

Announcements for 3 December 2017

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Today

Adult Forum: The Rev. Kit Tate will lead the Advent series—Why we do blue—focusing on joyous expectation. The alternative adult class will watch an Animate service video: The Needs Right in Front of You. - Enuma Okoro is a seasoned traveler, having lived and worked in countries on four continents, but she encourages us to see the needs around us. This local context can give us a new understanding of what service really looks like.

Believe it or not it's time to get serious about Christmas Pageant planning. The pageant is held on Christmas Eve at 4:30 and practices are held after church on Sundays in December. Please let Lynn Farlin lfarin@ascension-norfolk.org know if children/youth in your family plan to participate. Practice starts this Sunday at 12:30 PM.

EYC: From 5:30 to 7:00, EYC will kick off the season with Advent stations. We will begin with dinner and then move through the stations to focus on Advent and think about those in need. As always, friends are welcome, but Lynn Farlin needs a firm head count to plan for food.

New Advent Wreath: You will notice on this first Sunday of Advent that our Advent Wreath looks different! For a variety of reasons the liturgy commission decided to retire the hanging "wagon wheel" Advent wreath. If you are one of the people who had to sit under it as it creaked, groaned and spun during the service, or if you were an altar server who struggled to raise and lower it without degloving the skin from your hand, then you already know two of our key reasons for the change. While the "wagon wheel" served us for many years it was no longer safe to use which necessitated its retirement. You will note that we have purchased a new Advent wreath stand to serve us going forward. Many thanks to Merrill Dorman for helping us to make some modifications to a stock item to transform it into a beautiful new sanctuary appointment for our Advent worship.

The holiday schedule of activities is available in the Narthex or in the newsletter.

Coming Up

Advent potlucks and programs: This Wednesday begins our Advent potluck and program at 6:15 with a meal, the program at 7:00, and ending with Compline.

Attention! The Christmas Dinner (December 17) needs volunteers for the following:

- Setting up tables in Rose Hall on Saturday, December 16 and adding place settings
- General kitchen help on Sunday, December 17
- Cleaning Rose Hall afterwards
- Dishwashers and Dish dryers
- Linen washers

Please let Jane Webster know when you can give a little of your time so that we all may enjoy this holiday event together. No experience is necessary: on the job training available!

Mission

EYC Friends and family night at the Food Bank: December 21 from 5:30 to 7:30 PM. Space is limited, so contact Lynn Farlin if you want to join our group. lfarin@ascension-norfolk.org

Food Pantry Holiday Giving: Our food pantry does a booming business at this time of year. There are two ways to help. One is to give at the door while leaving church on the third Sunday of each month. (You will see Don Daly holding the hat.) The other way is to write a check to the church and put Food Pantry on the memo line. We are thankful for your generosity and kindness.

Pastoral Care: We are collecting small items for Christmas for our 10 homebound members. Calendars, Christmas socks, Chapstick or homemade goodies are some suggestions! Please leave them in the church office marked "homebound" by December 15. Thank you to those who contributed to the Thanksgiving baskets.

Laundry Love: Ward's Corner Soap & Suds, please note: December will be on the 16th because of Christmas this year.

SAVE THE DATE: NEST is February 21-27. NEST (Norfolk Emergency Shelter Team) is a citywide outreach to our homeless population. Participating churches provide food and a warm dry place to spend the night out of the elements. Ascension will team with Talbot Park Baptist Church during this week.

<http://signup.com/go/kpmsHRL> : we are now live! Click this link to sign up to volunteer for the various responsibilities during our NEST week. In addition, Ascension is responsible for collecting hats and gloves for each guest and money in order to give each guest a \$10 card for personal needs. There will be a container in the Narthex for the hats and gloves. Please designate financial donations to "NEST gift cards."

If you have questions, please contact Chuck Beers or Bob Motley.

Info at a Glance

Stewart will be away Thursday through Sunday. If there is a pastoral emergency, please get in touch with the Wardens or the office. John Baldwin will be our preacher and celebrant on Sunday morning.

End of an Era: Since Audrey and George Ramming started the fruit sales program 35+ years ago, more than \$150,000 has been raised to help out various Ministries at Ascension, including the Food Pantry, EYC Mission Trip, Fellowship, and the Day School Playgrounds. In recent years our sales have gradually diminished to the point that we debated the feasibility of continuing the fruit program. The recent hurricane devastated the Florida fruit crop, resulting in a hefty cost increase to us, plus an expected reduction in the quality and size of the fruit. Because of reduction in sales and these large price increases, Ascension will no longer be able to continue with the fruit sales program.

Thanks to all of you who supported the fruit program over the years. We are sorry that we will no longer be able to provide you with fresh citrus fruit, BUT the Maury High School Boosters are still selling fruit as a fundraiser. If you would like to get fruit from Maury, you can make an order by calling the Maury Fruit Sale Phone Line at 628-3349, or going to their website at www.mauryboosters.org

Again, thanks for your loyal support over the many successful years of the Ascension Fruit Program. Chester Long and Bill Willey

Altar Flowers 2018: There are several openings for altar flowers in 2018. They are \$50. Please let the office know (nbeamon@ascension-norfolk.org) if you would be interested in a date. The following dates are open: July 22, September 30, and December 23.

Poinsettias: The deadline to order poinsettias this year is Friday, December 15. They are still \$10. They will decorate the church at Christmas, and you may take yours home after the holiday. Forms are in the Narthex or in the newsletter.

Pledges: Have you submitted your pledge yet? All of them are important! Please pray and send it in as soon as possible so that we may continue the financial planning that we need to do for next year.

Pledges for 2017: In order to get credit for your 2017 pledge, it needs to be in the office by January 15 and dated for 2017. Thank you!

Just for Fun and Fellowship

ROMEOS (Retired Old Men Eating Out) & **JULIETS** (Just Us Ladies Interested in Eating Together): **together again!** Join us on Monday, December 11, at 11:30 at Mack's Barge on Colley Avenue.