

## DECEMBER CELEBRATIONS

12/5

Stuart Delchamps

12/11

Mel & Linda Galloway

12/12

Robert Dixon

12/18

Ralph & Vilma Geiger

12/19

Bill Hillringhouse

12/24

John Rolph

12/29

Fallon Wilson

Did we miss your birthday  
or anniversary?  
Please call the  
Parish Office.

# *The Mountain Herald*

*December 2017*

## **The Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration**

### From the Rector's Desk

My Dear Friends in Christ,

I'm currently enjoying with Kim a television series I had sadly neglected -- *Call the Midwife*. Set in the 1950s, the story follows the life and career of its focal character, Jenny Lee, a nurse who arrives at an Anglican community of sisters serving expectant women and their families in London's East End, the poorest section of the city. The programs honestly (and graphically) show the pain and hazards of childbirth, as well as the wretched conditions under which people there must eke out a living. Jenny joins the sisters and other lay nurses in a daily "on call" struggle to achieve safe deliveries and maintain a healthy environment for the neighbors in need of their care.

Although we get to know the several characters in the series quite well -- their fears and joys, anxieties and loves -- at the center of each episode is the community itself, in the spiritual character of a life devoted to prayerful sacrifice, to work among the least of God's brethren. We not only see the midwives at their work, but we also see the sisters at their prayer, singing the Daily Office at the appointed times -- these occasions often serving as "voice overs" for the unfolding drama of childbirth and family relationships and the hardships borne by many.

A perfect example of this occurs in a Christmas Special that ends the first season. A homeless woman named Mrs. Jenkins -- a survivor of the work house where she had lost her own child decades before -- lingers near the prams and carriages of other families' children, appearing as though she might try to snatch them. Two of the midwives finally win her trust and attempt to help her, beginning with a restorative bath. The scene of her being tenderly and lovingly (probably for the first time in her life) cared for is deeply moving, and is further ennobled by the voices of the sisters we hear in the background singing "O Come, O Come Emmanuel." This simple act of mercy, of human decency, suddenly becomes a manifestation of God's own goodness, his penetrating love in Christ for all his creatures. Vocal prayer and devoted action merge as one in the advent of his coming, in the glory of his presence.

As in life, not all the episodes end as affirmingly. But the hope engendered by the work of these brave and devout women, like the expectation of God's ever-abiding love, cannot be extinguished. Nor must it be for us. In a time when violence and hatred are matched only by indifference and hypocrisy, when contempt for the poor and needy glare through our shameful legislation, and when our leaders at the highest levels lack all decency and understanding, especially now we must find in us that same sort of courage and that same depth of faith. We must try, as far as we are able, in whatever way we can, to make this advent of our Lord's appearing an advent of new energy and new hope. If we don't do it,



Rector Letter (Continued from p. 1)

who else will? If we don't make one Child's birth a promise of new birth in the shared lives of all around us, who else can?

Many blessings,

*Fr. Gordon +*



### Ladies' Lunch



The Ladies Luncheon group met on Tuesday, November 21 at 12:00 noon in Memorial Hall. We had a special guest from the Maryland Diocese, Dottie Arthur. She told the group all about the history of the United Thank Offering as well as other activities of the Episcopal women in our diocese, nationally, and internationally. We learned a lot and enjoyed her presentation.

Gladys Dobson provided a chicken vegetable soup and bread. Linda Galloway brought a potato and cheese soup. Dorothy Beard brought cakes and a pumpkin roll for dessert. Molly Wilson did the set up and table decorations. Also in attendance were: Gladys Dobson's daughter, Michele, Debbie Knipe, Barbara Collins, Fr. Gordon, Janet Roberts, Rev. Ellen, and Robin Rolph.

We will meet again on Tuesday, December 19 in Memorial Hall at 12:00 noon. We will have our annual holiday cookie exchange for dessert. Attendees are asked to bring a dozen cookies to share. Debbie Knipe will bring soup and Janet Roberts will provide the bread. All COTT women and guests are invited to join us. Call Linda Galloway (301-371-6326) or Robin Rolph (301-371-9096) for information.

One God ~ One Voice  
Christmas Concert

The First Noel -  
Born is the King



Sunday, December 10

3:00 p.m.

Here at C.O.T.T.

