



CHRIST AND THE EPIPHANY

VOLUME 25

December 2021

Advent

*A Season of Hope
& Expectation*

*Their cry goes up, "How long?"
and soon the night of weeping
shall be the morn of song."
(S. J. Stone)*

Of all the wonderful seasons of the church year, Advent is the one I love best, with Epiphany running a close second. What I love about Advent is how rich it is with contrasts that touch our senses: prophetic shouts and angelic whispers, deepest dark and magical light, wintry cold and warming hearts, the end of the world and the birth of the new. Advent begins with the dire shouts of prophets and ends under a bright star in the quiet night of a shepherd's field.

When I was a child, I loved the rituals of Advent that my devout Episcopal family observed: the quiet time of lighting the Advent wreath and saying prayers around the table each night, the expectation of getting to open a little door each morning on my very simple Advent calendar (that I saved from year to year) with bible verses on it, and going to church and seeing the huge Advent wreath hanging from the ceiling. As one more candle got lighted each week,

I could feel the anticipation building.

Over the years, I've grown more deeply appreciative of the hope that Advent holds. My experiences with loss and injustice, the realities of evil that we see in the world around us, the despair that lives in the hearts of so many of our siblings around the globe...with all this, surely the practice of hope is more necessary than ever.

As we enter into this time of hopeful waiting for Jesus to be born in our lives anew, I pray that we may also pay close attention to the ways that Jesus is already in our midst.

And I pray that your own Advent brings you blessing, joy, and the nearness of Holy Presence.

Faithfully yours,
Rev. Mary Anne

Christmas Fair

See you Saturday December 4 at the Christmas Fair! The Fair runs 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Setup begins Friday Dec 3 at 9:00 a.m. and lasts all day.

Lots to be done! If possible please bring your baked goods on Friday Dec 3. We appreciate everyone's help with this event. As always it is a blessing to see so many hands working

Upcoming Events

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

****Guest preacher Dec 19
Rachel Thomas
SC Regional Missionary*

Every Sunday, 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m., Bible Study in Library (*except Sundays Dec 12 and 19*)

Every Wednesday, 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m., Bible Study & Compline via Zoom

Saturday, December 4, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., Christmas Fair

Friday, December 24, 4:00 p.m., Christmas Eve Service

Sunday, January 23, 10:00 a.m., Annual Parish Meeting

(Zoom connection information at end of newsletter.)

together. And don't forget to tell all your family, friends, neighbors, and co-workers about our fair!

Advent Bible Study

On Wed evenings in Advent Rev. Mary Anne will hold a bible study on the Sunday scriptures via our normal Zoom link from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., ending with Compline. You are welcome to only attend Compline at 8:30 p.m.

Meet Rachel Thomas!

On Sunday Dec 19, our South Central Regional Missionary, The Rev. Rachel Thomas, will be visiting us! She will be preaching and meeting people at Coffee Hour and Vestry. Do plan to come to hear her and say hi. You can learn more about Rev. Rachel here: <https://www.episcopalct.org/the-rev-rachel-thomas/>

And her latest SC Regional Newsletter:

<https://myemail.constantcontact.com/SC-Region-Newsletter---November-20-2021.html?soid=1011226559275&aid=WQM4ctekWRY>



December 1 - Conor Reynolds
December 15 - Gail Beck
December 16 - Astrid Swanson
December 20 - Susan Shultz
December 25 - Joan Shaffner
December 29 - Rene Nacca-Visser

Advent Meditations

“Advent Word” is an online Advent calendar that provides visual and written meditations. You can receive each morning’s meditations by email, Facebook or Twitter beginning Nov. 28th.

Around the world, prayers ascend in response to the meditations, and people post their reflections. Explore the different ways that people respond to the daily words, whether written meditations, photographs, or poems.

Around the Church

All Saints Sunday Saint Sharing



Enter into a season of prayer with us this Advent season: <https://adventword.org/en/how-i-advent-word/how-it-works/>

Advent Devotional

Pick up a copy of the Advent devotional “*Living Well Through Advent*” at the church. A copy can also be mailed to you - request one from the office at christandtheepiphany@gmail.com or 203-467-2310.



