



Epiphany Star



The light that
shines in
darkness!

December 2016

Articles for the Star are due by the 15th of each month. You may place articles into the folder on the office door or e-mail them to:
newsletter@epiphanystar.net

Editor: Linda Dean

*And the angel said unto them,
Fear not: for, behold, I bring
you good tidings of great joy,
which shall be to all people.
For unto you is born this day
in the city of David a Sav-
iour, which is Christ the
Lord."*

Luke 2: 10-11



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STAFF

THE REV. BETH W. HIXON, RECTOR
PAUL EXLEY, PARISH ADMINISTRATOR
DODI HACKL-KEARNS, MUSIC
ROBIN SMITH, ORGANIST

EPIPHANY VESTRY

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Paul Atlee | <i>Rector's Warden</i> |
| Marie Kearns | <i>Acctg. Warden</i> |
| Kathy Cobbs | <i>Secretary</i> |
| Bill Wilson | <i>Property</i> |
| Ben Millet | <i>Parish Life</i> |
| Sherri Quinlan | <i>Affiliates/ Community Groups</i> |
| Julie Datillo | <i>Stewardship</i> |

THE BELOVED COMMUNITY

Now that we have celebrated our Mutual Ministry on October 1st and as we enter a new church year this Advent, it only seems reasonable that you, the people of the Church of Epiphany, understand how I as your rector, hope to support you in your relationship with God and one another as well as how you can contribute to our mission as a parish. In most of my experience in the Church, I've been aware that many misunderstandings between clergy and people can be avoided and effective ministry enhanced if role expectations are clear.

In the Episcopal Church, a priest or presbyter serves under the authority of the Diocesan Episcopate or Bishop and performs sacramental rites such as baptism and the consecration of the Eucharist elements as a direct agent of the Bishop when he or she is not available to preside. We are not a congregational church. I believe in the 'stronger together' motto and so will promote strengthening our relationships with other parishes within the deanery and the diocese

The worship of God is primary responsibility of clergy and laity. Designing inspirational worship according to the Book of Common Prayer, diocesan norms, and in consultation with the parish Worship Committee, proclaiming and preaching the Good News (the Gospel), absolving from sin, consecrating the sacramental elements of bread and wine and pronouncing blessings are the primary liturgical activities of the parish priest. Many other sacred aspects of the liturgy are performed by the people who offer their gifts of time and talent. Where would our liturgy be without the alter guild, the alter flower ministry, the choirs, the ushers, greeters, lectors, acolytes, and Eucharistic ministers. Liturgy truly IS its definition...the work of the people.

My ability to lead worship as your rector depends on the health of my prayer life. I once had a rector with whom I worked tell me that the people of the congregation didn't pay me to pray. I have never been so taken aback as I was with that assertion. I can assure you as members and friends of Epiphany, that my own prayer life and my own spiritual growth take time and are critical to the well-being of the community just as is the spiritual growth of each and every parishioner. Time spent pursuing a discipline of study and prayer undergirds a vital, loving, responsive community of love. I hope we can work together to discover and nurture individual as well as corporate adult spiritual formation practices.

The roles of liturgist, preacher, and teacher supported by a life of prayer and study are foundational aspects of my ministry as your rector and priest. I welcome any questions you may have along these lines. If you have an interest or desire to explore your own prayer and/or spiritual life or wish to explore serving in any of the many liturgical roles, please contact me...I am available to you!

Next month within the body of the newsletter, I will discuss the role of "pastor", the gifts and interests I bring to that role and how we can all become effective pastors in everyday life as we continue to grow into our very own expression of the Beloved Community...stay tuned!

In God's Hope Alive in Us All! Beth+

Coventry Community Chorus

Once again the Coventry Community Chorus is happy to present a Christmas concert at Epiphany on December 14th at 7:30pm. The music is full of traditional Christmas songs which most of us have grown up with. It will make you want to sing along. Many of you will appreciate that Jim Tay, Epiphany's good friend and former choir director/organist, will be the accompanist.

So, mark the date on your calendar, bring your friends and neighbors and join us for a joyful evening--December 14th, 7:30pm.

Marsha Hill and Joanne Arnold, chorus members



CHILI SALE RESULTS

Our 6th annual Chili Sale resulted in a profit of over \$600 to be given to the church. We had 13 chili makers and 1 muffin baker, and sold 4 dozen muffins and over 70 quarts of chili!! What a sale!

