

THE RED DOOR MESSENGER

November 2015

SHARING CHRIST'S INCLUSIVE LOVE THROUGH
WORSHIP, HEALING PRAYER, BEAUTY AND
HOSPITALITY



Christ Church Albertville

November 2015

All Saints Day and the War on Halloween

There is a war on Halloween. You may not have heard of it, but there is an effort by some to replace Halloween with Harvest Festivals or Fall Flings, or in the worst case scenarios, Judgment Houses. Halloween is considered by some to be evil, created by Satan or at best confusing or un-necessary. Contrary to these ideas, I believe Halloween is a part of what I call the "Sacred Three Days." Yes, in the Christian Church, we commonly refer to Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter (or the Great Vigil of Easter) as the Sacred Three Days, and I agree that they are.

I also happen to believe that Halloween, All Saints Day and All Souls Day are a second "Sacred three Days." Halloween began as a Celtic Festival presided over by Druid Priests in Northern Britain before Christianity came into the Island after 600 CE. In the dark, short days of Fall and Winter people's thoughts turned to the fear of those things that can hurt or frighten them. Wild beasts, lack of food, the apparent death of plants that sustained their lives, and the worst fear of all, their own deaths. The Feast of Samhain gave them a chance to stare fear and death in the face and refuse to give in to them. To believe that darkness would be preceded by light, winter by spring and death by life. This gave them an opportunity to believe that life was stronger than death. Samhain was seen as a liminal time, when the boundary between this world and the Otherworld could more easily be crossed. This meant the 'spirits' could more easily come into our world."

When Christianity came into the British Isles after 600, the Christians as they are wont to do, adopted the feast of Samhain and Baptized it and it became "All Hallows Eve," the eve of All Saints Day, the day that those Saints who had become examples for Christians on how to live their lives. Later the celebration of the lives of ordinary people, those who are saints to their friends and family and nobody else, began to be celebrated. This was a time to celebrate the fact that life is stronger than death, that good is stronger than evil and that even when one is afraid, it is possible to stand up to those things of which we are afraid, including the greatest fear of all, the fear of death. Four centuries later the commemoration of those personal saints was moved to the following day, November 2.

As we twenty-first century Christians celebrate this powerful triduum, we draw on Holy Scripture for inspiration and words to express those feelings for which we are, at times, speechless.

On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food,
a feast of well-matured wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-matured wines strained clear.
And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread
over all nations; he will swallow up death for ever.

Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take
away from all the earth, for the Lord has spoken. It will be said on that day,
Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us. This is the Lord for whom we
have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

All Hallows Eve, "Halloween," All Saints Day and All Souls Day give us an opportunity to participate in the
things that are important to us. To dress up as creatures that are frightening or exciting or challenging, and to
have fun doing it. To stare fear and death in the face and to proclaim that love is stronger than fear and that
life is stronger than death.

The Church on All Saints and All Souls Days gives us a safe space to use all of our senses in remembering
"those whom we love but see no more." We burn incense and we pray for our departed loved ones, the good,
the bad and the ugly. At Christ Church we light candles in their memories, perhaps shedding a few tears, smil-
ing at found memories and often offering forgiveness, or asking forgiveness.

In our prayers and our sermons we remember honestly our lives together, where we loved and where we were
shown love, where we were hurt and where we hurt others. As we gather together on these days we know
those in our midst who have lost loved ones, not just from "natural causes," but through tragedy: loved ones
who died in tragic accidents, or from horrible diseases much too young; who were murdered or committed
suicide or died of drug overdoses.

All Saints and All Souls offer us an opportunity to offer up our grief and pain to God as we pray for continual
healing. It also offers us an opportunity to remember again, that all of those who have Gone before us are gifts
to us from God, and they we are gifts from God to them. I use the present tense, because we as Christians
believe that for God's people, life is changed not ended, and that the relationships we have with them and with
each other can never end.

John the Divine reminds us in The New Testament book of Revelation that:

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth has passed away,
and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from
God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,
'See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God
himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and
crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away.' And
the one who is seated on the throne said, 'See, I am making all things new.'

