

The Grapevine

St. Mark's Episcopal Church



January 2010

The Preacher's Corner

Epiphany

Epiphany, "shining forth," in Biblical terms refers to the appearing of Jesus on earth. It also refers to the upcoming appearing of Jesus when He returns. The festival of the Epiphany is the festival commemorating the manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles in the person of the "wise men from the East".

The term "epiphany", is defined by the Oxford English Dictionary as a manifestation or appearance of some divine or superhuman being. We understand epiphany as a sudden, intuitive perception of or insight into the reality or essential meaning of something, usually initiated by some simple or commonplace occurrence or experience. For those who have had a spiritual experience with Jesus Christ, Epiphany could be understood as the instant when they received a spiritual understanding of the reality of Christ.

We are celebrating the season of the Epiphany. During the next six Sundays the lectionary brings to us different ways in which Jesus has shined forth both to Jews and to Gentiles:

- The first Sunday of the season during His baptism God makes the official presentation. God himself declares Jesus to be His Son, the Beloved.
- The second Sunday Jesus' glory shines forth during the wedding in Cana of Galilee.
- The third and fourth Sundays Jesus declares himself to be the fulfillment of prophesy of salvation and healing to the poor, the blind, the captives and the oppressed.
- The fifth Sunday Jesus shines forth His power and control over the creatures of the waters.

The last Sunday of Epiphany points us toward His future ministry and what He is going to do for our salvation and reconciliation with God the Father.

The season of Epiphany points towards the presence and influence of Christ in the life of the Church and what He is empowering the Church to do, "*Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people.*" What Jesus told Simon is being asked from us: first, not to be afraid, and second bring people to Jesus as He empowers us. His last words to us as recorded in the Gospel according to Matthew were: "*Remember, I am with you always, to the end of times.*"

Today, at St. Mark's, Jesus is shining in the world through us.

Vicente+

St. Mark's Episcopal Church

335 Locust Street
Johnstown, PA 15901
814-535-6797

Email: stmarks@atlanticbbn.net

Web site

www.stmarksjohnstownpa.org

Rectory phone number

814-255-1940

Our Staff:

Rector: Rev. Vicente C. Santiago

Organist: Becky Schrock

Bell Choir: Annis Rogers

Treasurer: Larry Shaffer

Secretary: Joanne McKinley

Sexton: Nikki Forsythe

The Vestry:

Senior Warden: Pamela Hysong

Junior Warden: Pam Mayer

2010

Pam Mayer
John Rogers
Pam Hysong
Richard Burkert

2011

Amy Whitlow
Larry Shaffer
Dolly Lopresti
Kitty Batrus

2012

Greg Lilly
Todd Wagner
Lucie Whittle
Lorraine Zitnay

Please remember

St. Mark's Church in your will.



The Preacher's Wife: St. Mark's: A Living Epiphany!

“Partout ou vous legende vous pouvez etre sur, en allant au fond des choses que vous trouverez une histoire.”

“Whenever you see a legend, you can be sure, if you go to the very bottom of things, that you will find history.”

Valet de Viriville

Legends are ancient, mysterious and exciting. They are passed down to us through the centuries as stories from the darkest times in the oral tradition. There are many stories and legends surrounding the Johnstown flood that members at St. Marks are still telling today. Their origin lost... we don't know where they come from, but in them we often have a moving account that more fully explains and compliments history. We have just such a legend as this about the Holy Family for Epiphany ... perhaps from a lost manuscript or fragment from a scroll at Qumran...

In Scripture, we find the Holy Family, terrified, warned by angels in a dream... riding for their lives ... fleeing from King Herod Antipas in terror as he, in his fit of midnight madness, slaughters all the children under two in the whole village... Herod's cruelty and insanity come from a prophecy that a king is coming that will grow to become greater than he. The Holy Family departs in the night for Egypt. After this time, we have little Biblical to account for the life of baby Jesus. In fact, after his presentation to Ana and Simeon at the temple we don't hear again until he is twelve and lost in the temple...and then not until His baptism in the Jordan at the onset of His public ministry.

Our legend begins on the road to Egypt, in the dark of night the frantic Holy Family; escaping Herod, has fallen out of the fire into the frying pan. We find them beset by robbers, who would kill both parents and baby to steal the little that they had. As the robbers accost them, one among them uncovers a blanket, looking for treasure, and accidentally locks his eyes on the face of the infant Jesus. Ditus, the robber pauses... at one glance into the baby's face, he beholds the glory of God and is changed. Pleading, begging with his fellows to cease this unholy endeavor, he intercedes, saving the holy family!

