



CHRIST AND THE EPIPHANY

VOLUME 27

February 2023

Winter Reflection



It is about this time during winter when we long for it to be over. We generally have had enough dreary cool days. Our soul and spirit long for better weather and feelings of new birth. We have experienced enough of winter to last us for a while.

I love the variation of the seasons. When you live somewhere that you don't get to experience the fullness of the seasons. I believe you miss the flow of nature, something God created to demonstrate his wisdom and love.

Now some will say oh I wouldn't miss winter. It is just too cold and damp for me. But science reveals that the earth needs the rest. The soil and

plants recuperate during this time. They literally are being prepared to handle another trip around the sun.

When spring comes our outlook grows like the seeds that have been in the ground and spring forth as the sun and the warmth increase. Like the Easter lilies that spring up the earliest of flowers, we spring up in our hopes for the new season. The birds sing of the glory of God in spring and the new birth happening in every corner of nature as do we sing about the joy springing from inside of us. As new hopes are planted in us, we begin to sow seeds in gardens, flower beds, and yards in anticipation of a In Ecclesiastes 3 we read There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens. It goes onto list the various times in our life and then concludes with this: "He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end". Most of the times there is a calling in our heart looking for the eternal of life. Eternity by its very nature is unseen. Because everything that we can see is going to perish.

In Psalm 1 we read: "That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither—

Upcoming Events

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

Sunday, February 19, 10:30
a.m., Vestry

Wednesday, February 22, 7:00
p.m., Ash Wednesday Service

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

whatever they do prospers." Like the world around us we produce fruit in season. Our seasons have a flow about them.

But here we are still in winter. Like the ground rests from all its work and suffering, so should we. I like to think of winter as a time of reflection. Time to look and examine the path and direction of our lives. Maybe we need to also look at the areas we are sowing in our life. Are we placing too much of ourselves in certain areas? Do I need to rethink where I am planting? Is it time to rotate the crops in my life, like my study habits, my prayer time, and the priorities of my life?

In Jeremiah we read: "Even the stork in the sky knows her appointed seasons, and the dove, the swift and the thrush observe the time of their migration. But my people do

not know the requirements of the Lord.”

Winter gives us time to look and reflect. Just like the Jews that practiced a weekly Sabbath rest and God instituted a Sabbath year also. God put reflection in the system so we would examine what is important.

So, as we look at our lives let us reflect and then imagine what should happen in our lives. Because you know what is about to happen, Spring is coming.

Mark Mitchell (Park Ave., Church of Christ)

Clergy Schedule

Feb. 5 - Rev. Martha Rogers

Feb. 12 - Rev. Andrew G. Osmun

Feb. 19 - Rev. Martha Rogers

Feb. 22 - Rev. Andrew G. Osmun

Feb. 26 - Rev. Martha Rogers

Annual Parish Meeting

Our annual parish meeting was held on Sunday, January 29 following the 9:00 a.m. service. People attended in person and via our Zoom link. Attendees were furnished the Annual Report in digital form or hard copy by request.

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 2022

0 Baptism

1 Death

0 Marriage

3 New Members

Check out our financial news in the Treasurer's report

The following people were elected for 2023 (1 year term unless otherwise noted)

The four officers:

Senior Warden (Worship) -

George Coulombe

Junior Warden (Building & Grounds) - Barbara Parsons

Treasurer - Susan Shultz

Clerk - Gail Beck

Vestry At-Large: (3 years)

Carol Link-Ude

Diane Villano (remaining 1 year of Richard Mead's term)

Diocesan Convention

Delegates:

Barbara Coulombe, Astrid

Swanson, Diane Villano (alt)

Continuing Vestry

Ray Clearwater, Audrey

Sundwall, Astrid Swanson

Many thanks to everyone who has agreed to serve.

The Vestry meets the third Sunday each month after the 9:00 a.m. service.

January Vestry

Summary

Next Meeting - The next Vestry meeting will be Sunday, February 19th after the 9:00 a.m. service in the library and via Zoom.

