



No matter where you are on life's journey, YOU are welcome here!

SOUTH BRITAIN CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

January 5, 2021

OUR CHURCH'S MISSION STATEMENT

"To be a dynamic, welcoming, and caring community of Christian faith by weaving the thread of Christ into the tapestry of our lives."



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!!

We have an ever-growing collection of Christmas books. This year my children have found the book that goes with the song, "The Twelve Days of Christmas." We all know and adore "The Twelve Days of Christmas" song. Now growing up when I heard that, I tried to use the theology to make Christmas gifts keep flowing at my house for 12 more days... but that did not work. Yet, on the twelfth day of Christmas my true love gave to me—Epiphany! This beloved song brings to mind the tradition throughout the history of the church to celebrate twelve days of Christmas, beginning with Christmas Day on December 25, and ending on the day of Epiphany, traditionally celebrated on January 6. On that day the Christmas tide flows into the season of Epiphany.

So, what is Epiphany? It comes from two Greek words *epi* and *phaino*. Together the two words mean, "to show forth" or "appear." In the Epiphany season the church focuses on showing forth or making known to the whole world the newborn Christ as, "God in the flesh." This season has often been a time for an emphasis on world missions. The news of the Savior's birth must now be made known to the entire world. Epiphany means "manifestation." On this day we celebrate the revelation of Christ to the Gentiles—that is, to all nations. Some Christian traditions celebrate three great epiphanies on this day: the magis' adoration of the Christ child, Jesus' baptism in the Jordan River, and his first miracle, in which he changes water into wine. The word and sacraments are for us the great epiphany of God's grace and mercy. We go forth to witness to the light that shines brightly in our midst.

Whether we are familiar with this part of the church calendar or not, let us look at this as an opportunity to take the Christmas spirit and carry it on into the New Year.

I pray that all of you have a blessed Epiphany season. Celebrate it with "Epiphany parties" or other traditional celebrations like, "the King's cake," "the Magi-chalk blessing," or the "Epiphany candlelight" (you can do an internet search to learn more about these traditions). Though, in the middle of all of these celebrations, I pray that we also "become all things to all people" (1 Cor 9:22) as we make Jesus known to our family members, our friends, neighbors, and our coworkers. May we join the shepherds on that first Christmas to glorify and praise God for all the things we have heard and seen.



Blessings,

Pastor Malcolm

Matthew 2:1-2

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."

New Friends and Visitors: If you are interested in exploring joining South Britain Congregational, please reach out to Pastor Malcolm. pastor@southbritainchurch.org

BIBLE STUDIES

Next evening bible study will be January 14th

Daytime bible study is every Tuesday at 1:00 pm and is open to all, even if you've never been before. Pastor Malcolm will send you a Zoom link. *Evening* bible study will be held the second and fourth Thursday at 7:00 pm. Pastor will send you a zoom link. The next evening session will be January 14th. Please contact Pastor Malcolm if you wish to join.



WHAT A CHURCH CAN DO DESPITE THE CHALLENGES AROUND IT

Pandemic and its restrictions, uncertainty, and death
A country in its disunity and its false prophets
Many suffering without wise efforts by leaders and lack of economic resources
Difficult economic times and uncertainty here and around the world

Despite all this and what is impressive.....

