



# Friendly Neighbor News

Advent Christian Village, Dowling Park, FL 32064

“Where People Enjoy Living”

**“The mission of Advent Christian Village, Inc. is to express Christ’s love by providing compassionate care and quality comprehensive services for senior adults, families with special needs, and children, in a secure, supportive residential setting and in the surrounding communities.”**

## DECEMBER 15, 2023

**Need help over the weekend? Call the Information Center at 658-3333.**

Friday	12/15	<b>The Village Pharmacy will be closed today from 12:00 noon to 2:00 p.m.</b> 9:00 a.m.–12:00 noon <i>10:00 a.m.</i> 2:00 p.m. <b>2:30 p.m.</b> <b>5:15 &amp; 5:30 p.m.</b>	Veterans’ Service—MS <i>Bible Study—VC Room 5</i> Sit ‘N Stitch—CH <b>Parade on Wheels Golf Cart Parade</b> <b>Bus Trip: Christmas Lights at Spirit of the Suwannee Music Park—DH &amp; LAP</b>
Saturday	12/16	<b>5:45 &amp; 6:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Bus Trip: Community Concerts of Lake City: Gainesville Pops—DH &amp; LAP</b>
Sunday	12/17	<i>9:40 a.m.</i> <i>11:00 a.m.</i> 2:00 p.m. <b>6:00 p.m.</b>	<i>Worship Service—VC</i> <i>Sunday School for All Ages</i> Coloring Book Time of Fellowship—DH Lobby <b>Cookies and Carols—RDR</b>
Monday	12/18	<b>10:00 a.m.</b> <b>12:30 p.m.</b> <b>2:15 &amp; 2:30 p.m.</b>	<b>The Bethlehem Star—VC Room 5</b> <b>Founder’s Day—RDR</b> <b>Bus Trip: Dine-Out to The Plaza Restaurant—DH &amp; LAP</b>
Tuesday	12/19	<i>8:30 a.m.</i> <b>10:00 a.m.</b> <i>1:30 p.m.</i> <b>5:15 &amp; 5:30 p.m.</b>  <b>6:00 p.m.</b>	<i>Men’s Bible Study—VC Room 5</i> <b>Christmas Storytime—OPR</b> <i>Voice of the Martyrs—OPR</i> <b>Bus Trip: Christmas Lights at Spirit of the Suwannee—DH &amp; LAP</b> <b>SongFarmers—SMR/DR</b>
Wednesday	12/20	<b>8:45 &amp; 9:00 a.m.</b> 1:00 p.m. <i>6:00 p.m.</i>	<b>Bus Trip: Walmart—CH &amp; DH</b> Bridge Club—OPR <i>Prayer Meeting—BC</i>
Thursday	12/21	9:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. <b>2:30–4:00 p.m.</b>	Village Artists Guild—KC <b>President’s Christmas Reception—RDR</b>
Friday	12/22	9:00 a.m.–12:00 noon <i>10:00 a.m.</i> 2:00 p.m. <b>6:30 p.m.</b>	Veterans’ Service—MS <i>Bible Study—VC Room 5</i> Sit ‘N Stitch—CH <b>Lukas and Rachel Miller Christmas Concert—VC</b>

ACV Advent Christian Village	CT/MT Cardinal/Magnolia Terrace	IC Information Center	POP Park of the Pines
BA Butterfield Acres	DH Dowling House	JKPL Jo Kennon Public Library	RDR Rumph Dining Room
BC Bixler Chapel	DM Dacier Manor	KC Keepers Cottage	RV Smith Riverview Apartments
CB Chriss Building	DMA Dowling Manor	LAP Lake Aquilla Parking Lot	RW Riverwoods
CH Carter House	DR Depot Room	MS Member Services	SMR Sawmill Room
CCC Copeland Community Center	ET Edgewood Terrace	OPR Old Pavilion Room	VC Village Church
CMC Copeland Medical Center	GSC Good Samaritan Center	PCS Polk Ceramics Shop	VS Village Square

**BOLD: ONE-TIME AND MONTHLY EVENTS — ITALIC: PROGRAMS FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH**

## IN LOVING MEMORY

- Christle Holzman, who was a resident of RW, RV and GSC, died Dec. 12. Her memorial information will be provided when available.
- Joyce Hett, who was a resident of BA, CH, and GSC, died Dec. 8. Her memorial information will be provided when available.
- William Hunter, Jr. (husband of Evelyn), who was a resident of GSC, died Dec. 8. His memorial information will be provided when available.
- Aletha Bingman, who was a resident of GSC, died Dec. 3. Her memorial information will be provided when available.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Messages from the  
President's Office  
-Craig Carter*

### FOUNDER'S DAY CELEBRATION

You are cordially invited to ACV's Founder's Day celebration scheduled for Monday, Dec. 18, during lunchtime in the RDR. ACV was founded on Dec. 17, 1913, and for 110 years this ministry has been expressing Christian love to those in need. That fact alone is reason to celebrate.

Everyone is encouraged to attend this special event and take part in the celebration. There will be a historical account of different aspects of life at ACV over the years as well as an announcement regarding future plans.

You will not want to miss this informative event as we acknowledge God's continual hand upon this ministry.

Come early and enjoy a special lunchtime buffet with the program to begin at approximately 12:30 p.m.

### GIFTS TO EMPLOYEES

It seems each year at Christmas at least one person asks if there is a Village policy regarding the giving of gifts to employees. As a non-profit Christian organization it is important to set reasonable expectations for employees to follow if members and others whom the Village serves desires to give them a gift. ACV has developed standards of ethics that serve as guidelines for our employees.

One of the standards states that a conflict of interest may arise when employees seek or accept gifts of material value from Village members, clients, customers or vendors. This standard is not meant in any way to lessen the spirit of being good neighbors and friends. We are first and foremost a community where compassion for one another gives character to the relationships that are naturally built between members and staff. One uniqueness of the Village community is having many employees and families who live on or near the campus participating in the life of the Village beyond their roles as employees. This is seen as we worship, fellowship, celebrate, and even grieve together.

How do we fit this standard into a community where people genuinely care for each other and may wish on occasion to give a gift of appreciation to a staff member? The following are a few guidelines that may help us all in fulfilling the spirit and intent of this standard:

1. The best gifts from members to employees are words or written notes and cards expressing thanksgiving, encouragement, support and appreciation.
2. Homemade food items from your own special recipes can be enjoyed by a group of employees. Remember, there are a large number of employees working behind the scenes who you seldom meet but do a wonderful service on behalf of ACV members.
3. Members should never feel that gifts to employees are necessary or expected.

4. Employees are never permitted to ask for personal gifts or loans without authorization from the Village's administration.
5. If an employee receives an unsolicited gift of significant value, he/she is required to report the information to an ACV officer.
6. A nice way to honor an employee is with a gift to the ACV benevolent fund. An honor card will be sent to the employee recognizing your gift in his/her honor.

The burden of following ACV's standards of ethics is placed on the employee, not the member. The strong standards are set to hopefully avoid any hint of exploitation by an employee.

Circumstances within the community may give reason for all of us to join together to express appreciation or helpfulness in the life of an employee. In these specific circumstances, an official announcement will be made by the administration.

Thank you for being wonderful participants in the building of a great community of members and employees.

### DO YOU HAVE A RETIREMENT FUND? HERE'S WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT RECENT LAW CHANGES

- **Increasing age for RMDs:** The required age to start your minimum distribution increased to 73 in 2023, and in 10 years, it will be age 75. This change allows you to postpone increasing your taxable income if you do not need it and keeps your funds invested longer.
- **Adjusting for inflation:** Since 2015, the Charitable IRA Rollover has become a popular way for generous individuals to support ACV. Anyone age 70½ or older can donate up to \$100,000 directly from an IRA each year to a qualified charitable organization like ACV without paying taxes on the distribution. Starting in 2024, that annual contribution limit will be adjusted each year for inflation. (Note: The minimum age remains at 70½ although the RMD age increased to 73.)
- **Establishing a Charitable Gift Annuity from an IRA:** Anyone age 70½ and older may make a one-time, tax-free gift from their IRAs of up to \$50,000 (up to \$100,000 for a couple) to a charitable gift annuity. This is a binding agreement between you and ACV in which you give a donation (starting at \$10,000 for individuals and \$15,000 for two people), and you receive a set income each year for the rest of your life. Remaining funds become a donation to ACV.

If you would like more information about these unique ways to support ACV, please contact Director of Legacy Giving Jim Davis at 658-5110 or [jdavis@acvillage.net](mailto:jdavis@acvillage.net).

Darleen Hinrichs, Sr. Director of Donor Engagement

### ACV'S STAFF CHRISTMAS PARTY 2023

What a great outdoor event again! Weather was perfect! Food was delicious! There was lots of laughter and fellowship going on in every corner. Look closely under the shade tree covering the parking lot and you might still see a little colored chalk on the pavement. Better yet, ask some of the Wee Care children about Olaf bubbles.

