

All Saints' Herald

January
2022

Newsletter of
All Saints Anglican Parish
Aiken, South Carolina

A Parish of the
Anglican Catholic Church
Diocese of the South

From Fr. George's notebook....



2021 In Retrospect 2022 In Anticipation

As we look back on 2021, we may ask ourselves, was it better than the previous year or worse?

Again, as we anticipate this new year, 2022, we may also reflect on our expectations for each new year.

No doubt, our retrospections and expectations are invariably secular as we ponder the previous year and anticipate the new year.

That seems to be our human nature — part of our human frailty — to look upon past, present, and future in terms of how our physical well-being is affected.

In this process, we find that what affects our family ties to be extended beyond the normal bounds, beyond community, even today, beyond our own nation.

Our universe has grown over the decades. We find ourselves evolving from a universe of community to a metaverse that seems to supersede reality.

Perhaps you may recall from Star Trek the holodeck — a surreal simulation of a real or even imaginary surrounding where one could interact as if it were real.

Though not to the extent of the holodeck in Star Trek, we are seeing that same concept being developed today, where people

are allowed to escape reality and feel as if they are part of an imaginary existence.

Our lives are more and more being taken over by an indulgence in imaginary existences, from social media to the emerging metaverse.

In all of this, we see something missing. Actually, from a reasonable standpoint, we may see a lot missing — but there is something absolutely essential to our very being that is missing from all the innovations that lift us from reality.

What is missing is God.

Somehow, God is not included in the metaverse. Our spiritual wellbeing is being left out of most innovation. Everything flows around a materialistic view of the world and our presence in it.

Twenty-one centuries ago, the confines of the physical world were breached when God entered into our time and space.

God, who is outside of our time and our space in all of eternity, breached the barrier in a most unique way — he entered into the womb of a young maiden and developed as a human baby, taking upon himself our humanity, thus, entering the world as any other human being would. He experienced for himself the process he had ordained for human beings to be born, a process that includes much of his Creation.

For the very first time in all of time, in all of eternity, humankind could finally see, touch, and hear their Creator — God himself, the **Incarnate Word** of God.

That act in itself should have changed our human perception of our wellbeing and

Services & Meetings....

Saturday the 1st....

Circumcision of Christ: Holy Communion at 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday the 5th....

Vigil of the Epiphany: Holy Communion at 5:30 p.m., followed by Anglican Studies.

Thursday the 6th....

The Epiphany: Holy Communion at 5:30 p.m.

Tuesday the 11th....

Vestry meets at 5:15 p.m. in the Parish Hall.

Wednesday the 12th....

Of the Octave of The Epiphany: Holy Communion at 5:30 p.m., followed by Anglican Studies at 6:15.

Sunday the 16th....

Annual Parish Meeting at 11:45 a.m., following

the 10:30 service in the Parish hall.

Tuesday the 18th....

Men of All Saints' meet at 6:00 p.m. in the Parish hall.

Wednesday the 19th....

Feria: Holy Communion at 5:30 p.m., followed by Anglican Studies at 6:15.

Tuesday the 25th....

Conversion of St. Paul: Holy Communion at 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday the 26th....

St. Polycarp, Bishop & Martyr: Holy Communion 5:30 p.m., followed by Anglican Studies at 6:15.

Thursday the 27th....

ACW Luncheon is set for **Anshu Asian Café** at 12:00 noon.

Men of All Saints' News

The December meeting was well-attended, even as the level of activities was up as Christmas approached.

Unfortunately, Fr. Alexander was so distracted during the gathering that he forgot to take photos, and our regular photographer was not able to attend, so no photos to document the presence of **Larry Byers, Jerry Burns, Carl Bottomley, Don Michelinie, Tony Harris, Bob**

Sukovich, Ken Connor, Dieter Voegele, and Fr. Alexander.

The menu was pizza, and lots of it, with salad and cheesecake for dessert. We were also entertained by a group of musicians, of which Bob Sukovich is a member, thus a great evening for those who attended.

Next meeting is **Tuesday, January 18th.**

our perception of retrospection, as well as our anticipation and expectation.

The focus should be on our spiritual wellbeing, as well as our physical wellbeing.

In looking back over the past year, what did we do to maintain our spiritual health and our relationship with God?

In the new year, what are we going to do to improve our spiritual health and our relationship with God?

Will God be part of our metaverse? For us older folks, will we allow him on our holodeck?

Each new year holds promise. This year, will we actively work just as hard to realize our spiritual expectations as we do our physical expectations?

Where do we begin? First with prayerful examination of our lives and relationships with God; then, by incorporating our daily lives into the Church, worshipping God and participating in the Sacraments and life of the Church; and, finally, by being an active member of our **Family in Christ** in anticipation of and expectation of a fuller life in the new year and in the years to come.

News from the Pews

By Clare Michelinie & Ruth Ann Prevost

Benton House Outreach

Benton house recently received a couple of surprise guests during the Christmas *Sing-Along* headed by **Carl Bottomley**. Elf, **Maryanne Ebert**, and Mrs. Santa, **Clare Michelinie**, sang Santa Baby to the residents to start the event off. So much fun was had by everyone!



