



DECEMBER 2024



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



Happy New Year!

This month, we begin a new liturgical year with the season of Advent. The four weeks of Advent begins Sunday, December 1, and runs through the daylight hours of December 24. Of course, Christmas Eve is celebrated that evening, followed by Christmas Day on the 25th.

Advent is a season during which we reverently prepare for the liturgical arrival of our Savior Jesus Christ. While we don't know the actual date of the birth of the baby Jesus, early Christians began to celebrate his nativity on December 25. It is believed that the reason for selecting this date is based upon the winter solstice, after which the daylight stays with us longer each following day. This symbolizes the coming of the Christ child bringing light into the darkness of the world.

This month is also the time the Church of the Epiphany holds its annual meeting. Not a liturgical date on the calendar, but an important one, nonetheless. In the Episcopal Church, each parish and mission church has an annual meeting, usually this time of year, to attend to the business of the church. Ours is scheduled for Sunday, December 8.

At the annual meeting, every eligible member of the congregation has a voice and vote. Those entitled to vote are defined in the canons (by-laws) of the diocese:

CANON 18: PARISH MEETINGS Section 4. Except when otherwise specified by existing charter, those entitled to vote shall be confirmed Communicants in good standing of not less than sixteen (16) years of age who are canonically resident as of the first day of the month in which the meeting is held. The qualified voters present shall constitute a quorum.

The business of the annual meeting includes the election of a secretary for the meeting; reports by the priest-in-charge, treasurer, and other leaders of the congregation; election of vestry members and officers; election of delegates to the diocesan convention; and any other business that an eligible member wishes to present. Any amendments to the church by-laws may be presented, discussed and approved or disapproved by a majority of those eligible to vote.

Anyone eligible to vote may be elected to the vestry, as an officer, and as a convention delegate. A person may be elected to multiple positions (i.e., a vestry member can also be elected as the treasurer or clerk of the vestry, as well as a delegate). The Epiphany by-laws state that three of the six vestry members are elected every year for a two-year term. A vestry member may be reelected once, but then must remain off the vestry for two years after serving two full terms.

This month, we are also offering an Inquirers Class for anyone interested in learning more about the Episcopal Church, especially those not yet a member of the Episcopal Church. These classes are important for those wishing to be confirmed or received when Bishop Russell Kendrick comes for his annual visit on January 5.

So, December is a busy month here at the Church of the Epiphany. Advent and Christmas, the annual parish meeting, preparing for the bishop's visit, in addition to all the regular activities happening here. But that's a good thing. It shows that the Church of the Epiphany is alive and well!

Not only that, but we are growing. Our average Sunday attendance this year is about 10 percent higher than every year since CoVid. And this number has been growing over the last few months.

Part of this is due to the addition of new members moving into the area and transferring from other Episcopal parishes, but we have also welcomed many visitors seeking a new church home.

We may have as many as nine communicants being either confirmed or received by the bishop when he comes next month. You have to go all the way back to 2004 to find a confirmation class larger than even four members!

More importantly, parishioners are becoming more involved in the ministries and other activities of the church. We have increased the number of Lay Eucharist Ministers and lay readers. New ideas are coming forth to get people even more involved.

Indeed, we are alive and well. That's something to celebrate!

Father David+

UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS



Santa's Workshop will be the theme for this year's Christmas Parade. We will keep the community up to date on all information regarding parade route changes that may need to be facilitated due to construction on Main Street.

Gather your family and friends for this spectacular winter extravaganza. Let's spread the joy of the season together!



Merry Christmas, Crestview! Come celebrate with The Crestview Market at our 1st Christmas Party!

This party is open to all of our amazing vendors, friends and families.

You can enjoy

- Hot Chocolate
- Food Truck
- Music
- Games
- Good Times

A Letter from Presiding Bishop Sean Rowe on the U.S. presidential election

Dear People of God in The Episcopal Church,

Early this morning, we learned that President Trump has been elected to another term as president of the United States. I pray that he will govern wisely and justly.