It is a blessing that ACV management support a staff Christmas celebration. Pam Bissett, Donna Thornton, and I are especially grateful for party elves

that helped make the day happen. You know who you are. Thank you!

Party prize winners:

- Sheila Durham, GSC — Candy Christmas Tree — 123 pieces of candy
- Gift drawings — five gifts:
  - Rick Yeager, Grounds
  - Traci Warner, Housekeeping Services
  - Elizabeth McGraw, GSC Nursing
  - Don Edquid, Dining Services
  - Kimberly Lawrence, Finance

And how 'bout them decorations?! Thank you, Donna. You have a real gift!

Pam Smythe, Director of Human Resources

## **ACV EVENTS**

# CHRISTMAS PARADE

### **ANNUAL PARADE ON WHEELS GOLF CART PARADE**

**Friday, Dec. 15, 2:30 p.m.**

Bring out your golf carts, bikes, scooters, antique cars ... anything with wheels ... decorated for the Christmas season! This year's theme is "A Florida Christmas", so deck your wheels using our theme or yours.

The parade will travel around the ACV campus for all to enjoy. Following the parade, join us at CCC for refreshments and the announcement of winners.

Entries need to line up in the LAP by 2:00 p.m. for judging. The parade will start at 2:30 p.m.



### **BUS TRIP: CHRISTMAS LIGHTS AT SPIRIT OF THE SUWANNEE MUSIC PARK**

**Friday, Dec. 15**

**5:15 p.m. - DH & 5:30 p.m. - LAP**

**Bus: \$9.00 members, \$13 non-members**

Bus transportation will be provided to visit Spirit of the Suwannee Music Park to drive through and enjoy the Suwannee Lights display on Friday, Dec. 15. The bus will leave DH at 5:15 p.m. and LAP at 5:30 p.m. The cost for this trip is \$9.00 for ACV members and \$13 for non-members. This price includes the entry fee for Spirit of the Suwannee. Sign up at the IC. There are two more Christmas lights trips scheduled this season if this date doesn't work for you.



### **BUS TRIP: COMMUNITY CONCERTS OF LAKE CITY: GAINESVILLE POPS**

**Saturday, Dec. 16, 7:30 p.m.**

**Florida Gateway College**

**Alfonso Levy Performing Arts Center**

**149 SE College Place, Lake City**

**5:45 p.m. - DH & 6:00 p.m. - LAP**

**Bus: \$5.00 members, \$9.00 non-members**

Thirty-five top musicians present a feast of favorite Christmas music and more. Modeled after Boston Pops, Gainesville Pops employs traditional concert band instrumentation to provide a pleasing blend of woodwinds, brass and percussion.

This event is included in your ACV season pass, or you may purchase individual tickets by calling (386) 365-8488 or visiting [communityconcerts.info](http://communityconcerts.info). Individual ticket prices are \$20 for adults and \$10 for students. The ACV bus fee is \$5.00 for ACV members and \$9.00 for non-members. Sign up at the IC.

## **COOKIES AND CAROLS**

**Sunday, Dec. 17, 6:00 p.m. - RDR**

There are many wonderful things about the Christmas season; Christmas cookies and carols are probably near the top of many people's "favorite things" list. Plan to gather in the dining room on Sunday evening, Dec. 17, at 6:00 to share some cookies and to sing some carols. You're invited to bring your favorite cookies to share potluck style. Beverages will be provided. Fa-la-la-layum!

## **FOUNDER'S DAY**

**Monday, Dec. 18, 12:30 p.m. - RDR**

On Dec. 17, 1913, the Setzer children from North Carolina moved to Dowling Park and thus began the ministry of ACV. Founder's Day was established to commemorate that special event and to provide an opportunity for us to be reminded of how God has blessed ACV by focusing on a specific area of ministry.

Founder's Day 2023 is scheduled for Monday, Dec. 18, at 12:30 p.m., and you are encouraged to come out and enjoy this history of ACV. Come early for a delicious buffet lunch in the RDR (\$10 for members, and \$12 for non-members; tickets are available from the Lopin' Gopher for those who would like to avoid waiting in line) and stay for the special program. We hope to see you there.

### **BUS TRIP: DINE-OUT TO THE PLAZA RESTAURANT**

**Monday, Dec. 18**

**2:15 p.m. - DH & 2:30 p.m. - LAP**

**Bus: \$7.00 members, \$12 non-members**

Sign up at the IC to join this bus trip to Thomasville, Georgia. Supper will be at The Plaza Restaurant. Thomasville does a great job of decorating for Christmas every year, so following supper, a little time will be spent enjoying downtown Thomasville. Sign up at the IC. You must sign up by end of day, Tuesday, Dec. 12, so we can give them a count on the 13th.



## **CHRISTMAS STORYTIME**

**Tuesday, Dec. 19, 10:00 a.m. - OPR**

If some of your favorite things this time of year are reading or listening to a favorite Christmas story, book or poem; hearing, playing or singing special Christmas favorites; and enjoying some Christmas goodies, join us at 10:00 a.m. on Dec. 19 in the OPR.

The program will be an "open mic" format so that you may share some of your favorites. You are invited to share a Christmas story or poem. You may even want to just tell about a favorite Christmas book. These presentations should be no longer than five minutes each. If you plan to share some music, call MS at 658-5400 to make sure we are prepared.

Another way to share would be to bring some of your favorite goodies. Call MS if you have questions.



### **BUS TRIP: CHRISTMAS LIGHTS AT SPIRIT OF THE SUWANNEE MUSIC PARK**

**Friday, Dec. 19**

**5:15 p.m. - DH & 5:30 p.m. - LAP**

**Bus: \$9.00 members, \$13 non-members**

Bus transportation will be provided to visit Spirit of the Suwannee Music Park to drive through and enjoy the Suwannee Lights display on Tuesday, Dec. 19. The bus will leave DH at 5:15 p.m. and LAP at 5:30 p.m. The cost for this trip is \$9.00 for ACV members and \$13 for non-members. This price includes the entry fee for



Spirit of the Suwannee. Sign up at the IC. There is one more Christmas lights trip scheduled this season if this date doesn't work for you.

### **PRESIDENT'S CHRISTMAS RECEPTION**

**Thursday, Dec. 21, 2:30–4:00 p.m. - RDR**

ACV President Craig Carter and his wife, Vicky, are pleased to invite the membership to the President's Christmas Reception in RDR on Thursday, Dec. 21, from 2:30 to 4:00 p.m. You are encouraged to attend this special time of fellowship filled with festive music and holiday treats.

### **LUKAS AND RACHEL MILLER CHRISTMAS CONCERT**

**Friday, Dec. 22, 6:30 p.m. - VC**

Live Oak's Lukas and Rachel Miller, a brother-and-sister team who performed at ACV last Christmas, are returning to bless us once again with their beautiful singing voices on Friday, Dec. 22. The pair will sing both solos and duets of old and new holiday favorites. Plan to attend this concert — free of charge — a gift to the Village by these two accomplished musicians.



### **BUS TRIP:**

### **STEPHEN FOSTER FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS**

**Saturday, Dec. 23**

**4:30 p.m. - DH & 4:45 p.m. - LAP**

**Bus: \$10 members, \$15 non-members**

Bus transportation will be provided Saturday, Dec. 23, to visit Stephen Foster Folk Culture Center in White Springs, Florida, to not only drive through the lights display, but also to get out and enjoy complimentary popcorn, hot cocoa, marshmallows by the bonfire, Santa, food and craft vendors, and more. Dress for outdoor comfort. On the way, the bus will stop at McDonald's in White Springs for a quick supper. The bus will leave DH at 4:30 p.m. and LAP at 4:45 p.m. The cost for this trip is \$10 for ACV members and \$15 for non-members. This price includes the entry fee. Sign up at the IC.

## *Christmas* BANQUET

**Monday, Dec. 25**

**Four seating options: 11:00 a.m.,  
11:45 a.m., 12:30 p.m., 1:15 p.m.**

**Rumph Dining Room**

**Free for members; \$21 for non-members**

Every year, the Christmas buffet is a free gift from ACV to its members. Tickets are still required as seating is limited. Tickets are available at MS during regular business hours and at the IC overnight and on weekends.

Family and guests are also welcome to attend. Ticket prices for family and guests are \$21 for adults and \$8.00 for children 5–12. For non-member tickets, you must first pay at the Village Cashier's office during regular operating hours (Monday–Friday, 10:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.) and present the receipt to pick up a non-member ticket. Tickets may also be paid for over the phone by calling the Cashier at 658-5343 during regular operating hours.

