

*The Mars Hill*  
**PROCLAIMER**

**December 2009 and January 2010**



*A newsletter  
by, for and about the people of*  
**St. Paul's Episcopal Church  
DeKalb, Illinois**

This month:

- A message from Mother Gwynne
- Special Dates to Remember
- Program & Committee Reports
- What is Epiphany?
- Transitions

All submissions to the *Mars Hill Proclaimer* should be sent to  
[parishoffice@stpaulsdekab.org](mailto:parishoffice@stpaulsdekab.org).  
The next deadline will be February 15, 2010.



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Blessings in this season of light!

Before we sigh a breath of relief ending the Christmas season and all the hectic activities that we enjoy, I want to thank everyone at St. Paul's for their generous hearts. We have been generous with the Salvation Army Food Pantry, Safe Passage, and many of our own favorite charities at this time. So many of you graciously gave of time and talent to make our Christmas celebrations so wonderful. Particular thanks to Lorraine, the choir and all the musicians who helped us make a joyful noise to the Lord. Thanks to all those who decorated. Thanks to Anna Dee for all the bulletins making them thoughtful and creative. And thanks to all for the generous purse which you gave me.

Now we find ourselves in the new year and planning for our parish annual meeting. Another cycle begins in God's grace. Our annual meeting will be a time to reflect over the past year, but more importantly to look forward to where God calls us to be as we renew our search for a rector.

In this season of Epiphany, may the light of Christ shine in your lives that your light may shine for others.

Peace -

Gwynne +



## SPECIAL DATES TO REMEMBER

Sunday School & Choir on break	December 27 & January 3
The Feast of the Epiphany Wednesday, January 6	Service at 6 P.M. Supper follows in the Parish Hall
Midweek Services Resume	Wednesday, January 13, 9:30 A.M.
Food Pantry Sunday	January 10
Annual Parish Meeting	Sunday, January 31 ONE SERVICE - 9 A.M. Brunch & Meeting follow in Parish Hall
Ash Wednesday	February 17
Lenten Quiet Day	Date/Time to be announced

## COMMITTEE AND PROGRAM REPORTS

### Vestry Appreciations

At each meeting, before we get to our business agenda items, we take turns expressing appreciation for members of the congregation and for the things they have done since we last met. At our December meeting it was suggested that these appreciations be shared with the congregation in the *Proclaimer*. This is our most recent list:

- To Mthr. Gwynne for offering the Advent Quiet Day.
- To David Anderson, Lorraine Langer and Marilyn Cleland for staffing the Magnetic Church Open Hours program.
- To the Pralls for making the new lighting in the sanctuary “happen.”
- To Larry Retherford to repairing the pews.
- To Rhys Prall for his work as Sexton.
- To Sharon Downen for the parish audit.
- To Anna Dee for her work on the *Proclaimer*.
- To the Nenonens for hosting the St. Nicholas party.
- To Peggy Newby and Terry Dickow for organizing Games Night.
- To George and Rita Anderson, and to their family members, for the gifts made in memory of Madge Gile.

## December Vestry Highlights

The 2010 parish budget is a work in progress. It is coming together, but is still being finalized.

Our 2009 pledge to the Diocese has been paid in full.

The Facilities Committee has solicited bids for a new furnace and air conditioning system for the rectory. The current installation is 26 years old and quite inefficient.

Dick Downen will step down from his job as Treasurer at the Annual Meeting on January 31.

The Nominating Committee has presented a slate of Vestry Candidates to be presented at the Annual Meeting on January 31. Pending your votes of approval, our Vestry next year will be:

Vince McMahon, Senior Warden  
Brad Cripe, Junior Warden  
Peggy Newby  
Hazel Retherford  
Michael Duffy  
Rita Anderson  
Jennie Cummings

Sue Ouellette, Roy Mason, and Ellen Anderson are retiring. Bev Smith and Bob Prouty resigned from the Vestry for personal reasons.

Other Annual Meeting previews:

- A modification to the bylaws of the parish will be presented for your vote, with the intention of decreasing the number of Vestry members, based on the actual size of the parish.
- Pat Brown has been asked to act as parish Treasurer during 2010.