Regardless of our political allegiances, we must remember that God has called us in The Episcopal Church to seek and serve Christ in all persons. No matter the party in power, we are one church, and we will continue to fulfill our baptismal covenant by proclaiming in word and example the Good News of God in Christ, striving for justice and peace among all people, and protecting the dignity of every human being.

We commit to working with the new administration to advance policies that follow the teachings of Jesus by supporting the most vulnerable among us. Through Episcopal Migration Ministries, we abide by God's command to welcome the stranger, and since 1988, we have resettled more than 100,000 refugees through a bipartisan program with a strong record of success. We urge President Trump and members of Congress to exercise compassion toward the immigrants, asylum seekers, and refugees we serve and to know that, at every turn, we will stand for the dignity and human rights of all of God's people.

We are Christians who support the dignity, safety, and equality of women and LGBTQ+ people as an expression of our faith. I pray that President Trump and his administration will do the same.

In the coming months, I ask us all to be agents of peace and reconciliation in our communities, both in person and online. As people of faith, we can work and pray for peace and unity among God's people whether we are joyful, hurting, or afraid. Especially now, when we know of efforts by domestic terrorists and foreign adversaries to undermine our trust in institutions and in one another, we can combat the misinformation and fear by which the Enemy seeks to divide us from one another.

I give thanks for all the ministries in dioceses and congregations across the church that are tangible expressions of our belief in a God of compassion and mercy. In every season, this is the work that God has set before us.



The Most Rev. Sean W. Rowe
Presiding Bishop of The Episcopal Church

November 6, 2024

The monthly Vestry meeting was held on Sunday November 10th.

Treasurer Laura Hill reported receiving 10 pledge cards so far, compared to 17 last year. The campaign continues until Thanksgiving week.

A motion passed unanimously to hold the Annual Parish Meeting on Sunday, December 8 and move the December vestry meeting to December 15.

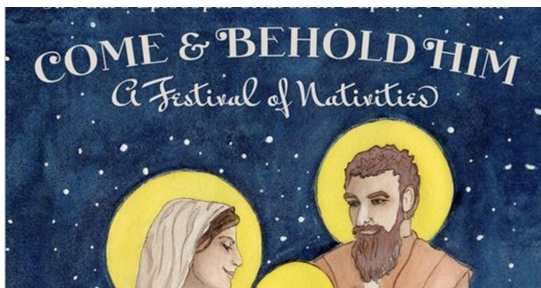
Fr. David reminded the vestry that the two-year terms for three people on the vestry end this year. Two of those vestry members have served two terms, so they are ineligible to run for reelection this year, but one had filled a vacancy, so was eligible to run for reelection. We will need at least two new members to be elected to the vestry at the annual parish meeting.

A motion passed unanimously on a proposal from Joan Stark, one of our new members, to have an Advent calendar food drive.

The thank you card recipient for the month will go to Mike Mazzerat, who saved the church \$100 by trimming the shrubs and other yardwork.



News from Around the Diocese



Come & Behold Him: A Festival of Nativities

Dec 06-09, 2024, 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM

St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 28788 N Main St, Daphne, AL

Celebrate the season of Advent with an exhibit of over 100 nativities from around the world. The event is free, and everyone is welcome. December 6 and 7, 10 am-4 pm, and December 8, 9 am-3 pm.



Property Report for Month

Work continues on several projects.

The dumpster across Garden Street from the church you will notice is finally cleaned up. The junk people dumped next to dumpster has been hauled away, and the Teacher's Federal Credit Union, the owners of the dumpster, has had the dumpster moved out in the open where hopefully people won't dump their large trash around it anymore.

The light fixture in the handicap stall of the ladies room still needs to be replaced as well as one of the light fixtures in the storage shed.

The bushes and around the edge of the property has all been trimmed and neatened up. The crepe myrtles around the patio, still need attention.

