



Resurrection Episcopal Church, Rockdale

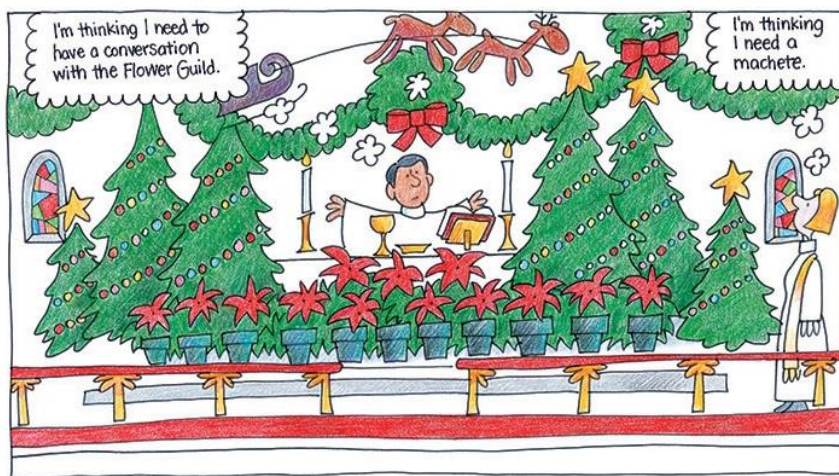
2131 Mount Road, Aston, PA 19014

(610) 459-2013

December 2018



"We Gather Together"



IS YOUR LIFE THIS MONTH AS OVERFILLED AS THIS SANCTUARY?
JUST TAKE FOUR EASY-TO-DIGEST SUNDAYS OF ADVENT,
AND YOU'LL BE FINE

The first thing to note about the cartoon above is that it takes place in another parish besides ours. The first clue is that the Altar Guild folks have made a questionable decision about how to decorate. That simply does not happen at Resurrection. So we know it must be someplace else.

This time of year our calendars tend to be as over-stuffed as the sanctuary (the area around the altar) is in the church in the cartoon. We act as though our motto is that old phrase found on refrigerator magnets, bumper stickers, polo shirts, T-shirts, posters—everything imaginable: "Jesus is coming back—look busy!" The joke is funny, but in a more serious vein it describes all too well what most folks look like during the period of

the Church Year we call Advent. Jesus tells us to “be watchful.” We assume that means lots of doing.

And so, every year, we tie ourselves into knots of anxiety and frantic activity, rushing (as much as traffic and weather this time of year will allow that) from one store to another, getting everything ready for a celebration which we’re often too tired to really celebrate. And every year Christmas ends up not being what it used to be.

For many people of all ages, this is a time when we seem to be less preparing to greet Jesus Christ, God-with-us coming into our lives, and more primping for a visit from someone like Santa Claus, someone who’s going to examine our life and determine if we’ve lived according to some hard-and-fast set of rules [“He’s making a list, he’s checking it twice...”]. And just like the exams we had when we were in school (or have now as we are in school), we somehow believe that we can make up for lost time and pull some sort of “spiritual all-nighter” and ace the test despite whatever has been left undone before.

Advent is less like the night before the final exam than it is the last months of pregnancy before a birth. [Let me quickly note before the female majority of the congregation does: I have only second-hand experience with this.] There’s a lot of preparation which needs to happen before a child is born. Nonetheless, the preparation doesn’t make the child come; the preparation (or lack thereof) doesn’t prevent the child from arriving. All of the mystery of childbirth takes place in God’s own time [The Greek of the New Testament has a whole different word for that kind of time, *kairos*; very different from the kind of regular time we keep track of with watches and calendars, *chronos*].

In the same way, we are getting ready to welcome God bursting into our lives [God’s love is always ready to fill our hearts more than we can ask or imagine], focused for us in our remembering the first Advent of Jesus as a little baby in Bethlehem and our looking forward to the second Advent of Christ at the end of all things, when God’s love and reign will fill all of creation visibly and totally. And that happens in a very special way at very special times. Times we cannot predict; times we cannot control. *Kairos* instead of *chronos*.

