



St. Clement's Episcopal Church

2376 Zinfandel Drive

Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

A Veteran Friendly Congregation

The Anchor

Published By St. Clement's Episcopal Church

December 2012 Diocese of Northern California

The Shortest Day...

Now we come to the dying of the year. After our hot, dry summers I suspect most of us are ready for colder temperatures and earlier nights. In our house, the fireplace is almost always going, with ceiling fans circulating the rising warm air back down toward our feet. Pretty soon, we'll have to turn on the radiant floor system to keep the house comfortable. And, of course, there's no more drying the laundry outside. I have a back closet that I hang a load in for a couple of days. If there's a rush, I can always use the dryer, but I prefer not to.

Living with the seasons is one of the pleasures of a healthy and natural lifestyle. If every day were spring, we wouldn't notice the stunning colors of fall. If we had endless summer – I think of surfing movies from the sixties – how would we ever slow down enough to reflect and rest?

In ancient times the dying of the year was associated with the winter solstice, the shortest day and longest night, this year December 21. That is the day in which the sun at noon is at its lowest altitude above the horizon (in the Northern Hemisphere). It lasts only a moment in time, and then the days gradually lengthen and the nights get shorter.

Because it is a phenomenon around the globe, cultures have treated the winter solstice, or mid-winter, with a variety of rituals and festivals, usually involving some recognition of rebirth. In the Roman Julian calendar, the winter solstice was reset to December 25 to coincide with the birth of Jesus Christ. There were some obvious advantages to associating the date of Christmas with the pagan celebrations surrounding the solstice. (I have to share a personal story. Last winter a missionary from a religious group that goes door-to-door knocked at my house to give me his tract. I informed him that I was a religious leader, but I was curious why his group did not observe Christmas. He told me that when he was in military service he had the opportunity to visit Israel – in the chilly winter. He concluded that Jesus could not have been born in winter because it was just too cold. Silly me. All these years I thought humans had babies year-around.)

The earth turns dark in winter. Trees shed their foliage, the ground hardens, sometimes into a sort of icy death. Plants go dormant, animals, too. Wouldn't it be nice if all of us could crawl between the sheets for a long winter's nap, while our creative forces regenerated? Of course, we would *never* do that, because we have *so much* to do! Cleaning, shopping, greeting cards, cooking, entertaining, sending off packages before postal deadlines. It starts earlier and earlier each year, well before the solstice. In fact, I'm sure some of you have already mapped your Black Friday strategies. Not me! I'll be serving turkey sandwiches, and heading for a snooze.

I welcome the winter. Yes, I'm busy planning all the Advent and Christmas services, and my own family activities. But I'm aware of seasonal differences in my body and soul. May you allow yourself *some* space during this time for a dormant spell, so that God's Spirit may be renewed in you.

Advent blessings to all,
Pastor Christine +



Bible Readings

for the month

Revised Common Lectionary
Year C

December 2

First Sunday of Advent

Jeremiah 33:14-16

PSALM 25:1-9

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

Luke 21:25-36

December 9

Second Sunday of Advent

Baruch 5:1-9

PSALM: Canticle 4

Philippians 1:3-11

Luke 3:1-6

December 16

Third Sunday of Advent

Zephaniah 3:14-20

PSALM: Canticle 9

Philippians 4:4-7

Luke 3:7-18

December 23

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Micah 5:2-5a

PSALM: Canticle 3

Hebrews 10:5-10

Luke 1:39-45(46-55)

