



CHRIST AND THE EPIPHANY

VOLUME 26

DECEMBER 2019

Upcoming Events

(At Christ and The Epiphany)

Saturday, December 7, 9:00

a.m. - 3:00 p.m., Christmas Fair

Saturday, December 14,

12:00-1:00 p.m., Narcan Training sponsored by East Haven Community Kitchen

Sunday, December 22, 9:00

a.m., *one combined Morning Prayer Service*

Tuesday, December 24, 4:00

p.m., Christmas Eve service

Wednesday, December 25,

Christmas

Wednesday, January 1, New

Year's Day

(Around Town)

Trees of Hope, December 7-

15, 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Maritime Center, Long Wharf, New Haven

Saturday, December 14, 7:30

p.m., Greater New Haven Community Chorus concert, Battell Chapel, New Haven

Sunday, December 15, 5:00

p.m., Messiah concert, Branford Evangelical Free Church, Branford

Trees of Hope

The 30th Annual Trees of Hope is a major fundraiser for the Ronald McDonald House of CT. It runs from Saturday, December 7 through Sunday, December 15 (10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.) at the Maritime Center on Long Wharf. More

than 4,000 people are expected to view (and hopefully bid on) more than 140 trees, wreaths and holiday baskets donated by area individuals, families and organizations. For the sixth year, Diane Villano's artist group, the Southern Connecticut Polymer Clay Guild, donated a tree decorated with ornaments handmade by guild members. Raffle tickets are \$1.00 and can be purchased throughout the event. Free parking and visits from Santa on the weekends.

Holiday Music!

Barbara Coulombe

On Saturday December 14 at 7:30 p.m. in Yale's Battell Chapel, you will find both Susan Shultz and Barbara Coulombe singing Franz Schubert's Mass in E-flat with a guest orchestra. They are two of over 90 members of The Greater New Haven Community Chorus. (You may have seen the GNHCC trailer parked by the St. Pauly's shed). Come attend this spectacular event right in the heart of New Haven. Schubert's Mass will leave you breathless! It was his last written work and was composed in response to a request from the choirmaster of the Church of the Holy Trinity in Vienna. The mass was not performed until 1829

after Schubert's death. The influence of Beethoven is felt in the composition. Schubert was a torchbearer at Beethoven's funeral. Bach, Mozart and Haydn also influenced his writing especially in the fugues that are present in the "Gloria" and the "Agnus Dei". Do come and spend some time enjoying this magnificent work which accentuates the beauty of the Christmas season! Tickets are \$15 in advance or \$20 at the door. For more information, speak to Susan or Barbara.

Then the next day, Sunday December 15, Susan and Barbara will be singing again at the Branford Evangelical Free Church on Leetes Island Road with their annual Handel's Messiah concert. This free concert at 5:00 p.m. is a lovely holiday tradition and the soloists are always amazing. Following the concert the church hosts a delicious free dinner and reception.

Free Narcan Training

Saturday December 14 from 12:00 to 1:00p.m. there will be a free Narcan training seminar at Christ and The Epiphany. This training will cover overdose prevention strategies; signs and symptoms of an overdose; how to administer Narcan; the Good Samaritan law; and support information and resources.

What is Narcan? Narcan is a prescription drug that reverses an opioid overdose. Opioids include heroin and prescription pain pills such as oxycodone, codeine and morphine. **Why does this training matter?** Our community continues to battle a heroin and opiate epidemic that has taken many of our loved ones. Narcan Saves Lives. Also, a limited supply of Narcan will be available to those 18 years or older at the training.

Missional Priest Report Rev. Charles Kamano

Dear Christ and The Epiphany Church Family,
The month of December often reminds me of the beginning of icy rain, snow, and cold weather. During this time of year, we also enjoy the Christmas decorations, carols, parties, and shopping. For Christians across the board, we commemorate every year the Nativity of Jesus in December.

The birth of our Savior is preceded by Advent, from Latin "Adventus," meaning "coming." Advent is a time of expectant waiting and preparation. We should take seriously the invitation of John the Baptist: "Prepare the way for the Lord's coming! Clear the road for Him!" (Mark 1:3 NLT).

