

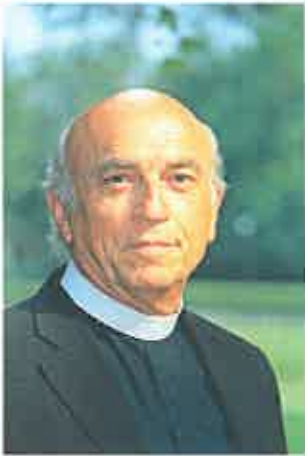


Dove



Winter 2017

Every Generation Can Be a Star



The Reverend Dr. Jerry Smith
Rector

Happy Epiphany!

This is the season when we acknowledge that the gift of Christmas wasn't just for those with specific Jewish heritage but in fact Christ has come to be the Savior of the whole world...every race and culture.

Historically it has been a season that the church has put a particular emphasis on evangelism because it was a light in the form of a star that intrigued the magi to leave their homes and travel to a far-off land to learn about Jesus. Every generation of the church must recognize its responsibility to be a light, a star, that attracts people and cultures to Jesus, particularly those who might not otherwise have opportunity to meet Him.

In some orthodox traditions, it was during the season of Epiphany that everyone in the parish would have their homes blessed by the priest believing that their homes were to be 'lights' in their neighborhoods.

Formation classes would focus on teaching parishioners how to tell the story of Jesus in ways that non-believers would embrace the story, and those who did know the story might become more enthusiastic followers of rabbi Jesus. Often the "E" word (evangelism) invites all kinds of negative reactions most probably because of a bad experience or an "evangelist" who has not been particularly exemplary.

If you have some bad food in a restaurant it doesn't stop you from ever going to a restaurant again...maybe the one with the bad food but you still go out to eat.

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Upcoming Events

January

29 Holy Comforter Church Annual Meeting

February

5 Cuban Rum & Cigars Raffle Drawing-Super Bowl

March

23-25 Diocese Annual Convention

April

18 Evening of Grace

A bad experience shouldn't prevent us from being what God wants us to be. We have been called to "be witnesses" (see Acts 1:8) A witness isn't a theologian who writes books about the faith. A witness is someone who simply tells their experience and in this case, we are challenged to be a people who are telling the story of how we know and experience Jesus.

Paul makes the same argument in 2 Corinthians 5: 16-21

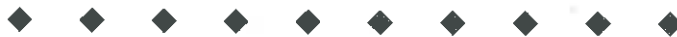
"From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view we know him no longer in that way. 17 So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! 18 All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; 19 that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself,] not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. 20 So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. 21 For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."



This season of Epiphany I invite you to move a tad from your comfort zone and consider how God might want to partner with you as He empowers you to be a witness, an ambassador in a culture that is very much in need of restoration and renewal.

Happy Epiphany

Jerry+



Ever thought about a trip to Italy?



Before moving to Tallahassee, I agreed to lead a 13-day tour of Italy beginning in Venice and ending with a number of days in Rome. The dates are **October 1st-13th of this year.**

If anyone might be interested in joining this group, there is still room and there is still time. For more information give me a call at the office, 850-877-2712.

Fr Jerry+

It's a New Year and a new Altar Flowers Chart is in the Narthex.

If you want to donate the weekly flowers at the front of the church, behind the Altar, please sign your name on the date you wish to sponsor.

By the Monday prior to that Sunday, contact Teresa Thomsen, 566-2994, to let us know if you want the Flower Guild to design the arrangement (send a check to the church office for \$45) or if you prefer purchasing from a florist for delivery. We also need to know how you want the bulletins and E-Dove to read. Sponsoring the Altar flowers is a great way to honor someone or remember a loved one.



Dear People of Holy Comforter,

Phil and I have been deeply touched by the warmth and welcome which you have extended to us in our short time amongst you. We are excited to be a part of this community and are eager to roll up our sleeves and get involved with you.

Fr. Jerry asked me to share a few words about what a deacon is and does. A deacon is a **servant**. We take vows at our ordinations to serve particularly the poor, the weak, the sick and the lonely (BCP pg. 543). Therefore, you find deacons out in the world serving the marginalized and forgotten people we promised to serve. Some of our diocesan deacons serve in prisons, serve with the homeless or minister in hospitals or with hospice. We have one deacon who serves on death row, another whose ministry has been with the deaf and another who works with juveniles in the court system.