## Food Pantry Sundays: Year End Report

Beginning on in July 2009, parishioners brought nonperishable food items to church for the Salvation Army Food Pantry on the second Sunday of each month. To date, St. Paul's has given 943 items to the food pantry. Volunteers delivering our gifts have reported that the line of people waiting to receive food at the Pantry reaches out the door and down the block. With the economic recovery moving slowly, the need in our community, as elsewhere, continues to be very great.

The next collection date will be January 10. Let's shoot for 2010 items in 2010!

## **Magnetic Church**

Open Hours / Our Path Ministry: At the Vestry meeting on November 8, Ellen Anderson, on behalf of the Magnetic Church Committee, proposed that the church and parish hall be open during the week to reach out to the students who walk by our building. We are making a renewed effort to be more involved with the campus and felt this was a great opportunity. As approved by the Vestry, we will be open on Tuesdays and Wednesdays 10 A.M. - 2 P.M. beginning on January 11.

Funding for a sign to advertise the days/hours was approved at the November 8 Vestry Meeting. Light refreshments will be available for students. As security is a concern, we are asking for volunteers to sit in the parish hall and sanctuary during those hours. Bring a book or your needlework or letters that need writing. ***Please contact Ellen Anderson to volunteer - we need your support to make this happen.***

## **Notes from Lorraine Langer**

The St. Paul's Adult & Youth Choir will be on break from December 25th, 2009 to January 6th, 2010. We will have our first 2010 rehearsal on Thursday, January 7th, 7:00-9:00 P.M. If you like to sing, please come and join us for the New Year.

## **Parish Website**

Starting in January, 2010, the Communications Committee will begin reviewing the website to make changes and updates for the new year. Please fill out the website edit request form (found on the Parish Hall table) if you have ideas, comments and/or changes and leave them in Lorraine Langer's church mailbox. Additionally, if you have meetings and events coming up, we would like to add them to the calendar page on the church website for parishioners and the community at large to view.

## What is Epiphany?



**The Feast of the Epiphany** celebrates the revelation of God in human form in the person of Jesus Christ. Christians fixed the date of the feast on January 6 quite early in their history. The Western Church has traditionally emphasized the "Revelation to the Gentiles" mentioned in Luke, where the term Gentile means all non-Jewish peoples. The Biblical Magi,

(the "Three Kings") who represented the non-Jewish peoples of the world, paid homage to the infant Jesus, in stark contrast to Herod the Great who sought to kill him.

Traditionally in church services on the Feast of the Epiphany, the priest, wearing white vestments, would bless frankincense, gold (gifts for the Christ child) and chalk. Chalk was used to write "CMB," the initials of the three magi (traditionally named Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar) over the doors of churches and homes. The letters also stand for the phrase *Christus mansionem benedicat*, which translates as "May Christ bless the house".

In France on Epiphany people eat *king cake*, with a trinket or a bean hidden inside. The person who gets the piece of cake with the trinket becomes "king" for a day.

In Mexico children leave their shoes, along with a letter with toy requests for the Three Kings, by the family nativity scene or by their beds. The shoes may be filled with hay for the Kings' camels, so that the Kings will be generous with their gifts.

In Louisiana, Epiphany is the beginning of the Mardi Gras season, during which it is customary to bake king cakes. The one who finds the trinket or bean must provide the next king cake.

The church season of Epiphany ends on Mardi Gras ("Fat Tuesday"), the day before Lent begins on Ash Wednesday.

## TRANSITIONS

### Birthdays

Lynn Marie Roberts, January 10  
Nora Lindvall, January 12

Janice Larson, January 15  
Michael Duffy, January 27

### Marriage Anniversaries

George & Jane Nenonen  
January 21, 1967

Al & Peggy Newby  
January 28, 1978

Dan & Janice Guiborat  
January 26, 2002

### In Memoriam

Margaret Biletsky, December 25, 2009

“Death is not extinguishing the light; it is only putting out the lamp  
because the dawn has come.”     --*Rabindranath Tagore*

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