

The Sentinel



Priest's Ponderings

So here we are at another new year, and the Twelfth Day of Christmas brings the Feast of the Epiphany on January 6th.

The season of Epiphany is short this year. It ends on February 10th with Ash Wednesday. The length of the season is determined by the date of Easter Day as the season of Lent, which must last 40 days (not including Sundays) precedes Easter and also comes after Epiphany. As I told a friend once, Epiphany is "filler time" in such a calendar as its length varies due to the timing of Lent. He was not amused.

The word, "Epiphany," means revelation. The actual title of the season is "The Manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles" and is depicted in the journey of the Wise Men from the East who came to see Jesus. Were they Jewish folk? Nope, but that is okay. God chooses to reveal himself to them, too, so we see a massive change in theology. God is not limited to any specific group of people. Thus we go from the Old Testament (Covenant) to the New.

As God reveals himself to us, so we are open to new possibilities of thinking. That can be a scary proposition! Handle revelation with care!

It probably makes good sense theologically that the length of Epiphany varies. When God reveals himself to us is it constant? That has not been my experience. Revelation comes and goes, never lasting the same amount of time. Why? Some revelations take longer for me to digest and understand, so God spares me by not overwhelming me with too much information!

So during January be open to some sort of Epiphany from God. Rest assured --- the revelation is ongoing even in other seasons. Epiphany is a good reminder as we begin a new year: Get Ready. When God enters the picture, things are never quite the same again!

RSC+

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Calendar

Saturday, January 9th
Youth Group at 5:30 pm

Sunday, January 10th
Parish Annual Meeting

Tuesday, January 19th
Vestry meeting at 6:30 pm

January 22nd and 23rd
Diocesan Convention

Friday, January 29th
Sentinel Article Deadline

Happy Birthday

Michael Mauk, 1/12
 Elizabeth Dupuy, 1/20
 Christy Lyons, 1/20
 Gail McNally, 1/22

If we have failed to include your birthday this month, please let us know. Our list is continually evolving ☺

The Saint of the Month

Harriet Bedell - March 19, 1875 - January 8, 1969 - Deaconess and Missionary

Feast Day January 8 - Harriet Bedell trained as a school teacher, and in 1906 was accepted by the New York Training school for Deaconesses where her one-year course of study included religious matters, missions, teaching, hygiene and hospital nursing. Following her training she was sent to the Cheyenne Indians at Whirlwind Mission in Oklahoma. Her duties were many and varied. She cared for the sick and the poor, organized social services, provided education for woman and children, and religious instruction hoping to win the confidence of the people and convert them to Christianity.

In 1916 an Episcopal bishop requested that she consider an assignment in a remote part of Alaska. Although saddened by the prospect of leaving Oklahoma she

"I never made one of my discoveries through the process of rational thinking" – Albert Einstein

Lay Assignments*January 3rd:*

Eucharistic: Jane Emery & Jim Cate
 Lector: Harry Spain
 Crucifer: Jonathan Dupuy
 Ushers: Larry Emery and Joe Reese
 Altar Guild: Karen Cate & Joan Wells
 Coffee Hour: Anubha Sinha

January 10th:

Eucharistic Ministers: George Mickle & Cindy Reese
 Lector: George Mickle
 Crucifer: Natasha Reed
 Ushers: Pete Mace & Mike Deweese
 Altar Guild: Mary Elizabeth Womack & Betty Odom
 Coffee Hour: The Deweeses

January 17th:

Eucharistic: Tony McFarland & David Gaines
 Lector: Tony McFarland
 Crucifer: Michael Schoenenberger
 Ushers: Rick Webb & George Womack
 Altar Guild: Sandra Womack & Janet Deweese
 Coffee Hour: The McFarlands

January 24th:

Eucharistic: Rick & Cindy Webb
 Lector: David Gaines
 Crucifer: Erick Cate
 Ushers: Larry Emery & Joe Reese
 Altar Guild: Cindi Spain & Judy Stewart
 Coffee Hour: The Reeses

January 31st:

Eucharistic: Jane Emery & Jim Cate
 Lector: Michael Mauk
 Crucifer: Jonathan Dupuy
 Ushers: Don Denning & Mike Deweese
 Altar Guild: Cindi Spain & Judy Stewart
 Coffee Hour: Vestry Monthly Birthday Party

accepted her new post in Stevens Village. While there she was finally made a deaconess.

The Mission at Stevens Village was moved to Tanana so that boarding school could be established for the children who could not travel in the bad winter weather. In 1931, during the Great Depression, she went to New York to plead for more contributions. The church paid off the school building debt but she did not return to Alaska.

Later she was invited to visit a Seminole Indian reservation in southern Florida. Appalled by their living conditions, she began a campaign to improve their quality of life. She began to revive doll making and basket weaving skills which had become nearly extinct. She encouraged the women to make articles of clothing incorporating intricate patchwork designs. Sales from the arts and crafts store at Blades Cross Mission provided improved income for the Mikasuki-Seminoles.