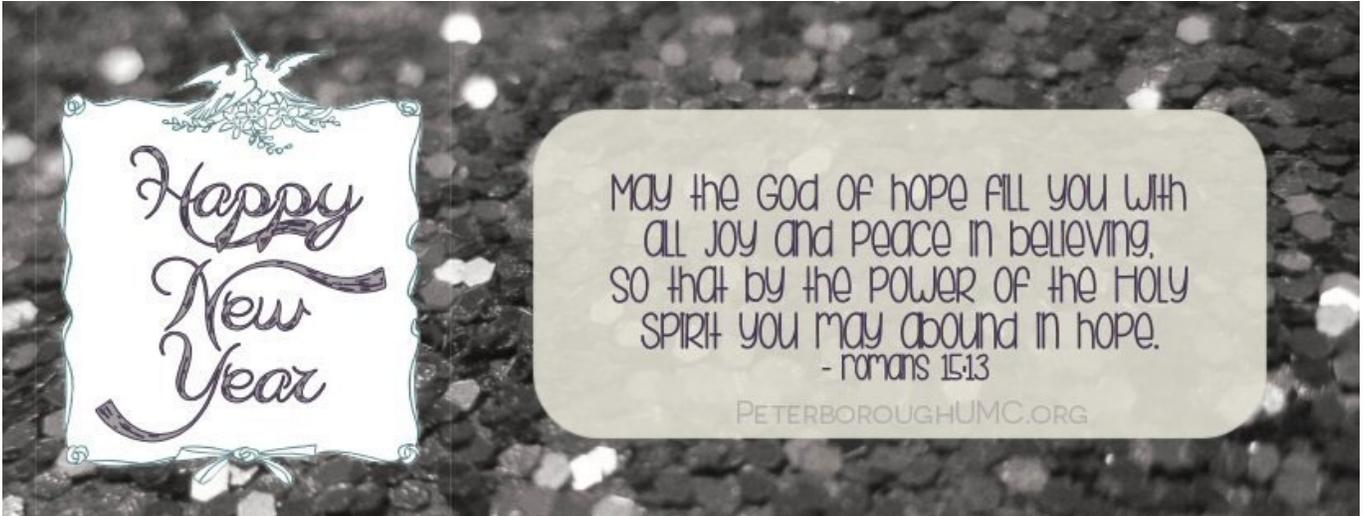
- ✓ Hiring and nurturing a new Good Shepherd, a kind and thoughtful soul, a gift from a patient and giving God. Thanks to everyone who made this happen.

- ✓ Our new Pastor started at a time when the pandemic was at its first peak. He jumped in without hesitation to connect with people he barely knew and showed a level of “yes we can” with recorded sermons, prayers, setting the example and much more.
- ✓ Does everyone remember when we had a rotation of members ringing the church bell every night at 7pm to thank all the front-line workers?
- ✓ A year of song and music despite the restrictions taking us to a safe place and new heights. Ann and Wayne are warbling and flowing with musical depth caring for our souls. Thankful for the invited soloists giving their talent full of energy and magnificent endeavor.
- ✓ Children back at the pulpit. How wonderful!
- ✓ Church Services continued: Advent service participation. Christmas Eve Service was beautiful. Again, music and singing did not stop. The outdoor Creche, Christmas Eve the church all dressed up and sending out music to all who came near for all of Christmas week.
- ✓ Members still contributed delivered flowers and holiday decorations and poinsettias.
- ✓ Our Pastor gave an abundant sermon for the Thanksgiving Interfaith Service. He represented well...for God and our church community.
- ✓ Our Pastor also participated in the SOFIA interfaith service and the Domestic Abuse Support Service.
- ✓ Connections in many directions, via Zoom, via social distancing, via the spirit of keep going (let us bring back the virtual coffee hour and new connections for our spirit and mental health in 2021).
- ✓ An Outreach effort continuing throughout the year culminating in a \$5000 gift to the community
- ✓ The property committee completed a year and a half repair and uplift to the Parrish House and the Parsonage
- ✓ Deacons continuing connection throughout the year with COVID protocols to keep all of us safe, especially in live church services.
- ✓ Deacons multiple connections during Advent, cookies, calendars, gifts(candy) hung on the tree over Advent and Christmas and Christmas cards to all the members?
- ✓ Outreach ladies distributing Christmas trees to shut-ins
- ✓ Outreach did not stop at all during the year. Can you list all the eventful giving items? It is Amazing Grace with a capital AG.
- ✓ The Apple Festival marched on. Onward Christian Soldiers made it happen safely, smartly and in the tradition it has always kept. The wider community needed it to also recharge its spirit. People were grateful of the effort given in safety and hospitality!
- ✓ Bible studies are two groups and continued face to face with social Big D and by Zoom. Hybrid was an overworked term that did bring results and connection
- ✓ The church participated in Wreaths Across America; supported with money and volunteers placing the wreaths.
- ✓ The community garden in Settler’s Park was nurtured again this year by Faith Formation and others.
- ✓ On-going improvements for the Memorial Garden.