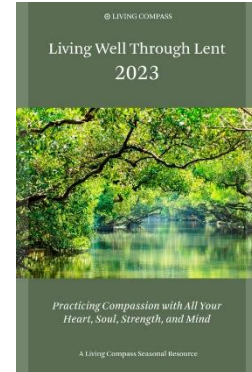
Worship - Fr. Andrew will be our supply clergy for Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter. Yea!

Building & Grounds - The rental groups who were behind in their payments all paid up at the end of the year. Rent for the two large groups will be increased slightly in 2023 since they have so many people to help cover increased usage of the building and supplies.

Finance - The budget for 2023 was approved. While it has a large deficit, it was felt to be an accurate (if slightly conservative) budget.

General - Logistics for the Annual Meeting were discussed. We will hold it in the Upper Hall. A discussion was held around an altar memorial purchase in honor of Richard Mead.

Lenten Devotionals



The Communication Commission has provided copies of the Living Well Through Lent devotional from Living Compass which are available in English and Spanish in the thrift store, on the stair landings, in the Narthex and will be mailed from the office upon request.

Encouraging Words

Audrey Sundwall

Out of the south comes the storm,
And out of the north the cold.
From the breath of God ice is made,
And the expanse of the waters is frozen.

Job 37:9-10

For as the rain comes down,
and the snow from heaven,
And do not return there, But
water the earth, And make it
bring forth and bud, That it
may give seed to the sower
And bread to the eater, So
shall My word be that goes
forth from my mouth; It shall
not return to Me void, But it
shall accomplish what I please,
And it shall prosper in the
thing for which I have sent it.

Isaiah 55:10-11

While the earth remaineth,
seedtime and harvest, and
cold and heat, and summer
and winter, and day and night
shall not cease.

Genesis 8:22

For to the snow He says, 'Fall
on the earth,' And to the
downpour and the rain, 'Be
strong.' He seals the hand of
every man, That all men may
know His work.

Job 37:6-7

He spreads the snow like wool
and scatters the frost like
ashes. He hurls down his hail
like pebbles. Who can
withstand his icy blast? He
sends his word and melts
them; he stirs up his breezes,
and the waters flow.

Psalms 147:16-18

Around the Church Annual Parish Meeting



Good Shepherd Thrift Store Ready for Valentine's Day and St. Patrick's Day



Find of the Month A pair of upholstered solid wood chairs with a striking honey bee pattern fabric



In memoriam: Richard Mead



After consulting with the Director of the Altar Guild, the Vestry has decided that any donations made in memory of fellow parishioner and Vestry member, Richard Mead, will be used to purchase a new Paschal candle. The Paschal candle is the large single candle placed to the left of the altar during the Easter season, symbolizing the risen Lord. It is also used for each baptism and funeral during the year. This will be a fitting memorial for Dick, since he loved serving at God's altar. Contributions may be made by simply indicating on the memo line of your check "Richard Mead Memorial." Plans are to begin using the new candle during the upcoming Easter season.



February 2 - Fred Bowden
February 18 - Tony Lamberti
February 20 - Mary Lou Clark



Episcopal
Church in CT
(ECCT)

January 6, 2023

The Season of Hope

Rt. Rev. Jeffrey W. Mello

“Greetings Episcopal Church and Connecticut. Bishop Laura and I are here at Camp Washington bringing you Epiphany greetings. We pray that you are preparing for a blessed Epiphany and have had a good Christmas season. As we thought about what we might offer to you, in this Epiphany reflection, we were thinking a lot about the Magi and how they make their way to the Christ child. And what they must have had to be tuned in for and listening in the night sky **to be able to discern with their hope and their expectation** that following that star, **would lead them to where they needed to be and where God would be revealed to them in their lives.** And I’ve thought about this over the Christmas season with the shepherds and now with the Magi about how many distractions they could have had and how many reasons they would have had not to go and not to follow that star or to think of some excuse to put it off or not do it at all. I’m so grateful that they had that yearning and that hope and that eagerness to seek God where God lay.”

