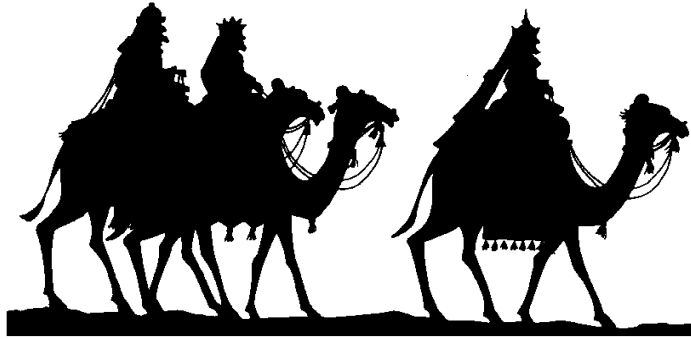


The Parish Post



January 2010

A Word from the Weiss

EPIPHANY AND OLD DOGS

Have you ever heard someone say, “I had an epiphany”? When we say that, we usually mean that we had “a flash of insight”, that we “got” something in a new and unexpected way. For example: *Fr. Chuck had an epiphany, while being tackled during the Turkey Bowl, that he was never going to be 16 years old again.* In the Church, The Epiphany (January 6) is similar. It refers to the “manifestation” or “appearance” of Christ to Gentile people—particularly through the visit of the Wise Men to Bethlehem. At this event, non-Jewish people “got” that the God of Israel actually cares for everyone. This was thousands of years before any legal statements like “We do not discriminate based on race, nationality, creed, gender, age, or sexual orientation”. It was a whole new way of thinking! (And, actually, it took the Early Church some time to get used to; see the little tiff in *The Acts of the Apostles*, chapter 15).

Now...it’s been said that “you can’t teach an old dog new tricks”. I confess that, the older I get, the more set I become in my ways. I can be unnecessarily impressed with myself at times. Epiphany is a season which challenges old dogs like myself. That is—is there some way God might surprise us, with a new way of seeing things, with a “holy flash of insight”?

Along with you on the journey of faith, Fr. Chuck Weiss

ANNUAL MEETING — JANUARY 10

EVERYONE IS STRONGLY ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND OUR ANNUAL MEETING, set for January 10. This meeting will include the following important matters:

- Election of two new Vestry members
- Reports on the Budget and Endowment
- Senior Warden and Committee Reports
- “State of the Parish” Address from the Rector—including a request for your feedback as we explore future plans for St. Thomas.

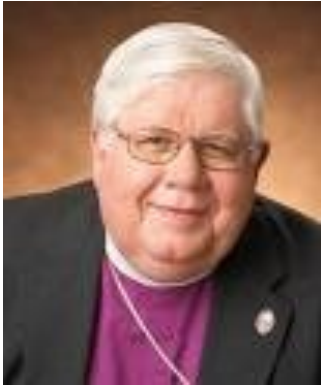
POTLUCK AT ANNUAL MEETING

Because our meeting may run until 12:30 or so, we will break bread together as follows:

- A-H: Casserole/
Main Course
- I-P: Salad/
Vegetable Tray
- Q-Z: Dessert

Thanks for your help!

A Visit from the Bishop!



On Sunday, January 17, Bishop Ken Price will join us for Worship, Fellowship, and Coffee Chat.

During Worship, we will celebrate Rick Banner's Reception into the Episcopal Church, and Ed Denslow's Reaffirmation of Baptismal Vows.

During Coffee Chat, Bishop Price will catch us up on Diocesan news and his hopes for our future, as well as respond to any questions we may have.

This will be a special day at St. Thomas!

Big News for our Organist, Bob Senay!

Our very own Organist, Bob Senay, was recently accepted into the Doctor of Musical Arts (DMA) program at West Virginia University. He will start in January, 2010. This is a great honor for Bob, and an important reminder of how blessed we are to have someone with his gifts serving at St. Thomas.