What does that mean to us? It means that joy has come into this world, that a Savior has been born, that Peace can enter our hearts, and the path to become God's children is open to us.

It has been thirty-one years now since I embraced Christianity. I went from being a young Muslim to converting to Catholicism and becoming a Priest, despite the opposition of my family. Christmas played a huge role in my conversion. I enjoyed participating in Christmas pageants and listening to Christmas songs with my Catholic friends in high school. I became increasingly excited about Christianity that upset my Muslim world view. Today I have no regrets to be Christ's follower.

During this Advent season, we are encouraged to reflect on our lives so that we can present ourselves with real joy on Christmas Day. It is tempting to move ahead to Christmas and totally ignore our brokenness. Like the people of Judea and Jerusalem, we clamor for salvation. We want to be made whole.

With that in mind, I wish you a grace-filled Advent season. Let us remind ourselves of why Christmas is so important to our individual lives and the life of the Church.

Advent and Christmas blessings upon you and your loved ones.

Senior Warden Report Barbara Parsons

The Convention was great again this year. I hope someone new will step up as a Convention delegate for next year. It's really very enlightening to see how our

church works. I found it a very inclusive experience. I was really impressed by the variety of faces above the collars. It is a testimony to our church to see the welcoming of all of God's beloved children.

I took a workshop on Small Congregations. The good news is that at Christ and The Epiphany everybody is "all in". The not so good news is that we have a very large building to support and maintain. I personally am thankful for Jan's hard work in getting the building income that helps us cover our expenses. We are blessed to have so many people coming into our building and giving us so many opportunities to minister.

As we come to the end of the year, let each of us look at what part we can play in God's plan for Christ and The Epiphany. We've each been given gifts. Let us search our hearts to recognize our gifts and use them for God's glory. If we follow His leading, He'll show us His will for our lives and for our church.

Vestry Summary Susan Shultz

Next Meeting - The next Vestry meeting will be Sunday December 15 after the 10:00 a.m. service.

General - We are looking for someone to fill the open Vestry At-Large position. The new term starts Feb 2020. If you are interested, please speak to Barb Parsons or Jan Cianelli.

Worship - This is the schedule while Charles is away (December 21 -January 9):

Sunday Dec 22, 9:00 a.m. - Morning Prayer (led by Wendy Bellmore and Diane Villano)

Tuesday Dec 24, 4:00 p.m. - Christmas Eve service officiated by Rev. Andrew Osmun

Sunday Dec 29, 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. - Morning Prayer (led by Barbara Parsons and George Coulombe)

Sunday Jan 5, 8:00 a.m. - Morning Prayer (led by all)
Sunday Jan 5, 10:00 a.m. - "Lessons and Carols" (led by Susan Shultz and Barbara Coulombe)

Treasurer Report - A first pass at the 2020 budget was reviewed. The final budget to be presented at the annual meeting will be voted on at the December Vestry meeting.



**Episcopal
Church in CT
(ECCT)**

Annual Convention
Diane Villano

Rev. Charles Kamano, Barbara Parsons, and I represented Christ and The Epiphany Church at the 235th Annual Convention on October 26 and 27 in Hartford.

Again, this year, questions were submitted for discussion among smaller groups to explore on a deeper level than

what would be possible as a resolution. Fifteen questions were submitted, and the six questions selected concerned racial healing and justice, climate change, forming disciples, addressing the causes of injustice, Christian formation for children and youth, and young adult considerations. Results of the conversations were reported to the entire convention.

During the business session, all resolutions were passed:

- Merger of Church of our Savior, Plainville & St. John's, Bristol
- Merger of Grace, Broad Brook & Grace, Windsor
- 2020 Budget of Convention Clergy Compensation
- Young Adults: Evangelism and God's Mission
- Intentional Episcopal Communities
- First Consideration of an Amended Diocesan Constitution
- Organization and Conduct of Worshipping Communities

Bishop Ian T. Douglas' address is available on YouTube and explores the opportunities presented in this New Missional Age.

During convention, elections were held digitally for positions on the Standing Committee, Mission Council, General Convention Deputation, and Provincial Synod Delegation. Election results as well as the submitted questions, resolutions, and the Bishop's Address are all available on

ECCT's website at www.episcopalct.org.

