

St. George's Episcopal Church

Uniting in Worship.

Welcoming in Grace.



5224 Minnetonka Blvd. • Saint Louis Park, MN 55416 • 952.926.1646 • info@stgeorgesonline.org

St. George's Episcopal Church

www.StGeorgesonline.org

December 2010

This is a free publication for members and friends

Volume 16, No. 11

WHAT ARE WE WAITING FOR?

By Fr. Paul Allick

This Season of Advent we will be practicing waiting. We will be hearing songs scriptures and prayers which will remind us how to wait for Jesus. It will be a twofold waiting: we are reliving the waiting for Christ's first advent at his human birth and awaiting his second advent in his coming again in glory.



There is a lot of noise in our culture about his second advent. There are books and movies that tell all about how this all will happen. These theories and stories can cause us some fear and stress. Will I be ready when Jesus returns? How will I be judged? This type of theology creates an anxious waiting; we try to determine and control the outcome. But Jesus has never called us to a fretful waiting for his coming among us. He calls us to peace. So we should not let ourselves get caught up in any pop culture images of the "end times." Instead we should enter into the Holy Scriptures with Mother Church. We come as a whole community hoping in God's Holy Word, not using it as a threat against humanity or as verbal bludgeon on our own souls.

St. Augustine of Hippo has some good advice about this waiting on Jesus' arrival. In a commentary on the Psalms he wrote, "He has come the first time, and he will come again...Let us not resist his first coming, so

that we may not dread the second." In other words, if we have really received Christ in this time of his first advent we have nothing to fear in his second. Our role is not to predict exactly how and when all time will come to an end. Our role is to be strong, loving and wise disciples; to follow Christ so intently and carefully that it will not matter what is to come. All that matters for us in our relationship with Christ is already here because he is already among us. He is among us through the ministry of the Church in Word and Sacrament. His is among us in our love and prayers for each other. He is among us in our relationships and especially in our Christian fellowship.

St. Augustine continues, "If you wish to receive mercy, be merciful before he comes; forgive what has been done against you; give of your abundance." When we walk with Christ in sincerity we won't become perfect but we will gain wisdom and we will grow in love.

Let us take this season of Advent as one more opportunity to invite Christ deep into our hearts. At this first advent we are receiving his presence in the gurgling, wiggly, smiling, screeching joy of an infant. Invite him in at his first advent so that at his next we will be ready to rise with Him.

Reference to St. Augustine: *Liturgy of the Hours, Volume IV*
(pp. 534-36)
Catholic Book Publishing Corp 1975

WARDEN'S CORNER

BUDGET FOR 2011

The Finance Committee and Vestry have been looking at the budget for 2011. If the pledges come through at the proposed increase of 5% (they are tracking in this direction but all pledges have not yet been turned in as I am writing this article), we are projecting a small deficit budget (about \$2,500) for 2011. The major changes in other income and expenses that comprise the preliminary budget are as follows:

- There are modest increases in the lease money we receive from Darchei Noam and Little Flowers Montessori School.
- Expenses
 - There will be modest increases for our priest and lay staff.
 - An increase from \$3,275 to \$8,000 for the annual music budget. Note that the 2009 budget for music was only \$500. The significantly higher music budget allows for paid musicians to supplement our volunteer choir and for special things like the bagpiper. We continue to hear from many people, including visitors, the quality and importance of our music program.
 - Our contribution to the Episcopal Church in Minnesota (now called Mission & Ministry Support) is increasing by over \$2,000 per year.
 - We no longer have a staffed nursery, so that expense of \$1,620 per year was removed.
 - We used some dedicated accounts to pay off the alley assessment. That saves us \$1,200 per year.
 - Costs in several other areas are increasing—office expenses, repairs and upkeep, janitorial service and grounds maintenance.

Please speak to any member of the Finance Committee (Ron Holbach, Bruce Becker, John Carlson, Tom Harmon or me) or Vestry if you have input in regard to the budget. We expect the final budget will be approved by the Vestry at their December 20th meeting.

EDUCATION CORNER

By Heather Whitesell



Sunday School

The children have been talking about the message in the Apostle's Creed and what it means to them. Be sure to take a look at the bulletin board in the parish hall to see their interpretations of "life everlasting." We have also been exploring the significance of psalms. The children had fun reciting Psalm 98 to music and making their own musical instruments.

