

VAMC HOLIDAY NEWSLETTER 2017

FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR W. FERGUSON

Season Greetings!

With the coming of the Advent season, we look forward to Christmas, one of the most celebrated days of the year. Through Advent our hope in the coming of Jesus Christ is inspired and renewed as we think about what his coming holds for the people of God. Our God has chosen a time to deliver his people and to renew his whole creation. Encourage one another and live in anticipation of this life-transforming experience when "every eye will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory" Mark (13:26). The lessons of Advent not only remind us of his coming again but also that we should prepare our hearts to meet him when he comes to us.

As we journey through Advent to our grand celebration on Christmas Day the spirit of joy and cheer is filling the air and many hearts. Jesus Christ the reason for the season "was born on Christmas Day And man will live forever more, because of Christmas Day." What a gift to the world! It is in this thankful spirit that we celebrate Christ Jesus our Lord and his coming into the world to us. Around us near and far, there are many who do not have Christ in their hearts to celebrate because they have not welcomed him as King to live in their hearts and to reign over their lives. Let us lift up Jesus during this time of the year for those around us to see him. He says, "And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to me" (John: 12:32)

People will celebrate this wonderful time of the year in different ways, some not honoring the Christ among us. But let us make use of every opportunity to celebrate the Christ who is with us, by sharing the "Good tidings of comfort and joy" to people everywhere. This could be the only free and best gift some among us will ever receive.

In that same spirit of celebration, thank you for your partnership with us in serving Christ and his church, and for your shared love and fellowship with our community. We look forward as a church to serve you in the New Year and for your continued support of God's work in this community and beyond.