December 30

First Sunday After Christmas

Isaiah 61:10-62:3

PSALM 147

Galatians 3:23-25;4:4-7

John 1:1-18

Contacts

Office Manager

Len Honeycutt 635-5282

Music Minister

Carole Maxson 209- 795-5768

Sexton

Randy Grimwood 458-8196

Altar Guild

Debbi Honeycutt 362-5170

Anchor Editor

Harry Shippy 631-0640
e-mail shippyharry@yahoo.com

Daughters of the King

Debbi Honeycutt 362-5170

Lay Ministry Coordinator

Bobbie Keill 852-6837

Lay Eucharistic Visitors

Len Honeycutt 362-5170

Parish Nurse

Helen Sheppard 635-1987

P.I.E./Lectionary Bible Study

Betty Chapman 363-4435

Prayer Tree

Mickey Boughton 635-8324

Sunday School

Muriel Murray 967-5981

Sharon Burke-Polana 481-0225

Ushers

Randy Grimwood 458-8196

Coffee Hour Hospitality

Bobbie Keill 852-6837

Kitchen Supplies

Sherry Stults 638-2284

2012 Vestry

Ray Stults, Sr. Warden 638-2284

Mike Chapman,
People's Warden 363-4435

Harry Shippy, Clerk 631-0640

Sharon Burke-Polana 481-0225

Kent Ransom
Treasurer 635-5751

Ken Dunham 817-4245

Randy Grimwood 458-8196

Bobbie Keill 852-6837

Debbi Popp 635-3097

Ethel Bartmess 452-0783

At a Glance

| | |
|---------------------------|--|
| Saturdays | Thrift Store open 9-1 |
| Bible Study December 2 | Tuesday 7:00pm Combined service Ingathering 9:00am Brunch Follows |
| December 9 | Vestry Meeting 1:00pm |
| December 13 | Lunch Bunch 12 noon |
| December 15 | Anchor Deadline |
| December 16 | Bishop visits 8:00 & 10:00am Madrigal Dinner 6:00 |
| December 24 | Christmas Eve Family Service 5:00pm Candelight Choral Service 10:00pm |
| December 25 | Christmas Day Eucharist Rite I 9:00am |

Birthdays and Anniversaries

| | |
|-------------|--|
| December 6 | Emilito Smith |
| December 15 | Helen Sheppard |
| December 26 | Michael Menser Jessica Menser Erika Menser |
| December 29 | Betty Chapman |

Clergy and Lay Eucharist Visits

Please call the church office(635-5282) or send an e-mail to the church (st.clements@hotmail.com) if you would like communion brought to you or a family member.

The Rev. Christine Leigh-Taylor, Rector Harry Shippy, Editor The Anchor

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St. Clement's Episcopal Church
2376 Zinfandel Drive
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670
Phone: (916) 635-5282 Fax: (916) 635-7259

email: st.clements@hotmail.com

Web: www.saint-clements.com

Please email your news and photographs to st.clements@hotmail.com or shippyharry@yahoo.com. Deadline for articles is the 15th of the month. Articles are subject to editing.

The Bible Challenge – Round Two?

Quite a few of you – maybe 18 – were brave enough to join me on *The Bible Challenge* last Ash Wednesday. We've been soldiering through the Bible ever since. A few may have found the schedule daunting, but do not give up! We have a whole new chance!

The Bible Challenge is going 'viral' in our diocese! St. Clement's was a pilot congregation; now a whole lot of others are eager to do this. Are you thinking, "What? I have to start all over again?" Well, it was clear that the purpose of *The Bible Challenge* was to make DAILY Bible reading a habit. It didn't mean you had to read the whole Bible every year, but to get used to reading something from the Bible EACH DAY.

I am a coordinator of *The Bible Challenge* for the Diocese of Northern California. As of the middle of November, we currently have over 300 people signed up across the diocese to begin *The Bible Challenge* on Epiphany Sunday, January 6, 2013. I think that number will exceed 1500! We have new reading schedules, timed to the first day of reading on January 7, 2013.

Why would *you* want to take *The Bible Challenge*? The Bible is one of the most important books in the world. Many people make moral claims based on the Bible, but they haven't read it. It isn't necessarily easy to read through the Bible, as there is a lot of violence. But Christians believe that the Bible contains the writings of people inspired by God through many periods of history.

You *can* read the entire Bible in one year. The extra benefit of doing it in 2013, in concert with the whole Diocese of Northern California, is that we will have available daily meditations, written by theologians from around the world, to help us put readings into contexts that are useful to us today. This will be a tremendous addition! The meditations

will be available on-line, at norcalepiscopal.org, and we will also print them out each week, with copies in the Narthex, and post them on our own parish website. As a last resort, you can order a book of daily meditations from Foreward Movement.com. It is only \$18, and you will have them forever. The Episcopal Bookshop at Trinity Cathedral also has the meditation books on hand. They sold out 40 copies at Diocesan Convention, but will have reorders.

It doesn't matter which Bible you use. I recommend, because of the useful footnotes, the New Oxford Annotated New Revised Standard Version, which is available in many sizes and styles. A new "Common English Bible with the Apocrypha" has just been released as a collaboration of 24 demonitators. In contemporary language, it has been authorized by the 2012 General Convention of the Episcopal Church. Be prepared to mark up your reading Bible, with comments, stars, whatever you choose to remark and interact with your Bible readings. *The Bible Challenge* is designed to be an excuse for you to really engage with the Bible. Prepare to have an encounter, prepare to maybe get angry, prepare to perhaps argue. These are all healthy responses to the Bible. But, above all, prepare to know that you are reading through a sacred text along with hundreds of others, who are all struggling and rejoicing at reading the same words. Keep in mind that we are reading together, a whole cloud of witnesses. There is power in that!

