

January 1, 2005



A Note from our Associate Priest

Epiphany- The Manifestation of the Incarnate God

When I was growing up, the Nativity set, or crèche, was a major symbol of Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany. We unpacked the figures and set up the scene on the first Sunday of Advent. Baby Jesus was hidden until Christmas morning when the youngest child would place the babe in the manger. The three Wise Men journeyed from the back of the house to the manger over the course of Advent and Christmas, moving a little each day (we took turns). They did not appear at the manger until January 6, the feast of the Epiphany.

The word “Epiphany” is a Greek word meaning “manifestation”, or “appearing”. In Anglican Books of Common Prayer the Epiphany is called “The Manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles”, referring to the story of the three Wise Men who came from the East.

Historically, observance of Epiphany on January 6 by Christians goes back to the second century in Egypt. The feast combined three events: the visit of the Magi (three Wise Men), led by a star to Bethlehem; the Baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River; and the first recorded miracle of Jesus, the changing of water into wine at the marriage feast of Cana in Galilee. All of these events are manifestations of the incarnate God who is with us.

Eastern Christian churches still celebrate the Epiphany as the primary Feast of the Incarnation, but keep the emphasis on all three events as ways that God was manifest as incarnate, “the Word became flesh and dwelt among us”. In Western Churches, including Anglican and Episcopalian Churches, the story of the Wise Men has been the event equated with Epiphany. The changes in the lectionary, found in our 1979 Book of Common Prayer, recaptures the trilogy, by celebrating the Baptism of Jesus on the first Sunday after the Epiphany in all three years, A, B, and C. This is one of the four major feast days when we baptize people in the Episcopal Church. The story of the miracle at the wedding of Cana is the Gospel reading for the second Sunday after the Epiphany in Year C. We are currently in Year A, which began on November 28, 2004, the first Sunday in Advent, and runs until the first Sunday of Advent in 2005.

The Twelve Days of Christmas are from December 25 until the Epiphany on January 6. The Epiphany season goes until Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent.

I look forward to the three Wise Men arriving at the manger on January 6 and meeting the incarnate God who loves us so much that he came into the world as a baby to reconcile us all to God. I wonder what God is inviting you to manifest in your own life this Epiphany season.

Yours in Christ,
The Rev. Joanie Delamater

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Nominating Committee Update

The Nominations Committee announces candidates for nomination during the Annual Meeting for the following positions:

Warden - Therese Branby;

Vestry - Tom Long, June Bennett, Emily Waymire and Michael Carpenter;

Nominations Committee - Beverly Boyle and Jeanne LeFevre;

Personnel Committee - John LeFevre and Loretta Seitz;

Diocesan Delegates - Jan MacNally as delegate, and Bill MacNally and Sharon Lund as alternates.

Grief Support Group Forming

*Blessed are those who mourn
for they will be comforted
(Mt. 5:4)*

All of us struggle with grief from time to time in our lives. Death and loss are a part of life, but journeying through grief and mourning are often easier with the support of others. If you are grieving the loss of a loved one, the loss of a relationship, a job, or any type of loss, we invite you to join the new grief support group forming at St. John's. This support group will be facilitated by the Rev. Joanie and Fr. Andy. We will meet twice a month on Tuesday evenings from 6:30-7:30 pm in the parlor. Come find hope and healing for your heart on January 11th and 25th. All are welcome!

Lessons and Carols: Thank You!

Lessons and Carols 2004 may now be history, but its message in scripture and song lingers well into the night-and the days that follow. It was gratifying this year to see the Chancel Choir, 28 strong, literally bursting out of the choir stalls, and to be able to look out upon a full congregation. More important, however, was the aura of expectation and excitement that pervaded the air that late Sunday afternoon. To all who participated in one way or many ways, a heartfelt Thank You!

-David Gehrenbeck, organist-choirmaster

Parish Administrator's New Hours

During their December meeting, the Vestry voted their approval of the 2005 budget, including increasing the Parish Administrator's hours to full-time from the recent 28 hours per week. Beginning this month the Parish Administrator's new schedule will be 8:30 am to 4:30 pm weekdays, with a half-hour lunch break, and 5:30 to 8:00 pm Wednesday evenings.

Annual Meeting Notice

On January 16th, 2005, at 9:00 am St. John's will have the annual parish meeting in the parish hall. The nominating committee under the leadership of Judy Kroesch is currently working on a roster of names to present for various ministry positions.



