner,
to rebuild the nations,
to bring peace among the people,
to make music in the heart.

with blessings and prayers,

Rev Deb

A colleague of mine wrote a reflection that I wanted to share with you:

Actually, There Was Room at the Inn ...

by The Rev David Henson on December 26, 2016

Just two months after my wife Amber and I were first married, we hosted her family for the Christmas holidays, which meant that her mom and dad, aunt and uncle, and even a few siblings and cousins all piled into our tiny two-bedroom, one bathroom apartment. To be completely honest, I dreaded it. This was not at all how I envisioned my first Christmas with my new wife, but Amber assured me that the mass of humanity setting up camp in our apartment would make the holiday special.

Still, just figuring out where everyone would sleep caused no small amount of stress for our new marriage. In the end, her parents stayed in our bedroom, her aunt and uncle on an air mattress in our second bedroom. Siblings and cousins slept on the couch and the living room floor. And the new husband and wife? We were nestled away under our brand new dining room table.

As I came to learn many times over the course of the next 13 years of marriage, my wife tends to be right more often than not. Somehow, in spite of the cramped conditions, in spite of never having enough hot water for showers, and in spite of the occasional disagreement about politics or which holiday movie to watch, that Christmas really was special, full of laughter and games. I still remember fondly the daily evacuations from the apartment for rousing games of hacky-sack in our complex's parking lot.

We made room for each other, even when there was no room left, and our tiny apartment never seemed so large – or so full – than it did that Christmas.

I share this story because, despite what we've come to imagine during this season, something similar probably happened some 2,000 years ago during that first Christmas.

Typically, we think of Mary and Joseph being turned away and treated like outcasts when they finally come to Bethlehem. We think of them being forced to shelter in a barn and Mary having to give birth in the humiliating and dirty conditions of a stable.

And while I understand the power and worth of telling this story in this way, in truth, though, the story isn't nearly so bleak. In fact, it's a story about choosing to welcome even when it might not be ideal, convenient, or comfortable.

See, there was no room at the inn in Bethlehem, but room was made room for the Holy Family anyway.

But first we have to unravel some of our assumptions handed down over the years. When Mary and Joseph travel to their ancestral home in this story, they didn't have reservations at the first-century equivalent of the Days Inn. Rather, they would have expected to stay at the home of a relative – an aunt or uncle, a distant cousin – in the guest room.

And, in fact, that word our text translates as “the inn” is more accurately rendered as “the guest room.” It’s the same word the writer of Luke uses to describe the “upper room” where Jesus and his disciples celebrate the Last Supper and it’s an entirely different word than the one the writer uses for the literal inn to which the Samaritan takes the man he finds beaten on the side of the road. These guest rooms were part of even many peasant homes in this part of the world at this time, an architectural outgrowth of the deep cultural importance of offering hospitality to travelers.

When Mary and Joseph arrive, however, this guest room is already full, which makes sense in a story that imagines a worldwide registration by the Roman Empire and returning of folks to their ancestral homes.

Rather than being turned away, however, they are welcomed into what we have traditionally called a stable, which at that time, wasn’t a detached, dirty barn as we’ve come to imagine it. Rather, it was a part of the main house, a section in what would have been considered a family gathering room. Here a family would have sheltered valuable animals in the evening to protect them from the cold or from bandits.

All this paints a strikingly different picture of this first Christmas and the day humanity welcomed God in flesh among us. Rather than being alienated, cold, and alone with only beasts surrounding them, they are in an overstuffed house full of relatives they haven’t seen in years and some they didn’t even know they had. There is the cousin who knows everything and is attempting to direct Mary’s labor, much to her chagrin. There is the older woman, some aunt’s grandmother, who shows up with the birthing stool, wise words of comfort, and a steady hand for the labor of birthing. There are the small children, busily ripping bands of cloth that will become the swaddling clothes for the Christ Child. There are the fathers and the uncles and the young boys waiting for word about how it all turns out. This is no silent night. It’s a night alive, boisterous, and glorious with humanity, life, and community, a glimpse of the divine emerging within the holy ordinary.

See, there was no room at the inn, but room was made anyway.

There was room at the inn because there needed to be.

And that’s what love does. It makes room. Even if circumstances aren’t perfect. Even if things are messy. Even if it isn’t ideal. Love expands to the size needed, because love isn’t a finite commodity. It doesn’t operate on any principle of scarcity or of not having enough, but on the principle of abundance because we can never push God’s love beyond its limits because God’s love has no limit. Love is eternal, ever-growing, ever-making space for us and for the world.

That’s what the story of Christmas –the feast of the Incarnation – is all about, the Word becoming flesh. In the incarnation, humanity made room for divinity and divinity made room for humanity, just as an overcrowded house in Bethlehem made room for a family it really didn’t have the space for. It is a story of miracles found when the mundane and ordinary meet the extraordinary and sublime, where God and humanity conspire to birth hope, love, and salvation into a world against all odds and when it was least expected.

