

sought after products. Often these select few disappoint us with demonstrations of poor character, but God never disappoints. His character is forever right and true. As a response to His righteousness we are designed by God to worship Him forever.

Lord, I am so grateful that You are worthy of glory and honor and that You have chosen to love me. It's a love that accepts me as I am but is forever transforming me into who You designed me to be. I'm thankful that You are always with me. In every circumstance, You never leave. All the things that challenge me today—relationships, health, schedules—you are with me.

Psalms 140, 142; 1 Peter 3:13 - 4-6; Matthew 20:17-28

Birthdays: Joyce Poole, Ruth Hardin, Carol Pride, Wink McKinnon, Christopher Ormsby

Friday's Calendar

7:00 a.m.	AA "Hour of Power"
9:00 a.m.	A Way Out
9:30 a.m.	Life Group
10:00 a.m.	Bible Study
7:00 p.m.	Stuart Parade
8:00 p.m.	Friday Night Young Peoples' AA

Today's Ministry: Praying Hands

Saturday, December 2

1 Peter 4:7-19 *The end of the world is coming soon. Therefore, be earnest and disciplined in your prayers. Most important of all, continue to show deep love for each other, for love covers a multitude of sins. Cheerfully share your home with those who need a meal or a place to stay.* (vv.7-9 NLT)

Wow! There's some clear directions: pray, love, share.

Today I am praying for a friend who has stage 4 cancer and his daughter, also suffering with cancer, is in her last days of this life. Lord Jesus, they need you. Please heal them in heart and body.

Loving others takes so many different forms. Today I'm taking a teenage granddaughter out to lunch. She is navigating a difficult transition in her life right now. I want to remind her of God's love and bring her hope that He has a great plan for her life.

Later I will meet a friend who is struggling financially and share some needed resources. Lord Jesus, please supply all her needs out of your abundance.

Almighty Father, please continue to show us how to pray, love, share and live a life that pleases You. Forgive us for all the times we fail to respond to Your gentle call. We want to love You with whole-heartedness, love ourselves and love others according to Your command.

Micah 7:11-20; Psalms 137, 144; Matthew 20:29-34

Birthday: Jeanne Simon

Saturday's Calendar

7:00 a.m.	AA "Hour of Power"
8:30 a.m.	Christmas Wreath Assembly
9:30 a.m.	AA Step Study for Women
12:00 p.m.	NarcAnon "Clean at Noon"
5:00 p.m.	Holy Eucharist, Rite II
6:30 p.m.	NarcAnon "Kleen N Crazy"
8:30 p.m.	NarcAnon "Not Alone"

Today's Ministry: R.O.C.K.

by Charlene Laird

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"Growing into Jesus - Reaching out with love"

The Clergy

The Rev. Dr. Todd L. Cederberg, *Rector* - frtodd@stmarys-stuart.org
The Rev. Christian S. Anderson, *Assistant Rector* - christian@stmarys-stuart.org
The Rev. Steve Fregeau, *Retired Assisting* - frsteve@stmarys-stuart.org

Lay Staff

Debbie Flerx, *Facilities Director* - debbie@stmarys-stuart.org
Kelly Garner, *Children's Ministry Director* - kelly@stmarys-stuart.org
Melissa Lewis, *Parish Administrator* - melissa@stmarys-stuart.org
Phillip Lindecamp, *Sexton* - phil@stmarys-stuart.org
Elise Moloney, *Office Manager* - elise@stmarys-stuart.org
Alexis Stuckey, *Youth Ministry Director* - alexis@stmarys-stuart.org
Pat Channing, *Praise Band Director* - pat@stmarys-stuart.org
Gideon Stence, *Pro Tem Choir Director*



St. Mary's Episcopal Church
623 SE Ocean Blvd. | Stuart, FL 34994
Phone (772) 287-3244 | www.stmarys-stuart.org

St. Mary's

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Growing into Jesus - Reaching out with Love

Good News Daily

Volume XVII November 26 - December 2, 2017 Number 48

Sunday, November 26

Romans 15:5-13 *May God, who gives this patience and encouragement, help you live in complete harmony with each other, as is fitting for followers of Christ Jesus.* (v.5 NLT)

I must receive before I can give. When I receive the patience and encouragement Jesus Christ has to give me, only then will I have the character to live in harmony with others. I appreciate the word "harmony" because it reminds me of music. Harmony is achieved when voices are on key and blending together to create something that is pleasing to our ear. Living in complete harmony doesn't require that we all sing alike. Harmony comes when even with our differences we are on key with God's Spirit so that our melody is pleasing to Him and we achieve His plans and purposes.

"When I'm far away from home and the cold wind starts to blow, when I'm empty and alone, I turn to you. When there's hardness in my heart and I can't see the truth, and I'm wandering in the dark, I turn to you. And here in your holy presence it's all that I can do. I turn to you, Jesus!" (I Turn to You by Selah).

Isaiah 19:19-25; Psalm 118; Luke 19:11-27

Birthdays: Pat Graham, Samuel Gallo

Sunday's Calendar

7:30 a.m.	Holy Eucharist, Rite I
9:00 a.m.	Contemporary Family Worship Service
9:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist, Rite II
10:15 a.m.	Coffee Hour in the Courtyard
10:15 a.m.	Stephen Leader Meeting
11:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist & Baptism

Today's Ministry: New Member Ministry

Monday, November 27

1 Peter 1:1-12 *God the Father knew you and chose you long ago, and his Spirit has made you holy. As a result, you have obeyed*

him and have been cleansed by the blood of Jesus Christ. May God give you more and more grace and peace. (v.2)

Here is another example of receiving that enables me to give. If I receive (accept) that God chose me and, because of His holiness has made me holy, then I can obey and be cleansed from my sinful nature. Being chosen, accepted, finding a home in God's family is a privileged place above any other that I could ask for. It is better than being accepted into any club, profession, or earthly family. Because of God's choosing I am the richest, most privileged celebrity in the kingdom.