In order to facilitate the seating of groups, we ask that you let us know if you are part of a group seating when you pick up your tickets. If you put together a group after picking up your tickets, please call 658-5400 to let us know who is in your group. We need to know of groups of seven or more before Friday, Dec. 22, to make sure we have enough large tables ready.

Each ACV member may pick up for free either one seating ticket or one to-go ticket. Seating tickets and to-go tickets may only be used on Christmas Day at RDR. To-go tickets may be redeemed anytime between 11:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. on Christmas Day.

### **NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY**

**Sunday, Dec. 31, 6:30–9:00 p.m. - RDR**

You are invited to attend an evening celebration of the coming of 2024. The party will begin at 6:30 p.m. and end around 9:00 p.m. Mr. Dick Grillo will serve as emcee. He and other musicians will keep the party rocking with a variety of music. Refreshments will be served. ACV members are invited to attend for free. Non-members may also attend at a cost of \$10. Tickets are available at MS; please pick up your tickets by Friday morning, Dec. 29. (If you need to purchase a non-member ticket, please pay at the Village Cashier's office and bring the receipt or bring exact change to MS.)



If you would be willing to volunteer to assist as a host or hostess at the New Year's Eve party, please call MS at 658-5400.

## **EVENTS HERE AND THERE**

**Events in this section are not sponsored by ACV, even if they take place at ACV.**

### **HAPPY DAYS ARE HERE AGAIN**

*Christmas with André Rieu*

**Saturday, Dec. 16, 2:00 p.m. - OPR**

This beautiful musical hour was recorded in Germany, and the orchestra was set up in a big barn with cows.

André plays all-time European favorites: Austrian, Dutch and German carols, along with "Avé Maria", "Lullaby" and "The Holy City", finishing with the well known "Stille Nacht" (Silent Night). (1998, 60 minutes.)

Come join us on this coming Saturday, Dec. 16, at 2:00 p.m. in the OPR for this beautiful, festive concert! Everyone is welcome.

### **DEMENTIA SUPPORT GROUP**

**Thursday, Dec. 28, 1:30 p.m. - JKPL**

Being a caregiver for a loved one with dementia can be a huge commitment and come with many struggles. Come meet, share and listen to others that share the same challenges.

This support group is held the fourth Thursday of every month at 1:30 p.m. at the JKPL. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, Dec. 28. For more information please contact GSC's Ginger Calhoun at 658-5594.



### **JO KENNON PUBLIC LIBRARY**

**386-658-2670**

**Website: [srrlib.org](http://srrlib.org)**

**Email: [dpark@neflin.org](mailto:dpark@neflin.org)**

**Monday, Wednesday–Friday 9:00 a.m.–5:30 p.m.**

**Tuesday 9:00 a.m.–7:00 p.m.**

**Saturday 9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.**

**Closed Sunday**

**Closed Dec. 25–26**

JKPL will be closed on Monday, Dec. 25, and Tuesday, Dec. 26, for the Christmas holidays. Regular hours will resume on Wednesday. For your convenience, our online catalog, digital resources, and book drop will still be available.

### **SongFarmers**

Would you like some great entertainment that doesn't cost a fortune and is close to home in your Christmas stocking this year? Wish granted! SongFarmers will be at the SMR/DR at 6:00 p.m., on Tuesday, Dec. 19, ready to make your season bright. Enjoy the acoustic talents of this multi-genre group, or join in to sing or play a favorite tune to get your very own holiday magic started!

### **The Polar Express**

All aboard! This Friday, Dec. 15, at 3:00 p.m., put on your favorite PJs and join us at JKPL for a special showing of *The Polar Express*. Curl your hands around

some warm cocoa and settle in for your trip to the North Pole with this wonderful movie that is based on the book by Chris Van Allsburg. This is a great family film that is sure to rekindle your spirit and make you choo-choo right through the Christmas season!

### Christmas Card Swap

This Christmas we invite you to join us in a new holiday program called the Christmas Card Swap. To participate, bring your extra Christmas cards (including envelopes) to the library and exchange them for others between now and the week before Christmas. Swap Shopping Days are during library hours, come in at your convenience. While you are here take a look at the village miniatures and Nativities, as well as the amazing window displays!

### Dementia Support

If you are a caregiver or relative of someone suffering with dementia join Ginger Calhoun on Thursday, Dec. 28, from 1:30-2:30 p.m. as she gives support and resources on how to navigate through these difficult waters and what to expect in the future. Don't struggle on your own come in and get the assistance that you need.

### Christmas Photo Op at the JKPL

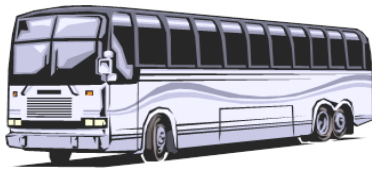
Christmas pictures were an annual tradition when I was growing up. Even now, my family takes an annual photo to share with friends and family even in this digital age. If you are looking for a Christmas background, we have a fun photo op set up in the JKPL for that perfect Christmas picture! Come by any time the JKPL is open, pose, smile, and snap away!

### Starbooks Café Topic of the Week:

What are some of our favorite Christmas traditions?

#### Weekly JKPL Meetings:

Starbooks Café	Tuesdays	9:30 a.m.
Crochet Creations	Thursdays	3:00 p.m.
Kids Corner	Saturdays	11:00 a.m.



## BUS TRIPS

If you wish to ride the ACV bus on these trips, you must contact the IC in person or by phone at 658-3333 to sign up. Please be considerate of those who have allergies and limit your use of perfumes, aftershaves, and colognes when riding the bus.

### WEEKLY LIVE OAK SHOPPING TRIPS

There is no charge for Village members to participate in the regular weekly Live Oak shopping trips. If you have questions, call Member Services at 658-5400.

Please remember to bring your own bags on the Wednesday shopping trips to assist in keeping everyone's purchases separate.

- **Dec. 20, Wednesday a.m. — Walmart** — Leave CH at 8:45 a.m. and DH at 9:00 a.m. Leave from Walmart at approximately 11:30 a.m. and return to the Village at noon.
- **Dec. 20, Wednesday p.m.** — No shopping trip.
- **Dec. 27, Wednesday a.m. — Save A Lot and Winn Dixie** — Leave CH at 8:45 a.m. and DH at 9:00 a.m. Leave from Save A Lot at approximately 11:30 a.m. and return to the Village at noon. The bus will drop off Winn-Dixie on the way to Save A Lot, park at Save A Lot, and pick up at Winn-Dixie on the way home.
- **Dec. 27, Wednesday p.m. — Walmart** — Leave CH at 1:15 p.m. and DH at 1:30 p.m. Leave from Walmart at approximately 4:00 p.m. and return to the Village at 4:30 p.m.
- **Jan. 3, Wednesday a.m. — Walmart** — Leave CH at 8:45 a.m. and DH at 9:00 a.m. Leave from Walmart at approximately 11:30 a.m. and return to the Village at noon.

- **Jan. 3, Wednesday p.m. — Publix** — Leave CH at 1:15 p.m. and DH at 1:30 p.m. Leave from Publix at approximately 4:00 p.m. and return to the Village at 4:30 p.m.

### UPCOMING BUS TRIPS

- Dec. 15 — Christmas Lights at Spirit of the Suwannee Music Park
- Dec. 16 — Community Concerts of Lake City: Gainesville Pops
- Dec. 18 — Dine-Out to The Plaza Restaurant
- Dec. 19 — Christmas Lights at Spirit of the Suwannee Music Park
- Dec. 23 — Stephen Foster Festival of Lights

## DEPARTMENT NEWS

### THE VILLAGE CHURCH

Rev. Sam Worley, Senior Minister  
Church Office - 658-5344 - P.O. Box 4314

**SERMON:** "Luke's Unlikely Narrative"

**TEXT:** Luke 2:4-12 NKJV; Luke 1:1-4 NIV '84

**SPEAKER:** Rev. Sam Worley

The following VC events are happening this week:

#### Friday, Dec. 15

10:00 a.m. — Bible Study, Donald Wrigley (VC Room 5)

#### Sunday, Dec. 17

9:40 a.m. — Morning Worship

11:00 a.m. — Sunday School for all ages

6:00 p.m. — Cookies and Carols (RDR) — Cookie potluck (bring your favorite cookie to share) and enjoy a Christmas carol singalong.

#### Monday, Dec. 18

10:00 a.m. — The Bethlehem Star, Steve Reas (VC Room 5)

#### Tuesday, Dec. 19

8:30 a.m. — Men's Bible Study (VC Room 5)

#### Wednesday, Dec. 20

6:00 p.m. — Prayer Meeting (BC)

#### Friday, Dec. 22

10:00 a.m. — Bible Study, Tom Spannagle (VC Room 5)

#### Upcoming Events:

**Sunday, Dec. 24, 6:00 p.m.** — Christmas Eve communion service (VC)

### DINING SERVICES

**Arlene Yow—386-658-5260**

RDR will close early on Thursday, Dec. 21, to set up for the President's Christmas Reception. Lunch will end at 12:30.