Pastor Christine +

Do you have a will?
Have you remembered the Church in
your will?

The Beautiful Season of Advent

The first Sunday of Advent, December 2, begins a new Church Year – year C of the Lectionary cycle. Advent lasts four Sundays, each with very distinctive collects (prayers) and themes – but all related to preparation for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Because it is a reflective time, the decor of the church is subdued, either purple or royal blue (we use blue). We display greens instead of flowers in the vases. Here are the classic Advent collects.

First Sunday of Advent: Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Second Sunday of Advent: Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Third Sunday of Advent: Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Fourth Sunday of Advent: Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen*

First Sunday Combined Service at 9 am – beginning December 2

The Vestry would like to encourage more interaction among our 8 and 10 am congregations. They have proposed a three-month experiment in which we conduct a combined 9 am service on the First Sunday of December, January and February. Two of these Sundays are normally held at 9 am anyway – the Ingathering and the Annual Meeting. PLEASE be flexible and give this a try.

December 2: 9 am Ingathering, followed by brunch and “It’s OK to Laugh in Church”

This is our opportunity to place our financial pledges for 2013 on the Altar to be blessed. It is a sacred moment of community dedication. Please plan to be there, and to stay for brunch and 30 minutes of jollity afterwards. If you absolutely cannot attend, please send your pledge in ahead of time, so it can be counted with the others. The pledges received determine the level of staffing and other support that the parish will engage in 2013.

January 6, 2013 Epiphany Sunday: 9 am Blessing of Bibles for The Bible Challenge. Bring the Bibles you intend to read. We will have a children’s homily.

February 3, 2013: 9 am Annual Meeting of the Parish, followed by coffee hour. This is required by law. We will elect two new Vestry-persons, plus three delegates, and two alternates to Diocesan Convention. The Annual Report of the Parish will be distributed, with reports of various ministries, the budget for 2013 and financial sheets for 2012. The meeting does not take long, but it is very important.

Stewardship: Our Future is NOW!

How do we, year after year, successfully invite “participants” to become stewards.” The two are really quite different kinds of people. A participant may show up or not, according to other priorities in his or her life. A steward is someone who cares enough to shoulder some responsibility for the ongoing life of the community. The same principle works in a faith, civic or charitable organization (and many others, too).

Economic difficulties have hit all of us. We are not yet out of the woods, nationally or locally, and maybe we won't be for a while longer. The two major political parties cannot seem to get their heads around the same theories of economic stimulus. It's frustrating for all of us who are waiting for indications about which way to jump.

The same was true in Jesus' time. It's kind of amazing that things haven't changed that much. We still argue about trickle down versus safety nets.

Pray about what is really important. Pray about the people who will care enough about us to track us down when we are sick, bring us a meal or share a meal, listen to our rants (patiently). If you don't feel someone has done this for you in recent times, ask yourself if you have done it for anyone else? A community of faith is first of all a community of love and concern. That doesn't come that easily these days. When you find it, cherish it!

Your financial pledge to St. Clement's is only one part of your pledge to support your faith partners. If you want to build a better, more caring world, something that offers a window into God's ultimate kingdom, then start here, start now!

Our pledge Ingathering is Sunday, December 2 at a combined service at 9 am. A 6

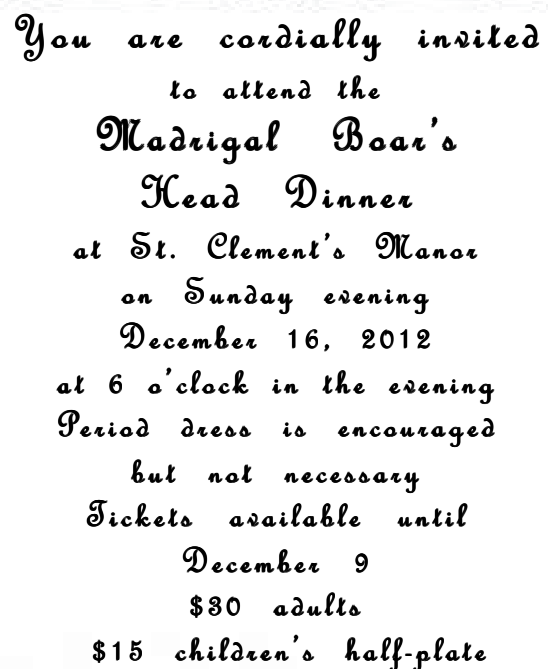
delicious brunch will follow, along with “It's OK to Laugh in Church,” directed by Len Honeycutt.

