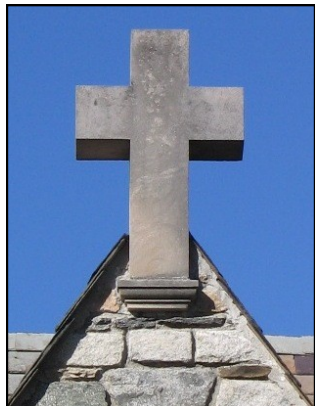


THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT

January 2011

Saint Paul's Church 174 Whisconier Road, Brookfield, CT 06804 (203) 775-9587

"We Have Come to Worship Him" (Matthew 2:2).



Vol. XLXVII-No. 1

Inside this issue:

Letter from The Reverend Joseph Shepley	1
Annual Meeting January Birthdays	2
Feast of the Epiphany Ladies Bible Study A New Ministry Sword Deadline January Sacristans	3
Liturgically Speaking	4
Sunday School Community Coffee House Vestry Biography	5
January Lay Schedule	6
January Calendar	7
Epiphany Article	8-9
December Vestry Minutes	10-11

Dear Friends in Christ,

January marks a time of new starts, new hopes and new beginnings. As we look to a new year ahead, we do well to focus above all on the new thing God has brought to the entire world: the Epiphany of the Lord. This revealing, or manifestation, to the Gentiles, is represented by the Wise Men, mysterious people who came from the East, of which the Gospel according to Matthew speaks (Matthew 2:1-12).

Like so many seekers today, they sought an answer to their life-long quest for spiritual understanding, traveling a great distance, groping through the darkness, chasing the light. And their journey would take them to the One Light bringing their search to an end, a ray of light for all nations then, and now.

The Magi's worship of Jesus was recognized immediately as fulfillment of the prophetic Scriptures: "And nations shall come to your light," we read in the Book of Isaiah, "and kings to the brightness of your rising. . . . They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord" (Isaiah 60:3,6). The light of Christ, which the cave of Bethlehem contained, today expands in all its universal splendor.

We now enter our 226th year at St. Paul's. This past year has been a marvelous manifestation of God's glorious light shining through our lives as we have looked to the Christ-centered past. We now look ahead, forging a common call to keep the light of Jesus shining bright. On January 6th, we will celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany. May this be a renewal of our call to breathe the atmosphere of "epiphany," and of genuine missionary commitment aroused by the manifestation of Christ, light of the world, sent by God the Father to reconcile and unify humanity with the force of love.

Whatever new beginnings this year offers, never forget the truth of God, that the light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it (John 1:5).

With all blessings in this Epiphany season,

(The Rev.) Joseph Shepley
Priest-In-Charge

Annual Parish Meeting

Notice is hereby given of the 227th Annual Parish Meeting of Saint Paul's Church, 174 Whisconier Road, Brookfield, Connecticut, on Sunday, January 23rd, 2011, in the Parish Hall, at **9:00 A.M.** The Priest-In-Charge will make appointments and elections will be held for various Vestry positions. Nominations may be made from the floor at the meeting. Communicant members of the parish over sixteen years of age are eligible

to vote at the Annual Parish Meeting. There will be the traditional Holy Communion service at 8:00 A.M. and the Family Holy Communion Service at 10:30 A.M. Sunday School classes will be held at their normal time at 10:30 A.M. There will be **no** 9:15 A.M. Christian Education Class. The church will provide a special coffee hour for the parishioners prior to the meeting.

Annual Reports Due January 10th



Reports from Vestry Members, Committee Chairpersons, and others to be included in Saint Paul's Annual Report for 2010 **must be emailed to bethmiller.stpaul@gmail.com by Monday, January 10th.** Thank you for submitting your reports on time. Copies of the Annual Report for 2010 will be available to parishioners for review on Friday, January 21st.

