



# CHRIST AND THE EPIPHANY

VOLUME 24

November 2020

## Upcoming Events

Every Sunday, 9:00 a.m.,

Sunday Service via Zoom

Sunday, Nov 29, 9:00 a.m.,

hybrid Sunday Service both in church and via Zoom

Thursday, Nov 26,

Thanksgiving

## Clergy Schedule

Nov 1, Fr. Andrew Osmun

Nov 8, Fr. Andrew Osmun

Nov 15, Fr. Bob Stocksdale

Nov 22, Fr. Bob Stocksdale

Nov 29, Fr. Bob Stocksdale

## Zoom Services

We are holding worship services via Zoom on Sundays at 9:00 a.m.

To connect by computer click:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7639094733?pwd=WkR1ZHBNYTNKWmJqM2NvTkRjZ09hdz09>

To join by phone call:

929-436-2866

Meeting ID = 763 909 4733

Password = 39

The weekly bulletins are emailed out on Fridays and the Zoom room is usually opened up around 8:30 a.m. on Sunday. Intercessory prayers are also emailed weekly.

Past sermons are available on the YouTube channel "Christ and The Epiphany Church"

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCkGs9WC8ug7syl9n0kHkRaA>.

If you are not receiving the bulletin please email or call Diane in the office at [christandtheepiphany@gmail.com](mailto:christandtheepiphany@gmail.com) or 203-467-2310.

If you want or need any help getting connected on Zoom please reach out to Susan Shultz at 860-669-1104 or [sbshultz@gmail.com](mailto:sbshultz@gmail.com).

## Advent Worship Changes

The Vestry has decided we should move to a "transitional" status as we look forward to resuming traditional worship.

Therefore starting in Advent (Nov 29), we will hold hybrid Sunday services allowing attendance both in-person/in-church as well as via Zoom. Services will continue to be at 9:00 a.m. Those attending in person will need to be masked and sit socially distanced. There will be no singing. Service music may be pre-recorded (to work for both church and Zoom attendees). We plan to move our large TV screen to the church so in person participants can see Zoom. This will allow Fr Bob to continue to preach via Zoom.

People should attend services in the manner that they feel safest. Zoom will continue to be a viable way to worship.

The Christmas Eve service will also be a hybrid service but Communion wafers will be available in the parking lot after the service for Zoom attendees.

## Event Announcements

There will be no Christmas Fair this year.

The Annual Meeting will be held Sunday, Jan 24, 2021 via Zoom at 10:00 a.m.

## Lay Preacher Training

There is a free Zoom Lay Preacher course this November. The course is four sessions every other Sunday at 1:00 p.m. and beginning Nov 8. We strongly encourage as many people to attend as possible. Just because you attend we won't make you preach 😊 We already have commitments from at least two parishioners. For more information contact Carrie Combs at [rector@trinitycollinsville.org](mailto:rector@trinitycollinsville.org).

## October Vestry Summary

Susan Shultz

**Next Meeting** - The next Vestry meeting will be Sunday, November 15th via Zoom after the 9:00 a.m. service.

**Worship** - After great discussion and prayer the decision was made to move

into a “transitional” worship period that allows for both some in-person/in-church attendance as well as existing Zoom participation. See the previous article on Advent worship changes.

**Treasurer Report** - The 2017 and 2018 audits are complete and sent to ECCT. This should bring us back to good standing. The 2019 audit is also complete and will be mailed to ECCT shortly.

**Feast & Festivities** - Junk on the Trunk was a great success (over \$2,000 raised in total) and we hope to continue it next year. The 2020 Christmas Fair is cancelled. We will continue to leverage the Thrift Store and may add more “Fair” items for sale there (such as limited baked goods).

**New Business - St. Mary Mission.** This group recycles unwanted/outdated religious items to churches that need them (for example churches destroyed by Hurricane Katrina). We have packed some old altar linens, the children’s choir robes and some distressed prayer books/hymnals for them to take.



**ECCT 2020  
Convention**

The ECCT Annual Convention was held via Zoom Oct 14-18. The theme this year was Wealth Inequality and Racism.

### **Astrid Swanson**

This was my first time as a delegate to the Episcopal Convention which was

conducted on Zoom from Wednesday to Saturday with as many as 330 people involved and over 13 hours together.

After a group session together we were put into chat rooms with four to five other people to discuss the topic and then share our learnings back with the full group. Participants were patient, knowledgeable and interesting. We had at least eight resolutions to vote on (besides the amendments).

Two of my favorite topics were the merger of Christ Church in Watertown with All Saint’s Church in Oakville and the petition for the Episcopal Church at Yale to become an Intentional Episcopal Community with our Diocesan. ECY felt this change would deepen their relationships to the Episcopal Church and help students run their own ministry.