The project for the clean up and placement of the Doreen Adams memorial fountain is still in the works. Some of you may remember her as a long-time parishioner. One idea would be to locate it in the middle of the patio, but electric would have to be run for the pump.

Tracy Kueczynski is still working on the signs project. Nothing new on this or from Signs Galore. It has also been suggested that we get a sign with an electronic marquee to show coming events.

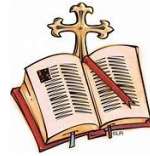
- *Maurice Phillips, Junior Warden*

WORSHIP SCHEDULE



- December 1 — First Sunday of Advent
10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist followed by Potluck Lunch
- December 8 — Second Sunday of Advent
10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist followed Annual Parish Meeting
- December 15 — Third Sunday of Advent
10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist followed by Vestry Meeting & Inquirers Class
- December 22 — Fourth Sunday of Advent
10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist followed by Healing Service & Inquirers Class
- December 24 — Christmas Eve Service
5:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist
- December 25 — Christmas Day service
10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist
- December 29 — First Sunday after Christmas
10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist followed by & Inquirers Class
- January 5 — First Sunday of Epiphany
10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist with the Bishop followed by Potluck Lunch

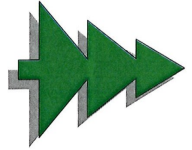
LECTOR SCHEDULE



- December 1 — First Sunday of Advent
1st Reading - Mary Meehan
2nd Reading - Tracy Kueczynski
- December 8 — Second Sunday of Advent
1st Reading - Hugh Kent
2nd Reading - Michele Dennis
- December 15 — Third Sunday of Advent
1st Reading - Sarah Kent
2nd Reading - Cathy Clothier
- December 22 — Fourth Sunday of Advent
1st Reading - Sam Sewell
2nd Reading - Michele Dennis
- December 24 — Christmas Eve
1st Reading - Hugh Kent
2nd Reading - Sarah Kent
- December 25 — Christmas Day
1st Reading - Ginny Bauer
2nd Reading -
- December 29 — First Sunday after Christmas
1st Reading - Missy Jones
2nd Reading -

Advent Giving Calendar

Please pick up an Advent Calendar and a cardboard box in the parish hall to begin collecting items during Advent for those less fortunate. It is set up so that each day in Advent you would add one more thing the box and do a reading for that day. The readings are listed on the back of the calendar. On Sunday December 22nd, the last Sunday in Advent, you bring you box to church where the items in all the boxes will be sorted and delivered the next day.



Each day add an item to the box. Read the Bible verse and pray for others.

Advent 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 HOPE Box of Cereal <i>Psalm 31:24</i>	2 Peanut Butter <i>Isaiah 40:31</i>	3 Stuffing Mix <i>Ephesians 1:18</i>	4 Boxed Potatoes <i>Romans 15:13</i>	5 Macaroni & Cheese <i>Psalm 119:114</i>	6 Canned Fruit <i>Hebrews 10:23</i>	7 Canned Tomatoes <i>Psalm 130:5</i>
8 PEACE Canned Tuna <i>Ephesians 2:17</i>	9 Dessert Mix <i>Colossians 3:15</i>	10 Applesauce <i>2 Thessalonians 3:16</i>	11 Canned Sweet Potatoes <i>John 14:27</i>	12 Cranberry Sauce <i>Jude 1:2</i>	13 Canned Beans <i>James 3:18</i>	14 Box of Crackers <i>Isaiah 26:12</i>
15 JOY Package of Rice <i>John 15:11</i>	16 Package of Oatmeal <i>Azcs 13:52</i>	17 Package Pasta <i>Psalm 66:1</i>	18 Spaghetti Sauce <i>Galatians 5:22</i>	19 Chicken Noodle Soup & Tomato Soup <i>Luke 1:14</i>	20 Can Corn <i>Matthew 13:20</i>	21 Can mix Vegetables <i>Luke 1:44</i>
22 LOVE Can Carrots & Can Green Beans <i>1 John 4:16</i>	23 Deliver food to the Shelter <i>John 13:34</i>	24 Christmas Eve <i>2 John 1:6</i>	25 Merry Christmas! <i>John 1:14</i>	26	27	28
29	30	31	Bring your box to church on Sunday, Dec 22nd. We will sort and deliver them on Monday the 23rd.			