We do not hear of Ditus again until the last hour. Jesus is strung up on the cross between two thieves. Our Lord turns his holy head to look eyes, immediately recognizing the one who speaks to be one of his own: *'Lord when you come into your kingdom, please remember me.'* It is Ditus! Jesus, knowing the thief's heart, speaks: *'I tell you that this day you will be with me in paradise.'*

In our lives, an epiphany is a defining moment... a teaching moment after which we may think or walk differently on our life journey... a time when we experience something and are changed forever because of it. ... Just as Ditus, at one time or another, all of us at St. Mark's have experienced epiphanies within our lives. Recently, as a diocese, we shared a corporate epiphany. We, like Ditus, know we are Christ's own! Let us take this holy time to ponder the exciting places where God will lead us next as a Church and a worshipping community.

Blessings to all our church family this Epiphany Season! Gwen J

**ANNUAL PARISH
MEETING**

Sunday, January 24, 2010

Following the 10:00 am Service

**Congregational Approval for
Balancing the Budget**

All Parishioners are encouraged to attend!



BISHOP'S VISIT

The Rt. Rev. Bishop Kenneth & Marianne Price will be present at St. Mark's on Sunday, February 7, 2010.

In preparation for his visit, if you know of anyone who would like to be

- . Baptized
- . First Holy Communion
- . Confirmation
- . Received into the Episcopal Church

Confirmation and First Holy Communion classes start January 10th. Please contact Joanne if you are interested in having your child in one of these class.

Also, if you know of someone who should be received into the Church or Baptized, again, please let Joanne know.



ALTAR GUILD LINEN DRIVE

I wish to thank all of the members of St. Mark's who responded to our request for contributions to the Altar Guild Fund Drive.

Your generosity has made it possible to replace the altar linens that were worn.

Due to the tremendous response, amounting to \$1,572.65, we will be able to meet other needs beyond the fair linen and the covers for the Credence Tables. Some of the additional money will be used to replace the Acolyte Torches. In February we would like to start another "fund raiser" With monies going towards repairs to the Processional Cross and the Pew Candles.

On behalf of the Altar Guild, I want to thank everyone for your commitment to St. Mark's.

God Bless each and everyone.

Doris Horner

Music Ministry Search

Please keep the music ministry search in your prayers as we seek to fill the vacancies of organist and choir director when Becky Schrock's commitment to St. Mark's ends at the end of January. Our expectations are to find spirit-filled individuals who will honor the traditions of the Episcopal Church, who are fully qualified in choral direction and organ, and who will work with our entire congregation to build our music ministry. Direct any suggestions to the search for Annis Rogers, 539-2295, shaman@atlanticbb.net

Celebration Johnstown -- First Night
December 31, 2009 6:00 PM – 10:00 PM

St. Mark's was part of the Johnstown's First Night 2010 celebration! There was music of all kinds, magic, and Arts and Crafts by the Bottleworks Ethnic Arts Center. An ebb and flow of folks enjoying the shows at St. Mark's, Franklin Street Methodist, First Presbyterian and the Library kept our volunteers very busy manning the kitchen and hosting our many visitors. Performances in the Sanctuary featured the Vivace String Trio, the Croation Singing Society and Jennifer Drummy. Our All Purpose Room rocked with the Southside Strays, Bob Beatty the Magician, and Bo Moore. A number of folks admired the quiet sacred beauty of our Sanctuary. Our Christmas candles and decorations were prepared and lighted for the evening by Doris and Bill Horner. There were many compliments and words of appreciation.

Our kitchen was very successful! We served hot dogs with sauerkraut and barbecue sandwiches, coffee, hot chocolate, and soft drinks. The kitchen produced approximately \$150 which is destined to our very important Pastoral Care ministry.

Many, many thanks to all our volunteers. Joanne took care of so many important details. Cindy Leap planned, cut onions and helped direct visitors. Ken Leap and grandson Bradley served hot dogs and barbecue. Pam Hysong ran the cash box and helped John and Annis prepare barbecue. Don and Lois organized the coffee and hot chocolate using their experience with Lenten Lunches. Julie provided hot dogs, buns and sauerkraut. Don Hysong, Lucie Whittle, Larry Shaffer, and Sue Kelly pitched in everywhere and really made the evening flow smoothly. Also, a special thank you to our Sexton, Nikki Forsyth, who readied the Church and Hall for Sunday's services.



youngest helper was 7 year old Bradley
Smith, grandson of Kenn & Cindy Leap.