January

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

1 Joseph Letizia	14 David Carli	22 Oby Okwuka
2 Chin Okwuka	Lauren Emmett	Renee Castronova
Darin Crocker	Nathaniel Hill	24 Christopher Gardner
Richelle Burr	Selma Lindsay	25 Noah Swanson
4 Catherine Shrull	16 Matthew Barackman	27 Allison Kraft
Heidi Pinheiro	Terri Dority	29 Anthony Arcamone
5 Kimberly Stein	18 Patricia McKenna	31 Danielle Falci
7 Nicholas Janofsky	21 Erin Williams	
8 Daniel Hatch	George Crocker	
9 David Franklin	Kenneth Kumerle	
11 Brendan Connors		
David Chadwick		
Ella Wanzer		

Please pray for each of the parishioners on their birthday!



Feast of the Epiphany

On Thursday January 6th, at 7:30 P.M., we invite you to join us as we celebrate Christ as the Light of the World and begin the Epiphany Season.

Epiphany is the church season when we explore the different ways that Jesus revealed himself to be more than a carpenter—and you'll notice that the Sunday readings during Epiphany will have a great deal to say about how we can share it with people who haven't yet understood who Jesus is.

Make time to enjoy this lovely service of light and prayer.

Ladies Tuesday AM Bible Study

The Ladies Tuesday AM Bible Study will begin a new 16-week study on the Gospel of Mark in January, 2011. The Gospel of Mark is generally believed to be the first of the four gospels and is considered the model and often the source for the other Gospels. Jesus had all the power of almighty God, but with all his power, he came to mankind as a servant. As Jesus served God and others, we are called to do the same. Whether you are new to Bible Study or have been studying for many years, please join us! January 4th - April



19th at St. Paul's. Coffee: 9:15 AM, Study: 9:30 - 11:00 AM. We will be using the Timothy J. Keller (Redeemer Presbyterian Church) Study Guide. Cost is \$3 and it will be available on Tues., Dec. 14th from 9:30 - 11:00 or thereafter by contacting Donna Betts at 203.830.9415 or emailing her at donnabetts47@gmail.com.



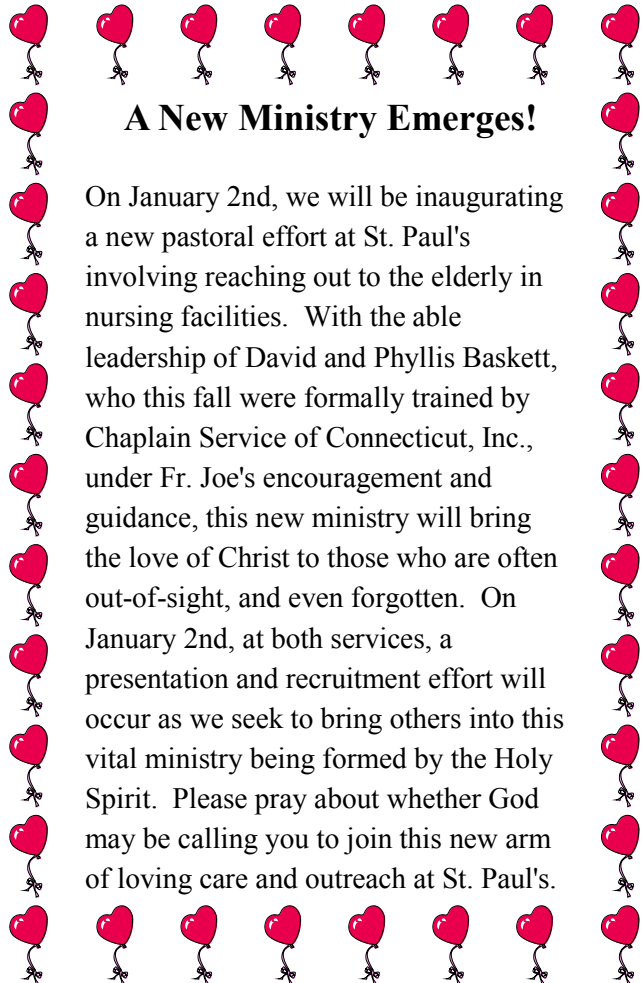
**Deadline
For February
Sword
Submissions
is
January 17th**

**January
Sacristans

Joyce Emmett
Betty Gardner
Gail Winkley**

A New Ministry Emerges!