Do not forget to buy your tickets for the Founder's Day lunch buffet on Monday, Dec. 18, from the Lopin' Gopher. Pre-paid tickets are not required, but will save you having to wait in line to pay.

### MEMBER SERVICES

**James Sutter—386-658-5400**

#### Member Services Tip of the Week

They still have two more weeks to go, but I wanted to go ahead and recognize and thank Jan and Mike Cuddy for serving as ACV's volunteer coordinators these six months. They have been a tremendous help, and ACV is a better place because of their dedication. As I tell all of my volunteers, while I would love for you to volunteer forever, volunteering is a gift, and when you're ready to move on, we will thank you and bid you farewell. Jan and Mike will be done with this task at the end of the month. Please help me say thank you to the Cuddys for the time they've spent in the volunteer coordinator's office. We'll miss seeing you guys every week!

#### Scam Tip of the Week:

##### Don't Say "Yes"

Unless you know the person on the other end of a phone call, avoid saying the word "yes". If they ask, "Can you hear me?", respond with something like "I can hear you." If they ask, "Is this (your name)?", answer

## ☞ At the Village Square ☜

### Riverside Gifts

Check out the clothing gifts for men, women and teens. Cute and colorful Christmas stockings are now on display. It's also a good time to get a hat, gloves and scarf set in lovely warm colors. Hunters' caps have just arrived.

Reading glasses (+2.5) in a variety of colors and styles are now in stock. Other helps for reading are the traditional magnifying sheets in two sizes, and handheld magnifying glasses.

Larger soup and chowder mugs with delightful designs will complete your festive table. Add the cloth napkins, and crystal candy dishes also for sale.

There are beautiful 100% mulberry silk scarves. Each comes with its own beautiful box. Large pashmina shawls that are ever so soft and warm also come in a variety of colors.

Reminder: Watch batteries can be replaced for a reasonable price. Stop in for details.

658-5771. Open Monday–Friday, 10:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m., and Saturday, 10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.

### Rustic Shop

Stop in to see the stocking stuffers and small gifts for friends and family. Check out the lighted Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus. They will make your home even more festive. There are also ceramic lighted trees in a variety of sizes.

Check out the two tables set with high quality dish sets. There are also napkins. The Waterford crystal picture frame will make a sweet gift.

Both individual and boxed Christmas cards are still in good supply and waiting for you to purchase and bless others.

We'd like to take this time to thank the craftspeople who make the clothing protectors, lid removers, quilts, napkins, kitchen scrubbies, wood items, and ceramic items. You are appreciated for your craftsmanship.

Reminder: Thursday is the day to drop off clothing to be repaired or altered. Bag your item, attach a note with your name and contact information, and what alterations need to be done.

658-5273. Open Monday–Friday, 10:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m., and Saturday, 10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.

### Twice Nice Shop

**Dec. 15–30: There is a huge half-price sale on ladies' pantsuits, skirts, and skirt suits.** Sweaters and shoes will complete your stylish outfits.

The men's department has an excellent selection of shirts, pants and jackets. There are also wonderful neckties to fit these styles and colors.

The Book Nook sale continues through Christmas. **Magazines on a variety of topics are 25¢ each. Hardbound fiction and nonfiction books are 50¢ each. CDs are five for \$1.00, and DVDs are three for \$1.00.** All VHS tapes are free! Remember, Bibles and hymnals are always free in the Book Nook!

658-5271. Open Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, 11:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m., and Saturday, 10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.

## ☞ On CR 250 ☜

### Twice Nice Furniture & More

23353 CR 250 • 658-5871

Mondays & Thursdays, 8:30 a.m.–1:00 p.m.  
First Saturday of month, 8:00 a.m.–12:00 noon

Feeling those cooler nights? We have blankets in every size! Lots of afghans, too. We even have cozy pajamas and robes. The Christmas rack has sweaters and t-shirts waiting for you. There are Christmas flags and wreaths, door décor, wrapping paper, ribbon, and decorations galore.

with, "This is he/she/your name." A scammer may be trying to record you saying the word "yes". According to triadanet.com, scammers can "take the 'yes' recording and use it to authorize unwanted charges, whether that's on a phone or utility bill or even on a credit card. How can this be? Well, when they record you saying 'yes', that means that they have your verbal ok to agree to something. They already have your phone number and possibly your name and more information so they can pass through some places as you authorizing additional charges and such."

### VOLUNTEER SERVICES

**Mike and Jan Cuddy—386-658-5251**  
**volunteering@acvillage.net**

The first sight emerging from our house after Idalia was to see downed trees, two of which landed on our roof. Several of our beautiful canopies were now gone or had to be removed. I cried when we were told yet one more had to be cut down. We spent several nights on our porch since we did not have electricity. Early one evening I looked up. Because the trees were gone, I could see the stars! I was so excited, especially to see one large, bright star. I exclaimed that I could now see the North Star. Mike informed me that it was Venus.

We just had a wonderful interview with another one of our volunteers, Steve Reas. Steve is always busy in one of his areas of service as audio visual technician. He also has a passion for astronomy. He is offering his "The Star of Bethlehem" presentation in VC Room 5 on Dec. 18 at 10:00 a.m. if you missed the first one on the 13th. And if you cannot make this one, Steve is more than happy to show it again in small groups.

As we think of the wise men and their very important part of the story of the Christ child, we realize they found the new king because they were looking for Him. They knew the stars. From the writings of Daniel and for hundreds of years, it had been prophesied. I was intrigued to hear Steve talk about not only the planet Venus but also Jupiter and our moon. He shared about the entourage that would have probably traveled with these king-makers. Also, the long journey it probably entailed, and possible different ways they may have traveled back to avoid Herod. His hour-long presentation is one not to miss.

As volunteers, may we be wise and still seek the King of Kings. Philippians Chapter 2 gives us an insight how we may serve with the humility of Christ. And Verse 15 says we too will shine like stars.

## CLUB NEWS

### BRIDGE CLUB

**Betsey Ruehl, Reporter**

The Bridge Club meets on Wednesdays at 1:00 p.m. in the OPR. If you would like to play, please call Betsey Ruehl by noon on Monday at (386) 658-1766. If you cannot reach Betsey, call Betty Driggers at 658-1043.

Congratulations to our Dec. 6 winners: 1st high, Lew Gessler, and 2nd high, Lee Dembinski.

Those who would like to learn how to play or would like a refresher should call Betsey.

### GARDEN CLUB

**Ann Thompson for Sandra Kelly, Reporter**

Reminder, our Christmas luncheon is scheduled for Friday, Dec. 15, at 12:00 noon in the Youth Lodge at Camp Suwannee. This will replace our December monthly meeting. Please contact Betsey Ruehl at 658-1766 with your RSVP if you haven't already done so. Each member is requested to bring a covered dish to share. There will be a gift exchange. If you wish to participate, bring a wrapped gift valued at \$10 and indicate if it is for a man or woman or either. We hope to see you there for fun, food, games and fellowship.

### VILLAGE LIBRARY

**Monday–Friday**

**10:00 a.m.–12:00 noon & 1:00–3:00 p.m.**

**Brenda Reas, Reporter**

If you enjoy looking at the *Ideals Magazine* with its beautiful photographs and poetry, we have quite a few



Christmas ones laid out on our table for you to borrow, take home to look at, and return. While you are in the library, take a look at our unique crèche, which was made in the Philippines, and read about how it was made and came to be here.

Please have your ACV ID badge available when you come to check out books and DVDs. We are located in the Schoolhouse Room between the OPR and IC. Our drop box is located around the corner across from the restrooms (beneath the bulletin board), and you may return books and DVDs there at any time.

While the library is only open certain hours, the computer lab is available 24/7. To use the computer lab when the library is closed, you must check out the key from the IC. A Village ID is required. Please do not take books or DVDs when a volunteer is not present to check them out for you.

### **PEN PAL PROGRAM**

#### **A Committee of the Membership Association Monica Serlick, Reporter**

The Christmas Banquet at the Ranch on Monday, Dec. 11, was a terrific evening spent with our pen pals. Several didn't have family there and chose to spend their time with us. The dinner was delicious, and we had an opportunity to give the kids Christmas gifts, which they really appreciated. Altogether, it was a very pleasant and fun evening.

There will be a meeting of the pen pals on Friday, Jan. 5, at 2:00 p.m. in the OPR. Please plan to attend. Sheriff St. John will be our guest and will present one of our resident pen pals with an award. We have several new pen pals and we will review the past year. We will also look at the possibility of hosting the youth here at ACV. Additionally, a collection will be made for the purchase of a gift card. We should attain our goal if folks can donate \$3.00 or more. The Annual 66th Open House at the Ranch will be held Feb. 23–25. The village is always invited and is planning to go on Saturday, Feb. 24. More details at the January meeting.

