



## DECEMBER 2025

### DATES TO REMEMBER

- December 14<sup>th</sup> - Service of Lessons and Carols  
Final day to bring gifts for "Christmas Blessings"  
Adopted Family.
- December 14<sup>th</sup> - Christmas Bags for the Homeless are due.
- December 21<sup>st</sup> - The "Greening of the Church" will follow the Service. Please bring a sandwich and have lunch.
- December 24<sup>th</sup> - The Christmas Eve Service will begin at 5:30 p.m. Please bring a flashlight and join us for this beautiful and inspiring Holy Eucharist. Special music will be featured.
- December 28<sup>th</sup> - Holy Eucharist

### HELPERS

DATE	LAY READER	CHALICE	CRUCIFER
<u>December 7</u> Holy Eucharist	Donna Fletcher	Mike Hoge	Mike Hoge
<u>December 14</u> Lessons and Carols	Various Readers		Steve LeNoir
<u>December 21</u> Holy Eucharist	Judy Wesloskie	Rob Sheehan	Rob Sheehan
<u>December 24</u> Christmas Eve Holy Eucharist	Ginnie DuBose	Mike Hoge	Mike Hoge
<u>December 28</u> Holy Eucharist	Barbara Hanrahan	Steve LeNoir	Steve LeNoir

### REQUESTS FOR PRAYERS

Please remember in your thoughts and prayers the following:

Our President and Other Leaders, Our Country, Our Minister, Bishop Chip Edgar and the Anglican Diocese of SC, Teachers and Students, Victoria Bailey, Angelina Burch, Connie Casey, Angela Cullins, Paula Davis, Carol Ellis,

Frances Fobes, Larry and Linda Herb, The Hoge Family, Chandler Hummell, Bob Jamison, Beverly Johnson, Adrienne Kieliszak, Megan Lowder, Jill Luney, Phyllis McLeod, Lisa Murray, Karen Parsons, Helen Reardon, Edwin Thompson, The Todd Family, the People of Ukraine and Israel, Alan Viers, Judy Wesloskie, Dan Wiggins, Ernie Williams, and Bill and Joanna Wolfe.

Our young people who are serving in the Military are: Dan Ellis, CJ Giordano, Hayden Kirk, Andrew Nesbitt, Sarah Potzler, and Zachary Seymour.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Frasier and Vickie Saunders following the death of Frasier's father, Carl Saunders.

### **A MESSAGE FROM REV. JOEL OSBORNE**

We have entered the season of Advent which leads to the Nativity of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Some important dates to remember are Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> The Feast of St. Andrew the Apostle. The 5<sup>th</sup> is the Feast of Clement of Alexandria. On the 14<sup>th</sup>, Chanukah begins. The 2<sup>1st</sup> is the Feast of St. Thomas the Apostle. The 26<sup>th</sup> is the Feast of St. Stephen, Martyr. The 27<sup>th</sup> is the Feast of St. John, Apostle and Evangelist. Finally the 28<sup>th</sup> is the Feast of the Holy Innocents.

May your Advent be a time of blessing and focus!

Pax Christi  
Rev. Joel

### **NOTES**

A breakfast was held on the First Sunday of Advent, November 30<sup>th</sup>, at 9:30 a.m. in the Parish House. The good food and time of fellowship provided a special beginning to the Advent Season. Thanks to the cooks and everyone who made this meal possible.

A Service of Lessons and Carols will be held on December 14<sup>th</sup>, and it will include readings, beautiful hymns, and special music. Jane Luther Smith and Donna Fletcher are instrumental in the planning of this service. Please join us for this special time.

The Praise and Glory Offering recently collected is \$591. We thank our chairman, Donna Fletcher, who said an offering can still be made through December 8<sup>th</sup>. This money will aid the Diocese in the buildings for Camp Jubilee.

Although we don't have a large congregation, our people are very loving and generous. Some contributed to the Samaritan's Purse Shoebox "Operation Christmas Child;" the Warm Clothing Drive was very successful; and our Men's Club and Anglican Women support many charities.