December 26 - Ron & Janice Blevins

December 31 - Mary Anne Osborn & Joanne Neel-Richard

November Vestry Summary

Next Meeting - The next Vestry meeting will be Sunday, December 19th after the 9:00 a.m. service in the Library.

Priest in Charge - At Convention this year two more “parish tasks” were passed in resolutions - performing an energy audit and researching our land with regards to indigenous people rights. Next year’s Vestry will set action plans for these requirements.

Worship - The wine in individual cups seems to be going well. We will pursue offering parishioners the

option of unwrapped or wrapped wafers (unwrapped are cheaper and easier to handle with new wine cups) but people should have both options to choose from.

Building & Grounds - Chapel and Sanctuary screens have been replaced with storm windows. We are working to replace the broken overhead fluorescent light outside the kitchen in the north stairwell with a new LED fixture. The dead Maple tree across the street on the green has been removed and replaced with a White Dogwood. That tree was placed in honor of Cathy Watts. The new tree was sponsored by the Historical Society, again, in her honor.

Feast & Festivities - We will be moving coffee hour supplies to a cabinet in the North Lounge for easier access.

Technology - The office is getting a new (refurbished) copier with a maintenance contract to replace the current one which is no longer under contract. The new leasing company is cheaper and should be more responsive than CBS was. We are looking into getting a new office computer as the current one is very slow and outdated. In the new year we also expect to move forward with adding wireless access points to extend the wi-fi to the rest of the building and will research how to improve the sound of the organ for the Zoom participants.

Ecumenical Thanksgiving Nov 23, 2021

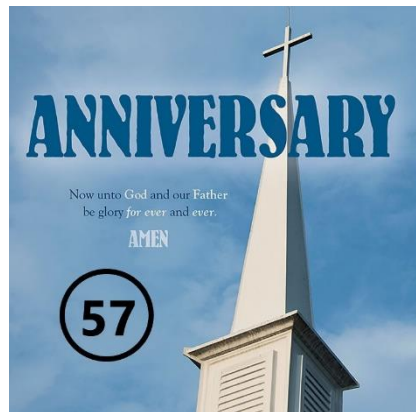


Rev. Mark Pilletere
Rev. Mary Anne Osborn

Encouraging Words Audrey Sundwall

A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

-Isaiah 40:3-5



Happy 57th Anniversary
Christ and The Epiphany
--Consecrated Dec 6, 1964
by Bishop Gray



Episcopal
Church in CT
(ECCT)

Bishop Search & Transition

The Bishop Search Profile has been posted. You may notice a move from a business emphasis to a spiritual/pastoral focus. Applications were accepted through November. See the profile here:

<https://ctbishopsearch.org/profile-apply/>

Remember you can sign up for the Bishop Transition email newsletter to stay up to date with the search news, events and updates.

https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/su/1d41rID/BTCeNews?source_id=ff679101-8fbf-43fd-8e36-4616c9d79a67&source_type=email&c=Urx82WXY - I_lqEd6kS4saunCD1nTipXc6xAJ aUY9DIVd-AGasaGJw==

ECCT Newsletters

ECCT offers a variety of electronic newsletters. Use the link below to sign up. We particularly recommend the eNews and SC Region Newsletters!

https://visitor.r20.constantcontact.com/manage/optin?v=001lmD1-4TnS4aZklm7-S3zE-Jt4DB1WULPmgK_3LgRE4zbqUXzK679FIKcez6cUC_SLi5_oweNeFmP7XsfvSct9P1wMuM OaPg9m6n3w5L_Hhl%3D

First Coming

Madeleine L'Engle

(a poem for Advent)

He did not wait till the world was ready,
till people and nations were at peace.
He came when the Heavens were unsteady,
and prisoners cried out for release.

He did not wait for the perfect time.
He came when the need was deep and great.
He dined with sinners in all their grime,
turned water into wine.

