# St. Andrew's Episcopal Church Parish Chimes

## An Ancient Faith for a Modern World



## From the Rector

Dear Friends,

November has been a great month! We had a wonderful Canterbury Festival, thank you Deb Smith for once again organizing and overseeing such a marvelous event. There were many, many volunteers from church, from each of our congregations who were here and helped. It was wonderful to see all of you together. And it appears that Canterbury Festival brought in around \$4000 for us to use for more outreach! We had our Veterans' Day celebration with music and special bookletsthank you to Jody and Lisa. We had a great Thanksgiving Day service on Thanksgiving. Then Bishop Dabney Smith was here on the 26<sup>th</sup> to baptize, receive, and confirm more people into our church! It was great month indeed! And as of the first Sunday of December we are now in the new Christian year! We are in the season of looking forward to the coming of Jesus and this season is called, appropriately enough, Advent which means 'arrival.' This is has a double meaning, doesn't it? On the one hand, we look for the arrival of Christ in his birth so many years ago and the celebration of that on Christmas Day. On the other hand, we look for the arrival of Christ and his second coming at the end of the world. As Christians we believe that he will return, end this world as we know it, and usher a new age of God's kingdom. So we have two intertwined themes running through this season. We have the theme of joy that the Christ has come to the world to save humanity. We also have the theme of penance. This is the time we look at our lives anew and try

## December 2017

to ready ourselves for the second-coming of Jesus. We want to be prepared so that when he appears we will not be ashamed of ourselves and our actions. So we will see both themes in our readings this season. The first Sunday of Advent in the Gospel reading we will hear Jesus talk about when he returns again and the importance of being ready. The second Sunday we hear the readings about the ministry of John the Baptist when begins his preaching ministry with "Prepare ye the way of the Lord." The third Sunday, also called Rose Sunday, we hear again about John but there is a turn-now there is the excitement in the air that the King is almost here—now the penance is turning to joy and eager anticipation. And then on the fourth Sunday we have story of Gabriel and Mary. So we see the change in tone as it were from the darkness before the dawn in the first two Sundays to the sky slowly lighting to the brilliance of the sun breaking over the horizon. What a joy for us to experience this again in our new Christian year. I look forward to experiencing this new season and this New Year with all of you! Warmly in Christ,

Fr. Lance

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## The Deacon's Bench Deacon Ludwig Wallner

THE STAR OF BETHLEHEM



After His birth, astrologers from the east arrived in Jerusalem, asking. "Where is the new born King of the Jews? We have observed the rising of his star, and we have come to pay him homage." (Matt. 2:1-2) During this time of the year when we are getting ready for Christmas, we see all sorts of images of the Star of Bethlehem. It appears on Christmas cards with images of the 3 kings following it. There are Christmas advertisements showing the star above the Holy Family. There are hymns about the star and stories about the three kings following it. Was there a star of something else to announce the Birth of Jesus? Some modern scholars call the story of the Star of Bethlehem "pious fiction". Stating that the historic event described in the Gospel of Matthew is not described in any of the other Gospels and it may have been created to enforce the divinity of Christ. Furthermore, this "star" has never appeared in the heavens again.

In 1603, Prof. Dan Hughes put forth a theory about the Star of Bethlehem. He claimed that through his research it was a conjunction between Jupiter and Saturn as Saturn was in the constellation of Pisces. His theory was based upon the following: Saturn was the planet of "Old Rulers". Jupiter is the Royal planet of the King planet and the constellation of Pisces was the sign of Kings to the ancient Israelis. The conjunction took place about the time of Christ's birth. Hughes theory was that this conjunction would have appeared in May while looking East from Asia, between Sept. and Oct. looking West it would appear over the Jerusalem/Bethlehem region and it would appear directly over Bethlehem looking South from Jerusalem in December. Frederick Larson's theory was that the Star of Bethlehem was the conjunction of Jupiter, Regulus and Venus. Larson's theory was that the star first appeared about in June. The conjunction between Jupiter (the Royal star-in Hebrew it meant "Righteous") and Venus (star for Love and Fertility). This would have been about the time that the Archangel Gabriel visited Mary to tell her that she will become pregnant by the Holy Spirit.