On January 2nd, we will be inaugurating a new pastoral effort at St. Paul's involving reaching out to the elderly in nursing facilities. With the able leadership of David and Phyllis Basket, who this fall were formally trained by Chaplain Service of Connecticut, Inc., under Fr. Joe's encouragement and guidance, this new ministry will bring the love of Christ to those who are often out-of-sight, and even forgotten. On January 2nd, at both services, a presentation and recruitment effort will occur as we seek to bring others into this vital ministry being formed by the Holy Spirit. Please pray about whether God may be calling you to join this new arm of loving care and outreach at St. Paul's.



Liturgically Speaking: Why December 25th?

By The Reverend William Loring

It is widely assumed that the selection of December 25th for the celebration of Our Lord's Nativity (Christmas) was primarily to provide a Christian alternative to the various pagan solstice festivals, particularly the ancient Saturnalia and the feast of *Sol Invictus* (the Unconquered Sun) created by Aurelian in 274 AD. There are, however several lines of reasoning in early Christian thought – before there was an actual feast of Christmas – which point to the date. In fact it is quite possible that Aurelian established *Sol Invictus* – no earlier feasts of the Sun God were near the solstices – to counter a developing Christian celebration.

There were actually two different families of calculations which led to the December 25th date, and both them actually focused on the dating of the Annunciation, Christ's conception, as March 25th, once again removing Christmas from Pagan observances in December.

The first of these was based on the date of creation, and the belief that it would be fitting for the Incarnation to fall on an anniversary of this event. Some of us are

familiar with the dates calculated by Archbishop Ussher and printed in some editions of the King James Bible which place creation on the eve of October 23rd in 4004 BC. Other computations lead to different years, but the same time of year. However, a widely accepted third century chronology set the date as March 25th, which became the commonly accepted date for the Annunciation, and adding nine months gives us the December birthday.

The other computation is based on the Jewish idea of 'integral age,' the belief that it is fitting for great prophets and other major figures to live an exact number of years, dying on the anniversaries of their conception. Unfortunately by the third century when Christians became interested in calculating the actual date of Jesus' death the discrepancies among Roman, Greek, and Jewish calendars, and between the chronologies of the different Passion narratives made an accurate computation almost impossible. More recent research has shown that both of these dates seem to be impossible, but at that time most calculations wound u

with either March 25th or April 6th as the probable dates for the crucifixion, and therefore for the conception. It is interesting that the April date was more common in the Greek speaking churches and would give January 6th the birth of Christ. For centuries these churches observed his birth as part of Epiphany on that date, while the Latin speaking West kept Christmas in December. In the course of time most of the Eastern Churches adopted the Western Christmas while keeping Epiphany as the Lord's Baptism, and Western ones imported Epiphany with a special emphasis on the coming of the Magi.

Further reading: much of the material here has been gathered from various reading over the years, but I have also drawn on two online articles which will provide a good summary. One is by an old friend, William Tighe, found at <http://touchstonemag.com/archives/article.php?id=16-10-012-v>, and another by David Bennett is at <http://www.ancient-future.net/christmasdate.html>

Fr. Bill+,
Scholar in Residence

We Couldn't Have Done It Without You!



We wanted to thank you so much for all that you did to support the recent Christmas pageant and Advent brunch. We appreciate all of the energy and effort that you put into bringing your children to both the rehearsal and performance. Thank you also to everyone who generously provided food items for the church gathering following the pageant. We know what a busy time of year it is and we are very grateful that you made the pageant a priority for your family.

A huge thank you to Marie and Kirsten for all of their help with music preparation and rehearsal. Thank you both for making time in your schedule to support the pageant. Thank you also to Heather, Janet and Rachel for all of your help in 'shepherding' all of the little lambs. Rory Palmer, thank you for all of your help with the Advent Brunch. Finally, a big thank you to all of the Sunday School staff and helpers that lent a hand. We couldn't have done it without you!

in concert
at the
Community Coffeehouse
7 Madison Ave., Danbury, CT

Christopher Wright
www.christopherwright.com
Sat., Jan. 15, 2010 at 7:30 PM
Info: www.communitycoffeehouse.org
or
(203) 748-4972

For more information
use the following link;

<http://www.communitycoffeehouse.org>

Vestry Biography Helen Carli



Helen is a native of RI and although she relocated to Connecticut in 1981, she still has a passion for the ocean.

