



CHRIST AND THE EPIPHANY

VOLUME 25

January 2021

Upcoming Events

Every Sunday, 9:00 a.m.,
Sunday Service via Zoom
Sunday, Jan 24, 10:00 a.m.
Annual Meeting (via Zoom
following 9:00 a.m. Sunday
Service)

Clergy Schedule

Jan 3, Fr. Andrew Osmun
Jan 10, Morning Prayer
Jan 17, TBA
Jan 24, Morning Prayer
Jan 31, TBA

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=WkR1ZHBNTNKMmJqM2NvTkRjZ09hdz09>

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
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.

Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting will be
held Sunday, Jan 24, 2021 via
Zoom at 10:00 a.m. following
the 9:00 a.m. service. We
strongly encourage everyone to
attend in order to hear the
year-end summary of our
church's status and participate
in elections for next year. This
is also when the church
approves the 2021 budget.

The current Vestry is
comprised of four officers -
Senior Warden (Worship),
Junior Warden (Building &
Grounds), Treasurer, and Clerk
(with one year terms). Then
there are six at-large positions
(with three year terms and two
coming off each year).

Due to our smaller
congregation size, the Vestry is
proposing a change to the by-
laws to reduce the at-large
positions from six to five. This
proposal will be voted on by
the parish at the Annual
Meeting.

Here is the current Vestry slate
for 2021:

- * **Senior Warden** - George Coulombe
- * **Junior Warden** - Wendy Bellmore
- * **Treasurer** - Susan Shultz
- * **Clerk** - Kristina Langlan
- * **At-Large** - (open)

Continuing Vestry:
Diane Villano, Audrey
Sundwall, Carol Link-Ude,
Astrid Swanson

We are still looking for
someone to fill one open three
year at-large position. The
Vestry meets the third Sunday
each month after the 9:00
a.m. service.

We will also be electing our
delegates to the annual
Diocesan convention - Barbara
Coulombe and Astrid Swanson
have agreed to go again and
Diane Villano has offered to be
the alternate.

If you want to check your
voting status please reach out
to Susan Shultz at 203-589-
1142 or sbshultz@gmail.com.

All may attend the meeting but
voting members must be at
least 16 years old, financial
contributor, communicant of
the Episcopal church, and
attended faithfully for six
months.

2020 Outreach and Mission

Christ and The Epiphany is committed to both local outreach and global mission.

Local outreach is done with the money collected in the change jars located in the church and chapel. For 2020 a donation of \$200 has been made to Life Haven. Life Haven provides a temporary shelter to homeless pregnant women and women with young children in New Haven.

On the first Sunday of each month a separate collection is taken for Global Mission. For 2020 the Vestry allocated this money to the two projects we have been supporting the last few years.

\$1,250 went to Kateri Medical Services which provides medical care for poor people in Nigeria.

\$1,250 went to SAMS/Women of Madagascar. The Society of Anglican Missionaries and Senders (SAMS) does work around the world. We are committed to helping the women of Madagascar.

Thanks to everyone for their generosity to this vital work! We couldn't support these great organizations without you!

*Knowing the Bible
is one thing
Knowing the Author
is another*

It's a New Year Barbara Parsons

Another year behind us. One filled with challenges and blessings. I pray that you felt God's presence and comfort in the challenges. And His love and grace in the blessings. Wishing you, in the coming year, Peace, Joy and the abiding presence of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

With thanksgiving for all that you mean to me.



December Vestry Summary

Next Meeting - The next Vestry meeting will be Sunday, January 17th via Zoom after the 9:00 a.m. service.

Worship - Zoom interview with priest-in-charge candidate will be scheduled. Goal for 2021 is to have three Sundays a month with a priest. We appear to have four parishioners willing to give reflections so once a month we will have parishioners and any other Sundays we will use recorded sermons. Once ECCT has established licenses for Lay Worship Leaders for Morning

Prayer we will make sure we have at least two licensed people. (At least six people have expressed interest.)

Building & Grounds - The boiler requires some maintenance work. Also we need to find a new contractor for lawn work and snow removal. Our current contractor is in ill health and unable to continue.

Treasurer Report - In December we received two anonymous gifts of \$5,000 each! Praise God! The 2021 draft budget was reviewed. Susan Shultz and Wendy Bellmore will also pursue a technology grant from ECCT.

