



CHRIST AND THE EPIPHANY

VOLUME 26

January 2022

Dear Friends,

Christmastide blessings to you all! How I missed being with you on Christmas Eve. My heart ached that I couldn't be there in person, but every cell of my mind and spirit were with you.

You have become part of me, which is why it will be hard to leave you when my Letter of Agreement terminates on February 1, 2022. As you may remember when I came last February, I agreed to stay for one year, as is the custom for all Priests in Charge (PIC), with the understanding that after that time I would either leave or renegotiate with the Vestry for another year. As the time has neared my year's end, I have been pondering these things in my heart, and I believe that God is leading me to something different. I'm not sure what it is, but I do know that it involves spending more time with Joanne and our grandchildren. Although I agreed to serve C&E for 8-12 hours per week, which seems as if it leaves a lot of time left for other things, it was impossible for me to keep my time that limited.

My last Sunday with you will be January 30th, 2022. Saying good-bye will not be easy, and yet I leave a changed person and priest. The joys and challenges of serving as your

PIC have shaped me in ways that I am not fully aware of yet, but I do know that I will leave as a more prayerful person. You are a prayerful community. Not only in worship, but in the Thrift Store, at the Harvest Fair, literally wherever two or three are gathered together and there is a need, you pray. And you have been a loving witness to me of the power of prayer at all times and in all places. I will carry that legacy with me always.

Christian community can be remarkably challenging and staggeringly beautiful, and God is with us in every moment if we are willing to be open to God's Spirit. I have witnessed staggering generosity, selflessness, and prayer from all of you. Christ and The Epiphany is and always will be a significant part of me.

With love and blessings,
Mary Anne



Upcoming Events

Every Sunday, 9:00 a.m.,
Sunday Service in-person and via Zoom

Patronal Feast Day!

Sunday, January 9, 9:00 a.m.
Feast of the Epiphany Sunday Service in-person and via Zoom

Sunday, January 9, 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m., *"Everything you always wanted to know about the Episcopal Church but never dared to ask"* in Library

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Sunday, January 23, 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m., Annual Parish Meeting in Great Hall and via Zoom
.....

Sunday, January 30, Rev. Mary Anne's last Sunday with C&E

(Zoom connection information at end of newsletter.)

WHAT DO EPIPHANY AND A KING CAKE HAVE IN COMMON?

Christmastide, or the 12 Days of Christmas, ends with *The Feast of the Epiphany*, which is celebrated on Jan. 6th as the time when the Magi brought their gifts to the baby Jesus. Epiphany is its own season of the church year that goes from The Feast of the Epiphany to Ash Wednesday, and varies

each year depending on the date of Easter. This year, Ash Wednesday is March 2nd, so Epiphany is seven weeks.

“Epiphany” means “manifestation.” An Epiphany then is a time when something is shown, or manifested. We’ll hear scripture readings that center on God manifested in the person of Jesus.

The Feast of the Epiphany is really important to us at C&E because it’s a *double Feast Day*, being one of our Patronal Feast Days as well! A Patronal Feast Day is when the patron saint or title of a church is celebrated.

So we’re going to have a joyful celebration on **Sunday, January 9th** (The Feast of the Epiphany is a moveable Feast).

And at Coffee Hour afterwards, we’ll continue our celebration with a **King Cake**, an age-old Epiphany tradition. A King Cake is traditionally a round cake, representing a King’s crown, with a trinket inside, usually the baby Jesus.

You’ll want to be sure to come to church AND to Coffee Hour on Jan. 9th. If your piece of the King Cake has the Baby Jesus in it, you’ll get a surprise!



Everything you always wanted to know about the Episcopal Church but never dared to ask



Why do Episcopalians say in the creed that we believe in “one holy catholic” church if we’re not Catholic?

What does the Episcopal church teach about abortion?

I don’t believe in the Virgin Birth. Can I still be an Episcopalian?

