



# SEA NOTES

**A Monthly Publication of Shepherd of the Sea**  
East Fort Macon Road, Atlantic Beach, NC 28512 [www.soselca.org](http://www.soselca.org)

**DECEMBER 2023**

Dear church,

Happy Advent! Beginning the first week in December we enter the season of waiting in the church year. Our worship space paraments turn to blue to signify hope. We wait with hope for the coming Lord. While our culture pushes us ahead (Christmas trees going up December 1!), we sit in the waiting season with hope.



This advent we have two opportunities for worship each week. On Sunday morning at 10am, and then again each Wednesday. I invite you to join us for a Wednesday evening supper at 5:45, and worship at 6:30pm. This is a time each week where we can join together in fellowship and pause our busy lives to breathe in God's peace.

December 24 comes on a Sunday this year. In the morning we will continue to celebrate the fourth Sunday in advent with a breakfast church! We will meet in the fellowship hall that morning at 10am (no Sunday school), and have a pot-luck breakfast with some time for prayer, discussion, and fellowship. At 5pm we will celebrate Christmas Eve with song, story, and candle lighting. Special music will start at 4:30pm, and it promises to be a joyous evening as we at last begin to welcome the Christ child.

Don't just "make it through" December this year, but join us in the waiting with hope and anticipation. Be present and enjoy all that this season can bring.

Blessings on the journey,  
Pastor Kelly

# CHURCH HAPPENINGS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

**Vision and Cottage Meetings:** After the great response, attendance, and conversation during the cottage meetings, we have compiled the data and responses as we move toward a mission statement. Wanting to be sure all have a chance to be a part of this process, we will continue to talk about it into the new year as we dream about what we look like as a faith community moving forward. Stay tuned for our next part of the process!

**Youth News:** The new youth room is almost complete! The youth had an idea for how they wanted their space to look, and worked hard to paint it and make it their own. Once the room is complete, we will hold a room blessing during fellowship, so keep an eye out for that date so that all who want to can attend. In the new year, the youth hope to do some more activities together and build their relationship with God.

**Advent Midweek Services:** We will be holding Wednesday night services throughout the season of Advent. We begin with a meal at 5:45, followed by worship at 6:30. If you would like to provide any food for the meal, please sign up in the narthex.

**Save the Date:** We will hold our Annual Congregational Meeting on January 21 following the service.

**Christmas Eve at SOS:** December 24 falls on a Sunday this year. In the morning at 10am, we will celebrate the fourth Sunday in Advent with Breakfast Church. This is potluck service held in the fellowship hall. It will be casual and we'll have worship throughout our breakfast. Sign up in the Narthex if you plan to bring a dish (but just bring yourself if you choose!). At 5pm we will celebrate Christmas Eve with a family friendly service in the sanctuary, including communion and candle lighting. Join us that joyous day (and bring a friend!) to celebrate the coming of our Lord!

**Wednesday Bible Study:** Wednesday Bible study is currently on hiatus through Advent, but we begin again on January 3 at 11am. We will be doing a study on *Holy Envy: Finding God in the Faith of Others* by Barbara Brown Taylor. In this study, our class will read a few chapters before we meet each week, and will discuss how other religious traditions help to give us insights into our own faith journeys. If you would like to buy a book through the church office, please sign up in the narthex by December 17. Please join us for this faithful discussion and fellowship.

**Property Improvements:** Thank you to all who worked hard to update the bathrooms in our building. They look fresh and beautiful. Thank you to those who donated financially for this needed update. Thank you to Malcolm Condie and Kathy Dabbs who were here working for full days leading up to the floor installation, and who did a lot of extra work on this project. And thank you especially to property lead Wayne Dabbs who coordinated and did so much work over the past months to make this happen! We are blessed to have Wayne share his time and gifts in this way.





*Be an Angel...*

## Project Christmas Cheer

It's time to think of Christmas and helping those in need. At Shepherd of the Sea, we will not only provide Project Christmas Cheer children with **gifts but also provide food for each family**. Though children will be available for adoption beginning Sunday, November 19, we'd like to start collecting food now.

### Shopping List for Food: (Feeds a family of 2-3)

Canned vegetables (corn, green beans, peas, mixed vegetables) (4)  
Yams/Sweet Potatoes  
Baked Beans  
Ramen Noodles (several packages)  
Mac n Cheese, boxed  
SpagettiOs  
Rice  
Cake Mix/Frosting or Brownie Mix

Instant Potatoes  
Package Gravy Mix  
Pasta & Pasta Sauce  
Chicken Noodle Soup (2)  
Hot Oatmeal (packages)  
Applesauce  
Peanut Butter  
Food Lion \$20 Gift Card for Meat

### Other Ways to Help with Project Christmas Cheer:

- Pick one or more Angels from our Angel Tree or email [karma@healthpromo.com](mailto:karma@healthpromo.com)
- Make a financial contribution (make check to Shepherd of the Sea with "Project Christmas Cheer" in the memo line)



### December Altar Flowers

12/3—Carol Montgomery  
12/10—Raymond & Libby Munn  
12/17-Ginger Fulcher  
12/24—Patricia Pilus

### Member Update Information

If your address, email or phone number has changed in the last year, please email us at [SOSELCA@gmail.com](mailto:SOSELCA@gmail.com) with your updated information.

## LECTIONARY READINGS for: DECEMBER 2023

Color of the Day	December 3 First Sunday of Advent	December 10 Second Sunday of Advent	December 17 Third Sunday of Advent	December 24 Fourth Sunday of Advent	
First Reading	Isaiah 64:1-9	Isaiah 40:1-11	Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11	2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16	
Psalm	Psalm 80:1-7,17-19	Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13	Psalm 126 or Luke 1:46b-55	Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26 or Luke 1:46b-55	
Second Reading	1 Corinthians 1:3-9	2 Peter 3:8-15a	1 Thessalonians 5:16-24	Romans 16:25-27	
Gospel	Mark 13:24-37	Mark 1:1-8	John 1:6-8, 19-28	Luke 1:26-38	

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