Feast and Festivities - For 2021 we will no longer have a single person in charge of all Fundraising events. Each event will have its own "leader". This will help spread out the work. We are hoping to continue the "Junk in the Trunk" and possibly have an International buffet in the fall (as well as our Christmas Fair).

Communication - The raffle baskets have brought in about \$500! Thanks to Diane for taking on that project (and to all who donated items!!)

Vestry Membership - We are still looking for one open Vestry member "at-large" position. If you are interested in serving please see Barbara Parsons at 203-640-1368 or mannybarb1@gmail.com.

Encouraging Words

Charlie Langlan

Accomplishment

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day. *2 Timothy 4:7-8*

Belief

They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved - you and your household." *Acts 16:31*

Assurance

Faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. *Hebrews 11:1*

With 2020 having closed, 2021 opening and our New Year's journeys about to begin, take a minute to reflect on the year we had. Although it was a difficult and very different year, look for the positives, and that goes for everything, not just the year 2020 - find the positives from every day! Join in with me and start what I'm calling "My positive day" where every day in a notebook or app on my phone, I will write down some positive things that occurred that day. Join with me and try it! Just remember to stay strong; keep finding the positives; pray to the Lord for your needs; thank Him; smile and thank not only family but friends, strangers, and everyone you see. Thank you Lord for helping us through another year and granting us another year of life! Happy New Year Everyone!

The Christmas that Never Happened!

Tony Lamberti

Concert Halls closed, opera performances cancelled, church services by invitation only - and be sure to make a reservation before you come on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day. The list goes on and on.

In the midst of all the chaos the other day I found myself looking at old pictures and videos of my family from Christmas past and remembering the fond memories we have shared throughout the years. The Christmas songs like "Silent Night" bring back many memories of Christmas Past. I guess for this year we'll just have to pray for a "Christmas Miracle".

We can hope for a Happy New Year 2021 and actually do have many reasons to celebrate. Jesus wants us to be kind, love thy neighbor, and most importantly surround ourselves with family and friends. We may wish to go back to some sense of normalcy, come back to church, receive the gift of communion and get back to celebrating "Life". But take time for yourself - to stop and smell the coffee. Soon we will be able to return to the Opera, go out to eat in our favorite restaurants and be able to celebrate the birth of a new child, a new marriage, or another year of wedded bliss.

My Holiday Wish for you is to remain safe and healthy and soon this will all be a distant memory of "The Christmas that Never Happened". Merry Christmas and a Very Happy New Year!

Intercessory Prayers

Andrew, Barbara R., Brandon, Barbuschak Family, Carol Ude, Carol C., Clearwater Family, David, David C., David & Edward, Devin K., Diane, Diane Link, Dot Tate, Ed, Eileen F., Elaine, Eleanor N., Faith, Father Eddie, Fran Zella, Frank P., Frank, Fred & Judy Herzman, Gale, Geneva, Goodfellow Family, Greg T., Heather, Holly & Family, Ian, J.D., Jack K., Jen & Tyler W., Dr. Jeremiah Martin, Jessica & baby Olive Estelle, Jim C., Jim R. & Family, Joe Riccitelli, John A., John M., John U., John & Vera DePalma, Joseph, Judy DeFeo, Julia, June W., Karen Dattilo & Family, Karl, Kathrine Burdick, Kate W., Katrina R., Ken, Kristina Langlan, Leah S., Lila Day, Lisa H., Lois, Lucas Sundwall, Madeline, Mark Conti, Marjorie Cowles, Marty, Matt, Matt R., Melissa D., Michael, Michelle C., Mitzi Parisi, Nancy S., Patty R., Rachael, Ray C., Richard Mead, Ron C., Sallie Alexander, Shari, Stan R., 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 at least three months unless longer time is requested.

Next issue

The deadline for the February issue is **January 20**. Email newsletter.christandtheepiphany@gmail.com. For an update to the Intercessory Prayers, Birthday or Anniversary lists, please call the church office at 203-467-2310.

Episcopalians...

Garrison Keillor

We make fun of Episcopalians for their blandness, excessive calm, fear of giving offense, lack of speed and secret fondness for macaroni and cheese. But nobody sings like them. If you were asked an audience in Des Moines, a relatively Episcopalianless place, to sing along on the chorus of "Michael Row the Boat Ashore", they will look daggers at you as if you had asked them to strip to their underwear. But if you do this among Episcopalians, they will smile and row that boat ashore and up on the beach!