The second conjunction was between Jupiter and Regulus (the brightest star in the constellation Leo) and would have appeared from late November through December. This star would have been the brightest star in the heavens and it would appear to be located directly over Bethlehem. Whether any of the theories of men trying to explain God's miracles make sense or not, isn't it awesome to have the event placed in scriptures for us to know that God loves each of us enough to light up the heavens with a star to announce the birth of His beloved son and to use that star to lead us to Jesus-even today.

## Sr. Warden's Remarks

Craig Gates, Sr. Warden Sr. Warden Dear Friends in Christ,

After a very busy November, all is going well at St. Andrew's. After several potlucks, our stewardship luncheon and the Canterbury Festival we have all had the opportunity for fellowship and fun while working together to keep our church and ministries strong. Please take time to thank Debbie Smith and all the volunteers for their tireless efforts. These events would not have been a success without them.

By the time you read this, Bishop Smith's visit for Confirmations, Receptions and Baptisms will have already been enjoyed. It is a very special time for our church to have the Bishop here to celebrate these special occasions and for our congregation to be a part of the services. Thank you to everyone who made him feel welcome and who celebrated with him.

Now that December is here, we have extra activities we can look forward to. Advent season will soon be upon us with the lighting of the Advent Candles in preparation for the celebration of the birth of our Savior at Christmas. Please plan to attend at least one of the beautiful Christmas services planned for December 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>. It has been rumored that St. Nicholas will be making an appearance at the 5:30 P.M. service on Christmas Eve.

We are once again adorning our Angel Tree in preparation for our Christmas giving ministry. This gives us the opportunity to provide gifts to children who may not otherwise receive any gifts at Christmas. Most of these children are recipients in our backpack ministry so they have come to rely on us for basic needs in their lives. What a wonderful

way to continue to show God's love to these children at this blessed time of year. You can help by shopping for your "angel", making a donation and we will shop for you, or you can join us as we all wrap gifts together.

We are blessed to have such a wonderful church and caring church family here at St. Andrew's. I am looking forward to worshiping with you during the coming holy season. Remember: Invite someone to church with you this month and warmly welcome all visitors.

Craig Gates,

Senior Warden

## Jr. Warden's Remarks

Hal Smith, Jr. Warden

As we begin to celebrate the Holidays, I hope everyone has a great Thanksgiving and a very Merry Christmas. God has indeed blessed our church. The Sacristy construction nears completion and we have rebuilt our Choir Room and Library. Now we can enjoy our church during the upcoming holiday season . I want to thank all of you for your patience, your help, and your prayers. A lot has been accomplished this year and we have done it together as a parish and a family.

## **Ministry News Altar Guild** Glee Gates.

Coordinator



Well here we are in December and the Sacristy is almost ready for occupancy. Enough said about that until moving day!! By the time you receive this, we will have had the pleasure of the visit from Bishop Dabney Smith celebrating special services including Baptisms and Confirmations. It is always a pleasure to have him here to worship with us.

As we begin one of the most holy seasons of the year, please be aware of the adornments throughout the sanctuary. The candles, wreaths, greenery and nativity bring the season of the birth of our Savior Jesus to life. Please remember too that the beautiful poinsettias arranged around the altar complement our worship during this time. If you would like to honor loved ones, family members or friends, we have envelopes in the Narthex for these special gifts of remembrance.



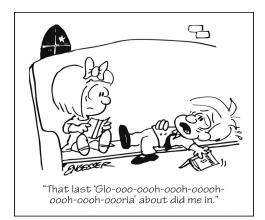
As always, remember to greet guests, make them feel welcome and ask them to join us again. Merry Christmas and blessings to you and yours in the coming year.

### **Sunday School**

Miss Susan, Miss Colleen & Miss Jeanie



I have been delaying writing this Sunday School article because I have been so busy with other things, I couldn't find my favorite pencil and I wasn't sure what I wanted to highlight. Then it hit me. I'm making excuses! The Sunday school class is very aware of types and reasons why we have excuses. We discussed our own happiness. Then we voted on our priorities (i.e. ourselves, others, God, etc.) and God always won! We experienced being prepared. During our discussion of preparedness , we needed a first aid kit. We were prepared by expecting the expected. We continue to add to our gratitude jar and hope that you enjoyed your Thanksgiving Day.



