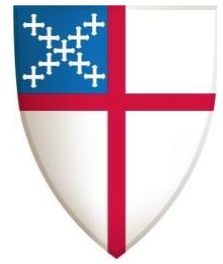




ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2020



Rector – Rev. Allison Cornell

Editor – Carol Dockter

WHAT IS THE SEASON?? – Why, it is now **EPIPHANY** Epiphany lasts until Lent that starts on Wed. Feb. 26th.

The following article about Epiphany was submitted by Dottie Guwein.

The Holy Name Day of our Lord Jesus Christ: January 1

After eight days, tradition tells us that it was time to circumcise the Holy Child. He was named Jesus, given by an angel before he was born.



This Photo by Unknown

The Feast of the Epiphany: January 6



The word Epiphany means a manifestation or appearance. Every year on January 6 we celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany. Matthew 2:1 tells us the journey of the Magi, or wise men to Bethlehem. They were perhaps astrologers from the East and saw a certain star. They went to Jerusalem and told King Herod they were looking for the baby born to be king of the Jews. When Herod became angry, he told them to go find the child and let him know so he could also pay him homage. The wise men kept following the star until they found it had stopped over Bethlehem. We don't really know how many there were or how long the journey took, certainly longer than 12 days after Jesus' birth. But, they joyfully brought the Holy Child gifts and worshiped him. Frankincense, a perfume, symbolizing a deity; Myrrh, an embalming oil, a symbol of death and Gold for the baby's kingship on earth. Because they knew Herod waited for their return, the wise men returned to their home by a different route.

The Baptism of our Lord Jesus Christ: January 12

Although this seems to be right after the Epiphany, the actual timeline is much later. Jesus grew into a man deep into his Jewish faith. His cousin, John the Baptist, was at the Jordan river baptizing people in the water for repentance. Jesus appeared and asked to also be baptized. John at first refused but Jesus reminded him they needed to fulfill all righteousness. As Jesus came up from the water, the heavens opened to Him and the Spirit of God descended like a dove on him. God said: "This is my Son, the Beloved with whom I am well pleased". From that time forward, we are also baptized in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit by water and the Holy Spirit. We renew our baptismal vows on this day every year, at Easter, and every baptism during the year.



The Presentation of Our Lord Jesus Christ in the Temple – Feb. 2

February 2: Jesus Presented in the Temple Forty Days after birth, Mary went to the Temple for their purification ceremony according to the law of Moses. Every first-born male was to be designated as holy to the Lord. Here she was met by Simeon who took the child in his arms and praised God. Since he was a highly devout man to whom the Holy Spirit had revealed that he would not die until he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Simeon praised with the words "Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace according to your word, for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel." He blessed Mary and Joseph told them that their child would be destined for the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed and the inner thoughts of many will be revealed ---oh, by the way, a sword will pierce your own soul too. Mary and Joseph were amazed at what he had said about Jesus. It was soon after that the family went back to Nazareth where Jesus grew up, filled with the favor and wisdom of God.



GREETINGS FROM REV. ALLISON



Rector's Greeting January 2020:

"The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace."

Dear friends,

This month is going to be a busy one. We will celebrate the end of the Christmas Season and the Epiphany – the events in Jesus' life that show him to be the promised Messiah.

On January 19th we will welcome our newest member of the church, Nicholas John-Patrick Davill, August born son of Donna and Shannon Davill, with a baptism service and reception afterward.

The following weekend is our Annual Meeting on Sunday the 26th immediately following the 10:30am worship service. We will hear reports about this past year and plans for the coming year. We will also elect new members to the vestry and delegates to the diocesan convention. We encourage everyone to be present for the meeting and then join in a potluck lunch afterwards for fellowship and fun.

Your newly elected vestry and returning vestry will go on retreat for team building and planning for the coming year on January 31st to Feb 1st in Tucson at the Redemptorist Retreat Center. There we will review our responsibilities to the church and God in our different roles and make plans for the coming year.

