

## PRAYER LIST

Let us pray...

**...in thanksgiving for the members of our congregation:** Jane Linton, Carl Lockamy, Dian Lockamy, and Barbara Macri.

**...for support and protection for those who serve our country at home and abroad:** Alex Berger (*husband of Patrice Rohde's niece*), Mike Busey (*son of Chris and Chuck Busey*), Wes Dyson (*grandson of George and Ruby Dyson*), and Thomas J. Huntt (*nephew of Sue Huntt*); Steven Mattingly (*friend of the Chisholms*).

**...for those in need of God's healing grace:**, Wayne Buffalo, Mary Lou Clem, James Cobey (*Nanjemoy resident*), Carl Fletcher (*friend of Chris Dudley*), Butch Helwig (*Nanjemoy resident*), Livvy Huisman (*mother of Kathy Doyle*), Jane Linton, Rick Posey, Tom Saxton; *Our continuing prayers are offered for:* Vivian Aldridge (*mother of Barbara Macri*), Mabel Bowie, Sam Gray, Buddy Linton, Rhonda McGraw (*daughter of John and Patsy Welch*), Jeanne Read, Jean Santora, Rose Speake (*friend of Gloria Hampton*), Roy Squires, and Luci Wright (*aunt of Barbara Macri*).

**The Diocese of Washington cycle of prayer:** Presiding Bishop Michael Curry; St. Nicholas' Parish, Germantown; Diocesan Latino Ministry; Samaritan Ministry of Greater Washington. **The Anglican Communion cycle of prayer:** Pray for mission agencies and their work throughout the Anglican Communion.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Don't forget that these announcements can also be found on the church website, OldDurham.org. You can view them in the calendar (look under "About Us" in the upper left) or view the service bulletin via the 'Bulletin Announcements' button.*

**Adult Forum:** Please join us at 9:15am in the Parish Hall on Sunday mornings for coffee, learning, and thought-provoking discussion. Next Sunday we will do an overview of the Gospel of Matthew, in preparation for the new church year's Sunday morning readings.

**Coffee After Church:** Come over to the Parish Hall for a cup of coffee and some conversation after church.

**Parish ‘Community Choir’ on Christmas Eve.** Our ‘pop-up’ community choir for Christmas Eve is a go! Rehearsals start after church today in the Parish Hall during Coffee After Church time. Speak to Kathy or just show up if you’d like to know more or be part of this.

**Worship Committee** today after church (and after Community Choir).

**Hats and Mittens.** The Mount Hope/Nanjemoy School welcomes donations of hats and mittens for the children who show up at school without them. Deacon Susan is maintaining a box for them in the back of the church.

**More Jesus, More Love!** If you are interested in one of Durham’s allotment of revival tickets and have not yet let Rev. Catharine know, please do so promptly. Starting Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>, individuals may register for tickets from the general admission pool. The other way to be sure you don’t miss this event is to volunteer to help at it! <https://www.edow.org/news-events/more-jesus-more-love-revival>

The revival will be held on Sat., Jan 26<sup>th</sup> at the Entertainment and Sports Arena, 1100 Oak Street, SE Washington.

**Wrap some gifts!** Our Place Waldorf, the soup kitchen that Deacon Susan is involved with, is wrapping gifts at the St. Charles Town Center mall all through December. They are seeking volunteer wrappers. To offer your help, sign up at [www.ourplacewaldorf.com](http://www.ourplacewaldorf.com).

**Joint Vestry and Finance Committee budgeting meeting:** Wednesday, Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm.

**Jam Session** on December 6<sup>th</sup> 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall.

**Daughters of the King and Men’s Group** will have their Christmas Celebration on December 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm.

**Ladies Mite Society Meeting** on December 10<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 in the Parish Hall.

**Joe’s Place Food Pantry** distributions are normally on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month from 4:30 to 6pm in the Parish Hall. In November and December they are held on the second and *third* Thursdays,

to accommodate the holidays. The next distributions are Dec. 12<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>. Volunteers are always welcome to sort and distribute food to our neighbors.

