



# The Eagle

January 2019

*In  
This  
Issue...*

**January 1**

*Happy New Year!*

**January 6**

*Epiphany*

*Holy Eucharist*

**January 13**

*Holy Eucharist*

**January 20**

*Family Service with  
Children's Choir*

**January 27**

*Holy Eucharist*

## Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

I trust your holidays were enjoyable - perhaps spent with family and friends, gathering for shared meals and exchanging gifts. It was wonderful for me to be with you for all the preparations during Advent and the celebrations of Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. What a gift to watch our youngest and not so young retell the Christmas story in the annual pageant. And what a blessing to spend that evening with this household of God at the Christmas Card Supper and caroling. John and I delighted in the joy that gathering gave us.



And that's just it, isn't it? This Christmas season of giving and receiving - giving ourselves in Love and receiving Love - fills us with the knowledge of God's love for us and for all creation. We are reminded by this annual event that we are part of something bigger, something that requires the individuals we are to be part of God's realization of Love come down at Christmas, every day. That's how my father feels. He's struggling with dementia now. As I was helping my mom by taking down the holiday decorations and tree, he wondered what I was doing. He thought Christmas hadn't been yet. When mom told him Christmas was over he said, "Oh. Christmas should be every day." I shed a tear knowing I was removing the symbols of Love and Joy, Hope and Peace for him.

And that led me to think about our part in this extraordinary Love Story. Shortly we will celebrate Epiphany and the arrival of the Magi, their homage to the new born king, and their awakening to the knowledge of this Love come down from God. They go home by another way so they can spread the good news to more people, just as I invited us to do in my homilies.

We will hear more good news as our lectionary readings fast forward to the beginning of Jesus' ministry and his baptism. Here the heaven's proclaim him, and us, beloved of God in whom God is well pleased. The gifts continue to fill us with joy. Next we'll hear of Jesus' first miracle at the Wedding Feast at Cana - turning water into fine wine and revealing to his disciples a bit more of his divine, God-given nature. Then Jesus returns to his home town and reads from the scroll in the synagogue, fulfilling the scripture. The Spirit of the Lord is upon him and he has been anointed to bring the good news to the poor and freedom to

## **PRIEST IN RESIDENCE**

The Rev. William Cruse

## **ST. JOHN'S WARDENS**

Ken Bledsoe, Sr. Warden

Janice Hardy, Jr. Warden

## **VESTRY**

Nancy Abbott

Kristin Canty

Jason Farrar

Carolyn Greenberg

Lynda Hammond

Kevin Haas

Barry Hardy

Pat Tarbutton

John Woods

## **CLERK OF THE VESTRY**

Barry Hardy

## **FINANCE CHAIRPERSON**

Nancy Abbott

## **TREASURER**

John Greenberg

## **BOOKKEEPER**

Ellen Joyce



## **The Eagle**

Ellen Joyce, Editor

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Articles can be submitted in  
writing, or by E-Mail to:

ellen.joyce@

stjohnsramsey.org

the captives.

Now is the year of the Lord's favor and we are part of this, for we too are beloved and filled with the Spirit at our baptism. It's our calling, our vocation, to share our Gifts. As Paul tells us in 1 Corinthians, there are many gifts and each of us has different gifts, and each of us needs each other. When we come together as the whole body of Christ, we can proclaim the good news of God's Love and heal the brokenness. It takes all of us listening to and loving one another. We need to make it Christmas every day, giving the Hope, Love, Joy and Peace of Advent now and always. Let's go forth into the world rejoicing in the Love come down and the Power of the Spirit! Alleluia!!

Peace - Bill+

# **St. John's Memorial Church**

## **Annual Meeting**

**and**

## **Holy Eucharist**

### **February 10, 2019**

*\*There will be no 8:00am service that day*

## *With Gratitude ~*

On behalf of the Priest in Residence, Wardens, Vestry, and all who share in the grace of God through the worship, ministries, programs, and outreach of St. John's Church, we thank the following for their pledges for the year 2019.

