

REGULAR EVENTS

Adult Forum

Sundays, 9:00 am

Cents Clothing Thrift Shop

Saturdays, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

Choir Rehearsal

Monday, 7:30 pm - 8:15 pm

Wednesday, 7:30 pm - 9pm

Sunday, 9:45 am

Communications

Last Tuesday, 6:30 pm

ESL Classes

Monday & Wednesday

7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

First Friday Dinners

2/2, 3/2

Garden of Grace Committee

As needed

Grace's Kitchen

December 26, 27, 28, 29, 30

11:30 am-1:00 pm

Healing Service

3rd Sunday after Eucharist

Health Ministry

2nd Sunday, 12:15 pm

Investment Committee

2nd Monday of June &

December

Men's Guild

3rd Sunday, 12:15 pm

Sunday School

10:00 am every Sunday except the
4th Sunday

Starfish Food Collection

1st Sunday

Stewardship

1st Monday, 7:30 pm

Vestry

3rd Wednesday, 7:30pm

Women of Grace

3rd Sunday, 12:15 pm

THIS WEEK AT GRACE December 24-31, 2017

Please also check the website, display tables, and bulletin board for more information about other activities in which you might want to participate.

Parish Office Hours: Thursday and Friday 9:00 am-5:00 pm

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24: THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8:00 am	Holy Eucharist Rite I, <i>All Saints Chapel</i>
9:00 am - 10:00 am	Adult Forum, <i>Grace Lounge</i>
9:45 am	Grace Choir Rehearsal, <i>Chancel</i>
10:00 am	Lighthouse Chapel International, <i>All Saints Chapel</i>
10:00 am	Children's Sunday School, <i>Classrooms Upstairs</i>
10:30 am	Choral Holy Eucharist Rite II, <i>Church</i>
12:15 pm	Coffee Fellowship, <i>Meeting Room</i>
12:30 pm -2:30 pm	Focus Community Church, <i>All Saints Chapel</i>
4:00 pm	Friendship World Outreach Church, <i>All Saints Chapel</i>
10:00 pm	Prelude of Christmas Music and First Eucharist of Christmas, Church

Monday, December 25

Christmas Day

10:00 am

Lighthouse Chapel International, *All Saints Chapel*

Tuesday, December 26

11:30 am -1:00 pm

Grace's Kitchen, *Knickle Hall*

Wednesday, December 27

11:30 am -1:00 pm

Grace's Kitchen, *Knickle Hall*

Thursday, December 28

11:30 am -1:00 pm

Grace's Kitchen, *Knickle Hall* ,
Grace's volunteer day

Friday, December 29

11:30 am -1:00 pm

Grace's Kitchen, *Knickle Hall*

Saturday, December 30

11:30 am -1:00 pm

Grace's Kitchen, *Knickle Hall*

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31: THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8:00 am	Holy Eucharist Rite I, <i>All Saints Chapel</i>
9:45 am	Grace Choir Rehearsal, <i>Chancel</i>
10:00 am	Lighthouse Chapel International, <i>All Saints Chapel</i>
10:30 am	Choral Holy Eucharist Rite II, <i>Church</i>
12:15 pm	Coffee Fellowship, Meeting Room
12:30 pm -2:30 pm	Focus Community Church, <i>All Saints Chapel</i>
4:00 pm	Friendship World Outreach Church, <i>All Saints Chapel</i>



Bishop Stokes' 2017 Christmas Message

Dear People of the Diocese of New Jersey,

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Collect for the Fourth Sunday of Advent

This year, the Fourth Sunday of Advent falls on December 24. This calendar clash occurs every few years posing particular challenges to clergy and altar guild members.

Most churches will observe the ending of Advent on Sunday morning and greet with joy the birth of Christ on Sunday evening or night. Some churches will already be decorated for Christmas on Sunday morning. Others will wait until the morning service is over and then work quickly to prepare the church for Christmas proper. Sunday morning, those who attend church will hear the Collect for the Fourth Sunday of Advent in which it is prayed that God might “find in us a mansion prepared for himself.” On Sunday night, we will hear of the birth of the Christ child in a stable.