She now lives on Candlewood Lake with her husband Dave and they both enjoy summer and winter activities on the lake. After a 20 year career, Helen took some time to become a

literacy volunteer and "adopted" three Brazilian families. She is delighted to be a godmother to their children and recently enjoyed a trip to Disney with one of her godchildren.

Helen was introduced to St. Paul's through the Alpha Course 5 years ago and has been attending St. Paul's church since then. Helen's love of the Christian Fellowship and presence of

the Holy Spirit at St. Paul's are why she worships here. She attends a small group bible study and serves on the Healing Team and Vestry ministries at St. Paul's and is a volunteer for Rachel's Vineyard Ministry. Helen has recently started a new career with Aflac. She enjoys being with friends, boating, swimming, reading, movies and spending time with Dave and her two pets, Lahni and Joey.

January Lay Schedule 2011

Lectors, Intercessors, and Lay readers, please remember to check in before the service in the Vesting Room. Thank You!

January 2, 2010

8:00 AM

Welcoming: Norma Schofield/Catherine Clayton

Acolytes: O'Hara Girls

Lector: [Jeremiah 31:7-14](#) Pam Szen

Intercessor: Michael Kirner

Lay Reader: Lois Hunt

Lay Reader: Dave Baskett

10:30 AM

Welcoming: Connie and David Williams

Acolytes: Stephen Werneburg

Lector: [Jeremiah 31:7-14](#) Elizabeth Gardner

Intercessor: Linda Pendergast

Lay Reader: Harlan Jessup

Lay Reader: Joe Bernardo

January 9, 2010

8:00 AM

Welcoming: Phil Barackman

Acolytes: Sarah Shepley

Lector: [Isaiah 42:1-9](#) Ingrid Pruss

Intercessor: Sharon Simon

Lay Reader: Dave Baskett

Lay Reader: Debbie Barackman

10:30 AM

Welcoming: Denise McCormack/Doug Melody

Acolytes: Jessica Cordova/Rachel Melody

Lector: [Isaiah 42:1-9](#) R. Bryan Fitzgerald

Intercessor: Phil Hannah

Lay Reader: Mike Chengeri

Lay Reader: Harlan Jessup

January 16, 2010

8:00 AM

Welcoming: Mike Healey/Phil Barackman

Acolytes: Emily Perry

Lector: [Isaiah 49:1-7](#) Mike Ecsedy

Intercessor: Mary Perry

Lay Reader: Don Winkley

Lay Reader: Patricia Jennings

January 16, 2010

10:30 AM

Welcoming: Connie and David Williams

Acolytes: Venus Okwuka

Lector: [Isaiah 49:1-7](#) Connie Williams

Intercessor: Elizabeth Gardner

Lay Reader: Jim Castronova

Lay Reader: Mike Chengeri

January 23, 2010

Healing Sunday

8:00 AM

Welcoming: Mike Healey/Pat Brought

Acolytes: O'Hara Girls

Lector: [Isaiah 9:1-4](#) Sharon Simon

Intercessor: Mary Perry

Lay Reader: Debbie Barackman

Lay Reader: Don Winkley

10:30 AM

Welcoming: Joyce and Rich Emmett

Acolytes: Audrey Powell/Rachel Melody

Lector: [Isaiah 9:1-4](#) Sandy Chaleski

Intercessor: Phil Hannah

Lay Reader: Joe Bernardo

Lay Reader: Ray Ferro

January 30, 2010

8:00 AM

Welcoming: Joyce and Rich Emmett

Acolytes: O'Hara Girls

Lector: [Micah 6:1-8](#) Ingrid Pruss

Intercessor: Ray Ferro

Lay Reader: Patricia Jennings

Lay Reader: Lois Hunt

10:30 AM

Welcoming: Bruce & Donna Betts

Acolytes: Stephanie Bernardo

Lector: [Micah 6:1-8](#) Nicole O'Connors

Intercessor: Linda Pendergast

Lay Reader: Harlan Jessup

Lay Reader: Jim Castranova



January 2011



Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

						1 New Year's Day 7:30 AM Men's Prayer Breakfast
2 2 Christmas 8:00 AM Traditional Eucharist 9:15 AM Adult Christian Ed. 9:15 AM High School/Y.A. Bible Study 10:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Contemporary Eucharist	3 4:30 PM Christian Caring 7:00 PM Stephen Ministry	4 9:15 AM Ladies Bible Study 7:00 PM Women's Bible Study	5 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist and Healing 7:00 PM Women's Bible Study	6 7:30 PM Holy Eucharist-Feast of the Epiphany	7	8 7:30 AM Men's Prayer Breakfast