The writer and Presbyterian Minister, Fredrick Buechner wrote in words much better than I can:

On all Saints' Day, it is not just the saints of the church that we should remember in our prayers, but all
the foolish ones and wise ones, the shy ones and overbearing ones, the broken ones and whole ones,
the despots and tosspots and crackpots of our lives who one way or another, have been our particular
fathers, mothers, (sisters and brothers), and saints.

STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY UPDATE

As you know, we at Christ Episcopal Church consider stewardship a year round activity that reflects our involvement with: the Creation; Relationships; Spirituality; Talents; and Finances.

We are active in the community in several ways and always have room for more people to help support these programs.

- We participate with Keep Albertville Beautiful (KAB) in being responsible for cleaning up McDonald Avenue from Sand Mountain Drive to the entrance to the chicken factory. So far, we had 2 cleanup sessions in September - a Saturday group and a Monday group. It is getting close to cleanup time again. You will hear more about that when dates are set.

- We have collected a box full of toiletries (shampoo, shower gel, deodorant, toothpaste, tooth brushes, etc.) for the Room in the Inn program and/or the Domestic Violence Shelter. This is an ongoing project, so continue to bring in your travel size items. We are obtaining more information on how we may help Church of the Epiphany with the Room in the Inn program.

- We plan to sponsor children for the Christmas Coalition program. We ask for a donation of \$75 to give Christmas to a child in our area who qualifies for the program. There is a sign up sheet on the bulletin board. We have contributed to this program for many years.

- The Junior Chamber of Commerce from Albertville High School will be collecting coats , gently worn, gloves, mittens, toboggans and scarfs for teens and children. They will have a box at the church. Please bring coats that are in good shape but that you don't need anymore to the church so we can help those in need.

- Our Parish Annual Meeting is Christ The King Sunday (November 22, 2015). We will see the budget for 2016 and determine 3 new Vestry members for next year. Our individual pledges of time, talent and finances are the mainstay of our ability to minister to our members and the wider community.

Our goal of Stewardship is to help people grow in their relationship with Jesus through the use of time, talent and finances that God has entrusted to them.

*Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday and Thursday
9:00 AM to 12:00 PM and 1:00 to 3:00 PM.
Please call or email me with any questions or concerns
you may have*

PARISH WISH LIST

*Sharing Christ's Inclusive love
through worship, healing prayer,
beauty, and hospitality.*

*Ivory Colored 8 1/2 x 11 Legal
Paper for our worship bulletins.*

*Colored Paper 8 1/2 x 11 Legal
Paper for our Announcements.*



Happy November Birthday's
Kathy Wilemon November 2
Barbara Waterworth November 9
Terry Mayhall November 14
Angie Rodriguez November 16



Our **Thoughts &**
Prayers
are with...

**In our Parish Family Cycle of Prayer,
remember and pray for Brenda and
Terry Mayhall, Fran Mayo, Al and
Deborah Palacol, Tommy and Elaine
Phillips, Mel and Pat Potts.**



Feast of Christ the King, Advent and Christ Church Annual Meeting

Almighty and everlasting God, whose will it is to restore all things in your well-beloved Son, the King of kings and Lord of lords: Mercifully grant that the peoples of the earth, divided and enslaved by sin, may be freed and brought together under his most gracious rule; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.* (BCP, p. 236)

The Feast of Christ the King is celebrated on the last Sunday of the Year (the Church Year, not the Calendar Year). The year begins on the First Sunday of Advent during which the Coming Christ is proclaimed by the Holy Spirit, Angels, John the Baptist and Mary. During the year with the help of the Sunday Gospel readings, we walk with Jesus on his journey as he “grows in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and Human Beings.

We share in his victories and in his trials and tribulations, we are there when he is welcomed and praised and when he is despised and rejected. Everyone had a vision of who the Messiah would be, of what he would do and of how he would make their world better. As it turned out many people were disappointed in him. He spoke truth to power, the government and the religious establishment. Turns out ‘power’ did not appreciate the truth. He spoke truth to his disciples. Turns out they did not always like truth either.

Borrowing from the Prophet Isaiah, Jesus proclaimed a vision of the Kingdom of God on Earth as it is in Heaven.

When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: ‘The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favour.’ (Luke 4:16-19)

Jesus gave hope to all those who would listen to him, to those who were open to a God and a life larger than they could ever ask or imagine. He also healed the sick, raised the dead and taught people that the only Commandment that mattered was “love the Lord your God with all your heart and mind and soul and strength, and Love your neighbor as yourself.”

