

Wednesday Information - December 30, 2020

Dear friends,

I hope you all had a joyful Christmas Day. As the year 2020 draws to a close, the rays of the late afternoon sun fill the living room from where I write. In an adjacent room stands an angel which has been there since before Christmas.

Let me explain: at this year's Christ Church Green show, Ruth bid online for an angel she thought was no bigger than 8" high. At least, that's how she imagined it from its photo. However, when she collected it, the angel measured almost 3 feet in height. Ruth's plan for it to adorn our Christmas tree was no longer feasible, so now it stands on the window ledge in the sun room. The angel has a presence - more person than angel - and she is beautiful: a welcome addition to our home at Christmas.



I don't know if you believe in angels, but I do. They appear throughout the Bible, and Jesus speaks of them. Angels tend to stay in the background, but occasionally they appear in times of acute need, often disappearing as unexpectedly as they arrive. I expect some of you will have your own personal "angel" stories. They are a reminder that in creation there is more to life than meets the eye.

This past year would have been a busy one for angels, with the spread of the coronavirus and the lesser reported increase in depression, suicide, alcoholism, domestic abuse etc. Angels have many roles: messengers and helpers are the two most common. It's helpful sometimes to imagine a world without God, and then one with God. I prefer the latter, because without God things would be so much worse. Angels are a big reason why, because they serve God by ministering to God's people. They are evidence that God won't leave us alone, especially in times of illness and distress.

Rather than make a New Year's resolution for 2021, I will instead give thanks for the saving love of God in Jesus Christ, who is born in Bethlehem, and give thanks too for the angels who announced his arrival to the shepherds.

Our three-foot high angel is a reassuring presence whenever I enter the room. May your guardian angel watch over you in 2021 and may have you a happy and healthy new year.

With every blessing

Father David

**CHRISTMAS FLOWERS
2020**

Ann B. Adams	In Memory of: J. Harry Adams
Harry and Dianne Burlew	In Memory of: Harry & Naomi Burlew, Sr., David Burlew and Fred & May Huntington
Mary Davis	In Memory of: My husband, Bob Davis
Alice Anne and Bill Freund	In Memory of: Alice Heald Groverman Ainslie
Marie Hogsten	In Honor of: My children and grandchildren In Memory of: Jim and Our Parents
Kristin Jones	In Honor of: Our Children and Grandchildren In Memory of: The Ancestors
Sharon Korody	In Memory of: Paul A. Korody
Carl and Pat Long	In Honor of: James E. Bryan, Jr. Family, Chris Bryan In Memory of: Ben & Marge Crist, Raymond & Erma Long
Edwina Martens	In Memory of: Loved ones
Lanny and Dave Moore	In Honor of: Max and Milo Moore
Lee and Jim Moore	In Memory of: James Moore III, Susan Nowell Moore, James, Mary & Robert Moore, Howard, Patricia & Dave Oaks, Gwen, Fred, Thomas & Dianne Custance, James Robson and Charles Coberley

Please Join Us For Online Worship

[Facebook Livestream](#)

[YouTube](#)

Sunday – January 3, 2021 The Epiphany of our Lord Jesus Christ
9:00 am - Holy Eucharist

Sunday, January 10, 2021 - The Baptism of our Lord Jesus Christ
9:00 am - Holy Eucharist



MEN'S GROUP

Calling all men. We are initiating a Men's Group. It will meet once a month for fellowship, with morning prayer, a light continental breakfast and a short program of some sort. The first meeting will be on Wednesday, January 13, 2021 at 9:00 in the Parish Hall. The first "program" will be presented by Father David. We will be socially distancing and following our COVID protocols. Those of you who feel comfortable meeting in person, mark your calendars now. Looking forward to seeing you. Please RSVP to Ron Kerchner at thekerchners@msn.com so we know how many to plan for.

ONLINE BIBLE STUDY

Father David will lead an online study of St Paul's Letter to the Philippians. Beginning Wednesday, January 13 at 7:00 PM. For more info, please contact admin@stmarthasbethanybeach.org

Committee Updates

Outreach

Community Food Pantry, located at Salem United Methodist Church, is looking for volunteers to help with their monthly Friday food preparation and Saturday drive thru distribution. If you can help January 15-16, please contact Joyce Dennis (302-732-6565) or Myra Bare (302-732-9402).

Flower Guild

The Christmas altar flower arrangement will stay in church through this Sunday and then we will distribute the flowers to those who honored and/or remembered loved ones.