If you would like to be a pen pal please contact me at (386) 330-4865 and leave a message. I will call you back.

"Every child deserves a champion — an adult who understands the power of connection and insists that they become the best they can possibly be" (Rita Pierson).

### **STEPHEN MINISTRY**

#### **Rev. Robin Copeland, Reporter**

##### **Alone vs. Lonely**

When we are hurting, our natural inclination is to withdraw. We may prefer to be alone ... to be by ourselves. Being "alone" is a physical state where you are physically by yourself. There are times when we need to be alone. We can be alone and not be lonely.

Being "lonely" is an emotional state where you are feeling disconnected from others — even when they're right next to you. During seasons of loneliness, it is helpful to remember that God is near. Psalm 34:18 tells us that "The Lord is close to the broken-hearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit." Jesus said, "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." Not only does God draw close to us, we can make the choice to change our lonely circumstances.

Building strong social connections, whether through volunteering, joining a club or group, or simply reaching out to friends and family, can help combat feelings of loneliness. Volunteering as a Stephen Minister is an opportunity to build strong social connections. Please come and join us and be trained as a Stephen Minister. If interested please contact Rev. Robin Copeland or Rev. Michael Saunders at (386) 658-5378 or stephenministries@acvillage.net.

### **VILLAGE VOICES**

#### **Nancy Seale, Reporter**

Hello, dear friends. I want to share a story with you in this article that touched my heart this week.

A farmer was searching for his watch in his barn. It had little monetary value, but great sentimental value. He searched and searched, but didn't find it.

Upon hearing some children outside, he approached them and explained his great desire to find his lost watch. They agreed to help and quickly entered the barn and began searching. However, after looking for about half an hour with no luck, the farmer thanked them and sent them on their way.

One little lad turned around, returned to the farmer, and asked if he could try again. The farmer agreed, and the boy entered the barn alone. Some time later, the boy came walking out with the watch in his hand.

The amazed farmer praised him and thanked him for coming back. When the farmer asked the boy how he was able to find it, the boy replied that he really had done nothing special. "I just sat down and quietly waited, listening for the ticking of the watch. Then I followed the sound, and now here it is."

In order for us to hear the "tickings" of our Heavenly Father, we have to be still and listen. Now, if we rearrange two letters in the word "listen", we have the word "silent".

"Be still and know that I am God" (Psalm 46:10).

When you understand that God is never late, you wait differently.

In this fast-paced world, and yes, even at ACV, we can get caught up in the busyness of life to the point that it's difficult to slow down. The Christmas season even makes it more difficult.

Please take advantage of some "down time" to ponder the topic for the upcoming *Village Voices*. In the quietness of your listening, ponder this year's theme, "Strength and Courage". I want you to be a part of this wonderful opportunity to share your experience within the pages of this Village tradition.

Please place your submission in the envelope on the counter in MS. Also, you may email me at basketcasenan51@gmail.com.

## **NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS**

### **BUTTERFIELD ACRES**

#### **Jack "CrackerJack" Dixon, Reporter**

With so many things going on around the county we are finding it difficult fitting everything in. We had an enjoyable time watching the Christmas cantata at the VC this past weekend. We also enjoyed the tremendous performance of the choir under the direction of Traci Nissley. We are so blessed to have such talent. Sunday after church we had the privilege of meeting Kevin Nissley who will be here for about three months before returning to work in Ohio. The whole family was all smiles having "Daddy" home for a while.

Arlene Williamson is recovering and doing well but needs our prayers for continued healing. Please continue to lift up Mike and Cindy Hitchcock as Mike continues to go through treatments. I am sure there are more prayer needs for healing in our community that I don't know about; we all need prayer.

I think we are the only street that still has a big pile of debris and big limbs to be picked up! I wonder if they forgot us.

Barb and I are excited as we anticipate a visit between Christmas and New Year's from our nephew, Michel, and his wife, Joy. They live in Palm Beach, Florida, and have never been to our new house. They will be here for a few days. What a nice Christmas present to have family visit.

I find that if I waited until I had all my ducks in a row, I'd never get across the street. Sometimes you just have to gather up what you can and make a run for it! Yesterday I made a huge "to do" list. Now I have to figure out who is going to do it! I have found the happiest place in the world is inside a hug. Give someone a hug today and feel the warmth and good that comes from it.

From the veranda of our humble abode overlooking the ever-so-smooth and dust-free 102nd Trail in beautiful BA, remember "JESUS is the reason for the season", and never forget who is in charge. Isaiah 40:28–31.

God bless!

## **CARTER HOUSE** **Monica Serlick, Reporter**

We have one anniversary and four birthdays coming up for this week. Happy birthday wishes go out to Bruce Haigh and Norma Cecchi on Dec. 20, and James Boots and Sharon Beall on Dec. 21. Blessings for all to have a wonderful and memorable day. "Count your life by smiles, not tears. Count your age by friends, not years" (Shutterfly.com). Happy anniversary wishes go out to Clarke and Mary Little on Dec. 22. "May God continue to cover and bless you in your union" (goodhousekeeping.com).

If you have any news you would like to share with others, please call and give me details. Please continue to keep those who are ill, recovering or struggling in your prayers.

Recently a walk-by was done by upper management, and sadly the common/activities room did not look inviting at all. As a result, a couple of people were sent to reset the area to make it more appealing to residents and visitors. This is the layout to be maintained until further notice. Additionally, the giveaway table has been moved into the TV room.

The following are other options available to get rid of unwanted items:

- 1) Take items to Twice Nice.
- 2) If you can't take them there, call them and ask them to pick up your items.
- 3) Call Alexis Allen if you have food to give away and see if she can accommodate you.
- 4) Put a sign downstairs inviting your neighbors to come to your apartment for the freebies.
- 5) Put an ad in the FNN listing the items for free.
- 6) Expired food and torn clothing need to be placed in the trash.

Laundry rooms are not to be used for giveaways. It is unfair to expect other residents to clean up after you so they can use the tables; please be considerate.

I was fortunate to be able to attend the second showing of the Christmas cantata Sunday afternoon. The entire presentation was outstanding with wonderful carols and the story of Christ's first coming. The Te Deum handbell ringers and choir were incredible! If you missed it this year, plan on attending next year's presentation. Thanks go out to Traci Nissley for doing a magnificent job of putting the event together. It was a fabulous way to kick off the Christmas season. Merry Christmas to all, and to those who celebrate, Happy Hanukkah.

Remember to be respectful of other residents and visitors. Please do not confront anyone if you think they are violating any of ACV's rules or policies. If you see anything that you believe is out of the ordinary or inappropriate, please contact the IC at 658-3333 and report it. They will ensure someone is sent to check things out. This is your home, IF YOU SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING!

## **DOWLING HOUSE**

### **Patricia-Adele Lyons, Reporter**

Joyous day, fellow Villagers! While helping a new resident, Lisa Moore, get organized and settled in, Sally Sauls called me to let me know that I had been elected and/or volunteered by more than several residents to write the DH article each week. She even gave me a laptop to use, and when I went to pick it up, she handed me the birthday list from the FNN, and informed me that there are new residents on the 4th floor who I need to interview for the next FNN. LOL! Okay! So, to the new residents on the 4th floor, "Welcome," and I will be seeking you out next week, if that's OK.

Well, I'd like to begin with Scarlett's adventures and travels in and out of town. They are always so lovely and so colorful — the stories after each trip. And thank you, Scarlett, for the beautiful Christmas gifts you surprised me with by hanging the bag on my door knob (then texting me a while later to check my door).

Frank and June Hreha's son was at the Village for a visit. They seemed to be greatly enjoying his presence, and they were pretty busy! Each time I saw them — in the hallway or in the lobby — they were always coming or going. And they always had nice

smiles to accompany their "Hello" as they hurried to and fro.

A big thanks to Joel Rutter for the all the greens and veggies from the garden that he delivers to the DH. They don't last long; keep your eyes out for goodies from the garden. I cooked up the collards and mustard greens with some ham. Yum, yum.

A big thank you to Myra Webb for the bowl of crockpot chicken she cooked up and delivered to my door on a busy day. As always, Myra, you're one of the best cooks in the Village in my opinion. I look forward to some fried green tomatoes again! Hint, hint!

So much thanks to go around, and not enough room on this page. It is the time of the year to give thanks — for good neighbors, for our Lord's provisions and protection, and especially to our Father God in heaven who gave us the greatest gift of all, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

As we make our way to Christmas Day, remember that it is a day where love was expressed in its purest form — unconditional. It's not about religion, or denominations, or which songs we sing, or how we worship God, or the gifts we give and get. It is about Jesus Christ, who is the manifestation of all that God is, and the redeemer of our souls. The greatest gift you can give someone is to tell them about Jesus Christ and why He came into the world. And it is a gift you don't have to shop for or pay for; the price has already been paid.