On Christ the King we celebrate the achievement of that goal as well as the reality that its ultimate achievement depends on those of us who follow Jesus on the Way.

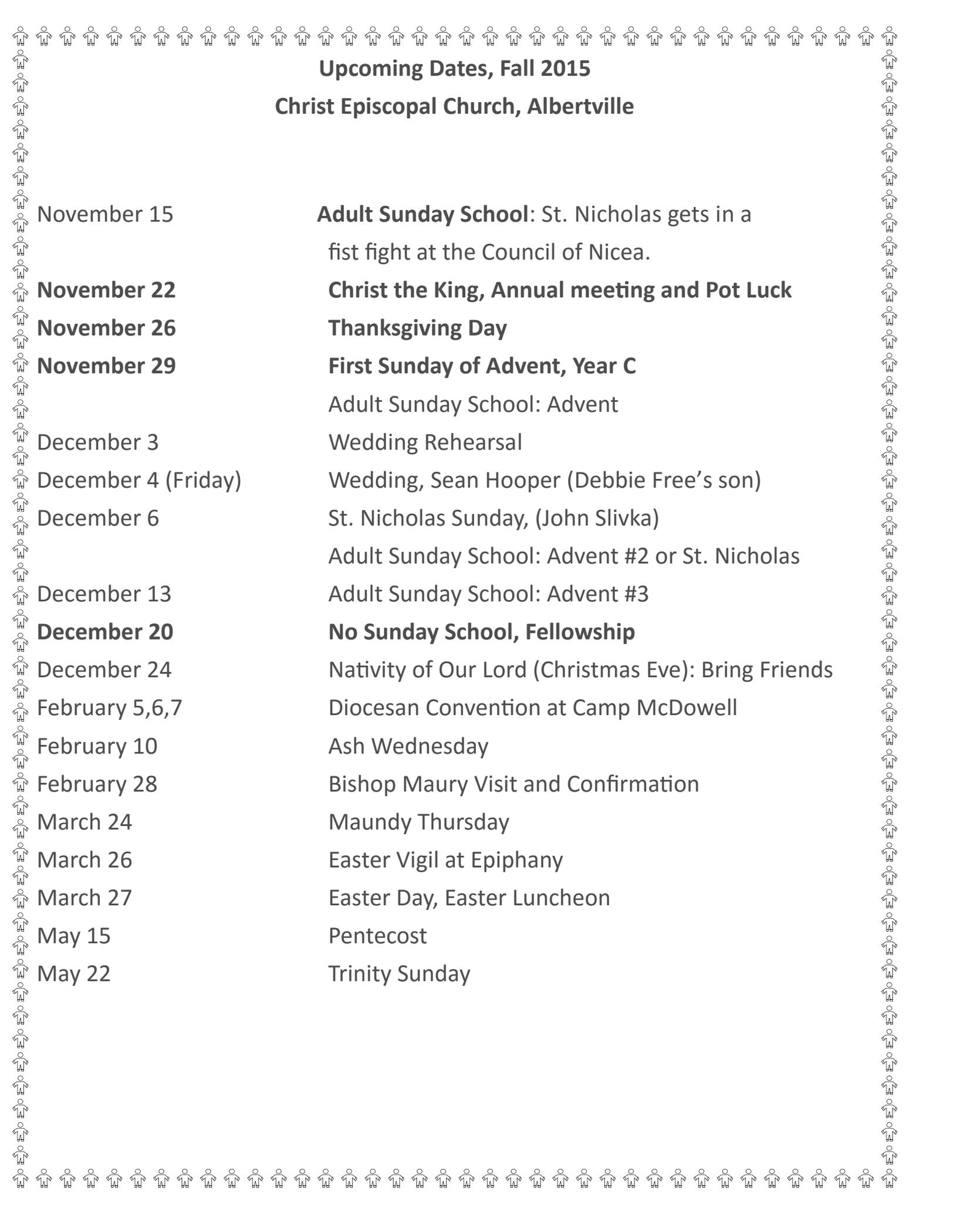
We begin the new year as we ended: “Mercifully grant that the peoples of the earth, divided and enslaved by sin, may be freed and brought together under his most gracious rule.” *Amen.*

SERVANTS LISTING FOR NOVEMBER 2015

REMEMBER IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO FIND A REPLACEMENT FOR ANY DATE THAT YOU ARE SCHEDULED.

