

Good Shepherd Anglican Church

FEAST OF THE CIRCUMCISION OF CHRIST

(PAGE 105 OF THE BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER)

The Circumcision of Christ was in obedience to God's instructions to Moses in Genesis 17: 10-12. As a sign of the covenant between God and his people, all male Jewish babies were circumcised and named. His name comes from the Hebrew meaning "Savior" or "Salvation". The power of the name Jesus is described by St Paul in his Epistle to the Philippians 2:9:

"God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father".

This scripture is the Biblical source for the practice of either bowing the head or genuflecting at the name of Jesus or Christ. Christ's Circumcision is an early demonstration that He was fully human and that He followed God's Word.

Happy New Year

THE EPHIPHANY OR THE MANIFESTATION OF JESUS CHRIST TO THE GENTILES

JANUARY 6, 2014

(PAGE 107, BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER)

The word Epiphany is from the Greek and means appearance or manifestation. It commemorates the revelation of God and the Son as a human being, Jesus Christ. On this holy day we celebrate the visitation of the Biblical Magi to the baby Jesus which is His manifestation to the Gentiles or non- Jews. The Epiphany is the end of the Christmas Season and the twelfth day of Christmas.

January begins Good Shepherd's annual campaign in support of Operation Christmas Child for the sixth year. In 2109 eleven boxes were filled and shipped and in 2013 the total reached



107. Thank you to Annmaria Simpson and all those who work so diligently throughout the year to send love at Christmastime to those less fortunate in the world. All the shoe boxes were sent to children throughout the world through Rev. Franklin Graham's Samaritan Purse Program.

The program collects items throughout the year and collection boxes will be available for your donations. Please remember that each item must fit in an average size shoe box. The boxes are packed for both boys and girls ages 2-4, 5-9 and 10-14. Donations for all items may be given at anytime throughout the year and are not restricted to specific months - especially if you see a bargain or can use a coupon. However, it has seemed that specific items are less costly during the months shown.

January	Toothbrushes and toothpaste
February	Bars of soap and wash cloths
March	Toys
April	Socks
May	Flashlights and solar calculator
June	Plastic sports bottles (reusable water bottles)
July	Crayons, markers and coloring books
August	Pens, pencils, pencil sharpeners, notebooks
September	Reading books
October	T-shirts
November	PACKING PARTY

For more information about Operation Christmas Child or the Samaritan's Purse Organization, visit www.Samaritanpurse.org or contact Annmaria Simpson at 480-357-6178.

ARIZONA DEANERY NEWS

Dear Friends,

I write to you all as friends because in John, Jesus said this to his disciples, "*You are my friends if you do what I command.*" (John 15:14) We are friends because he has revealed his business in this world to us and then invited us to share in it—to "Love each other." (John 15:17) Jesus also said, "*Go and make disciples of all nations...*" (Matthew 28:19); our churches are communities where people are loved and disciple. In our day, people are hungry for the kind of life that we offer in Jesus' Name and our efforts are multiplied by joining together to share in this work together. This e-letter is an invitation to connect, at least digitally, the members and leaders of the various churches that are a part of this emerging diocese in Arizona so that the clergy, leadership teams and church members of our local churches might be able to pray and work with together for the Kingdom of God.

The Anglican Church in North America is a very young province in formation and the Lord is blessing the faithfulness of the people and their pastors who are orienting themselves to the work of mission that Jesus entrusts to us. Archbishop Duncan wisely began his ministry as primate by setting us on a course that keeps the mission of Jesus as our focus: planting 1000 churches in 5 years. **Anglican 1000** is sponsoring regional conferences to stimulate, encourage and equip the church in this work and on **January 15-18**, Phoenix will serve as the site for a mission and church planting conference where we will have the opportunity to gather, learn and strengthen one another with new skills and friendships to carry the work of the gospel into the months ahead. I am so excited for what the Lord purposes to do and I invite you to see below for more specific information on this conference.

Would you mark your calendar and plan to join together with me and other leaders around our state so we may catch the Lord's vision for Arizona and work together to reach many with the good news of Jesus?

Your brother and friend,

Keith Andrews, Dean

RANDOM THOUGHTS FOR A NEW YEAR

We are all born with an expiration date. And no one knows what it is but God. -- Anonymous

If loving God was a crime, would you be in jail? -- Jan Karon, "Light from Heaven"

Do you spend too much time doing things "right" instead of doing the right things? -- Anonymous

Coincidence is when God chooses to remain anonymous. -- Anonymous

Exercise daily. Walk with the Lord.