The theme of the Annual Convention Worship on Sunday was "We've come this far by faith" and we were honored to have the Right Reverend Barbara C. Harris preach the sermon. Bishop Harris was the first woman to be ordained a bishop in the Anglican Communion. The service bulletin is also available on ECCT's website.

Next year's convention will be in Stamford, Friday and Saturday, October 9 and 10. If you are interested in becoming a convention representative, please speak with Rev. Kamano, Barbara Parsons or Diane Villano.

Cycle of Prayer

The complete ECCT Cycle of Prayer for 2019-2020, which begins on the first Sunday of Advent, December 1, is now available on their website at www.episcopalct.org. Christ and The Epiphany Church's prayer Sunday is February 2, together with All Saint's, East Hartford, St. John's, East Windsor, and the Haitian Ministry Network.

Encouraging Words Charlie Langlan

Faith

Through Christ you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and glorified him, and so your faith and hope are in God.

1 Peter 1:21

Hope

Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

Isaiah 40:31

Love for God

Love the Lord your God, listen to his voice, and hold fast to him. For the Lord is your life. Deuteronomy 30:20

Merry Christmas! As this year comes to a close it's important to spend time with family and friends - laugh, smile and have a good time! I hope you all enjoy this holiday season and have a very Merry Christmas. Remember the true meaning of Christmas and thank Him today, and every day for all that He gave for you. It is fun to receive but remember how good it feels to give. If you don't know who to give to, or what to give, give to God! Show him how thankful you are and that you appreciate Him. He's always there for you and always has a plan. Merry Christmas to all!

On Mission with Kateri Medical Services

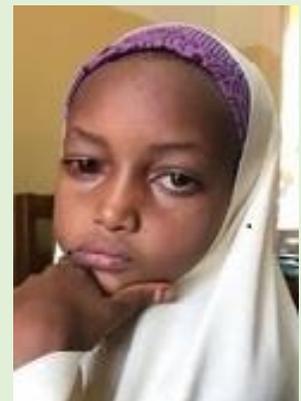
Wendy Bellmore

In October I joined a small contingent traveling to Nigeria with Kateri Medical Services. This was my third trip to Africa, and second to Nigeria, and we may all agree that travel is always a challenge, and to the mission field it is fraught with unanticipated experiences. But we returned home safely and enriched by our decision to go. In our two

locations, free care was offered during an intense outreach open to all seeking care. We traveled for two days, and met with our hosts in our first location, Port Harcourt. This is the newest Kateri medical clinic and dedicated to honor Father Tom Furrer, Kateri organization founder and president. Unlike the other four clinics, the Saint Thomas Clinic is located in a dense and impoverished section of the city. Put straight to work, our group of consisting of Father Tom, Helen, Wendy, Donna, Mary, Kathy, Randy, Bob and Sam joined with local clinic staff and community volunteers to man clinics in medicine, dental, and eye; pharmacy and laboratory; "crowd control" and more. During our five days in Port Harcourt we were able to evaluate and treat 1,500 persons seeking the free clinic care. Common problems in Nigeria are malaria and typhoid which are endemic to the area, as well respiratory ailments, malnutrition, and worms. With sad goodbyes, we traveled an additional two days by ground and air to our second location in rural Gusau. Again, we went straight to work for six days, treating over 1,300 patients alongside clinic staff and local volunteers. And again, we left with sad goodbyes and traveled an extraordinary three days to arrive home, from 95 degrees to 28 degrees, brrrrr!

The take home for all of us is how incredibly important each one of us is to mission. Our successful experience in the field is the product of the faith

Kateri Medical Services



and stewardship of our families, friends, and parishioners who contributed funding for our needed pharmaceuticals, material and travel support and who prayed for our success, safe travel and health during our time away. Thank you so much, and you should know that we prayed with grateful thanks for you every day. Our challenges of assuring clean and running water, safe foods to eat, safe accommodation, and yes, sometimes, flush toilets were all answered, not perhaps in the first world luxury to which we are so accustomed, but certainly with loving and caring attention to the potential best our hosts have to offer, and for this we are also grateful. Importantly, your funds allowed us to work side-by-side, Christians and Muslims, treating any and all seeking care. We prayed with our patients, and encouraged all to know that healing is medicine, as well as the strength, support and serenity that comes with faith in God and knowledge of the acts of Jesus, the healer.