WE REALLY NEED VOLUNTEERS IN THE AREAS BELOW, PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE OR FATHER BEN IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN

	NOV 1	NOV 8	NOV 15	NOV 22	NOV 29
LEM 1/Server	Brenda Mayhall	Glenda Wooten	Julie Spivey	Teddy LaMunyon	Sara Watwood
LEM 2/ Gospel Bearer	Sara Watwood	Ben Cumming	Brenda Mayhall	Joe Thomas	Phylis Thompson
Lector	Alan Battle, Jr.	Annette Cederholm	Odes Wilemon	Fran Mayo	Julie Spivey
Crucifer	Kathy Wilemon	Pat Clanton	Joe Thomas	Alan Battle, Jr.	Brenda Mayhall
Torch Bearers	Katie Battle/ Stella Spivey	No Torches	No Torches	Glenda Wooten/ Brenda Mayhall	No Torches
Prayers of the People	Ben Cumming	James Harris	Mel Potts	Odes Wilemon	Myra Southerland
Ushers	Julie Spivey/ Terry Mayhall	Dick Jackson/ Joe Thomas	Brenda Mayhall/ James Harris	Stella Spivey/Julie Spivey	James Harris/Joe Thomas
Greeter	Ann Baldwin	James Harris	Stella Spivey	Mel Potts	Mel Potts
Altar Guild	Susan and Ben Cumming	Brenda Mayhall/ Tommy Thompson	Susan and Ben Cumming	Pat Clanton/Mel Potts	Brenda Mayhall/ Teddy LaMunyon
Flower Guild	Brenda Mayhall	Glenda Wooten	Ron Scruggs	Norma Liles	Julie Spivey
Coffee Hosts	Joe and Betty Thomas	Chase and Sara Watwood	Teddy LaMunyon/ Ron Scruggs	Pot Luck Luncheon	Al and Pat Clanton
Vestry Person of The Day	Pat Clanton	Annette Cederholm	Mel Potts	Mel Potts	Meredith Battle
Alms Counter with VPOD	James Harris	Fran Mayo	James Harris	Fran Mayo	Mel Potts



Upcoming Dates, Fall 2015
Christ Episcopal Church, Albertville

November 15

Adult Sunday School: St. Nicholas gets in a fist fight at the Council of Nicea.

November 22

Christ the King, Annual meeting and Pot Luck

November 26

Thanksgiving Day

November 29

First Sunday of Advent, Year C

Adult Sunday School: Advent

December 3

Wedding Rehearsal

December 4 (Friday)

Wedding, Sean Hooper (Debbie Free's son)

December 6

St. Nicholas Sunday, (John Slivka)

Adult Sunday School: Advent #2 or St. Nicholas

December 13

Adult Sunday School: Advent #3

December 20

No Sunday School, Fellowship

December 24

Nativity of Our Lord (Christmas Eve): Bring Friends

February 5,6,7

Diocesan Convention at Camp McDowell

February 10

Ash Wednesday

February 28

Bishop Maury Visit and Confirmation

March 24

Maundy Thursday

March 26

Easter Vigil at Epiphany

March 27

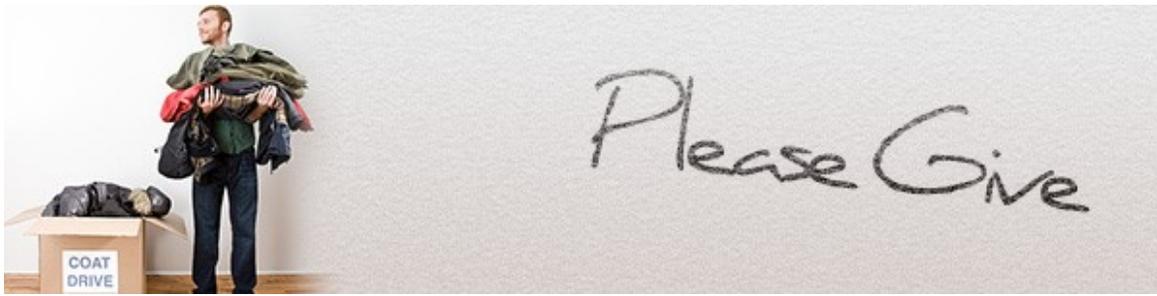
Easter Day, Easter Luncheon

May 15

Pentecost

May 22

Trinity Sunday



Keeping Our City Warm

KAB weekend team needs to get together and plan a day to clean up McDonald street. All equipment is at church. Start at Mtn Dr. and work down to Chicken plant entrance. Call Glenda Wooten for more information.