I often refer to a deacon's ministry as being "two-fold". We are to have a foot in the world and a foot in the church. We are to be in the world serving and identifying those places where there is brokenness and pain.



Archdeacon Jeanie Beyer

AND we are to bring an awareness of those broken places back to the church and together we are to go into the world to address those needs. A deacon does not do the work in the world by herself. Deacons remind the Church of the mutual vows made at our Baptisms. Each of us promised to "strive for justice and peace among all people and respect the dignity of every human being" (BCP pg. 305). A deacon points the way for all of us to go and serve.

I look forward to serving with each of you.

Blessings,
Deacon Jeanie

Feed a Hungry College Student

Ruge Hall, the Episcopal College Ministry located on the FSU campus, provides a church home for FSU, TCC and FAMU students. Tallahassee Episcopal churches provide meals to students attending the twice-weekly services. Volunteers are needed to help Holy Comforter provide meals there on the following dates of the spring 2017 semester:

- Jan 15 Sunday:
- Jan 19 Thursday: Judy Mathews
- Feb 19 Sunday:
- Feb 23 Thursday:
- Mar 19 Sunday:
- Mar 23 Thursday: Reinekings
- Apr 16 Sunday:
- Apr 20 Thursday:



Contact Laura Keller at [redacted] or lkeller915@gmail.com.

PARISH DIRECTORY

IF YOU HAVE HAD YOUR PICTURE TAKEN, you can access the new Church Online Directory by phone, tablet etc. Here are the instructions:

TO GET THE APP

- search for "instant church directory" in the app store
- download the app
- open it
- enter your email listed in the directory (the app will email you a password. You will only need this password once.)
- put password into the app and it will sync

TO VIEW ONLINE

- go to www.instantchurchdirectory.com
 - select **Church member sign in** on the top right.
 - create a sign in with your email
 - create your password.
- In the future you will use your email and created password to view the directory.

Contact the church office at Admin@HC-EC.org if you need assistance.

A STRONG LIVER MAKES JOY AND NOISE

By Marjie Smith

Holy Comforter isn't a place where things go unnoticed, so regular attenders at the late service know that His Collarship's sidekick is buried in the alto section of the choir – hence the occasional ungodly squawk. Please don't look at me when that happens. It is quite possible someone has gas and it wasn't me at all. Besides, God long ago settled for a joyful noise, and I'm doing my best to provide both joy and noise.

I have always loved singing in the choir because it is like being imbedded in the liver of the church. None of us wants the responsibility of being the heart – I think that's the whole congregation. But the liver's function is to filter out bad stuff and make all the other parts live more harmoniously. How can you sing for an hour and not come away purer?

In terms of goals, choristers are the legs on a centipede, synchronized to walk as one, for the most part. The music director is the one who directs the synapses – if crawling creatures have those – and gets us arriving at the destination. Some of the choristers are trained musicians and then there are folks like me who have basic sight-reading skills and trip all over complex runs of notes that look too much like Chinese writing characters. If a leg goes down a rabbit hole, the other 99 keep going. Sort of like 99 nuns from an Indiana nunnery who sit, stand and kneel. (You need to visit a choir warm-up session to get that connection. Or ask Betsy.)

When amateurs are learning music – and newbies are learning a lot of new material – it is almost impossible to read both notes and words and sound coherent. One or the other usually falls down a rabbit hole. It can sound strangely like singing in an ancient dialect from which English was

derived. Sometimes, a chorister will make a memorable mistake that is the equivalent of a newspaper headline gone awry – laughed at, clipped and filed for further sharing. Having sung in most of our church choirs, apart from Nashville, I have both sung and heard some keepers.

My favorite was some 30 years ago, when we were preparing a piece, probably for Pentecost, that referred to the Holy Paraclete (the Holy Ghost). One bold singer sang out loud and clear a tribute to the holy parakeet, which pretty much ended the practice because we couldn't stop howling. We showed great restraint in singing that song at all, since we feared we might subconsciously adopt the new wording and turn the church into a bird cage.