I hope to see you all at the Christmas buffet gathering. It's always good food, good fellowship, and even some pretty good music. So, please come and enjoy your neighbors as we celebrate our Lord Jesus.

Please notify me with any news you'd like to share — stories of your travels, family and friends who may come for Christmas, anything you think we would all enjoy reading. I can be reached at my email address, [patriciabondservant@gmail.com](mailto:patriciabondservant@gmail.com), or by phone (in the telephone directory).

## **EDGEWOOD TERRACE**

### **Sandra Kelley, Reporter**

Hello again, ET! I've said so many times, "I'm 65, 75 or 82 years old. Don't restrict my diet; let me eat what I want." I now see the fallacy of my ways. I stopped watching my diet. I sat instead of walking, and I stopped going to the gym. I now reap the results of my faulty logic. Being active and eating nutritious foods helps prevent osteoporosis (and broken bones), which I now have. Walking routinely helps regulate the heart, strengthens bones and muscles, and improves muscle tone and breathing. Improved eating habits could have helped prevent my newest diagnosis of gallstones.

It's said that it takes a village to raise a child. I can tell you that it takes a village to raise a fallen member! I couldn't possibly try to name all the supportive people who have been lifting me up by cutting red tape; providing needed supplies including meals; helping my husband work out problems; and most importantly, giving personal, hands-on care and praying. We chose ACV anticipating the need for medical care as we aged, but we could not have anticipated the generosity, compassion, and agape love we are receiving.

God is good all the time. BUT, He needs us to take advantage of the knowledge we have of how to stay as healthy as we can. So, take my advice: Get out of that chair, walk as much as you are able, eat judiciously, and don't do like I did. I'm the cause of my own problems. But rest assured that if you should need them, these wonderful Villagers are ready to be of service and lift you up.

## **GOOD SAMARITAN CENTER AND DACIER MANOR**

### **Bruce Arnold, Reporter**

"John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins" (Mark 1:4).

Everywhere we look people are preparing for Christmas. All around ACV the beautiful lights, greenery and other Christmas decorations are glowing, helping us to look forward to the day when we celebrate the birth of Christ. Of course we know these beautiful lights and



other adornments didn't just spring up by themselves. Preparation was made, plans were made, and many put a lot of time and effort into making ACV shine for Christmas!

God also has a plan — a plan for the salvation of mankind, and he sent his messenger to prepare the way for people to receive this message. John the Baptist came to prepare the way for Jesus. How did John prepare the way? He brought a message of repentance, a turning away from sin in a time when God's people were longing for peace, for deliverance from their foes. John prepared the way by preaching a message of repentance, for without repentance from sin, no one can have peace with God.

Sin is hostility toward God. Romans 8:7 puts it this way, "the carnal [natural] mind is enmity [at war] against God". So in preparation for peace, the message of repentance is necessary. If we desire deliverance from besetting sins, we will never find the peace we desire unless we first repent and turn to God. John the Baptist prepared the way; the way is prepared for us today. For peace with God then, there is no other way but repentance.

The residents of DM received a special Christmas supper from the Live Oak Rotary Club on Monday night, Dec. 11. Appetizers, the main meal and dessert, along with sparkling grape juice were served by the Rotary Club members. Along with the meal, Santa Claus also made an appearance! Santa visited each table taking time to bring Christmas cheer to each resident. We're thankful to the Rotary Club for making this such a special evening.

At GSC and DM this past week, we've been testing our knowledge of Christmas carols by playing "Name that Christmas Carol". A line or a clue is given concerning a Christmas carol, and we have to try to guess the name of the carol. It sounds easier than it is! As much as we think we know these songs so well, they sound different when we read just one line. For instance, what Christmas carol has the line "Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light"? You sang that line to determine the carol, didn't you? Or "sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace"? There, you did it again, didn't you? How about this one? "Behold throughout the heavens there shone a holy light". Keep singing!

How about trying to determine the carol by an alternate title? Can you figure out "Fantasia of a Colorless December 25th", "Assemble, Everyone Who Believes", or "Listen, Aerial Spirits Announcing"? Don't read ahead, but I'll give you the answers at the end of this column.

On Tuesday, Dec. 19, Catherine Grim will present a Christmas concert at 2:00 p.m. in the Magnolia dining room. We look forward to hearing our favorite Christmas carols and songs.

Our Advent wreath continues to grow brighter each week. We've lit the first candle, the candle of hope. Jack and Barbara Dixon read and lit the second candle last Sunday, the candle of peace. This week we will continue by lighting the candle of joy, the only pink candle in the wreath. Our Scripture for this Sunday will be John 1:6-8, 19-28. The sermon will be "Joy for Today".

Here are the answers to the Christmas Carol quiz. First is "O Little Town of Bethlehem", next is "Silent Night", then "Go, Tell it on the Mountain". The alternate title songs are "I'm Dreaming of a White Christmas", "O Come, All Ye Faithful" and "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing". But, of course, you knew them, right?

### **RIVERWOODS Betsey Ruehl, Reporter**

The neighborhood is looking so much better. Even the piles of branches are starting to disappear. It helps that many have decorated their homes in the spirit of Christmas. I have finally finished decorating the house. The next thing will be decorating cookies. We have much to be grateful for in RW. Small gatherings are being held at people's homes to play games or share friendship. Many are once again attending activities at CCC, the VC, or going on bus trips.

Elf alert: RW elves will once again deliver goodies (cookies, candy, fruit cups, crackers, tea bags, hot chocolate, chips, pretzels, etc.) to neighbors who are housebound or who have moved from RW to other areas in ACV, and to employees who serve us so well in all areas of ACV. We will gather in the CCC activity room on Dec. 19, 9:00-10:00 a.m. to assemble these gifts. Please bring your donations to CCC at that time. Last year the elves delivered approximately 40 bags of goodies.

"God of wilderness, God of wildness, lead me to the quiet places of my soul. In stillness, in openness, may I find my strength" (Jan L. Richardson). "You may not control all the events that happen to you, but you can decide not to be reduced by them" (Maya Angelou).

## **MEMBER BENEFITS**

ACV offers a variety of programs and services to its members under the membership program. Members pay a monthly fee to provide supplemental support for this array of services and programs, meeting many of the varied needs of its members, as well as providing the opportunity to live his or her life to its fullest potential and highest level of independence. Some services you may not need today, you may well find important or essential in the future, and your financial participation makes it possible for your neighbor to have access to the services they need now.

### **This week's member benefit of note:**

Notary Public services are available to members for free in MS.

## **FOR YOUR INFORMATION**

### **RIVERWOODS HOA**

RW Homeowners Association will be electing new board members at its Annual Meeting in January. There are five positions to be filled for a one-year term. If you are a member of the RWHOA and wish to participate in this process, in addition to voting on the candidates at the Annual Meeting, you may do so in one or more of the following ways:

1. Apply in writing to the nominating committee to select you as their nominee for a board position. An application form may be obtained at MS. Two members of the nominating committee will contact you for an interview. We ask that you read a copy of the RWHOA Bylaws and Restrictive Covenants before the interview.
2. If you wish to nominate someone for a board position from the floor at the Annual Meeting, you may do so first by obtaining that person's permission, then report in writing your intent to nominate this person to the secretary of the RWHOA (you may do so by leaving it at MS to the attention of Monica Crawford). It must reflect the name of the individual intended to be nominated, and the position number (1-5) for which the person is to be nominated. The RWHOA Bylaws require that this be done before the Annual Meeting date, and the Board asks for at least 24 hours before the meeting in order to have time to prepare paper ballots.

Current Board members of the RW Homeowners Association are:

- 1) Ann Thompson, President
- 2) John Nicely, Vice President
- 3) Barbara Bertolino, Secretary
- 4) Chuck Eckel, Treasurer
- 5) Al Durrell, Member-at-Large

We thank the nominating committee (John Nicely, Chair; Jim Rainsberger; Jo England and Stan Story) for their work in this process.

### **VILLAGE CHURCH BIBLE INSTITUTE**

The following are VCBI classes beginning in January:

- Jan. 3, 10:00 a.m. — "Our Father Abraham: The Jewish Roots of Christianity"; Michael Saunders (VC Room 5)

- Jan. 4, 10:00 a.m. — “What’s the Reason and Purpose for Missions in our Church?”; Paul Cochrane (VC Room 5)
- Jan. 5, 1:00 p.m. — “The Roman Road Bible Study”; Michael Saunders (CCC)
- Jan. 6, 11:00 a.m. — “How Can I Accurately Interpret NT Books?”; Tom Spannagle (OPR)
- Jan. 8, 10:00 a.m. — “Removing the Shadows from the Book of Hebrews Part 3”; Stan Storey and Mike Elder (VC Room 6)
- Jan. 8, 1:30 p.m. — Studies in First Peter; Donald Wrigley (VC Room 5)

There will be a Jewish evangelism presentation, **Christian Witness to Israel (North America)**, by Director Rev. Stephen Atkinson on Jan. 23, 2024, at 1:30 p.m. in the SMR. The event will be hosted by Rev. Michael Saunders, a former Jewish evangelist.