## **Pastoral Care Ministry**

Janet Crisfield, Facilitator

The Pastoral Care Ministry is dedicated to bringing the presence of Christ to parishioners that are unable to come to regular services either on a temporary or on-going basis. This follows the tradition of the earliest Christians bringing bread and wine from services to those unable to come.

We provide visits to the homebound, hospitalized, those in rehab or extended care facilities. We meet bi-monthly during the regular church year. Training and screening is required of anyone wishing to join this rewarding ministry.

One of our members is Jeri Mikosz. Jeri and her husband Ben joined St Andrews 4 years ago. They like the small community feel and the focus on outreach ministries for those in need. With her long background in administering to the sick and dying, she felt a call to be a part of the Pastoral Care Team. She feels it is both a privilege and blessing to be able to bring the community of Christ to those parishioners that are unable to worship and share in Holy Communion with the congregation.

The next meeting is January 24,2018 in Krysher Hall at noon.

If you are interested in learning more please call Janet Crisfield at 352 796-9389 or Father Lance at the church 352 683-2010 .

### United Thank Offering Chris Robertson



I have said before, The United Thank Offering (UTO) is the original *pay it forward* ministry. We can get very busy and forget the everyday blessings of God in our lives: an incredible sunrise, an unexpected call from a dear friend, making all the green lights on highway 19, the list of little things goes on and on. The UTO Blue Box is a simple vehicle to help us remember God cares so much for us in these busy lives we live. From the smallest smile to the biggest answer to prayer, He is always with us. Dropping a dime or quarter in the Blue Box allows us to stop and reflect on His presence all around us.

Just as Jesus multiplied the loaves and fishes, the UTO offerings are distributed throughout our nation and the global Episcopal/Anglican church network. Grants are given to build schools, health clinics, youth centers, community gardens, purchase transport vehicles and to provide handicapped compliance, music ministries and so much more. All from our pocket change.

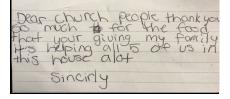
This year St. Andrew's collected \$696.38 from our spring ingathering, and \$541.05 from our fall ingathering, for a total of \$1,238.03 which has been sent to the United Thank Offering to be combined with funds from all over the world for the 2018 grants. Thank you.

I have chaired this ministry for six years. As I prepare to move to New Mexico I am praying that God will touch your heart to oversee this program going forward. All funds collected by UTO are given in grants. Basically you need to select the two dates each year for the UTO weekend.

Once you and Father Lance have set the dates you will need to1.) put a reminder in the bulletin for the ingathering weekend, 2.) set up a table in the narthex the week before the ingathering to display the blue boxes and the offering envelopes (and of course return the unused materials to storage after the offering) and 3.) follow up with the Treasurer to publish the total collected. If you wish to speak on UTO during the worship service you may, but if you are not comfortable speaking we have a wonderful flash drive full of presentations that can be played on the screens during the announcements. I encourage you to consider making UTO your ministry in 2018. Blessing guaranteed!

## **Backpack Ministry**

Another thank you letter has been received by the Backpack Ministry. This ministry makes a weekly difference in the lives of local children who would otherwise go hungry. These children are truly thankful.



Angel Tree Debbie Smith



The Weekend Blessing program is sponsoring the Angel Tree for students at Spring Hill Elementary again this vear. Please select an angel which has written on it the gender and age of a student, purchase an appropriate gift for about \$5.00 and bring to the church on or before <u>December 17<sup>th</sup></u>. Do not wrap the gift but remember to tape the angel to the gift. We will have our wrapping party on Wednesday, December 20<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 in Krysher Hall. If you don't want to shop, then donate \$5.00 per angel and we will shop for you. Any questions, give me a call in the office. Thanks so much for helping to make Christmas brighter for these deserving kids.



