



January 2019

# Letters to the Romans

St. Peter's Episcopal Church • 101 East Fourth Avenue • Rome, GA 30161 • 706.291.9111 • [www.stpetersrome.org](http://www.stpetersrome.org)

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## Vestry Members

Janet Byington  
Sr. Warden

Erika Wilson  
Jr. Warden

(Through 2019)

Lloyd Griffin  
Janet Byington  
Nancy Smith  
Erika Wilson

(Through 2020)

Lynette Bonner  
Charlie Hardaker  
Jan Routledge  
Jennifer Sikes

(Through 2021)

Allien McNair  
Stephen Patton  
Jeanne Sparks  
Shane Walley

# Happy New Year 2019



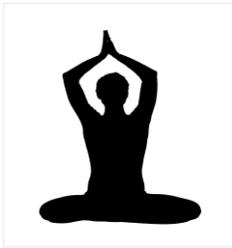
# 2018

## A GREAT YEAR



Rector: The Reverend John Foster Herring ☩ Canterbury Club: Rebecca Segrest ☩ Choirmaster and Director of Music: Dr. Fredrick Tarrant ☩ Organist: Wanda Cantrell ☩ Children's Ministry Coordinator: Holly Smith ☩ Parish Administrator: Elizabeth Barnes Financial Coordinator: Debbi West ☩ Sexton: Sheila Kinnebrew ☩ Newsletter Editor: Bryant Steele ☩ Newsletter Layout: Bob Evans (rsmithevans@aol.com) ☩ Church Photographer: Curt Yarbrough

WE CHALLENGE OURSELVES AND THE WORLD TO LOVE LIKE JESUS, AS WE WORSHIP JOYFULLY, SERVE COMPASSIONATELY, AND GROW SPIRITUALLY.



**Chair YOGA**  
Tuesdays at 11:00am in Daniel Hall



***Living Compass sponsors Grief Recovery Support Group.***

***Are you suffering or someone you love suffering from a broken heart? Is it due to death, divorce, or another major loss? If so, you might feel sad, distracted or confused. YOU ARE NOT ALONE.***

***The Grief Recovery Method: Grief Support Group will give you the tools you need to heal your broken heart and feel complete again.***

***This eight-week support group will be a safe place to examine what you've been taught about loss, to explore your beliefs about grief and to be guided in completing a set of actions that will enable you to move forward in your life with hope.***



***Mondays 1-3pm, January 14<sup>th</sup> through March 4<sup>th</sup>  
401 E. 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue home of D'Ann Downey***  
***Wednesdays 6-8pm, January 9<sup>th</sup> through February 27<sup>th</sup>  
Rhodes Wyatt room at St. Peter's***

***Cost \$50.00 for 8 weeks. Scholarships are available, call the church office.  
Taught by Dr. Donna Waddell 770-789-3507***

# FOYER GROUPS WILL HAVE SIGN UPS FOR NEW GROUPS FORMING IN JANUARY 2019



**CENTERING PRAYER** meets each Thursday at  
6:00 pm in Rhodes Wyatt Room.

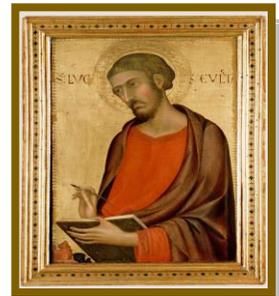
They will resume on January 3.

Contact Jane Cunningham for more information.

[missjane@me.com](mailto:missjane@me.com)

**BIBLE STUDY RESUMES JANUARY 10<sup>TH</sup>,**

**THURSDAY AT 11:00AM  
IN THE RHODES WYATT ROOM**



**ADULT FORMATION FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY**

**TAUGHT BY THE REVEREND DR. G. DONALD BLACK**

***“CHANGES IN LATITUDES, CHANGES IN ATTITUDES, THE  
RESHAPING OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH”***

**COME JOIN IN THE DISCUSSION AND FELLOWSHIP.**

**SUNDAY MORNINGS AT 11:20AM**

**IN DANIEL HALL.**

# Christmas Eve



There was an ad campaign many years back by the Episcopal Church, a poster. On the left side of the poster, a portrait of jolly St. Nick aka Santa Claus. It looked like something right out of the Saturday Evening Post; while on the right, one a rendition of Christ; a portrait looking like it came from an old master's painting. The tagline at the bottom read, "Whose birthday is it, anyway?" The poster looked like many of the images we might see today, and it was clearly an attempt to "reclaim" the meaning of Christmas. Trying to remind everyone that Christmas is about Jesus. It is a celebration of the birthday of Jesus...right?