The story of Christmas calls us to be the kind of people of faith whose hearts, souls, and minds can expand to the size of the world's needs, and friends, right now the world needs a lot. It needs Christians who can embody this Christmas spirit of radical welcome and hospitality, who can live out a faith that makes room for each other with courageous, abundant love rather than shutting and bolting tight doors in fear and scarcity.

So may the birth of Christ this day call us to make room in our hearts, in our lives, and in our actions, even when it isn't convenient, comfortable, or safe for the pain, grief, and deep need of the world and each other as well as its joy and gladness. May we fling wide our hearts and homes to be that shelter in the midst of troubled times, providing the welcome, love, and protection for the holy to born again and again in the world.

Annual Meeting January 29

We will be having our Annual Meeting on January 29. We will meet in the church following the worship service that day. The worship service will be at 9:30 am. There will be a potluck following the Annual Meeting.

Call for Reports

If you are the chair or leader of a committee in the church please turn in a written or emailed report to the Trish Sweeney by Jan 15th so she can prepare the Annual Report. Her e-mail is trish.oursaviour@gmail.com.

Ministry with Veterans

Reflection by David Zelinsky

Prayers answered:

1. He made just enough progress that the judge kept him in Veterans Court. He still has a chance to work off fines and penalties, clean up his record, and receive needed VA services.
2. The Sutter County judge let him out of jail. No bail. February he will have to travel to Missouri, and clean up his warrant. But today is good.

The difference between comedy and tragedy is simply where you end the story.

He had been doing well. Detox had put him into a great frame of mind. He believed he had the tools, and the Meds to lick it.

He started to look, feel and think like the combat Marine that he had been.

Excepting that: He broke up with her. He could no longer deal with her meth, her living in her car. With her kids. She instantly hooked up with another meth user.

Per his pattern, the stress of the breakup took its toll. Pray for him.

Stress (2):

He was doing really well. The VA had put him into a really good program. There were other Veterans his age there. His application to the State of California Veterans Home was complete, and sent off.

Then the letter came. A warrant for his arrest. Out of state. Ten years ago. The law changed, and it wasn't even a felony anymore. Nevertheless.

The stress got to him. He put his fork down. A good eater who could not eat.

Somehow or other he ended up in Sutter County jail, waiting for extradition.

Mather's Veteran Justice Outreach Specialist could not help him. Yuba-Sutter Veterans Stand Down's Chaplain is supposed to go out there. Hopefully, to...

Pray for him.

David Zelinsky
Service Officer
American Legion Post 119

Parents Night Out and C.S. Lewis Film Series

Our Parents Night Out for parents of foster children was a huge success. and a lot of fun. We had ten children spanning a variety of ages. The parents knew their children were safe, cared for and engaged in a variety of activities so they could enjoy a night out. Thanks to Leta Parks for organizing this event and bringing the movie, the Bakers and Agees who provided food and drinks, Karen and Juline Aguilar who provided games and activities, volunteers Emma Piazza and her friend, Choe, Deacon Stephen and Rob Sabino, who helped entertain the youth.

Women's Bible Study

Women's Bible Study meets on Wednesdays from 11:00 to 12:00 in St John's Room in Peirce Hall. We welcome new members! Email LeAnn @lkbett@live.com or call at 530-644-4789 if you have questions. Thanks, LeAnn

Future Forum News

Time to laugh: we will watch holiday episodes from the BBC comedy Vicar of Dibley on Jan 15 and Jan 22 during our Forum time.

Looking Ahead

Hiking

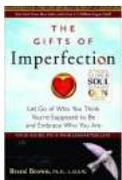
Bob Ridgeway has compiled a list of various places to hike in our area. If you are interested in hiking please let Bob know. Some places to hike include:

1. Jenkensen Lake at Sly Park. The weather is a bit cool yet, but this is a good time to go there, since the waterfall at Camp Creek/Park Creek is flowing. The hiking is moderate, if you hike in from the main road (no fees) or easy, if you start in the campground area. There is a day use fee in the campground itself which can be reduced if a senior citizen is in the vehicle.
2. Lake Clementine (starts from confluence of the American River)
3. Olmstead Loop near Cool, CA
4. Shorelines of Folsom Lake (several trailheads)
5. Winnemucca Lake at Carson Pass (usually to see wildflowers in the spring)
6. El Dorado Trail
7. EID canal in Pollock Pines
8. US Forest Service Trails in the Sierras
9. Wilderness Area lakes and trails in the Sierras
10. American River conservancy along the American River: Cronan Ranch, Magnolia Ranch, Greenwood Creek, Gerle Loop & Salmon Falls.

Carpooling from the church parking lot is encouraged. We have often met at the church parking lot at about 9 AM, time depending on our destination, to begin our hike by 9 or 10 AM. We brought a bag lunch to eat at our destination. Water, sun screen, a back pack, suitable footwear etc are considerations.