EVENT KEY

**AF** = Adult Formation **BP** = Back Packs **DOK** = Daughters of the King **FOL** = Friends of the Library **GB&B** = Guys, Bibles & Bfst **GS** = Grief Share

1.14

**HE** = Holy Eucharist

- JrI = Junior Inquirers OSL = Order of St. Luke
- SS = Sunday School
- **YI** = Youth Inquirers
- **YM** = Youth Ministry

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Office Closed	2 1 pm Christmas Choir 4 pm HE II 5 pm AF (SC)
<b>3</b> 8 am HE II 9:15 am AF (SC) 9:45 am Jr. I 10:15 am SS 10:30 am HE II	4	5	6 9:15 am Preschool Reading 10 am HE II and Healing Prayers 1:30 & 6 pm Bible Study (SC) 6 pm Youth Group (KH)	7 9:00 am Backpacks 6 pm Choir	8 Office Closed	9 10 am DOK (KH) 1 pm Christmas Choir 4 pm HE I 5 pm AF (SC)
10 8 am HE I 9:15 am AF (SC) 9:45 am Jr. I 10:15 am SS 10:30 am HE I	11	12 Thrift Shop Bag Sale 12:00 pm Friends of the Library Meeting	<b>13</b> 9:15 am Preschool Reading 10 am HE II and Healing Prayers 1:30 & 6 pm Bible Study (SC) 6 pm Youth Group (KH)	14 9:00 am Backpacks 6 pm Choir	15 Office Closed	<b>16</b> 11:00 am Choir Christmas Lunch at Kally K's 1:30 pm Christmas Choir 4 pm HE II 5 pm AF (SC)
17 8 am HE II 9:15 am AF (SC) 9:45 am Jr. I 10:15 am SS 10:30 am HE II 12:30 pm Vestry (SC) 12:30 pm OSL Meeting (KH) Christmas Angels Due	18	<b>19</b> 10 am Christmas Angel Wrapping Party (KH)	20 9:15 am Preschool Reading 1:30 & 6 pm Bible Study (SC) 6 pm Youth Group (KH)	21 9 am Backpacks 6 pm Choir CHIMES Articles & Schedules Due	22 Office Closed	23 4 pm HE II
24 8 am HE II 5:30 pm Christmas Eve HE II 10:30 pm Christmas Eve HE II	<b>25</b> 10:00 am- Christmas Day Service HE I Office Closed	26	<b>27</b> 9:15 am Preschool Reading	28	29 Office Closed	30 4 pm HE II 5 pm AF (SC)
<b>31</b> 8 am HE II 9:15 am AF (SC) 9:45 am Jr. I 10:15 am SS 10:30 am Lessons & Carols HE II					M ll Ga	C = Chapel/Class Room in Narthe: G = Memorial arden

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

#### **DECEMBER EVENTS**

Sunday, December 3 10:30 am Fr. Fred Robinson to visit

Saturday, December 9 10:00 am Daughters of the King Meeting (KH)

Sunday, December 10 2:00 pm Hernando County Youth Orchestra at Stagewest

Sunday, December 17 Angel Tree Donations Due

**Tuesday, December 19** 10:00 am Angel Tree Wrapping Party

Sunday, December 24 8:00 am Christmas Eve Service 5:30 pm Christmas Eve Service (with St. Nicholas) 10:30 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Monday, December 25 10:00 am Christmas Day Service Rite 1

Sunday, December 31 10:30 am Lessons & Carols

#### JANUARY EVENTS

Wednesday, January 24 12:00 pm Pastoral Care Meeting (KH)

Sunday, January 28 12:30 Annual Parish Meeting (KH)



## PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR MEN & WOMEN SERVING IN THE ARMED FORCES AT HOME & OVERSEAS:

Keith Barroncini, Julian Barry, Joseph Beatty, Brian Cain, Martin Clausen, James Cole, Neil Crawn, Krista Crosetto, Jason Daniels, Myriaha Diaz, Olivia Clair, Warren Fedoryk, Daniel Fitch, Shawn Fitch, Howard Gidden, Sean Gilbert, Donald Harris, Dwayne Hamblin, Roger Handy, Andrew Hammatt, Doug Henderson, Joseph Kee, Amy Kelly, Kristina Langley, Skip LaPointe, Courtney Foster McCorvey, Cade Mulrooney, Jacob Poma, Rhett Roy, John Spencer III & Tracy Thomas

Please call the office with updates to this list.