Children's Chapel

The children have been generating some lively discussions around the Gospels. We follow a "mini service" schedule which allows them to learn about the Gospel in a child friendly way. There is also time for prayer where we pray for others and they may add their own personal wishes. The children are very thoughtful and introspective during this period of reflection.

Youth News

During Sunday morning meetings we have been discussing the importance of endurance and standing up for what you believe in, no matter what hardships you may face. The kids endured a stare-down, breath-holding and knee-bend competition. It sure made them think about the hardships that Jesus' followers had to put up with!

Confirmation

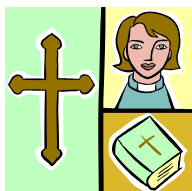
In November, the confirmation class met at St. Alban's parish. We discussed the significance of our names and how it has shaped us. Father John Peters talked about the process of confirmation; why it is important and what to expect at the ceremony itself.



ST. GEORGE'S ADULT EDUCATION

By Father Paul Allick

Sundays 9:15-10:00 a.m.
(Parish Hall)



A Look at the Parish Profile

St. George's Discernment Team spent months listening to the parish, to each other and to the Holy Spirit to create this Profile. It was meant to identify who we are as a parish, what we want to become, and what we wanted/needed in clergy leadership. We will take these three Sundays in Advent to dig deep into the Profile as to live into it.

December 5:

The Parish Profile: People, Priest, & Staff

Who do we say that we are?

What do we want/need in a priest and staff?

December 12:

The Theology and Spirituality of Worship

Why do we worship in the first place?

What kind of worship do we want?

What is liturgy?

Is worship about us or is it about God?

December 19:

The Theology and Spirituality of Hospitality

More than being welcoming and nice, hospitality is a spiritual discipline.

December 26: Christmas Break

January 2:

Youth and Children's Christmas Program

Are we late in our programming? No, we are celebrating the whole 12 Days of Christmas.

WEDDING BELLS



Nicholas Jones, son of Robert and Bonnie Jones, and Nina Staff were married on October 30, 2010 at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Winona, MN. John Stonhouse of St. George's church was one of the readers.

NURSERY NEWS

By Laura Harmon



For the last couple of years we've been staffing the nursery every Sunday. However, the parents who currently have infants and toddlers don't leave them in the nursery during the service. And even with visitors, it's very rare that we have someone utilizing the nursery. We've spoken to several of the parents and have been told that they prefer to have their young children in the service with them.

As the service can be heard in the nursery, the Education Committee recommended to the Vestry that we change the nursery to more of a crying room. The room will still be available before, during and after the Sunday service for children under the age of four.

Parents, please remember to have your children pick up and put away their toys. We do have a cleaning person who vacuums and washes down the tables. However, we don't pay her to pick up toys.

Additionally, please do not use the nursery as a rummage room for old or broken toys and furniture. If you have something you'd like to donate to the nursery, please give Heather Whitesell a call to make sure it's age appropriate.

ST. MARY'S CIRCLE CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

By Camille Schroeder



St. Mary's Circle will have their annual Christmas luncheon on Monday, December 20, 2010, at 12:00 noon. Betty Bauer will be the hostess at her home at 115 Lawn Terrace in Golden Valley. Everyone should bring 6 cookies for the dessert. It is tradition that circle members bring a gift to be given to STEP for their Christmas gift drive, but as the luncheon is after the distribution at STEP this year, we are asking that you participate in the larger church drive for STEP which will conclude on Sunday, December 12th. Please RSVP for the luncheon to Jan Whipple at 952-930-3258.

STEP NEWS

By Camille Schroeder



The **STEP Holiday Food and Gift Drive** is an annual event that provides food for families and gifts for children for the holidays. The event will be held at Peace Presbyterian Church on Cedar Lake Road. Our part in this drive is threefold. First, we can donate money for the food baskets that will be given out to families. Each food basket costs \$25.00 but a contribution of any amount of money is welcome.

Second, we can donate a gift for a child. For children 0 to 11, gifts with a retail price of \$15.00 to \$40.00 are requested. For children 11 to 18, Target gift cards in the amount of \$10.00 are requested. We no longer give small gifts or stocking stuffers, so if you don't want to spend a lot, you can go together with someone to purchase a gift or you can give money with a designation that it be used to purchase a child's gift. We are also asking that you leave the price on the gift. It helps the volunteers as they sort the gifts for distribution.