*(as of December 23, 2018)*

<i>Nancy &amp; Jim Abbott</i>	<i>Carolyn &amp; John Greenberg</i>	<i>Sabrina &amp; Narine Persaud</i>
<i>Vi &amp; Herb Abrams</i>	<i>Rose &amp; Kevin Haas</i>	<i>Renee &amp; Bruce Peters</i>
<i>Debbi &amp; Andy Alt</i>	<i>Lynda &amp; Scott Hammond</i>	<i>Christine Potts</i>
<i>Dick Andersen</i>	<i>Ashley &amp; Richard Hardy</i>	<i>Melissa &amp; Richard Quast</i>
<i>Martha Anderson</i>	<i>Barry Hardy</i>	<i>Donna &amp; Charlie Rann</i>
<i>Karla Barricella</i>	<i>Jan &amp; Chuck Hardy</i>	<i>Emily &amp; Doug Rennie</i>
<i>Elkie &amp; Anthony Beninati</i>	<i>John Harley</i>	<i>Bonnie Rodgers</i>
<i>Emmy Bledsoe</i>	<i>Helene &amp; John Heschle</i>	<i>Ruth &amp; Ron Roshong</i>
<i>Kelly Jo &amp; Ken Bledsoe</i>	<i>Rose Ann &amp; Robert Holewinski</i>	<i>Virena &amp; Peter Rossi</i>
<i>Marina &amp; Leonard Boma</i>	<i>Charlotte &amp; Mike Kazigian</i>	<i>Joan &amp; Rick Rouault</i>
<i>Lynn Brooks</i>	<i>Kate &amp; Paul Kezmarsky</i>	<i>Laura &amp; Andy Sama</i>
<i>Kristin &amp; John Canty</i>	<i>Ellane &amp; Bob Klie</i>	<i>Matthew Schroeder</i>
<i>Susan &amp; Robert Carr</i>	<i>Doris Latham</i>	<i>Thomas Schuckman</i>
<i>Brenda &amp; Dean Cary</i>	<i>Kathy &amp; Bill Lathrop</i>	<i>Brooke &amp; Ken Silber</i>
<i>Robert Clooney</i>	<i>Jen &amp; Dan Lepori</i>	<i>Leslie &amp; Mark Simpson</i>
<i>Bill Deegan</i>	<i>Amy Lynch</i>	<i>Peg Surridge</i>
<i>Beka &amp; Jason Farrar</i>	<i>Michele &amp; Bill Mack</i>	<i>Nancy &amp; Tom Tarbutton</i>
<i>Kathy Fede</i>	<i>Carol &amp; Frank McInnis</i>	<i>Patricia Tarbutton</i>
<i>Jane &amp; James Fraser</i>	<i>Stacey &amp; Jay McMahan</i>	<i>JoEllen &amp; Greg Wall</i>
<i>Robin &amp; Jim Frosco</i>	<i>Dorene Milic &amp; Adam Kozielec</i>	<i>Gail &amp; Dave Washburn</i>
<i>Tom Frost</i>	<i>Judy Miller</i>	<i>Mary &amp; Jim Welton</i>
<i>Charlie Ghosio</i>	<i>Maryann Molnar</i>	<i>Robert Willingham</i>
<i>Maria Gramuglia</i>	<i>Julie &amp; Jorge Moya</i>	<i>Elaine Jones &amp; John Woods</i>
	<i>Dick Overton</i>	

We also express our gratitude and appreciation to our regular givers for their gifts of time, talent and treasure in support of St. John's and our ministries.

## Episcopal Church Women 2019 Film Fest Begins January 7!

The theme of St. John's 2019 ECW film and book season is a continuation of our 2018 theme "Discrimination and the Christian Response". Last year our discussions were based on Mark 12:31: "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself." This year we are taking it a step further with Philippians 2:3b: "In humility, consider others better than yourselves." These verses provide a compass for following Jesus and spreading God's love in our world. This is always easier said than done, of course. We will use these verses as a basis for discussing the complexities of our spiritual journeys. All parish women and friends are invited to attend.

