

The Haines City Disciple



First Christian Church, 705 S. 14th Street, Haines City, FL 33844



submitted by Carol Casey

A 16TH-CENTURY CAROL

(If you think 'The 12 Days of Christmas' is just a song, think again)

By Father James Gilhooley

No less an authority than the *New York Times* has pronounced that 'The 12 Days of Christmas' is much ado about nothing.

But...are you ready? (Even the great *New York Times* nods.)

In record books, this seasonal favorite belongs to the author-unknown category. Yet, longtime speculation has it that Jesuits authored 'The 12 Days of Christmas' in the 16th century.

In those days, Catholics in England were prohibited from practicing their faith, so they went underground. There arose a desperate need to teach the young on the sly. The accommodating Jesuits jumped in and penned a children's catechism in song and code.

To the Elizabethan FBI, 'The 12 Days of Christmas' was nothing but a carol with a pretty melody and nonsense words. But to Catholic kids, it was quite another ball of Christmas snow.

'The 12 Days of Christmas' salutes the Nativity celebration which opens on Christmas and closes 12 days later on the Epiphany.

'My true love' is God. 'Me' is each Catholic.

'Twelve drummers drumming' are not the apostles, as you might think, but the 12 beliefs of the church as outlined in the Apostles' Creed.

If you have guessed that '11 pipers piping' and '10 lords a-leaping' are the apostles after Judas checked out, as well as the Ten Commandments, you are already breaking the code.

The 'nine ladies dancing' are the nine angelic choirs. The 'eight maids a-milking' are the eight Beatitudes.

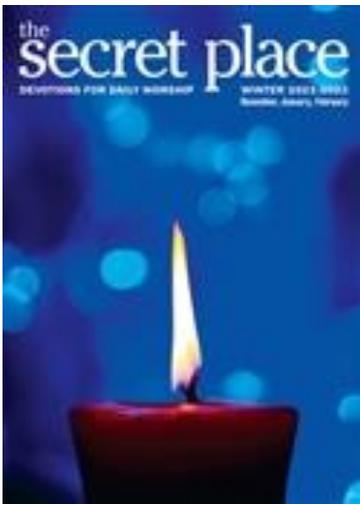
The 'seven swans a-swimming' are the sacraments, of course, and the 'six geese a-laying' are the six days of creation. For the 'five golden rings,' would you accept the first five books of the Old Testament – the Pentateuch?

The 'four calling birds' are a giveaway – the Gospels. For the 'three French hens,' how about the gifts of the wise men? If you price French hens at your friendly neighborhood butcher, you will understand why. 'Two turtle doves' suggest the Old and New Testament.

And 'the partridge in a pear tree,' you ask? The bird is the *pièce de résistance* – Jesus Himself. The tree, of course, in the cross through which we were saved.

Resourceful fellows, those Jesuits, *n'est-ce pas?* They even fooled the *New York Times*.





Do you know *The Secret Place?*

The Secret Place is a quarterly publication of daily devotions to help you renew your faith, invigorate your spirit, and strengthen your relationship with God.

Each daily devotion includes a scripture passage, an original meditation, and a brief prayer. This combination of Scriptural and personal insight provides both a timeless and timely perspective for contemplative meditation that draws you closer to God in your daily walk as a Christian.

The Secret Place is available in the church office or in the Sanctuary on Sundays. A small donation that helps us continue to provide this book to you is appreciated, but not required. A limited number of large print copies are available in the office.



DID YOU SEE...

who joined us for our live-streamed worship services this past month? We welcomed Ruth Elaine Ford, James Hall, Stephanie Coleman, Esther Santiago, as well as our regular viewers! Thank you for watching!

DID YOU WELCOME...

those guests who joined us in the sanctuary for worship this past month? We welcomed Linda McCammack, The Crandall Family, the Vitos-Pautler Family, the Coleman Family, Mickey Bockbrader, Nancy Dillen, Gene Robbins, Bev Pyster, Rick and Patty Race, and Bob, Leann, Kennedy, Amelia nad Caroline Seddon.

Thank you for worshipping with us!



Haines City Police Department Officers:

- (week of January 2) - Anastasia Burks
- (week of January 9) - Carly Johnson
- (week of January 16) - Devin James
- (week of January 23) - Nathaniel Moya

Those with Health Concerns: Cathe Singleton, Amanda Howell, Jean Stanley, Nahum Meister, Linda Donley, Larry Donley, Nancy Jayne, Deb Kemp, Jean Stanley, Betsy Rod, Pam Weed, Carol Rhyne, Erin Williams White, Stephanie (Bob and Jackie Fain's daughter), Bob and Dottie Minnich, Drew Brooks, Joe and Cathi Krstulich, Rocky Nelson, Alice Perkovich, Kristie Utter, Elaine Ogburn, Karl Casey, Gary Pillsbury, Fred & Lynn Somers, Aj (Marty Vanaskey's grandson), Barb Bauer, Marion Farnsworth, Bill Booth, Shane Wallace, Jim & Peggy Bertucca, Pastor Ros Springer, and all who care for them.