Maryanne and Clare dressed for the season were a hit at Benton House!

Plans for the new year include expanding the **Parish Outreach Program** to other facilities; indeed, Carl has already laid the groundwork for this to happen.

In addition to Clare and Maryanne, **Trina Crocker** has also been a very active part of the program.

An Aside

Maryanne Ebert has been attending All Saints for roughly 7 or 8 years. She was born and raised in Canada, just outside of Toronto.

She met her husband, Tom, when he was CEO and she was Marketing Manager of a company involved in rehabilitation. She later owned a small management training company and taught in the College of Management at Metropolitan State University in Minneapolis/St. Paul in Minnesota.

Maryanne and Tom retired to Aiken 12 years ago, and love everything about it here, except that they are a long way from their daughter, Pamela, who lives with her husband and three daughters in Portland, Oregon.



Carl joined by one of the residents.

Parishioner Sells Painting at Recent SC State Fair

Dot Holladay sold her painting entitled *Covid Blue* at the recent South Carolina State Fair. She was interviewed by **Clare Michelinie**.

Clare asked for a few remarks about a recent sale of this painting, and, naturally, her first question was, how long have you been painting?

Dot: My response was "All my life."

At the tender age of four I created an enormous mural up the stairs of my mother's home. I used ivory wallpaper for the background and carefully selected lipsticks from my sisters collections. I can still see the ivory contrasting with REALLY RED and BRIGHT PINK flowers blooming up those stairs. A more recent work of art was the concrete sculpture currently gracing the front of our beloved All Saints Anglican Church. I was blessed to have two purchasers for *Covid Blue* at the recent *South Carolina State Fair*, and it will hang in an architect's office in Columbia. I hope to use similar colors in a different venue for purchaser #2.

Covid Blue is an oil painting, 36x48", and more abstract than my usual water scenes of the east and west coasts. As the name suggests, I wanted to share

the depths of confusion, despair, aggravation, hope, promise, acceptance and renewal of that whole global catastrophe. You might see a curiously similar progression in the steps of dealing with cancer.....HMMMMMM.

We have so many fine painters at **All Saints'**, and we are blessed to have this in our lives. Musicians have it;



gardeners have it; cooks, carpenters have it; in all walks of life, we find joy and excitement in learning and sharing.

If anyone would like to share information to "News From The Pews" please contact : Clare Michelinie Cell phone: 978-590-7760 or claremichelinie@verizon.net

ACW News

by Betty Alexander

In December, the ACW lunch was held at the Willcox as an early celebration of Christmas and another opportunity to catch up with each other. Present were **Ann Zouck, Sharon Riordan, Clare Michelinie, Ruth Ann Prevost, Trina Crocker, Cecelia Davies, Patricia Sharp, Jean Drake, and Betty Alexander.**

Sharon told us about the Christmas trees crafted from tree branches which she saw in the markets when she lived in the Philippines. Jean recounted the outstanding anniversary celebration her teenage children planned after she (half-facetiously) told them it was their responsibility

to plan their parent's 25th wedding anniversary. Interestingly, Patricia told us that the glass of champagne she had ordered at lunch was in celebration of her and Paul's 25th anniversary, which happened to be on the day of the luncheon; they had plans to celebrate during the coming week-end.

With a rather short timeline, ACW members successfully accumulated the household items requested by a young family identified through **Children's Place**, as well as some desirable extras (a cookware set and an electric mixer). The social worker involved expressed her thanks.

The next **ACW Lunch** will be at **An-Shu Asian Café** on **Thursday, January 27th** at 12 noon. All ladies of the parish are invited. Please let us know if you plan to attend.



Getting Ready for Christmas

It was a combined workday for the Altar Guild and the Parish that made the tasks of decorating the church and preparing it for Christmas Eve services go smoothly, resulting in a beautifully decorated church ready for the many services of Christmastide.

This year, all the work was done on the day before Christmas Eve, to allow more time to get everything done and not have to hurry.

A big **Thank You** to all who helped!



Above, **Fr. Alexander & Betty** hang greenery on the Altar. To the left, **Ann Zouck** fills cruets and, to the right, **Susan Thomas & Jean Drake** prepare the Creche. Below right, **Carol Sue Roberts & Lainey Keller** work on the Advent Wreath



Dessert Baking Challenge

Last year, for the Annual Carol Sing, **Chris Roberts** offered **Betty Alexander** a *Dessert Baking Challenge*, and she accepted the challenge to bake a traditional *English Figgy Pudding*.

Little did she know what she was getting into but, nevertheless, she accomplished the task and won the challenge.

Now, this year Chris offered another challenge, which Betty also accepted, heaven only knows why.

The challenge was to bake a traditional **Plum Pudding** based on an 18th century recipe.

Well, she did manage to successfully bake a magnificent **Plum Pudding** but couldn't round up all the ingredients in time for the *Annual Carol Sing*, so she presented her baking achievement at the



next Coffee Hour.

Thanks to **Sharon Padgett** we have photos of the **Plum Pudding** before and after it was flambéed with brandy.

