



The Morning Star

The newsletter of Saint Peter's Episcopal Church

Epiphany: God appearing and the New Year



On Friday, January 6, our parish will observe one of the Principle Feasts of the Church, The Epiphany of Our Lord Jesus Christ. The Collect for this particular day states, in part: *Lead us, who know you now by faith, to your presence, where we may see your glory face to face.* Our joyous expectation developed throughout the weeks of the Advent season and culminated with celebration on Christmas Day. We now move forward in our lives with rejoicing as “we await his coming in glory”.

Humankind is changed forever with the birth of Jesus and we are assured by means of a new relationship that the presence of God will be among us at this moment and always. Our response is to set ourselves on a pathway to better understand our God by what has been revealed, and continues to be revealed, to us. The name *Epiphany* stems from a Greek word meaning “manifestation” or “appearing.” The Feast of the Epiphany brings to our minds the early stages of this process of knowing Christ, striving for the *fullness* of the presence of God, to see the revealed glory of God face to face.

Over the centuries we have come to focus primarily on the narrative of the Wise Men from the East, yet the early Church observed a combined commemoration of three events in Jesus' life, which are all thought of as manifestations of the incarnate

Lord: the visit of the Magi; the Baptism of Jesus; and Jesus' first recorded miracle at the marriage of Cana. The season of Advent and Christmastide leads us into a new liturgical and calendar year, into renewing our relationship with God and one another, into the light from darkness.

I invite you to join with me in this new year to set ourselves upon a path of a renewed relationship with God. May we be open to that which is revealed, building on the already present foundation of our spiritual life. As members of the parish family may we recognize God's renewed call to us.

Fr. Jim

Parish Notes

With Gratitude

I want to thank everyone who participated in the formation of our Christmas celebration here at St. Peter's Church, including worship service participants, members of the Altar Guild, musicians, the individuals who arranged the flowers and decorated the church with greenery, and to those who cleaned the church. A wonderful Christmas service!

Fr. Jim

Oak Crest Community

The Episcopal Church has hosted a monthly service of Holy Eucharist at Oak Crest Community, DeKalb, for some time now. This service takes place on the third Wednesday of each month at two o'clock in the afternoon. Commencing the month of January, I will officiate this service in the chapel at Oak Crest. Please join the residents and their guests for this time of worship; refreshments and fellowship immediately following the service.

Fr. Jim

Parish Annual Meeting

The 2017 Annual Parish Meeting for St. Peter's Church will take place on Sunday, January 29. We will have one worship service at 9:00 a.m. The meeting and brunch will convene immediately in Waterman Hall after the service.



Saint Nicholas Festival

On Friday, December 2, 2016, we gathered for a church service and festive dinner to celebrate the feast of Saint Nicholas.

Father Jim Clement, our new interim rector, was introduced to our long standing tradition of good company and fun.

Gifts were collected, presented for blessing, and given for children in the community. Waterman Hall was decorated beautifully and we ate heartily, sang carols, and had a visit from Saint Nicholas himself.

The beautiful and lively music was provided by Craig Mathey and Larry Dirst on the piano, and by Jacob Nicholson on the violin.

If you missed this year, plan on next. It's a lovely way to begin the holiday season.

A huge thank you to all who helped planning, decorating, cooking setting up and taking down, etc. The evening is the combined effort of many people working together in fellowship and fun. See you next year!

The Saint Nicholas Festival Committee

Search Committee Update

The search committee had its first meeting on December 15, 2016. Also present were Rev. Mysen from the Diocese and Rev. Williams from Grace Church in Sterling. Rev. Mysen explained the search process and she will be more involved as we get closer to calling a priest. Rev. Williams will be directly assisting the committee.

One of the first things we will be doing is a Church Assessment Tool (CAT). The CAT will be available on line beginning on January 23, 2017. This would allow you to take the survey at home. Additionally we plan on having computers available at the church on January 29, 2017 and February 5, 2017. Once the results are in the vestry and search committee will have a joint meeting where the results will be discussed.