- ◆ Pastoral Search Committee
- ◆ Victims of the December Tornadoes
- ◆ All who are helpless, hurting and have lost HOPE

Those who Grieve - Family and Friends of Leo Woodward, Barbara Schutte, David Peterson, Charlotte Carpenter, Roger Evans, Rachel Benson, Inez Myers, Wayne Weed, David Wallace, and John Coley.

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

- Philippians 4:6-7



- January 9, 2022 - OJ and Coffee Fellowship following Worship
- January 15, 2022 - 8am - Men's Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall
- January 30, 2022 - Pot Luck Lunch following worship

JANUARY

Birthdays:



Barbara Anderson	1/6
Betty Kemp	1/7
Carol Shumaker	1/10
Eileen Avery	1/14
Carole Fink	1/18
Richard Tourville	1/22
Marge Chilton	1/25
Anne Jarrett	1/25
Ruth Wandell	1/26
Gary Pillsbury	1/27
Charles Bright	1/28
Dottie Minnich	1/29



Anniversaries:

Robert and Jackie Fain 1/6





LOVE GOD? LOVE CHILDREN?

The WOW (Worship Our Way) Children's Sunday School program needs teachers and teacher assistants. Experience helpful, but can learn on the job. Men are also encouraged to apply! It takes a village to raise and encourage our youth. If interested, please contact Paul Nordby. Thank You!



SANCTUARY FLOWERS

If you would like to place flowers in the sanctuary for worship on any Sunday (cost \$40), sign up on the flower calendar in the front narthex. The church office will order the arrangement to be delivered to the church. Following the service, the flowers are yours to take home and enjoy.



GREAT SERVICE OPPORTUNITY

If you are able to click a mouse and push a few buttons, please join the sound booth technicians. We stream the Sunday worship services on Facebook, and need extra hands. You would help the homebound experience the worship services. If interested, please contact Paul Nordby. Thank You!



Our new nametags look great, and thanks for wearing them. However, if you have a pacemaker, be sure to move your nametag to the other side of your chest because that is a really strong magnet!



ANOTHER GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE

Do you ever stop to think about who prepares the video display you see each Sunday during worship? Currently, only one person knows how to do this. Would you like to learn? It's not really difficult and would be a great help if that one person gets sick. Call the church office if you are interested in learning!

Newsletter DEADLINE

We send out our monthly newsletter around the 25th of each month. If you have an article, picture, or announcement you would like to see in this newsletter, **please turn your column/idea in to the church office no later than the 20th of each month!** That will make sure we can get it in the next publication!



Be bold and courageous.
Do what is good.
Never return evil for evil.
Help the suffering and honor everyone.
Love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.



STEWARDSHIP REPORT

November 28, 2021

General Fund - \$ 1,395.00 Est. Attendance - 72
Poinsettias - \$ 80.00
Love Gift - \$ 12.00

December 5, 2021

General Fund - \$ 1,637.00 Est. Attendance - 63
Use of Facilities - \$ 1,020.00
Poinsettias - \$ 161.00
Christmas Offering - \$50.00
The Secret Place - \$ 5.00

December 12, 2021

General Fund - \$ 1,786.00 Est. Attendance - 69
Use of Facilities - \$2,115.00
Altar Flowers - \$ 40.00
Poinsettias - \$ 32.00
Christmas Offering - \$ 20.00

December 19, 2021

General Fund - \$ 1,576.00 Est. Attendance - 85
Tornado Relief - \$ 293.00
Membership Fund - \$15.00

December 26, 2021

General Fund - \$ 1,124.00 Est. Attendance -
Christmas Offering - \$ 25.00
Altar Flowers - \$ 40.00
Tornado Relief - \$ 545.00
Memorial Fund - \$ 1,000.00
Christmas Offering - \$ 25.00
Christian Ed: Kid's Church - \$50.00

A Prayer for the New Year

May God make your year a happy one!
Not by shielding you from all sorrows and pain,
But by strengthening you to bear it, as it comes;
Not by making your path easy,
But by making you sturdy to travel any path;
Not by taking hardships from you,
But by taking fear from your heart;
Not by granting you unbroken sunshine,
But by keeping your face bright,
even in the shadows;
Not by making your life always pleasant,
But by showing you
when people and their causes need you most,
and by making you anxious to be there to help.
God's love, peace, hope and joy to you
for the year ahead.

~Anonymous