COME TO A GATHERING IN THE LIBRARY ON JAN. 9TH AFTER COFFEE HOUR and ask Rev. Mary Anne any question about the church you’ve always wondered about!

We’ll have a lively discussion about all those topics that we don’t understand or those we’d like to understand more.

P.S. If you’re embarrassed to ask your question aloud, you can write it on a piece of paper and put it in the box on the table and she’ll answer those too.

Annual Parish Meeting

Don’t forget our annual parish meeting open to all on Sunday, Jan 23, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. in the Great Hall following the 9:00 a.m. service. The meeting will also be available via our Zoom link.

We strongly encourage everyone to attend to hear the year-end summary of our church’s status, participate in

elections for next year, and approve the 2022 budget.

The Vestry meets the third Sunday each month after the 9:00 a.m. service and is comprised of four officers elected for one year terms - Senior Warden (Worship), Junior Warden (Building & Grounds), Treasurer, and Clerk. And five at-large positions elected for three year terms (with one-two coming off each year).

Vestry slate for 2022:

- * **Senior Warden** - George Coulombe
- * **Junior Warden** - Barbara Parsons
- * **Treasurer** - Susan Shultz
- * **Clerk** - Gail Beck
- * **At-Large** - Audrey Sundwall
- * **At-Large** - Ray Clearwater

(Nominations can also be made on the meeting floor.)

Continuing Vestry:

Carol Link-Ude, Astrid Swanson, Richard Mead



January 25 - Judy Herzman

Thank You!

Thanks to everyone for all their hard work making our Christmas Fair such a tremendous success. We raised over \$6,000, making it our best Fair ever financially. It was great to see everyone coming together for a common purpose. Our Fair attendees seemed thrilled to be back.

December Vestry Summary

Next Meeting - The next Vestry meeting will be Sunday, January 16th after the 9:00 a.m. service in the Library.

Priest in Charge - Rev. Mary Anne will not be renewing her Letter of Agreement on February 1, 2022 and her last Sunday will be January 30. Diane Rowley will be working from home on Mondays.

Building & Grounds - Boiler has been fixed and church has heat again.

Finance - We received a \$5,000 check from an anonymous benefactor who had already given us \$1,000 this past Spring. What blessings God showers on us!

Communications - Audrey will take over as chair in 2022 when Diane steps off the Vestry. The Vestry expressed their deep appreciation to Diane for her dedication and commitment to the Communications Committee.

Technology - The new copier has arrived and an angel donor has provided a new office computer which will be setup in the new year. The TV in the church is no longer displaying the laptop monitor. Susan will try a new HDMI cable.

Special Gift - The Vestry approved an end of year special gift of \$500 for Rev. Mary Anne in appreciation for all she has done and acknowledging the savings from supply clergy expenses.

Farewell our brother,

Fred Herzman



Fred Herzman, husband of Judy, both faithful members of our Zoom community, died on December 23rd. He and Judy were married for almost 52 years. Our deepest condolences to Judy and let our prayers enfold their family and friends.

Fred's obituary is [here](#).

"And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love."
- Corinthians 13:13

May Fred's soul and the souls of all the departed, through the mercies of God, rest in peace+

Encouraging Words Audrey Sundwall

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

For it is God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ. -2 Corinthians 4:6

Christmas Fair 2021

Carol's Kitchen



Ornament Tree



Raffle baskets galore!





Episcopal Church in CT (ECCT)

Bishop Transition Committee Update

Nominations for the next Diocesan Bishop of ECCT are now closed and the committee is reviewing the applications and conducting the first round of virtual interviews. Finalists will be announced on March 28th. The week of May 9-14, there will be opportunities for everyone to meet the candidates before the Special Diocesan Convention and the final vote on May 19, 2022.

Please continue to pray for the Bishop Transition Committee.