Magician Bob Beatty with J.
Pasko (in green)



2010 Weekly Altar Flowers & Monthly Altar Candles

Donation price is \$30 a Sunday for flowers and \$8 a month for candles. Please contact Joanne in the Parish Office or Doris Horner with your requests.

We have openings for flower requests for the entire year.



WATKINS PARTY

I'd like to thank all who participated in the Watkins Party. It was a huge success! We sold over a \$1,000 in products and we made \$223.77 which we will donate to Pastoral Care.

Thank you so much for your support!

Angie Herbein



Soup & Study

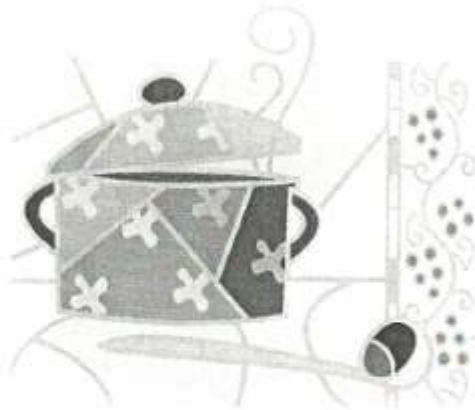
We plan to begin our next book January 20th

The Meaning of Jesus, Two Visions
by Marcus J. Borg and N.T. Wright

paperback: \$11.51 with free shipping through amazon

We meet most Wednesday evenings, share a simple meal, and discuss
a chapter a week.

Contact Annis Rogers 539 – 2295





PASTORAL CARE

Thank you, thank you, to everyone who took time from their busy schedule to help provide a meal at the Family Kitchen on Clinton St., on SATURDAY, December 19th.

Thank you to everyone who provided "shaving cream" for the Family Kitchen Christmas Baskets.

Thank you to everyone for adopting 3 adult residents at Laurel View Village for Christmas. We collected personal care and Christmas items for these elderly residents in time for Christmas.

St. Mark's also delivered small Christmas gifts to our own homebound parishioners.

We also need to restock our Food Pantry. We have helped six needy families during the month of December (one family with 4 children and one family with children).

In service,
Amy W.

"We must choose this day whether we will hide our eyes from the need and close our ears to the call or whether we will tackle with new decisiveness, mixed with humility and devotion, the unchanging command of a faithful God who is still seeking." ~ Ralph Winter in Faithful in Christ Jesus - a Mission Reader

Mark your calendar for February 7th:

Bishop Price visits St. Mark's

Souper Bowl Sunday

National Boy Scouts Week

The Boy Scouts will be at the entrances of the Church to collect money and Food items to refurbish various Food Pantries in the area.



Remember Today In Your Prayers:

Ivan & Andrea Mulligan & Children Joan & Bill Berresford, Heather Thomas and unborn Baby.

Family and Friends Serving Our Country:

Jason Medsger, Clint Cable, Bill Pulliam, David Fagan, Justin Erdley, Michael Lopresti, Jim Williamson, Chad McLaren, Michael Custer, Jeff Bright, Dan Kell, Seth Martens, and Valerie Hantke.

Please Continue To Remember In Your Personal Prayers:

Emily Just, Ed Ajay, Liz Hysong, Emily Williams, Gloria Coulson, Jack Lorence, Louis Hoffer, Eugene Davis, Larry Stiles, Lois Bender, Cindy Leap, Sue Kelly, Ethel Arthur, Marjorie Ajay, Hassell & Polly Sledd, Agnes Wright, Maggie Lesosky, Jim Hargreaves, Dorothy Teulle, Ruth Ripple, Marvin Ripple, Phyllis Miller, Helen Fry, Ethel Thomas, Gordon Gladden, Catherine Woods, Kevin Boyden, Joy Howard, Dave Maxwell, Linda Russell, Boyd Thomas, Barb Gatto, Shirley Markley, Msgr. Orbanek, Tina Wagoner, Gavin Williamson, Jeff Gates, Chris Marlowe, Ted Thiele, Craig & Cindy, Frank Yoder, Jr., Betty Radasky, Sharon Reed, Joan Bost, John Fry, Barbara Mileto, Alice Broad.

Rest In Peace

Please remember Barbara Mulligan (Ivan's Mom), in your prayers. Barbara passed away Jan. 1st. *Eternal Rest Grant Unto Her O Lord, and Let Perpetual Light Shine Upon Her.*



FINANCE MEETING

**TUESDAY January 12th
5:00 pm**

VESTRY MEETING

Sunday January 17th

Rwandan Orphan

All families of the church are encouraged to donate \$1.00 on the third Sunday of each month (Jan. 17th) for Chantal, our Rwandan orphan. Please be sure to mark your donation separately for her.

