

The Carpenter's Helper

This Week...

Shubh Diwali (Happy Diwali)

LARGE donation made
to our Blue Hen
Bounty by local youth

Weekly Parish Schedule

Add your group's event to
the calendar: email
stthomassooffice
@googlegroups.com

Ladies Night Out

join in the
fellowship

An Interfaith act of Kindness...

Diwali is a 5-day fall festival beginning on the 15th day of the Hindu calendar month of Kartika (Ashwin). For Sikhs, Diwali is a day to celebrate the release of the Sixth Guru Hargobind from captivity, according to the Hindu American Foundation. Jains consider it to be the day that Lord Mahavira achieved enlightenment. Some Buddhists also commemorate the occasion as the day Ashok Vajriyadashami embraced Buddhism as his faith. The story of Diwali varies based on location, according to National Geographic, although every tale plays into the theme of good triumphing over evil. The Diwali festival spiritually signifies the victory of light over darkness, good over evil, knowledge over ignorance, and hope over despair.

Each of our faith festivals has its own distinctive character and meaning and is rooted in our respective understandings of the nature of God. But Diwali, coming as it does when Christians are approaching the season of Advent and Christmas, provides an opportunity to celebrate those things that we hold in common.

This year, two local High School students decided to honor this festival in a very altruistic way. Working with Diwali Food Drive Inc., they ran a food drive to help support the Blue Hen Bounty, the food pantry that ECM has created to serve the University of Delaware.

Generously giving their time and energy to this drive through Diwali, they collected an astounding 1250 lbs of non-perishable food!

Blue Hen Bounty donations are up for this coming year thanks to the pantry's 53 I Heart UD Day supporters, who on May 15, 2019, raised \$1,885 for food insecure University of Delaware students. The pantry also recently received more than 6,000 meals from the local Food Lion. Pantry volunteers will continue working in the 2019-2020 academic year to get these supplies to any University of Delaware student in need, and endeavoring to educate the entire UD community that help is available.



Fellowship. I'm sure that's a word you've heard often. But what's the big deal?

Well, fellowship is a special friendship between Christians, it's when you 'do life' together! Many churches call themselves a fellowship, and by this they are saying that it is a place of christian relationship. A bit like a family! The Church is a place where every person, Christian or not, should feel welcome.

If you feel like people have been getting on to you a bit maybe because they haven't seen you around church for a while, the following may be some familiar excuses that you've used! LOL! But we want to encourage you to get involved in church life, and seek out some good christian friendships that can encourage you in your faith!

'It's not like I'm that important, why do people care if I'm there or not?'

Well, you're important enough that Jesus died for you. You're important enough that God has given you a specific plan and a purpose! Not everyone can be worship leaders, not everyone can be Sunday school teachers and not everyone can be pastors (1 Corinthians 12:6). We are all part of the body of Christ, and each of us have been given an individual gift. God can also use your testimony to help others on their own journey! You have a part in the kingdom of God, never doubt that.

In Acts, the apostles of Jesus and many believers would meet together as often as they could (Acts 2:46-47). As people of God, they made sure to always see each other, because there is true greatness when Christians are gathered together. You are able to talk freely about your relationship with God, and they can give Godly advice. '...Not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another – and all the more as you see the Day approaching.' – Hebrews 10:25

'Okay, I go to church, but why do I need to have Christian friends?'

It's important to surrounded yourself with people of God who will be there to pray for you, study the Bible with you and attend the services with. Church is meant to be fun, and most of us have fun when we are with friends! Unfortunately, it's not always as straightforward as it seems, some of us go to small churches with very few people our age and so it can be difficult to find friends. Try your best to find opportunities to socialize with other Christians your age, maybe attend an event (**like Ladies' Night Out, this Monday!**)! And don't underestimate the power of asking God to bring you a friend!

"Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor: if either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up. Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm. But how can one keep warm alone? Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken." – Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

written by Cecilia at GirlGotFaith.com

PARISH CALENDAR

Sunday, November 17

8:00am (N) Holy Eucharist Rite I
9:00am (U) Youth Confirmation
9:15am (P) Adult Education
9:15am (U) Nursery
9:30am (C,U) Children's Worship
10:30am (N) Holy Eucharist Rite II
11:45am (GH) Coffee, Fellowship
2:00pm (C) Girl Scout Troop 513
7:00pm (GH) UD Ballroom Dance

Monday, November 18

6:30am (C) Sunrise Serenity AA
6:00pm Ladies Night Out- Marriott
7:30pm (GH) Scottish Dance

Tuesday, November 19

6:30am (C) Sunrise Serenity AA
4:30pm (U) Girl Scout Troop 719
5:00pm (CO) AIDS Delaware
6:00pm (U) Girl Scout Troop 513
6:00pm (P) Pastoral Care meeting
7:00pm (GH) UD Ballroom Dance
8:00pm (U) KIS AA meeting

Wednesday, November 20

6:30am (C) Sunrise Serenity AA
10:30am (C) Bible Study
4:00pm (C) Blue Hen Bounty
5:00pm (C, N) ECM
5:45pm (P) Centering Prayer
8:30pm (GH) South College Speakers AA

Thursday, November 21

6:30am (C) Sunrise Serenity AA
10:00am (U) Newark Music Makers
7:30pm (U) Bluegrass Jam
7:30pm (MR) St Gregory's Choir

Friday, November 22

6:30am (C) Sunrise Serenity AA
12:00pm (C) Al-Anon
6:00pm (U) Girl Scout Troop 778
6:30pm (P) Women's AA

Saturday, November 23

Invite Welcome Connect Event
at St Anne's

Sunday, November 24

Family Church Sunday
8:00am (N) Holy Eucharist Rite I
9:00am (U) Youth Confirmation
9:15am (P) Adult Education
9:15am (U) Nursery
10:30am (N) Holy Eucharist Rite II
11:45am (GH) Coffee, Fellowship
2:00pm (C) Girl Scout Troop 513
7:00pm (GH) UD Ballroom Dance

location key:

(C) Classroom	(MR) Music Room
(GH) Great Hall	(U) Undercroft
(N) Nave	(BO) Business Office
(P) Parlor	(RO) Rector's Office