There was so much more that went on but there isn’t enough room to include it. I really enjoyed being a delegate from my dining room table!

### **Barbara Coulombe**

In all my years of being the delegate to numerous Diocesan Conventions, this one will be among one of the more memorable! Just about two hours before Convention started on Wednesday, our computer died! As a result, I missed the first session of the World Café on Wednesday evening. On Thursday, I traveled to Susan’s house and took part in the second session of the World Café.

## **Blessing of the Animals Sunday October 4**



The smaller breakout chat rooms allowed for great sharing time with others from churches around the state. Wednesday's question explored changes made during the Pandemic - what we might keep, technology changes, and how we might build community through collaboration. Dates for additional Zoom meetings - which are open to all will be found in the ECCT mailings.

Friday evening was the most anticipated session centering around the 7th Resolution- "Acknowledging and Confronting Systemic Racism, White Supremacy and Anti-Black Bias." This involved a discussion of how parishes can educate themselves about the reality of racism. Bishop Ian Douglas said: "Our vocation as followers of Jesus is to dismantle white supremacy, racism and anti-black bias." The Bishop also mentioned five projects that will be funded from three million dollars raised by seven parishes. One of these projects is called "Becoming the Beloved Community" which will support the anti-racism effort.

The Saturday session lasted about 6 hours (voting!). Besides the mergers mentioned by Astrid and normal budget items were resolutions on updating the ECCT Equal Employment Opportunity Policy, some Diocesan Canon revisions, the Confronting Systemic Racism previously mentioned and to translate Diocesan resources to Spanish.

I continue to be inspired by the vitality of our Diocesan leaders! I am grateful for the privilege to serve as your

Diocesan delegate. Do check your ECCT emails to read more about the ongoing work of Convention.

**Be an imitator of God as you might be the only Bible some people read.**

### Virtual Tours

Did you know that many churches can be toured online? These can be some of the most stunning and spiritual spaces - full of stained glass, gargoyles, gardens and more. Here are a few Episcopal cathedrals that you can visit without leaving your home!

**Washington Cathedral,**  
Washington DC

<https://cathedral.org/visit-us/>  
See also the 9-week series that tours each of the nine chapels:  
<https://cathedral.org/visit-us/chapels/>

**Cathedral of St. John the Divine,** New York NY

<https://www.stjohndivine.org/visit/virtual-tours/>

**Canterbury Cathedral,**  
Kent England

<https://www.canterbury-cathedral.org/visit/information/tour/>

See more video footage here:

<https://www.canterbury-cathedral.org/visit/information/video-footage/>

And for some non-Episcopal options:

**Notre Dame, Paris France**  
<https://www.friendsofnotredamedeparis.org/virtual-tour-notre-dame/>

And this links to **12 amazing churches around the world**  
<https://www.churchpop.com/2014/08/10/12-amazing-virtual-tours-of-the-worlds-most-spectacular-churches/>

### Encouraging Words

Susan Shultz

#### Thanksgiving

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever.

1 Chronicles 16:34

#### Anxiety

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

#### Hope

Let us hold unwaveringly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful.

Hebrews 10:23

#### Power

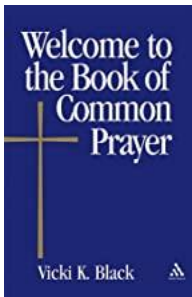
"If you can?" said Jesus. "Everything is possible for one who believes.

Mark 9:23

#### Perseverance

Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.

Galatians 6:9



## Book Review

Diane Villano

I found the book "Welcome to the Book of Common

Prayer" by Vicki K. Black, an Episcopal deacon, to be a fantastic resource for appreciating the richness and beauty of the BCP. This book introduced much of the history of the church, which was new to me as a recently-received Episcopalian, and would be helpful to even cradle Episcopalians. Chapters include "An Introduction", "Becoming Christian: Holy Baptism", "Sharing a Common Meal", "Praying throughout the Day: The Daily Office". Each chapter ends with questions for reflection and discussion. As I read through the book, I started to make a list of helpful definitions such as "rubrics", "collects", and "canticles" (Episcopal Trivial Pursuit anyone?). And it also solved some questions I had, including the difference between "high church" and "low church"; the origins of "red letter days"; and our Episcopal lectionary.

*Welcome to the Book of Common Prayer* is a valuable addition to my spiritual library and I highly recommend it. It's available in paperback and digital format.

If you don't have a Book of Common Prayer at home, it is available for download from the Episcopal Church website at: <https://episcopalchurch.org/book-common-prayer>.



