

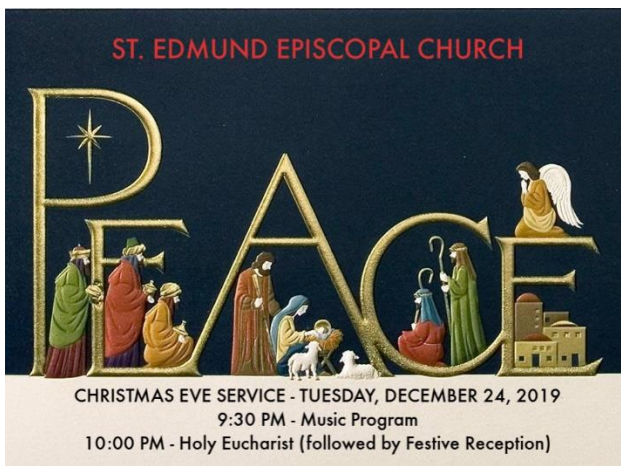
THE EVANGEL

December 2019

WEBSITE: www.EpiscopalArcadiaFL.com

BISHOP'S COMMITTEE MEETING November 20, 2019

- Appreciation expressed to Bob Harrington for his successful stewardship campaign and to the congregation for their generosity. Donation envelopes will be distributed soon.
- The 2020 assessment to the diocese is \$11,831.80, an increase of \$500.
- The 2020 operating budget is still being developed.
- The Church Insurance Company is offering a contractor management solution: the church will receive a 3% rate reduction in return for the CIC doing any work resulting from a calamity or disaster. Comment made regarding wonderful service provided by CIC following Hurricane Charley.
- Payment agreement with Father McConnell revised as result of his medical leave; he is expected to return on Sunday, January 19th.
- Upgrades completed to computer and internet connection.
- New TV in church hall is accessible only through the priest-in-charge or by Bishop's Committee approval.
- Artificial Christmas tree will be purchased for use in the church.



Upcoming Events

December 3, 10, 17
4:30 pm Advent Evening Prayer & Meditation followed by supper

December 5
10:00 am Daughters of the King

December 11
5:30 pm ECW-Men's Group Christmas dinner

December 22
5:30 pm Congregation Christmas Party

December 24
Christmas Eve Service
9:30 pm Music Program
10:00 pm Eucharist (followed by Festive Reception)

327 West Hickory Street
Arcadia, FL 34266
(863) 494-0485

The Rev. James McConnell
Priest-In-Charge
(863) 368-1465
sailor2926@gmail.com

The Rev. Robert Vaughn, Deacon
(863) 244-1369
vaughn_rj@yahoo.com

The Rev. Mario Castro, Latino Missioner
(813) 562-2467
mcastro@redeemersarasota.org

PRIEST – IN - CHARGE



On Thursday, November 28, we celebrate Thanksgiving. This is a time when we celebrate family, friendships, and give thanks for all that we have and for a God who continues to sustain us. The McConnell family is certainly thankful for a God who has carried us through a very dark and frightening time. As we enjoy the traditional meal let us remember those who have not and those who are separated from family and friends.

On December 1 we begin the season of Advent. Advent is a season celebrated by most liturgical churches as a time of waiting, preparation and expectation of the coming of the Savior. Advent is reported to have begun in 300 A.D. at Saragossa. It calls us to prepare for the second coming of the Christ which is also called the Parousia. It has been celebrated in many ways throughout history, depending on culture. We celebrate it by lighting the four advent candles in a wreath. Each candle has a meaning, the first, hope or prophesy; the second, faith; the third, joy; the fourth, peace. This is a time of prayer and study. Unfortunately this has been all but lost in the commotion caused by the commercial world of month long black Fridays. As we light the Advent candles, allow the meaning and the glow of each candle to speak to you of the joy and peace that a loving God has given us through the birth of a Son. On Christmas Eve we light the fifth or middle candle, the Christ Candle, as we celebrate the birth of our Savior.

During this season the important work of the church goes on. It is time for Bishop's Committee (Vestry) to nominate new members. We have three members to replace. Therefore prayerfully consider serving God and the church as a member of the leadership committee.

On December 12 I will have surgery to complete the journey that began in July.

I pray that God will guide the hands of the surgeon and calm my anxiety about this event. Should all things go well and God willing, I plan on returning to full service on January 15. Please keep Carolyn and me in your prayers. I continue to be thankful for you all and for Father Jim Williamson for so ably standing in for me. May you all have a merry and blessed Christmas.