We may have to wait until

Betty unwrapped the Plum Pudding as Fr. G looked on. It looked great! Fr. G then primed it with brandy....and voilà, a beautiful and tasty Plum Pudding flambéed!



December for the next *Dessert Baking Challenge* for Betty but we have word that Betty is preparing to offer Chris a challenge.

Revenge is sweet!



Your Best Pet Pictures

Typically, Your Best Pet Pictures are photographs but this time, **Patricia Sharp**, an accomplished artist, and **Paul**, a professional photographer, submitted photos of her paintings of their two dogs, **Finn** and **Roggie**.

Roggie – a *papillon* – born in December – 4 years old.

Finn – a *Belgian Terrier* – 3 years old – also born in December.

Finn is 43 pounds, while Roggie is 12 pounds.

Patricia says the boys have really bonded.

“They chase each other and steal toys, especially Roggie’s favorite ball.”

Finn can hold three balls in his mouth at the same time, which drives Rog-



gie crazy



Finn and Paul are now in agility training and doing well. Patricia says Roggie stays home with her but so wants to go with them.

Your Best Pet Pictures

Spotlight your pet — dog, cat, horse, et cetera — so others can enjoy them as well. Email your photos with a little write up to Fr. George at gfa2001@bellsouth.net

Birthdays & Anniversaries

January Birthdays

- 5 Sharon Padgett
- 11 Lena Whittaker
- 14 Patricia Franca
- 30 Patricia Sharp

January Anniversaries

- 14 Larry & Pat Byers
- 23 David & Connie Beveridge
- 24 Fr. George & Betty
- 25 Jack & Tamara Cannon



Revisited
**Christmas:
 The Never-ending Story**

By Fr. Alexander

Just seems like yesterday that we were celebrating Christmas Eve. Now, it is all behind us. and we are in a new year.

Christmas itself seems so climactic. Everything leads up to Christmas Day, and then it's over for another 12 months.

But that's not the way it is in the **Church Year**. The story that begins with the birth of Jesus does not reach its climax until his Death on the Cross, Resurrection, and Ascension. Even then we find that it is a never-ending story, for he lives on through the **Church**, and he continues to watch over the **Church** from his Throne of Glory in Heaven at the Right Hand of the Father.

What is impressed upon us during the Christmas Season and throughout the Church Year is that the Incarnation of our Lord was a purposeful act. Before Jesus Christ, we were in bondage under the Law; but when the appointed time came, God sent his Son to be born under the Law so that, through him, we might be freed from that bondage and made heirs of the salvation that becomes rightfully ours as Adopted Children of God.

Our Lord, through his Incarnation, became subject to human conditions, even subject also to the Jewish Law, encompassing the entire Judaic legal system, the Mosaic Law, defined and redefined, encumbering and impossi-

ble to keep, bringing us under bondage.

While our Lord did redeem us through his perfect obedience to the Father, even to his death on the Cross, and, while we have been freed from bondage under the Jewish Law, this freedom is not without some responsibility and obligation as joint heirs to the Kingdom of Heaven.

When we become baptized into the Body of Christ, our new life begins with repentance and a complete surrender of ourselves to the will of Jesus Christ as our divine Saviour. Without such a complete surrender, we cannot begin to experience the unique blessedness and power of our Christian heritage.

Freed from the bondage of the old Law, we bind ourselves freely to our Lord under the Law of Love. Only by the greatest of Christian sacrifices can we be filled with the inward joy of oneness with our Heavenly Father and enjoy a relationship as his children.

At midnight on Christmas Day, for the secular world, it was over, and any more "to do" over Christmas became anti-climactic. Yet, for us Christians, it is not over.

The joy we experience at this season of the year is ours to enjoy each day of the year if we bind ourselves to him under the **Law of Love**.

(Continued on next page.)

Fairfield House Update
Work Continues with Addition of New Door

When our contractor, **Buddy Matthews**, and assistant, **Bill Doolittle**, cut through the wall to add a new door, they discovered that a doorway already existed. No one knew about it, so, in essence, the structure is not being changed from the original.

The new door is to provide a private entrance to the upstairs, which



has now been framed in, awaiting the completion of the wiring by an electrician.

The heating/AC is pretty much installed, as well as the plumbing.

We will get a full report on the Fairfield House Project from the Junior Warden, **Jerry Burns**, during the Annual Parish Meeting, January 16th.

Let us keep in mind Mary and Joseph and how they responded to a most unusual call from God: to accept a miracle.

Our technological world, its science, computers, and instant access to boundless information, has made us witnesses to many extraordinary things; but we have been so seduced by intellectualism and skepticism that we lose sight of the truly miraculous.

We tend to base acceptance or rejection of almost everything on the amount of empirical evidence availa-

ble, and we even go so far as tending to intellectualize our relationships with each other, not to mention God.

But what makes us human **is** our relationships, sharing joy, sadness, pain, and pleasure, and, most importantly, love.

In this new year, if we are going to make any resolutions, let us above all resolve to keep alive in our hearts and in all that we do, the spirit of the Christmas Season as a reflection of the **Law of Love**, surrendering ourselves to our Lord and Saviour.