We wish to thank all of you for your help and support in this fund raiser and hope you will enjoy your chili.

See you next year!

SCRIP:

As of the first Sunday in November, we are on a pace to earn over \$2,000 for Epiphany through the scrip program! Thank you, one and all, for your faithful participation.

December 11 will be the only order date for the coming month due to Christmas occurring on a Sunday. I will attempt to have a variety of cards available for direct purchase on December 18, in case you are behind in your shopping.

The January dates will be January 9 and 23, 2017, and then we will attempt to resume our customary order dates of the first and third Sundays of subsequent months.

Please contact me if you have questions or would like to help with the program.

Susan Garone
610-415-9233
proutygarone@verizon.net

January Adult Fellowship Party!!

January 21, 2017

All adults of the parish are invited to join us for our annual Epiphany party, to be held in the undercroft on January 21st at 6:30 pm. The party will be hosted by the Dells.

You are asked to bring a dessert or an hors d' oeuvres to share with the group. Sodas and coffee will be provided by the hosts. A sign up sheet will be available in mid-December for you to sign and list what you will bring.

Each person is asked to bring a wrapped, but not tagged, 'gift.' Your 'gift' should be a fun one, a gag 'gift,' or a recycled 'gift' you have received and never found a chance to use. We will exchange these 'gifts' in a unique manner. You might open a 'gift' you like, and moments later lose it to another person. We will explain more at the party.

This has been an evening of fun for many years. We hope you can join us and share in the fun!!

ANNUAL GIVING CONVERSATION / 2017

Our theme this year is One in Spirit / One in Mission. Each Sunday during announcement time we'll hear a word about one of our active ministries or about a potential ministry poised to come alive with willing hearts and hands. This year, rather than a breakfast, we will have a luncheon on Sunday, Dec. 4 following the 10 am service. The Rev. Canon Shawn Walmsley will preach at the service and speak at the luncheon... do mark your calendars! Beth+

WRITE THIS DOWN!!

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| December 4: | Thanksgiving for Giving lunch/The Rev. Canon Shawn Wamsley, preacher |
| December 10: | Annual Cookie Cavalcade |
| December 11: | Christmas Cantata |
| December 14: | Christmas concert by the Coventry Chorus at 7:30 |
| December 15: | Annual Report committee submissions due |
| December 17: | Lori Exley's ordination at Epiphany |
| December 24: | Christmas Eve services at 6:30 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. |
| January 6, 2017: | The Feast of the Epiphany Holy Eucharist |
| January 21, 2017: | Epiphany Party |
| January 22, 2017: | Annual Meeting—ne service at 9 a.m. |
| February 5, 2017: | "Souper" Bowl Sunday (details will be in January newsletter) |

OLD WINE IN A NEW BOTTLE

The only "old" part about this fine vintage is how long he's been serving Epiphany. Since he's served as many times as he could in the vestry vineyard, we announce:

Paul Exley, our new Parish Administrator

Paul has continued to serve Epiphany in so many ways that we thought he needed a title. What Paul does is equivalent to the Parish Administrator position in many parishes, , so we've promoted him to that job. Paul will produce the Sunday and special bulletins, keep our new website up to date and functioning well, keep the church office in order and supplied, keep computers and other office machinery in working order, troubleshoot acute or suddenly appearing property issues on campus, and work with Beth and others around publicity and signage. Paul and Beth will meet weekly to stay on top of identified work projects. Phew! Only our beloved Paul could handle this job!

DUST OFF YOUR MIXERS, BUFF UP YOUR COOKIE SHEETS

The Christmas Cookie Cavalcade rolls on!

On Saturday, December 10 from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM we will hold our annual parish cookie sale. This year the price will soar to \$12 per box. Every donation of cookies is greatly welcomed. Cookie drop off will be on Friday, December 9 and Saturday morning before we open. Gift certificates will be available. Please come and join the deliciousness.

BAKE!

BUY!!

ENJOY!!!