The next **Harbinger Bible Conference** will be held Feb. 8–10, 2024, in BC. The theme is “Being Renewed in the Blessed Assurance”. The speaker will be Dr. Sam Warren, the Bible teacher will be Rev. Bob Copeland, and workshops will be lead by Dr. Michael Saunders. Friday afternoon, book signing by authors of ACV and Harbinger will take place. Saturday afternoon, there will be a concert by guest artist Charlie Stevens.

### **FROM BAGS TO BEDS** **Verna Piper, Reporter**

There are a LOT of bags to fold! Next gathering is Friday, Dec. 22, any time from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. at my home, 11052 Dowling Park Drive.

### **NO MORE NUTS!** **Verna Piper, Reporter**

The Garden Club thanks you for your nut purchases. We have sold out and will begin making plans to spend our profits wisely.

### **ART GALLERY EXHIBIT** **Chuck Eckel, Reporter**

Judy Hatch is the featured artist in the Art Gallery display near the Lopin’ Gopher. She provided the following background information:

I began quilting in 1990 by taking several adult education classes at the local high school. We were living in Maine at that time. I enjoyed learning to do paper piecing, crazy patch designs, along with hand embroidery stitching and watercolor designs.

In 1997 I joined the Chickadee Quilt Guild in Bridgton, Maine, which enabled me to attend a number of quilting workshops and learn new patterns and techniques. The guild hosted a large quilt show each summer, which allowed me to enter my quilts and wall-hangings.

Over the years I have made several quilts for nieces and nephews as wedding gifts and continue to do so for grandnieces and -nephews. My favorite materials to work with are batik fabrics, which have become very popular in recent years.

I have joined the Lady of the Lake Quilt Guild in Lake City and enjoy making charity quilts and crocheted baby afghans, which the guild donates to different groups throughout Lake City and Live Oak.

I praise God and thank Him for giving me the ability to undertake this hobby and provide beauty to this world through the use of a wide variety of fabrics and techniques.

### **BOB COPELAND’S NEWEST BOOK**

Bob Copeland’s newest book, *Overcoming the Temptations of the Spirit-Filled Life*, is now available on Amazon in Kindle format only.

Studying the temptations that the Spirit-filled Christ endured helps us uncover and overcome the temptations of the Spirit-filled life that we are called and empowered to live.

### **FINANCIAL ADVISOR**

Wendy B. Meyer, CFP®, CRPC®, CDFA®, financial advisor with Ameriprise Financial Services, LLC is at the Village on the third Wednesday of every other month (February, April, June, August, October and December) from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the VS professional

offices. Call (850) 973-8888 for more information or to schedule an appointment.

### **SQUARE CUTS AND MORE** **Monday, Tuesday and Thursday** **12:00 noon to 7:00 p.m.**

Call (386) 647-6240 for an appointment. Kindly give 12–24-hour notice for cancellations or extra charges will apply.

### **LEGAL SERVICES**

The law firm of Robinson, Kennon & Kendron, P.A. will see clients by appointment only from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon on the following dates in the VS professional offices: Dec. 15, Jan. 5 and Jan. 19, Feb. 2 and Feb. 16. To make an appointment, please call Leigh Ann Cannon at (386) 755-1334, Ext. 117.

### **HAIR CROPPERS**

Starting Dec. 8 we are featuring our winter basic pedicure. Our winter basic pedicure allows you to relax and get away from this hectic time of year while enjoying the beautiful view of the river. You’ll soak your feet in a warm foot bath, then enjoy an aromatic foot scrub, detoxifying foot mask, and warm paraffin dip. Finish with a tension-relieving foot massage.

Our winter basic pedicure costs \$50 and is the perfect solution for anyone who doesn’t want polish but loves to feel pampered.

Schedule your appointment today by calling or texting (386) 205-3791.

### **SUWANNEE BELLE PONTOON BOAT**

The dock used to board the Suwannee Belle is damaged and needs to be repaired before we can offer pontoon boat rides again. We’re sorry for any inconvenience.

### **ACV QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

Do you have a question about the Village you think others would also like to ask? Did you see something curious or hear something you’d like confirmed? Submit your question to Member Services, and we will do our best to find out the answer for you and publish it here. You must include your name with the question because follow-up information may be necessary.

Q: Are we driving by Lisa’s Lights again this year as part of the bus trips to Spirit of the Suwannee and Stephen Foster like we usually do?

A: Lisa’s Lights posted this on their Facebook page in October: “This is going to hurt because for over 26 years the lights have always been up the Friday after Thanksgiving. Life changes and hardships happen, and it is with great sorrow that we have to inform everyone that the lights will not be up this year. We are hoping and praying that next year we will be able to put the lights back up.”

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

**PLEASE NOTE:** All submissions to the FNN must have a name attached. If you prefer to not have your name included with the listing in the FNN, indicate that on the submission. Only ACV members and staff may advertise here. Ads run for two weeks.

**FOR SALE:** Toy cars for collector, gifts or ebay sellers. Different brands, sizes. Some used, some new in box. \$150 for all. Zavor all-in-one air fryer, oven, toaster, dehydrator, rotisserie. Like new with box. \$50. Women’s 1953 class ring, 14K gold with mother-of-pearl, \$100. Leave message at 386-658-1586.\*\*

**FREE:** Navy blue leather sofa. Great condition. Recliner on each end. Contact Sally at 658-1658.\*\*

**FOR SALE:** New memory foam twin mattress topper from Walmart. 2” blue swirl, used twice. Retail for \$44, selling for \$19. Call or text 386-688-6610.\*\*

**FOR SALE:** Journey Go Lite S1 scooter, blue in color, like new, used once in Gainesville mall. Will sell for 30% off my purchase price. Contact Lew at 334-200-6331.\*\*

**FOR SALE:** A large, handmade crocheted afghan, variegated/multicolored, \$50. Call 386-344-4566 for details.\*\*

**FOR SALE:** Family Bibles. These Bibles have a section to record your family history. They make wonderful presents. For more information and special holiday price, please call Inez at 770-861-9227.\*

**FOR SALE:** Five foot artificial tree with lights in original box with instructions. Tree comes in three sections. \$20. Contact William at 239-410-1560.\*

**WANTED:** A rebounder with bar (mini trampoline for indoor use). Call 658-2763 or 386-249-1072.\*

**FOR SALE:** Twin XL electric bed with 12" foam-top, super-comfortable mattress. Yamaha golf cart with all new batteries, new controller, fold-down rear seat, lights, and new fold-down windshield. Call 207-877-4846.\*

**FOR SALE:** 1996 E-Z-GO electric golf cart, 4-seater. I have receipts for all upgrades and additions put onto the cart. \$4,199 OBO. Call Monica at 386-330-4865.\*

**FOR SALE:** Apple Watch SE. Comes with charger and 7 different wristbands. Brand new in original box. One-year factory warranty. Asking \$150. Apple 10.9" silver iPad 64 GB iOS 17.2. New in original box. Factory warranty. Asking \$450. Phone or text 803-270-5662.\*

### THE CHRIST CHILD By Helen Brooks

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas! ACV is coming alive for the festive season! The bells are ringing out Christmas carols, and look around, friends! The trees are in full regalia! Garlands are draped on every lamp post, and glistening white lights are brightly announcing an exciting event: the celebration of a newborn king!

I love living in my retirement community. How amazing to walk through our village and feel safe, protected and valued! And the smiles on my neighbors' faces are beautiful! Yes, some have health issues, but watch ... closely ... as they reach above their pain and problems to find their joy! Joy so willingly shared!

I understand that transformation. It was taught to me many years ago by a tiny angel with the bluest eyes and golden hair ... and dimples that could melt your heart! My first grandchild came to live with me for a while. She was just three years old ... going on sixteen! (Only a grandparent will fully understand that statement.)

Her name was Brandi Lynn and she was the only human with the key to the secret places of my heart. That year she was bubbling over with the anticipation of a glorious Christmas morning. I told her about a tiny baby sent from heaven whose name was foretold by angels! He would be the king of the world and would

forever reign in our hearts because He was the Son of God! Her eyes danced with this new lesson that she seemed to fully understand and accept.