Between the annual meeting and the vestry retreat, I will be going to Prescott for the annual clergy retreat on Jan 28-30.

In all of our busy-ness, I ask your prayers for our church and its ministry to worship, grow, and care for each other in our family of faith.

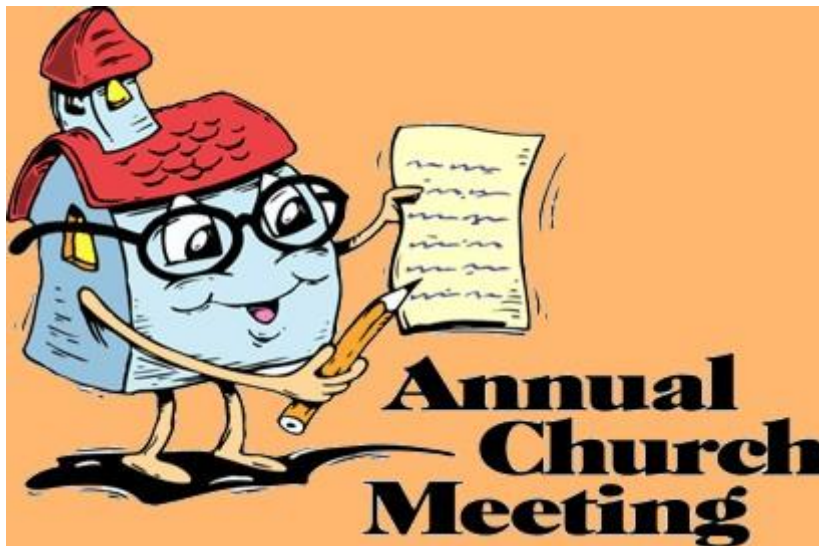
Peace be with you in this coming year,

Allison +

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITY

Rev. Allison is interested in organizing a new **12-step format worship service** during the week. Possible days/times would **Tuesday or Friday morning at 7am or Thursday evening at 6pm**. Anyone interested in helping to get this started and participate regularly in this worship style, please let Rev. Allison know. This is **NOT** a recovery focused service but would use the 12 step format. Bible readings and Forward Day by Day devotional booklet would be the discussion starters

PARISH EVENTS



THE PARISH MEETING IS SUNDAY JANUARY 26TH AFTER THE 10 :30 SERVICE followed by a potluck lunch.

A highlight of this meeting will be the State of the Church Address by Rev. Allison who is foregoing the usual sermon for the day. Also of importance is filling three open positions on the Vestry plus delegates to the Diocesan Convention. The Vestry positions are Clerk, Treasurer and Vestry Member.

The following are very brief descriptions of the offices:

Vestry Member (more detailed description is posted in the Parish Hall)

- **Time Commitments** include Vestry and committee meetings; Vestry retreat(s); Weekly worship services. rotating occasionally if more than one is offered; congregational events such as coffee hours, meals, fundraisers, Christian formation programs, etc; Diocesan meetings as necessary and the Annual meeting.
- **Responsibilities** include bringing one's whole self to the table; being present in mind, body, and spirit; risking openness with one's ideas, beliefs, and desires; praying daily for the rector, leaders, and members of the congregation.