9 1 Epiphany 8:00 AM Traditional Eucharist 9:15 AM Mission Presentation 9:15 AM High School/Y.A. Bible Study 10:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Contemporary Eucharist 6:00 PM Junior High Youth 7:30 PM Senior High Youth	10 Annual Reports Due	11 9:15 AM Ladies Bible Study 7:00 PM Women's Bible Study 7:00 PM Grief Group	12 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist and Healing 7:00 PM Women's Bible Study 6:30 PM Staff Meeting 7:30 PM Vestry Meeting	13 1:00 PM Dorothy Day Ministry 7:30 PM Music Night	14	15 7:30 AM Men's Prayer Breakfast 10:00 AM St. Paul's Quilters
16 2 Epiphany 8:00 AM Traditional Eucharist 9:15 AM Adult Christian Ed. 9:15 AM High School/Y.A. Bible Study 10:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Contemporary Eucharist 6:00 PM Junior High Youth 7:30 PM Senior High Youth	17 7:00 PM Stephen Ministry	18 9:15 AM Ladies Bible Study 7:00 PM Women's Bible Study	19 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist and Healing 7:00 PM Women's Bible Study	20 7:00 PM Healing Ministry 7:30 PM Property Committee 7:30 PM Music Night	21 Annual Report Sent by PDF	22 7:30 AM Men's Prayer Breakfast 2:00 PM House of Prayer
23 3 Epiphany 8:00 AM Traditional Eucharist 9:00 AM Annual Parish Meeting 9:15 AM No High School/Y.A. Bible Study 10:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Contemporary Eucharist 6:00 PM Junior High Youth 7:30 PM Senior High Youth	24	25 9:15 AM Ladies Bible Study 6:00 PM Deanery Meeting (St. Paul's) 7:00 PM Women's Bible Study 7:00 PM Grief Group	26 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist and Healing 7:00 PM Women's Bible Study	27 7:30 PM Music Night	28	29 7:30 AM Men's Prayer Breakfast
30 4 Epiphany 8:00 AM Traditional Eucharist 9:15 AM Adult Christian Ed. 9:15 AM High School/Y.A. Bible Study 10:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Contemporary Eucharist 6:00 PM Junior High Youth 7:30 PM Senior High Youth	31					

The Season of Epiphany

Dennis Bratcher

In western Christian tradition, **January 6** is celebrated as **Epiphany**. It goes by other names in various church traditions. In Hispanic and Latin culture, as well as some places in Europe, it is known as **Three Kings' Day** (Span: *el Dia de los Tres Reyes, la Fiesta de Reyes,* or *el Dia de los Reyes Magos*; Dutch: *Driekoningendag*). Because of differences in church calendars, mainly between the Eastern Orthodox and the western Catholic and Protestant traditions, both Christmas and Epiphany have been observed at different times in the past. Today, most of the Eastern Orthodox traditions follow the western church calendar. The exceptions are some Greek Orthodox Churches and related traditions (for example, Russian and Serbian Orthodox) that still follow the older calendar and celebrate Epiphany as the Theophany on January 19th. Epiphany is the climax of the Advent/Christmas Season and the Twelve Days of Christmas, which are usually counted from the evening of December 25th until the morning of January 6th, which is the Twelfth Day. In following this older custom of counting the days beginning at sundown, the evening of January 5th is the **Twelfth Night**. This is an occasion for feasting in some cultures, including the baking of a special **King's Cake** as part of the festivities of Epiphany (a King's Cake is part of the observance of Mardi Gras in French Catholic culture of the Southern USA). In some church traditions, only the full days are counted so that January 5th is the Eleventh Day of Christmas, January 6th is the Twelfth Day, and the evening of January 6th is counted as the Twelfth Night. In traditional Christian churches Christmas, as well as Easter, is celebrated as a period of time, a season of the church year, rather than just a day. The Season of the Church Year associated with Christmas