Rt. Rev. Laura Ahrens

“When Bishop Jeff was sharing with me some of his thoughts and ideas around the Magi and the shepherds and being open to that, that possibility of hope, that curiosity. I started thinking about that image of a of a young child in particular, tuning their radio, back in the days when folks were dialing into radio stations, and you’d hear lots of static, but then maybe you’d be hearing a voice and tune it in and ever so gently and ever so simply, you find just that station, just that moment, just that space, where you could hear that voice. It made me think about that’s how I think God, one of the ways **God is inviting us to be open to hope.** It’s all around us. And just how do we tune ourselves, not just our ears, but our eyes and all of our senses to be to be looking and listening and be open to that hope so that we hear that channel where **God is speaking so clearly to us about his love and his message of forgiveness and new life.** But sometimes what we need to just slow down a bit and tune our channel just a bit more to be open to hearing that grace and that gift.”

Rt. Rev. Jeffrey W. Mello

“Love that. Thank you. Yeah. So we just wanted to say hello and wish you our blessings in this epiphany season. This season where

we’ll hear week after week stories about how God was made known to the world. And we pray that you have those same experiences in your own lives where you **seek God in unexpected places.** Tuning as Bishop Laura invites us **to listen with hope and joy and expectation.** Blessings upon each one of you and know how grateful we both are for you and your ministry here and ECCT. God bless.”

Yours in Christ



Our Logo

2023 marks the tenth anniversary of our “star” church logo. Here is what we wrote about it when Tom Shultz created it for us.

The Christ and The Epiphany Church logo rendering is simple, modern, and dramatic, which reminds us that following Christ is a simple act of faith. The logo merges the cross shape of Christ with the Epiphany star above the stable. The twelve points symbolic of the Twelve Tribes of Israel and the Twelve Apostles. The star shines on everyone in the world regardless of personal divisions, resonating with our church’s policy of inclusiveness. Additionally, the star represents Christ, our inspiration. We, like the Magi, follow Christ as our guide in the world, leading us to righteous acts and salvation.



Lent Resources - The Episcopal Church

Daily Devotionals are available at www.episcopalchurch.org/lent-resources.



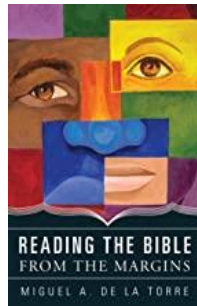
These devotions are written by ministers, professors, students, teachers, missionaries, denominational leaders, and others who work with and care for students. Typically, an author writes on a single theme for one week. In these devotions, you will read honest struggles and questions, all in the context of real faith. As you read the thoughts of the writers, think about your own response to the Scripture for the day. Let the writer's words serve as background for your own conversation with God. D365 will highlight the season of Lent and Holy Week with the theme, "Journey to the Cross." D365.org is a joint partnership of The Episcopal Church Office for Youth Ministries, Presbyterian Youth and Triennium Office and Ministries of the Presbyterian Church USA, and the Congregational Life Office of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. Available in English.

From the Bookshelf



Reading the Bible from the Margins

Diane W. Villano



My Education for Ministry (EfM) group studied *Reading the Bible from the Margins* by Miguel A. De La Torre this year. The author, a Cuban American, is an instructor at Hope College in Michigan and teaches a seminar of the same name. The book offers a thought-provoking perspective on how the Bible is read, understood, and applied across a multi-cultural world and the range of Center/Margins. My favorite section was "imposing twenty-first-century meanings on ancient text" which presented differing views on Numbers 12:1-3, 9-11; Aaron and Miriam's response to Moses marrying a Cushite woman.

It was another eye-opening book, included in EfM's Living Faithfully in a Multicultural World 20022-2023 curriculum, worth reading and a possible choice for insightful group discussion.



Education for Ministry Diane W. Villano

Education for Ministry (EfM) is a unique four-year distance learning certificate program in theological education based upon small-group study and practice. Since its founding in 1975, this international program has assisted more than 120,000 participants in discovering and nurturing their call to Christian service. EfM helps the faithful encounter the breadth and depth of the Christian tradition and bring it into conversation with their experiences of the world as they study, worship, and engage in theological reflection together.

The program invites participants into small, mentored groups that provide the framework for understanding life and shaping actions as Christian faith is deepened. EfM seminar groups meet in local settings and online, and provide a four-year curriculum that develops a theologically informed, reflective, and articulate laity. (From theology.sewanee.edu/education-for-ministry.)