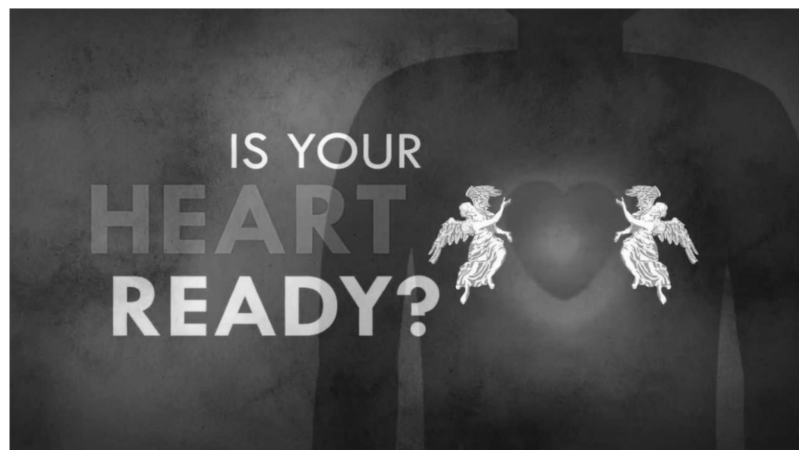
The juxtaposition of stables and mansions is striking to me. The former conveys an image of messiness, even filth; the latter luxury, wealth and sparkling cleanliness. While I strive during Advent to clean my spiritual house in preparation for Christ's coming, hoping to make myself “a mansion” fit for him, sometimes the business of life seems to take over and my spiritual house is a mess, a figurative stable. My guess is that I'm not alone. Those of us who find this to be true, however, can take comfort. Christ, by grace and love, will come and dwell among us anyway. That's the Christmas gospel delivered to the shepherds. Remember the angelic words:

"I am bringing you news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the City of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord...." Luke 2:10 -11

These words are not merely addressed to the shepherds at the time of Jesus; they are addressed to all of us always whether we walk in darkness or in light; whether our spiritual houses are pristine mansions or filth-filled stables.

Susan joins me in wishing you and yours a blessed and joyous Christmas.

Faithfully yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "W. A. Scott", with a small cross symbol to its left.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please take this bulletin home since it has important information about upcoming events

Christmas Eve Prelude of Christmas Music & First Eucharist of Christmas 10:00 p.m.

The Parish Office will be closed
Christmas Day until December 28.

- If you have not sent in your 2018 pledge, please put your blue pledge card in the offering plate or mail it to the parish office. Please prayerfully consider what you will be able to pledge to Grace in 2018.
- The 2018 Grace Church calendars are available from the ushers or found on the information table in the parish house.
- Please contact Deacon Ted at 973-214-0055 or ted@graceplainfield.org to add or remove names from the Sunday prayer list so the Health Ministries team can provide pastoral care.
- Grace's Kitchen, a program of Plainfield Community Outreach, Grace Church's 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, serves lunch to those in our community who are hungry and in need. It is open the last five days of each month (except Sundays) and depends on the support of volunteers. Please consider joining the volunteers to help serve our guests and make them feel welcome. For more information, please contact Karen Moore at 908-322-1754; or Chef Marvin Daniels at 908-400-7727. The next service dates are December 26-30. **Grace's volunteer day is Thursday, December 28.**
- Grace Church collects non-perishable food for Starfish Food Pantry the first Sunday of every month. You can bring your contribution that day or to the parish office any day during the month.
- The sanctuary candle chart is on the wall by the Parish Office. If you would like to give a sanctuary candle, please write your name and the name of the one to be memorialized in the appropriate space. The candle will burn for the week in memory of your loved one. Suggested donation for the sanctuary candle is \$10.
- The flower chart is on the wall by the Parish Office. If you would like to dedicate flowers, pick an open date and write your name and the name of the one to be memorialized in the appropriate space. The office will confirm with you the week before. The cost of altar flowers is \$50.

Next Sunday's Reading: The First Sunday after Christmas

First Lesson: Isaiah 61:10-62:3

Psalm 147

Second Lesson: Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7

Gospel: John 1:1-18



GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH



The Diocese of New Jersey

600 Cleveland Avenue, Plainfield, NJ 07060

908-756-1520 www.graceplainfield.org

Twitter: @plainfieldgrace Facebook: Grace Episcopal Church—Plainfield, NJ

CLERGY AND STAFF

The Reverend Joyce Scheyer, *Priest-in-Charge*

The Reverend Theodore E. Moore, *Deacon*

Andrew Kilkenny, *Director of Music*

John Taitt, *Treasurer*

Noel Taitt, *Assistant Treasurer*

Vince Chiumento, *Parish Office Administrator*



WARDENS AND VESTRY

Wardens

Lawrence Ishmael (2017), Jason Algeo (2018)

Vestry

Carol Taitt (2017), Conrad Roberts (2017)

Brenda Loncke (2018), Winsley Rudder (2018), Selma Cato (2018)

Trevor Forbes (2019), *Clerk*; Ivor Blair (2019); Amanda Garcia (2019)

Convention Delegates (2017)

Ken and Victoria Blenman, Gloria King

Alternate Delegates (2017)

Jason and Holly Algeo, Trevor King

PLAINFIELD COMMUNITY OUTREACH, INC.



Karen Moore, *Board President*

Patience Smith, *Project Director, 21st Century After School Program*

Marvin Daniels, *Coordinator, Grace's Kitchen*

The Reverend Theodore Moore, *Coordinator, ESL Program*

Parish Office: 908-756-1520 908-756-0175 (fax) office@graceplainfield.org