We are participating in The United Ministries' "Christmas Blessings" project. This year we are adopting a family of three (a mother and two children) and an older lady who lives alone. If you have chosen a gift for one of the family members, made a monetary contribution, or purchased a gift card, thank you so much. Each gift should be wrapped and the family number (#8) and the person's name should be written on a gift tag and attached firmly to the gift. Please bring these gifts to the Parish House by December 14<sup>th</sup>, and Laddie will deliver them to United Ministries. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

Our ladies will be filling and donating 20 gift bags for the Homeless Shelter at United Ministries. Helen is donating toothbrushes, toothpastes, and small packages of tissues for each bag; and Judie Chapman has knitted 20 warm hats. Our Ellen Ellerbe Chapter is donating a McDonald's gift card for each bag. Some other items that are helpful are warm gloves, hard candy, soap, wash cloths, small flashlights, and deodorant. If you are interested in purchasing any of the needed items, please bring them to the church by the 14<sup>th</sup> so the bags can be filled. There is a greater need for men. These bags will be delivered to United Ministries by December 20<sup>th</sup>.

The American flags lovingly placed in our cemetery for Veteran's Day were a tribute to those who served in the military.

Charlene Bruce, Helen Crolley, Ginnie DuBose, Donna Fletcher, Laura Hoge, and Dianne LeNoir served on the Altar Guild in November. Ginnie, Charlene, and Dianne prepared the Thanksgiving arrangement on the altar. If there are others who would like to serve on the Altar Guild, please let Ginnie know. Help is always welcome.

Donna Fletcher prepared the labels for the mailing of this newsletter. Rob filled the candles after several of the services. Thank you both.

During the month, Judy Wesloskie treated us with her homemade candy individually wrapped in her own specially designed packages. She also honored our congregation with two special readings entitled, "Blessings for a Veteran" and "Prayer of Thanksgiving." Thank you, Judy for your thoughtfulness.

If you would like to place a poinsettia in the church in honor of or in memory of a loved one, please bring it to the Church by December 21<sup>st</sup>. You may also bring one before the service on Christmas Eve and add the name of that person to the list found on the counter in the Sacristy. The names will be read during the service.

We will decorate our Church for Christmas (The Greening of the Church) this year on Sunday, December 21<sup>st</sup> following the Service. Please bring a sandwich, and we will take a lunch break. Drinks and cookies will be provided. All are welcome to assist with this.

Rev. Joel Osborne will celebrate the Christmas Eve Service at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, December 24<sup>th</sup>. Please bring a flashlight and join us for this most beautiful celebration of the Holy Eucharist in commemoration of the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The service will include some special music.

We will continue to collect non-perishable food items for the United Ministries' Food Bank. There is a great need at this time.

Those in our congregation who are celebrating birthdays and anniversaries in December are listed below. If you have not already submitted your information, please sign the sheet in the Narthex of the Church or contact Dianne LeNoir at 499-3055 or [lenoirdm@ftc-i.net](mailto:lenoirdm@ftc-i.net). Thank you. We would like to recognize everyone.

#### **December Birthdays**

Charlene Bruce	Dec. 1
Jane Luther Smith	Dec. 17
Judy Burch	Dec. 25
Laddie DuBose	Dec. 30
Rosemary Melillo	Dec. 31

#### **December Anniversaries**

Michael and Lindsay Austin	Dec. 1
Allan and Jane Viers	Dec. 17

**We wish a Happy Birthday and a Happy Anniversary to these special people.**

Please visit the Church's website at [www.churchoftheascensionhagoodsc.com](http://www.churchoftheascensionhagoodsc.com) John Holmberg has added some beautiful pictures to the December slideshow. He describes this month's slideshow as, "Take time to enjoy December's sights, sounds, events and festivities at Church of the Ascension. Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year." He included some pictures provided by Miriam Crowson of Ascension decorated for Christmas in the past. Each week throughout the Advent season, an additional candle on the Advent Wreath will be lighted representing the "Sunday to follow." We sincerely appreciate the time and effort John puts into this website keeping it attractive and up-to-date.

We are so proud of Helen Crolley who received Joseph Kershaw Chapter's NSDAR Community Service Award. This richly deserved award was presented to her on November 15, 2025, at Proctor Hall by Sarah Holmberg. Congratulations, Helen.

Judie Chapman recently attended her 70<sup>th</sup> Class Reunion at Winthrop University in Rock Hill. (At the time of her graduation, it was Winthrop College.) She and two other members of the class were able to participate. She had a wonderful time reminiscing and looking around the grounds. Judie was grateful to be accompanied by her daughter, Beth, and Beth's husband, Jamie. Judie, you are remarkable!

The Woman's Afternoon Music Club of Sumter will present their program on Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, at 3 p.m. at Trinity United Methodist Church. Please attend if possible. This is a beautiful way to begin the Advent Season.

**We wish for each of you a Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year.**