Congratulations, Bob!



Diocesan Youth Ski Trip!

On Saturday, January 23, youth groups from around the diocese, hosted by St. Michael's, Ligonier, will go skiing together!

SCHEDULE

9 am: Meet at St. Michael's 9:30 am: Morning Prayer 10 am: Head to Seven Springs
11 am-6 pm: Skiing! 7 pm: Return to St. Michael's

COSTS

(Diocesan Scholarships are available)

Lift Ticket: \$45 / Ski Rental: \$20 / Snowboard Rental: \$32 / Skiing/Snowboarding Lessons: \$20

RSVP BY JANUARY 10

to Vicky at YouthGroup@ChristChurchNorthHills.org (or contact Fr. Chuck)

Vestry Highlights

- We received a report on our **Endowment**, which we will share with the parish at the Annual Meeting.
- We have agreed to offer the Parish Hall to a **third AA group** on a trial basis (beginning on the first Thursday in January).
- **“Moving Forward Together”**, a day for all people of the diocese, will take place on April 10 at St. Paul’s, Mt. Lebanon. More information is forthcoming.
- **CONTINGENCY PLANNING:** The Rector and other parish leaders will decide about cancelling any event *at least an hour and a half in advance*. For now, parishioners can get information by *calling the church office*.

Diocesan and National News

- The Church of the Holy Cross, Homewood, had its renovation project featured on KDKA News.
- Calvary Camp has mailed out its 2010 brochures. More information can be found at calvarycamp.org.
- The Standing Committee of the Anglican Communion released a revised proposed Anglican covenant, a set of principles intended to bind the Anglican Communion in light of recent disagreements over human sexuality issues and theological interpretation.

For more information:



episcopalpgh.org
episcopalchurch.org
anglicancommunion.org

Thank You, Thank You, Thank You

Many thanks to all the following folks:

- Lorra Brannen and our teens and kids for offering the Christmas Puppet Show on very short notice. It was a hit!
- Everyone who donated items for, and helped organize, and delivered, our Christmas Baskets!
- All the hard workers who decorated the church for Christmas Eve. It looked great!
- Bob Senay, for the wonderful Christmas Eve Prelude.
- The whole parish, for my new alb (and Starbuck’s gift card)! —Fr. Chuck



NOTES FROM THE CHURCH MOUSE!

BIRTHDAYS



Evan Hares—Jan. 1
Pam Gardner—Jan. 2
Mary Ann Boyan—Jan. 3
Warren Bedillion—Jan. 12
Bob Senay—Jan. 14
Zachary Spalla—Jan. 26
Charlotte Zubenko—Jan. 28
Alex Dower—Jan. 29

I have to say that December started out quite well for me—Sue hosted a COOKIE Exchange at her home! (Reminds me of that book: *If You Give A Mouse A Dozen Cookies*, or something like that.) The ladies had great fun sharing stories, playing games, and of course, eating cookies!.....Well, it was awfully quiet on December 13th. Nobody showed up! I found out later that Fr. Chuck had cancelled worship due to the weather. I heard him tell someone that he'd have to break the law to go to work, since the State Police closed all the roads from his house to St. Thomas. There's an interesting Church-State dilemma!.....Canon House was a joy this month, with lots and lots of people, wonderful Christmas carols, MORE COOKIES, and Ed's Famous Punch!.....December 20th was "holy chaos"—with the fabulous Christmas Puppet Show (who will ever forget Emma's "heavenly host"?), Christmas Baskets being organized, the church getting decorated, and the Youth Group delivering Christmas Baskets and then going Bowling! I hope you all took a nap before Christmas Eve!.....Speaking of Christmas Eve, that's one of my favorite times, especially singing *Silent Night* by candlelight. Heavenly!

Well, see you around (but you won't see me!),

TOM

*St. Thomas Episcopal Church
139 North Jefferson Avenue
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