Lunch Bunch & Gift Exchange December 13

We have a nice “tradition” for our December Lunch Bunch. Everyone brings a wrapped gift – under \$5 in value – for the gift exchange. We each get a number, and choose a wrapped gift as our turn comes. The next person gets to either choose a wrapped gift, or can choose one that has already been opened. It keeps going until everyone is basically satisfied with their gift. If you have menu suggestions or requests, or want to cook, please let Pastor Christine know.

The Bishop is Coming! December 16

Not only is December 16 the Madrigal Boar's Head Dinner, BUT our Bishop, the Right Reverend Barry Beisner will be making his parish visitation (it happens about every year-and-a-half) on that morning. So, please be on hand at either 8 or 10 am to greet the Bishop in the name and spirit of St. Clement's.



*You are cordially invited
to attend the
Madrigal Boar's
Head Dinner
at St. Clement's Manor
on Sunday evening
December 16, 2012
at 6 o'clock in the evening
Period dress is encouraged
but not necessary
Tickets available until
December 9
\$30 adults
\$15 children's half-plate*

Ten Things You Should Know To Help Bring the OIF/OEF Veteran All the Way Home

By Alison Lighthall, RN, MS
(Former Captain in the US Army Nurse Corps)
Founder, HAND2HANDCONTACT

10. OIF stands for Operation Iraqi Freedom, also known as the Iraq War, and it began on March 20th, 2003. OEF stands for Operation Enduring Freedom and is a multinational military operation aimed at dismantling terrorist groups, mostly in Afghanistan. It officially commenced on Oct. 7, 2001 in response to the September 11th terrorist attacks;
9. Returning Service Members do not think of themselves as heroes. No matter how extraordinary their skills, courage, or actions may be. Their heroes are the ones still over there or coming home in flag-draped boxes;
8. Service Members are as varied in their political beliefs as everyone else in America. Some are adamantly against the war, others staunchly support it, and everyone else falls somewhere in between. Assuming that everyone who joins the military is a card-carrying right-winger will only make you look stupid;
7. No matter what his or her opinions about the war are, every Service Member of every branch of the military takes a solemn oath to support and follow our Commander In Chief, the President of the United States, and therefore cannot say anything derogatory about him;
6. No one can describe how hot it was while deployed in a war zone, so don't ask a returning Vet about the heat. Instead, imagine yourself putting on every piece of winter gear you own, in multiple layers, putting a metal bowl over your head, turning your oven on to 120 degrees, climbing inside, and living there for six months;
5. Worse still is asking any Veteran, "Did you kill anyone?" It is an unanswerable question. Perhaps she did and wished she hadn't. Perhaps he didn't and wished he had. Perhaps she did, but it wasn't fast enough to prevent a comrade's death. Perhaps it was accidental or perhaps it was so many instances of killing, he lost count. War requires things of us and taps into parts of us that are never otherwise touched—things most people need to work through or want to forget. US military personnel do not take killing lightly, and anyone who has NOT been there simply cannot discuss it with those who have, much less pass judgment. Listen quietly if they choose to talk about it, but otherwise, leave it alone;
4. OIF/OEF Veterans often want to go back to the war zone. Sometimes it's because they feel called to go in to finish the mission or support their buddies, sometimes it's because they feel they can no longer fit in to American society and its frivolous interests and fads. But regardless of reason, it is fairly common, so if they tell you they're planning on redeploying; please don't look at them as if they are insane;
3. They are exhausted when they get home – physically, psychologically, emotionally, and spiritually exhausted. They often do not have the energy or focus to talk for long periods of time. It will take some time for them to adjust, so follow their lead;
2. There is nothing black-and-white about what has happened to them. Almost always, there are good things that come from a deployment experience. Likewise, there are some pretty difficult things that they face once they are back home. Do not make any assumptions about their experiences;

And the #1 thing you should know about OIF/OEF Veterans are...