As we progress through this process we will continue to keep you informed.

*Judy LaPorta and Phil Montgomery,
Co-chairs*

Christian Outreach Committee

Red Bowl Offering

The Lilian Vallely School will receive a check for \$448.30, \$300 from the Outreach Committee and \$148.30 from the November Red Bowl Offering and special projects. Thank you to everyone who participated in our gift to the school by bringing in cans, "Box Tops for Education," or through donations to the November Red Bowl Offering.

The January Red Bowl Offering will be designated to NAMI, the National Alliance on Mental Illness of DeKalb County. NAMI's mission is to improve the lives of people with mental illness through support, education and advocacy. NAMI provides various programs and services to the community such as Family to Family Basics classes, family support groups, school based educational programs for adults and students, a monthly newsletter, and a call line staffed by volunteers. One of these programs met at St. Peter's Episcopal Church. NAMI is committed to reducing the stigma of mental illness and to promote mental wellness. Your donations to the January Red Bowl Offering will help NAMI continue to serve those living with mental illness, as well as their families. All donations will remain in DeKalb County.

How does the Outreach Committee choose organizations for the monthly Red Bowl Offering?
Some are organizations the church has supported for years. Others have been suggested by our priest. But many suggestions come straight from parishioners who have suggested the names of groups and organizations to receive some extra help from St. Peter's Outreach agenda. These can be organizations you have read about in the paper or the Internet, or heard of on the radio. Perhaps you belong to and work for a local organization serving our community, or your family has had a direct relationship with an organization. During the Annual Meeting each parishioner will have the opportunity to submit names of organizations for the Outreach Committee to consider. Please take the time to fill out the Outreach Questionnaire and be a part of the committee's decisions!

Hope Haven Dinners

St. Peter's continues to provide a meal for the community homeless at Hope Haven on the 4th Wednesday of each month. Needed volunteers include a chair for each month and persons to prepare or purchase food items. Sign-up sheets for each month in 2017 will be located in Waterman Hall. Plan ahead to help prepare a home-cooked meal for our area homeless this year!

Sycamore Food Pantry

Food items collected during the month of January will be transported to the Sycamore Food Pantry located at the Sycamore United Methodist Church, and distributed to needy families in the area. The month of January will be designated for the food pantry at Grace Place Campus Ministry. Rev. Amy Fallon will provide a list of needed food items chosen by the students. Please include the pantry in your weekly grocery shopping trips. Volunteers to transport donations from St. Peter's to the Sycamore Food Pantry are also needed. A sign-up sheet is located in Waterman Hall. Please direct questions to Maggie Peirce.

OUTREACH PROJECTS

St Peter's parishioners can help small Outreach Projects in a big way by saving and donating these items:

*Personal items collected from vacations are sent to Safe Passage

- *"Pop Tops" benefit a Ronald McDonald House
- *Print Cartridges for recycling help the local Habitat for Humanity
- *Campbell Soup Labels are used for books and equipment at local elementary schools
- *Milk carton bottle tops benefit local schools
- * Box Tops for Education benefit local schools
- *Canceled Stamps are sent to a Catholic Native American School in AZ for cleaning and sale to collectors

The next meeting of the Christian Outreach Committee will be held Wednesday, January 10, 2017, at 12 Noon, in Waterman Hall. Please feel free to join us!

Lynne Roberts

Vestry Notes, December 15, 2016

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Father Jim Clement at 7:11 p.m. with evening prayers. In attendance were Father Jim Clement, Senior Warden Bill Nicklas; Vestry members Lynne Roberts, John Castle, John Vain, Judy Dettloff, and Mike Blakeslee; Clerk Donna Hill and Treasurer Jacquie Drake. Jane Ovitz was in attendance as a guest. Opening Prayers were led by Father Clement.