actually begins with the first Sunday of Advent, four Sundays before Christmas Day. Advent is marked by expectation and anticipation in preparing to celebrate the coming of Jesus. Christmas begins with Christmas Day December 25 and lasts for Twelve Days until Epiphany, January 6, which looks ahead to the mission of the church to the world in light of the Nativity. The one or two Sundays between Christmas Day and Epiphany are sometimes called **Christmastide**. For many Protestant church traditions, the season of Epiphany extends from January 6th until Ash Wednesday, which begins the season of Lent leading to Easter. Depending on the timing of Easter, this longer period of Epiphany includes from four to nine Sundays. Other traditions, especially the Roman Catholic tradition, observe Epiphany as a single day, with the Sundays following Epiphany counted as Ordinary Time. In some western traditions, the last Sunday of Epiphany is celebrated as Transfiguration Sunday. The term *epiphany* means "to show" or "to make known" or even "to reveal." In Western churches, it remembers the coming of the wise men bringing gifts to visit the Christ

child, who by so doing "reveal" Jesus to the world as Lord and King. In some Central and South American countries influenced by Catholic tradition, Three Kings' Day, or the night before, is the time for opening Christmas presents. In some eastern churches, Epiphany or the Theophany commemorates Jesus' baptism, with the visit of the Magi linked to Christmas. In some churches the day is celebrated as Christmas, with Epiphany/Theophany occurring on January 19th.

Symbols of Epiphany

The colors of Epiphany are usually the colors of Christmas, white and gold, the colors of celebration, newness, and hope that mark the most sacred days of the church year. In traditions that only observe a single day for Epiphany, the colors are often changed after Epiphany to the colors of Ordinary Time, usually green or thematic sanctuary colors, until Transfiguration Sunday, the last Sunday before the beginning of Lent. The colors for Transfiguration Sunday are usually the colors of Holy Days, white and gold. The traditional liturgical symbols of Epiphany are usually associated with the Magi. The symbols include either three crowns or a single crown, various portrayals of the Magi or Wise Men, three gifts, a five pointed star, or a combination of a star and crown. A more modern symbol of Epiphany is a globe or a stylized portrayal of the world.

Around January 6, the symbol **+C+B+M+** with two numbers before and two numbers after (for example, **20+C+B+M+10**) is sometimes seen written in chalk above the doorway of Christian homes. The letters are the initials of the traditional names of the Three Magi: Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar. These letters also abbreviate the Latin phrase *Christus mansionem benedicat*, "May Christ bless the house." The beginning and

ending numbers are the year, 2010 in the example above. The crosses represent Christ.

Marking the lintels of doorways is an old European practice that originally had overtones of magic (protection of the house). However, the symbols are now used throughout the world and usually represent a traditional Epiphany prayer and blessing.

A Blessing for the Marking of Doorways

Leader: Peace be with this house and with all who live here.

Response (All): And peace be with all who enter here.

Leader: During these days of the Christmas season, we keep this Feast of Epiphany, celebrating the manifestation of Christ to the Magi, and thereby to the whole world. Today, Christ is manifest to us! Today this home is a holy place because of the presence of Christ here.

Leader: Listen to the Gospel according to Matthew.

2:1 In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, 2:2 asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." 2:3 When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; 2:4 and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. 2:5 They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: 2:6 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'" 2:7 Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. 2:8 Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word

so that I may also go and pay him homage." 2:9 When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. 2:10 When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. 2:11 On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. 2:12 And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Leader: This is the word of the Lord to you.