So take a little (or a lot!) out of our pre-Christmas rush to make sure that we get everything right for celebrating what we have done. That’s not Advent. That’s not preparing for Christmas. Advent is watching and waiting and expecting and hoping. Christmas is God bursting in to shower love on who we are, not what we have done. Slow down; take a moment to let God enter your thoughts and actions. You’ll have a better Advent and Christmas for it.

Blessed Advent, everyone. May God give all of us the grace to relax enough to hear God’s entry anew into our lives. Including me.

--Fr. Wand

Looking Forward

- **Christmas Eve Service at 4:00 p.m. on Monday, December 24:** Let your family and friends know! Invite one and all to join us for a joyful Christmas Eve at 4:00 p.m. (before it gets too dark) this year. Let your invitation give our parish a chance to welcome everyone to celebrate the birth of Christ.
- **Renewal of Marriage Vows during at the 8:00 and 10:00 Eucharists on January 20, 2019.** This year our readings include the Wedding Feast at Cana on the Second Sunday after the Epiphany (January 20). This happens only once in our three-year cycle. Joining with many other Episcopal congregations, we will offer folks the chance to renew their wedding vows as part of our worship that day. Make plans with your spouse now to renew your commitment and celebrate your love with your Church family on January 20! Wedding cake provided by the parish!



Happy Birthday! Happy Baptismal Anniversary! Happy Confirmation/Reception Anniversary! Happy Wedding Anniversary!

—As of the first of the year (actually December 30), we'll be including in the bulletins and prayers of the people a thanksgiving for the birth, baptism, confirmation/reception and marriage of our members. We will take this information from the



forms you all filled out earlier this year. If we don't have a baptismal date or confirmation date for you (which you have supplied), we will celebrate those three months and six months after your birthday, respectively.

Didn't get your information in? No problem! Just send it to Ernestine Franz at efranz2003@yahoo.com. Otherwise, when you wonder who didn't include your birthday in the list, you have only to check the nearest mirror. Let's celebrate together the major spiritual events in our lives--with your help, we can bind ourselves closer in fellowship and prayer, and celebrate the great folks who are Resurrection Church!!



OUTREACH FOR SEAMEN: Seaman's Institute is collecting the following items for seafarers—jackets, dark colored scarves and hats, work gloves, work socks, toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoo, soap, and disposable razors. Please place all donations in the boxes labeled in the Undercroft and Narthex by **Sunday, December 2nd**. If you have any questions, please

contact Doug Soule ((610) 494-9524 or Lee Oppelt (610-497-4576).

SUNDAY	MON.	TUE.	WED.	THURSDAY	FRI.	SATURDAY
December 2 The First Sunday of Advent 8am Rite I Eucharist 10am Rite II Eucharist— Children's Service FREE WAFFLES AFTER SERVICES!	3 Finance Meeting @ 2pm Stewardship Mtg @ 4pm Property Mtg @ 5:30pm	4	5 Girl Scout Troup Mtg @ 6:30pm	6	7	8 Lenni Lifeline/AA Meeting @ 7pm
December 9 The Second Sunday of Advent 8am Rite I Eucharist 10am Rite II Eucharist w/Sunday School Poinsettia Orders Due!	10 Vestry Meeting @ 7pm	11	12	13	14	15 Lenni Lifeline/AA Meeting @ 7pm
December 16 The Third Sunday of Advent 8am Rite I Eucharist 10am Rite II Eucharist w/Sunday School	17	18	19 Girl Scout Troup Mtg @ 6:30pm	20 American Legion Ladies Auxiliary @ 6pm	21	22 Lenni Lifeline/AA Meeting @ 7pm
December 23 The Fourth Sunday of Advent 8am Rite I Eucharist 10am Rite II Eucharist w/Sunday School GREENING OF THE CHURCH AFTER THE 10AM SERVICE!	24 The Eve of the Nativity Of the Lord 4pm Rite II Eucharist  with Music	25 The Nativity Of the Lord 9am Rite I Eucharist  without Music	26	27	28	29 Lenni Lifeline/AA Meeting @ 7pm
December 30 The First Sunday after Christmas Day 9am Rite I Eucharist with Music—Healing Service	31	1	2	3	4	5
January 6 The First Sunday after the Epiphany 8am Rite I Eucharist 10am Rite II Eucharist— Children's Service FREE WAFFLES AFTER SERVICES!	7 Finance Meeting @ 2pm Stewardship Mtg @ 4pm Property Mtg @ 5:30pm	8	9	10	11	12 Lenni Lifeline/AA Meeting @ 7pm