Miscellaneous Announcements

From the Sunday Bulletin

Annual Parish Meeting

The ***Annual Parish Meeting*** is set for Sunday, January 16th, following the 10:30 service, and will include a ***Parish Potluck***. This is when **Parishioners** elect members to the **Vestry** and approve the budget for 2022. Among other business will be updates on the remodeling of Fairfield House and other proposed projects, as well as a report on the health of the Parish. Four members are to be elected/re-elected to fill Vestry terms that expire in January 2022. Vestry members serve two-year terms. Those whose terms expire in 2022 include: **Sara Wood, Carol Sue Roberts, Trina Crocker, and Chris Roberts.**

Remembering the Faithful Departed at the Altar

It is customary in Anglican Tradition to remember our departed loved ones and friends at the Altar on special occasions, especially on their birthday or date of departure. If you would like to have a family member, or special friend remembered at the Altar on a certain Sunday, please let Fr. Alexander know.

Blessing of Purificators

During Sunday's service, Fr. Alexander blessed two new **Purificators** for use at the Altar. They are given by **Mitchell & Kirsten Collins** to the ***Glory of God and in Thanksgiving*** for **Mason.**

Memorials

There are a number of opportunities for memorials in the Parish. For information on the procedure for making

memorials, and on items that are needed, or nice-to-have, please see Fr. Alexander.

Altar Guild Seeks Members

The **Altar Guild** is in need of new members to assist with Altar Duties following the various services, in particular, the 10:30 service. If you are interested in this very important service in the Church, please contact **Betty Alexander.**

Coffee Hour Volunteers

We're looking for more people to join in preparing the Sunday Coffee Hour. Preparing a Coffee Hour doesn't have to be involved, and often two or more will team up for a particular Sunday. If you're interested in joining in with preparing a Coffee Hour, please contact **Lena Whittaker**, who is chair of the ***Hospitality Committee.***

Contacting the Rector

Fr. Alexander is available day or night, 24/7, and may be reached anytime at **803-270-0406**. This includes holidays, as well. If you would like a home or hospital visit, or to receive Communion, anointing, or just to talk, please give him a call, text, or email (gfa2001@bellsouth.net). If he is not able to answer immediately, please do leave a message.

Altar Flowers

Flower Chart is on the bulletin board in the Parish Hall for those who would like to dedicate flowers for family or friends, special occasions, or in memory of loved ones. There is no specific amount to donate for ***Altar Flowers***; however, they usually run about \$75.

Decorating for Christmas

Loving Hands Coming together

Sometimes, we overlook the talents of our Parishioners who work hard, devoting much time to making sure our church and Parish Hall are lovely places to congregate in good fellowship and to worship ***In the Beauty of Holiness.***

Thank you to **Lena Whittaker**, assisted by **Jerry Burns**, for the beautifully decorated tree in our Parish Hall.

Thank you to the ladies who decorated the church and prepared it, so we could celebrate the Birth of our Saviour in the most beautiful setting. Those ladies included: **Phoebe Marshall, Jean Drake, Carol Sue Roberts, Lainey Keller, Ann Zouck, Susan Thomas, and Betty Alexander.**



Annual Carol Sing Brings Parishioners Together in the Pre-Christmas Spirit



Carol Sue Roberts instructed, directed, and led us through our rehearsal for Christmas Eve, so we would be ready to sing out with loud and joyous voices.



A group that takes the carol singing seriously. But shouldn't we all!

Photos
by
Forrest Roberts



Desiree Voegele and **Susie Kern** share a hymnal.



His lips are moving but is he really singing? — perhaps **Betty Alexander** and **Lainey Keller** can attest.

Before the Singing, there's the eating....



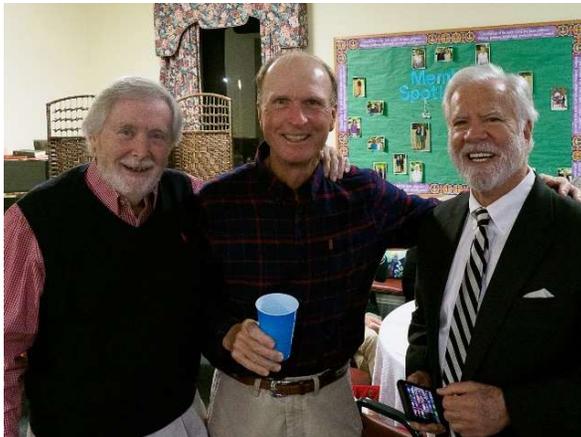
Normally, it's a potluck but, this year, **Lena Whittaker**, hospitality chairman, decided she would cater the affair. Well, she outdid herself and prepared a sumptuous feast.

She also did the decorations.

To say Lena is a superb cook is an understatement. Maybe we should refer to her as "Chef".



Kathy Clark and Pat Byers trade horse tales.



Jerry Burns, Bob Storey, and Ken Connor pause from exchanging stories for a photo op.



Sharon Padgett tends **Allie** while **Forrest Roberts** takes the photos.