The closest local group meets at Church of the Epiphany in Durham, where I attended Year One. For the last three years, I have been meeting remotely with a group at Church of the Advent, Cape May, New Jersey. This group will be holding an "open house" meeting this spring, and I invite you to Zoom in and get a feeling for how this program operates.

A 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.**

Intercessory Prayers

Aiden & the Guida Family, Alfred, Andrew, Barbuschak Family, Bohdan & Family in Ukraine, Brandon, Carol Ude, Coulombe and Mead Families, David & Irene, Diana, Diane Link, Dick, Ed, Ed, Eileen F., Elaine, Faith, Fran Zella, Francesca, Geneva O'Donnell, Jack Uberti & Holly Chickos, Jack and Jan McDonald, Jay Medlyn, Jay W., Jim R. & Family, Joan Shaffner, John Smith, Joyce Aurelius, Leah S., Linda Lonardo, Lucas Sundwall, Matt R., Mike, Minogue Family, Nicole C., Pat Walters, Rachael, Ray Sundwall, Sr., Sallie Alexander, Stanley Rogalski, Susan, Susan Diaz, 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.

Our 2021 St. Valentine's Day Messages



Next Issue

The deadline for the March issue is **February 21**. 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 or email christandtheepiphany@gmail.com

Treasurer Report

Susan Shultz

	DEC	(UNDER)/OVER BUDGET	YTD	(UNDER)/OVER YTD BUDGET
INCOME	\$19,293.86	(\$1,666.64)	\$107,691.20	(\$2,278.80)
EXPENSES	\$9,478.71	(\$149.79)	\$106,535.65	\$5,570.65
NET	\$9,815.15	(\$1,516.85)	\$1,155.55	\$7,849.45

Notes: While contributions were up \$2,500 and building use by \$3,000 we still ended the year with a \$2,000 shortfall due to not receiving \$8,500 in special gifts. But we should still be pleased with since we also raised over \$13,000 towards our capital painting campaign! Our expenses had large swings - we saved \$9,000 by not getting a priest-in-charge but then were significantly over budget in a few areas - \$5,000 in fuel, \$4,500 in furnace repairs, and \$3,000 in insurance just to name a few. Since we base our 2023 budget primarily on our 2022 actuals and we planned to have a priest-in-charge, next year's budget does have a fairly large deficit (almost \$10,000). Come to the Annual Meeting to hear more about both 2022 and plans for 2023.

A pastoral word from Presiding Bishop Michael Curry on the death of Tyre Nichols

January 28, 2023
Office of Public Affairs

Sense cannot be made of the murder of a young man at the hands of five men whose vocation and calling are to protect and serve. This was evil and senseless.

There is a passage from the Hebrew prophet Jeremiah, which is later quoted in Matthew's Gospel when innocent baby boys are killed by an immoral dictator:

“A voice is heard in Ramah,
lamentation and bitter weeping.
Rachel is weeping for her children;
she refuses to be comforted for her children,
because they are no more.”
—Jeremiah 31:15, Matthew 2:18

With the murder of Tyre Nichols, another mother, as in the biblical texts, weeps, with the mothers of Emmett Till, Trayvon Martin, Michael Brown, George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, and so many others. A family grieves. A community fears. A nation is ashamed. Like the psalmist in the Bible, something in us cries out, “How long, O Lord, how long?” How long violence, how long cruelty, how long the utter disregard for the dignity and worth of every child of God? How long?

As if this wasn't enough, there is another horrible dimension to what happened. Tyre Nichols was beaten, kicked, and cursed as if he was not a human being. Then, after he was lying on the ground, having called for his mother, they let him stay there for several minutes without anyone, including the police and EMT who were present, providing medical assistance. Not one Good Samaritan.

Jesus once told a story to teach about what it looks like to love one's neighbor, which Moses and Jesus both said is a commandment of God. It's a story about a man beaten nearly to death and left on the side of the road to die by people who knew what Moses taught about love for God and neighbor—and what the prophet Micah taught when he said that God requires three things of us: to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God.