She watched sadly as the tree was dismantled, and I held her close to me. I had always felt sad when I knew it was time to put away the memories and ornaments to start a new year. So I said, "Why don't you go get that beautiful new coat you got for Christmas, and we'll go to town and do some shopping?" She bounced happily to gather her hat and gloves that matched her "shopping outfit". I laughed and, taking her tiny hand in mine, I knew without a doubt I was the most blessed Grandma in the whole world.

I parked the car and she pressed her nose against the window, anxious to find all the bright lights that adorned the town the previous week. As we walked together down the sidewalk I noticed how quiet she had become. But suddenly, she stopped and gasped, "Grandma, He's GONE!" I knelt to comfort her and asked, "Baby, who is gone?" She sobbed and said, "Baby Jesus! HE'S GONE!"

It took me a frantic second to remember that Charlie's Hardware was where she loved to stop and visit the manger scene he always erected outside his entrance. Now a January sales sign took the place of Brandi's precious manger, and her tears broke my heart.

"It's okay, Sweetheart! Mr. Charlie had to pack away the manger so it would be clean and ready to use again next year!" I thought the crisis was over, but with an element of wisdom she replied, "But Grandma, Jesus can't be put away until next year! He will be lonely and no one will visit Him, and Grandma, I LOVE HIM!"

I choked back a sob of my own while I explained that Jesus lives in her heart and will never leave her. Then I bought her a snow globe with a nativity scene inside. She said her Jesus would never be packed away after Christmas. Then I made her a promise that we would talk with Him every day so He would never be lonely again.

It was a wake up call for Grandma. How about you? Where will you keep your Christ Jesus after the presents and festivities are over? We need to celebrate Jesus year round and keep Him close. He loves you and has promised to never leave you. And I made my own promise that year to the wisest little angel I ever met.

### ANSWERS TO LAST WEEK'S CHRISTMAS WORD SCRAMBLE

Scrooge	Mistletoe
Caroling	Nativity
Star	Stocking
Chestnut	Savior
Rudolph	Wreath
Santa	Sleigh
Packages	Snowman
Shepard	Jesus
Manager	Ornaments
Angel	Christmas



Prices Effective 12/15–12/21



# THE VILLAGE GROCER

Monday–Saturday • 9:00 am–6:00 pm • We deliver at 2:00 pm every day!\* 658-3130

## GROCERY

Big Mopper Paper Towels	each	\$ .99
IGA Vegetables	15 oz.	\$ 1.19
Sweet Sue Chicken Broth	14.5 oz.	\$ 1.29
IGA Cranberry Sauce	14 oz.	\$ 1.69
Sugar Sam Cut Yams	15 oz.	\$ 1.79
Domino Confectioners and Dark Brown Sugar	16 oz.	\$ 1.79
IGA Fruit Cocktail	15 oz.	\$ 1.99
Claxton Fruit Cakes	16 oz.	\$ 4.99

## DAIRY

Dutch Farms Cream Cheese	8 oz.	\$ 1.99
Dutch Farms Sweet Cream Butter	16 oz.	\$ 4.89

## PRODUCE

Whole Sweet Potatoes	per lb.	\$ .79
Fresh Crisp Celery	bunch	\$ 1.79

## FROZEN

IGA Whipped Topping	8 oz.	\$ 1.29
Mrs. Smith's Pumpkin Pie	37 oz.	\$ 6.99
Edwards Pecan Pie	32 oz.	\$ 7.99

## MEAT

Sugardale Spiral Sliced Ham Portions	per lb.	\$ 2.99
Boneless Chickens Breast	per lb.	\$ 3.99
Villari Thick Sliced Bacon	12 oz.	\$ 4.99
Nathan's Bigger Beef Franks	12 oz.	\$ 4.99
Curly's BBQ Pork or Chicken	12 oz.	\$ 4.99
Boneless Bottom Round Beef Roast	per lb.	\$ 5.49

## CHEESE OF THE WEEK

Pepper Jack Cheese — \$6.29 per lb.

**DON'T FORGET TO ORDER YOUR ROTISSERIE CHICKEN**

Full chicken \$9.99, Half chicken \$5.99

\*\* Call 658-3130. Order by 11:00 a.m. for 2:00 p.m. pick-up! \*\*

## This Week's Verse:

Love the Lord and follow his plan for your lives.

Cling to Him and serve Him enthusiastically.

Joshua 22:5

\*Delivery available to on-campus ACV members only



## Midday Dining Menu

Monday–Saturday 11:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.  
Sunday 10:45 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

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**December 15–22, 2023**

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### FRIDAY, 12/15

- \$2.53 Soup:** Clam Chowder  
**\$6.44 Entrées:** GF Baked Catfish, GF Boiled Shrimp, Fried Catfish  
**\$1.21 Sides:** Mixed Greens, Beets, Baked Beans, Cold Salads, Cheese Grits, Mashed Potatoes with Gravy  
**\$2.76 Desserts:** Assorted Regular and NSA Desserts

### SATURDAY, 12/16

- \$2.53 Soup of the Day**  
**\$7.59 Whistle Stop Special:** Chicken Pot Pie with Biscuit, Fruit, Assorted Desserts, Fountain Drink

### SUNDAY, 12/17

#### Lunch Buffet

**Members \$12.63 | Non-Members \$17.81 | Beverage Included**

- Entrées:** GF Roast Beef, Paprika Chicken, Fried Chicken  
**Sides:** Bermuda Mixed Vegetables, Mushrooms, Honey Carrots, Fruit, Salad, Macaroni and Cheese, Mashed Potatoes with Gravy  
**Desserts:** Assorted Regular and NSA Desserts

### MONDAY, 12/18

#### Founder's Day Lunch Buffet

**Members \$10.00 | Non-Members \$12.00 | Beverage Included**

- \$6.44 Entrées:** Pot Roast, Chicken Alfredo Pasta  
**\$1.21 Sides:** Green Beans, Carrots, Salad, Mashed Potatoes with Gravy  
**\$2.76 Desserts:** Founder's Day Birthday Cake

### TUESDAY, 12/19

- \$7.70 Special:** Salad Bar  
**\$6.44 Entrées:** Liver and Onions, Chicken Broccoli Casserole  
**\$1.21 Sides:** Okra and Tomatoes, Five-Way Vegetables, Fruit, Cold Salads, Mashed Sweet Potatoes  
**\$2.76 Desserts:** Assorted Regular and NSA Desserts

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**NOTE:** Prices listed are the retail cost per item. ACV members who present their ID badge at the cash register will receive a 10% discount. Menu is subject to change. Individual beverage cost: \$1.30.

GF=Gluten-Free    NSA=No Sugar Added

# Rumph Dining Room Midday Dining Menu

December 15–22, 2023

## WEDNESDAY, 12/20

- \$2.53 Soup:** Soup of the Day  
**\$6.44 Entrées:** Salisbury Steak, Fried Chicken  
**\$1.21 Sides:** Cabbage, Lima Beans, Fruit, Mashed Potatoes with Gravy, Cold Salads  
**\$2.76 Desserts:** Assorted Regular and NSA Desserts

## THURSDAY, 12/21

**RDR will close at 12:30 p.m. today**

- \$6.44 Entrées:** Meatloaf, Country Fried Steak  
**\$1.21 Sides:** Bermuda Vegetable Mix, Corn, Mashed Potatoes with Gravy, Cold Salads  
**\$2.76 Desserts:** Assorted Regular and NSA Desserts

## FRIDAY, 12/22

- \$2.53 Soup:** Clam Chowder  
**\$6.44 Entrées:** GF Baked Catfish, GF Boiled Shrimp, Fried Catfish  
**\$1.21 Sides:** Mixed Greens, Beets, Baked Beans, Cheese Grits, Cold Salads, Mashed Potatoes with Gravy  
**\$2.76 Desserts:** Assorted Regular and NSA Desserts



### RUMPH DINING RM. \$8.85 WEEKDAY VALUE PLATE

Includes 1 entrée, 2 sides, bread,  
and a fountain drink.  
For premium entrée, add \$2.30.



### RIVER LANDING BISTRO LUNCH & DINNER SPECIALS

**Friday, Dec. 15**

Chicken Pot Pie Over Rice with Puff Pastry

**Saturday, Dec. 16**

Spaghetti with Meatballs and Garlic Toast

*Ann & Quinton*  
*Rumph*  
DINING ROOM

**658-5259**

**Sun:** 10:45 am–1:30 pm  
**Mon–Sat:** 11 am–1 pm

**THE LOPIN' GOPHER**  
D E L I

**658-5259**

**Sun:** 7:30–10 am | 3:30–7 pm  
**Mon–Fri:** 7:30–10 am | 2:05–7 pm  
**Sat:** 7:30–10:00 am | 3–7 pm



**658-5777**

**Wed–Thurs:** 11 am–2 pm  
**Fri–Sat:** 8–10:30 am | 11 am–8 pm