2. Approval of Agenda

The Agenda was approved with minor amendments.

3. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the November 17, 2016 meeting were approved.

4. Open Forum

Jane Ovitz thanked the Vestry for their help in the St. Nicholas celebration.

5. Committee Reports

Finance Committee and Treasurer's Report.

Treasurer Jacquie Drake presented the Treasurer's report. She reported that expenses remain below projections. Pledges are being received at a steady pace and slightly beyond original projections. Jacquie asked the Building & Grounds Committee representative, Mike Blakeslee, to seek a committee recommendation regarding a possible increase in the annual rent for the Nolan House. The recommendation will be considered at the January Vestry meeting. The Vestry supported the recommendation.

Building & Grounds Report. No report was given.

Capital Planning Committee. No Report.

Caregivers Committee. Minutes of the November 21 meeting were distributed by Lynne Roberts.

Christian Outreach Committee. Minutes of the November 9 meeting were distributed by Lynne Roberts.

Search Committee. Phil Montgomery chaired the first meeting of the Search Committee while the Vestry was meeting. A report of their deliberations will be given at the January Vestry meeting. Phil visited the Vestry meeting before adjournment and asked if there was a convenient time for a joint meeting in February. The date will be February 23, the fourth Thursday, at 7:00 p.m.

6. Interim Rector's Report. Father Jim thanked everyone for their work in making the St. Nicholas celebration a success. He reported the Advent series has been well-attended on Sunday mornings. He also noted that he had contacted the Chronicle to inquire about a Christmas Day color ad for \$250 displaying the Episcopal shield (to be paid from the Miscellaneous line item in the Budget)--the Vestry approved the ad. Father Jim will officiate at Oak Crest the third Wednesday of the month, beginning on December 21. Father Jim also distributed a building use agreement for the use of Waterman Hall by the Girl Scouts that the Vestry approved. A "hold harmless" and "release" agreement will be drafted for smaller groups without the insurance protections that larger not-for-profits might carry.

7. Old Business

Status of Stewardship Campaign. John Vain reported there have been 46 pledges totaling \$104,589.78 to date. John Castle and others will draft a note welcoming parishioners to consider year-end giving.

FY17 Budget Planning. John Vain distributed a revised Budget worksheet. We have anticipated income of about \$167,000 for 2017, allowing for more discretion in 2017 expenditures. John highlighted a number of variables that may need to change as 2017 income projections become more firm. Insurance premium projections were included but are tentative at this point. A very provisional projection of about \$162,000 in expenses was presented and discussed.

A new line item was suggested to cover the expanded marketing of events at St. Peters. Father Jim will coordinate a small ad hoc committee to formulate a plan for website and media marketing

to bring to the Vestry before the Budget is finalized. The Vestry agreed to increase the diocesan pledge to \$2,500 for 2017.

8. New Business

Deacon Agreement. Father Jim distributed a draft agreement that was affirmed by the Vestry.

Vestry Candidates. Several candidates have been identified. At least three candidates will be identified by the end of December so biographical information can be distributed to the parish in the bulletins and annual report.

Trust Fund Trustees for 2017. The list of current trustees was distributed. A revised list will be presented at the annual meeting for review and approval.

Annual Meeting. The annual meeting was set for January 29. Lynne Roberts will chair the annual brunch committee and the Vestry will be responsible for set up, clean up, etc.

9. Executive Session: No executive session was conducted.

10. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m. and the closing prayer was led by Father Clement.