Thirdly, we can donate our time. The jobs include sorting and distributing the gifts. There are times available the week of Dec. 12th. Distribution is on Friday, Dec. 17th. Please call Kate at 952-925-4899, ext. 14, to sign up. Hope to see you there.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to **STEP** this fall. We have donated 334 pounds of food (which includes 45 bottles of juice) and \$225. This is the count from September 1st until November 15th. We have also contributed grocery bags and egg cartons. For the winter months, we are asked to discontinue bringing egg cartons as STEP does have a backlog and they are not getting as many eggs as they got over the summer. Grocery bags are **ALWAYS** needed and, of course, food and juice. Toilet paper is also high on the need list as food stamps cannot be used for that.

Please remember to bring only non-perishable food. While other food can be distributed, the turn-around time from your house to St. George's to STEP is not always immediate. Thanks for giving and let's continue the effort.

**SECOND SUNDAY/
SECOND OFFERING**

DECEMBER 12 - Juice Sunday/2nd



Offering, all-in-one.

A BIT OF HISTORY

By Camille Schroeder



Way, way back when there was a St. George's Men's Group, one of their money-raising activities was selling Christmas trees. In reading the archives, I found that trees were being sold as early as December 1951. They were sold from the front of the current Christian Education Building.

Prior to that building being there, there was a two-story white house that served as the Sunday school building and the trees were sold from that building. The trees were cut "up north" and trucked down to St. George's. Whether the men of the church cut the trees or not is uncertain. Christmas lights were strung, the trees displayed and the sale was on. The sales were held from Monday thru Saturday with no sales on Sundays. (Times have changed.) The trees were loaded into cars stopped on Minnetonka Boulevard and the sales continued into the 1960s. No doubt many friendships developed among the men who staffed the lot. Stay tuned for the rest of the story.

FINANCIAL UPDATE:

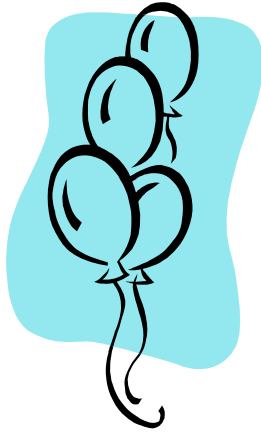
In October, the recent month for which we have completed records as of press time, we had:

Income	\$24,703.98	100% of budget
Expenses	\$28,578.51	96% of budget
Total for month	(\$3,874.53)	
Year to Date	\$1,981.21	
Budgeted year to date	(\$1,335.68)	

Please keep your pledges current to help us into the final month of the year.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Charles Kimber
Al Kotula
- 2 Olivia Seifert
- 3 Zach Johnson
- 4 Charlesetta Kimber
- 5 Lou Michelich
- 10 Paul Allick
- 12 Glennis Williams
Drew Monroe
Laura Harmon
- 13 Karen Hurlbert
- 16 Pamela Moore
- 17 Mari Mejia
- 22 Mark Monroe
Steve Harvala
- 24 Loren Dwyer
- 26 Bob Miller
- 29 Blossom Tsang
- 31 Amelia Smith



DID YOU KNOW?

By *Patty Dittrich*
Parish Administrator



Little Flowers Montessori has been a tenant of St. George's for 20 years. They have classes 5 days a week – 12 months of the year – for ages 15 months to 6 years. They are one of the few Montessori schools in the Twin Cities that are AMI certified.

Darchei Noam has been our tenant for over three years. The Orthodox synagogue started in the basement of a home and needed more room. They approached our Parish Administrator one day about renting space from us, and the rest is history. They have grown and have started a “building fund” to one day have their own building. Darchei Noam meets here several times a week for morning and evening prayer. You will find them here every Friday evening and Saturday for Shabbat services. So, if you are around here on a Saturday, you will likely see lots of activity in the Christian Education Building.

NEW CHURCH DIRECTORIES NOW AVAILABLE



New Directories – We have a new parish directory available for you to pick up on Sunday mornings. If you are not able to pick one up, please call Patty in the parish office and she will mail one out to you. If you have any additions or corrections, please call Patty in the church office and let her know.

Thanks to Camille Schroeder and Carole Leonard for their help with the new directory.