## December Lectionary

December 3 1st Sunday of Advent Isaiah 64:1-9 Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18 1 Corinthians 1:3-9 Mark 13:24-37

December 10 2nd Sunday of Advent Isaiah 40:1-11 Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13 2 Peter 3:8-15a Mark 1:1-8

<u>December 17</u> 3rd Sunday of Advent Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 Canticle 3 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 John 1:6-8, 19-28

December 24 4th Sunday of Advent 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16 Canticle 15 Romans 16:25-27 Luke 1:26-38

## December 25

Christmas Day Isaiah 52:7-10 Psalm 98 Hebrews 1:1-4, (5-12) John 1:1-14

December 31

Ist Sunday After Christmas Isaiah 61:10-62:3 Psalm 147:13-21 Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7 John 1:1-18



"I'd like to thank the congregation for the snooze alarm you gave me for Christmas."

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

John Follansbee, Treasurer As of **October, 2017** 

	This Month	Year to Date	2017 Budget
Revenues			
Core Church	36,496.28	284,177.70	330,102.00
Thrift Shop	4,733.95	46,454.46	58,300.00
Total Revenues	41,230.23	330.634.16	388,402.00
Expenses			
Core Church	23,970.76	290,918.95	368,563.67
Thrift Shop	1,078.08	12,878.84	16,350.42
Total Expenses	25,048.84	303,797.79	384,914.09
Net Gain/Loss			
Core Church	12,525.52	(6,741.25)	(38,461.67)
Thrift Shop	3,655.87	33,577.62	41,949.58
Total	16,181.39	26,836.37	3,487.91
Investments		Bank Accounts	
SSGA	111,203.77	Sun Trust	
Alliance Bernstein	33,636.42	Unrestricted	7,619.01
		Restricted	225,834.39
		Discretionary	1,091.92
Total	144,840.19	Total	234,545.32

## Food Pantry Shopping List

This is our staples list, other items appreciated.

Mac 'n cheese Spaghetti Cereal Pancake Mix Pancake Syrup

#### <u>Cans or jars</u> Peanut Butter

Jelly Pasta Sauce Chicken Noodle soup Tomato soup Tuna Corn Green beans Pork 'n beans Canned peaches Hotdogs

If you wish to make a monetary contribution, we will shop for you. We do most of our shopping at Save A Lot.

#### <u>Our Food Pantry will</u> <u>still be collecting canned</u> <u>hams for Christmas.</u>

Thanks so much for helping our community families.

## **Parish Register**

November Attendance									
Week Ending Sat./Sunday	* Other Services	Sat. 4 pm	Sunday 8 am	Sunday 10:30 am	Total				
November 5		42	47	115	204				
November 12	66	42	47	120	275				
November 19		46	44	140	230				
November 26	34	36	30	185	285				
TOTAL	100	166	168	560	994				
AVERAGE	50	42	42	140	249				

<u>November 2017</u>
Transfers in: 10
Transfers out: 0
Deaths: 11/1/17 Charles Christie
Funerals: 11/11/17 Charles Christie
Baptisms: 6
Confirmations: 3
Weddings: none
Anointings: 21



**Bulletin Board** *Meetings, Event News, etc.* 

If you would like more information about our ministries please pick up a copy of the Serving Opportunities brochure or call the church office.

#### **Canterbury Festival**

Our annual Canterbury Festival was a big hit again this year raising nearly \$4000 for outreach. Thank you to all who volunteered to make this event special. We already have vendors asking to be included again next year. All of the church sponsored areas made money with the breakdown on profits as follows:

White elephant\$834.22	Jewelry\$371.50	Baked goods\$540.60
Thrift Store Christmas\$365.50	Food\$135.13	Crafts\$158.00
Plants & Herbs\$257.80	Silent Auction\$863.00	

We appreciate all of your enthusiasm, giving, and patience as we work together to make a difference in our community. If you have any suggestions for improvement, please let us know.



