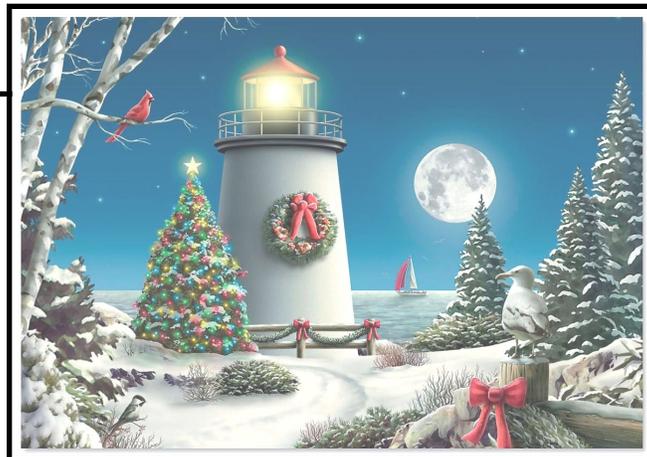

Christmas is Visiting the Lighthouse



I thought the best perspective in knowing the purpose of Christmas is to understand it as one visiting the Lighthouse. It is going to where you hear the sounds of the waves breaking, climbing a steep hill, and ascending many steps to behold the bright light. The Light is Jesus. It is your annual pilgrimage to the Lighthouse.

Then for the rest of the year you follow where the Lighthouse's beams shine into the landscape around you. When you have been so close to the Light it is easy to discern everywhere the Light shines during the course of the year.

Then Jesus again spoke to them, saying, "I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life." (John 8:12)

"While I am in the world, I am the Light of the world." (John 9:5)

At the end of every year we return to the Lighthouse. The Lighthouse Keeper asks "Where did you follow, reflect, and shine my Light during the year?" We share the stories about those who needed a guide when they lost their way, others burdened with too great a load to handle on their own, and how we brightened lives dimmed while traversing life's troubled storms.

It is that time to listen for the sound of the waves breaking; the Holy Spirit speaking to our hearts saying "Come let us adore Christ the King." Let us rise above the hectic busyness of this year to praise Jesus who is truly above all. Then we must embrace the Light with enthusiasm with the same joyous intensity as those that heard about the Savior's birth thousands of years ago.

"Let us welcome God's bright and shining Morning Star. A child born in a manger. A Son sent to redeem a world. A Savior came to renew all things. May His light shine on you. May His light shine in you. May His light shine through you. The Light of God's Christmas Star be with you in the season of new birth."

Think Eternal and Tend to Your Soul, Merry Christmas.....Rev Ed

Christmas 'Tis the Season for Familiar Christmas Hymns

We begin the Advent season with the singing of "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus." Composed in 1745 with an emphasis on the prophecies fulfilled in the birth of the Messiah. Jesus was born to deliver His people and with the help of the Holy Spirit Jesus would rule in our hearts alone.



"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing," from 1739, was originally written as "Hark! How All the Welkin Rings" (meaning "how all the heaven rings"). Thankfully, Charles Wesley's popular Christmas carol was changed by his friend George Whitefield, the famous evangelist who sparked America's Great Awakening. And Charles wanted it to be sung to slow and solemn music; that didn't happen either.

New Year for Church Officers and Committee Members

An updated officers and committee members list will be placed on the foyer table. Thank you for helping us fulfill our ministry obligations. The Staff Pastor Parish Relations Committee (SPPRC) will be meeting immediately. Both the Pastor and the SPPRC are asked by the Bishop "Do you want your pastor to return for another assignment year?" It is important that members of the congregation communicate with the SPPRC throughout the year.

Cookies, Cakes, and Candy

Habitat for Humanity Annual Bake Sale!

Saturday, December 8th at
St. Martin of Tours Catholic Church Fellowship Hall
8:00 until noon.

****Bring your baked donations to our BUMC office
by Noon, Friday, December 7th****

Cookie Sale



Christmas in Carols

2018 Children and Youth Christmas program
Sunday, December 9 at 5:00 p.m.

Following the program we have a **Birthday Party for Jesus!**
Please bring a finger food and come join the celebration!
We encourage all youth and children in the church (whether you come regularly or not) to participate.

Epiphany Service Sunday, January 6, 2019

6:00 p.m. Clay Hill Church

Come enjoy a rustic old country church celebration of that wondrous worship of the Christ Child by the wise men. The candlelight and the old wood frame church create a marvelous meaningful setting to offer praise to the King of kings.



12 Christmas PRAYERS

- 1 Faith** Father God, it is by Your grace we have been saved, and through our faith - this is not from ourselves, but a gift from you - not by our works. Ephesians 2:8-9
- 2 Hope** May the God of Hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in Hope. Romans 15:4
- 3 Love** Help us to love because You first loved us. 1 John 4:19
- 4 Forgiveness** Thank you for being faithful and just in forgiving us our sins and thus purifying us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:9
- 5 Mercy** Let us be merciful, just as our Father is merciful. Luke 6:36
- 6 Kindness** Let us be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as through Jesus, You forgave us. Ephesians 4:32
- 7 Generosity** Let us be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, and to give the glory and thanks to you Lord! 2 Corinthians 9:11
- 8 Compassion** Let us live in harmony with one another, be sympathetic and compassionate, love as brothers, and be humble. 1 Peter 3:8
- 9 Joy** Let us be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Romans 12:12
- 10 Salvation** Thank you for providing Jesus who is the way, the truth, the life and the only way to You. John 14:6
- 11 Obedience** Help us to not merely listen to Your Word, and so deceive ourselves. Help us do what it says. James 1:22-25
- 12 Life** Thank you for coming that we may have life, and have it to the full. John 10:10