Marjorie Aldom Smith

The other thing about a choir is it turns into a microcosm of the larger body. We begin to know, care for and pray for other members. We were in our last church in Canada over 11 years, before moving across the border. I not only knew the music well, but the choir members. We had our own little family event, Christmas Eve. With so many services, we just stayed and brought goodies to the church to enjoy between gigs.

In that church, we also faced each other across the aisle, so we had a picture-window view on each other. And Gord, our organist and director, had a mirrored view of all of us. Poor guy. On one occasion, the church was deadily silent as His Collarship preached. I'm not sure if that's because everyone was transfixed or because they were asleep, but I do know Kay dropped a cough candy. A round one. Alerted by the click of the landing, we all watched as the candy rolled down the hardwood floor, past all the sopranos' toes and exited the choir area. It came to rest behind His

Collarship's foot. It was like watching a cricket race. I'm not sure what we thought would happen if the preacher got nudged by a cough candy, but when it stopped, we all looked up and saw the mirrored amusement across the aisle. With one accord we began to heave up and down with suppressed giggles as if we were truly under the attack of a parakeet.

Perhaps the hardest time to suppress amusement – choir and congregation – was when our oldest son Nathan was a server and stood at the rail with the offertory plate. Suddenly, he realized the morning sun streaming through a window was reflecting off the plate. Nathan forgot all about being a server in a holy service. As I sang my heart out in the front row to render a mood of thanksgiving, I turned suddenly into Saul on the Damascus Road. One flash after another struck me in the eyes as our son perfected his posture of innocence, while guiding the sunlight directly into my face.

Yes, that was one humor the liver of the church was unable to filter. But we try. Meanwhile, our son still has an unbridled sense of humor. We wouldn't have him any other way.



Lunch Bunch Invitation

Enjoy having lunch with good friends? On the **2nd Friday of each month, at 12:15**, Holy Comforter parishioners meet at St. John's Episcopal Church to have lunch together. St. John's Lively Cafe has really good food under \$10, and takes major credit cards. We let the

Cafe's manager know a few days ahead how many of us are planning to come. If you would like to be on the reservation/e-mail list, please contact

Katie Simmons. We would love to have you join us.

LUNCH BUNCH



St. Clare Guild

Parishioners knit prayer shawls that are blessed by one of our priests. The shawls are then given to people in the hospital, a nursing home, or those who are in need of the warmth of our parish family. Claire Walker, 294-7211, can give you more details.

Coffee, Tea & Thee

Enjoy coffee, tea and great conversation, **1st Tuesday, 1:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall.** Kay Carraway, [REDACTED] is the contact.



Daughters of the King

A religious order for women who are communicants in the Episcopal Church, pledging to a life-long program of prayer, service, and evangelism. The members are dedicated to sharing Christ's Kingdom and strengthening the spiritual life of the Parish. DOK meets **2nd Thursdays, 6 pm.** Contact Judy Shipman, [REDACTED]

Brotherhood of Holy Comforter

The Brotherhood of Holy Comforter meets on **4th Tuesdays at 6 pm.** All men interested in being a part of the Brotherhood and deepening their faith through prayer, study, and service are invited. Contact Chris Jester, [REDACTED] for more information.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Christian education is offered to all ages, from infant care to adult classes

Sunday School Programs

On January 8, we started our new series, *Jesus' Ministry Begins*, which is so fitting following Christmas and before Easter. The three units in the series are: *Jesus' Early Ministry*, *Jesus Performed Miracles*, and *Jesus Preached*. We watch and discuss bible story videos, sing songs, play games, and create crafts to reinforce our lessons.



Stay tuned to the E-Dove to see what lesson we will be learning each week. You are invited to come and visit us downstairs to see young Christian learning in action. Christian Education, offered to children from infant care through 5th grade, is coordinated by Julianne Chester.

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The Youth Group, grades 6-12, is led by Adam Pryor, HCEC Youth Director. Youth gather from **6-8 p.m. on Wednesdays** for dinner, Bible study, singing, games, crafts and mission planning.

