



JANUARY 2025



THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH
OF THE EPIPHANY

*The mission of the Church of the Epiphany is to offer a home to all
those who are seeking God's unconditional love.*



From the Vicar

I pray that everyone had a joyous Christmas celebration with family and friends. As you know, the Twelve Days of Christmas began on the 25th and continues until January 5. Thankfully, most of us don't follow the extravagant ole English custom of giving our loved ones a gift on each of the 12 days (after all, who has room for seven swans a swimming, much less 12 drummers drumming)!

However, the Church of the Epiphany will receive a gift on the 12th day of Christmas, for that will be the day our bishop will make his annual visit. As part of his official duties, Bishop Russell Kendrick will be confirming/receiving four candidates during the service on Sunday, January 5 (which I'm also calling The Eve of the Day of Epiphany, although liturgically it's the Second Sunday after Christmas).

The day begins with the bishop hosting a forum at 9 a.m., which is open to any and all members of the congregation. However, the bishop especially would like the four people who will be confirmed or received into the Episcopal Church. These include Melanie East, Hugh and Sarah Kent, and Elaine Mantle, all of whom who have been active in our congregation for months.

Confirmation is one of the seven sacraments of the Episcopal Church. As a reminder, a sacrament is the outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual grace. In the case of confirmation (as well as reception), the outward and visible sign is the bishop placing his hands on each person being confirmed or received.

For those of you who were confirmed many years ago (like me, who was confirmed 60 years ago!) and don't remember the details, the sacrament of Confirmation originated in the tradition of those attaining the age of consent to affirm the baptismal covenant that was made for them by their parents and godparents at their infant baptisms. The age of consent two thousand years ago, when Christian traditions developed, was 12 years old. In our diocese, this age is now 16 years old.

Some of you may remember a time in the Episcopal Church when one could not receive Holy Communion until they were confirmed. This changed in the 20th century when this requirement was removed. Another relatively recent change (recent in the Episcopal sense being within the last few centuries) was the addition of reception into the Episcopal Church. Those who have made an adult affirmation of their baptism (regardless of their age when baptized) in another Christian denomination can be received into the Episcopal Church by the bishop, with all the sacramental authority as Confirmation.

With the change in the Confirmation requirement for receiving Holy Communion, one might ask, "Why bother with being confirmed?"

I want to emphasize that all are welcome in the Episcopal Church, regardless of whether they are confirmed, received or even baptized. Anyone who regularly attends a church is considered a member of the congregation, and anyone who regularly receives Holy Communion is considered a communicant of the church. In each case, they are recorded in the official Parish Register.

However, to be what one might call a full member of the Episcopal Church, with the right to vote at the annual parish meeting, serve on the vestry and as an officer of the church, and represent the congregation at diocesan conventions and other meetings.

One of my responsibilities as your priest is to counsel new members of the congregation in these matters. I try to make it clear that they are under no requirement to be confirmed, and if they choose not to do so they can still take part in all the activities of parish life (except the governing part referenced above). We have had and continue to have members who are not confirmed to serve as lectors, sing in the choir, be involved in our outreach ministries and, of course, join in all our fellowship events.

An often-overlooked administrative responsibility of priests-in-charge is letters of transfer. As anyone who is a confirmed member of a different Episcopal congregation can move this membership to another congregation if they move to a new community, since being confirmed in one Episcopal church means one is confirmed in the entire Episcopal Church. (It's like our view on baptism, once is enough, because it was done right the first time.)

If someone would like to “move their letter,” the priest-in-charge (or in the absence of a priest, the senior warden) may request a “letter of transfer” from their former parish. The priest-in-charge at that congregation responds that they are in “good standing” and the membership is transferred.

In the last half of 2024, Epiphany received Letters of Transfer for six members, Sam, Emily and Elinor (Ellie) Sewall, Charlotte Boutwell, and Bobby and Joan Stark. All have become valued members of our congregation.

With these additions and the four who will be confirmed/received by the bishop, our rolls have increased by almost 25 percent! With the return of several members who had been absent due to moving away and then moving back to the area, as well as health or other issues, the Church of the Epiphany continues to expand God's kingdom. Hallelujah and Amen.

Father David+

UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS



New Year's Eve Bash: Boots & Bling

December 31, 2024 - January 1, 2025 8:00 PM - 12:00 AM

Downtown, Main Street Crestview

Get ready to kick off the new year in style with our "Boots & Bling" theme! Join us this New Year's Eve for the perfect night to end the year, featuring the Below Alabama band. Admission is FREE! Enjoy delicious food from local food trucks, refreshing adult beverages, and an amazing fireworks display. Put on your favorite boots and bling, and let's party into the new year together!