It's natural for Episcopalians to sing in harmony. We are too modest to be soloists, too worldly to sing in unison. By our joining in harmony, we somehow promise that we will not forsake each other. I do believe this: Episcopalians, who love to sing in four-part harmony are the sort of people you could call up when you're in deep distress. If you are dying, they will comfort you. If you are lonely, they'll talk to you. And if you are hungry, they'll give you tuna salad!

Episcopalians believe in prayer, but would practically die if asked to pray out loud. Episcopalians like to sing, except when confronted with a new hymn or a hymn with more than four stanzas. Episcopalians believe their Rectors will visit them in the hospital, even if they don't notify them that they are there. Episcopalians usually follow the official liturgy and will feel it is their way of suffering for their sins. Episcopalians believe in miracles and even expect miracles, especially during their stewardship visitation programs or when passing the plate. Episcopalians feel that applauding for their children's choirs will not make the kids too proud and conceited. Episcopalians drink coffee as if it were the Third Sacrament. Episcopalians feel guilty for not staying to clean up after their own wedding reception in the Fellowship Hall. Episcopalians still serve Jell-O in the proper liturgical color of the season and Episcopalians believe that it is OK to poke fun at themselves and never take themselves too seriously.

And finally, you know you are a Episcopalian when:

- * It's 100 degrees, with 90% humidity, and you still have coffee after the service.
- * You hear something really funny during the sermon and smile as loudly as you can.
- * Donuts are a line item in the church budget, just like coffee.
- * When you watch a Star Wars movie and they say, "May the Force be with you," and you respond, "and also with you."
- * And lastly, it takes ten minutes to say good-bye

Note: Garrison Keillor attends St. John the Evangelist Episcopal Church in St. Paul, Minnesota

Treasurer Report

Susan Shultz

	NOV	(UNDER)/OVER BUDGET	YTD	(UNDER)/OVER YTD BUDGET
INCOME	\$5,312.77	(\$2,854.73)	\$74,142.97	(\$11,259.53)
EXPENSES	\$5,885.90	(\$878.80)	\$77,509.01	(\$12,034.53)
NET	(\$573.13)	(\$1,975.93)	(\$3,366.04)	(\$775.00)

Notes: Income was down due to continued lower pledges and the missing fall fundraising event. Looking ahead to December we were expecting a significant shortfall with the absence of our Christmas Fair. However God has blessed us with two anonymous donations in December of **\$5,000 each!** With this extra \$10,000 we now expect to end the year with a small surplus we can use next year. The Lord does indeed provide!

Parishioner Spotlight - Ken and Kathy Dougherty

Tell us about your family

We have been married 15 years. We met 17 years ago in an AOL Christian chat room. Ken has 30 year old twins from a previous marriage. Kyle lives in Hamden and Shannon lives in South Carolina.

What brought you to Christ and The Epiphany?

Ken was baptized in Christ Church 61 years ago which then became Christ and The Epiphany years later. Kathy started attending when she met Ken. Previously she was attending an Episcopal church in Waterbury.



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

We are both involved in the altar guild. We were also involved in the backpack program with the Food Pantry until COVID-19. We also both try to help out at the church whenever we can. *[Editor note: Which is often and greatly appreciated!]*

What is your occupation?

Ken has been in heating and air conditioning for the past 34 years. Kathy worked for the telephone company for 34 years before retiring. Now she works at the Guilford Community Center preparing meals for Meals on Wheels and the seniors in Guilford.

What's your favorite pastime?

We both enjoy reading and music. Our favorite thing to do in the summer is go to the outdoor concerts on the greens. Each night we visit a different town.

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

I (Ken) was an avid snow skier. I also loved to sail on my boat on weekends. At one time I was a roadie for a local band and handled the sound board.

What brightens your day?

I (Kathy) love to sit in our backyard watching the birds and butterflies around our garden. Ken planted a butterfly garden for me a few years ago.

What is your fondest childhood memory?

Ken grew up with his father and grandfather's rabbit farm. They won numerous awards at county fairs. Kathy loved taking Sunday drives with her family.

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

"God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can and the wisdom to know the difference." Also Psalm 56.3 "When I am afraid I will trust in you".