They are not the same people they were before they deployed. But do not assume that is a bad thing. The Service Member may come home more confident, with better problem-solving skills. He may return with a deeper sense of gratitude for the comforts that he used to take for granted or she may have found a greater sense of purpose and direction than she ever had before. Yes, there may be many unseen wounds of the soul and spirit. But there are tremendous resources to help heal those wounds, both for the Service Member and the Service Member's family, and an ever growing number of people who truly care and want to help. If every American understood these 10 important facts about our returning Veterans, life would be a lot easier for them. So pass it on. www.hand2handcontact.org

Lay Ministry Schedule St. Clements Church December 2012

| | SUNDAY Dec. 2 | SUNDAY Dec. 9 | SUNDAY Dec. 16 | SUNDAY Dec. 23 | SUNDAY Dec. 30 |
|------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| | 1st Sunday of Advent | 2nd Sunday of Advent | 3rd Sunday of Advent | 4th Sunday of Advent | 1st Sunday after Christmas Day |
| Altar Guild | Irene Grant Phyllis Rayburn | Debbi Honeycutt Len Honeycutt | Jennifer Yee Stephen Souلمان | Deidra White Kara Magdaleno | Irene Grant Kara Magdaleno |
| Ushers | Randy Greenwood | Randy Greenwood | Randy Greenwood | Randy Greenwood | Randy Greenwood |
| 8:00 a.m. | | | | | |
| Ushers | | | | | |
| 10:00 a.m. | Pam Quarles | Ray & Sherry Stults | Kent Ransom | Bill Murray | Pam Quarles |
| Acolytes | | Chris Wash | Jim Wash | Harry Shippy | Harry Shippy |
| 8:00 a.m. | | | | | |
| Acolytes | | | | | |
| 10:00 a.m. | Debbie Popp | Debbi Honeycutt | Debbie Popp | Debbie Honeycutt | Debbi Honeycutt |
| Lectors | | | | | |
| 8:00 a.m. | Marj Heinicke | Harry Shippy Bill Murray | Chris Wash Mike Chapman | Marj Heinicke Chuck Maxson | Janelle Fallan Pam Quarles |
| Lectors | | | | | |
| 10:00 a.m. | Bobbie Keill | David Bridges | Muriel Murray | Kent Ransom | Mike Chapman |
| Intercessors | | | | | |
| 8:00a.m. | Ken Dunham | Jim Wash | Harry Shippy | Harry Shippy | Chris Wash |
| 10:00 a.m. | | Bobbie Keill | David Bridges | Ray Stults | Mike Chapman |
| E.M. (Chalice) | | | | | |
| 8:00a.m. | Harry Shippy | Chris Wash | Jim Wash | Harry Shippy | Harry Shippy |
| E.M. (Chalice) | | | | | |
| 10:00 a.m. | Muriel Murray | Bobbie Keill | Deidra White | Debbie Popp | Sharon Burke-Polana |
| Coffee Hour | | | | | |
| 8:00 a.m. | | Mary Norsweather Phyllis Rayburn | Chris & Jim Wash | Irene Grant Randy Greenwood | Janelle Fallan Ken Dunham |
| Coffee Hour | | | | | |
| 10:00a.m. | Betty Chapman and committee | Debbie Popp | Bobbie Keill | Carmel Cartwright | Betty Chapman Victoria Mc Kinney |
| Counters | | | | | |
| | Muriel Murray Sharon Burke-Polana | Ray Stults Harry Shippy | Sherry Stults Guido Polana | Muriel Murray Stephen Souلمان | Kent Ransom Bill Murray |
| PIE | | | | | |
| 8:00 & 10:00a.m. | Betty Chapman | Mickey Boughton | Muriel Murray | Debbi Honeycutt | Betty Chapman |

DECEMBER 2012

REGULAR SUNDAY SCHEDULE

8:00 A.M. RITE I HOLY EUCHARIST

10:00 A.M. RITE II HOLY EUCHARIST

COFFEE AND FELLOWSHIP

FOLLOWING EACH SERVICE



The Anchor

St. Clement's Episcopal Church

2376 Zinfandel Drive

Rancho Cordova, CA. 95670

December 2012

First Class

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

RETURN POSTAGE GUARANTEED



Christmas Services

Christmas Eve, December 24

5 pm Family Service

10 pm Candelight, Choral Service

Christmas Day, December 25

9 am Rite I Holy Eucharist

First Sunday after Christmas, December 30

8 am Rite I Holy Eucharist

10 am Rite II Holy Eucharist