



CHRIST AND THE EPIPHANY

VOLUME 26

February 2022

Monday morning, Jan. 31, 2022

Dear Friends,

What a bittersweet day this is, my official “last day” as your Priest in Charge. Usually on Monday morning, I am thinking about our worship for next Sunday, looking at and beginning to pray with the assigned scriptures, pondering what to include in the Prayers of the People, etc., and throughout, knowing that the culmination will be worshipping God with you. I will really miss that.

Right now, my heart is more in touch with the “bitter” part than the “sweet” part of bittersweet because the sadness I feel over saying good-bye is right behind my eyeballs and it keeps leaking out!

However, there is much “sweet” to this good-bye as well. To quote one of my favorite prophets, Winnie the Pooh, “How lucky I am to have something that makes saying good-bye so hard.” And indeed, I am lucky.

Even though I’ve only been among you as your priest for a year, I have experienced a multitude of graces over those months. We have learned how to be flexible with worship, we have “tried on” new ways of receiving the bread and wine

of eucharist, we have taken opportunities to bring the hospitality of Christ out into the community (with the Harvest Fair, Junk in the Trunk, Blessing of the Animals, Tag Sale) and we have shown the hospitality of Christ by inviting the community through our doors (Thrift Store, Souperama, Christmas Fair, Worship). It’s been such a joy to share these with you and to witness God’s love in action through it all.

Being your PIC was an immense privilege in having the opportunity to share a period of my life on a journey in partnership with you. As we part, I hope that you will forgive me my shortcomings. Even though I have done my very best, there is never a guarantee that a leader’s best has been a good fit for a community, and all of us make mistakes along the way.

I believe with all my heart that Christ and The Epiphany is right now in a good place moving into this transition. And as I’ve said, my prayer is that you will use this transition period as a time for reflection and discernment as to what God is calling this faith community to be and to do next. It’s very easy to fall back into our comfort zones and to rely on the familiar during transitions, and I pray that you

Upcoming Events

**Every Sunday, 9:00 a.m.,
Sunday Service Zoom only for
February**

**Monday, Feb 14, Valentine’s
Day**

**Wednesday, Mar 2, 7:00 p.m.,
Ash Wednesday Service via
Zoom and possibly in-person**

***(Zoom connection information
at end of newsletter.)***

will instead continue to grow and to seek God’s will for this community.

Finally, know that I will continue holding you in my prayers during this coming time. I pray that God pour upon you an abundance of faith, hope, and love, now and forever.

Mary Anne+

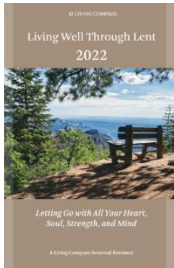
New Zoom Link

Starting in February we have a new Zoom link. The parish now has its own Zoom account to be used for church meetings.

The new link will be in all parish emails and is also listed in the Zoom connection information at the end of this newsletter. Zoom behavior is the same, only the link has changed.

Clergy Schedule

Feb 6, Fr. Andrew Osmun
Feb 13, Fr. Andrew Osmun
Feb 20, Fr. Andrew Osmun
Feb 27, Fr. Andrew Osmun



Lenten Devotionals

Copies of the Living Well Through Lent devotional from Living Compass are available

(English and Spanish) in the thrift store, on the stair landings, in the Narthex and will be mailed from the office upon request.

Annual Parish Meeting

Our Annual Parish Meeting was held on Sunday Jan 23. To request either an emailed or a USPS mailed version of the Annual Report contact the office at 203-467-2310 or christandtheepiphany@gmail.com.

Parish Register changes in 2021

- **1 Baptism**
(Morgan Marino)
- **2 Deaths**
(Fred Herzman, Elaine Festa)

Checkout our financial news in the Treasurer's report!