Recipe of the Month: Cranberries in the Snow

1-12 ounce package of fresh cranberries
 2 cups water
 2 cups sugar
 1-6 ounce cherry Jell-O
 1-13 ounce marshmallow cream
 1 cup drained crushed pineapple
 1 cup chopped pecans
 1-8 ounce cream cheese
 1-1/2 pint whipping cream

Put the water in a sauce pan, add cranberries and bring to easy boil until the berries pop, then cook for about 10 minutes. Add sugar and Jell-O, pineapple and pecans and mix. Pour into 9 x 13 pan, then refrigerate for about 4-6 hours until set.

Topping:

With mixer whip whipping cream until whipped, then cut cream cheese into small cubes, add a little at a time to the whipped cream, then add all of the marshmallow cream and mix. After set, spread the topping on top and keep in the refrigerator and serve when ready. Will keep in the fridge for about 10 days.

A very festive dessert. Enjoy -- Bruce Dobbs

From the Loft

With a new year comes our continued search for our Music Director. We seem to be learning an interesting lesson: Overqualified people are just that, and we are who we are. The right person will come; we remain vigilant and patient. In the interim we will be well served by the Royal Musicians Guild who will be providing organists for weekly worship and to assist with choir rehearsals. Our Search Committee is Jane Emery, David Gaines, and George Mickle; and we thank them for their dedicated service.

Vestry News

In December the Vestry:

- Approved 2016 Budget
- Heard that Outside Electrical Receptacles Repairs - Completed
- Organ Refit: In Process & Below Budget
- Approved Fire Extinguisher purchases
- Heard that 5 Christmas Baskets Will Be Delivered
- Heard Members of Five Year Planning Committee:
Debbie Denning, Tony McFarland, Leigh Smith, Janice Whiteman, Jim & Karen Cate, Christy Lyons, and Louise Jones
- Received Report of Tom Joy Outreach Report of Christmas Projects
- Set Annual Meeting Date on January 10th
- Resumed Search for Music Director

Parish Financial Highlights

December

Income: 16,005
Expenses: 11,934
Balance: 4,071

2015 Final Recap

Income: 145,398
Expenses: 138,523
Balance: \$ 6,875

For more information, see Jim Cate, Treasurer.

Tom Joy Request

For the month of January, Tom Joy School requests donations of tissues/Kleenex for their classrooms.

Vestry Slate

We have begged, arm-twisted, and cajoled the following to serve as incoming Vestry members:

- David Gaines
- Joe Reese
- Harry Spain (second term!)

They will be joining: Ken Saefkow, Dari Shadwick, Louise Jones, and Jane Emery who are already faithfully serving.

Outreach News

Our monthly collection for Room in the Inn is thermal underwear (L to 4XL) and hooded sweatshirts – L to 4XL . Drop off is beside the piano bench at the rear of the nave.

Youth Ministry

We have two programs for the youth of the parish.

Teenagers and middle schoolers join Father Courtney, Lacey Lyons, and Joel Sinha for dinner and discussion on the second Saturday of each month at 5:30 pm at the church. In January we shall discuss idolatry and witchery. Be sure to bring your cell phones.

Elementary Sunday School

JESUS' MINISTRY BEGINS!

Luke 3:22—You are my Son, whom I dearly love.

Jan 3—Follow the Star (*Matthew 2:1-12*)

Jan 10—Jesus Is Baptized (*Luke 3:1-22*)

Jan 17—Jesus Chooses (*Luke 4:1-13*)

Jan 24—Jesus Brings Good News (*Luke 4:14-30*)

Jan 31—Jesus Heals (*Luke 4:38-44*)

Taekwondo News

In taekwondo training, students recognize accomplishments of continuing on a journey of challenges and, from this, develop confidence to confront even greater difficulties. We do not always “volunteer” to face new challenges in life. Most merely present themselves to us, and we have no choice. By training ourselves to face the challenges where we had a choice, we have developed the strength of character that will be required to face the unexpected.

Contact Us

St. James the Less Episcopal Church
411 West Due West Avenue
Madison TN 37075

Phone: 615.865.4496

Website: www.stjamesmadison.net

Priest-in-Charge: Father Robin Courtney

Church Schedule

Saturday

Priest's Office Hours

2:30 pm - 5:00 PM

Sunday

Holy Eucharist – 8:00 AM

Adult Sunday School – 9:30 AM

Choral Holy Eucharist – 10:30 AM

Sunday School (ages 5-12) – 10:30 AM

Wednesday

Choir Practice – 7:00 PM (resumes 1/6)

Monday & Thursday

Community Taekwondo – 5:00 PM

**St. James the Less
Episcopal Church**

411 West Due West Avenue
Madison, TN 37115

News from the Diocese of Tennessee

Just as each parish is required to meet annually, so does the Diocese of Tennessee. Bishop Bauerschmidt speaks on the state of the diocese, new committee members are elected or appointed, the annual budget is reviewed and approved, and resolutions are discussed and voted upon during the Annual Convention. Time for networking and social interaction with attendees from around the Diocese is also built in to the two day meeting.

The 184th Annual Convention of the Diocese of Tennessee will be hosted in 2016 by St. George's Church, Nashville, on January 22-23.

St. James' delegation will be Mary Elizabeth Womack, Tony McFarland, and Rick Webb.