November 4 - James Reynolds  
November 8 - Fred Walters  
November 9 - Carol Link-Ude  
November 10 - Ray Clearwater  
November 15 - Joyce Aurelius

## Opera From the Vaults

Tony Lamberti

For the past six months many of us are longing for live opera and theatre. But there is a way out of this dilemma and continue our love of music and opera. "Vinyl Recordings" – That's right - dig out your records; start dusting them off; and you never know what you may find. Perhaps an historical performance of some of the greatest singers in the world of opera.

Richard Tucker, Lilian Ponds, Leard Warren, and George London to name a few. So, listen carefully, get out the old turntable, dust it off and sit back to listen to the Golden Age Of Opera right from the safety of your own home. You will never know what you find hidden among the wonderful vinyl records and recordings. Until next time, continue to stay safe and hopefully soon we all can be together.

## Lighter Side

Reader's Digest

Q: How can you make God laugh?

A: Tell Him your plans.

## Intercessory Prayers

Andrew, Barbara R., Brandon, Barbuschak Family, Brandon, Carol Ude, Carol C., David, Clearwater Family, David C., David & Edward, Devin K., Diane, Diane Link, Dot Tate, Ed, Eileen F., Eleanor N., Faith, Father Eddie, Fran Zella, Frank P., Frank, Fred H., Gale, Geneva, Goodfellow Family, Greg T., Holly and Family, Ian, J.D., Jack K., Jen and Tyler W., Dr. Jeremiah Martin, Jessica and her Baby Olive Estelle, Jim C. Jim R. and Family, Joan, John A., Joe Riccitelli, John M., John U., Joseph, Judy DeFeo, Julia, June W., Karen Dattilo & Family, Kathrine Burdick, Katrina R., Ken, Kristina Langlan, Leah S., Lisa, Lisa H., Lois, Lucas Sundwall, Mark Conti, Madeline, Marjorie Cowles, Marty, Matt, Matt R., Melissa D., Michael, Michelle C., Mitzi Parisi, Patty R., Rachael, Ray C., Richard Mead, Ron C., Shawne G., Sallie Alexander, Stan, Turiano Family, Wendy, Zach Schatz

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.

## Next issue

The deadline for the December issue is **November 25**. Contributions for the newsletter can be emailed to [newsletter.christandtheepiphany@gmail.com](mailto:newsletter.christandtheepiphany@gmail.com). For an update to the Intercessory Prayers, Birthday or Anniversary lists, please call the church office at 203-467-2310.

## Stewardship

Susan Shultz

November is Stewardship month. Look for a letter in your mail with your pledge form. You can also email me your 2021 pledge information directly at [sbshultz@gmail.com](mailto:sbshultz@gmail.com). 2020 has been a difficult and unexpected year. And while we can hope 2021 will hold a return to “normalcy”, it is not certain when that will actually happen.

I continue to be amazed by the generosity of our members. While pledges were down, many people have continued their pledges even with limited or no church attendance. It is a testament to the faith and steadfastness this church has shown over the years. It is why we are able to continue as a parish and share the good news to our community and the world.

As we prepare for next year, I ask you to please pray about your stewardship to the church and send in your 2021 pledge/talents information by the end of November. This will allow the Vestry to put together a budget and see where we might have concerns with next year operations.

Peace and Blessings,  
Susan

## Treasurer Report

Susan Shultz

	SEP	(UNDER)/OVER BUDGET	YTD	(UNDER)/OVER YTD BUDGET
INCOME	\$7,077.02	(\$1,495.48)	\$61,296.16	(\$9,791.34)
EXPENSES	\$7,205.66	(\$740.04)	\$63,178.69	(\$12,404.45)
NET	(\$128.64)	(\$884.08)	(\$1,882.53)	(\$2,613.11)

Notes: Income continues to be down in the Thrift Store and some building use. Overall the three Junk in the Trunk events have brought in \$2,160. Without the Fair or Community Kitchen, we are still hoping to run about a \$10,000 deficit for the year but it is uncertain whether the deficit will be greater.

## Worship Schedule (9:00 a.m. via Zoom)

	<u>November 1</u>	<u>November 8</u>	<u>November 15</u>	<u>November 22</u>	<u>November 29 (Church &amp; Zoom)</u>
Lay Reader	n/a	George Coulombe	n/a	Diane Villano	Barbara Parsons
Lector	Audrey Sundwall	Richard Mead	Ray Clearwater	Pat Walters	Wendy Bellmore
Voice of the People	Pat Walters	Barbara Coulombe	Carol Link-Ude	Susan Shultz	n/a

## Parishioner Spotlight - Astrid Swanson

### What brought you to Christ and The Epiphany?

My late husband Ron was a member of Christ & Epiphany from birth. His parents Sven and Elma Swanson were pillars of the church for years. Our church has always been a second home to both of us.

