



# The Eagle's Nest

St. John's Episcopal Church

January 2016

## Padre's Pen

Epiphany is a season of light, remembering the guiding star that brought the wise men to Bethlehem. Our nights are getting shorter and our days are actually getting longer. Epiphany Season gives us pause to remember how often God surprises us. This is not an uncommon theme throughout Holy Scriptures; yet it is still a surprise to us humans. For centuries the Hebrew people were certain that being "God's Chosen" people meant that they were the only ones who would be saved. Such that it became a sin to even talk to a gentile or to enter a gentile's house. Entering such a building actually rendered one "unclean" and thus excluded from Temple Worship for a period of time. We humans still have a tendency to look to associate only with those who are "like us".

The Feast of the Epiphany and the Season leading us this year to (an early) Ash Wednesday reminds us that Jesus was made Manifest to all peoples, not just the righteous Jews. It wasn't Hebrew Scholars who were led by a star to Bethlehem. It was a small group of foreigners, stargazers if you will, who were watching the heavens for a sign from God, looking for the Hope of the World. It wasn't the Rabbi's, or the Priests, who received word of Jesus' birth of such a humble beginning, but the shepherds in the field who were treated to a heavenly chorus of Angels and Archangels such as we can hardly imagine. It was an elderly widow and an aged prophet who recognized the infant Jesus when he was brought to the

*PADRE'S PEN Continued on page 2...*

## Diocese of Springfield

### Bishop

The Rt. Rev. Daniel H. Martins

### Staff

#### Rector

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#### Secretary

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#### Parish Nurse

Susan Currie, RN

### Vestry

John Byler

Betsy Curlin

Bob Ellison

Chris Gregory

Ken Jordan - Parish Warden

Tyler Kitchens

Kathy Phillips

Melissa Rhodes - Rector's Warden

Charla Robb

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Temple for his dedication, not the Scribes or the Scholars. And it was the strange itinerant preacher in the wilderness who saw our Lord and proclaimed "Behold the Lamb who takes away the sin of the world."

As we begin this year maybe it is good for each of us to look at our self, our life and our habits and see if we are living in the safe, and the expected, rather than open to God's surprises. We might pass someone by on a regular basis who would benefit from an invitation to join us at St. John's. We might actually find that we are too set in a pattern that actually interferes with our growth in the knowledge and love of the Lord our God. This past year we have been looking at our own relationship with Jesus and with God the Father. Our spiritual growth can be a first and foremost desire for this new year. We know that a decision for regular Bible reading and prayer is what will assist each of us on our journey of faith. That can be a good and determined course to begin the year with.

New Year's resolutions don't always have to do with outward "bad" habits involving weight, tobacco, etc. Look deeper and see if God doesn't have a surprise in store for you this year. This Epiphany Season may you let your light so shine so that all may see it!

Happy New Year!

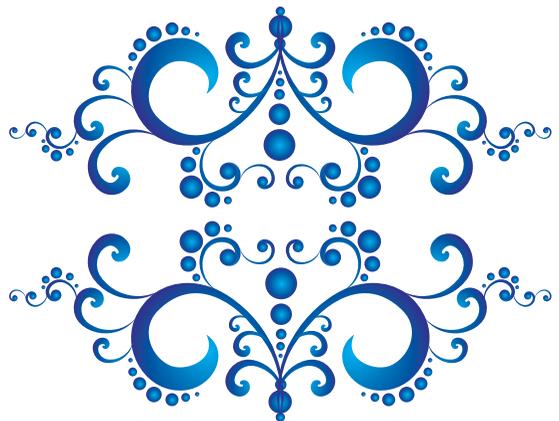
Father Swan

## *Vestry Meeting Highlights*

Melissa reported that members participated in the final packing of the Judy Mason Thanksgiving baskets; December 7th was the final workshop for RenewalWorks; between the Heritage and Holly Tour and the Church Street Tour, we had approximately 360 visitors; we had a good turnout for Lessons and Carols also (about 90); we had two graduate from Millikin – Thomas Byler and Tyler Hixson. Ken stated that the external drain had been cleaned and there was no damage; he is working with Janet Barding King regarding the design of signs for the outside doors; we need new mats for the entrances; Craftmasters will check the west windows and roof and seal the flashing and windows as necessary; he obtained a quote from Comcast regarding the new phone system. The Vestry is going to check with members regarding a new Pictorial Directory.

## *Next Vestry Meeting*

*The next Vestry meeting is scheduled for January 20<sup>th</sup> in the Guild room following the 6:00 PM Eucharist.*



## Favorite Recipes

Both of the following recipes were a hit at our Celebration of St. John's Patronal Feast Day.