Elections for 2022

- * **Senior Warden** (1 year)
George Coulombe
- * **Junior Warden** (1 year)
Barbara Parsons
- * **Treasurer** (1 year)
Susan Shultz
- * **Clerk** (1 year)
Gail Beck

Around the Church

Thrift Store Holidays

Valentine's Day



St. Patrick's Day



Elections continued

- * **Vestry At-Large** (3 years)
Audrey Sundwall
- * **Vestry At-Large** (3 years)
Ray Clearwater
- * **Diocesan Convention Delegates**
Astrid Swanson
Barbara Coulombe
Diane Villano (alt)

Continuing Vestry:

Carol Link-Ude, Astrid Swanson, Richard Mead

Thanks to everyone who has agreed to serve. And thanks to our out-going Vestry members Wendy Bellmore, Kristina Langland and Diane Villano!

January Vestry Meeting

Next Meeting - The next Vestry meeting will be Sunday, February 20th via Zoom after the 9:00 a.m. service.

Priest in Charge - Rev. Mary Anne's last Sunday Jan 30 will be Zoom only. We will plan a get together in the Spring when the COVID situation improves or we can be outside.

Building & Grounds - There was an issue with the pilot lights on the stove. An appliance technician is scheduled to come and clean everything.

Wendy has a new painting contractor for the exterior painting and found an ECCT matching grant program. Astrid has agreed to lead a Stewardship Committee to outline a small capital campaign for this painting project.

Finance - We ended the year not with the budgeted \$15,000 deficit but with a \$2,000 surplus! God surely has his hand on us. Overall we received \$12,000 in Special Gifts this year.

Worship - We will continue with Zoom only worship and "driveway" communion through February. The Vestry will re-evaluate this at the February meeting. Fr. Andrew Osmun has agreed to be our supply clergy for the next few months.

Encouraging Words Audrey Sundwall

With February often being a dreary month, let's look at some more scriptures about the Lord as our Light, which we continue to celebrate during the season of Epiphany.

"For once you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord; walk as children of light (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), and try to learn what is pleasing to the Lord."

-Ephesians 5:8-10

"But when anything is exposed by the light it becomes visible, for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it is said, "Awake oh sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give you light."

-Ephesians 5:13-14

"Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world; he who follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

-John 8:12

"I have come as light into the world, that whoever believes in me may not remain in the darkness." -John 12:46



"I downloaded them from a cloud."

Intercessory Prayers

Alfred, Amanda, Andrew, Barbuschak Family, Beverly W., Brandon, Carol Ude, David & Irene, Diane Link, Dot Tate, Ed, Ed, Eileen F., Elaine, Faith, Francesca, Judy Herzman, Fred Bowden, Jack Uberti & Grandson Zayne, Jack & Jan McDonald, Jake Swanson, Officer James O'Donnell, Jay Medlyn, Jim R. & Family, John Guida, Kathrine Burdick, Keith M., Leah S., Linda Lonardo, Lucas Sundwall, Matt R., Maureen M., Mike, Nicole C., Rachael, Ray Sundwall Sr., Sallie Alexander, Sue R., Tricia Clearwater, Turiano Family

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.



**Episcopal
Church in CT
(ECCT)**

Faithful Futures

Faithful Futures is a monthly forum intended for clergy and laity to exchange stories and information around relevant topics. Past topics have included parishes in transition, developing budgets, and anti-racism commitments. The common theme during Faithful Futures is to practice spirituality and learn from one another.

Faithful Futures take place online via Zoom, the first Thursday of each month from 6:30 pm - 8 pm. See here: <https://www.episcopalct.org/events/category/faithful-futures/>

Past recordings can be found on the ECCT YouTube channel. Come join us!



February 9 - Fred Bowden
February 18 - Tony Lamberti
February 20 - Mary Lou Clark

Next issue

The deadline for the March issue is **February 22**. Submissions can be sent to newsletter.christandtheepiphany@gmail.com. For an update to the Intercessory Prayers, Birthday or Anniversary lists, please call the church office at 203-467-2310.

The History Nook

Audrey Sundwall

Did you ever wonder how our church got its name, and why our building is on the East Haven Green?

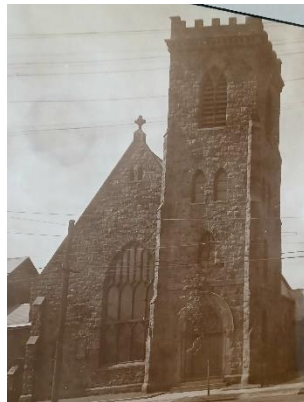
Here is what I know about it, having been born into Christ Church, where my Grandparents and Parents were members. Back in the late 1950s this area had two Episcopal parishes, one in East Haven named Christ Church and the other on the east side of the Tomlison Bridge in New Haven, called The Church of the Epiphany.