We have many Sundays free on our Flower List for next year. Please call or email Jaclyn at 302-539-7444 or admin@stmarthasbethanybeach.org to chose a date to remember or honor loved ones or occasions. For January and February, these dates are available: **1/10, 1/17 and 2/7**.

Prayer List

In 2021 we are planning to update our current prayer list. If there is someone whom you would like to place on the list, please let Jaclyn in the office know. She will keep a record of that person who will remain on the list for four weeks. At the end of that period, their name will be removed unless we hear that they should remain on. This will make sure our prayer list remains up to date. Thank you.



Please give by mail or website donate button

Please continue to support our mission work by submitting your pledge to St. Martha's Episcopal Church, PO Box 1478, Bethany Beach DE 19930 or give via the donate button on the website where there is a box to note your contribution purpose: <https://www.stmarthasbethanybeach.org/make-donation-or-pledge/>.

Prayer List

Bob Bauer, Ruth Simone, Ron Sutton, Martha, Wayne Argo, Paul Stutts, Justin Bence, James Moore, Jr., Evan Ballard, Cameron Vlassis, Charmaine Zoller, Tara Sprouse, Don Louk, Joey, Sara Suerose, Nancy Moore & family, Bill Ensor, Katherine Hobbs, Joe, Nancy Reed, Leigh Alexander Loeber, Ron Pickup, William L Brintnall, Laura N. Brintnall, Cuthie Family, Janice Fritsch, Pauline Wise, Becky Warlow, Jean Bunker, Carolyn Clarke, August Goeller, Bev and Jack Shubert, Margaret Duval, Marilyn Hoffman, Clari Hernandez, AJ Evans, Robert Hicks, Noel Tuck, Joanne Grant, Mimi Drew, John Conway, Keith Smith, Jim Lucas, Christine Mains, Lois Allen, Tony Combas, Catherine Jordan, Chris Riccardi, Marie Hogsten, Harry Burlew, Sara Reynolds, Caryn Short, Casey Owens and Lucille Johansen

For Our Serving Military: Quinn Barber, HM3 Kevin Murphy, Conner Warlow, Daniel Olnick

Prayer LIST – If you would like to add someone to the Prayer List please contact the office at (302) 539-7444 or email admin@stmarthasbethanybeach.org. The Prayer List is a way to ask for prayer from the whole congregation for a loved one who is dealing with a stressful issue such as chronic illness, job problem, or other personal problem. Only the person's name is listed. Names stay on the list for two months unless and until renewed.

Prayer CIRCLE – These volunteer prayer warriors pray for a person who has asked for urgently needed short-term prayer for a specific purpose like surgery or an upcoming medical test. These requests are confidential. You can email prayercircle@stmarthasbethanybeach.org for Prayer Circle intercessions. You can also contact Jaclyn at admin@stmarthasbethanybeach.org or 539-7444. Voicemail messages are being monitored and you will receive a return call during normal office hours (Monday-Thursday, 9am-1pm).

Pastoral CARE –If you have a pastoral care need, please call Elsa or Carol at (732) 216-6875 or contact the office using the email address or phone number listed above.

Pastoral Care EMERGENCY – Please contact Father David Beresford at (302) 468 9062.

Almighty God, giver of all good things:
We thank you for the natural majesty and beauty of this land.
They restore us, though we often destroy them.
Heal us.

We thank you for the great resources of this nation. They
make us rich, though we often exploit them.
Forgive us.

We thank you for the men and women who have made this
country strong. They are models for us, though we often fall
short of them.
Inspire us.

We thank you for the torch of liberty which has been lit in
this land. It has drawn people from every nation, though we
have often hidden from its light.
Enlighten us.

We thank you for the faith we have inherited in all its rich variety. It sustains our life, though we have been faithless again and again.

Renew us.

Help us, O Lord, to finish the good work here begun. Strengthen our efforts to blot out ignorance and prejudice, and to abolish poverty and crime. And hasten the day when all our people, with many voices in one united chorus, will glorify your holy Name. *Amen.*

Have a Happy New Year!

The Rev. David Beresford, 302-468-9062, davidberesford@gmail.com

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Junior Warden Bill Freund, 301-229-0799, wmfreund42@gmail.com

Secretary John Short, 302-829-1699, johnnyeshort146@gmail.com

David Kemper, Music Director, 267-421-4453, dc.kemper@hotmail.com

Jaclyn Hickman, Administrative Asst., 302-539-7444, admin@stmarthasbethanybeach.org