### GRAPE SALAD

3-4 lbs. green or red grapes (or half and half)  
1 8 oz. block cream cheese (softened)  
1 C. sour cream  
½ C. sugar

Mix the cream cheese, sour cream and sugar until well blended; add the grapes and mix gently.

For the topping – ½ C. brown sugar and 1 C. chopped pecans. Chill until ready to serve.

Submitted by: Lois Gillespie

### CRANBERRY-PEAR WILD RICE STUFFING

2.5 C. low sodium vegetable broth  
2 C. finely diced whole grain bread  
2/3 C. uncooked wild rice  
1/3 C. dried cranberries  
1.5 T. olive oil  
¼ C. chopped pecans  
1 medium red onion, chopped  
2 t. salt free seasoning  
2 large celery stalks, diced  
½ t. dried thyme  
2 medium firm pears, cored and diced  
½ C apple cider  
Salt and pepper to taste

Bring the broth to a boil in a small saucepan. Stir in the wild rice; cover and simmer gently until the liquid is absorbed (about 35 min.).

Preheat the oven to 375 degrees.

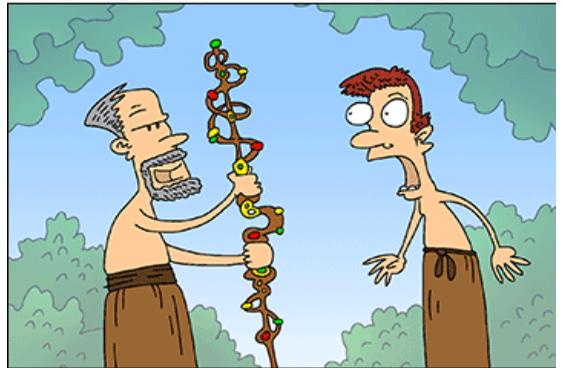
Heat the oil in a medium size skillet. Add the onion and sauté until translucent; add the celery and sauté over medium heat until both are golden. Combine the onion-celery mixture with the cooked rice and then add all the remaining ingredients except the cider in a mixing bowl. Drizzle the cider in slowly while mixing until the mixture is evenly moistened. Pour into a lightly oiled shallow baking dish. Bake 30 to 35 minutes (the top should be slightly crusty).

Submitted by: Mindy Chadwick

## Serving Opportunities

Any interested youth or adult over the age of ten interested in becoming an Acolyte, please contact James Keith or Father Swan.

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01-05-2015

I USE MY STAFF SO MUCH THAT I FIGURED I SHOULD UPGRADE TO THE LUXURY MODEL

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## Mark Your Calendars

There is a calendar of events listed on the bulletin board in the Parish Hall for the month. The sign-up sheet for flowers and the Sanctuary Candle is on the bulletin Board outside the Nave in the Cloister.

**January 9<sup>th</sup>** – Cursillo Ultreya @ 3:00 PM – all are welcome!

**January 24<sup>th</sup>** – Annual Meeting – Eucharist at 9:00 AM with the meeting to follow

**February 9<sup>th</sup>** – Shrove Tuesday

**February 12<sup>th</sup>** – Stations of the Cross at 6:00 PM

**February 14<sup>th</sup>** (the first Sunday of Lent) – Bishop's Homecoming/Annual Visit

**February 17<sup>th</sup>** – Lenten Soup Series begins following the 6:00 PM Eucharist

**February 19<sup>th</sup>** – Stations of the Cross at 6:00 PM

**February 24<sup>th</sup>** – Lenten Soup Series

**February 26<sup>th</sup>** – Stations of the Cross

## Peripatetic Parishioners

Bob and Judy Ellison attended St. Mark's Episcopal Church on December 24<sup>th</sup> in Glen Ellyn, Illinois.

Tracy McMahon attended St. John's Episcopal Church on December 24<sup>th</sup> in Midland, Michigan.

## Education Opportunities

### ADULT STUDY

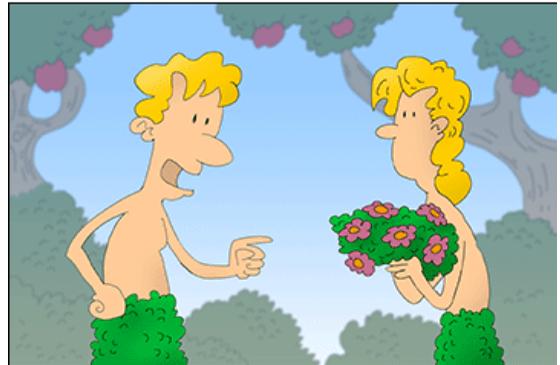
Friday Bible Study continues at 10 AM in the Guild Room. We are currently studying the Book of Genesis.

Sunday Study continues at 9:00 AM. We are currently looking at Scripture through 10 lenses. VERY interesting!! It is not too late to join us.

### CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday school continues. There are now two classes ~ VERY exciting news! It promises to be an exciting year! Please think about children you can invite or help attend. St. John's has many resources for children and more children would allow greater opportunities for all.

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01-09-2015

NEW OUTAT?

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## Holy Days in January

Every Wednesday at 6:00 pm and Saturday at 7:30 am we meet for Eucharist. It is our custom to honor a memorable figure in the life of the Church down through the ages. For January, we will give thanks to God for these faithful servants:

Saints Days for January:

### Wednesdays

January	6	The Epiphany of the Lord
	13	Aelred, Abbot
	20	The Confession of St. Peter
	27	The Conversion of St. Paul

### Saturdays

January	2	The Holy Name
	9	Julia Chester Emery
	16	Hilary of Poitiers
	23	Phillips Brooks, Bishop
	30	Thomas Aquinas, Priest

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(See Luke 6:31) 01-16-2015  
**I'VE BEEN TRYING TO WORK ON DOING TO OTHERS AS I'D HAVE DONE FOR ME**

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## Birthdays



- 4<sup>th</sup>- James Gahwiler
- 6<sup>th</sup>- Sarah Moore
- 11<sup>th</sup>- James Curlin  
Natalie McCullough
- 12<sup>th</sup>- Dizzerene Patton  
Shawne Russell
- 13<sup>th</sup>- Rick McKenzie
- 15<sup>th</sup>- Allan Bell
- 16<sup>th</sup>- Anastazia Dean
- 17<sup>th</sup>- Caroline Little  
Stanley Metz
- 18<sup>th</sup>- Carl Johnson
- 20<sup>th</sup>- Elizabeth Bennett
- 21<sup>st</sup>- Kenneth Hawley
- 29<sup>th</sup>- Clayton Barrows
- 31<sup>st</sup>- Bailey Barrows

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01-19-2015  
**OH MAN I THINK I LEFT THE IRON PLUGGED IN**

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## News Flash & Updates

### Note from Marv ~

Apologies to all for the delay of the January Newsletter! I guess I was too caught up in our new home and Christmas! I promise to better next month.

Cursillo Ultreya is on Saturday the 9<sup>th</sup> @ 3:00 PM – all are welcome

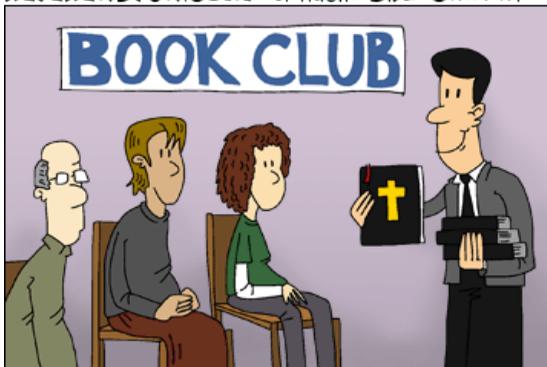
The Annual Meeting is on January 24<sup>th</sup> – only one Eucharist at 9:00 AM with the meeting to follow.

The team for RenewalWorks will have a short presentation at the Annual Meeting on the 24<sup>th</sup>.

The Chili Cook-off has been postponed until later this month or February – adding a game night instead of coffee hour to the mix to alleviate “cabin fever”!

The Lenten Soup Series will be an in depth look at the Book of Common Prayer.

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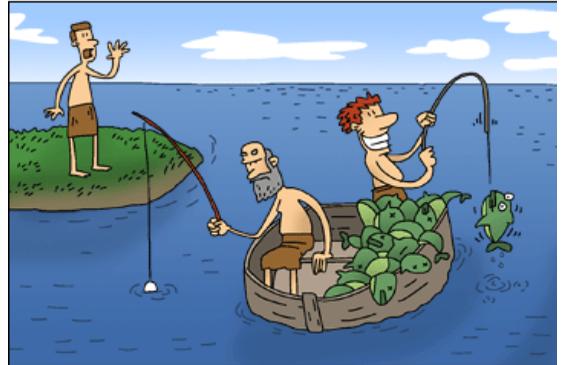
## Outreach

### Reminders:

Internal: There are several members who have signed up to cook meals for those who are sick or have someone they are caring for and could use the extra help. They are: Celeste Ames, Babbs Hazelrigg, Ken Hawley, Megan Jordan, Marv Swan and Anni Watts.

External: We are still gathering food items on Sunday for NE Community Fund. Please remember to bring an item with you. It is so easy if you just throw an extra item in your cart when shopping for yourself. Items most needed are: peanut butter, cereal, canned meats, canned “meals”, cereal, rice, beans.

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(See John 21:1-14)

01-30-2015

HOW'R THEY BITING TODAY?

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# Photos

*Lessons & Carols; the altar for Christmas*



# Photos

## Christmas Eve Service