Luke gives us great details about the events surrounding the birth of Jesus, Luke tells us prior to this passage, of the Angel Gabriel, visiting Mary and telling her that the Holy Spirit will overshadow her, and she will bear the Son of God, to which Mary agrees. God is coming into the world, not through the powerful, but through a young teenage girl, who has absolutely no authority at all.

This point about God upending structures of authority is further emphasized today when Luke tells us of Caesar Augustus. The great and powerful emperor of the Roman Empire, he is known to the world as Lord, is known to demand that people view him as a god. But here we see Augustus is nothing more than God's prop, an unwitting instrument. After all, it is his tax registration that moves Mary and Joseph back to Bethlehem, the place long ago foretold by the prophets to be the birthplace of the coming Messiah. The backwater town into which God would enter the world, and this all happens under the nose of the would-be god Augustus, and his powerful governor Quirinius. They haven't a clue that they have helped set the circumstances for God to come into the world.....

Luke then shows us another point of emphasis, the Shepherds. These are common folk, considered to be at the low end of society. Some see them as shiftless and dishonest, they are not even important enough to be included in the census decree. It is to them the Angel of the Lord appears, it is to them, the great multitude of the heavenly host appears, an army of angels praising God and saying....."Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors...."

What are they praising? Whom does God favor? It is the angel of the Lord who says "To you is born this day... in the City of David.... a Savior.... who is the Messiah, the Lord" ....To you....to you.... Starting with those at the bottom, those ignored, those of modest estate. To the regular ordinary folks, not the proud, not the powerful. To you and those whom God favors, to you and human beings all over, who long for God, who long to know God's presence; to You is born a Savior. God comes into the world to you, through ordinary means, in ordinary people, to all people. In the birth of Jesus Christ God is with you...with all of us.....

This is not merely a birthday story about Jesus, it is the story of God's coming into the world as a gift to us. The story of a God who longs to reconnect with all people, to connect with those who long for God. God comes to us so that we may become more fully human. God comes to us in Jesus Christ so that we may become more like Christ with no barrier between us and God. Some 500 years ago, Martin Luther once preached on this theme, on this text saying...

*Christ takes to himself... **our** birth... and absorbs it in **his** birth..... Christ presents us with his birth... so that we become **pure and new** in it..... as if it were **our own**..... so that **all** might rejoice in this birth of Christ..... and glory in it just as if **they, too**, had been born of Mary. Christ is born to us, taking on our birth and absorbs us into his birth. And in doing so we become Children of God.....*

What Luther is talking about is often called the divine exchange. Exchange is an idea that comes from old Roman laws about marriage about property rights. The union of marriage changes the individual's property rights. Each person retains what they owned coming into the union, but now each also has full rights to use what the other owns as if it is truly theirs.

For instance; let's say that when I was married and drove an old basic Chevy Lumina. Not old enough to be on its last legs, but worn, and a rattle trap, and my wife came into the marriage with a Mercedes, brand new. While my wife still owned the Mercedes, I received full use of that car whenever needed as if it were truly mine. And whereas I still owned my Lumina, she had full right to use it anytime she wanted.

But this exchange is what happens in the birth of Jesus Christ. God is joined to us fully and completely in the flesh of the Christ child, who takes on our life, our hopes and dreams, our ups and downs, our vulnerabilities, our faults and sins. God takes this in Christ and then gives us Christ's own righteousness, Christ's own connection to God. A relationship to God with no barriers.

All the sins and all the baggage we possess, Christ takes as if they are his; all the righteousness that is Christ's, all the perfection is given to us.

Which means that even now when God looks at us, God sees us as fully righteous fully pure as Christ, fully worthy of God's love and redemption. This is a gift for all people. No one is beyond God's love, not one. This is the gift we receive, what we celebrate on Christmas. New birth for us, new life in our savior.

Whose birthday is this anyway? Perhaps the Hymn says it best: *Pleased as Man with men to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel, Born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth.*

Whose birthday is it anyway? It is every bit yours and mine.

On this Holy night, God comes into the world....God is with us....with us in our hopes and dreams, with us our struggles our fears, with us in the sacrifices we make for others...with us even in our failures. God comes to the world, so that we may be raised to **new life** in God. A God who sees each and everyone here as valued, as righteous, as beloved, as God's own. Brothers and sisters: ....new life is here...For unto you is born a Savior....Christ the Lord.....a greater gift than anyone could wish for....Merry Christmas.