Christ Church was organized in 1788, and a wooden church building was erected the next year. A history of the parish tells of additions to the building through the ensuing years, including enlargements and a bell tower.

Today you will find the bell from that tower in Margaret Tucker Park, across from the Old Stone Church. In 1929 the parish started a Sunday School in the Momauguin area, and had occasional, then later, regular services in what became known as St. Mark's Mission.

The Church of the Epiphany started out as Forbes Chapel. Mrs. Betsy Forbes Bradley left money in her will to establish a church on her homestead property on Forbes Avenue. A substantial building of Gothic architecture was erected, and the church was consecrated in 1907.



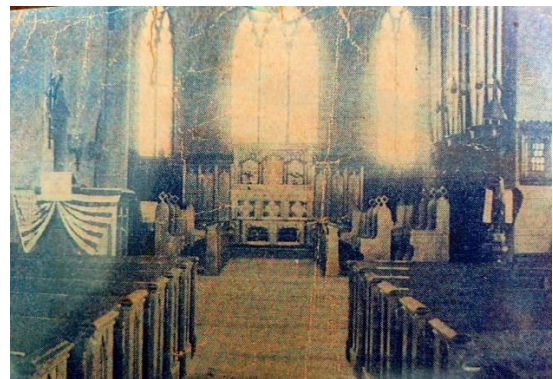
The church developed into a thriving community, but by the late 1940s there was word of the design and development of the new highway (which became I-95 and the Pearl Harbor Memorial / Quinnipiac Bridge system) that would be erected at the back of the Church property. This caused the parish to think of moving to another location;

and eventually to vote in 1960 to seek a merger with Christ Church, East Haven.

By that time the list of communicants had been severely reduced. Back at Christ Church, there was worry about the old building. Parishioners were concerned about having the young children in the church basement with two haphazard exits. A new parish hall had been built in 1958 behind the church, but the younger children were still in the undercroft. I remember as a little girl being at a meeting in the undercroft where my father got up and spoke about the fire issues with the building. There was talk of building a new church building. By 1963 there were 437 Communicants and 150 Church School members. The church building clearly was insufficient for the number of parishioners.



Christ Church Chancel (1960)



Church of the Epiphany Chancel

Next month we will look at the merging of the two parishes, and the building of our beautiful physical structure.

Treasurer Report

Susan Shultz

	DEC	(UNDER)/OVER BUDGET	YTD	(UNDER)/OVER YTD BUDGET
INCOME	\$23,744.73	\$11,492.23	\$105,174.59	\$15,919.59
EXPENSES	\$10,185.86	\$382.78	\$102,910.92	(\$1,384.08)
NET	\$13,558.87	11,109.45	\$2,263.67	\$17,303.67

Notes: There are no words to express what an amazing end of the year we have had. To have a \$17,000 swing and move from a \$15,000 deficit to a \$2,000 surplus is surely one of God's miracles. And this is in spite of losing one pledge and having another large pledge delayed until 2022! Be sure to see the Annual report for more details. Some specific call outs are that we received \$12,000 in Special Gifts this year and our regular pledgers gave almost \$3,000 over their pledged contributions. The increased Christmas Fair revenue offset the \$1,000 deficit in building use (mostly the loss of the Community Kitchen and a few other groups). And while our copier and oil savings were offset by the costlier snow removal and grounds upkeep we did still end up coming in \$1,300 under our estimated expenses for the year. The Vestry has approved a net positive budget for 2022 with an estimate surplus of just over \$3,000. But given how fluid and variable the last two years have been, we continue to just put ourselves in God's hands.

A Prayer for the Election of our XVI Diocesan Bishop

Please continue to pray for the Bishop Transition Committee.