Response (All): Thanks be to God!

Leader: O God, Lord of all that exists, you revealed your only-begotten Son to every nation by the guidance of a star. Bless this house and all who inhabit it. Fill each of us with the light of Christ, that our concern for others may reflect your love. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Response (All): Amen

Significance of Epiphany in the Church

As with most aspects of the Christian liturgical calendar, Epiphany has theological significance as a teaching tool in the church. The Wise Men or Magi who brought gifts to the child Jesus were the first Gentiles to acknowledge Jesus as "King" and so were the first to "show" or "reveal" Jesus to a wider world as the incarnate Christ. This act of worship by the Magi, which corresponded to Simeon's blessing that this child Jesus would be "a light for revelation to the Gentiles" (Luke 2:32), was one of the first indications that Jesus came for all people, of all nations, of all races, and that the work of God in the world would not be limited to only a few.

The day is now observed as a time of focusing on the mission of the church in reaching others by

"showing" Jesus as the Savior of all people. It is also a time of focusing on Christian brotherhood and fellowship, especially in healing the divisions of prejudice and bigotry that we all too often create between God's children.

An Epiphany Prayer

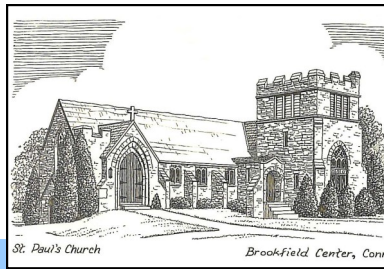
Father, we thank you for revealing yourself to us in Jesus the Christ, we who once were not your people but whom you chose to adopt as your people. As ancient Israel confessed long ago, we realize that it was not because of our own righteousness, or our own superior wisdom, or strength, or power, or numbers. It was simply because you loved us, and chose to show us that love in Jesus.

As you have accepted us when we did not deserve your love, will you help us to accept those whom we find it hard to love? Forgive us, O Lord, for any attitude that we harbor that on any level sees ourselves as better or more righteous than others. Will you help us to remove the barriers of prejudice and to tear down the walls of bigotry, religious or social? O Lord, help us realize that the walls that we erect for others only form our own prisons!

Will you fill us so full of your love that there is no more room for intolerance. As you have forgiven us much, will you enable us with your strength to forgive others even more? Will you enable us through your abiding Presence among us, communally and individually, to live our lives in a manner worthy of the Name we bear?

May we, through your guidance and our faithful obedience, find new avenues in ways that we have not imagined of holding the Light of your love so that it may be a Light of revelation for all people.

We thank you for your love, praise you for your Gift, ask for your continued Presence with us, and bring these petitions in the name of your Son, who has truly revealed your heart. Amen.



St. Paul's Church
Vestry Meeting
Abridged Minutes
December 13, 2010

OPENING:

Fr. Shepley opened the meeting with prayer. Warden Phil Hannah led the meeting.

Mike Chengeri shared a testimony. Sue Turner shared her thanksgivings. Minutes from November 8th were approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT (Ken Kumerle):

Ken Kumerle was out of town and submitted his written report. For November we were approximately 3,000 in the black and year-to-date we are in the red about \$17,000. A question was raised about net income that Mike Healey will follow up with Ken Kumerle upon his return.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Healing Ministry (Helen Carli):

12 members of the Healing Ministry attended an important session on Generational Healing; it was the first time this topic has been presented.

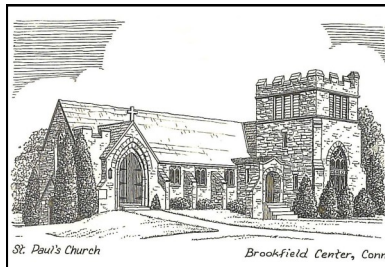
The ministry held a Generational Eucharist/ Christmas Party on December 9th; 16 members attended this follow up meeting to the Generational Healing Class. No House of Prayer was conducted in December and will resume in January.

