



SEA NOTES

A Monthly Publication of Shepherd of the Sea

East Fort Macon Road, Atlantic Beach, NC 28512 www.soselca.org

JANUARY 2024

Dear Church,

Happy New Year! I hope that you were blessed in your advent waiting and preparing, and that your Christmas was filled with joy and hope at the birth of Christ!

This time of year is often a time filled with reflection of the past and reflections of who or where we are. And then setting goals or resolutions for where we might like to see ourselves next year at this time. The new year's resolutions we see often involve our physical size or our diets, maybe our mental health or parenting patience, sometimes our financial health. But I don't often see resolutions on our faith.

And if we choose to focus more on our faith and where we would like to see that by this time next year, how would ourselves and our church be changed to focus more on Jesus? Maybe we could resolve to be better stewards of the financial gifts God blesses us with and give more into the ministries in our congregation. When it feels like we don't ever have enough money, what would it look like to give more to God first? Maybe we could resolve to spend more time with God this year. When it feels like there is never enough time, how could our relationship with our creator deepen by making sure we spend more time with God? Maybe we could look around and see where our towns or communities are most in need. When we have a passion for helping and loving others like Christ, how can we help others in meaningful and Christ-like ways?

What resolutions or goals could you make as we turn the calendar to a new year that would help to strengthen and guide your faith this year? How can you see the Holy Spirit at work in you and in our congregation in 2024?

This can be something you begin to think about, and continue to prayerfully consider as we move into our new year. Thank you for being a part of our faith community. And thank you to all for the gifts and cards for me and my family this Christmas, we are so blessed to be doing ministry alongside you!

Blessings on the journey,

Pastor Kelly

CHURCH HAPPENINGS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday Bible Study: We restart our Bible Study again on Wednesday, 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, we 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. Please join us for this faithful discussion and fellowship.

Annual Congregational Meeting: We will have our annual congregational meeting on Sunday, January 21 following Worship. All members are encouraged to attend.

Thank You to all who helped make our Advent and Christmastime meaningful!
To the cooks, musicians, readers, hospitality ministry, those who worked on the property improvements, acolytes, altar care, choirs, educators, ushers, worship assistants-Thank you for sharing your time and gifts with us all!

A big thank you
from Pastor Kelly,
Ron, Alicia and
Jeanette for the
generous
Christmas gifts.



***Update* – PROJECT CHRISTMAS CHEER**

From November 19 through December 15, Shepherd of the Sea was transformed again into Santa's Workshop for Project Christmas Cheer. With the help from members, friends and community, we were able to support 16 families, provided gifts to 33 children and food to a total of 56 individuals. County-wide, Project Christmas Cheer helped 706 children, 352 families, 159 seniors and 467 adults. For all those who volunteered, the reward came with the heartfelt thanks from the parents picking up the gifts and food, and the children's excitement and big smiles when they saw the bag of gifts or a bicycle that would be theirs. Thank you to those who sponsored the children, donated food and money, and our volunteers: Vickie Braswell, Pat Castagna, Diane Eggemyer, Ginger Fulcher, Alicia Haas, John Hagle, Bob Hamilton, Janet Hassing, Lauren Herbst and Karma Rodholm.

LECTIONARY READINGS for: JANUARY 2024

Color of the Day	January 7 Epiphany of Our Lord	January 14 Baptism of Our Lord	January 21 3rd Sunday after Epiphany	January 28 4th Sunday after Epiphany
First Reading	Isaiah 60:1-6	Genesis 1:1-5	Jonah 3:1-5, 10	Deuteronomy 18:15-20
Psalm	Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14	Psalm 29	Psalm 62:5-12	Psalm 111
Second Reading	Ephesians 3:1-12	Act 19:1-7	1 Corinthians 7:29-31	1 Corinthians 8:1-13
Gospel	Matthew 2:1-12	Mark 1:4-11	Mark 1:14-20	Mark 1:21-28

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