God our Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer, without you nothing can be done. Send your Holy Spirit to guide the Episcopal Church of CT, especially the Bishop Transition Committee, during this time of transition. Bless and continue the good work begun in your name. Open the committee's ears to the hurts and hopes expressed to them and broaden our vision to see where you lead. Enliven their hearts with honesty and compassion to do the work that lies ahead, within our church and beyond its walls. Grant us the gifts of wisdom, humility, and empathy. Guide the committee as they discern your will for a new shepherd, inspirational leader, and willing advocate as we further your work in the Episcopal Church of CT. Bless and be with our Bishop Ian as he transitions to a new life serving you. Bless our candidates. Bestow them with the abilities to lead and serve. Let us learn from them and they from us, so we may live your word serving all. All this we pray through Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, One God now and forever. *Amen.*

The Sign of the Fish (Ichthus)

The earliest followers of Jesus were persecuted and forced to worship in secret locations. They adopted a secret symbol - the fish. Often these Christians scratched the fish symbol on the ground before them to help them identify fellow believers.

The fish symbol transcends differences in cultures and denominations. From generation to generation, the fish symbolizes true followers of Jesus Christ, God's Son.



We will miss you Rev. Mary Anne!

It is with a heavy heart that we say farewell to Rev. Mary Anne Osborn, our Priest-in-Charge for this past year. We are incredibly grateful for her time with us and wish her all the best in her next endeavors. Her faith and strength have been a great blessing to us. We are changed for the better for having had her as our priest. And she certainly spent significantly more time and energy with us than her part-time contract hours! We could not list all the areas she participated in or the calculate the value of her pastoral leadership. We praise God that he brought you to us and that you shared your gifts with us.



A Blessing for Rev. Mary Anne

Lord Jesus, Word Made Flesh, from the beginning of creation you named and claimed us for yourself. Look with kindness upon your servant, Mary Anne, who leaves this community, marked by your cross, fed by your word, filled with our care, and an example of your presence to all she meets. We give you thanks for her work among us and the gifts she has shared with us. Surround her with your Spirit, guide her on her way, and bless her with your wisdom, that she may be a word of hope for a world in need. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Prayer for Transition and Guidance

O Lord, you are with us in every transition and change. With your deep compassion, presence and abounding love ease our anxiety. We pray for our parish family, that we may be genuine in our self-reflection, tireless in our commitment, patient in our discernment, loving in our communion, open in our search, and daring in our faith. We thank you for the gifts, talents and skills with which you have blessed us. We thank you for the experiences that have brought us to this moment. Help us accept change as a gift of your direction for our journey in this transition. Instill in us a vision of the church's family; that, guided by your Holy Spirit, we will be united in love and joyfully accomplish this mission, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Sunday Jan 30, 2022

A virtual goodbye from the attendees of Rev. Mary Anne's last Sunday worship as Priest-in-Charge.



Worship Schedule (9:00 a.m.)

	<u>Feb 6</u>	<u>Feb 13</u>	<u>Feb 20</u>	<u>Feb 27</u>
Lay Reader	Wendy Bellmore	Audrey Sundwall	Diane Villano	Gail Beck
Voice of the People	Gail Beck	Pat Walters	Barbara Parsons	Wendy Bellmore

*For February we will be doing Zoom only worship so no Ushers, Crucifers, Acolytes or Counters.

Zoom Worship Connection Information

To connect by computer click:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9933030663?pwd=VnU2RjAxZDg0WWcvbVA4RHdOd3ZUUT09>

To join by phone call:

929-436-2866

Meeting ID = 993 303 0663

Password = 39

Weekly bulletins are emailed out on Fridays. Zoom is opened around 8:45 a.m. on Sunday.

If you are not receiving the email bulletin please contact Diane in the office at 203-467-2310 or christandtheepiphany@gmail.com.

If you want or need any help getting connected on Zoom please reach out any time to Susan Shultz at 203-589-1142 or sbshultz@gmail.com.

Christ and The Epiphany Church

39 Park Place
East Haven, CT 06512

Phone: 203-467-2310

E-mail: christandtheepiphany@gmail.com

Website: christandtheepiphany.org

Worship Schedule

Sunday 9:00 a.m. Online Zoom Worship
In-person with masks and social distancing

*(See the newsletter, our website, or Facebook page for
Zoom connection information details.)*