Love is an act of endless forgiveness.

The hand of help has no color. The face of caring has no shape. The language of love has no accent.

-- Eddie Basha, Jr., Grocer, Education Advocate and Humanitarian (1937-2013)

Start by doing what is necessary, then what is possible, and suddenly you are doing the impossible. -- Francis of Assisi

Delight yourself in the Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart. -- Psalm 37:4

THE CONVERSION OF SAINT PAUL

JANUARY 25, 2014

(PAGE 229, BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER)

The transformation of Saul of Tarsus from a violent Christian prosecutor to a dedicated follower of Jesus Christ is nothing short of amazing. (The conversion is thought to have happened between 33 and 36 A.D. And, therefore, Paul never met or followed Jesus before His crucifixion.) It is described in both Paul's letters and also in the Acts of the Apostles, Chapter 9:1-31.

Known as Saul prior to his conversion, he was a zealous Pharisee (Galatians 1:13-14). His pre-conversion life as described in Philippians 3:4-6 and also Acts 7:57-8:3 describes his participation in the stoning of the first Christian martyr, Saint Stephen. He was traveling to Damascus from Jerusalem to arrest followers of Jesus for return to Jerusalem for questioning and possible execution when God abruptly intervened. He is blinded, God speaks to him and he subsequently receives his sight and becomes a convert to Christianity.

In spite of his attempts to eradicate Christianity, Paul's conversion is evidence of the power of God's Divine Grace; i.e., "no fall so deep that Grace cannot descend to it" and "no height so lofty that Grace cannot lift the sinner aloft". As Bishop Thompson says, "The word GRACE means Gifts Received At Christ's Expense". God's Grace is truly amazing.

OF SAINTS AND SINNERS

The next time you think you have an excuse why God can't use you, consider the following: Noah was a drunkard. Abraham was too old. Isaac was a daydreamer. Jacob was a liar. Leah was ugly. Joseph was abused and a slave. Moses was a murderer. Gideon was afraid. Samson had long hair. Rahab was a prostitute. Timothy was too young. King David was an adulterer. Elijah was suicidal. Isaiah preached naked. Job was bankrupt. John the Baptist ran around in a loin cloth and ate locusts. Peter was a hot head. John was self-righteous. The Disciples fell asleep while praying. Martha fretted about everything. Mary Magdalene was demon-possessed. The Samaritan woman was divorced more than twice. Zacchaeus was too small. Paul was too religious and Lazarus was dead. -- Anonymous.

Which proves that "Every saint has a past . . . And every sinner has a future." -- Robert Prichard, 16th Century poet.

And all because of what He did for love. -- Jane Karon, "Light from Heaven"

DIRECTORY CHANGES

ABBOTT, David and Marilyn
(email addresses)
Docmar@wingpoint.org
DocMar4@gmail.com

BRAASCH, Larry and Phyllis E.
Phyllis birthday -- January 19

FLANDERS, Cynthia
(address)
1125 S. 96th St., Mesa 85208

HELANDER, Ken and Rita
(address)
P.O. 1332 Provost AB TOB3SO
(local)
8265 E. Southern Ave., #595, Mesa 85209
(Phone) -- 780-753-3116
(email) -- HELAN1@telus.net

MARRIOTT, Charlie and Jean
(address)
Rio Terra, 2294 E. Common St.,
New Braunfels, TX 78130

THOMPSON, John E. and Joann W
(anniversary) -- September 3

TAYLOR, Kenneth & Phyllis
(address)
Fairwinds Rio Rancho, 920 Riverview Dr., S.E.,
Apt. 248, Rio Rancho, NM 87124

TURNER, Jordan and Hillary
(address)
440 N. New Haven St., Mesa 85205

VESTRY MEMBERS

Brian Simpson	(480) 710-5040
Ron Jaworski	(480) 288-8282
Marvin Blattel	(480) 357-0173
Don Cummings	(480) 832-1583
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Good Shepherd Anglican Church

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[www.GoodShepherd
AnglicanChurch.org](http://www.GoodShepherdAnglicanChurch.org)
or
www.MyGSAC.org



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FOR YOUR INFO

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Amanda Nobilio, January 9th
Rey Saldate, Jr., January 15th
Phyllis Braasch, January 19th
Stella Strezyzeswki, January 20th
Helen Johnson Hoeckstra, January 21st
Jonas Johnson, January 31st

Congratulations to you all