Directory Change:

Yosef Hunter's phone number is incorrect in the new directory. It should be 763-533-2928.

CHILDREN'S STEWARDSHIP ENVELOPES

*“Tell me, I forget.
Show me, I remember.
Involve me, I understand.”*



In January, offering envelopes are available to the children of St. George's in children's chapel. It's important to remember that we do not introduce children's offering envelopes to make money. We introduce children's envelopes to help children learn the joy and responsibility of giving.

The Sunday school teachers will be explaining this to the children during the month of December.

HANGING OF THE GREENS Sunday, December 19th, 11:30 a.m.

By *Randy Egan*



Continuing an immutable St. George's tradition, we invite all interested parties to join with the Altar Guild in decorating the sanctuary for the Christmas festivities.

This year the powers that be have promised to deliver a magnificent poinsettia garden—red and white, and lots of trimmings! Folks with an aesthetic eye and a decorator's flair are especially encouraged to come out.

We will gather after the 10:15 a.m. service, December 19th. We will be fueled by apple cider and seasonal snacks.

NEWS & NOTES FROM THE MUSIC CORNER

By Randy Egan



GRATITUDE TO ST. GEORGE'S MUSICIANS:

As all of us prepare to grapple with the increased tempo of the "holiday season," I am mindful that our St. George's musicians do double the preparatory work for the Advent/Christmas festivities. It is such a privilege to work with our faithful singers and instrumentalists--including the Praise Ensemble under Rosie Michelich's guidance. Our musical folks are so committed! Week in and week out they put forth with such energy and flair--and none of them (us) are spring chickens. They are musical evangelists—true proclaimers of the Good News of Jesus Christ! All of us are blessed by the witness they express through God's gift of music. *"He who sings prays twice."*

"ARTISTS-IN-RESIDENCE":

What is this strange beast?? St. George's has offered this musical hospitality/outreach program for two years now. The congregation generously provides small stipends to nurture and import musical talent--which in turn strengthens the musical and worship life of our faith community. The program has helped St. George's to make new friends in the larger community. St. George's is acquiring a reputation as a place hospitable to "artists," and as a nurturer of the lovely. The blend of volunteer and professional talent has unleashed greater energy and aliveness in our worship life. Just now we have three regular Artists-in-Residence. Two of them travel a fair distance: bass Don Moyer from Center City, and soprano Elizabeth Woolner from Rochester. Don studied at the University of Illinois; Elizabeth is a graduate of the University of Toronto and The Peabody Conservatory (point of interest, her great-aunt, Lucy Maud Montgomery, authored the Canadian classic, *Anne of Green Gables*.) Recently we welcomed St. George's own Ted Eschweiler into the Artists-in-Residence program: he has completed his schooling at St. Olaf College. We are indeed fortunate to have these fine musicians assisting the musical and worship life of St. George's. Likewise, we are grateful to the people of St. George's for their generosity in making the program possible. Music at St. George's is

not merely an expense: it is a ministry of both inreach and outreach.

COMMITTEES AND MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

By Kathie Brown, Parish Warden



One of this fall's adult education series was on gifts discernment. Have you thought about how you might further **work** for the spread of God's kingdom here at St. George's? If everyone took a small part in this, we could get away from burdening a few people with the majority of the work. What I am talking about is being involved beyond ushering, greeting, serving coffee, chalice bearing and reading, which generally take place during regular service times on Sunday or during the coffee hour, when you would normally be here anyway. Of course, these things are important, and all of them fall under the main focuses of St. George's which are worship and hospitality.

However, there are many things that happen outside of Sunday worship times where volunteers are needed; and some of these things also fall under worship and hospitality. In some cases, there are people that have served on committees for many, many years. These people need a break and we need new ideas and input. If you are willing to serve on a committee, we are asking you to commit to just two years. After two years of service, you may go off the committee unless you choose to serve for an additional two years. Currently, there are several committees/ministries looking for new members: Education (Sunday school for children), Finance, Buildings & Grounds, Newcomers, Outreach and the Choir. We will also be looking for a few new Vestry members for 2011. Please speak with Jane Jacobson if you are interested in helping her look further into a group volunteer opportunity (Outreach) with STEP and to Randy Egan about the choir. Please speak with Father Paul, Laura Harmon or me if you have interest in any of the other areas.