- ✓ A record setting longest term Church Secretary retired and we hired a replacement in record time. What a great choice. The central office is fortified again. Thank you for all those who covered while the position was open and then made sure there was training of our new Administrative Assistant, Nancy.
- ✓ The beginning of implementing a church administrative and communication tool: The SBCC Membership Portal powered by one church software implemented. On-going training and installation of new process.
- ✓ The gift of other technology to produce and record our church services and other events. The broadcast brought to you by CBS, a System of over-the-top Dedication. Did you know this effort is broadcast to over one hundred other non-members in the community and still growing?
- ✓ We were blessed by the effort to apply for a generous loan from the government to continue to pay our staff and keep our economic pressure to a minimum. The loan was just forgiven per US Law in December, 24K. Thank the Christmas elf with the initials CP.
- ✓ Memorial services were given, and All Saints recognized.
- ✓ Parishioner’s Post started out as a once per month publication, it is now a every other week publication. What a wonderful effort and way to connect with everyone. It is now a part of our culture.
- ✓ Thank you to all those volunteers who care for their corner of God’s church without failing, consistently and quietly doing their duty, showing up without being asked, praying when asked and being beside each one of us in our travels through time. A Stewardship example by faith.
- ✓ Zoom again! Thank you to all the committees who embraced the communication tool called Zoom! Last year’s Annual Meeting was on Zoom. Keep it up!
- ✓ Thank you for continuing Prayers of the people, never stopped and never will.
- ✓ Direct care and Spiritual help were delivered throughout the year for those who had surgeries, contracted illnesses, suffered loss and passed on.

- ✓ *We are all sure there are the littlest of heart-filled giving and moments of impromptu Grace. Please know this, we may have forgotten to list it here but there is a God who will remind us of all those great moments and will reward those Spirit-filled people.*

If we have missed anything, please drop a note to sbcc.pr693@gmail.com so we can include in the next publication.



OPEN AND AFFIRMING

- From the Preamble to our Church's Constitution
We, the members of the South Britain Congregational Church, ...commit ourselves: "To be a place of holy welcome to all and a place of comfort to those in pain."
- We come from every culture, every race and ethnicity, every faith tradition, or no faith tradition. We call God by many different names or no name. We are inspired by our awareness of the sacred worth of every human and united in our commitment to build a peaceful world.

With this in mind, I let go of any fear or resentment toward anyone whose appearance, language, or customs differ from mine. I open my mind to differing spiritual beliefs. I open my heart to the presence of God in all and the wonder of human diversity.

I make the commitment to join my heart, my will, and my efforts with those of all people who are working to establish and maintain peace in our homes, in our communities, in our nations, and in our world.

Let them seek peace and pursue it. —1 Peter 3:11

- The ONA team has continued to meet via Zoom and are developing a very short survey which will be sent out to the congregation in the near future. Your honest and anonymous feedback will provide us some direction on our next steps.

-Your ONA Group, Judy, Francesca, Joe, Cathy, & Sue

OUTREACH: *Jodi Mitchell, Chris Dreton, Jeannie Mitchell, Char Moll, Lynn Plourde, Jean Dunn, JoAnn Bolin, and Cathy Somers*

- January's Outreach Offering is our annual collection for our local friends and neighbors through the Southbury Fuel Bank. The SFB is a non-profit organization and relies on donations to keep it running. It is a lifeline for those who have exhausted state and federal assistance or don't qualify for other assistance. Please help us with this very worthy cause.
- Chowders and cream soups are needed to stock our shelf at the Food Bank.

FLOWER COMMITTEE:

- The flower chart for 2021 is in the church office. If you would like to provide flowers for any week during the year, please just give a call to Nancy in the office and she will pencil you in on the calendar and remind you when your week is coming up so you can decide what you'd like printed in the bulletin.

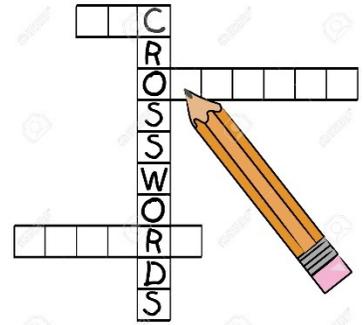
-submitted by Cathy

FAITH FORMATION:

- **CROSSWORD PUZZLE**

There is a crossword puzzle at the end of this Parishioners Post for your playing pleasure. Answers are in the Bulletin Board Portion.