# ReCharge & Rejoice Wednesdays

\* Celtic Service 5:30 pm

\* Dinner Service begins at 5:30 pm

January 9: Veggie Soup, Garden Salad, Peanut Butter swirl brownies.

January 16: Garlic herb pork roast, carrots, onions, potatoes, layer salad, cream cheese lemon cake.

January 23: Farm style Shepherd's pie, green salad, glazed pumpkin Chocolate cake

January 30: Cheesy Beef n Mac, green beans, apple spice cake.

Jr. Choir 6:15-7 pm  
EYC Activities 6:30-8 pm

## MISSION AND OUTREACH – JANUARY



### RUTH AND NAOMI PROJECT

Due to the generosity of the Rome/Floyd County Community, the women's shelter can move forward with the installation of the sprinkler system and open in February.

Donations needed for the new women's shelter are:

- White bath towels, wash cloths, and kitchen towels
- Gently used women's & children's coats and sweaters
- Women's New Sweat Suits (xs to 3xl)
- Women's New underwear (all sizes)
- Women's socks

### DAVIES SHELTER

- Gently used coats, sweaters
- New Sweatshirts for men
- New T-shirts and underwear (xs-3xl)

LOOKING AHEAD TO FEBRUARY.....

We will be collecting new pajamas for Foster Children.



# Children's Ministries—Hollye Smith

## Leaning into Advent

I just finished my first Advent season in an official role, and I feel as if I have learned many things. First, I learned that families are very interested in walking through Advent...even when December is spinning with activity. We handed out almost 50 Advent calendars for home use, and attendance for our events hit all-time highs. We kicked off our Advent

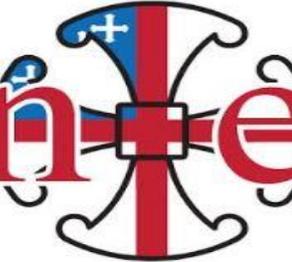
Sunday series by creating beautiful living Advent wreaths. Even the non-crafty folks surprised themselves with their creations! Many thanks to David & Dagmar Carlton and Melissa Tarrant for their help with the evening. Our second event, Gingerbread Houses, was our most successful with over 70 people in attendance! Again, people outdid themselves with confectionary creations! I send a special thanks to Meredith Cole for her help with hosting the event. And we capped off our Advent Sunday series with some beautiful salt dough ornaments and Chrismons followed by a beautiful service in the chapel highlighted by guitar music by Rebecca Segrest. Overall, I felt as if everyone enjoyed themselves and learned a little tidbit about Advent...and about each other. The second thing that I learned is that you can indeed have a successful Christmas pageant with NO REHEARSAL! Nineteen children and one canine signed up for our beautiful pageant, and it was a precious evening. Dawn Hampton narrated our well known story from a new perspective while Wanda Cantrell accompanied our cherished hymns. Jeanne Sparks and Kathryn Smith worked their costume magic, and I send a special thanks to Roger Ard for debuting as St. Nicholas. The entire evening was very moving in so many ways. Not only were the children delightful, but the event was a reminder for what Advent is all about: faith, hope, love, and joy. I hope that you will mark your calendars in 2019 to lean into Advent alongside us.





# The Best Christmas Pageant Ever





# Canterbury

## Club of Northwest Georgia

### SPRING 2019 HAPPENINGS

- Mondays 5:30 pm dinner & discussion @ Berry College in Krannert room 105
- Jan 7<sup>th</sup> Mindful Meditation: *Finding space in a full schedule*
- Mondays 6:30pm- Evening Prayer @ Berry College in Krannert 105
- St. Peter's Sundays Join us for the service and for lunch after worship on Feb 17, March 24, April 21, and on Canterbury Sunday April 28.
- Jan 21<sup>st</sup> *Make a Difference Day*  
Lunch, and Level 1 Fun at the skating rink! No dinner meeting on Jan 21<sup>st</sup>
- Jan 25-27 Diocese of Atlanta Campus Ministry Retreat @ Camp Mikell
- Feb 11- Discussion Panel in Krannert Ballroom

Tentative:

March 9-14 a Mission Trip to NOLA's Lower Ninth (Cost \$500/student)

April 29- End of the Semester Dinner at the Segrest's

#### PARISH NEWS

Sympathy of the Parish is extended to Gin Gunther and Family on the death of her mother Nancy Starr.