**Ladies Mite Society** is having a Bake Sale on December 15<sup>th</sup> during coffee hour. Stock up on Christmas goodies.

**Poinsettia for Christmas:** If you would like to place a poinsettia in the church please see Dian Lockamy. They are \$9.50 for a 6" pot. I ordered 6 white poinsettias if you are interested. Sign-up sheets are in the back of the church.

**Special worship services for Advent and Christmas.** In place of our usual Sunday morning Eucharists, we will hold a service of Advent Lessons and Carols on December 22<sup>nd</sup>, and a service of Christmas Lessons and Carols on December 29<sup>th</sup>. On Christmas Eve we will celebrate the Nativity of our Lord with a Eucharist at 5PM, followed by a festive reception in the Parish Hall.

**The Charles County Literacy Council's Spelling Bee** is a fund-raiser for the Literacy Council. It will be held on Sat., Jan. 11 6pm - 10pm at St Mary's Catholic Church in Bryantown. Tickets are \$30, which includes heavy hors d'oeuvres and soft drinks (beer and wine available for sale). Scholarships are available, so don't let cost deter you. Contact Barbara Macri.

**Need a retreat?** The Diocese of Maryland's Claggett Center is offering a series of retreats this winter. There's still time to register for the 'Women's Weekend' Jan. 17-19: "Walking the Way of Love: a weekend of fellowship, worship, and discussion;" the 'Men's Retreat' Feb. 7-9: "Love Yourself; Love Your Neighbor: How resting in God's love strengthens us for service;" the 'Writers' Retreat' Mar. 2-5; and the 'Women's Lenten Retreat' Mar. 13-15: "Commandments, Covenants, and Creeds: An intimate gathering with a focus on small-group Bible study." [Claggettcenter.org](http://Claggettcenter.org).

## **THE COLLECTS OF ADVENT**

'Collects' are prayers that collect our thoughts and intentions and offer them to God in a specific form, sort of the way sonnets are poems that express

their thoughts and themes in a specific form. To create a collect ‘Mad-Libs’ style, you would do something like this:

“O God who \_\_\_\_\_[*name a characteristic of God*], please \_\_\_\_\_[*name a request*] so that \_\_\_\_\_[*name a reason you want the requested outcome*].”

Collects are some of the literary gems of the Anglican tradition, and the collects of Advent are some of the most well-loved in the Book of Common Prayer. Below you will find a little of the background of today’s collect, drawn from Marion Hatchett’s 1981 *Commentary on the American Prayer Book*.

### **First Sunday of Advent (p. 3 of this bulletin)**

The collect for this Sunday was composed for the 1549 Prayer Book. It is based on Romans 13:12 (“the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light;”). The conclusion of the prayer relates closely to a post-communion prayer in a prayer book from the 700s: “that they who rejoice at the advent of your only begotten according to the flesh, may at the second advent, when he shall come in his majesty, receive the reward of eternal life.”

The strong opposites in this prayer are striking: cast away darkness / put on light; mortal life / life immortal; great humility / glorious majesty. The word “now” is crucial: remembering the First Advent and looking toward the Second, we are now, in this time, to cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light. From 1662 until the 1979 *Book of Common Prayer* this collect was expected to be repeated daily throughout the Advent season.

### **MINISTERS IN TODAY’S SERVICE**

**Presider and Preacher:** The Rev. Catharine T. Gibson; **Readers:** June Leyland and Gary Leyland; **Intercessor:** Gary Leyland; **Chalicians:** Jane Linton and Melinda Torreyson; **Altar Guild:** Mary Lou Clem. **Flower contact for December:** Melissa Gibson.

*The Sunday morning worship-serving schedule and readings can be viewed or downloaded online. Follow the ‘Bulletin Announcements’ button at the top left of the church website.*



THE *Episcopal* CHURCH 

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*Vestry:* Rick Posey (Senior Warden), Bernie Torreyson (Junior Warden),  
Marie Goldsmith, Sue Hunt, Gary Leyland, Dian Lockamy, Roy Squires (Secretary);

*Parish Treasurer:* Carl Lockamy.

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