Enjoy
Krista



- **SILVER LAKE JOBS**

Apply Now! Join the 2021 Silver Lake Summer Staff
[Silver Lake: Summer Employment \(silverlakeect.org\)](http://www.silverlakeect.org)

We are now accepting applications for our 2021 Summer Staff!

Spend your summer at the Lake!

2021 will be a summer like none other, you don't want to miss out!

Check out our new job descriptions!

Now accepting applications for:

- ✓ Program Staff
- ✓ Program Co-Coordinators
- ✓ Waterfront Coordinator
- ✓ A-Team Coordinator
- ✓ Kitchen Staff
- ✓ Kitchen Coordinator
- ✓ Maintenance & Housekeeping Staff
- ✓ Maintenance & Housekeeping Coordinator

Priority consideration will be given to those who complete their applications by Jan. 15.

Make a difference in the life of a young person this summer!

See you at the Lake!

Contact Jenn Kronholm Clark, Program Director, with questions.

- **SAVE THE DATE:** January 15th, 2021

Summer Registration for Silver Lake.

Many children and youth from SBCC have attended Silver Lake's Summer Camp, returning year after year. A camp experience, swimming, crafts, music, campfires, and more with new friends and God. If interested please go to www.silverlake.org

Contact Krista with any questions or if financial help is needed.