Surrender

If it were up to me I would have kept going;
going and going from meeting to gathering
really anything to outrun the battle of my own mind.
All the while convincing myself that I did all of it
because I enjoyed those activities
because I already had the whole world convinced;
each peering into my so called perfect life
only getting glimpses of my brokenness when the world tore down my walls.

If it were up to me I would have kept going;
saying I'm fine when all I wanted to scream was
I'm confused and lost and empty,
Fearful that I won't ever be enough
in a world that prioritizes success over significance and
in a church that sees me as a leader.

If it were up to me I would have kept going;
tucking away the rough edges of my soul,
afraid that if God sees all, maybe this time
is the time I've become a disappointment to Him.
So I hid assuming I could un-earn a grace I never did or could earn.
I kept going living life in the fast lane, afraid of my inability
to ever hit the gas pedal again once I chose the break.

If it were up to me I would have kept going,
but thankfully it wasn't.
For the God who so loved the world and me
hit the pause, turning our expectations into uncertainty
and our going into staying at home.
Bunkered down at last there was space to take inventory of
the fragile soul I carried
and surrender before my God as I learned whose I am again.

If it were up to me I would have kept going,
but God knew He must take away if I wouldn't walk away.
Tethered between my doubt and future my heart choked,
swept away in a sea of questioning I found myself
sitting on my bed beneath the purple window curtains-
not writing a book like I wanted to, like I should have
but reading a love letter written for me.

If it were up to me I would have kept going,
traveling farther expecting to not need to pull over
to refill my gas tank in this marathon.
My desires, God's plan, learning to re-align them.
I forgave myself for wasting time
because if it were up to me the stillness would never come.
But God whispered to me these past eight months; be still and surrender.

Poem by Allison Brown, member of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Shelton.



Season of Racial Healing, Justice, and Reconciliation

"Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."

- The Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., Letter from the Birmingham Jail

I've always thought of my life as morally neutral, "average" in fact. I only saw racism in individual acts of cruelty and injustice, not in the invisible social systems that provide me with enormous advantages. Through the work the Episcopal Church in Connecticut (ECCT) is doing to address racial healing, justice, and reconciliation, I have come to realize I'm undoubtedly the beneficiary of White privilege, the invisible package of unearned assets I can cash in each day that Peggy McIntosh so aptly describes in *White Privilege: Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack*:

- I can shop at Whole Foods, assured that I won't be followed or harassed.
- My children's textbooks testify to the existence of their race.
- I can excel in challenging situations without being called a credit to my race, a "compliment" my brilliant Black colleague recently received.

Sadly, the list goes on and I can only imagine how exhausting this reality must be, day after day, week after week, year after year. It would never occur to me to worry that someone I love might be stopped or even arrested for "driving while Black," a fate that has befallen beloved colleagues. I'm now face to face with my complicity in perpetuating a system that makes my friends of color struggle to feel the same sense of confidence and belonging I enjoy, and I long to right this wrong.

So...I invite my friends to share their experience of being Black in America, and I listen with an open heart. I'm learning all I can about the impact of racism on every aspect of life in America. I recently joined the Revs. Jane Hale, Rowena Kemp, Adam Thomas and Rachel Thomas on a pilgrimage to Alabama where we were immersed in the evolution of racism from slavery to racial terror lynchings, then to the cruel Jim Crow laws and now, extrajudicial killings and the mass incarceration of people of color. And I ask God to open our hearts and our minds to this sin and help us work together to create a more just world.

A Black priest I hold in the highest regard recently shared one of her dreams for the future in ECCT: That she will be able to apply for any open position and her fitness to serve will be based on her gifts as a priest rather than the color of her skin. I am committed to doing what I can to make that a reality and I hope you will join me in ECCT's fight for justice.

--Suzy Burke, St. John's Essex
July 2019

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

	<u>January 3</u>	<u>January 10</u>	<u>January 17</u>	<u>January 24</u>	<u>January 31</u>
Lay Reader	n/a	Barbara Parsons	Wendy Bellmore	Diane Villano	George Coulombe
Lector	Ray Clearwater	Richard Mead	Ray Clearwater	Carol Link-Ude	Barbara Parsons
Voice of the People	Carol Link-Ude	Susan Shultz	Pat Walters	Audrey Sundwall	Barbara Coulombe