....and What a Feast it was!

Dieter Voegele, Susie Kern, and Sharon Riordan start the line around the long table of food — an amazing array, and the desserts haven't even been brought out yet.



David & Connie Beveridge did not skimp on the food, and that's a good thing — a compliment to the chef!



Sharon Riordan is obviously enjoying the evening.



Larry Byers enjoys the art of story-telling, and he's a master.



Don't worry....**Jerry Burns** always looks this way and **Lena Whittaker** is not lecturing him, we think.

More Carol Sing Photos We had to Squeeze in....



Carol Sue Roberts and Clare Michelinie share a good laugh before the singing begins.



Ruth Ann & Tom Prevost wet their whistle with a glass of wine before the singing gets underway,



You can't see but **Judi Storey, Desiree Voegele, and Kathy Clark** are all smiles because they are carrying plates full of good stuff!



Of course, no evening would be complete without Linzee Whittaker!



Chef **Lena Whittaker** relaxes a moment with **Lainey Keller**.



Larry & Pat Byers sing our joyously!



Betty & Fr. Alexander engage in church talk with **Kit Bryan**.



Photo evidence that Fr. Alexander has an accomplice when it's dessert time, as we can see Chef Lena filling his plate with cake and heaven knows what else!



Judi Storey listens as **Tony Harris** talks music. Soon, Tony will be the cantor for our 10:30 service.



Carl Bottomley and Trina Crocker — Carl heads up our Parish Outreach Program, and Trina is one of his assistants.



Faith is not a Smorgasbord
The Immutable Standard that Guides Us
Revisited

By Fr. Alexander

As we begin a new year, there follows an optimism that, somehow, it will be different from the last.

But, alas, usually within a short time, the optimism begins to fade.

So, it seems, in these modern times, that Faith, perceptions of religion, and various standards of ethics, morality, and social standards all follow the same pattern of optimism, as at the beginning of a new year, which quickly fades into a cacophonous background.

The loudest noise coming out of that cacophony was that of basic standards being bashed and thrashed. It continues still.

One might say that All Saints' was born out of a cacophonous background.

I am reminded that we are here today because, more than forty years ago, a small group of people, in like mind with the early Christians, had the vision and the courage to stand up for their principles of faith, and to risk all to establish this small parish we call All Saints'.

Perhaps, the impetus came from that singular meeting in St. Louis in 1977, when more than 2,000 faithful joined together in one voice, one hope, to begin a new journey in faith, holding steadfast to the truth that the Church is the standard; that it is unchangeable, in that it is the reflection of God on earth — God who is unchangeable.

So often, I have written and spoken of the Church as the unchangeable standard around which all else revolves.

Where attempts to rewrite secular history are for naught, so are attempts to rewrite the Church as an evolving reflection of society.

Truth, of which the Church is the earthly reflection, is revealed, not evolved. Revealed in Holy

Scripture, it remains a constant that should guide societies as they evolve over the course of time in the face of advancements in science, technology, and various environmental changes.

If we believe that our Faith is that which has been once revealed by Jesus Christ to the Apostles, and passed down in the Church through Apostolic teaching and tradition, and



Chester Cathedral
Chester, England



St. Patrick's Cathedral
Dublin, Ireland



Trinity Church
"Shakespeare's Church"
Stratford-on-Avon, England

proven in Holy Scripture, then we must adhere to that Faith, protect and promote that Faith.

Compromise to the standards of Faith is not acceptable.

That may seem to be a strong statement; but what else could a Christian say or do?

Jesus Christ never said the way to eternal life would be easy; and he never said, all I'm doing is throwing out some stuff for you to consider; he did not offer a pick-and-choose Gospel.

Unfortunately, far too many, as we are seeing today, are under the impression that Christian Faith and Morality are a smorgasbord from which to pick and choose. Take only what you like, it's okay. If it feels good, it's got to be good. If it doesn't fit your lifestyle, then change the standard, not your lifestyle.

Well, the bad news of the Good News is that that isn't quite the way it works.

How can we say that? Because, we, individually, and as a parish, have accepted the Gospel of Jesus Christ, as once revealed, and incorporated it into our lives. It has become who we are and what we are: the standard-bearers of Faith and defenders of the

Truth.

We believe in the unchangeable Nature of God — that he is all-loving, all-knowing, all-powerful, and ever present.

While God would have all his Creation to be saved, the choice remains ours but the standard is immutable.

The Sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the Cross is a token of God's Love for us, and Christ's Resurrection is proof that eternal life is ours if we so choose, and that we can attain to salvation through his Grace, freely offered.





Commentary

The Bad News/Good News Bible

by Ken Connor

The Bible is a book of bad news and good news

First the bad news: Human beings are sinners. Our sin separates us from a holy and righteous God, provokes his wrath, and causes us to ultimately suffer death and eternal separation from Him. (Rom. 3:23, Rom.1:18, Col.3:6). More bad news: We are without excuse. As a result of our wickedness, we have suppressed the truth about God made known to us and are deserving of his righteous wrath. (Rom. 1:16-32)

That's a bitter pill to swallow, but it's not the end of the story. There is good news.