-submitted by Krista

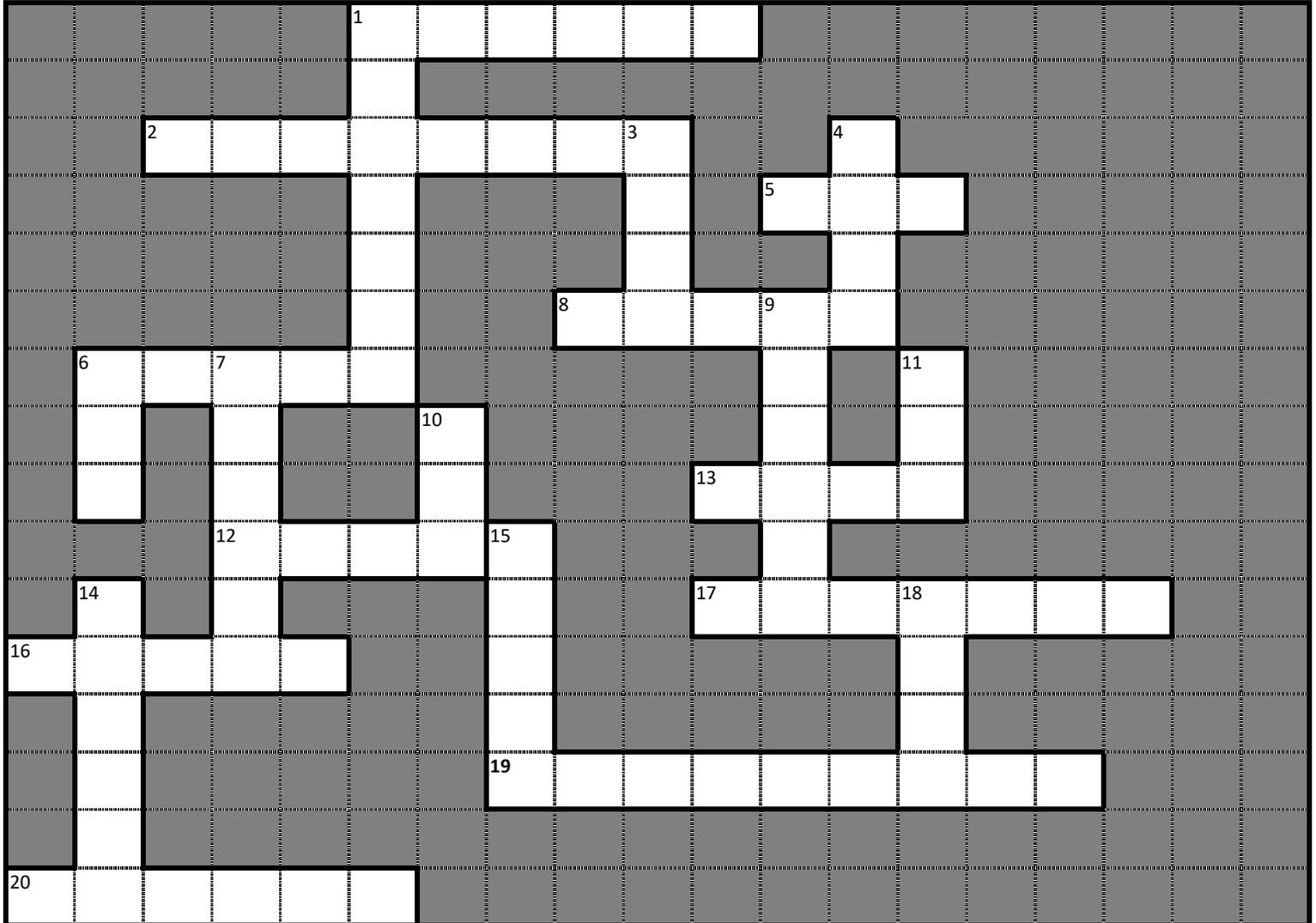




CROSSWORD

TOPIC: **ADVENT**

CREATED BY: **Krista**



HORIZONTAL

- #1 Parents Children**

- #2 Mary, Joseph, Jesus, Oxen**

- #5 Happiness**

- #6 Nativity Scene Figure**

- #8 God Is _____**

- # 11 _____ to the World**

- #12 Lying in the Manger**

- #13 Blessed**

- #16 Nativity scene animal**

- #17 Jesus is the _____**

- #19 Watching their flocks**

- #20 Ring of Advent Candles**

VERTICAL

- #1 Classmates, best buddies**

- #3 Burning Log**

- #4 SBCC 1st Sunday in Advent**

- #6 Jubilation**

- #7 There was no room in the Inn**

- #9 Silent Night: E. G.**

- #10 Glee**

- #11 3rd Sunday in Advent**

- #14 Jesus' crib**

- #15 The Magi**

- #18 Shining in the East**



- **LEAVING ADVENT**

As a child Epiphany was all about the 3 kings following the yonder star to bring gifts to the baby Jesus, gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. I thought what would I do with these gifts? As I continued in my faith journey I discovered what these gifts really were and how they fit into Jesus life. As we leave Advent let us not forget the gifts that Jesus gave us, Hope, Love, Joy and Peace.

Prayer For Our Neighbors and Friends

God, as we learned the Advent values of hope, peace, joy, and love,

May we not keep them to ourselves

May we share them with our friends and neighbors, that our world might become

more hopeful

more peaceful

more joyful, and

more loving.

Let me do my part to create this kind of world, today and every day.

Amen

Prayer from Traci Smith Faithful Families for Advent & Christmas

-Submitted by Krista

FROM OUR CHURCH FAMILY:

- **A Prayer**

- Thank you, Lord, for this new day
Your presence here beside me,
- The faith and joy that fill my heart,
- Your gracious will to guide me...
- Thank you, Lord, for beauty, all the promise this day holds, the chance to share, to learn and grow, as every hour unfolds...
- Thank you, Lord, for this day's precious blessings, Large and small- Especially for Your wondrous love, the greatest gift of all. **Emily Matthews**

-submitted by Bambi

- **What are you doing?**

"What are you doing?" my daughter Kathy asked when she was on her daily "check on Mom" call. For five months it was "nothing" ... "laundry" ... "dishes" and then in August I discovered Zoom. The Southbury Senior Center Put their exercise classes on Zoom. Laura, Marianne, and others were going to help me get rid of my COVID belly. I like to do watercolors and my painting teachers discovered What's App and Zoom for their lessons. My neighbors on either side of me got together in our driveway to "socially distance" way into the fall ... as long as the weather cooperated. It was nice to talk with them and fill up the lonely spots. I was introduced to Duolingo by my daughter and I have been taking daily (free) French lessons --- 172 days so far. I might end up being able to speak French! Long walks have been taken. One of my cats, Sydney, likes to check up on our Deacon and PR meetings. I have also been removing clutter. Check out the poem/prayer I found. So I am happy and busy. What are you doing? Let us know by emailing sbcc.pr693@gmail.com.

-submitted by Bambi

- **My Favorite Quote**

"There are only two days in the year that nothing can be done. Yesterday. And the other is called Tomorrow. Today is the right day to Love, Believe, Do, and mostly Live." -Dalai Lama XIV

-submitted by Francesca



PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

- Just a reminder that the church office is open from 10 am – 2 pm, Monday through Friday. Nancy will be there to greet you with a smile and a “hello there.”

