



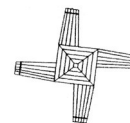
Our Mission:

**"To Know, Live,
and Share God's
Love"**

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Rector's Corner

How many of you find the Nativity stories found in Matthew's and Luke's gospels cute, but somewhat mysterious? Let me explain what I mean. The people of the Roman world were ordered to go to their hometowns to register (for taxation purposes). Think about that....that's an incredible number of people walking the highways and byways, and yet we often see serene and pastoral pictures of Joseph walking ahead of a donkey with Mary, pregnant with child, riding it.

The road from Nazareth to Bethlehem appears deserted, as if the holy family are the only ones on the move. Did you not ever think, "Where's everyone else?" It seems to me that the roads should be filled with pilgrims, in this case going from Nazareth to Bethlehem OR from Bethlehem to Nazareth. (Nazareth had to be the hometown of some peo-

ple!). And obviously, I'm only confining myself to the Middle Eastern region. If this really were a Roman world event, it should have roads jammed with people in what is now Italy and Greece, etc.

arrive in Bethlehem and can find no room at the inn. An innkeeper allows them to stay in a stable with baying animals. Jesus is born, the angels sing, shepherds and wise men visit. Bethlehem is Joseph's hometown. Isn't it odd that he has no relatives in that town, or if he does, they're totally uninvolved with the drama? I know that when I was born, I was the first baby in many, many years. I had first cousins who were all in their late twenties, so it had been awhile! When I was growing up, I often stayed overnight with aunts and uncles; we are all fascinated with an adolescent after years of no children in our extended families.



Mary and Joseph finally

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Parish Overview

Ministers of the Congregation
The People

Rector
The Rev. William Martin

Vestry
Mary Jo Julian, Jen McTighe
Evan Davis, Jackie Ellenberger,
Howard Potter, Tony Bernardo,
Christy Faciponti, Nancy Zerbe,
Christine Konetchy, Violet Bertholet

Sunday Service Hours
Sunday School 10:00 a.m.
Holy Eucharist 10:00 a.m.

Organist—Ed Harbison

Office Hours
9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Monday through Thursday

Parish Administrator—Trula Mosher

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Mary and Joseph, it seems, did not have such an experience. The closest thing to family was an innkeeper who did the best he could in finding space for a woman about to give birth. Whenever I read the Nativity stories, I'm always grateful for that innkeeper. I hope he was also at the birth (or at least came by to see the newborn).

If you think that I'm making fun of the Nativity, please be assured that I most certainly am not. We just finished a four week course for Advent called, "Why?". The above are my "why" questions. I have asked such questions from the time I was a little boy in Sunday school, and no one ever gave me an answer, other than, "It was God's will that it worked out the way that it did." That always came across to me as "Don't ask such questions." I believe, though, that our faith grows and deepens preciously because we do ask such questions. I hope you feel the same way.

~ Fr. Bill

Happy New Year!

The Vespasian Psalter

The ghastly death of William Tyndale—he was strangled and then burnt at the stake in Belgium in 1536—might lead us to think that translating the Bible into English awaited the 16th Century, and that even then it was a dangerous business. It is certainly true that Tyndale's translation was the first to be printed in English, and our current translations rely heavily on his work, but there had been many earlier efforts, and they had not all ended so tragically. For example, John Wycliffe (1320-1384) translated the New Testament into Middle English in the late 14th Century, and his friend Nicholas Herford (1350-1420) translated the Old Testament. They both died of old age, although Herford may have been imprisoned for some years, and Wycliffe's body eventually suffered the indignity of exhumation and ceremonial burning.

But even they were not the first. The oldest extant translation of a portion of the Bible is found in the Vespasian Psalter, an Anglo-Saxon illuminated vellum psalter from the second or third quarter of the 8th century. It was likely produced in St. Augustine's Abbey, Canterbury. The translation into Old English was likely done a century later and inserted somewhat haphazardly above the elegant Latin text. The book is owned by the British Museum, and its only surviving full page illustration shows King David with his musicians, presumably singing the psalms.

The names of the copyist and the subsequent translator are lost in time, but the very existence of the book reminds us that there has long been a deep desire to understand the Bible in the indigenous language of the time.

Roger Prince

The above information was copied from the St. Thomas, Pittstown, NJ newsletter.

~ Jackie Ellenberger

Financial Report Month Ending November 30, 2018

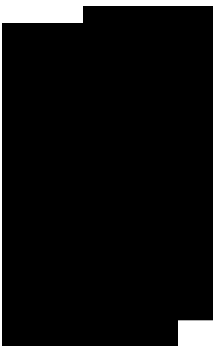
Operating Income	Month	YTD	Budget
Offerings	\$ 5,625	\$ 96,085	\$113,450
Other income	349	36,691	4,000
Fund raising (net)	<u>(58)</u>	<u>828</u>	<u>4,500</u>
Total Operating Income	5,916	133,604 *	121,950
Expenses			
Salaries	5,263	60,273	72,561
Bldg. maintenance	1,799	44,700	19,520
Diocese payments	1,312	14,432	15,744
Office	707	4,856	4,700
Worship/outreach	<u>771</u>	<u>5,925</u>	9,425
Total Operating Expenses	9,852	130,186	121,950
Net Income (loss)	<u>\$ (3,936)</u>	<u>\$ 3,418 *</u>	<u>\$ 0</u>

January 1
January 2
January 13
January 25
January 31

Tony Suffness
Ross Ellis, Jr.
Pat Harker
Tony Bernardo
Ally Fuller



* Amounts do not reflect \$28,500 transferred from the savings account in March.