The good news: We don't have to pay the high price of our sin ourselves. Jesus paid it for us. Although he lived a sinless life, because of his great love for us (John 3:16), God sacrificed his Son to atone for our sins. We can be redeemed from our sin by accepting the free gift of eternal life that comes through faith in Jesus Christ. And if that weren't enough, God even supplies the faith for us. "For by grace have you been saved through faith, and this is not from yourselves—it is the gift of God, not of works, so that no one can boast." (Eph. 2:8-9)

None of us likes bad news, and it's natural to avoid it. Years ago, I remember being surprised to see a church edit the news as reported in the Bible and rewrite it so that it would be more palatable to its congregants. The Committee on Congregational

Song of The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) voted to exclude the popular modern hymn "In Christ Alone" from their hymnal because it included the line "Till on that cross as Jesus died, the wrath of God was satisfied." Apparently recognizing the popularity of the song, the Committee asked the hymn's authors for permission to change the end of that line to "the love of God was magnified" in order to be included in their hymnal. The authors refused to make the change. The Committee, it appears, couldn't abide the idea of God's wrath, so the song was left out of the hymnal.

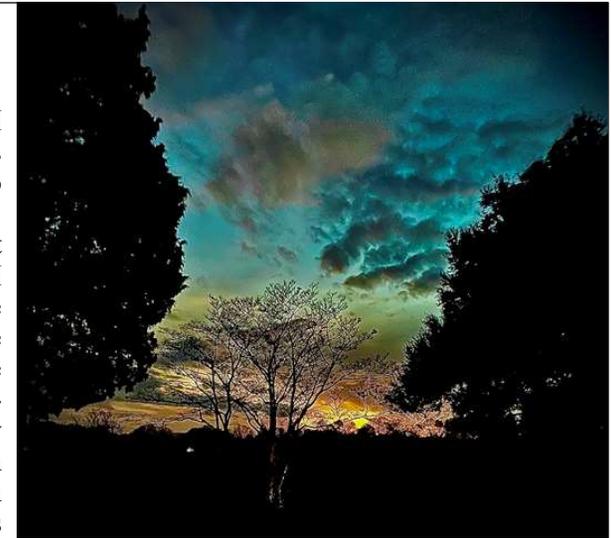
In the intervening time, we've seen many so-called mainline churches make a host of modifications to their theology to accommodate popular notions of morality that the Bible denounces as sin. "Surely, in the modern age, a loving God wouldn't condemn [insert the latest fashionable behavior that the Bible condemns as sin]."

It's disconcerting to see Christians devalue the great love of God in the name of a "loving god." There is no question that the good news of the Gospel centers on the love of God; but, to deny God's wrath eliminates the need for the good news. It also minimizes the culpability of sinners, denies the justice of God's punishment, and trivializes God's love for us. ("But God demonstrates his love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." (Rom. 5:8) In the process, Jesus becomes just a nice man who suffered an unjust

An Aiken Sunset

Submitted by Bob Sukovich

Recently, Marion and I stopped to pick up Miss Elise Lehman on our way to dinner in downtown Aiken. As Marion went in to let Elise know we were there, I couldn't help but notice the beautiful sunset from the side yard of Elise's house which overlooks the old Aiken Polo field. We are truly blessed to be here in Aiken and to be able to partake in the fellowship of All Saints and have such a splendid view of the beauty of God's creation. Elise thought I should share this picture



with you and perhaps it could be shared with the Parish.

Commentary continued....

punishment... bummer.

Sadly, the basic concepts of sin and atonement are foreign in our time, but they are Biblical. The Bible is unequivocal about the nature of man and the consequences of our sin. God's wrath, however, is not the end of the story.

"But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus." (Eph. 2: 4-7) (See also John 3:16, 1 John 1:9, Rom 5:8)

It's that simple. But, it's offensive to

a lot of folks—even within the church. Sin is not a popular notion in a therapeutic society. People don't like the idea that they are sinners. And the idea that we would suffer eternal damnation because we deserve it is even more offensive. We want to embrace God's love without taking into account his wrath and justice. We want the benefit of the good news without acknowledging the bad news.

We are naturally inclined to reject the God of the Bible, but this shouldn't come as a surprise—we're told as much in the Bible! We prefer to cherry-pick the Bible and fashion a god that seems more palatable than the one the Bible presents. But a god of our creation is no god at all. He is simply a customized construct designed to make us feel better about ourselves.

Such a creature is not worthy of our worship. The God of the Bible is.

Here 'n' There

ACW Adopts Children's Place Family for Christmas

Thanks to the generosity of **All Saints' Parishioners**, the ACW was able to present an SUV-load of household necessities for a deserving family selected by **Children's Place**.



The ACW has actively supported **Children's Place** for many years and one of our Parishioners, **Sara Wood**, has served on their board for many more years than we can remember.

Is All Saints' Ready for Incense? On Occasion?

A number of parishioners have inquired about using *incense* at All Saints'. We have, on occasion, used *incense*, such as during the **Blessing of the Palms**.