A free-will offering will benefit  
disaster victims

# DECEMBER 2017

| SUNDAY  | MONDAY   | TUESDAY   | WEDNESDAY  | THURSDAY   | FRIDAY   | SATURDAY                |
|---|--|---|--|--|--|-------------------------|
|   |  |   |  |  | <b>1</b><br>9:00a Morning Prayer<br>12:00p AA<br>8:30p AA          | <b>2</b>                |
| <b>3</b><br>Healing - both services<br>8:00a H.E. II<br>9:00a Christian Ed<br>10:15a H.E. II/hymns<br><br>6:00 - Chorale                          | <b>4</b><br>9:00a Morning Prayer<br><br>12:00p AA  | <b>5</b><br>9:00a Morning Prayer                              | <b>6</b><br>9:00a Morning Prayer<br><br>12:00p AA<br><br>7:00p Bible Study               | <b>7</b><br>9:00a Morning Prayer<br><br>12:00p AA<br><br>7:30 Choir                                | <b>8</b><br>9:00a Morning Prayer<br><br>12:00p AA<br><br>8:30p AA  | <b>9</b><br>8:30a OG~OV |
| <b>10</b><br>8:00a H.E. II<br>9:00a Christian Ed<br>10:15a H.E. II/hymns<br>11:15a Hospitality<br>3:00p OG~OV Concert<br><br>6:00 - Chorale       | <b>11</b><br>9:00a Morning Prayer<br><br>12:00p AA<br><br>7:30p Outreach   | <b>12</b><br>9:00a Morning Prayer                             | <b>13</b><br>9:00a Morning Prayer<br><br>12:00p AA<br><br>7:00p Bible Study              | <b>14</b><br>9:00a Morning Prayer<br><br>12:00p AA<br><br>7:30 Choir                               | <b>15</b><br>9:00a Morning Prayer<br><br>12:00p AA<br><br>8:30p AA | <b>16</b>               |
| <b>17</b><br>8:00a H.E. II<br>9:00a Christian Ed<br>10:15a H.E. II/hymns<br>11:15a Hospitality<br>11:45a Vestry<br><br>6:00 - Chorale             | <b>18</b><br>9:00a Morning Prayer<br><br>12:00p AA   | <b>19</b><br>9:00a Morning Prayer<br><br>12:00p Ladies' Lunch | <b>20</b><br>9:00a Morning Prayer<br><br>12:00p AA<br><br>7:00p Bible Study              | <b>21</b><br><b>Feast of St. Thomas</b><br>9:00a Morning Prayer<br><br>12:00p AA<br><br>7:30 Choir | <b>22</b><br>9:00a Morning Prayer<br><br>12:00p AA<br><br>8:30p AA | <b>23</b>               |
| <b>24</b><br>8:00a H.E. II<br>9:00a Christian Ed<br>10:15a H.E. II/hymns<br>11:15a Hospitality<br><br><b>FESTAL EUCHARIST</b><br><b>7:30 P.M.</b> | <b>25</b><br><b>CHRISTMAS DAY</b><br>H.E. II @ 10:15<br><br>12:00p AA  | <b>26</b><br>9:00a Morning Prayer                             | <b>27</b><br>9:00a Morning Prayer<br><br>12:00p AA<br><br>7:00p Vespers/ Rite of Healing | <b>28</b><br>9:00a Morning Prayer<br><br>12:00p AA   | <b>29</b>  | <b>30</b>               |
| <b>31</b><br>8:00a Lessons & Carols<br>9:00a Christian Ed<br>10:15a Lessons & Carols<br>11:15a Hospitality  |  <div style="display: inline-block; text-align: center;"> <h2 style="color: #d9534f;">Christmas Memorials</h2> <p>Forms are available in the Narthex for your<br/>Christmas Poinsettia Dedications</p> </div>  |   |  |  |  |                         |

Do you have a question about anything regarding C.O.T.T?

Our Vestry members are here to help -  
Talk to one of them or Fr. Gordon any time.

### VESTRY

| <u>Class of 2017</u> | <u>Class of 2018</u> | <u>Class of 2019</u> |
|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Barbara Collins      | Mel Galloway         | Scott Myers          |
| Richard Galliher     | Jim Hubbard          | Bernadette Roche     |
| Debbie Knipe         | Tony Traini          | Emily Stetler        |

---

Janet Roberts – Sr. Warden  
Brad Staup – Jr. Warden  
Craig Zearfoss – Treasurer  
Marsha Burrell - Clerk

## SUNDAY SERVICE SCHEDULE

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

9:00 a.m. Christian Education for All

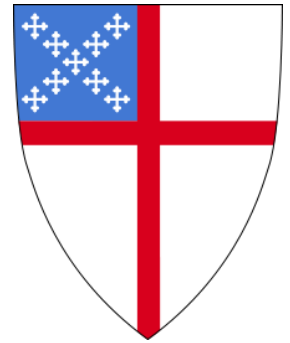
10:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist

11:30 a.m. Hospitality

1st Sunday of each month Anointing and Prayers for Healing  
follow each service

Morning Prayer - Mon through Friday - 9:00 a.m.

Vespers with Rite of Healing - Wednesday - 7:00 p.m.



## CONTACT US

Church Office Phone Number: 301-371-7505

Rectory Phone Number: 301-371-6227

Church E-mail Address: [transfiguration1@verizon.net](mailto:transfiguration1@verizon.net)

For Pastoral Emergencies, Church Members should contact the office at 301-371-7505 or via e-mail at [transfiguration1@verizon.net](mailto:transfiguration1@verizon.net)

Email Rev. Gordon De La Vars at [fr.gordoncott@gmail.com](mailto:fr.gordoncott@gmail.com)

Contact Associate Pastor Rev. Ellen Hurwitz at (301) 293-1514

**[www.thechurchofthetransfiguration.com](http://www.thechurchofthetransfiguration.com)**

## The Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration

*PO Box 87*

*6909 Maryland Avenue*

*Braddock Heights, MD 21714*