Our first meeting will be on Monday, January 7 at 7:00 pm in the parish hall to view and discuss the 1989 film My Left Foot starring Daniel Day-Lewis, Brenda Fricker, Alison Whelan, and Kirsten Sheridan. Based on a true story, the movie revolves around Christy Brown an Irish boy born with cerebral palsy, leaving him essentially paralyzed and only able to speak in guttural sounds. At five years of age, he miraculously starts to be able to control his left foot. Though he was mistakenly considered by many to have intellectual disabilities, he determinedly fights to realize his full potential with the love and support of his mother. Daniel Day-Lewis won the Academy Award and the BAFTA Award for Best Actor and Brenda Fricker won the Academy Award for Best Supporting Actress for their roles in this film. It received three other Oscar nominations: Best Adapted Screenplay, Best Director, and Best Picture.

We will meet on the first Mondays of January through June.

Our complete 2019 season:

January 7: My Left Foot

February 4: The Man Who Knew Infinity

March 4: Elephant Man

April 1: Book discussion *Hidden Figures* by Margot Lee Shetterly

May 6: United Kingdom

June 3: End of season dinner

Please join us at St. John's on Monday, January 7, 2019 at 7:00 pm for an evening of camaraderie and thought-provoking discussion as we support each other in our spiritual journeys. For information, contact ECW co-chairs Marilyn Bartholme or Janice Hardy (HardyCJR@aol.com or 845-357-8244).

# Church School

## St. John's Church School

### January 2019

The Church School children will continue to learn about the gospel readings during the month of January and the third season of the church year, Epiphany, by engaging in the curriculum lessons and related activities during their class sessions. The word "epiphany" means "making God manifest." The primary theme is Baptism, beginning with the Feast of the Baptism of our Lord. The season begins on the Day of Epiphany, January 6<sup>th</sup>, and lasts until Ash Wednesday, March 6<sup>th</sup>, at the beginning of Lent. Children from the Grades 6-8 class will be the *readers* during the Family Service on January 20<sup>th</sup>.

All are invited to participate in the "Souper-Bowl" Church School outreach program beginning on January 13<sup>th</sup> and culminating with a "soup can" sculpture in the Parish Hall on January 27<sup>th</sup>. Cans of soup will be collected in the labeled baskets in the Parish Hall. We're looking forward to a spectacular sculpture this year!

The Church School teachers and children wish to thank everyone who graciously donated gifts and gift cards for the St. Paul's CDC "Adopt a Family for Christmas" program this year. 40 wrapped presents were picked up by CDC this year and delivered to the center in Paterson!

***"On behalf of the clients and staff of St. Paul's Community Development Center, I would like to extend our heartfelt thanks and appreciation for your donation of holiday gifts. It is truly inspiring to see how many individuals have stepped forward to lend their support and ensure a happy holiday for families in need. Your contribution has helped our organization meet the need presented and for that we are tremendously grateful."***

***~Marlene Williams, Executive Director, CDC.***

### Church School Calendar - January 2019

January 6	Church School: 10:00 AM <i>Epiphany Sunday</i> - Chapel (P-2) Lynda Hammond
January 13	Church School: 10:00 AM Souper Bowl Outreach Project Begins
January 20	Family Service: 10:00 AM with Choristers and Cherubs, Youth Group Readers - No Church School
January 27	Church School: 10:00 AM "Souper Bowl" Collection Project Ends

### Church School Calendar - February 2019

February 3	Church School - 10:00 AM - Chapel (P-2) Ruth Roshong
February 10	Church School - 10:00 AM - CS Staff Meeting - 11:15 AM
February 17	Family Service: 10:00 AM with Choristers and Cherubs, Youth Group Readers - No Church School
February 24	Church School - 10:00 AM

# Confirmation

*"In the course of their Christian development, those baptized at an early age are expected, when they are ready and have been duly prepared, to make a mature and public affirmation of their faith and commitment to the responsibilities of their Baptism and to receive the laying on of hands by the bishop."*

*– Book of Common Prayer, p. 412*

Our youth minister, Megan Kendall, recently wrote to parents of youth who are old enough to participate in the Confirmation Preparation sessions beginning in mid-January. In case there are others who are ready to explore this step in their faith journey (youth or adult), I share Megan's email with the parish.