He did not wait till hearts were pure.
In joy he came to a tarnished world of sin and
doubt.
To a world like ours, of anguished shame
he came, and his Light would not go out.

He came to a world which did not mesh,
to heal its tangles, shield its scorn.
In the mystery of the Word made Flesh
the Maker of the stars was born.

We cannot wait till the world is sane
to raise our songs with joyful voice,
for to share our grief, to touch our pain,
He came with Love: Rejoice! Rejoice!



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.*

Intercessory Prayers

Amanda, Barbuschak Family, Beverly W., Brandon, David & Irene, Dot Tate, Elaine, Faith, Francesca, Fred & Judy Herzman, Fred Bowden, Jack & Jan McDonald, Jake Swanson, Officer James O'Donnell, Jay Medlyn, Jill, Jim R. & Family, John Guida, Kathrine Burdick, Lucas Sundwall, Matt R., Nicole C., Rachael, Sallie Alexander, 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.

Next issue

The deadline for the January issue is **December 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.

Treasurer Report

Susan Shultz

	OCT	(UNDER)/OVER BUDGET	YTD	(UNDER)/OVER YTD BUDGET
INCOME	\$9,727.00	\$3,319.50	\$74,061.01	\$3,146.01
EXPENSES	\$7,940.32	(\$116.71)	\$84,761.36	(\$2,399.53)
EXPENSES	\$1,786.68	\$3,436.21	(\$10,700.35)	(\$5,545.54)

Notes: Income was significantly over budget due to some large, unexpected special gifts and some pledge “catch-up”. Note that although income is over budget we are still under budget in some areas such as building use and pledges. Our special gifts should offset much of these expected shortfalls. It is important to remember that even if we do “better than budget” our budget projected a \$15,000 deficit so beating the budget does not necessarily mean we are as financially healthy as we would like to be.

THE ADVENT WREATH



At the beginning of every service on the Sundays during Advent, we light the Advent wreath, one of the fondest Advent traditions for both congregations and families. The tradition reaches back to pre-Christian northern Europeans. During the darkest days of winter, they lit as many as twenty-four candles on an evergreen-covered wheel or wreath. By lighting a candle a day, they marked time, anticipating the return of the sun’s light and warmth. By the 1500s, Christians adapted the Advent Wreath as a devotional way to prepare for the coming of Christ, the Light of the World.

Today, the Advent Wreath is usually an evergreen wreath placed on a table or stand. In the wreath are four candles: three blue or purple, and one pink. Each candle represents one week during Advent. A white candle is often placed in the center of the wreath.

The symbols of the Advent Wreath are interpreted in many ways. The circle of evergreens reminds us of the eternal and ever-renewing promises of Christ. The lighting of candles acknowledges the deepening of our preparation and the increasing light that bursts forth at Christmas.

The purple or blue candles represent royalty and hope. For the third Sunday of Advent, a pink candle is lit. This recognizes a shift of Advent themes in the Bible. The first two Sundays focus on the Bible’s prophetic vision of Christ’s future and final return; on the third and fourth Sunday, the readings focus on the coming of Jesus, the Christ. The third Sunday is “Gaudete,” Sunday, a day of joy and rejoicing. Finally, on Christmas Eve, a center white candle is lit. The light of Christ is fully present. Jesus is born.

Lighting an Advent wreath at home in the evening is a profoundly simple way to participate in this season of Advent through prayer and stillness. If you want some guidance for your devotions, I put together a simple flyer for home Advent Wreath prayers which you can find at the back and sides of the church.

---Rev. Mary Anne

Parishioner Spotlight - Barbara Coulombe

Tell us about your family

My entrance into this world was a bit hectic for my mother who had to hail a taxi to get to the New Haven hospital for my birth on Columbus Day in 1943. Apparently, I amazed the doctors by completely rolling over after birth - something they had never seen! I attended New Haven Schools during the days when there were no school buses so we did a lot of walking and I always lived the farthest away with the longest walks! (Thus, two knee replacements in my later years!) We also walked home for lunch as there were no cafeterias in the schools back then. I graduated from college and two weeks later I married George when I was 21 (so young!) and by the time I was 27 we had three children. Susan, (whom you know well) Peter (MA) and David (NC) who are such blessings in our lives! Our grandsons (Dylan and Logan) live in NC.