<p>December 2 The First Sunday of Advent Counters: Jill Graham Barbara Krisack</p>	<p>8am Rite I Eucharist</p>	<p><u>Chalicer</u> Helen Dunlap <u>Reader</u> Robin Krider <u>Intercessor</u> Jan Myers Knight</p>	<p>10am Rite II Eucharist Children's Service</p>	<p><u>Chalicer</u> Rosemary Bezuidenhout <u>Reader</u> 1st: Marissa Cervantez 2nd: Nikolien Bezuidenhout <u>Intercessor</u> Kylie Benditt</p>
<p>December 9 The Second Sunday of Advent Counters: Phyllis Russell Janet Russello</p>	<p>8am Rite I Eucharist</p>	<p><u>Chalicer</u> Linda Leiby <u>Reader</u> Jan Myers Knight <u>Intercessor</u> Janet Russello</p>	<p>10am Rite II Eucharist w/Sunday School</p>	<p><u>Chalicer</u> Phyllis Russell <u>Reader(both)</u> Karen Warren <u>Intercessor</u> Joan Riccardi</p>
<p>December 16 The Third Sunday of Advent Counters: Jill Graham Marsha Litwin</p>	<p>8am Rite I Eucharist</p>	<p><u>Chalicer</u> Diane Mundell <u>Reader</u> Linda Leiby <u>Intercessor</u> Rick Dunlap</p>	<p>10am Rite II Eucharist w/Sunday School</p>	<p><u>Chalicer</u> Jude Winters <u>Reader(both)</u> Karen Warren <u>Intercessor</u> Rose Schwitters</p>
<p>December 23 The Fourth Sunday of Advent Counters: Barbara Krisack Rose Schwitters</p>	<p>8am Rite I Eucharist</p>	<p><u>Chalicer</u> Janet Russello <u>Reader</u> Robin Krider <u>Intercessor</u> Jan Myers Knight</p>	<p>10am Rite II Eucharist w/Sunday School</p>	<p><u>Chalicer</u> Rosemary Bezuidenhout <u>Reader(both)</u> Phyllis Russell <u>Intercessor</u> Pieter Bezuidenhout</p>
<p>December 24 The Eve of the Nativity of the Lord Counters: Phyllis Russell Janet Russello</p>	<p>4pm Rite II Eucharist <u>with</u> Music</p>		<p><u>Chalicers</u> Phyllis Russell & Jude Winters <u>Readers</u> Robin Krider <u>Intercessor</u> Jan Myers Knight</p>	
<p>December 25 The Nativity of the Lord Counters: Phyllis Russell Janet Russello</p>	<p>9am Rite I Eucharist <u>without</u> Music</p>		<p><u>Chalicer</u> Diane Mundel <u>Reader</u> 1st: Rosemary Bezuidenhout 2nd: Nikolien Bezuidenhout <u>Intercessor</u> Pieter Bezuidenhout</p>	
<p>December 30 The First Sunday after Christmas Day Counters: Phyllis Russell Janet Russello</p>	<p>9 am Eucharist Rite II w/Sunday School</p>		<p><u>Chalicer</u> Helen Dunlap <u>Reader</u> Jan Knight <u>Intercessor</u> Rick Dunlap</p>	