Kateri outreach clinics take place twice yearly, in the spring and fall. Our partners in Uburu, Kateri, and Gidan Waya will be hopeful for the 2020 spring event. Please pray for our continued success.

Holiday Shopping at the Met

Tony Lamberti

As the first act of Madame Butterfly ends and the curtain closes, I decided to venture

out into the lobby and down the stairs to the famous Metropolitan Gift Shop. As I entered the shop I was amazed by the number of opera lovers shopping for the upcoming holiday season. Patrons were buying recordings of Wagner's complete Ring Cycle along with Verdi's most famous recordings such as *Aida* as. The shop was decorated in the traditional style of the holidays, and as I watched the patrons shop and anxiously wait for their purchases to be gift wrapped, a section of the gift shop caught my eye. The selection of coffee table books was too much to resist, and as I started to peruse the books, the memories came back from past seasons when I attended many of these productions just upstairs in the house.

They had several signed pictures of performers from the past and present, along with boxed ornaments that would look beautiful on any Christmas tree. As I stood in line to complete my purchases I heard the bells summoning us back into the opera house and hurried back to my seat. I thought to myself if only I had more time to browse and shop, all the beautiful gifts I could buy for myself and my family...

I strongly suggest if you have the opportunity to visit the gift shop that you do so not only at Christmas time but any time of the year online here MetOperaShop.org.

Happy Holidays!



December 1 - Conor Reynolds
 December 15 - Gail Beck
 December 16 - Astrid Swanson
 December 20 - Susan Shultz
 December 25 - Joan Shaffner



December 26 - Janice & Ron Blevins

Intercessory Prayers

Andrew, Beverly W., Carol Ude, Carol C., David, Devin K., Diane, Diane Link, Dulci, Donald D., Eileen F., Eleanor N., Faith & Family, Father Eddie, Fred H., Gale, Geneva, Goodfellow Family, Greg T., Helen, Ian, J.D., Jack K., Jerry M., Jim C., JoAnn & Victoria, John A., Joseph, Judy C., Judy DeFeo, Julia, June W., Karen Dattilo & Family, Katherine Burdick, Katrina R., Leah S., Linda & Family, Lisa, Lois, Lucas Sundwall, Mark Conti, Marjorie Cowles, Marty, Matt, Melissa D., Rachael, Ray C., Sallie Alexander, Salvatore D., Stan R., Vivian S.

To submit names for the Intercessory Prayers list please call or email the church office. Names will be kept on the list for three months unless longer time is requested. If a person

you have placed on the list recovers in less than three months or passes away, please update the church office.

Next issue

The deadline for the January 2020 issue is **December 18**. If you have contributions for the newsletter please email us at newsletter.christandtheepiphany@gmail.com.

For updates to the Birthday or Anniversary lists, please call the church office at 203-467-2310.

Charlie Langlan & Susan Shultz, Editors

Stewardship for 2020

Susan Shultz

Nobody likes asking for money or discussing Stewardship - but without money, time and talent we would be unable to worship God in this lovely building with lights and heat. I know everyone pitches in and contributes their time and talent, but it does take money too. The Vestry is working on the budget for 2020 so please take the time to pray about making a pledge for next year. Having pledge commitments allows us to better plan and make the choices we need to. While we have been steadily improving our bottom line over the last few years, so far 2020 is looking like it will be a hard year. We have lost some large pledge income and have also had some unexpected expense increases. While we generally have very stable expenses, the Diocese has told us to expect a 15% increase in our building insurance (ouch!). Due to this reduced income and higher expenses our tentative budget has about a \$9,000 deficit and this does not include any money for the once monthly building cleaning we were hoping to hire someone to do. While we know God will provide and we do have some savings to tap into, the Vestry was hoping we would have been able to continue reducing our deficit.