"My Child, blessed and favored are you. I hold you in my arms, safe and secure, your life hidden in mine. Know how completely this position will satisfy your hungry heart. Be still and stay."

Joel 3:1-2, 9-17; Psalm 106:1-18; Matthew 9:1-12

Birthdays: Diane Putnam, Sarah Ralicki, Turner Lavelle

Monday's Calendar

7:00 a.m.	AA "Hour of Power"
5:30 p.m.	ACA Meeting (Adult Children of Alcoholics)
5:30 p.m.	Stephen Ministry Training
6:00 p.m.	Life Group

Today's Ministry: Nursing Home & Home Visitors

Tuesday, November 28

Matthew 19:13-22 *The young man said to Him, "All these things I have kept from my youth. What do I still lack?"* (v.20 NKJ)

When I come to Jesus Christ and begin to trust him with my entire life, old ways don't feel comfortable any longer. Activities, entertainment, books, even some friends just don't "fit". I'm convicted by the Spirit that unkind, judgmental thoughts and words have no place in my new life. This new life of putting God's agenda first requires a new trusting innocence. My new nature must reflect the holiness and righteousness of Christ. Kindness, compassion, and truth need to cover me.

Lord Jesus, thank you that our new life will last forever because it comes from your eternal living word and what you have accomplished on our behalf.

Nahum 1:1-13; Psalms 120, 121, 122, 123; 1 Peter 1:13-25

Birthdays: Monica Maxwell, Madison Arnold, Charlotte Kelley

Anniversary: Frank Larsen and Nancy Perrine

Tuesday's Calendar

7:00 a.m.	AA "Hour of Power"
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9:30 a.m.	Women's Bible Study
12:10 p.m.	Holy Eucharist & Healing
1:30 p.m.	Stewardship Meeting
5:30 p.m.	Overeaters' Anonymous Meeting
6:30 p.m.	Vestry Meeting
7:30 p.m.	NarcAnon "Just for Today"

Today's Ministry: Office Volunteers

Wednesday, November 29

1 Peter 2:1-10 *But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a consecrated nation, a [special] people for God's own possession, so that you may proclaim the excellencies [the wonderful deeds and virtues and perfections] of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light. Once you were not a people [at all], but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.* (vv.9-10 AMP)

What darkness has God brought us out of? Consider what life was like before we knew His great love for us. Now that we have accepted that Jesus has saved us by his great loving sacrifice on the cross, we can walk in the light that truth brings. The power of his resurrection gives us the constant presence of his Spirit so that we can continue to walk in that marvelous light. We are chosen, consecrated, called. That's the Good News!

Today I celebrate my birthday. The day God planned for me to be born. He celebrates my uniqueness. His plans are perfect for me. I think I'll go skip on the beach.

Obadiah 15-21; Psalm 119:145-176; Matthew 19:23-30

Birthdays: Dave Stevenson, Lenore Hubbard

Anniversary: Jim and Judy Chisholm

Wednesday's Calendar

6:30 a.m.	Men's Bible Study
7:00 a.m.	AA "Hour of Power"
9:30 a.m.	Holy Eucharist
10:00 a.m.	Staff Meeting
10:30 a.m.	Reunion Group
4:45 p.m.	Mary's Kitchen
5:30 p.m.	AA "Daily Reflections"
7:00 p.m.	Life Group
8:30 p.m.	NarcAnon "Klean and Krazy"

Today's Ministry: Outreach Committee

Thursday, November 30

1 Peter 2:11-25 *Once you were like sheep who wandered away. But now you have turned to your Shepherd, the Guardian of your souls.* (v.25 NLT)

This comical figure of speech that Scripture often uses brings a smile to my face. To be likened to a sheep doesn't really sound like a compliment and it's not! Sheep are pretty witless. They can't defend themselves. They often fall over and can't get up without assistance. Sheep never walk in a straight line. If they "wander away" they can't get back without someone leading them. It's no wonder God calls himself a Shepherd, the Guardian of my soul. I wander away to many distractions: food, entertainment, people, even ministry can be a distraction if it's not lead by the Spirit. So today my prayer is: Lord Jesus, my Shepherd, I am sorry for wandering, I want to only follow you. I ask for your protection and guidance. Please catch me if I fall and keep me walking in a straight line aware of your presence with me every moment. Thank you for all your love and peace.

Zephaniah 3:1-13; Psalms 131, 132, 133; Matthew 20:1-16

Birthdays: Rose Schneider, Lorraine Almond, Hope Jochem, John Burson

Anniversary: Brian and Laura Copley

Thursday's Calendar

7:00 a.m.	AA "Hour of Power"
10:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist
11:30 a.m.	Osceola Lunch Bunch
12:30 p.m.	Overeaters' Anonymous Meeting
5:30 p.m.	ACA Men's Group
6:30 p.m.	Life Group
7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
7:00 p.m.	AIAnon "Stepping Stones"

Today's Ministry: Praise Band

Friday, December 1

Isaiah 24:14-23 *They [who have escaped and remain] raise their voices, they shout for joy; They rejoice from the [Mediterranean] Sea in the majesty of the Lord. Therefore honor and glorify the Lord in the east [in the region of light], The name of the Lord, the God of Israel [honor His name], In the coastlands and islands of the [Mediterranean] Sea. From the ends of the earth we hear songs, "Glory and honor to the Righteous One!"* (vv.14-16a AMP)

Honor and glory are often words that are used for a very select few in our culture. As I write this, the Summer Olympics are just closing. We honor athletes with medals and endorsements for