Respectfully submitted
Bill Nicklas, Senior Warden

Readings at the Holy Eucharist in January, 2017

Sunday, January 1

The Feast of the Holy Name

Numbers 6: 22-27

Psalms 8

Galatians 4: 4-7 or Philippians 2: 5-11

Luke 2: 15-21

Friday, January 6

The Epiphany of Our Lord Jesus Christ

Isaiah 60: 1-6

Ephesians 3: 1-12

Matthew 2: 1-12

Psalms 72: 1-7, 10-14

Sunday January 8

The First Sunday after the Epiphany

The Baptism of Our Lord Jesus Christ

Isaiah 42: 1-9

Psalms 29

Acts 10: 34-43

Matthew 3: 13-17

Sunday, January 15
The Second Sunday after Epiphany
Isaiah 49: 1-7
Psalm 40: 1-12
1 Corinthians 1: 1-9
John 1: 29-42

Wednesday, January 18
The Confession of St. Peter
Acts 4: 8-13
Psalm 23
1 Peter 5: 1-4
Matthew 16: 13-19

Sunday, January 22
The Third Sunday after the Epiphany
Isaiah 9: 1-4
Psalm 27: 1, 5-13
1 Corinthians 1:10-18
Matthew 4: 12-23

Wednesday, January 25
The Conversion of St. Paul
Acts 26: 9-21
Psalm 67
Galatians 1: 11-24
Matthew 10: 16-22

Sunday, January 29
The Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany
Micah 6: 1-8
Psalm 15
1 Corinthians 1: 18-31
Matthew 5: 1-12



Prayer Corner

For the Election of a Rector

Almighty God, giver of every good gift: Look graciously on your Church, and so guide the minds of those who shall choose a rector for this parish, that we may receive a faithful pastor, who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

For Guidance

Direct us, O Lord, in all our doings with thy most gracious favor, and further us with thy continual help; that in all our works begun, continued and ended in thee, we may glorify thy holy Name, and finally, but thy mercy, obtain everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

For the New Year

Most gracious and merciful God, you have reconciled us to yourself through Jesus Christ your Son, and called us to new life in him: Grant that we, who begin this year in his Name, may complete it to his honor and glory; who lives and reigns now and for ever. Amen.



Nursery Schedule

January 2017

January 2017

1	Lindsey Neal and Nancy Franke
8	Lindsey Neal and Jenny Sidmore
15	Lindsey Neal and Linda Saxer
22	Lindsey Neal and Pat Klein
29	Lindsey Neal and Cindy Vain

Birthdays and Anniversaries in January

Birthdays

- 1 Aubrey Hulseberg
- 3 Natalie Egler
- 3 Laura Hulseberg
- 5 Robert E. Hamill
- 8 Allison Liska
- 9 Savanna Molaro
- 9 Wright B. George
- 12 Joshua Boies
- 13 Henry Vincent Jr.
- 14 Anita Biletzky
- 14 Jerilynn Wilson
- 17 Maggie Peirce
- 18 Carla Riego
- 20 Patricia Burgweger
- 21 Liane O'Keefe
- 23 Evyn Carrier
- 27 Debra Sipp
- 27 Lamont Mommer
- 30 Rosalie Hewitt
- 31 Varsie Geisler

Anniversaries

- 13 David and Kelly Potter
- 25 Robert and Jacquelynn Drake

Looking Ahead

- Sun, Jan 8 Commissioning of Search Committee at 10 AM Service
- Wed, Jan 18 *Conversion of St. Peter*
9 AM Holy Eucharist
2:00 PM Holy Eucharist at Oak Crest
- Sun, Jan 29 **9 AM Holy Eucharist**
10:30 AM Annual Meeting of the Parish

The Morning Star

Saint Peter's Episcopal Church

218 Somonauk Street
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815-895-2227

www.sycamorestpeters.org

Parish Office Hours: 9am-1pm Monday-Friday

Newsletter Staff

The Rev. James Clement	Publisher
Catherine Carroll	Editor
Jane Ovitz, Barbara Weaver, Carol Quitno, Pat Burgweger, Helen Beamish, Nancy Franke	Circulation

Deadline for Submission of Articles

5:00 PM on the 20th of each month. Email your articles to office@sycamorestpeters.org or place them in the Morning Star mailbox in Waterman Hall by the 15th of the month. All articles are subject to editing for length and clarity.