**Celebration of A New Ministry
Sunday, November 21, 2004
with The Venerable Irma Wyman, Archdeacon**

Adult Education and Formation

On January 9, we begin a new series on **The Creed**, using as our primary reference Luke Timothy Johnson's recent book **The Creed. What Christians Believe and Why It Matters**, Doubleday, 2003, ISBN 0-385-50247-8. Dr. Johnson, a former Benedictine monk, is Professor of New Testament at the Candler School of Theology at Emory University.

The tentative schedule for this month:

Jan 2 no meeting (New Year's weekend).

Jan 9 The Creed 1: Origins and Development.

Jan 16 no meeting (Annual Church Meeting)

Jan 23 The Creed 2: What the Creed Is and What It Does.

Jan 30 The Creed 3: We Believe in One God.

The St. John in the Wilderness Adult Education and Formation web site www.StJohnAdultEd.Org has information on past, present and future series and the latest schedule. To review overhead transparencies or PowerPoint presentation slides, simply download them from the web site.

Anyone with comments, questions or suggestions, or who is interested in joining the Adult Education and Formation Committee, please contact David Monyak, 651-481-8697, d.monyak@comcast.net

Calling All Fourth Dayers! Ultraya!

The Cursillo community of St. John's will have a Potluck and Palanca Party on Sunday, January 9th from 5-7 pm in the Parish Hall. Please bring a songbook, an instrument (if you play one), and a dish to share. If you have questions or you are interested in attending a Cursillo Weekend Retreat, please talk with Jim and Stephanie Allen-Davis, the Rev. Joanie Delamater, Nat Watkins or David Monyak.

The next Cursillo weekend will be held February 17-20, 2005 at Wilder Forest, 14189 Ostlund Tr N, Marine on the St Croix, MN 55047. Cursillo leaflets and applications are available in the brochure racks at the church, and can be downloaded from <http://www.stjohnwilderness.org/cursillo.htm>.

One way of describing Cursillo is "TEC for Adults." It is an intensive, spirit-filled retreat weekend filled with worship, music, talks, discussion, and sharing in community.

Circle of the Spirit Class

Have you ever wondered how people pray with icons? Are you curious about different spiritual practices? Then come to the Circle of the Spirit Classes. The Rev. Joanie Delamater leads an experiential class in spiritual practices on Wednesdays for all adults and teenagers. Each week you will learn about a spiritual practice and then do it in class. There are many ways to connect with God and various spiritual practices which can deepen your prayer life and spirituality. This class is designed to help you find one that fits you!

The Circle of the Spirit classes began during Advent and will continue through January. Class is offered Wednesday mornings from 9:30-10:30 am and again Wednesday evenings from 6-7 pm. The same spiritual practice will be offered at both class times each week. These are the spiritual practices we will explore this month:

January 5 – *Lectio Divina*- the practice of sacred reading
January 12 – The Labyrinth- a walking meditation
January 19 – Self-Examination
January 26 – Rediscovering Fasting

You are welcome to attend the whole series or an individual session that peaks your interest. If you have questions or concerns, please call Rev. Joanie.



Greetings from Bishop George in Uganda

Bible Readings

January 2 Jeremiah 31:7-14 <u>Ephesians 1:3-6, 15-19a</u> Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23 Psalm 84:1-8	January 23 Amos 3:1-8 <u>1 Corinthians 1:10-17</u> Matthew 4:12-23 Psalm 139:1-11
January 9 Isaiah 42:1-9 <u>Acts 10:34-38</u> Matthew 3:13-17 Psalm 89:20-29	January 30 Micah 6:1-8 <u>1 Corinthians 1:26-31</u> Matthew 5:1-12 Psalm 37:1-6
January 16 Isaiah 49:1-7 <u>1 Corinthians 1:1-9</u> John 1:29-41 Psalm 40:1-10	Underlined verses are read during the family services.

Youth Ministry

Thank you to everyone for your generous donations during our Advent Recycled Toy Drive.

January 2nd Rev. Joanie will lead us in a sing-along with a focus on the 12 Days of Christmas. Warm up your voices and meet us in the parish hall after the 9 am service.