There have been suggestions that we use it sparingly once a month and, especially, on special **Holy Days** such as **Christmas**, **Easter Sunday**, **Whitsunday**, and **Trinity**, and perhaps, also, on other occasions.

Using *incense* during a celebration of the **Holy Eucharist** adds to the beauty of our service, and focuses our

senses on the **sacrificial** nature of the **Eucharist**, while at the same time, seemingly taking us back to another time in the life of the **Church**, reminiscent of the English Church before the Protestant Reformation, and also joining us with the **Eastern** and **Roman Communion**s.

While most often associated with **High Church**, it actually is just part of liturgical worship as practiced throughout the **Church**.

Have any thoughts on the use of *incense* from *time-to-time*?

Please let us know what you think.

Ho! Ho! Ho! and a Merry Woof to you....



No...this not Lillie but her older sister, Lucy, from a previous litter. As you can see, Lucy may be dressed for the occasion but she certainly doesn't seem to have the Christmas Spirit!

As we understand, no fingers suffered in the dressing-up of Lucy. That's remarkable in itself.

Not sure we would ever attempt to dress up Lillie — we definitely need our fingers!



Nature

As Seen through the Lens

by Forrest Roberts

Male Red-winged Blackbird

Location: Lake Marion, S.C.

I had always wanted to get really good images of this bird and finally got them.

I was photographing with a pro photographer on Lake Marion, and all our attention had been on the Osprey that nest there in the spring and a couple of Barred Owls that were usually found in a certain location on the lake.

We were changing locations and came across several red-winged blackbirds. He shut down the

engine, and we began photographing them.

These are my two favorite images as I wanted one to show the long tail



feathers, and one to show this wing position while flying directly towards me.

Carol Sue and I hope we all have a much better 2022.

[Note: this is a monthly series of nature photography by Forrest Roberts, who, with Carol Sue, travels extensively, both of them photographing the wonders of Nature.]

From the Clerical Kitchen....



Sunday Supper?

Potato-Clam Soup

An Experimental Recipe

By Fr. Alexander

Recently, Betty and I were scouring the refrigerator to see what leftovers were lurking when we discovered two baked potatoes.

Naturally, Betty can't stand to waste anything, and the potatoes became a prime target for salvaging. Being a Sunday night, a light supper night for us, my first thought was potato soup — but why stop there? Let's kick it up with something out of the ordinary.

Further scrounging led to the discovery of minced clams, and the problem was solved — so to speak — but really the challenge now was to put it all together in an edible form and to find a name for it. How about *Potato-Clam Soup*?

Potato-Clam Soup (for two)

Ingredients:

- 2 med. Potatoes
- 2 cans Minced Clams w/liquid
- 2 tbs Minced Onion
- 1 med Garlic Clove, minced
- 2 cups Milk
- 1/2 cup Heavy Cream
- 1/2 stick Butter
- 1/8 tsp Thyme (scant 1/8th)
- 2 tbs Celery, finely chopped
- 2 tbs Parsley, chopped
- 2 tbs Dry Sherry
- S&P

Quarter the potatoes. In a medium-sized pot, boil the potatoes in enough water to cover them. Add about a teaspoon salt to the water, and a little pepper.

Once the potatoes are soft, drain and reserve the water.

Add garlic, onions, and thyme to the potatoes and mash, using half the butter, leav-

ing them just a bit lumpy.

Next add the milk to the potatoes and place over medium low to medium heat, so that they will come to a simmer. Stir well and check for salt & pepper.

When the potatoes begin to simmer, add the clams, including the liquid (from one can; reserve the other) and celery. Stir well, continue to simmer for about five minutes; then add sherry, cream, and parsley. Continue to simmer for about 10 minutes. Finish by adding the remaining butter.

If the soup is too thick, add a little of the reserved liquid from the clams or potatoes.

Check again for salt & pepper. Betty and I like a lot of pepper. Remember that salt can bring out the flavors., but you don't want to over-salt, so add just a little at a time over time while continuing to simmer.

When I first make the Potato-Clam Soup, I used only one can of the minced clams, and it was a bit flat, as the flavor of the clams was hardly noticeable.

Also, we used too much thyme, and the flavor of thyme was a bit strong, so a scant 1/8th of a teaspoon should work, with emphasis on "scant."

While we used two leftover baked potatoes, my suggestion is to boil them and use the same pot to make the soup.

Some people prefer a very thick soup or stew, and others, a bit thinner. The addition of the reserved liquids should help those who want it thinner.

As always, make the recipe your own by improvising. There's always room for improvement. and I like to think of my recipes as starting points. I tinker with them every time I use one.

*Happy New Year & God's Blessings
throughout 2022 and always.*

Andiamo a Mangiamare!

Saint of the Month

St. Apollinaris, Bishop of Hierapolis (c. 179)

St. Apollinaris, Bishop of Hierapolis in Phrygia, was a leader and writer of the 2nd century by whom one of the most interesting events of the Roman army is noted.

