

CHRISTMAS CAROLING



YEAR

On a cold, January evening, Epiphany to be exact, we sent our dreams way up in the sky. We hoped we would see God revealed in 2016. And we did!

We used a garden hose to fill a baptismal.

And we found out that tea kettles can be makeshift water heaters.

And that they can warm the soul.

We danced. And we dabbed on 'em. And we ate pancakes. On Ash Wednesday, we remembered that from dust we came, and to dust we shall return.

During Lent, we didn't give things up, we took them on for Saturdays of Service. We made sandwiches and pretty paper wreathes. We sang hymns, the good ones. We worked at the Habitat Restore. We told Hospice families: "We care about you!"

We greeted Easter at Sunrise.
The ancient story taught something new as night gave way to day.
And there wasn't even a wait at the IHOP afterwards.

We learned that baseball really can be a road to God. Who knew that foot long hotdogs and roasted peanuts were catalysts for a good theological discussion?

We tackled all four Gospels in Sunday School. Mark's my new favorite. What's yours? And we crammed Vacation Bible School into 120 minutes on a Sunday morning. Did you know that clergy robes are great props for sea monsters?

We learned that Communion is worship. Whether you eat breakfast casserole together, or share a pack of Nabs and a Cheerwine, or dip crusty bread in soup, you should always leave singing.

We built a picnic shelter. And we dedicated it.

The stories that place will tell!

We blessed our animals.
And we took their pictures,
lest we forget they need prayers, too.
We saw a beautiful cat on a leash,
and now we know that a bark can also be an Amen or Hallelujah.

We put our soles to the pavement and walked for hunger.

We made jack-o-lanterns.

We remembered the saints of old.

We learned about the Electoral College.

We made a Mad-Lib prayer.

We worshiped with other houses of faith.

We collected canned goods and school supplies, too.

We caroled in funny hats.
We saw real-live figgy pudding. (Thanks, William!).
We watched the letters as P-E-A-C-E, H-O-P-E, J-O-Y, and L-O-V-E process in.
At Room in the Inn, we learned how to go candy cane fishing, and now we know what a human Christmas tree looks like.

We welcomed babies.
And buried friends and loved ones.
We celebrated a wedding.
We endured hospital stays and surgeries and procedures.
We read scriptures and debated what they meant.
We prayed. We laughed. A lot. And we cried. A lot.
And we ate. Too much!

And at the end of it all, we welcomed the Christ Child into the world once more. Emanuel, God with us, we proclaimed!

2016

This year, we dream again.
How will God be revealed in our lives?
Come to Sardis and see.
It might be in the whistle of a tea kettle,
or in the smile of a friend,
or in the singing of a silly song.
But one thing's for certain:
God will be present in a memorable way.













WELCOME BABY!