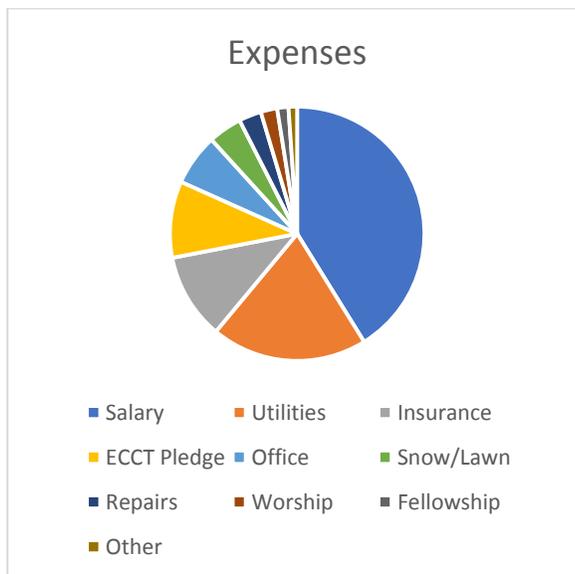
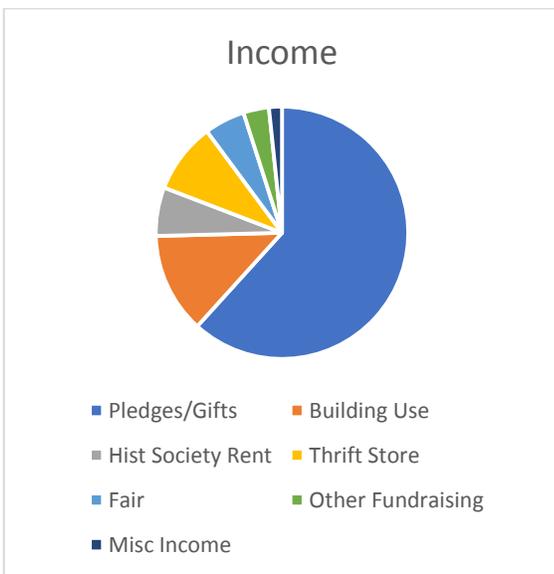
Our annual budget is now just around \$100,000. Here is a rough breakdown. You can see pledges/gifts are still our main source of income so every bit helps!

Income

Pledges/Gifts	60%
Building Use/Rent	20%
Thrift Store	9%
Fair	5%
Other	6%

Expenses

Salary	43%	Repairs	3%
Utilities/Grounds	24%	Other	2%
Insurance	11%		
ECCT Pledge	10%		
Office	7%		



Treasurer Report

Susan Shultz

	OCT	(UNDER)/OVER BUDGET	YTD	(UNDER)/OVER YTD BUDGET
INCOME	\$6,693.18	\$1,643.18	\$78,650.18	\$606.68
EXPENSES	\$9,308.40	\$1,753.89	\$87,315.04	(\$1,400.31)
NET	(\$2,615.22)	\$110.71	(\$8,664.86)	(\$2,006.99)

Notes: In October we spent \$2,400 for the Great Hall floor work. While this was not in our building budget we have more income in our building fund from various fundraising activities (International Buffet and Lions' club dinner) and generous gifts from our renters (East Haven United, Community Kitchen and Food Pantry). There is about \$1,200 in pledged money that we will do not expect to receive this year so while we are under budget, it is likely we will be short by the end of the year.

Worship Schedule

	<u>December 1</u>	<u>December 8</u>	<u>December 15</u>
Chalice Bearer	Kristina Langlan	George Coulombe	Ron Blevins
Lector	George Coulombe	Kristina Langlan	Audrey Sundwall
Usher	Gail Schappa	Audrey Sundwall	Diane Villano
Lead Counter	George Coulombe	Astrid Swanson	George Coulombe
Counter		Fred Bowden	Charles Langlan

	<u>December 22</u>	<u>December 24</u>	<u>December 29</u>
Chalice Bearer	(Morning Prayer)	George Coulombe	(Morning Prayer)
Lector	(Morning Prayer)	Kristina Langlan	(Morning Prayer)
Usher	Gail Schappa	Diane Villano	Gail Schappa
		Gail Schappa	
Lead Counter	Susan Shultz	Susan Shultz	George Coulombe
Counter	Kristina Langlan		Kristina Langlan