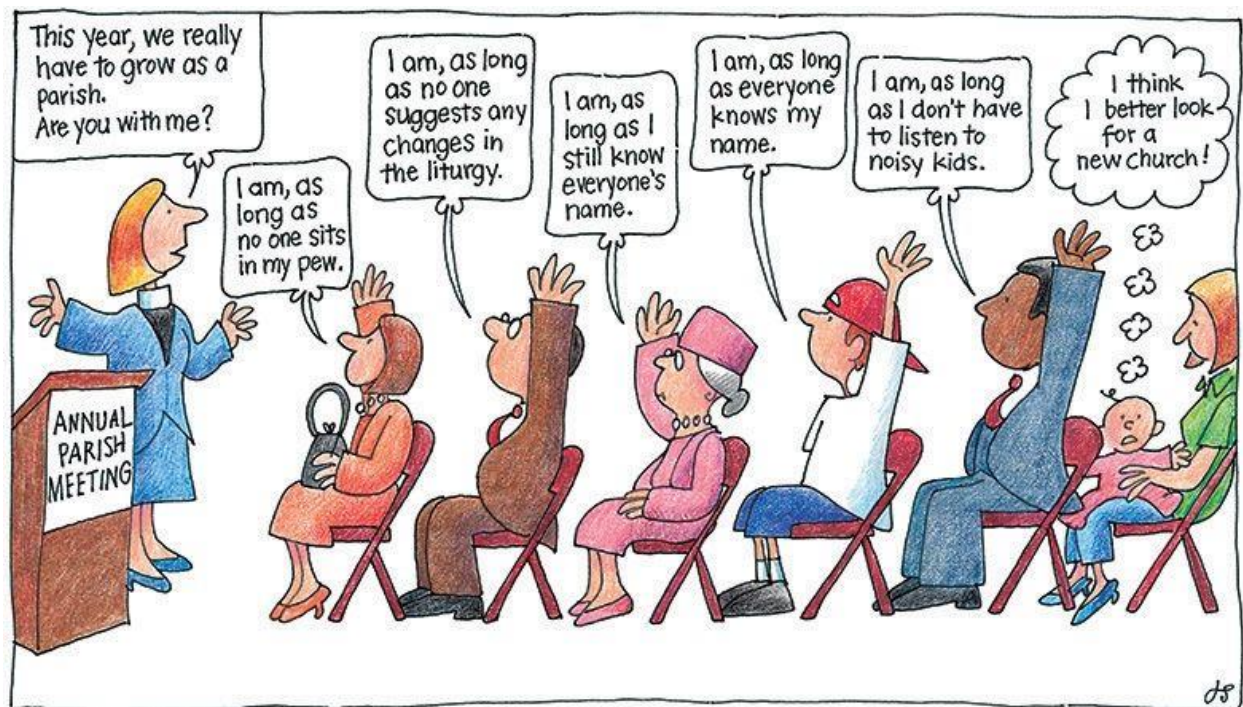
Treasurer (more detailed description is posted in the Parish Hall)

- **Time Commitments** include weekly oversight of collections and deposits; periodic payment of bills and monthly generation of accounting reports.
- **Responsibilities (some but not all)** include supervise the collection, counting, and deposit of all contributions; supervise the treasurers of all other accounts, ensure that bills are paid in a timely fashion; work with any designated committee to make certain that adequate insurance is maintained on all real property; determine that the books and accounts of the congregation are kept in accordance with standard accounting procedures and the requirements of the canons; ensure that the congregation's financial operations are in accordance with The Episcopal Church's and diocesan canons, congregational bylaws, and state and federal laws; meet regularly with the rector, wardens, and/or staff for planning and evaluation; develop (if one does not exist) and serve on the finance committee; assist in the development of budgets; submit onthly financial report to the vestry and an annual financial report to the congregation and make appropriate contributions to the diocesan parochial report

Clerk (more detailed description is posted in the Parish Hall)

- **Time commitment** include distribution of agenda and minutes from previous meetings; maintain roster of members and contact information and other duties as deemed necessary by the rector and senior warden.
- **Responsibilities** include take notes during vestry meetings and afterwards, prepare and distribute minutes; maintain a file of all vestry meeting minutes; if asked, take minutes for the annual congregation meeting and prepare, date, sign, and maintain documents as required

NOTE: Vestry members (all) will attend a vestry retreat in Tucson at the Redemptorist Retreat Center Jan 31st and Feb 1st (overnight). Cost for the overnight and 3 meals is \$135.00



MEN'S GROUP AND GRIEF GROUP ANNOUNCEMENTS

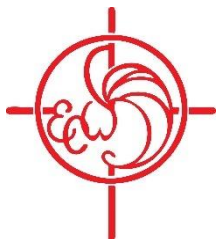
Submitted by Ed and Cheryl Stone

Our next Informal Men's Group Meeting will be on **11 Jan starting at 8:30 AM** at St. Stephen's Church.