Directory Updates

The Farley's new address is:

435 East 12th Street
Northampton, PA 18067

Debbie Harbison's new phone number is:

610-737-4551

January Events

January 1

- Happy New Year! - Church Office Closed

January 13

- Annual Meeting

January 6

- Healing Service
- Food Bank Sunday



January 17

- Newsletter Items Due

January 7

- Annual Reports Due

January 21

- Martin Luther King's Birthday—Church Office Closed



The Episcopal Diocese of Bethlehem

January 2019 Schedule of Participants

	January 6	January 13	January 20	January 27
Lector	Megan Steich	Jen McTighe	Mary Jo Julian	Debbie Baldree
Intercessor	Jen McTighe	Scott Fuller	Megan Steich	Jim Baldree
Chalice	Jackie Ellenberger Christy Facciponti	Christine Konetchy Nancy Steckel	Jack Jones Gail Martin	Lori Bernardo Megan Steich
Ushers	Noel Lucas Chuck Zerbe	Scott Fuller	Juli Greco Nancy Steckel	Jackie Ellenberger Jen McTighe
Youth Ushers	Freddy Facciponti Lindsay Fuller	Alex Gundry Nolan Fuller	Jack Greco Shane Greco	Lindsay Fuller Tony Suffness
Crucifer	Ally Fuller	Ross Ellis	Andrew McTighe	Gabby Gundry
Acolyte	Shane Greco	Nina Facciponti	Jack Greco	Alex Gundry
Altar Guild	Debbie Jones	Georgia Cianci	Jackie Ellenberger	Violet Bertholet
Greeter	Nancy Steckel	Kathy Potter	Chuck Zerbe	Phyllis Davidson
Counters	Jack Jones Nancy Zerbe	Howard Potter Chuck Zerbe	Jackie Ellenberger Christy Facciponti	Jen McTighe

End-of-Year Donations

As we approach the end of the year, just a reminder that in order for your pledge to be recorded on your 2018 statements, all donations need to be received by Sunday, December 30. Anyone wishing to have a statement of their account, please email/contact Debbie (610-759-7016 or jones11274@yahoo.com).

Offering Envelopes

Offering envelopes for 2019 are available for pickup in the parish hall. Please remember to pick them up when you come to church this Sunday.

February 2019 Schedule of Participants

	February 3	February 10	February 17	February 24
Lector	Christy Facciponti	Phyllis Bock	Lori Bernardo	Juli Greco
Intercessor	Dan Gundry	Nancy Steckel	Jackie Ellenberger	Joan Lyons
Chalice	Violet Bertholet Scott Fuller	Jackie Ellenberger Christy Facciponti	Christine Konetchy Nancy Steckel	Jack Jones Gail Martin
Ushers	Noel Lucas Chuck Zerbe	Scott Fuller Nancy Steckel	Juli Greco Jen McTighe	Jackie Ellenberger Chuck Zerbe
Youth Ushers	Freddy Facciponti Nina Facciponti	Ally Fuller Andrew McTighe	Joseph Ellis Alex Gundry	Nolan Fuller Jack Greco
Crucifer	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
Acolyte	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
Altar Guild	Nancy Zerbe	Debbie Jones	Georgia Cianci	Jackie Ellenberger
Greeter	Jackie Ellenberger	Prudie Potter	Noel Lucas	Jen McTighe
Counters	Jim Baldree Christine Konetchy	Tony Bernardo Jack Jones	Howard Potter Nancy Zerbe	Jackie Ellenberger Chuck Zerbe

Annual Reports

Please be aware that the annual meeting—and that means annual reports—is coming up on January 13, 2019. Please submit your report to Trula in the church office by Monday, January 7.

January 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Happy New Year!!! Church Office Closed Happy Birthday!!! Tony Suffness	2 Happy Birthday!!! Ross Ellis, Jr.	3	4	5
6 Choir Practice 9:00 am Sunday School/Holy Eucharist 10:00 am Healing Service Food Bank Sunday	7 Annual Reports Due	8	9	10	11	12
13 Choir Practice 9:00 am Sunday School/Holy Eucharist 10:00 am Happy Birthday!!! Pat Harker Annual Meeting	14	15	16	17 Newsletter Items Due	18	19
20 Choir Practice 9:00 am Sunday School/Holy Eucharist 10:00 am	21 MLK Birthday – Church Office Closed	22	23	24	25 Happy Birthday!!! Tony Bernardo	26
27 Choir Practice 9:00 am Sunday School/Holy Eucharist 10:00 am	28	29	30	31 Happy Birthday!!! Aly Fuller		