Only one person stopped to help the man, and he did so without regard for the fact that they were of different religions, nationalities, ethnic groups, and even different politics. This second man was a Samaritan, and he helped because the man on the road was human. He helped because he was a fellow child of God. He helped because the man lying on the side of the road, regardless of race, class, clan, stripe, or type, was his brother. And the man who helped has been called the Good Samaritan.

The fundamental call and vocation of law enforcement officials, and indeed every one of us, is that of the Good Samaritan.

Here is where there is hope: The Good Samaritan in the parable of Jesus was not the last one.

There are Good Samaritans who are government officials in Memphis who, after assessing what happened, fired the offending officers, charged them with crimes against human life and dignity, and have committed to addressing systemic and cultural issues that created an environment in which this evil was enabled.

There are Good Samaritans doing what is necessary to radically reform the environment and culture of law enforcement—to create an atmosphere in which the dignity and worth of every human being is respected, protected, affirmed, and honored.

There are Good Samaritans in law enforcement, and other first responders, who often work while others sleep, laboring to protect and serve, at times risking their own lives for the neighbor they do not even know.

There are Good Samaritans, people of goodwill and human decency, who are peacefully protesting. There are Good Samaritans who are activists working tirelessly for the realization of communities and countries where there is truly, as the Pledge of Allegiance proclaims, “liberty and justice for all.”

While we grieve, we cannot give in or give up. Just throwing up our hands in despair is not an option lest we leave a brother, a sister, a sibling on the side of the road again. No, let more Good Samaritans arise so that Tyre Nichols’ death will not be in vain.

Please pray for Tyre’s family, the whole Memphis community, this nation, and world. But also pray for people to rise up like the Good Samaritan and work to create change so this never happens again.

And may the soul of Tyre, and the souls of all the departed, through the mercies of God, rest in peace and rise in glory. Amen.

The Most Rev. Michael B. Curry
Presiding Bishop and Primate
The Episcopal Church

Worship Schedule 9:00 a.m. (except where noted)

	<u>February 5</u>	<u>February 12</u>	<u>February 19</u>	<u>February 22</u> <u>Ash Wednesday</u> <u>7:00 p.m.</u>	<u>February 26</u>
Presider/ Officiant	Rev. Martha Rogers	Rev. Andrew Osmun	Rev. Martha Rogers	Rev. Andrew Osmun	Rev. Andrew Osmun
Crucifer	George Coulombe	George Coulombe	George Coulombe	George Coulombe	George Coulombe
Acolyte	Diane Villano	Audrey Sundwall	Diane Villano	George Coulombe	Audrey Sundwall
Lay Reader	Wendy Bellmore	Barbara Parsons	Judy Herzman	George Coulombe	Terry Osmun
Usher	Audrey Sundwall	Wendy Bellmore	Astrid Swanson	Barbara Parsons	Diane Villano
Zoom Tech	Susan Shultz	Susan Shultz	Susan Shultz	Susan Shultz	Susan Shultz
Lead Counter	Susan Shultz	Astrid Swanson	George Coulombe		Susan Shultz
Ass't Counter	Audrey Sundwall	Fred Bowden	Barbara Coulombe		Melanie Miller

Christ and The Epiphany Leadership 2023

Vestry Members

Senior Warden (Worship) - George Coulombe	Carol Link-Ude (also Altar Guild and Feast, Festivities & Fund Raising)
Junior Warden (Building & Grounds) - Barbara Parsons (also Outreach)	Audrey Sundwall (also Communications Commission)
Treasurer - Susan Shultz (also Technology)	Astrid Swanson
Clerk - Gail Beck	Diane Villano (also Newsletter)
Ray Clearwater	
Staff	
Barbara Coulombe - Minister of Music	Diane Rowley - Parish Administrator

Zoom Worship Connection Information

To connect by computer enter: <https://tinyurl.com/3kbvnb4>

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

Christ and The Epiphany Church

39 Park Place
East Haven, CT 06512

Phone: 203-467-2310

Email: christandtheepiphany@gmail.com

Website: www.christandtheepiphany.org

Worship Schedule

Sunday 9:00 a.m. In-Person & Online Zoom Worship
In-person with social distancing and optional masking

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