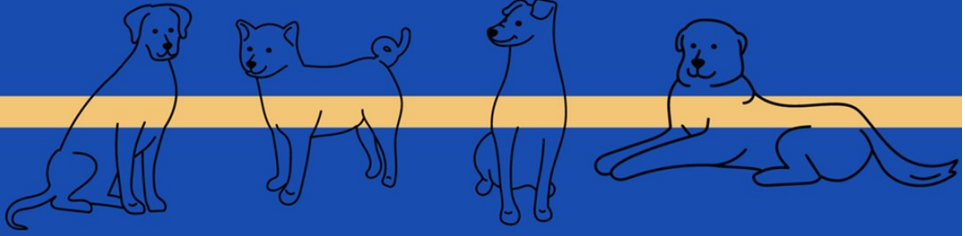
Join us at Eagle's Nest for an unforgettable New Year's Eve celebration! We ring in 2025 in style, we want YOU to be a part of it. Come dressed as your favorite moment from 2024. The most memorable costume will receive a prize! Entry to our NYE Bash is free and family friendly! A delicious all you can eat banquet will be available for purchase! Paradise Vale will be putting on an incredible show to get you hyped for 2025! We'll bid 2024 goodbye with an INCREDIBLE fireworks show!



Mark your calendars for our first Food Truck Friday of the year on January 3, 2024, from 4:30 to 9:00 p.m. on Main Street! Every first Friday of the month, we're bringing the tastiest local food trucks downtown. Gather your friends and family for an evening filled with mouthwatering eats, vibrant community vibes, and loads of fun! Whether you're craving savory bites or sweet treats, there will be something for everyone!



Crestview Animal Services



Hello Neighbors, Crestview Animal Services has gone through some changes and is now open EVERY SATURDAY from 8:30 to 11:30 (I am pretty sure these are the new hours). All adoption fees are waived. Please consider adopting a new friend from this shelter and giving them a home for Christmas and the New Year! They also can always use comforters and blankets, so nobody has to sleep on the cold concrete. Thanks so much for considering and Merry Christmas to all!



News from Around the Diocese

Becoming Beloved Community

7:30 am Light breakfast and check-in
8:00 am Workshop begins
Lunch provided. If you have dietary restrictions or accessibility needs, please let us know ASAP, so that we can make accommodations.
Questions? Contact Joe McDaniel at (415) 225-9966 or at modan1pe43@yahoo.com

Racial Reconciliation Sacred Conversations

Saturday, January 11, 2025
7:30 am - 4:30 pm
Christ Church Episcopal Cathedral
115 South Conception Street, Mobile, AL 36602
Register by 1/6 at <https://lingurl.com/4staj3dz> or scan QR code



Join us for a workshop that will provide insights into the causes and effects of racism. We explore unconscious bias, prejudice, white privilege, and ways to work together to Become the Beloved Community. This offering is required for those in parish leadership (such as vestries) and at the diocesan level (including serving on commissions, committees, agencies, or boards). It also qualifies for eight hours of clergy training/education for those who complete the full-day course. There is no fee to participate, but it requires the commitment to be engaged for the full day. Limited to not more than 30 participants, but we must have at least 12 registrants to hold the workshop.



Becoming Beloved Community: Racial Reconciliation Sacred Conversations. Saturday, January 11, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Christ Church Cathedral, 115 S Conception St, Mobile

Join us for a workshop that will provide insights into the causes and effects of racism. We explore unconscious bias, prejudice, white privilege, and ways to work together to Become the Beloved Community. This offering is required for those in parish leadership (such as vestries) and at the diocesan level (including serving on commissions, committees, agencies, or boards). It also qualifies for eight hours of clergy training/education for those who complete the full-day course. There is no fee to participate, but it requires the commitment to be engaged for the full day. Limited to not more than 30 participants, but we must have at least 12 registrants to hold the workshop.



Highlights From the December 2024 Vestry Meeting

- The Annual Budget for 2025 was presented to the vestry. Our Pledge income is down but a few members haven't returned their pledge cards yet. We have eighteen pledging units.
- Fr. David reported that Bishop Kendrick will be here on Sunday January 5, 2025 for his annual visit. Four people will be confirmed or received, one new transfer has been received and one more will be forthcoming.
- Senior Warden Tracy reported she is still looking for a sign company. There is a new sign company in town and Fr. David will check it out.
- Junior Warden Phil Phillips gave the Property report, mainly on problems with the Air Conditioning units and thermostats not working properly. He will call a technician to determine what the problem is. He has lots of open projects this year.
- Tracy mentioned the electrical wiring in the Shed not being up to code. Phil will work on getting estimates. When the shed was constructed, it was never intended for use other than storage, and the wiring was not installed properly.
- Tracy and Phil were reelected to serve as Senior and Junior Wardens.
- Charlotte Boutwell was welcomed as new member of the Vestry.
- Two Volunteers are needed to perform the 2023 and 2024 church audits, which are overdue.



Property Report for Month

Several projects that we have been working on for some time are now completed.

A new light fixture has been installed in the ladies restroom to replace the faulty in the first stall.

New LED light fixtures have been installed in St. Joseph Hall replacing three faulty ones.

One of the light fixtures in the shed has been repaired.