A Prayer for the Election of our XVI Diocesan Bishop

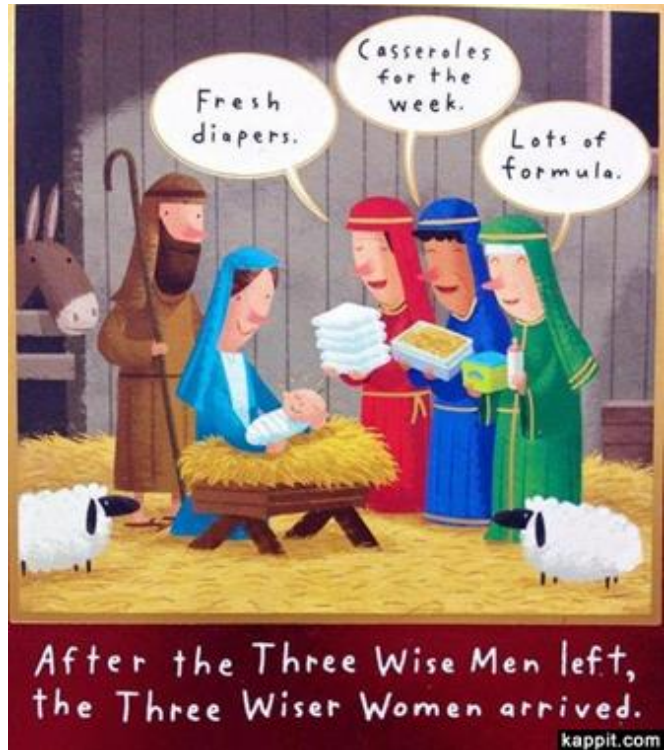
God our Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer, without you nothing can be done. Send your Holy Spirit to guide the Episcopal Church of CT, especially the Bishop Transition Committee, during this time of transition. Bless and continue the good work begun in your name. Open the committee's ears to the hurts 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.*

Next issue

The deadline for the January issue is **January 18**. 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.

ECCT Deacon Diaper Drive

You can still donate to the ECCT Deacon Diaper drive until Epiphany (Sunday Jan 9). C&E will send a check to ECCT for all donations received (please note "Diaper Drive" in your check memo line). Or donate directly to the Diaper Bank of CT online at <https://www.thediaperbank.org/donate/> (put "ECCT Diaper Drive" in the "In Honor of" line). Purchased diapers (size 3-6) can be dropped off at St. John's, North Guilford.



Intercessory Prayers

Amanda, Andrew, Barbara Coulombe, Barbuschak Family, Beverly W., Brandon, Carol Ude, David & Irene, Diane Link, Dot Tate, 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, Rev. Mary Anne Osborn, Matt R., Mike, Nicole C., Rachael, Sallie Alexander, Sue R., 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.

Treasurer Report

Susan Shultz

	NOV	(UNDER)/OVER BUDGET	YTD	(UNDER)/OVER YTD BUDGET
INCOME	\$7,368.85	\$1,281.35	\$81,429.86	\$4,427.36
EXPENSES	\$7,963.70	(\$632.67)	\$92,725.06	\$1,766.86
EXPENSES	(\$594.85)	\$648.68	(\$11,295.20)	\$6,194.22

Notes: Our unpledged income has been higher than expected which has helped mitigate one lost pledge and lower building use income. In expenses the savings in administrative and utilities was offset by the higher costs in grounds (double budget due to new higher snow removal contract) and building insurance. Overall though we should end the year better than our budgeted \$15,000 deficit.

An Epiphany poem

Stargiving



What I'd really like to give you for Christmas
is a star...
Brilliance in a package,
Something you could keep in the pocket of your jeans
or in the pocket of your being.
Something to take out in times of darkness,
Something that would never snuff out or tarnish,
Something you could hold in your hand,
Something for wonderment
Something for pondering,
Something that would remind you of
what Christmas has always meant:
God's Advent Light into the Darkness of this World.
But Stars are only God's for giving,
and I must be content to give you words and wishes
and packages without stars
But I can wish you life
as radiant as the Star
that announced the Christ Child's coming,
and as filled with awe as the shepherds who stood
beneath its light.
And I can pass on to you the love
that has been given to me,
ignited countless times by others
who have knelt in Bethlehem's light.
Perhaps, if you ask, God will give you a star.