On Saturday, January 8th, in conjunction with the Junior & Senior High Scavenger Hunt, we will have our own indoor 'junior' version. Follow the clues and join in the hunt for answers to some challenging questions. This will be followed by a potluck with hot dogs provided. Stick around and watch the results of the big kids' hunt.

Although we will not have learning time on Jan. 16th due to the annual meeting, supervised activities for the children will be available in the classrooms.

Families, Inc. Intergenerational All-Parish Activity

Join us in the parish hall after Sunday School on January 23, 2005 to help put together valentines for military troops stationed overseas. We have a goal of five to six hundred valentines, so all hands are needed! Even if you don't have young children, come join the fun! All are welcome!

A pizza lunch will also be served, for which we request a \$3/person or \$10/family contribution to cover the cost. If you are able to come, RSVP to Beth at ehyduke@comcast.net, or sign up on the Families Inc. board in the parish hall to ensure that we have enough food for everyone.



St. Nicholas visits the 9 am service



Student of the Month, Muriel Gilbert

High School Grade 11

School/Community Activities Fundraisers
Church Activities Out to Lunch, Pancake Breakfast

Favorite Song Vermillion Part Two by Slipknot

Proudest Moment when I got my one-year sober

Collections personal medallions, memorabilia

Favorite St. John's Memory doing the Pancake Breakfast this year with my family

Favorite movie Instinct

Last good book you've read A Ghost Story

Best advice you've been given Follow your heart.

Where you hope to be in 10 years out of college, living on my own with a stable job

If you could have dinner with any person, whom would you choose? James Dean

How can church become more youth friendly?
even more activities



**After service on December 5th,
Vica visits with St. Nicholas**

Bazaar Project

The Episcopal Church Women are interested in making special lamps for sale at the 2005 Bazaar. However, in order to make these lamps we will need two silver cream and sugar sets. If anyone is house cleaning and no longer wants their set, we would most appreciate your letting us know. Please call Lynn Gadbois at 651/426-2302, or Beverly Boyle at 651/429-6769.



Angelic Christmas Pageant Cast Members



Letters to Iraq

Several letters have been brought to the box in the parish hall, and been forwarded to a contact person in Iraq for distribution, along with several items that are commonly requested; toothpaste, sun screen, baby wipes, pens, etc. We will continue to promote this program in 2005. In addition to letters, a list of personal items will be drafted, which may be offered to the troops as part of the program. For more information, visit the website "anysoldier.us".

January Birthdays

1	Stephanie Allen-Davis
3	Judson Bemis, Jr.
3	Jackson Skeie
4	John Brunner
4	Helen Enlow
4	Bonnie Peck
5	Greg Cottle
5	David Gadbois
5	Carol Plocher
6	Bradford Carpenter
6	Joyce Jefferson
7	John Kissel
8	Susanne Wasson
9	Anne Johnson
9	Peter McBride
10	Ashley Gildner
10	Kristen LeFevre
10	Sam Kelm
13	David Seitz
14	Maggie DeSmet
14	Karl Glander
15	Lucille Popp
16	Rachmat Kasmani
17	Kevin Kline
18	Andrew MacNally
19	Lara Delamater
22	Pauline Hannigan
25	Rich Johnson
27	Eric Eimon
27	Bill Pope
28	Geraldine Babcock
28	Joshua Hoover
29	Mason Matko
29	Tyler Matko
30	Betty Murphy
31	Ellen Anthony
31	James Johnston

If you have a birthday this month but are not listed, please e-mail or telephone the Parish Administrator at the church office. Records are not always complete. Thank you.

The Youth Voice

Rite of Affirmation

We invite all Eighth Graders and their parents to participate in the Rite of Affirmation Liturgy on Sunday, January 30th at 9:00 am. Details about the liturgy will be mailed out to families of eighth graders in early January. It is a chance to honor our youth and pledge our support as they continue to grow in God's love.

Treasure Hunt

It's almost upon us: The Fourth Annual St. John in the Wilderness Youth Treasure Hunt. The Senior High Youth group got their name engraved on the trophy last year, but the Junior High came very close to taking the title. This annual rematch will be held Saturday, January 8th. Lists are handed out at high noon, but teams usually like to arrive early to plan strategy. Team Captains will be selected at Youth Group and all youth are invited to participate. Teams come back for judging and lunch at 2 pm. All teams require adult drivers. We encourage parishioners to come to the Parish Hall at 2 pm to watch the always-humorous judging process. Please sign up on the youth board if you plan to compete.