The A/C units for the church building have been checked, and are working correctly. The drain lines have been blown out and the thermostats have been reset.

The water heater in the church building was checked out and is working properly. It's thermostat was adjusted.

I am currently working on creating a new list of projects that need attention. If you know of something that needs to be addressed please let me know to be sure I am aware of it.

I will then prioritize the list of projects and get quotes as needed.

If you would like to assist me on a project, please let me know.

- *Maurice Phillips, Junior Warden*



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

January 5 - Second Sunday after Christmas Day

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist and Confirmation with the bishop
followed by Potluck Lunch

January 12 - First Sunday after Epiphany and the Baptism of Jesus Christ

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist followed by Vestry Meeting

January 19 - Second Sunday after the Epiphany

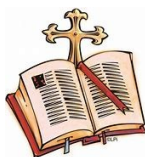
10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist followed by Healing Service

January 26 - Third Sunday after the Epiphany

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

February 2 - Presentation of Our Lord Jesus Christ in the Temple

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist followed by Potluck Lunch



LECTOR SCHEDULE

January 5 - Second Sunday after Christmas Day

1st Reading - Ginny Bauer

2nd Reading - Michele Dennis

January 12 - First Sunday after Epiphany and the Baptism of Jesus Christ

1st Reading -

2nd Reading - Cathy Clothier

January 19 - Second Sunday after the Epiphany

1st Reading - Tracy Kueczynski

2nd Reading - Mary Meehan

January 26 - Presentation of Our Lord Jesus Christ in the Temple

1st Reading - David Bryant

2nd Reading -



The Epiphany

The manifestation of Christ to the peoples of the earth. The winter solstice was kept on Jan. 6 at some places during the first centuries of the Christian Era. In opposition to pagan festivals, Christians chose this day to celebrate the various manifestations, or "epiphanies," of Jesus' divinity. These showings of his divinity included his birth, the coming of the Magi, his baptism, and the Wedding at Cana where he miraculously changed water into wine. The day was called "The Feast of Lights." Celebration of the Son of God replaced celebration of the sun. Baptisms were done, and a season of preparation was instituted. It was later called Advent.

The solstice was kept on Dec. 25 by the fourth century. Jesus' birth was celebrated on this day in both eastern and western churches. The western church commemorated the coming of the Magi on Jan. 6. The eastern church continued to celebrate the Baptism of our Lord and the Wedding at Cana on Jan. 6. In the east the day was called "Theophany" (manifestation of God).

The coming of the Magi is celebrated on the Feast of the Epiphany, Jan. 6, in the BCP. The Baptism of our Lord is celebrated on the First Sunday after the Epiphany.

<https://www.episcopalchurch.org/glossary/epiphany-the/>

ETIPHANY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Jacob Walters Jan 8th
Mary Meehan Jan 11th



No Anniversaries this month



Parish News

ADVENT CALENDAR FOOD DRIVE



The Advent food drive to benefit the Helping Hands Homeless Shelter was a huge success!

We delivered over 100 pounds of food, socks and underwear, and toiletry items to the shelter.



Thank you to all our wonderful parishioners who participated in our Advent readings and food gathering. The response was wonderful.

A special thank you to the Starks, Joan and Bobby, for organizing the event and delivering it to the shelter.



EPIPHANY'S FAVORITE RECIPES

Spicy Ginger Pickles *by Ginny Bauer*

Ingredients:

- 1 ½ Cups Rice Vinegar
- 1 ½ Cups Water
- ¼ Cup Sugar
- 4 tsp Kosher Salt
- ½ English Cucumber, thinly sliced
- 1 Small White Onion, thinly sliced into rounds
- 1 Jalapeno Pepper, thinly sliced
- 2 tsp Ginger, peeled and thinly sliced then chopped

Directions:

- 1) In a small saucepan, combine the vinegar, water, sugar and salt and bring to a boil, stirring until the sugar and salt dissolve.
- 2) In a medium glass bowl, combine the cucumber, onion, jalapeno, and ginger. Pour the vinegar mixture over the cucumber mixture and gently press to help submerge it. As the mixture cools, the vegetables will soften and completely submerge.
- 3) Refrigerate, uncovered, for at least 1 hour or until completely cooled.



Please remember in your prayers:

Adley Hipwell, Amanda & Jacob White, Amanda Spradlin,
Amy & Anthony Lehatto, Barbara Murrell, Betty Schwartzkopf,
Bill Jones, Brenda Faulkner, Debra Evans, Dennis Jackson,
Donna Andrews, Florie Angelini, Janice Tyler, Jeff Evans,
Judy Tinsley, Julie Hill, Kei'Mari Martin, Kim Sung Ki,
Mary Meehan, Maureen Marcotte, Michael Mazzerat,
Marilyn "Missy" Jones, Nancy Delierre, Paul House, Phyllis Alles,
Steve & Buni O'Brien, Sybil King, Tara Colondres, and Terry Algood

The Episcopal Church of the Epiphany

424 Garden Street

Crestview, Florida 32536