What? *Collecting new and gently used coats, mittens, scarves, and toboggans for children and teens in the Albertville*

Who?

Junior Board of the Albertville Chamber of Commerce

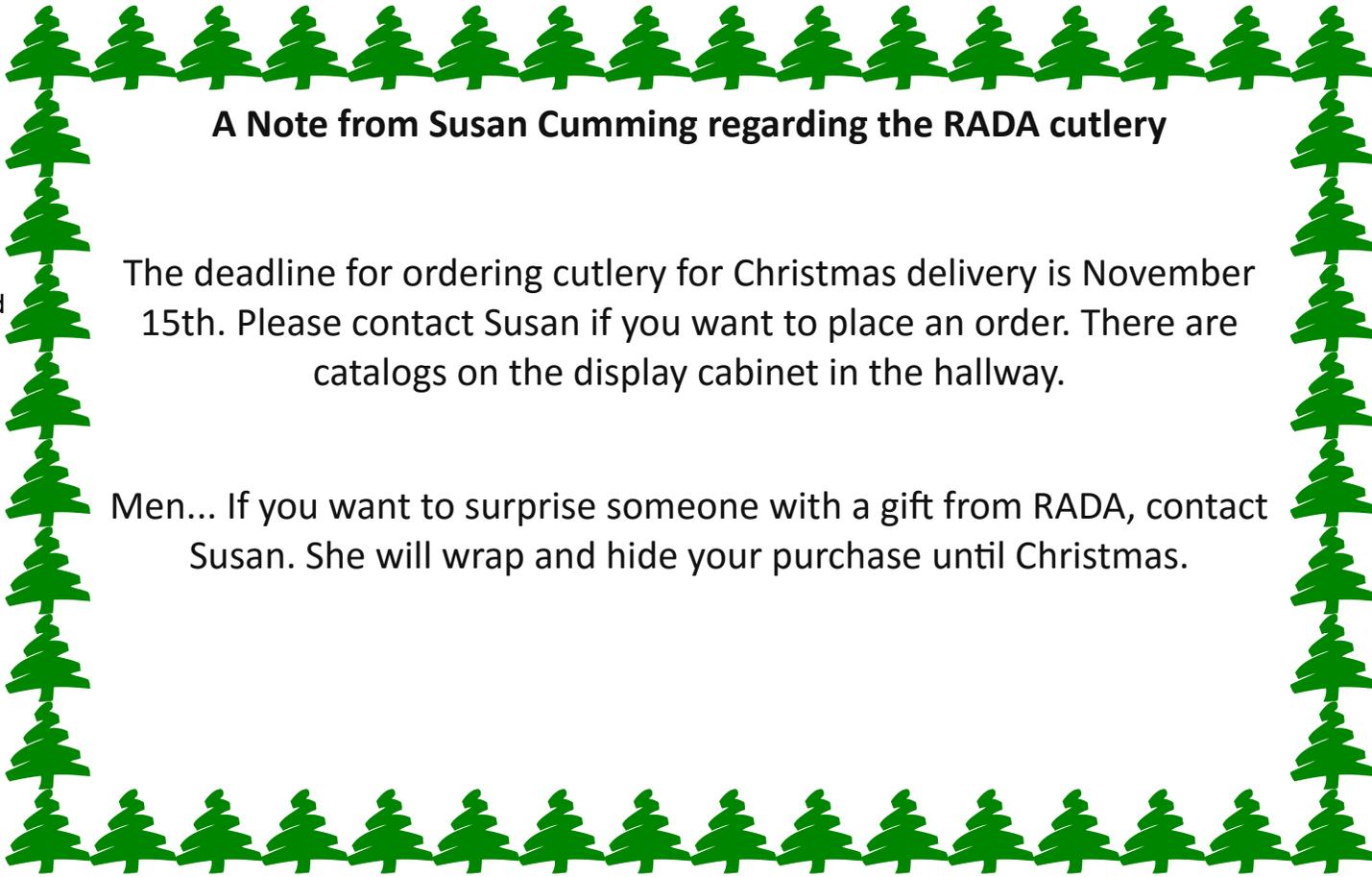
Where?