## VOLUNTEER SCHEDULES

### **ALTAR GUILD:**

**January:** Laura Davis, M.J. Chisholm, Helen Keaten, Mary Patton, Gin Gunther, Jacquelyn Wright and Fran Bagley.

**February:** Jackie Mooney, Nancy Smith, Marny Busbin, Dana Edgens, Liz Mosley, Jan Flippen, Janet Byington and Kathy Steinbruegge.

### **BREAKFAST CREW for January:**

**January 6:** Doug Lansing, Russ Jennings, Jack Knight, Sasa Vance, Sam Lucas and Guy Hunter

**January 13:** Ann Pullen, Jeanne Cahill, Bruce Hunter, Len Woodward, Sammy Edgeworth and Chris Edgeworth.

**January 20:** Jack Niedrach, Jimmy Kelly, Gayle Keith, Billy Sparks and Jimmy Smith.

**January 27:** Bryan Johnson, David Harvey, John Schroeder, Tracy Schroeder, Meredith Cole and Harold Lawrence.

### **GREETER:**

**January:** Sherron Mull, Andye Moss, Bobby Mixon, Jacquelyn Wright, Sally Wimbish and Cathy Varidel.

**February:** Sylvia Hine, Mary Sib Banks, M.J. Chisholm, Mary McGuffey, Betsy Awsumb and Mike Lupo.

### **USHER:**

**January:** David Hunter, Lloyd Griffin, Brian Hampton and John Hine.

**February:** Jimmy Kelly, Bob Evans, Tyler Wood and Bob Kane.

### **LOAVES & FISHES:**

**January:** Nancy Knight, Annette Morris, Anthea Evans, Hollye Smith, Laura Frederick, Mai Mai Kelly, Marny Busbin, Mary Kirkland, Meredith Cole Randa Mixon and Jeanne Sparks.

**February:** Bambi Berry, Beverly Burns, Fran Bagley, D'Ann Downey, Laura Davis, Mary Dixon, Mary Yarbrough, Meg Eberhart, Cynthia Burns and Lynne Hicks.

**Vestry of the Month:** **January:** Erika Wilson, 334 328-8807.

**February:** Nancy Smith, 706 290-3689.



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR



**YOUTH SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 10TH**

Children are invited to participate in a PJ's for PJ's Event. Our mission project for February will include pajamas for kids at *RESTORATION ROME*. Children and Youth can skip the fancy church clothes and come to church in their PJ's in exchange for a new set of PJ's for Restoration Rome kids.



### **Epiphany January 6, 2019**

#### *Epiphany Sonnet*

It might have been just someone else's story,  
Some chosen people get a special king.  
We leave them to their own peculiar glory,  
We don't belong, it doesn't mean a thing.  
But when these three arrive they bring us with them,  
Gentiles like us, their wisdom might be ours;  
A steady step that finds an inner rhythm,  
A pilgrim's eye that sees beyond the stars.  
They did not know his name but still they sought him,  
They came from elsewhere but still they found;  
In temples they found those who sold and bought him,  
But in the filthy stable, hallowed ground.  
Their courage gives our questing hearts a voice  
To seek, to find, to worship, to rejoice.

*Malcolm Guite*

# January Calendar 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
8:30 Holy Eucharist 9:00 Breakfast 10:00 Holy Eucharist 10:00 Children's Chapel 9am Kids SS 11:20 Adult SS 1:00 Eucharist in Spanish		1 12:15 Healing Prayer	2 9:00 Staff Mtg. 5:30 Celtic 5:30 Recharge & Rejoice Activities	3	4 Church Office Close at noon	5
6	7	8	9	10 Bible Study 10:00	11	12
13	14	15	16	17 Bible Study 10:00	18	19
20	21	22	23	24 Bible Study 10:00	25 Vestry Retreat	26 Vestry Retreat
27	28	29	30	31 Bible Study 10:00		

Many thanks to Curt Yarbrough for providing many of the photographs used in the LTR.

**Editor's Note** Submissions to *Letters to the Romans* are welcome from any St. Peter's parishioner and should be dropped off or sent to the church office. Please keep items brief and to the point. News and photos of parishioners participating in community events are also welcome.

The deadline for submissions to the February Issue is by **JANUARY 18<sup>TH</sup>, 2019.**

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