Broomball Tournament

We are planning to compete in the Metro Area broomball tournament held at Church of the Epiphany in Plymouth on Saturday, January 22nd. Games begin at 12:00 pm and awards are given out at 4:30 pm. Youth in grades 6-12 are invited to take part. Please sign up on the youth board if you would like to be involved.

Senior High Lock-In

The Senior High Youth Group decided to have a lock-in following the broomball tournament on January 22nd. We will order pizza, watch a movie, and have plenty of times for night games in the church. Please sign up on the youth board if you plan to spend the night.

Acolyte Festival

Mark your calendars for the Diocesan Acolyte Festival held at St. Mark's Cathedral in Minneapolis on January 28th-29th. It's a wonderful chance for Junior and Senior High youth to meet other youth from all over the Diocese and have a fun time doing so. More details will be available in the Small Voice.

Summer Mission Trip

A meeting is planned for Sunday, January 23rd after the 9:00 am service for all youth interested in involvement with this summer's out-of-state mission trip. We encourage youth and parents to attend. Our summer mission trip is open to youth entering 9th grade-college in the fall of 2005. Trip destination ideas and other details will be presented at the meeting. We are currently exploring project possibilities in states within driving distance of Minnesota.

Camp Heartland

Our Fourth Annual mini-mission trip to Camp Heartland is set for June 14th-17th. We will leave Tuesday morning and come back Friday afternoon. Camp Heartland is a camp that serves children affected by HIV/AIDS. We arrive at camp a week or two before the campers and help set up the physical needs of the camp for the summer. One of this summer's projects may include setting up the new archery range. If you have never been on a St. John's mission trip, we ask you to participate in the Camp Heartland experience before joining us for an out-of-state trip.

Thought for the month

"We do not believe in ourselves until someone reveals that deep inside us is valuable, worth listening to, worthy of our trust, sacred to our touch. Once we believe in ourselves we can risk curiosity, wonder, spontaneous delight or any experience that reveals the human spirit."

—e.e. cummings

January

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
12/26 First Sunday after Christmas Day 9am H E and Baptism No 7:30 or 10:30 Services, Learning Time or Youth Group	12/27 Fr. Mark out of office 1pm Blood Drive Set-Up 2pm Blood Drive in Parish Hall to 7pm 8pm Alcoholics Anonymous	12/28 Fr. Mark out of office 9am Tuesday Morning Originals watercolor painting group	12/29 Fr. Mark out of office 9:30am Line Dancing No Children's Choir, Youth Guitar or 1st Yr Conf.	12/30 Fr. Mark out of office	12/31 New Year's Eve Office Closed	1 New Year's Day
2 Second Sunday after Christmas Day 7:30, 9 & 10:30 H E Sing-a-long after 9am service	3 Fr. Mark out of office	4 9am Tuesday Morning Originals watercolor painting group 2:30pm WBL Care Center Communion 7pm Altar Guild	5 6:15pm 1 st Yr Conf. 7pm Jr High Youth Grp 7pm Children's Choir Epiphany Party in Parish Hall	6 The Epiphany	7	8 Noon Treasure Hunt 2pm Treasure Hunt Judging
9 I Epiphany 7:30, 9 & 10:30 H E 8:30am Children's Choir 9am Acolyte Commissioning 10:30am Holy Baptism 6pm Sr High Youth Grp	10	11 6:30pm Grief Support Group in Fireplace Room	12 9:30am Line Dancing 10:15am St Andrew's Communion 6pm Children's Choir 6:15pm 1 st Yr Conf. 7pm Jr High Youth Grp	13	14	15
16 II Epiphany 7:30 & 10:30 H E 9am Annual Meeting	17	18 Rev. Joanie out of office	19 Rev. Joanie out of office 9:30am Line Dancing 6pm Children's Choir 6:15pm 1 st Yr Conf. 7pm Jr High Youth Grp	20	21	22 Noon Youth Diocesan Broomball Tournament in Plymouth followed by Sr High Lock-in at St John's
23 III Epiphany New Altar Guild Commissioning 7:30, 9 & 10:30 H E 8:30am Children's Choir Ed. Hr. Mission Trip mtg. 6pm Sr High Youth Grp	24	25 1:30pm Gifts & Memorials meeting 6:30pm Grief Support Group in Fireplace Room	26 9:30am Line Dancing 6pm Children's Choir 6:15pm 1 st Yr Conf. 7pm Jr High Youth Grp	27	28	29 Diocesan Youth Acolyte Festival at St. Mark's Cathedral
30 IV Epiphany 7:30, 9 & 10:30 H E 9am Rite of Affirmation Diocesan Youth Music Festival at St Mark's Cathedral	31	2/1 7pm Altar Guild	Every Wednesday Circle of the Spirit Class 9:30am & 6pm 1pm Staff Meeting 6:15pm Youth Guitar	2/3	2/4 Senior High Diocesan Youth Event	2/5 Senior High Diocesan Youth Event