---Fr. Jim McConnell+

SUNDAY ATTENDANCE

September Average Attendance

8:00 - 7
10:00 - 28
7:00 - 15

October Average Attendance

8:00 - 9
10:00 - 33
7:00 - 15

November Average Attendance

8:00 - 11
10:00 - 34
7:00 - 10

Bishop's Committee

Senior Warden Joe Mancuso
Junior Warden Charlene Michaud
Patricia DiCioccio
Bob Harrington
Pat Novean
Michael Pooser
Vivian Stewart

Irene Pooser, Clerk
Pat Moore, Treasurer

Roy Michaud & Bill Stephenson
Property Managers

DEACON

Advent is my favorite season in our liturgical calendar. More and more I find it to be a safe harbor in the rushing sea of holiday events, schedules, and preparations leading to Christmas. Advent's call for simplicity, reflection, and conversion is a welcomed respite from the busy nature of "The Season." During Advent we consider the reason for the season as we recall the message of the Prophets, John the Baptizer, and Mary, the mother of our Lord. The special Advent tradition of the "O Antiphons" (the foundation of the hymn "O Come, O Come Emmanuel") offers us insight into the full nature of the coming of the Messiah, the event we celebrate as the birth of Jesus.

I invite each of you to take a break from the preparations, parties, and other events leading to Christmas Day to have an Advent experience in addition to the Advent Sunday Eucharist.

On the Tuesdays of the first three weeks of Advent (December 3, 10, & 17) we will have the Service of Evening Prayer with an Advent meditation: "*Understanding Advent: A Spiritual Preparation for Christmas.*" Yvonne Dalpe has offered to provide music to enhance the service.

Following the service, we will have an opportunity to continue the fellowship with a simple supper in the church hall.

Hope you can join us on the first three Tuesdays of December at 4:30 pm.

--Deacon Robert Vaughn



OUR CHURCH FAMILY

- ❖ Hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving! We are so blessed at St.Ed's.
- ❖ Father McConnell reminds us that this week opens the gate to the holiday season. The McConnells will have Thanksgiving at home. Fr.Jim will have surgery on December 12th. Then it will be home time for recuperation. Please uphold him in your prayers-Carolyn also! In early January their daughter, granddaughter and great grandson will visit for a week. They will have a brief respite from the Wyoming winter.
- ❖ Carolyn Robins' surgery in California went well-thank the Lord! If she gets a good report at her doctor's appointment December 23rd-guess what?!- they are heading home, back to Arcadia. Daughter Joy will be driving them and it will be a long trip because, due to Carolyn's condition, they will have to make a rest stop every hour. It will be wonderful to see them again! Their son Scott is receiving treatment at The National Health Institute at Bethesda for his very rare form of cancer. Please uphold the Robins family as they cope with so many challenges.
- ❖ Linda Gromen says it is so good to be back with their Florida friends. She knows our church is truly a loving, caring community. Linda and Barry wish "you all" a very Merry Christmas!
- ❖ Bill Bless says the busy summer in Delaware is gone, leaves on the trees are fast disappearing and the cold is settling in. He enjoyed numerous weekend camping trips, a trip to the UK (London) and several visits to Rhode Island visiting his grandchildren. In addition, they stayed with him for several weeks in Delaware. Very lively and exciting!
He is looking forward to returning to Arcadia and St.Edmund's in January. He expects to arrive at Craigs' RV Park on January 1st and stay until the end of March. He is looking forward to seeing everyone and helping Father Jim at 8 AM.
- ❖ Bob and Sandy Stantz headed to Ohio where their daughter is scheduled for surgery the day before Thanksgiving. They are going to have the whole family for an early Thanksgiving Dinner on Sunday. They are excited to celebrate with family but they ask prayers for their daughter Shelley as she has surgery to correct a previous surgery. I really do miss them and wish them a safe trip with a return to good health for Shelley.
- ❖ Roy and Charlene Michaud have a new fur baby named Roxy. She is keeping them very busy. I cannot wait to meet her! I am also hoping that Roy will soon be feeling better again!
- ❖ Sandy Easterwood reports that they will be leaving North Carolina on December 12th and arriving in Arcadia on December 15th. On the 22nd they leave Port Canaveral on a Christmas cruise with their whole family to return on the 29th. We are to look for them in church on January 5th. The Easterwoods wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving , a Merry Christmas and a wonderful New Year!