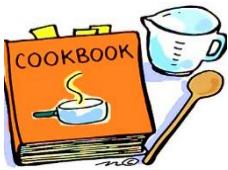
A RAY OF HOPE—A CRUMB OF DICKENS: Bruce Warren is directing “*A Ray of Hope—A Crumb of Dickens*” at Resurrection on Friday, November 30th @ 7:30pm. There will be two additional showings, Sunday, December 2nd @ 2:00pm at Swarthmore Methodist Church (129 Park Avenue, Swarthmore, PA) and Friday, December 7th @ 7:00pm at Cokesbury United Methodist Church (307 Market Street, Marcus Hook, PA). Don’t miss this opportunity to get into the holiday spirit. Admission is FREE. Donations will be accepted. Any questions please contact Karen Warren at 610-246-2082.



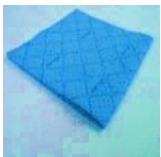
PLEDGE CARDS: Pledge cards were due Sunday, November 4th. If you have not already done so, please return your pledge card. Additional pledge cards are in the narthex. We thank you for your continued support.



BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION: Janet Russello is collecting box tops for education. A container will be in the Undercroft for you to place your box top labels. Thank you!



COOKBOOKS: Cookbooks are a great gift idea for any occasion. The price has been reduced; each cookbook costs only \$5. To purchase or pickup your order, please contact Helen Dunlap.



PERFECT CLOTHS FOR SALE!!: Please help support our ECW fundraiser of selling perfect cloths. These cloths can be used for all types of cleaning. The cost is \$3/per cloth. If interested, please contact Karen Warren.



WAWA HOAGIE SALE: Our Wawa Hoagie coupon fundraiser continues! We are selling coupons at \$3.50 each for a Wawa “shorti” hoagie, of which we keep a small profit from every sale. The coupons can be used at all Wawa’s and have no expiration date. If you are interested, please see Rosemary Bezuidenhout.



Christmas Poinsettias

Would you like to help decorate our altar for Christmas services?

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To those who wish to remember loved ones, or have a special thanksgiving, we are asking for a \$10.00 donation. **ALL FLOWERS WILL REMAIN IN THE SANCTUARY UNTIL JANUARY 27, 2018.**

In Loving Memory of: _____

In Loving Memory of: _____

In Loving Memory of: _____

In Loving Memory of: _____

In Loving Memory of: _____

In Thanksgiving for: _____

In Thanksgiving for: _____

In Thanksgiving for: _____

In Thanksgiving for: _____

In Thanksgiving for: _____

Given By: _____

*Please attach \$10.00 cash or check and place this offering in the collection plate or drop it off at the Church Office no later than Sunday, **December 9th.**

Thank you!

The Mission and Goals of Resurrection Church

The mission of Resurrection Episcopal Church is to nourish the spiritual lives of our diverse parish family and to follow the example of Jesus through service to our community.

The Internal goal for Resurrection Episcopal Church is to grow stronger in faith, care for those who cannot be present, and unify as a family sharing in faith based activities.

The Resurrection Episcopal Church outreach goal is to become more visible and listen to the needs of the community by doing God's work through service to others.



(From left:) Fr. Wand, Rosemary Bezuidenhout, Phyllis Russell, Janet Russello, Rose Schwitters, Helen Dunlap, Barbara Krisack. Not pictured: Marsha Litwin, Jill Graham.



Vestry of Resurrection Episcopal Church, Rockdale

Phyllis Russell, Rector's Warden	610-358-0258
Marsha Litwin, People's Warden/Secretary	610-485-5531
Rosemary Bezuidenhout, Treasurer	541-246-0780
Helen Dunlap	610-485-5623
Jill Graham	610-459-5854
Barbara Krisack	610-497-1603
Janet Russello	610-497-8894
Rose Schwitters	610-331-9105
The Rev. Thomas C. Wand	610-291-4362

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