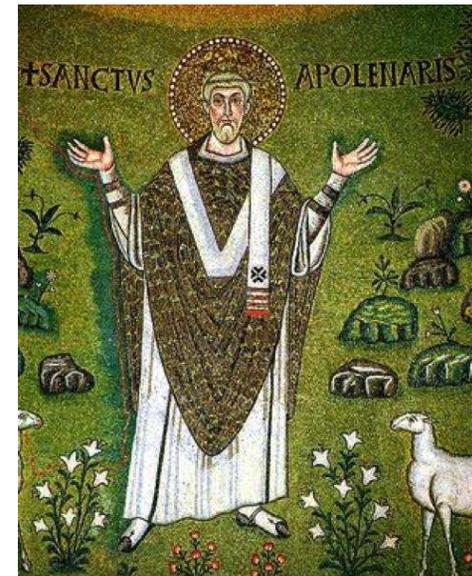
Noted for his polemic treatises against the heretics of his day, whose errors he said came from the pagans, St. Apollinaris wrote at least nine books, but of particular interest was his *Apologia* addressed to the Roman emperor, Marcus Aurelius, published in 177. In his *Apologia*, Apollinaris appealed to the emperor for leniency with respect to Christians, reminding the emperor of his experience with the Thundering Legion, made up of Christian soldiers whose prayers led to his victory over the Quadi.

While there is evidence that the emperor did issue an edict forbidding anyone to accuse Christians on the pain of death, his edict was never sanctioned by the Roman senate.

The story of the victory over the Quadi depicts the Roman army stalled in their effort to subdue the Germans, and, in 174, Marcus Aurelius, at odds with his generals, took to the field himself to lead the army. Just beyond the Danube, in what was later to be called Moravia, the army was surrounded by the Quadi, the people of that region. There seemed to be no possible escape.

According to Eusebius, the army's Twelfth Legion, composed mostly of Christians, was exhausted with thirst.

The Christian soldiers fell down on their knees in prayer, seeking God's help. Suddenly, the skies darkened and heavy rains fell, just as the barbarians began their attack. The Roman soldiers began to fight and, at the same time, catch in their helmets and drink the falling rain. The Quadi



faced not only the Roman legion, but a storm driven by a violent wind blowing directly in their faces, and were defeated. Through the *Apologia* of Apollinaris, there was some respite for Christians, but more important for the early Church were his writings, most of which have since been lost.

All Saints' Herald

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Parish Monthly Calendar

January 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Note: ACW Monthly Luncheon will be on Thursday the 27th at <i>Anshu Asian Café</i>.</p>						<p><i>1</i> Circumcision of Christ</p>
<p>2 Christmas 2 (Comm. Octave of St. Stephen) MP & HC 8:30 Bible Study 9:30 HC 10:30</p>	<p><i>3</i> Octave of St. John, Apostle, Evangelist</p>	<p>4 Octave of Holy Innocents</p>	<p><i>5</i> Vigil of The Epiphany HC at 5:30 pm Anglican Studies 6:15</p>	<p><i>6</i> The Epiphany HC at 5:30 pm</p>	<p><i>7</i> Of the Octave</p>	<p><i>8</i> Of the Octave</p>
<p><i>9</i> Epiphany 1 (Comm. Octave) MP & HC 8:30 Bible Study 9:30 HC 10:30 Healing Service 11:45</p>	<p><i>10</i> Of the Octave</p>	<p><i>11</i> Of the Octave Vestry meets at 5:15</p>	<p><i>12</i> Of the Octave HC at 5:30 pm Anglican Studies 6:15</p>	<p><i>13</i> Octave of The Epiphany</p>	<p><i>14</i> St. Hilary, Bishop, Confessor, Doctor</p>	<p><i>15</i> St. Paul, First Hermit, Confessor</p>
<p>16 Epiphany 2 (Comm. Bl. William Laud) MP & HC 8:30 Bible Study 9:30 HC 10:30</p>	<p><i>17</i> St. Anthony, Abbot</p>	<p>18 St. Prisca, Virgin, Martyr Men of All Saints meet at 6:00 pm</p>	<p><i>19</i> Feria HC at 5:30 pm Anglican Studies 6:15</p>	<p>20 Sts. Fabian & Sebastian, Martyrs</p>	<p>21 St. Agnes, Virgin, Martyr</p>	<p>22 Sts. Vincent & Anastasius, Martyrs</p>
<p>23 Epiphany 3 MP & HC 8:30 Bible Study 9:30 HC 10:30</p>	<p>24 St. Timothy, Bishop, Martyr</p>	<p><i>25</i> Conversion of St. Paul HC at 5:30 pm</p>	<p>26 St. Polycarp HC at 5:30 pm Anglican Studies 6:15</p>	<p><i>27</i> St. John Chrysostom, B., C., Doctor</p>	<p><i>28</i> Bestowal of Anglican Catholic Episcopate (1978)</p>	<p><i>29</i> Octave of St. John, Apostle, Evangelist</p>
<p>30 Epiphany 4 (Comm. Bl. Charles Stuart) MP & HC 8:30 Bible Study 9:30 HC 10:30</p>	<p><i>31</i> St. John Bosco, Confessor</p>					<p>Note: Calendar subject to change.</p>