What brought you to Christ and The Epiphany?

We visited for a Good Friday afternoon service when the children were toddlers and we couldn't get a babysitter at night. Fr. McMurtry was the priest then and we became good friends. I even helped him in the office for a short time before I returned to teaching. It was a great working atmosphere as he always played classical music from his closet! When Fr. Mac would go home for lunch with Margaret I would go into the church and play the chimes on the organ. One day he returned early and caught me. He then convinced me to play a healing service later that week when he couldn't find anyone to play. A priest from Darien anointed my hands and I played for about two hours! Then my priest at St. James heard that I played the service here and asked me to play a wedding! And thus, eventually I found myself playing services regularly! We became members here after leaving St. James and St. John's in N. Guilford in 2008. Carol called me and asked if I would consider playing. I was retired only a couple of years but how could I say no? My cousin Richard Beattie was the priest here at the time!

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

Being a member of a small church, one wears many hats! I mainly serve by playing the worship music on Sundays and serving as a delegate to Diocesan Convention. But I have lent a hand wherever needed at our thrift store and fundraisers and events. In the community I sing with the Greater New Haven Community Chorus along with my daughter Susan. It is our "girl's night out!" Until the pandemic, I played music for the weekly mass at Branford Hospice for over 15 years.

What's your favorite pastime?

I love taking walks especially by the water. I also love to play golf (like my brother Richard!). In the past my brother (who was a pro) has teamed up with me to support my school golf tournament fund-raisers and one year we won in the Senior Division which was exciting. In my younger years I was in two bowling leagues. Now, I like to do crocheting, reading, and the daily "word search" in my spare time!

Tell us a little about your spiritual life.

I am a cradle Episcopalian so I became immersed in the life of the church very young as my mother was a Sunday School teacher. I started teaching Sunday School when I was 16 years old. As an adult, I attended Episcopal Marriage Encounter and Cursillo Weekends and we served on these renewal weekends for almost 20 years. We also helped begin New Haven Area Emmaus renewal weekends for teens. I was rector of a statewide Co-ed Cursillo and rector of two Emmaus's. They were a wonderful expression of God's love to all of us who participated, and it is so rewarding to meet up with these teens who are now serving the Lord in so many different ways! In 1981 I became an Associate of the Order of St. Helena which is an Episcopal Order of contemporary nuns who are not cloistered but who serve in the world. I am also a friend of the Order of Julian of Norwich and I once spent 10 days immersed in the life of the order. I miss making a yearly silent retreat as the Order of St. Helena has moved to Georgia from Vail's Gate, NY. My favorite scripture is from Psalm 37:4 "Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart."

Worship Schedule (9:00 a.m.)

	<u>Dec 5</u>	<u>Dec 12</u>	<u>Dec 19</u>	<u>Dec 24</u>	<u>Dec 26</u>
				Christmas Eve	
Ushers	Wendy Bellmore Diane Villano	Pat Walters Astrid Swanson	Barbara Parsons Melanie Miller	Wendy Bellmore Diane Villano	Audrey Sundwall Pat Walters
Lay Reader	Pat Walters	Barbara Parsons	Richard Mead	Audrey Sundwall	Wendy Bellmore
Crucifer	George Coulombe	George Coulombe	George Coulombe	George Coulombe	George Coulombe
Acolyte	Audrey Sundwall	George Coulombe	Audrey Sundwall	George Coulombe	George Coulombe
Morning Prayer Officiant	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	Diane Villano
Lead Counter	Susan Shultz	Astrid Swanson	Pat Walters	Susan Shultz	George Coulombe
Asst Counter	Melanie Miller	Fred Bowden	Mary Claire Peach-Keyes	George Coulombe	Audrey Sundwall

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.

Past sermons are available on the *Christ and The Epiphany* YouTube channel here:

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

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 860-669-1104 or sbshultz@gmail.com.