DECEMBER BIRTHDAY

12th-Roy Michaud

16th-Robert Long

19th-Beverly Boussem

19th-Donna Euerle

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARY

25th-Nancy & Bart Plymale

- ❖ Shelly Baumann continues to recover from her foot surgery and looks forward to seeing everyone again soon. She had to stay off of it for three weeks and will have limited mobility for a little longer with no driving for up to eight weeks. Manny the cat is enjoying the extra lap time during the recuperation.
- ❖ The Mavericks had two great weeks in Arcadia and then returned home to a wonderful Veterans' Day Parade. Their daughter Lori was the Grand Marshall! I read on FaceBook (you know how nosy I am) and Lori is a former Ssgt in the United States Air Force, a former police officer with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and is now with the Police Department of the City of Brockton, Massachusetts. Wow! She is so deserving of Grand Marshall honor. Congratulations, Lori! I know your parents are so, so proud of you!
- ❖ Joe and Phylis Mancuso are spending some much needed time with family in New Jersey. They are very happy to be spending Thanksgiving with family and thankful that Phylis' appointments went well. They are looking forward to returning to Arcadia December 2nd. Joe will be having cataract surgery starting the first week of December. I have missed Joe and Phylis bunches and wish them safe travel coming back to us!
- ❖ Pat Novean and Bob Harrington are looking forward to spending time with family in the upcoming weeks. Thanksgiving will be spent in Beverly Hills, FL with her two sisters and their husbands. The first weekend in December, Bob's two daughters will be visiting. Then the next weekend Pat and Bob will fly off to Virginia (brrr) to attend a dance recital where her granddaughter has a lead role in a ballet about the Grinch. They will celebrate an early Christmas with her daughter, son-in-law and granddaughter. Bob and Pat are both thankful that they will be able to spend time with family.
- ❖ November was a busy month for Rosanne Collins. First her sister Barbara came for two weeks. They stayed busy seeing the sites and playing a lot of cards. Both of her sisters were to come but sister Joyce has cancer and was unable to make that trip. Joyce did however come down with all of her family for a special visit at Disney. Rosanne spent three days with them in the middle of November and will be making plans to go to Massachusetts in late spring. Please remember Rosanne in your prayers; she has faced so much loss in her family recently and we all know how difficult that is.
- ❖ Vivian Stewart loved having family for thanksgiving. Her stepson and precious daughter-in-law were there and the house was hopping with grandkids. Vivian was doing a lot of cooking!
- ❖ Dante Lanzetta reports the same old same old there, He is guessing they will travel down either the last week of 2019 or the first of 2020. This month has averaged over 12 degrees below normal but today hit 50 degrees! I am wishing them safe travel back to Florida!
- ❖ It is great to see Dawn Crippen back with us. Always miss her when she is at her "other" home.
- ❖ I am looking forward to being with my family in December as we celebrate our "Bourne Christmas". We will have Poosers, Hathcocks, one Edwards, one Sautter, one Northcutt and one Bourne there but we all share Bourne ties. I am thinking Elizabeth Grace will be the star of the day!

See you in church!

Irene

*See ECW-Men's Group Christmas Dinner Party information next page
(RSVP by December 3rd to Irene Pooser)*

Christmas Dinner Party
ECW. Men's Group & Guests
Wednesday, December 11th 5:30 pm
Mary Margaret's

\$20.15 per meal includes tax
Gratuity will be paid by ECW

Dinner Options

Please select one main course option for each attendee.

Option 1

Homemade Soup of the Day
Baked Chicken, Homemade Mashed Potatoes, Vegetable

Option 2

Homemade Soup of the Day
Curry Chicken with White Rice

Also please select one dessert option for each attendee

Sticky Toffee Pudding
White Chocolate Pudding & Carmel Sauce

Soft drink or a cup of tea is included with meal
Wine available for \$5.00/glass

Please respond by December 3 to Irene Pooser at 863-444-9019 or
irenepooser@gmail.com

Hope you can join us!

STEWARDSHIP

Hello All.

First of all, thank you for your generosity during the Stewardship campaign.

The finance committee is busy working on the 2020 budget. However, it is still not too late to make your commitment for 2020. There are still a few we haven't heard from, and the commitment forms are available in the back of the church. Please fill out the form and drop it in the offertory plate, or contact Pat Moore with your commitment so we can finalize the 2020 budget.

Thank you one and all for your response.

God Bless You.

Stewardship Coordinator



Sunday, December 22nd , 5:30 pm

ST EDMUND CHURCH

Christmas Party

Hosted by the Bishop's Committee at the home of Nancy Jo & Robert Vaughn
(830 North Johnson Avenue, Arcadia)

NOTE: CHRISTMAS FLOWERS MAY BE DEDICATED UNTIL DECEMBER 15TH

-----Contact Irene Pooser-----

MEMBERSHIP & CHURCH DIRECTORY

Please contact Carolyn McConnell with any changes or updates to your address and contact information

Have you looked at our Online Church Directory?

Follow the directions below to log on the directory

To log in to the directory:

1. Go to **members.InstantChurchDirectory.com**
2. Click on the link: First time signing in? Create a login now.
3. Enter the email address as it is listed in the family portion of the directory.
4. Create a password. The password must be 8 characters long, and contain at least two of the following special characters: capital letters, numbers or symbols.
5. Retype the password to confirm it and click "Request Login."
6. Check your inbox for an email from service@instantchurchdirectory.com.
7. To complete the sign-up process, you will need to verify your email address by clicking on the link sent to you in that email
8. Once you confirm your email, you may sign at members.InstantChurchDirectory.com.