Property (Mike Chengeri):

Hantsch Electric has been contacted to inspect and repair the recently replaced lights along the front walk. The roof

gutters have all been cleaned prior to the onset of the winter weather, thanks to Joe Bernardo. The fire extinguisher and Exit signs have been mounted in the Parish Hall. The Property Committee is requesting authorization to purchase a "75 Person Bulk First Aid Kit" for \$102.95 and is researching the purchasing (or possible "grant" acquisition) of an emergency heart defibrillator. Preliminary purchase estimate is just shy of \$2,000. The Vestry decided that the First Aid Kit could be purchased but that issues such as liability and training on the defibrillator needed to be addressed. The Property Committee recommends continuing the water cooler service in the upstairs classroom wing hallway. Apparently the

reason for low usage was a lack of cup availability. The route supplier (Crystal Rock) has agreed to provide a case of sleeve cups for the dispenser. The Parish Hall floor has been scrubbed, sealed and waxed. The contracts for interior cleaning of the church snow plowing has been awarded to Doug Melody. These contracts will replace the services of Bennie Hernandez and Sunburst landscaping. To avoid a potential conflict of interest associated the above contracts Doug has resigned as the chair of the Property Committee. The search for a replacement chair is underway, any suggestions or nominations are welcomed. Tim Williams was suggested by Ray Ferro.



St. Paul's Church
Vestry Meeting
Abridged Minutes
December 13, 2010

Chaplaincy Program:

David and Phyllis Baskett shared with us a potential new ministry here at St. Paul's...Chaplaincy. Visiting sick parishioners in nursing homes, they have found that persons living in them are terribly lonely and thrive when they have a visitor to look forward to seeing each week. Mr. Basket described the residents as the "Lost

Generation" and reminded us through Bible verses that the Lord calls upon us to look after them. If we choose to begin this new ministry, we need to plan, get volunteers and train them. A six week training course is available in April. The ministry team needs to consist of a myriad of people...singers, musicians, caregivers so that we can eventually have Bible Study and

Worship Services at the nursing homes. Robin Powell will be the point person for this ministry through Father Joe.

Father Joe reported for Chris Goodman that Stephen Ministers will begin a course on January 10. There will be 7 new Stephen Ministers. Father Joe is pleased with the different levels of Pastoral support.

PRIEST-IN-CHARGE REPORT:

Father Joe has been asked by the Diocese to be on the

Stewardship Committee. He has accepted and has been given the honor of selecting the speaker for the Diocesan Stewardship conference in

October, 2011. The Christian Education program is strong. We expect to have our new website online very soon.

OLD BUSINESS:

Beginning in January, our meetings will be on the 2nd Wednesday of the month. The Mission Committee budget was approved as submitted, including emergency mission needs of \$12,600 budgeted to help parishioners. Discussion was held concerning raising awareness of this Ministry.

NEW BUSINESS:

The locks have been changed to the office and mailboxes moved to Ken Kumerle's office. If you need a key to that office, contact Beth or Father Joe. Mary Allen suggested that Testimonials and Thanksgivings be on a

volunteer basis for future Vestry members. She expressed concern that some new people are not "ready" to share on that level. It was duly noted. Kathy Schrull has graciously taken on the General Chair position for next year's Faith Alive program. She stressed that in order for us to

even register we must have a Follow-up Chair to facilitate activities and programs after the FA weekend. She felt that someone committed to adult education would be a great candidate. The vestry accepted the recommendation of the Finance Committee concerning a personnel issue.

CLOSING:

Being no further business, the meeting ended at 8:50 pm with prayer.

MERRY CHRISTMAS EVERYONE!!!! GOD BLESS.

Respectfully Submitted,

David Szen, Clerk of the Vestry

Sunday Worship

8:00 A.M.—*Traditional Eucharist*

9:15 A.M.—*Adult Christian Education*

9:15 A.M.—*High School/Young Adult Bible Study*

10:30 A.M.—*Contemporary Eucharist / Nursery and Sunday School*

Holy Eucharist and Healing Service

Wednesday, 10:00 A.M., Sanctuary