Happy Birthday

December

6 - Mike Haines
 8 - Sherri Quinlan
 10 - Florence Solomon
 11 - Daniel Lowery
 14 - David Boggust
 23 - Sandra Montrose
 25 - Robert Caughie, Jackson
 Chernesky
 27 - Carmen DiBattista
 28 - Alicia DeMont
 29 - Sophia DiBattista



December

1 - Steven & Maria (DiBattista
 McCaughan
 20 - Dominic & Julie Dattilo
 31 - Paul & Lori Exley

Volunteer Schedules

Eucharistic Ministers

8:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m.

| | |
|----------------|--------------|
| 04 - Volunteer | Paul Exley |
| 11 - Volunteer | Bill Hummer |
| 18 - Volunteer | Paul Atlee |
| 25 - Volunteer | Marti Wilson |

Greeters

04—Betsy Dell
 11— Larry Way
 18— Kitty DiBattista
 25 – Vicki Cox

Lectors

| | |
|--------------|-----------------------------|
| 04 - 8:00 am | Marsha Hill |
| 10:00 am | Kathy Cobbs/Jack Cobbs |
| 11 - 8:00 am | Ed Hill |
| 10:00 am | Larry Way/Helen Warner |
| 18 - 8:00 am | Marsha Hill |
| 10:00 am | K. DiBattista/Karen Kreider |
| 25 - 8:00 am | Ed Hill |
| 10:00 am | Dodi Kearns/Marie Kearns |

Counters

04—Bailey/Borst
 11 - Garone
 18 - Wilson
 25 - Dell/Volunteer



Crucifer/Server

04—Paul Exley
 11— TBD
 18— Bill Hummer
 25 – TBD

Ushers

Cindy Lind/Linda Print

Valley Forge Deanery Plenary Minutes—St. Peter's Phoenixville, 26 October 2016

| PARISH | Clergy present | Lay present |
|--|----------------|-------------|
| All Saints', Norristown | 2 | 2 |
| Calvary Church, Conshohocken | - | - |
| Christ Church, Old Swedes | - | - |
| Christ Church, Pottstown | 1 | 1 |
| Church of St. Augustine of Hippo, Norristown | - | - |
| Church of St. Jude and the Nativity, Lafayette Hill | 1 | 1 |
| Church of the Epiphany, Royersford | 1 | 1 |
| Church of the Holy Spirit, Harleysville | 2 | 2 |
| St. Dismas Mission Congregation St James Kingessing | 1 | - |
| St. James Church, Collegeville | - | 2 |
| St. Paul's Church, Oaks | - | - |
| St. Peter's Church, Phoenixville | 2 | 3 |
| Trinity Church, Gulph Mills | 2 | - |
| Washington Memorial Chapel | 1 | 1 |

Following Eucharist, Rev. Andonian opened the meeting at 8:00 pm with a prayer.

The minutes of the April 27, 2016 Plenary meeting were accepted.

Reports:

- Deanery picnic at St. Jude's: A very successful event with over 100 attending. All parishes represented in the labyrinth with a stone. Even with some rainy weather, the evening was enjoyed by all, capped by a synopsis of parish ministries.
- 9/11 memorial service at the Washington chapel: A full church of over 200 attending with good representation of clergy. Rev. Kruger's report was distributed to members.
- Deanery visits by Bishop Gutierrez: Most parishes have had a visit with the bishop, and the remaining ones are on schedule. All appreciated the time spent with the bishop and his support.
- Graterford prison ministry: Rev. George Master's sermon during the service gave an overview of his ministry at the prison, and additional questions from deanery were answered during the business meeting. He asked for our prayers in support of this ministry. Consideration was mentioned to provide 5 common English bibles for the prison.
- St. John's Norristown prayer services: to satisfy tax-exempt status, Deacon Dennis Coleman leads a monthly noonday prayer service.
- Deanery parish booklet: Two copies of the booklet prepared by Rev. Caslin were given to each parish.
- DIOPA Deanery Calendar: website to view and update: <http://www.diopa.org/deanery-calendar>

Diocesan Convention – November 4-5, 2016

- Cyril Burke of All Saints Norristown volunteered and was approved as diocesan delegate for a 3 year term.

Open Issue:

- Christ Church Pottstown is accepting applications for church treasurer.