First Baptist Church, First United Methodist Church, Mt. Calvary Baptist Church, Mt. Vernon Baptist Church, North Broad Street Church of Christ, the Fellowship, Grace Fellowship, Christ Episcopal Church, Solitude Baptist, Albertville Rec. Center, Foodland of Albertville, and the Albertville Chamber of Commerce

When?

November 3rd thru December 9th, 2015.

the Albertville ★
CHAMBER
of Commerce



A Note from Susan Cumming regarding the RADA cutlery

The deadline for ordering cutlery for Christmas delivery is November 15th. Please contact Susan if you want to place an order. There are catalogs on the display cabinet in the hallway.

Men... If you want to surprise someone with a gift from RADA, contact Susan. She will wrap and hide your purchase until Christmas.

Sand



Date change for beans and rice. Below is the new dates.

Thank you.

Bag day - Friday November 20. At 1pm in founders hall.

Distribution day- Saturday November 21 at 8:30 am

Thank you ,

Jackie Brewster.





KAB CLEANUP TEAM

 KAB weekend team needs to get together and plan a day to clean up McDonald street. All equipment is at church. We start at Sand Mtn Dr. and work down to Chicken plant entrance. Call Glenda Wooten fro more information.



Christians invited to celebrate Advent with a camera phone



[Anglican Communion News Service] Anglicans worldwide and all Christians are being invited to observe Advent in a fun and prayerful way through a global online Advent Calendar called *AdventWord*. The season of Advent, from Nov. 29 to Dec. 24, is when Christians observe a time of expectant waiting and preparation for the celebration of the birth of Jesus at Christmas.

AdventWord invites Christians to sign up to receive a daily meditation and respond by posting a picture on Instagram and other social media. The pictures combine to create the Advent Calendar in real time.

In 2014, more than 50,000 people participated and 17,000 pictures were posted. In 2015, AdventWord will be released in English, Chinese, Spanish, Hindi, Tamil, French, Portuguese and German.

Brother Jim Woodram, a monk, explains, "When I was a kid I loved Advent because of Advent Calendars. Each day you pull back one of the little windows and there would be a picture to help you to pray and lead you towards Christmas, when Christ is born. "Now you can sign up on AdventWord.org for your own Advent Calendar online. "What happens is that at 5am, in your time zone, every morning you will get a message in your email inbox, with a meditation from a Brother with a word and a picture. After reading the meditation, we'd love for people to snap a picture that reflects the theme or their response to it and post it to Instagram and other social media.

"Your pictures will appear on AdventWord and bring us together in prayer as we prepare to celebrate Christmas."

Brother Jim is a monk of the Society of Saint John the Evangelist, an Anglican monastic community. The Anglican Communion Office teamed up with the Society of Saint John the Evangelist in Cambridge, Massachusetts, to create AdventWord with support from The Episcopal Church and the Episcopal Diocese of Texas.

AdventWord will be launched at 5 a.m. New Zealand time on Nov. 29 and be managed for the Anglican Communion by the Society of Saint John the Evangelist and Lady Doak College in Madurai, Tamil Nadu, India.

The Rev. Canon Jamie Callaway, general secretary of the Colleges and Universities of the Anglican Communion, whose students are participating on five continents, said: "AdventWord intuitively draws on the cell phone, which today's students globally have made a body part, to discover God's presence in the abundance of creation, civilization and humanity.

"While individually these are prayerful moments, collectively they will display the splendor of creation, which is praise." The Rev. Canon John Kafwanka, director for mission at the Anglican Communion Office, said, "I commend to all members of the Anglican Communion and Christians worldwide AdventWord as a way for you to witness your faith and for us to pray together as a communion and as a Body of Christ as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus at Christmas."