Confirmation Schedule – 2010-2011


St. Edward's, St. Alban's, St. George's, St. Nick's

Parents and Confirmands: Please mark your calendars for the confirmation classes listed below:



Date/Time	Topic	Location
September 15 (7-8:30 p.m.)	Why we are here—gathering ourselves together	St. George's St. Louis Park
October 13 (7-8:30 p.m.)	What about Baptism?	St. Edward the Confessor Wayzata
November 10 (7-8:30 p.m.)	What is it about Confirmation?	St. Alban's Edina
December 8 (7-8:30 p.m.)	Why read the Bible?	St. Nicholas' Richfield
January 12 (7-8:30 p.m.)	What's in the Bible anyway?	St. George's St. Louis Park
February 11-12 (Fri.-Sat.) overnight retreat	Ways of praying	St. Edward the Confessor Wayzata
March 16 (Lent)	We plan to participate in the shared Lenten Worship which happens between the churches during the season of Lent	TBD
April 13 (7-8:30 p.m.)	Knowing our history	St. Alban's Edina
May 11 (7-8:30 p.m.)	Wrap up of the year	St. Nicholas' Richfield
Summer 2011 (details to come)	We hope to make a weekend pilgrimage to some significant places that tell the history of the Episcopal church in MN including some stops in the Lower Sioux.	

Calendar of Events –December 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 11:00 a.m. Gospel Based Discipleship (CEB)	2	3 Fr. Allick's day off OFFICE CLOSED	4
5 8:00 am – HE, Rite 1 8:30 a.m. – Choir 9:15 am – Education Hour 10:15 am – HE, Rite II 1-6 pm – Darchei Noam – Parish Hall	6	7	8 11:00 a.m. Gospel Based Discipleship (CEB) 7-8:30 p.m. – Youth Confirmation at St. Nicholas, Richfield	9 6:30 pm – AA(LL)	10 Fr. Allick's day off	11
12 8:00 am – HE, Rite 1 8:30 a.m. – Choir 9:15 am – Education Hour 10:15 am – HE, Rite II 11:30 a.m. – Memory Loss Support Group(LL)	13	14 2:30 pm – Staff Meeting 7 p.m. Finance Committee	15 Newsletter deadline 11:00 a.m. Gospel Based Discipleship (CEB)	16 6:30 pm – AA (LL)	17 Fr. Allick's day off 6:30 p.m. – Youth Group	18
19 8:00 am – HE, Rite 1 8:30 am - Choir 9:15 am - Education for all ages 10:15 am – HE, Rite II 11:30 am Greening of the Church 11:45 am – SS Christmas Gathering – Parish Hall	20 12 noon – St. Mary's Circle Christmas Luncheon @ Betty Bauer's 7:00 pm - Vestry	21	22 11:00 a.m. Gospel Based Discipleship (CEB)	23 6:30 pm – AA (LL)	24 Fr. Allick's day off OFFICE CLOSED 4:00 pm & 10:30 pm Christmas Eve Services	25 10:00 am – Christmas Day Service 
26 8:00 am – HE, Rite 1 10:15 am – HE, Rite II	27	28 2:30 pm – Staff Meeting	29 11:00 a.m. Gospel Based Discipleship (CEB)	30 6:30 pm – AA (LL)	31 Fr. Allick's day off OFFICE CLOSED	