Lectionary Bible Study

Sunday morning discussion, led by Jason Johnston, is centered around the lectionary reading and how it applies to modern life, through building relationships with each other and our neighbors.



Spiritual Journey

This group meets on the **1st and 3rd Sundays** of the month at 9:15 a.m. Members read a wide variety of books in our attempts to grow and mature as Christians. The book discussions and building spiritual friendships are emphasized. Contact Tony Sturges, [REDACTED] for more information.

Parish Pictures



Parish Pictures



Lectionary Readings

Year A

January

January 8

The Epiphany

Isaiah 60: 1-6
Psalms 72: 1-7, 10-14
Ephesians 3: 1-12
Matthew 2: 1-12

January 15

Second Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 4:1-9
Psalms 40:1-12
1 Corinthians 1: 1-9
John 1:29-42

January 22

Third Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 9: 1-4
Psalms 27: 1, 5-13
1 Corinthians: 10-18
Matthew 4: 12-23

January 29

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Micah 6:1-8
Psalms 15
1 Corinthians 1:18-31
Matthew 5: 1-12

February

February 5

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 58: 1-9a (9b-12)
Psalms 112: 1-9 (10)
1 Corinthians 2: 1-12 (13-16)
Matthew 5: 13-20

February 12

Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

Deuteronomy 30: 15-30
Psalms 119: 1-8
1 Corinthians 3: 1-9
Matthew 5: 21-37

February 19

Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

Leviticus 19: 1-2, 9-18
Psalms 119: 33-40
1 Corinthians 3: 10-23
Matthew 5: 38-48

February 26

The Last Sunday after Epiphany

Exodus 24: 12--18
Psalms 2
2 Peter 1: 16-21
Matthew 17: 1-9

March

March 5

First Sunday in Lent

Genesis 2: 15-17; 3: 1-7
Psalms 32
Romans 5: 12-19
Matthew 4: 1-11

March 12

Second Sunday in Lent

Genesis 12: 1-4a
Psalms 121
Romans 4: 1-5, 13-17
John 3: 1-17

March 19

Third Sunday in Lent

Exodus 17: 1-7
Psalms 95
Romans 5: 1-11
John 4: 5-42

March 26

Fourth Sunday in Lent

1 Samuel 16: 1-13
Psalms 23
Ephesians 5: 8-14
John 9: 1-41

April

April 2

Fifth Sunday in Lent

Ezekiel 37: 1-14
Psalms 130
Romans 8: 6-11
John 11: 1-45

"Everything has become new!"

2 Corinthians 5:17, NRSV



Holy Comforter Episcopal Church
2015 Fleischmann Road,
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Welcome to Holy Comforter!

STAFF

Rector: Father Jerry Smith
Archdeacon: Dn. Jeanie Beyer
Parish Administrator: Doty Wenzel
Finance Manager: Gina Resavage
Worship & Wedding Coordinator:
Bonnie McHugh
Director of Church Music: Betsy Gray
Children's Education Coordinator:
Julianne Chester
Organist: Patty Herrington
Child Care Staff: Arlene Porta, Adele Porta
Sexton: Alpha Holmes

OFFICE HOURS

Monday—Thursday
9:00 am—3:00 pm
Friday
9:00 am—12:00 noon

SUNDAYS

Holy Eucharist Rite I 8:00 am
Adult Sun. School 9:15 am
Centering Prayer 9:15 am
Spiritual Journey 9:15 am
Child Care 9:15 am
Holy Eucharist Rite II 10:30 am
PK3-5th Sun. School 10:30 am

BUCK BREAKFAST

First & Third Sundays

New email address:
Admin@HC-EC.org

Email: fatherjerry@HC-EC.org
Website: HC-EC.org
Phone: 850-877-2712

WEDNESDAYS

Bible Study 10:30 am
Eucharist 5:30 pm
Youth 6:00 pm
Bible Study 6:30 pm
Choir Practice 6:45 pm

TAIZE PRAYER SERVICE

First Mondays, 7 pm

HEALING SERVICE

Third Mondays, 7 pm

BOOK CLUB

Second Sundays, 5 pm

"Living Our Faith by Serving God and Others"