-submitted by Cathy

- One Church software is being fine-tuned, all should have received profile link, and Carl Dunn is spearheading the effort.
 - Data base has been updated, and there are 138 units in the church (possibly 1-5 people)
 - Please contact Carl Dunn if questions or have not received links.
carletondunn@gmail.com

THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

- Praying for continued recovery of Eileen
- David, Chad, Bert, Keith, Gordon
- The Palmer Family
- The Bolin’s daughter’s friend Bob
- Prayers for Sal’s cousin John
- Prayers for Francesca
- Chris Dreton’s friend Dave
- Prayers for Jennifer’s parents Caroline & Joe
- Prayers for Judy after surgery
- The Dilley Family
- For Bill, having kidney surgery on January 7th
- For all frontline workers, medical personnel, firefighters, police
- And those serving our country in the armed forces
- For all those suffering with the effects of covid-19 either directly, indirectly, family, friends, or neighbors.

Bulletin Board

If you would like to submit an article, birthday, anniversary, prayer request for the Parishioners Post please send us an email along with pictures to sbcc.pr693@gmail.com

Occasionally you will see words that are dark blue and underlined. The significance is either an email address, a link to a video, audio, etc.... Please while pressing the CONTROL button, click with your mouse. ENJOY

NOTE:

If you know someone that is missing out on the Parishioners Post because they do not have access to email, please drop a note to Nancy so we might include them in our mailing. sbcc_secretary@yahoo.com

- **JANUARY BIRTHDAYS:**

Please wish them a very "HAPPY BIRTHDAY" (we are using a new database for Birthdays, if there are errors or omissions please contact. sbcc.pr693@gmail.com)

Faith Kuehn (Josephine Blersch daughter)	2	Michelle Dahl	19
Robert (Bob) Stiles	3	Jared Isbell	19
Jeffrey Thomas	3	Andrew Dahl	20
Calvin Peterson (Cathy Peterson's son; Cathy is Bev Stoddard's daughter)	4	Kevin Sullivan (Bob and Harriet Harrison's son in law)	20
Jodi Mitchell	6	Linda Long	25
Lainie Jedlinsky	7	Susan Mahoney	28
Joseph Naylor	13	Jillian Cody (Kris Cody's daughter; Kris is Joan and Ralph Kubista's daughter)	29
John Potz, Jr.	13		
Phil Valenti (Marti Swift's son in law)	16		
Britney Carr	16		

- **ANNIVERSARIES:**

Beverly and Jerry Crane 1/1/2021 Celebrating their 55th Wedding Anniversary



• **CALENDARS:**

The calendars are ready for pick-up so head on down to the Parish and grab your copy

- Don't forget to sign off on the sheet so we keep an accurate record to reach out to those unable to travel.

LaBonne's

We just wrapped up the 2020 LaBonne's Cash For Charities campaign which include some receipts from 2019. The congregation submitted 1588 receipts totaling \$63,467.51 which translates to \$317.34 for the church. (0.5% of the total.)

For those who are interested in useless information; the biggest receipt was for \$379.05 for catering and the smallest receipt was for 99 cents for a single bagel. The oldest receipt came from the Southbury LaBonne's (remember that store?) for a purchase of \$4.99 on June 13, 2013. (I wonder where that receipt was hiding.) The average receipt was \$39.97.

The Cash For Charities program will continue into 2021. If you shop at any of the LaBonne's, save your receipts and turn them in to the box in the Gathering Room. If you have neighbors, family or friends who also shop at LaBonne's, ask them to also save their receipts. They all count.

Ken Bolin

Crossword Answers "No Cheating"

Across

- #1 Family
- #2 Nativity
- #5 Joy
- #6 Jesus
- #8 Peace
- #11 Joy
- #12 Baby
- #13 Holy
- #16 Camel
- #17 Messiah
- #19 Shepherds
- #20 Wreath

Down

- #1 Friends
- #3 Yule
- #4 Love
- #6 Joy
- #7 Stable
- #9 Carole
- #10 Joy
- # 11 Joy
- #14 Manger
- #15 Kings
- #18 Star