January 2005 Lay Ministry

Lay Reader	Lector	LEMs	Acolytes	Ushers	Altar Guild	Coffee Hour
2 7:30 June Bennett 10:30 Jim Kroesch	7:30 Marge Polanek 9:00 Larry Mahoney 10:30 Josie Power	7:30 Barbara Merrill 9:00 Susie Mahoney Janet Waller 10:30 Nat Watkins	9:00 Anne Moertel Elizabeth Moertel Larsons 10:30 Judy Kroesch Tim Hammond Jason Knauss	7:30 Ken Whitney, Miles Whitney 9:00 Lisa Brock Christian O'Brien Brunners 10:30 Anne Johnson, Steve Johnson Nat Watkins Kate Miller	Judy Kroesch Nancy Brown Gere Letourneau Cyndi Domin	Sandy Stevenson Mary Bartley
9 7:30 Bob Peck 10:30 Dorothy Haas	7:30 Sherri Afryl 9:00 Maureen Vruno 10:30 Kate Johnson	7:30 Jane Kyle 9:00 Bari Chilton Ed Chilton 10:30 Pris Campbell	9:00 Rachel Ford Will Long Ben Long Megan Ware Sam Bartley 10:30 Colleen Johnson Janet Waller Jeanne LeFevre Sherri Afryl	7:30 Ken Whitney, Miles Whitney 9:00 Nate Beske, Branbys, Pam Burg Lynn Ware 10:30 Pickerings, Larsons, Blys	Lynn Gadbois Jane Kyle Barbara Merrill Pat Pickering	Joanna Torgerson Amy Hawley
16 7:30 Jim Kroesch 10:30 Bob Peck	7:30 June Bennett 9:00 Margaret Thor 10:30 Jan MacNally	7:30 Mary Whitney 9:00 Colleen Johnson Barbara VanSteen 10:30 Greg Schmit	9:00 Elizabeth Schmit Caryn Thor Peter Thor Christian O'Brien 10:30 Anne Moertel Wendy Muscanto Lara DuFresne	7:30 Ken Whitney, Miles Whitney 9:00 DeSmets, Canterburys 10:30 Alma Limbach, Sharon Lund, McKinneys	Pris Campbell Sherri Afryl Bette Smeed Anne Johnson	Janet Kelber Joann Smith
23 7:30 Joe Afryl 10:30 Jan MacNally	7:30 Sherri Afryl 9:00 Janet Waller 10:30 Dorothy Haas	7:30 Barbara Merrill 9:00 Linda Monyak Margaret Thor 10:30 Nat Watkins	9:00 Libby Mahoney Shannon Warchol Lauren Warchol 10:30 Amy Hawley Brent Torgerson Tim Hammond	7:30 Ken Whitney, Miles Whitney 9:00 Schmits, Larsons, Blys 10:30 Tom Medd, Mark Hosfield, Kate Miller	Mary Whitney Barb Anderson June Hochbrunn Barb VanSteen	Alice Cox Jeanie Long
30 7:30 June Bennett 10:30 Chris Johnson	7:30 Marge Polanek 9:00 Kim Severson 10:30 Wendy Muscanto	7:30 Jane Kyle 9:00 Bari Chilton Ed Chilton 10:30 Jim Kroesch	9:00 Henry Schneider Louis Karp Nathan Karp Amy Whillock 10:30 Colleen Johnson Jason Knauss Jeanne LeFevre	7:30 Ken Whitney, Miles Whitney 9:00 DeSmets, Brunners 10:30 McKinneys, Alma Limbach, Sharon Lund	Gayle Kasmani Deb Schmit Joann Smith Pat Gagin	Chris Johnson Kate Johnson