-- Ann Weems

Parishioner Spotlight - Christ & The Epiphany

As we celebrate our Patronal Feast Day (Epiphany) this month, the editors thought we should celebrate our parish building.

Tell us about your family

My parish family is small but mighty! We have an average weekly attendance of about 25 and our active membership is around 40. But everyone participates in the life of the church from altar guild and worship involvement to working at the Thrift Store, keeping my building clean and working, and special event needs such as setup, communication and all the other odds and ends that always need to be taken care of. On Christmas Fair day you can find every member in one nook or another as well as many family and friend “ringers”!



What brought you to Christ and The Epiphany?

In 1963 three congregations - Church of the Epiphany of Forbes Avenue, New Haven (1901); Christ Church of Main Street, East Haven (1789); and St. Mark's Mission in East Haven (1929) decided to merge into one parish. determined merged into Christ & The Epiphany. The current building was designed by Walter Cochran, a resident of East Haven and consecrated on Sunday December 6, 1964 by Bishop Suffragan J. Warren Hutchens. For my 50th anniversary in 2014, a lovely Historical Sketch was written which describes both my history and the various memorial and features around the church. Copies are available in the narthex.

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

You would be surprised by the number of people I see every week! Besides Sunday worship, *The Good Shepherd Thrift Store* in the Lower Hall is open twice a week. Also twice a week, the East Haven Food Pantry distributes food from here and they even have their own store room and phone line in the Great Hall. Throughout the week dozens of self-help groups meet in almost all my rooms. There are also numerous special dinners and events held in the Great Hall by both parishioners and local groups. Not to mention outreach events held around me like the annual Blessing of the Animals. And sometimes my Kitchen is used to bake sweet treats for the company “Sweet Creations”.

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

The original architectural drawings of me had a dome instead of a steeple. When the parishioners were given the opportunity to see and comment on the drawing, most agreed that they would rather have a steeple. The plans were changed and thus a steeple rises from my cupola toward the heavens.

What is a favorite childhood memory?

I loved seeing the children together in my children's chapel on Sunday. Father Budding, the first minister of Christ and The Epiphany was a very accomplished carpenter and crafted the furnishings of the chapel - in child size detail. He chose a stained glass panel from Church of The Epiphany and had it mounted in a light box above the altar. The children had their own smaller cross and torches, and use to take turns vesting and carrying them into the children's service, which took place weekly during Sunday School.

Worship Schedule (9:00 a.m.)

	<u>Jan 2</u>	<u>Jan 9</u>	<u>Jan 16</u>	<u>Jan 23</u>	<u>Jan 30</u>
Ushers	Melanie Miller	Pat Walters	Wendy Bellmore	Diane Villano	Barbara Parsons
	Astrid Swanson	Barbara Parsons	Audrey Sundwall	Melanie Miller	Astrid Swanson
Lay Reader	<i>(multiple*)</i>	Diane Villano	Gail Beck	Barbara Parsons	Richard Mead
Crucifer	George Coulombe	George Coulombe	George Coulombe	George Coulombe	George Coulombe
Acolyte	George Coulombe	Audrey Sundwall	George Coulombe	Audrey Sundwall	George Coulombe
Morning Prayer Officiant	Richard Mead	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Lead Counter	Pat Walters	Astrid Swanson	George Coulombe	Susan Shultz	Astrid Swanson
Asst Counter	Richard Mead	Fred Bowden	Barbara Coulombe	Melanie Miller	Richard Mead

Lay Readers for Jan 2, Lessons and Carols:

Gail Beck (1), Wendy Bellmore (2), Carol Link-Ude (3),
Barbara Parsons (4), Audrey Sundwall (5), Pat Walters (6)

Zoom Worship Connection Information

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

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.