2017 Congregational Leadership Conferences

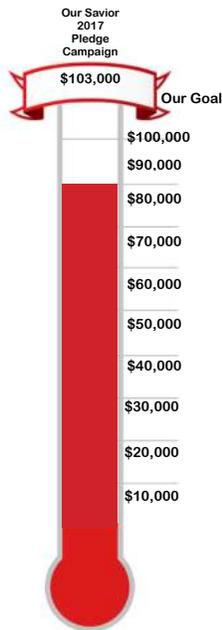
Please join Bishop Barry as we strengthen our service to the church through learning, connecting and gaining best practices for our church life. These leadership conferences, sponsored by the Bishop's Office, are designed for clergy, vestry members, treasurers and other program leaders in your church. Everyone is welcome to attend. There is no cost to participate - registration information will be coming your way soon. Check in, coffee and conversation begins at 9 a.m.; the program runs from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. A group from Our Saviour will be going to one on February 25 St. Luke's, Woodland. Please let Rev Deb know if you would like to attend.



Lenten Series: The Gifts of Imperfection

This will be a four part series followed by a 1/2 day retreat. It is based on the book "The Gifts of Imperfection: Living a Wholehearted Life" by Brené Brown. Dates and times TBA.

Financial News



Thank you those who have turned in pledges for 2017. We already have \$80,000 toward meeting our goal of \$103,000. If you have not turned in your 2017 pledge card or if you need a 2017 pledge card please contact Trish Sweeney at trish.oursaviour@gmail.com

As a reminder: as we end this year we still have some 2016 pledges that have not been fulfilled. Currently we are nearly \$7,000.00 short on our 2016 pledge goal. If you have not met your 2016 pledge or if you have a questions please contact Trish Sweeney at trish.oursaviour@gmail.com

Trish Sweeney
 Bookkeeper
 Church of Our Saviour
 PO Box 447
 Placerville, CA 95667
 530-622-2441

<i>Birthdays</i>		<i>Anniversaries</i>	
Debbie Lightfoot	January 5	Chris & Suzanne Kenny	January 26, 1985
Kim Nugent	January 7		
Bob Fagnani	January 19		
Sarah Ramsay	January 28		

Ministry Schedule 8 am

Date	EM	Reader	Usher
1	T. Weikert	J. McDonald	B. Wirth / P. Wooldridge
8	S. Bert	L. Powell	N. Lawson/J. Scheoner
15	D. Zelinsky	T. Wilson	B. Wirth / P. Wooldridge
22	D. Zelinsky	L. Perpall	L. George/J. George
29	S. Bert	L. Powell	J. McDonald/C. Griffin

Ministry Schedule 10:30 am

Date	EM	Reader	Usher
1	Y. Giordano/M. Muetz	B. Roberts	D. Lightfoot/E. Cannon
8	J. Baker/M. Baker	L. Parks	B. Roberts/E. Cannon
15	Y. Giordano/L. Parks	T. Fritschi	D. Lightfoot/M. Miller
22	J. Baker/M. Baker	C. McLaughlin	E. Cannon/ R. Douglas
29	M. Muetz/L.Parks	T. Fritschi	B. Roberts/ R. Douglas

Church Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday 8:30-11:30**Contact list**

Priest-in-Charge	The Rev Debra Sabino	revdebra.oursaviour@gmail.com	530-848-7765
Associate Clergy	The Rev Christine Leigh-Taylor	leighta@mcn.org	916-704-8698
Deacon	The Rev Stephen Shortes	stephenshortes@gmail.com	
Admin Assistant	Trish Sweeney	oursaviour.placerville@gmail.com	530-622-2441
Bookkeeper	Trish Sweeney	trish.oursaviour@gmail.com	530-622-2441
Sexton	Charles Griffin	DG.posi30@gmail.com	530-677-9736
Senior Warden	Jim Baker	azulqt@live.com	530-622-5456
Junior Warden	Randall Douglass	randall.douglas@att.net	
Altar Guild	Brenda Hill	hillon50bfh@gmail.com	530-622-2191
Treasurer	Perry McLain	pmclain@pacbell.net	

Our Saviour, Trish S
Jan 2017 (Pacific Time)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 8 am - Holy Eucharist 9:30am - choir 9:30am - Forum 10:15am - Nursery 10:20am - Sunday 10:30am - Family	2	3 6pm - Bunco @	4 11 am - Women's	5 10am - DOK	6 6:30pm - Welcome	7
8 8 am - Holy Eucharist 9:30am - choir 9:30am - Forum 10:15am - Nursery 10:20am - Sunday 10:30am - Family 12:15pm - Vestry	9	10	11 11 am - Women's	12	13 6:30pm - Welcome	14
15 8 am - Holy Eucharist 9:30am - choir 9:30am - Forum 10:15am - Nursery 10:20am - Sunday 10:30am - Family	16	17	18 11 am - Women's	19	20 10am - Altar Guild 6:30pm - Welcome	21 9am - Prayer
22 8 am - Holy Eucharist 9:30am - choir 9:30am - Forum 10:15am - Nursery 10:20am - Sunday 10:30am - Family	23	24	25 11 am - Women's	26 Upper Room	27 6:30pm - Welcome	28
29 9:30am - One 10:30am - Annual 11:30am - Potluck	30	31	1 11 am - Women's	2 10am - DOK	3 6:30pm - Welcome	4

Episcopal Church of Our Saviour
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TIME DATE MATERIAL. PLEASE EXPEDITE