Pastoral Care

All families of the church are encouraged to donate one dollar on the fourth Sunday of each month (Jan. 24th) for our Pastoral Care. Please be sure to mark your donation separately for Pastoral Care.

Painting Rectory Third Floor

Our lovely Rectory on Leila Street in Southmont is a very warm and inviting place. Loraine Zitnay, Lucie Wagner, and Lucie Whittle have decorated the first and second floors. The Santiagos have a wonderful home here in Johnstown. Well, yes, the first and second floors are beautiful. The third floor has not aged as gracefully as the rest of the home. Walls are covered with dark paneling. Floors are barely finished. The third floor bath really shows the more than thirty years of use. The third floor is a rather dark, foreboding place.

That is, it was rather dark and foreboding! In their spare time a group has cleaned and freshly painted the entire third floor: both rooms, halls, steps, and bath. The color scheme is now bright and inviting. Minor repairs, caulking, and sealing are complete. Our Rectory third floor is ready to serve as additional bed room space, office space or storage. During the reception for Bishop Price check out the improvements.

Many thanks to Kitty Batrus, Larry Shaffer, Jay and Julie Follensbee, Lucie Wagner, George Zitnay, and John and Annis Rogers for their efforts on this project. And, a special thanks to the Whitlows, Kitty and Larry for their work through the summer on the Rectory grounds.





HAPPY January BIRTHDAY!



NAME	DATE	NAME	DATE
Greg Karlick	14	Magnus Rogers	27
Stephen Balamuta	15	Richard Mayer	27
Hayley Bragdon	17	Connie Mayer	31
Jack Follansbee	19	Fr. Charles Martin	31
Kenn Leap	22		

CHURCH HUMOR

A father was approached by his small son who told him proudly, "I know what the Bible means!"

His father smiled and replied, "What do you mean, you 'know' what the Bible means?"

The son replied, "I do know!"

"Okay," said his father. "What does the Bible mean?"

"That's easy, Daddy..."the young boy replied excitedly. "It stands for 'Basic Information Before Leaving Earth.'"



January 3rd	Time	Lay Ministers	Acolytes	Altar Guild	Ushers	Coffee Hour
	7:30	J. Green		Herbeins		
	10:00	G. Zitnay (L) B. Horner (P) (Ch) J. Rogers (Ch)		D. Horner	Women R. Burkert Zitnay J. Follansbee	Choir
January 10th						
	7:30	P. Mayer		Herbeins		
	10:00	Jul. Follansbee (L) C. Greig (P)(Ch) A. Rogers (Ch)	Carly Campbell Ian Campbell	C. Adams P. Mayer	Whitlow G. Lilly S. Buchan	Choir
January 17th						
	7:30	L. Loncella		Herbeins		
	10:00	Children (L) D. Horner (P) (Ch) B. Howarth (Ch)	Penn Whitlow Sam Whitlow Meredith Herman	A. Whitlow C. Lilly	R. Whittle P. Faint T. Wagner D. Greig	Choir
January 24th						
	7:30	J. Green		Herbeins		
	10:00	T. Wagner (L) L. Loncella (P) (Ch) S. Kelly (Ch)	Daniel Wolfe Lida Thompson	J. Follansbee D. Horner	R. Burkert Zitnay J. Follansbee	Choir
January 31st						
	7:30	P. Mayer		Herbeins		
	10:00	A. Whitlow (L) P. Hysong (P) (Ch) J. Green (Ch)	Sierra Buchan Trevor Buchan Rachelmae Pulliam	D. Horner	Whitlow G. Lilly S. Buchan	Choir

December

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		



January 2010

February

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4 7:15 pm Boy Scouts	5	6	7	8	9 Medieval Banquet Cindy Leap's Group
10 7:30 am Holy Eucharist 9:30 am Sunday School 10:00 am Holy Eucharist	11 7:15 pm Boy Scouts	12 5:00 pm Finance Meeting	13 6:00 pm Soup & Study	14	15	16
17 7:30 am Holy Eucharist 9:30 am Sunday School 10:00 am Holy Eucharist Vestry Meeting	18 7:15 pm Boy Scouts	19	20 6:00 pm Soup & Study	21	22	23
24 7:30 am Holy Eucharist 9:30 am Sunday School 10:00 am Holy Eucharist Annual Parish Meeting	25 7:15 pm Boy Scouts	26	27 6:00 pm Soup & Study	28	29	30
31 7:30 am Holy Eucharist 9:30 am Sunday School 10:00 am Holy Eucharist						