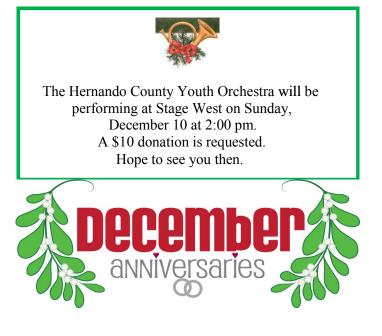
2 Shirley Coomes
2 Diane Wallace
3 Trudy Bailey
4 Diane Casey
4 Danny Fernandez
6 Dave Hamilton
6 Karen Walrath
6 David Lightburn
7 John Follansbee
8 Elaine Cremer
8 Bridie Klein
11 Mark Lillpopp
13 Frank Trama
13 Joyce Bartholomew
13 Patrick Tino

16 Gregory McDougal
18 The Rev. Lance Wallace
19 Doris Lancombe
19 Zachery Meissner
20 Raymond Cole
20 Marc Brooks
23 Shirley Phillips
23 Margie Burton
25 Bradley Ogden
27 Tommy Collins
27 Mary Ann Arnold
28 Dave Newman
29 Arnold Stephens



and, io, the anget of the Lord came upon them...And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. LUKE 2:0-18





- 1 Rosamund & Maurice Stewart
- 9 Mervis & Fred Lewis
- 19 The Rev. Ludwig & Carolyn Wallner
- 19 Merope & Robby Noel
- 24 Loa & Pete Jackson
- 27 Col. Michael & Anita Cockill
- 27 Nancy & Billy Everidge
- 27 Liz & Dave Hamilton
- 29 Barbara & Calvin Ingram

## St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

2301 Deltona Blvd. Spring Hill, FL 34606 Phone: 352-683-2010 E-mail: schurch22@tampabay.rr.com Mailing Address: P.O. Box 5026 Spring Hill, FL 34611

The Rev. Lance Wallace, Rector Cell 352-515-8657 Email: Fr.Lwallace@gmail.com

#### **Sunday Services**

8 am Service (no music) 9:15 am Adult Formation Class 9:45 Jr. Inquirers 10:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Service (music)

#### **Saturday Services**

4 pm Service (no music) 5 pm Adult Formation Class

#### Wednesday Services

10 am Service with prayers for healing 11 am to 1 pm Food Pantry open 1:30 and 6 pm Adult Bible Study 6 pm Youth Ministry

Parish Office Hours Mon.–Thurs. 9 am – 2 pm (Closed Friday)

Diocese Website www.episcopalswfl.org

The Parish Chimes Editors Lisa Emerson & Debbie Smith Email: schurch22@tampabay.rr.com

We're on the web! standrewschurch.dioswfl.org Like us on Facebook at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

#### FEDERAL TAX VOLUNTEERS WANTED TRAINING PROVIDED

Do you like people? Can you work with numbers and computers? We are looking for people as greeters and tax preparers. If you have 4 hours a week (9 am to 1 pm) available between February 1 and April 15, you could be assisting others with filing Federal Tax Returns. Training is sponsored by AARP Tax Aide which uses a program very similar to Turbo Tax. Note, you do not need to be an AARP member to volunteer. Training will take place on December 13th and January 10, 17, 18, 24, 25, 26 from 9:00-3:00pm right here at St. Andrew's . You'd be reimbursed for mileage to and from one of 7 different locations in Spring Hill & Brooksville. If interested please visit the AARP website at **aarp.org/taxaide** to complete the volunteer form. For questions you may call Joan at (352)200-5790 or see Edna at the 10:30 am service.

**On behalf of LifeSouth Community Blood Center**, thank you for your support and assistance with the blood drive held at the Canterbury Festival. We had thirteen donations! When you consider that one blood donation can save up to three lives it is easy to see how donating blood can make a difference in someone's life. One never knows when the life that is saved may be a member of your own family, friend, or a co-worker. Once again, thank you for your continued support.

What a great Canterbury Festival! The energy and wonderful attitude put forth by the amazing people who made it happen were only one aspect of its success. **The bake sale** was a true feast for the eyes. Beautifully decorated offerings presented by the generous and very talented bakers of our church inspired shoppers to part with their coins smiling all the while.

Thank you, thank you! I'm looking forward to the next festival and the opportunity to work with everyone again.

To quote Tiny Tim...."God Bless Us, Everyone...." -Charlene Moore



## Joy to the World

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ADVENT ANGEL BETHLEHEM BIRTH BLESSINGS CAMELS FRANKINCENSE INFANT JESUS JOSEPH MAGI MANGER MARY MIRACLE MYRRH NATIVITY REJOICE STABLE STAR THREE KINGS WISE MEN