Email subscriptions

You may receive the Morning Star by email by sending a message to office@sycamorestpeters.org.

Parish Clergy and Staff

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Catherine Carroll	Assistant to the Interim
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The Vestry of the Parish

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Michael Blakeslee	312-671-7045
John Castle	815-762-1663
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Daniel Sidmore	630-728-8144
John Vain	815-899-1124

The Parish Vision Statement

Red doors open for growth and renewal, where we find ourselves and others transformed.

The Parish Mission Statement

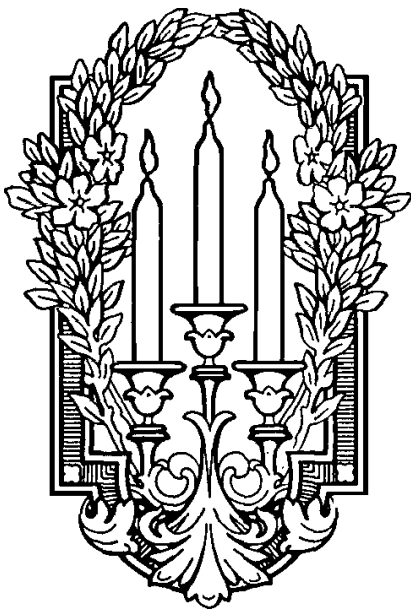
To be an inclusive fellowship growing in the Holy Spirit, nurturing the burdened and the joyous, reaching out to our communities and God's world.

January 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 7:30 AM Holy Eu- charist 10:00 AM Holy Eu- charist	2 8:30 AM Morning Prayer 9:00 AM Parish Office Closed	3 8:30 AM Morning Prayer 9:30 AM Book Club	4 8:30 AM Morning Prayer 9:30 AM Morning Star Mailing	5 8:30 AM Morning Prayer	6 8:30 AM Morning Prayer 9:00 AM Holy Eu- charist	7
8 7:30 AM Holy Eu- charist 10:00 AM 10:00 am Commissioning of Search Committee 10:00 AM Holy Eu- charist	9 7:00 PM Buildings and Grounds Com- mittee	10 6:00 PM Girl Scout Troop 651	11 8:30 AM Morning Prayer 9:30 AM Prayer Shawl Knitters 12:00 PM Christian Outreach Committee 4:00 PM Daisy Scout Troop Meeting	12	13	14
15 7:30 AM Holy Eu- charist 10:00 AM Holy Eu- charist	16 6:30 PM Caregivers Committee	17	18 8:30 AM Morning Prayer 9:00 AM Holy Eu- charist 2:00 PM Oak Crest - Holy Eucharist 4:00 PM Daisy Scout Troop Meeting	19 11:00 AM Staff Meet- ing 7:00 PM Vestry Meet- ing	20 7:30 AM Men's Fel- lowship Breakfast	21
22 7:30 AM Holy Eu- charist 10:00 AM Holy Eu- charist and Installa- tion of Daughters of the King	23	24	25 8:30 AM Morning Prayer 8:30 AM Morning Star Mailing 4:00 PM Daisy Scout Troop Meeting	26	27	28
29 9:00 AM Holy Eu- charist 10:30 AM Annual Meeting	30	31	1 8:30 AM Morning Prayer	2	3 12:00 PM DAR Meet- ing	4

The Morning Star – January 2017

Saint Peter's Episcopal Church
218 Somonauk Street
Sycamore, IL 60178



Altar Flowers and Sanctuary Candles

Dates are now available to dedicate the Altar Flowers and Sanctuary Candle in 2017.

If you would like to dedicate Altar Flowers or a Sanctuary Candle for a Sunday, please sign up on the reservation sheets on the bulletin board in the hallway just outside the Parish Office. Then fill out the form available below the reservation sheet, indicating your memorial, celebration, or thank-offering designation.