*~Fr. Bill*

*"We are excited to announce that we will begin our confirmation classes in January and will run through April before the Confirmation Service at the Cathedral in Newark on Saturday, May 18th. This is a very exciting time in their faith journey and Fr. Bill and I are looking forward to supporting them through this milestone as they discern and deepen their faith.*

*Fr. Bill and Megan will be meeting with the confirmands for 9 sessions on Sundays from 11:30-1:00 on the following dates:*

*Jan 13th and 27th*

*Feb 10th and 24th*

*Mar 10th and 24th*

*April 7th, 14th and 28th*

*Confirmation at Trinity & St. Phillip's Cathedral, Newark*

*SATURDAY 18 May 10:00am*

*This is an important and serious commitment for our confirmands to take on. They are required to attend every class, Sunday services as well as all Holy Week Services (week of April 14th) and the required all-day Confirmation Retreat on Saturday March 23rd. (no overnight this year) We also balance our classes with social gatherings in the youth group and mission work which their participation is recommended. I have highlighted the required attendance dates but this is a small group and we realize that you may have prior commitments so please review and let me know as soon as possible if there are any conflicts.*

*We will be using the "I Will With God's Help" Confirmation program and have purchased the handbooks your child will need. It is based on the Baptismal Covenant which truly is*

# Confirmation

*the foundation of our faith.*

*We ask that you attend the first meeting on January 13th so that we can explain the process and the commitment. Father Cruse and I are happy to speak with you or your child at any time if you have any questions before committing.*

*Please let us know your thoughts on participating as soon as you can for planning purposes.*

*This is such a special time for your family and the St John's community is honored to be a part of it.*

*Blessings,*

*~Megan & Fr. Bill"*



# Music Notes

Could anyone imagine a Christmas Eve service without the singing of "Silent Night" or "O Come, All Ye Faithful"? I can't. Indeed, I have been providing the musical leadership every Christmas Eve for over 35 years now, sitting on the very same bench in the very same church doing just that! How many verses of these hymns have I played?

But I don't work alone. We have three active singing choirs, an instrumental ensemble, and several additional musicians providing the leadership that make our holiday worship what it is. Do thank these people for their time, efforts, talents, and spirit. We are indeed blessed.

The year 2019 will see the installation of our Nave organ. Emery Brothers Organ Builders of Allentown, PA is doing this work and has subcontracted part of it. As all organ builders, virtually all production stops for 6 weeks leading up to Christmas and again at Easter because of the intense demand for tuning services. They have indicated that we will be in their schedule early 2019, and depending on the subcontractor's schedule, the work may be complete by early April. Prayers answered! Fingers crossed! In addition to about 200 pipes mounted on two shallow chests on the back wall on either side of the main doors, Emery Brothers will also provide custom enclosed cabinets which will house the many hymn and prayer books on the current open shelf. Below this will be new rods for hanging coats, just as it is now. The Nave organ project will provide tremendously improved support (organ sound) for congregational singing, a stunningly beautiful focus of real pipes across the back wall of the Nave, and a practical and visually attractive solution to the old problem of book storage, while still allowing coats to be conveniently hung below. The generosity of many parish families and individuals has made this possible. Speak to me or one of our wardens if you would like to be part of the project. All donors will be acknowledged as the project is completed.

Alleluia!

Drew Kreisler, Organist/Choirmaster

**ST. JOHN'S  
MEMORIAL  
EPISCOPAL  
CHURCH**

A House of Prayer for  
All People



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**Worship Schedule**

**Sunday Services**

Holy Eucharist  
8 AM & 10 AM

**Church School**

9:45AM Infant & Child Care

**Celtic Prayer**

Wednesdays at 7:30 PM



The Rev. William Cruse  
*Priest in Residence*

The Rev. Richard Louis  
*Rector Emeritus*

Drew Kreismer  
*Organist/Choirmaster*

Ellen Joyce  
*Parish Administrator*

Megan Kendall  
*Youth Missioner*

# Upcoming Event Calendar

## January

- |            |                                     |
|------------|-------------------------------------|
| January 1  | Happy New Year!                     |
| January 7  | ECW "My Left foot"                  |
| January 13 | Confirmation Session                |
| January 27 | Confirmation Session                |
|            | Articles due for the February Eagle |

## February

- |             |                                 |
|-------------|---------------------------------|
| February 4  | ECW "The Man Who Knew Infinity" |
| February 10 | Confirmation Session            |
| February 24 | Confirmation Session            |