I will send out what our discussion will be this week. We need to identify who will be attending and what we are going to be having for breakfast.

I want to thank Bruce for covering down last month as we were packing up our old house to prepare for moving into our new home. We had a great meeting and want to thank him for opening up his home to us.

The Grief Group meets every **Thursday morning from 10:00 to 11:30** in the Parish Hall at St. Stephen's. If you would like to come over to share your thoughts and feelings, please stop by. We would love to have you join us.



ECW

On Sunday the 5th of January Adam Kyasky, cabinet maker, met with members of ECW to discuss the layout of the parish kitchen. After reviewing two design suggestions and with much discussion a plan was accepted and the green light given to Adam to build some beautiful cabinets. We are fortunate to have Adam in our midst at this time because his stay in Sierra Vista ends this Spring. His talent is displayed in the columbarium where he added many new niches.



Donna Savill – 1/12
Bill Carswell – 1/21



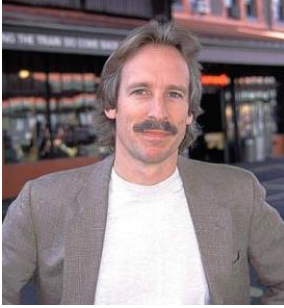
This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed

Thank you to everyone who pitched in to provide gifts and gift cards for the two families that we helped at Christmas time. Both families are very grateful for all that we did for them to make this Christmas a happy occasion.

Thank you to **Alvarita Egbert** who has at the request of her children decided to finally retire from the Sexton staff position of our church. She did a quick calculation and believes she has been cleaning our church (with **Doris Millard** much of the time) for the past 17 years. We sure appreciate her hard work over so many years. We have a new cleaning person/sexton who will begin with us on January 9th. Her name is **Terri Finley**.

Thank you to **Luke Diamond** our latest Music Director for his musicianship and choral work with us since September 1st. Luke has agreed to a position at a Presbyterian Church in Tucson, much closer to his home and studies at the UA. We are once more in the search for an accompanist who can play piano or organ, and we will have Luke until the end of January.

Thank you to **Sandra Calhoun, Greg Lamberth** and **Mark Sowards** who have been working to help our new bookkeeper, Pam Collins, get our finances migrated onto a new Quickbooks platform and begin doing the weekly tasks of maintaining our records. We are looking for a new treasurer to oversee our bookkeeper and church finances as Sandra finds she doesn't have the time required while working a full-time job. Please see Allison if you are interested in the treasurer position.



Concert Pianist John Nilsen coming to St. Stephen's on **14 February at 6pm** for a Valentines Evening Concert with reception afterward.

John Nilsen was born in Seattle, Washington in 1956. The Nilsen family moved to Portland, Oregon in 1960. Nilsen began studying classical piano from his mother at age six. Continuing his musical education, he began playing guitar at age fourteen. John moved to Ashland, Oregon in 1974 to attend Southern Oregon College (Southern Oregon University). Nilsen graduated in 1979 with a Bachelor of Arts in English, and was honored by the institution in 1995 with the Distinguished Alumnus Award. Nilsen founded the Magic Wing recording label in 1987. The label has a catalog of eleven successful titles, all having international distribution. Hear him on youtube at:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=71z0SzLmBes&list=PL_aS_ZxdZokiKnWXwh-Iy29Mj1AIJO2s or visit his website at <http://www.magicwing.com/JohnNilsen.html>

A PRAYER FOR THE NEW YEAR

Author – Geevetha Mary Samuel

Heavenly Father, we thank You for the year that has passed and the many blessings You have showered upon us. We beg your pardon in our many failings and trespasses. Make the new year a more fruitful and blessed one.

We also thank You for every test of time that has brought us stronger in faith and trust in You. Bestow upon us the gift of the Holy Spirit.

We call upon our Lord Jesus Christ for His intercessions, His guidance and His light to shine our path.

Isaiah 40:31 *But those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles, they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.*



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