You can read the directory online. Simply click on the name to see the details: photo, address, phone number, email, birthdays, anniversaries.

Your email with the password you created will work on all the Instant Church Directory apps on any device. All you have to do is go to "Apps" on your device and search for "Instant Church Directory." If you have not made an account yet, follow steps 2 through 7 above. If you have already used the program just sign in with the same username and password.

DAUGHTERS OF THE KING

The Daughters of the King (DOK) is a lay order of the Episcopal Church dedicated to prayer and service. The St. Edmund chapter was formed in 2006. The weekly prayer list is maintained by this group and used as focus for their prayer. The St. Edmund chapter meeting is the first Thursday of the month at 10:00 am. See chapter president Ruth Adams about becoming a member of DOK. This month's meeting is on Thursday, December 5th, at 10:00 am.

EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN

St. Edmund's once again participated in the community Halloween Event at the Turner Center. Thanks to all who donated their time and/or money to help keep the children of our county safe and happy.

The ECW will be collecting unwrapped Christmas toys and gifts for children of all ages from November 24th to December 15th to be distributed through the Safe Children' Coalition. This organization helps families in crisis situations through counseling and assistance as needed. St.Edmund's makes a difference to the children involved; many of them are living in foster care.

The ECW needs your help to assist in decorating our church for Christmas following the 10:00 service on December 22nd. The more hands, the faster we finish! I know St.Edmund's will be beautiful as always.

In addition, please plan on bringing finger food to share at the Reception following the Christmas Eve Mass.

The ECW and the Men's Group will share a festive time with a delicious meal on December 11th at Mary Margaret's Tea and Biscuit. All who participate in these groups and their guests are invited to reserve a dinner. If you are not a regular participant but are interested in sharing the dinner with us please do! All are welcome! Just see Irene Pooser for details.

The ECW wishes the people of St.Edmund's God's peace and happiness and a wonderful Christmas!

Charlene Michaud, President

ST. EDMUND CHURCH ECW

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS TOY COLLECTION



Bring new "unwrapped" toys to church
December 1st-15th, 2019

TOYS FOR DESOTO COUNTY NEEDY CHILDREN (SAFE CHILDREN COALITION)

LITURGICAL MINISTRIES SCHEDULE

	DEC 1	DEC 8	DEC 15	DEC 22	DEC 24	DEC 29
ALTAR GUILD	Irene Pooser	Linda Gromen	Carolyn McConnell	Sandy Stantz Patricia DiCioccio	Irene Pooser Ruth Adams	Pat Moore
LEM	Linda Gromen	Pat Moore	Linda Gromen	Pat Novean	Joe Mancuso	Irene Pooser
ACOLYTE	Irene Pooser	Joe Mancuso	Pat Moore	Bob Harrington	Pat Moore	Joe Mancuso
PRAYERS	Pat Moore	Irene Pooser	Nancy Jo Vaughn	Bob Harrington	X	Pat Moore
LECTOR 8:00	Bob Euerle	Haila Lewis	Wendy Carter	Bob Euerle	X	Haila Lewis
LECTOR 10:00	Rosemary Seal	Pearl Kiellman	James Bianco	Kent DeBrueler	Bob Harrington	Pat Moore
GREETERS	Brenda Brazil Mary Williamson	Irene & Michael Pooser	Steve & James Bianco	Phylis & Joe Mancuso	Pat Novean Bob Harrington	Charlene & Roy Michaud

The Work of Christmas

(apoem by Howard Thurman)

*When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and the princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:*

*To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among brothers,
To make music in the heart!*

DECEMBER 2019

NA=Narcotic Anonymous DOK=Daughters of the King

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1 8:00 am Eucharist 10:00 am Eucharist 7:00 pm Eucharist (Spanish)	2	3 4:30 Advent Evening Prayer/supper 7:00 pm NA	4	5 10:00 am DOK 7:00 pm NA	6
8 8:00 am Eucharist 10:00 am Eucharist 7:00 pm Eucharist (Spanish)	9	10 4:30 Advent Evening Prayer/supper 7:00 pm NA	11 5:30 pm ECW- Men's Group Christmas Dinner	12 7:00 pm NA	13
15 8:00 am Eucharist 10:00 am Eucharist 7:00 pm Eucharist (Spanish)	16	17 4:30 Advent Evening Prayer/supper 7:00 pm NA	18	19 7:00 pm NA	20
22 8:00 am Eucharist 10:00 am Eucharist 5:30 Church Christmas Party 7:00 pm Eucharist (Spanish)	23	24 9:30 pm Music Program 10:00 pm Eucharist (followed Festive Reception)	25	26 7:00 pm NA	27
29 8:00 am Eucharist 10:00 am Eucharist 7:00 pm Eucharist (Spanish)	30	31 7:00 pm NA			