Ministers of the Eucharistic Assembly December 2010

	December 5	December 12	December 19	Christmas Eve December 24 4 p.m. & 10:30 p.m.	Christmas Day December 25 10 a.m.	December 26
Readings	Isaiah 11:1-10 Psalm 72:1-7, 8-19 Romans 15:4-13 Matthew 3:1-12	Isaiah 35:1-10 Psalm 146:4-9 James 5:7-10 Matthew 11:2-11	Isaiah 7:10-16 Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18 Romans 1:1-7 Matthew 1:18-25	Isaiah 9:2-7 Psalm 96 Titus 2:11-14 Luke 2:1-14(15-20)	Isaiah 52:7-10 Psalm 98 Hebrews 1:1-4 (5-12) John 1:1-14	Isaiah 61:10-62:3 Psalm 147:13-21 Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7 John 1:1-18
Chalice	Maraline Keeling Kathie Brown Leslie O'Donnell	Karen Hurlbert Laura Harmon Alan Poulsen	Steve Harvala John Hagerman Eileen Harvala	Help needed Leslie O'Donnell Kathie Brown	Help needed	Maraline Keeling Alan Poulsen Laura Harmon
Lectors	Mary Kuhfeld Maraline Keeling Abby Smith Jeffrey Evans	Karen Hurlbert Nathan Harmon Gale Winikoff	Carole Leonard Steve Harvala Holden Hagerman Marion Miller	Carole Leonard John Stonhouse Kathie Brown	Help needed	Mary Kuhfeld Maraline Keeling Leon Vann Nada Hughes
Greeters	Milt Hill	John & Nancy Taylor	Jim & Jill Burns			TBD
Ushers 8 a.m.	Ron Holbach Ron Erickson	Bob Miller Bruce Becker	Ron Holbach Ron Erickson	Help needed		Bob Miller Bruce Becker
10:15 a.m. Acolyte:	Kitty Reese Bill Stromberg Jade Carlson	Tom Zaun Leon Vann Nathan Harmon	Jane Jacobson Bob Jones Holden Hagerman	TBA		Tom Zaun Leon Vann Abby Smith
Crucifer:	Jacob Carlson			TBA		
Lay Eucharistic Visitors						
Coffee Hour: 8:00 a.m.	Ron Holbach Karen Hurlbert	Holbach Family	Betty Bauer			Carole Leonard Geri Alberg
10:15 a.m.	John & Jane Carlson	Alan & Mary Poulsen	John & Sandy Stonhouse			Bob & Bonnie Jones

**THE MINNETONKA CHORAL SOCIETY PRESENTS:
"This Day" (Hodie) on Sunday, December 12, 2010**

By Marion D. Miller



The Minnetonka Choral Society presents "This Day" (Hodie) on Sunday, December 12, 2010 at 3:00 p.m. at St. Therese of Deephaven, 18323 Minnetonka Blvd. in Deephaven. Orchestra, soloists and chorus will be under the direction of Maestro Jere Lantz. Marion D. Miller of our parish sings in this Chorus.

Hodie, perhaps Ralph Vaughan Williams' greatest masterpiece, unveils the full range of holiday emotions; from the might of a symphony orchestra to the peace of a hushed choir. Tickets are \$15 for adults; \$10 for students 17 and under. You may purchase tickets in advance from Marion D. Miller. Tickets will also be available at the door.

About St. George's

5224 Minnetonka Boulevard
St. Louis Park, MN 55416
952-926-1646

www.StGeorgesOnline.org

Parish staff:

Paul Allick, Rector
Patty Dittrich, Parish Administrator
Heather Whitesell, Children and Youth Coordinator
Randy Egan, Organist/Choirmaster

Priests in Residence:

Mildred Cox
Anne Scheible

Wardens and Vestry:

Rector's Warden: Laura Harmon
Parish Warden: Kathie Brown
Vestry: John Carlson, Jeffrey Evans, Gwen Gysland,
John Hagerman, Mark Kraabel, Mary Weekes,
and Tom Zaub

**Our Mission: Uniting in Worship
Welcoming with Grace**

The **Supper Club's** potluck December get-together will be held on Friday, December 10th, at 6:30 p.m. We will be meeting at Paul and Camille Schroeder's, 23750 Lawtonka Drive in Shorewood. All adults are welcome. All you have to do is call the Schroeder's (952-470-5730) to let them know you're coming and what you will be bringing. Hot dishes, salads, desserts, or hors d'oeuvres are needed. Drinks will be furnished.

In lieu of a white elephant gift exchange, **please bring a gift to donate to STEP** for their holiday gift drive. Suggestions for that are elsewhere in this issue. Come join the fun and enjoy an evening of great food and fellowship.

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CHRISTMAS SERVICES:

Please plan to join us for Christmas Services at St. George's:



December 24th – Christmas Eve:

4:00 p.m. – Family service with Praise Group

10:30 p.m. – Festival Eucharist with Choir and Organ

December 25th – Christmas Day:

10:00 a.m. - Holy Eucharist Rite I



FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY SERVICE: THURSDAY, JANUARY 6 – 7:00 P.M.

Join us on Thursday, January 6, at 7:00 p.m. as we celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany. Watch for more information in the Sunday bulletins.