### Tell us about your family

I've lived in Short Beach, Branford for 43 years. We have four sons: Kurt, Karl, Kraig and Keith. Kurt and Janet live in Florida and gave us Julie and Jake - who are out of college and living in Baltimore and DC. Karl resides with me. Kraig lives in Stratford and gave us Jeffrey and Marisa. Jeffrey is out of college and living in Manhattan and Marisa is in Norwalk going to college. Keith and Bronwyn live in Milford and gave us Tanner and Colin who are still in high school. Last but not least, is my wonderful dog Oslo who is a combination of a black lab and a Shar Pei and is very protective of me. He was a two year old rescue from Texas when we got him and is now about five.



### What's your favorite pastime?

My favorite pastime is cooking and baking.

### What's the one thing about you that no one knows?

The one thing that most people don't know about me is that I started three women's stock clubs in the 1990s. One was very successful and we all learned a lot and outperformed the S&P. We were in business for almost 20 years meeting every month.

### What brightens your day?

Whenever I receive a phone call from a friend it brightens my day and I cherish the conversations for a long time.

### In what ways do you serve your church family or community?

I serve my church as a Vestry member, take care of the flower pots outside, sweep the stairs inside, and sometimes work at the Thrift Store.

### What is your fondest childhood memory?

My fondest childhood memory was always playing with my twin sister Carol. We were together all the time and had lots of fun. Unfortunately she passed away 10 years ago.

### What was your occupation prior to retirement?

I just retired in July from Yale University after 45 years working in the Department of Internal Medicine in General Cardiology and Cardiology/Oncology for 29 years.

### Do you have any favorite psalms, Bible passages, or inspirational sources?

I do not have any favorites as I find passages mean different things to me every time I read them. I do love anything Max Lucado writes.

The Twins - Astrid and Carol





## Season of Racial Healing, Justice, and Reconciliation

*"...racism is one of the fastest-spreading and most fatal cancers humanity has ever known.... What gives me hope is a simple truism. Once we lose hope, we are guaranteed to lose."*

How to Be an Antiracist, Ibram X. Kendi (One World, NY: 2019. Pg. 238)

I was in third grade when I met Martha, a new third grader to my school. Like me she wore a well-ironed dress to school, white anklets and Mary Janes, hair neatly combed and tied in pigtails. Where we differed was that Martha had had most of one of her legs amputated and she used crutches to get around. I was fascinated by how dexterously she used those crutches. She told me that she had used them as long as she could remember. She could do most anything she wanted but she couldn't hang upside down on the horizontal bars of the playground equipment the way I could. I would hang upside down and she would swing as we talked of all the things third grade girls talked about in those days—how leggings itched in the winter, how boys were smelly, what would we have for dinner.

I didn't think about the color of Martha's skin because she wasn't the first African American I'd met in my little town just across the Mason-Dixon Line in Pennsylvania. There was a whole street of African Americans in my town, mostly older, who provided homes for their grandchildren and grandnieces and -nephews so that they could go to school in unsegregated classes (this was the 1950s).

What "woke" my eight-year-old sensibilities to the concept of racism happened in the spring of our year together. Martha confided to me one day that she was going to get a prosthetic leg so that she could walk just like anybody else. We were so excited, imagining that she would be able to hang from the playground bars with me. The day came and Martha walked into class with her new leg and only one crutch--

The leg was white.

Martha had been given a leg the color of my pale skin, not her rich brown. She saw the shock on my face--it was too expensive to have a leg painted brown; the government wouldn't pay for it. Martha didn't come back for fourth grade and I never saw her again after that year.

My hope is that Martha grew up with the same courage and perseverance I remember in her. Without it we would both be lost.

The Rev. Diana M. Rogers, Priest-in-Charge, Holy Advent, Clinton, September 2019

### Interesting Resources:

The Summer 2019 issue of Connecticut Explored magazine has several articles pertinent to our work, including "How Segregation Happened in West Hartford", "The Federal Government and Redlining in Connecticut" and "No Day at the Beach" about segregated access to the shoreline. Connecticut Explored is a history magazine published quarterly ([www.ctexplored.org](http://www.ctexplored.org)).

There is an interesting project with a terrific website on the Ancient Burial Grounds in downtown Hartford. It is called "Uncovering Their History: African, African-American, and Native-American Burials in Hartford's Ancient Burying Grounds, 1640-1815" and can be found at <https://www.africannativeburialsct.org>.

The Center for Action and Contemplation has featured Black Women Mystics such as Jarena Lee and Dr. Barbara Holmes in its emails in July. Here is a link: <https://cac.org/category/daily-meditations/2019/07/>