EPIPHANY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Kathleen Ansley Dec 7th

Hugh Kent Dec 9th

Nancy Delierre Dec 21st

Charlotte Boutwell Dec 28th



Melanie East Dec 5th

Randy and Ginny Bauer Dec 14th

James and Sharon Lundy Dec 15th

Wayne and Kathleen Ansley Dec 24th



Parish News

Things To Do Offered at Epiphany

Quilting Guild: The Quilting Guild meets in St. Joseph Hall twice a month. The first Tuesday of the month at 5:30 pm as a business meeting and the third Saturday of the month at 9:30 am for sewing and fellowship.

Zumba Class: Zumba is a fitness program that involves cardio and Latin-inspired dance. It is like line dancing but to more Latin sounding music, and also to what some would call the current pop music. The Zumba Class meets every Wednesday at 6:30 pm. The fee for each class is \$5.00 a person.

Body By Grace: This “class” by Charlotte Boutwell will begin Tuesday January 7th at 9 am. It will focus on balance, strength and endurance, to increase functional movement. There will be no fee, but a Love offering to go to the church will be accepted.

Rummage Sale: The church sponsors a monthly rummage sale the last Saturday of each month. We accept donations to sell and would be very grateful for help during the sale not only with selling but welcoming people to the church and talking it up. We also are selling parking spaces to people to purchase to sell their own treasures for \$10.00.

Advent Giving Calendars: Remember to pick up your advent calendar and box in the parish hall. See page 9 for more information about this.

EPIPHANY'S FAVORITE RECIPES

Butternut Cranberry Delight *by Celia Broadhead*

Ingredients:

- 1 ½ lb. Butternut Squash (peeled, seeded, and cut into 1" cubes)
- 2 Baking Apples Granny Smith or Gala (peeled and cut into ½" cubes)
- ½ Cup Cranberries (fresh or frozen - fresh preferred)

For the Topping:

- ½ Cup Brown Sugar
- 1 tbsp Flour
- 1 tsp Salt
- ¼ tsp Nutmeg
- ¼ tsp Cinnamon
- ¼ Cup Butter (melted)
- ¼ Cup Pecans (chopped)



Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 350°.
2. Place squash in an ungreased 9" x 13" pan and bake for 30 minutes.
3. In a bowl, combine the brown sugar, flour, salt, nutmeg, and cinnamon.
4. Remove the pan from the oven; add the apples and cranberries.
5. Sprinkle sugar mixture over the top and drizzle with the butter.
6. Bake for 30 minutes.
7. Toast the pecans in a skillet over medium heat for about 8 minutes, stirring occasionally.
8. Sprinkle the pecans over the dish before serving.

Please remember in your prayers:

Addice Thomas, Adley Hipwell, Amanda & Jacob White,
Amanda Spradlin, Amy & Anthony Lehatto, Barbara Murrell,
Betty Schwartzkopf, Bill Jones, Brenda Faulkner, Cindy Duffy,
Debra Evans, Dennis Jackson, Donna Andrews, Ellie Sewell,
Florie Angelini, Hugh Kent ,Janice Tyler, Jeff Evans, Judy Tinsley,
Julie Hill, Kei’Mari Martin, Kim Sung Ki, Lynn Smith, Mary Meehan,
Maureen Marcotte, Michael Mazzerat, Marilyn “Missy” Jones,
Nancy Delierre, Phyllis Alles, Sharon Lundy, Steve & Buni O’Brien,
Steve Haskew, Sybil King, Tara Colondres, and Terry Algood

The Episcopal Church of the Epiphany

424 Garden Street

Crestview, Florida 32536