There being no further business, the meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Retta Sparano, Dean's Warden

FROM THE BOOKSHELF DECEMBER 2016

As has been said, all good things must come to an end and so has another year of interesting and varied reading from our bookshelf. We commenced the year with our classic selection *Far from the Madding Crowd* by Thomas Hardy and concluded our annual literary sojourn with an Agatha Christie creation *Hercule Poirot's Christmas*. And between the beginning and the end we were exposed to numerous works of a varied nature, from recipes from one's life to another way of viewing and regarding Judas and back again. And in between, oh what reading adventures we had.

Yes, another fruitful year has come to a conclusion and we shall celebrate that event with our annual meeting of sorts in December with selecting what paths we shall take in 2017. And, of course, we will enjoy our Christmas social (Saturday, December 3rd, 9:30 a.m.). And so our eleventh year at Epiphany concludes. If there is anyone out there who may have been pondering possibly becoming a part of our group, the beginning of a new year would be an excellent time to come on board and lend our expertise and repartee to our gatherings. Contact Bill Hummer or Genny Aitken for information.

Perhaps the best way to bring our communications to a close for this year is for all of us to recall what is considered by many to be the greatest story ever told, and that is the story of the coming of the Christ Child and what that gift from God has portended for all of us and, indeed, for all of humanity. It is not for us of the book club to undertake a consideration of all the probabilities of that thought process, but rather to leave that activity to each individual. In any event, the book club offers its best wishes to all for a blessed Christmas and a happy, healthy, and prosperous New Year. See you in 2017.

December 3—Select our reading for 2017 and Christmas social

Music Notes – December 2016

There are many opportunities in the month of December to hear our musicians at work:

- December 11—our Music Sunday. An Advent Cantata “Winter Rose” will be offered by the Adult Choir, and the Hand Bell Choir will ring a beautiful prelude.
- December 17—Lori Exley's ordination. Both music groups will offer anthems and hymns of tried and true favorites.
- December 24—Two services at 6:30 pm and 9:00 pm welcome the Christ Child.

So throughout the month of December, our Adult Choir continues to meet for extra rehearsals on the Christmas Cantata on Sunday mornings at 9:15 a.m. and Thursday evenings at 7:30 p.m. including some extra rehearsals. The choir is working very hard! Please be sure to come to church on December 11th as the Choir and Hand Bells “Sing and Ring in the Season of Advent!”

If you or someone you know is interested in participating musically and offering your talents to God:
Adult Choir—Thursdays from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m., and on Sundays until Christmas at 9:15 a.m.

Hand Bells—Rehearse right after coffee hour in the sanctuary

Please pray about joining us! We have fun and fellowship at every rehearsal. Reading music is not a requirement.

Make music for the Glory of God – Join a Choir!

ANNUAL REPORTS ARE DUE BY DECEMBER 15, 2016

Yes, it's that time of year again . . . So that the document containing all the reports for **Epiphany's Annual Meeting on January 22, 2017** can be published and distributed by January 8, 2017, **the vestry asks that the following reports be sent to annualreports@epiphanystar.net no later than December 15, 2016.**

Below is a list of submitted reports from last year. If you did last year's report, but someone new has taken over your duties, please explain the preparation of the report to your replacement and ask that they complete it. Apologies if we forgot a group—please submit a report!

If you have questions, please email Kathy Cobbs or Paul Exley. Thank you so much for your cooperation.

Rector's Report

Vestry Liasons

Rector's Warden
Christian Formation
Accounting Warden's Report & 2017 Budget
Annual Giving Campaign
Property
Communications
Outreach
Fundraising
Community & Affiliate Groups (+ Nursery School)

Worship

Acolyte Guild
Music (Adult Choir & Bell Choir)
Flowers & Greens
Altar Guild
Counters
Greeters
Eucharistic Ministers
Lectors
Ushers
Worship Committee
Prayer Chain

Other

Epiphany Book Club
Coffee Hour
Women of Epiphany & WoE Treasurer's Report
Scrip Program
Diocesan Convention



*God willing and the people consenting
The Rt. Rev. Daniel G. P. Gutierrez
XVI Bishop of The Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania*

*will ordain
Lori Tucker Exley*

*to the Sacred Order of Priests
in Christ's One Holy Catholic
and Apostolic Church on*

*Saturday, December 17, 2016
Ten o'clock in the morning at*

*Church of the Epiphany, Royersford
209 South Third Avenue
Royersford, Pennsylvania 19468*

Your prayers and presence are requested.

Reception to follow

The color of the day is white