

GOOD NEWS!!

Let us give thanks to God for the hope we have in him through Christ!

If you were with the Wise Men heading to the manger, what would you have brought for Jesus and his family?



Chris—Thermal

Bobby—underwear

PJ—a coat

Fresh blanket,
Pampers, baby
formula, & clothing!



Lotaua—A baby quilt



Wanda- even though he was a baby, the prayers of the world.



John Lokos-
A jacket



Professor Chris-
A blanket



Mitzi—Mind, body, soul, heart and strength...and singing

The Gifts of the Magi

O Lord, I'd like to go to the stable this night!
I'd run
even through the dark
to lay my gifts at your feet!

Lord, why couldn't I have been there?
I needn't have been a king,
perhaps just a shepherd child
or someone sent from the inn
to check on the progress of the birth...

Or are you waiting this night in other stables
for me
to bring my gift?
Are you waiting for me to run
even through the dark and cold of the night?

Gifts of the Magi poem from [Kneeling in Bethlehem: Poetry for Advent and Christmas](#). © 1987 Ann Weems. Used by permission of Westminster John Knox Press. All rights reserved.

The January edition of the newsletter received editorial help from the following church members: Bobby, Chris, Lotaua, John, Mitzi, Wanda, Vera, Antione, and **EVERYONE** who ministers at Church of the Common Ground. Thank you!

CHURCH of the COMMON GROUND NEWS



a church community on the streets of Atlanta

www.churchofthecommonground.org

January 2019

Blessed Epiphany to you, Church of the Common Ground!

We have celebrated the coming of Christ, and, as noted in these newsletter pages and pictures, we have done so with joy in Advent and Christmastide: welcoming Deacon Devadas to our community and celebrating his ordination feasting together – our Advisory Committee joining with our Servant Leadership Team— singing together –caroling at Our Lady of Perpetual Help and with St. Veronica's Guild of the Cathedral— praying together –in rain and cold amidst friends and new folk— and, waiting together –for hope, and shelter, and God in our midst.

We now enter the season of Epiphany, a season in the church's calendar year in which we open ourselves to God's revelation in our world and we look for God's appearing in our midst. This season begins on the feast of the Epiphany, January 6, the date upon which we remember the magi, those 'three kings from the east' who come to baby Jesus in his Bethlehem manger, bringing him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

We asked for permission to publish in full Ann Weem's poem, "The Gifts of the Magi," from her *Kneeling in Bethlehem* collection. Permission was granted, and I pray that we might individually and together appreciate this poem printed on the other side of this newsletter, and ask ourselves about the gifts we might bring to the God we love. Perhaps our discipline as a community in the season of Epiphany might be to pray curiously and ask Jesus, "are you waiting this night in other stables for me to bring my gift?"

Bless you,
Pastor Monica+



SUNDAYS: 1pm—Worship at Woodruff Park

MONDAYS: 10:30am—Morning Prayer Central Outreach

TUESDAYS: Pastoral Care | 9:30-11:30am Common Soles—Gateway

WEDNESDAYS: 10:30am—Morning Prayer at Central Outreach
2:30pm—Bible Study at Woodruff Park

THURSDAYS: Pastoral Care

FRIDAYS: Theology from the Margins will resume Friday February 1, and then meets every other week, on Fridays 9:30-1pm, until March 29

Questions, comments, suggestions:
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Church of the Common Ground takes photographs at church programs for use in our newsletter, on our website, and on social media. If you would rather us not use your image, please let a priest or staff member know.

Christmas Caroling at...



Our Lady of Perpetual Help



Christmas lunch and friendship...



...with the St. Veronica's group at St. Philip's Cathedral

Birthdays!



- 3rd-Annette
- 5th-Andryra Wray
- 17th-Beth King
- 21st-Scott
- 22nd-Amy Wells
- 28th—Pastor Monica

“O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servants as they begin another year. Grant that they grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of this life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.”

If you would like your birthday listed in the CCG newsletter, please make sure to let one of the priests know what date it is.

Meet Our New Deacon: Devadas Lynton!



Devadas assisting Rev. Kenya at his first Sunday service

Devadas Lynton's early childhood years were in Chapel Hill, NC and he has been a resident of Atlanta since 1989. He is a high honor graduate of Spring Valley High School, Columbia, SC and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science/Psychology from the University of S.C., Columbia, SC. In 2005, he was trained in Restorative Justice by Kay Pranis and Gwen Chandler Rivers. In 2007, Devadas received his certification as a Mediator for General Mediation from the GA Office of Dispute Resolution through Kennesaw State University and has maintained his certification. In 2011, He completed an Education for Ministry Program from the University of the South, Sewanee, TN. He has served as a Vestry member for St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, Decatur, GA and at St. Augustine's of Canterbury Episcopal Church, Morrow, GA.

He had the privilege to serve as the Senate Page for State Senator Heyward McDonald, Columbia, SC. Devadas worked for fifteen years for the GA Dept. of Juvenile Justice in the following Divisions: Campus Operations, Community Corrections, Detention Services, and the Office of Public Affairs-including he was the first employee to have worked in these four divisions. Presently, Devadas has been working for Fulton Co. Superior Court since 2009 as an Intensive Supervision Case Manager II for Pretrial Services. Devadas' heroes are the following: Mahatma Gandhi, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Mother Theresa. He has the following interests: community gardening, reading, salt-water fishing, walking trails and is a big fan of the Atlanta Falcons and Atlanta United teams.



Theology from the Margins Certificate Group