THE STAR

December 2024



IN THIS ISSUE

- Vestry Views
- Parish Register
- Vestry Highlights
- Financial Summary
- Service Ministry
- Small Groups
- December Calendar

Parish Office

585-247-4190

Tue - Fri 8:30 - 12:30

Sunday Worship

8:00 AM and 10:00 AM

Bulletin Prayer List

Prayer requests remain for 6 weeks unless notified

VESTRY VIEWS

Challenges and Struggles, we all have them. Some challenges and struggles are greater than others, but when it comes down to it, we can't get away from them. It seems like when one challenge is under control and going away, a new challenge arises. Challenges are a part of life. It's how we handle the challenges that will get us through.

Note that there is always someone else that is struggling a little more than you are. Sometimes we are so focused on what our problems are, we forget that we also have good in our lives. In this upcoming season of Thanksgiving and Christmas, take a moment to say a kind word to someone and maybe help someone in need.

But most of all, during this upcoming season, take a couple minutes to really look at the good you have in your life. Just in case you have difficulty finding something, here are a few things to look at. Food, clothes, shelter, family, friends, Church, God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, your favorite sports team, etc, etc, etc.

Take a few minutes and find the good things in your life. They might just help to overcome some of the challenges and strugglers that are there.

Don Metzinger

CHANGES & ADDITIONS

If you have changes to your contact information, please notify Maureen Durie in the Parish Office: 247-4190 or coeoffice@frontier.com Office hours: Tuesday—Friday, 9:00 am—1:00 pm

THE BISHOP THE MINISTERS

The Rt. Rev'd Kara Wagner Sherer The Congregation

THE VESTRY

Don Metzinger, WardenHelen BennettLisa SteubingKathie Entress, WardenSusan GaskillMike GrassoDeb Grasso, TreasurerDonna PerryNick ParisiPat Lesher, ClerkKristen SmithMargaret Schweizer

THE STAFF

Rector: Fr Greg Kremer Interim Organist: Gail Hyde

Parish Secretary: Maureen Durie Church School Coordinator: Don Metzinger

+ + +

FROM THE PARISH REGISTER



O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servants as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace; strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

December Birthdays

Dec. 5 Lillian Poppleton	Dec. 16 Donna Craig	Dec. 22 Joe Woo
Dec. 8 Danielle D'Anunzio	Dec. 17 Diane Moffatt	Dec. 24 Evan Van Scooter Elaine Bagley
Dec. 9 Christopher Long Jr.	Dec. 19 Mike Moffatt	Dec. 26 Krystal D'Anunzio
Dec. 10 Terry Barker	Dec. 21 Larry Burling Doug Collinge	Dec. 29 Zachary Durkin

O God, you have so consecrated the covenant of marriage that in it is represented the spiritual unity between Christ and his Church. Send your blessing upon these your servants that they may so love, honor and cherish each other in faithfulness and patience, in wisdom and godliness, that their homes may be havens of blessing and peace. Amen.

December Anniversaries

Dec. 3 Gretchen Murray & Frederick Larham	Dec. 18 Carol & David Kohan
---	-----------------------------

Dear Epiphany,

Blessed Advent and Christmas seasons to you!

Here are a few news updates to share with you.

• **DISCERNMENT AND PLANNING TEAM:** The data gathered from you during the small group listening sessions we held in October told us that our greatest strengths are 1. our warm, welcoming, and inclusive community, and 2. our outreach to the wider Gates/Chili community in support of those in greatest need. This may seem like no big deal or even obvious, but it is not a majority of parishes that can claim these as genuine strengths. These qualities are sincere and natural to us, not contrived out of



the desire to grow our numbers. This community is a God-given gift that many people in our world long for.

Among the promises we made at baptism and confirmation is the promise to share the good news of Jesus Christ with the world around us. The Good News of Jesus Christ has taken the form of this loving community here at Epiphany. The question before us is, how do we share our gift of genuine community with those in need? Our Discernment and Planning process has concluded that perhaps the best approach is personal invitation. Knowing that this doesn't always happen naturally, we recognize the need for a structure in the parish that will help to ensure that we act upon this insight.

Years ago we had created an infrastructure in the parish, so we went back to the results of the discernment process we did 8 or 9 years ago to take a look at the five "mindfulness categories" that resulted and the five corresponding small groups that were charged with implementation thereof. These five small groups include: Social Media & Technology, Welcome & Invitation, Liturgy & Music, Children & Youth Leadership Development, and Adult Formation. Though things got waylaid during the Covid years, we were impressed how relevant these still are. I encourage you to read about these five categories on our website.

We are now at work revisiting these five small groups in an effort to revitalize and adjust them with the goal of strengthening our ability to share our gifts with more people through personal invitation. Knowing that we have fewer people and resources than in years past, and that we are already very active, we are focusing our effort, not so much on new programs we can implement, though there may be some, but more on how we include personal invitation and welcome as a priority in everything we already do.

That's where we are right now. Our team is working on updating the mission and goal statements for each of these five "mindfulness" areas that will provide clear direction and a concrete structure to help us share the Good News God has given us. We will be reaching out to you soon in the next phase of our discernment process to help guide this ongoing process.

- <u>Organist</u>: We are tremendously thankful for Gail Hyde and Rob Ferris who have stepped in to help us. Gail has offered to lead music at our worship services now through the 4:30 service on Christmas eve, and Rob will play from the 10:30 service on Christmas through January. We are searching for a new Organist and have job postings at Roberts Wesleyan, Eastman, Nazareth, and the Rochester Chapter of the American Guild of Organists. We were approached by an undergraduate organ major at Roberts who could play for us through April. We will be auditioning her soon. Though a short-term hire, this would give us more time to continue our search for a longer-term organist. If you know of an organist, please consider reaching out to them for possible leads.
- Organ Replacement: Music is a very important aspect of our worship service as well as our outreach to the community. As you know our organ is on its last legs, so, in an effort to replace it, our task force continues to meet with John Sherer, the organist, consultant, and husband to our new Bishop Kara. We were able to go to St Stephens in the city, an Episcopal church that recently closed its doors, to listen to their pipe organ. This is one of a few options we are considering. This is a lengthy process which we expect will take a number of months to complete. We will keep you posted along the way.

May you have a wonderful holiday season!





VESTRY MINUTES, OCTOBER, 2024

Present: Kathie Entress, Don, Metzinger, Helen Bennett, Susan Gaskill, mike Grasso, Maria Hartz, Nick Parisi, Kristen Smith, Margaret Schweizer, Lisa Steubing, Deb Grasso, Pat Lesher

Absent: Fr. Greg, Donna Perry

Opening Prayer: Maria opened with prayer. The vestry meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

BUSINESS:

- 1. Approve September Vestry Minutes. A motion was made to approve September 17. 2024 Minutes. M-S-A
- 2. Finance Report and motion to approve. Deb reported our deficit at \$26,000. We are still waiting for an ERTC of \$25,000. She has tried the government website and also calling, without success. Also, waiting for a meeting with PAYCHEX in regard to this matter. Pledges were a little short. Utilities are still under what we budgeted for. We had upped our budget 25%, but the weather has been warmer than usual so far. Investments are doing very well. Nothing out of the ordinary with expenses. The organist evens out with supply and his salary so that remains the same. Received last check from Red Wings bringing us up to approximately \$4000 mark. A motion was made to approve the Finance Report. M-S-A
- 3. Safe Church Training Church sexual harassment. Kathie reported everyone at the meeting is set. The Sunday school teachers and the Eucharistic Ministers that visit shut-ins still have to complete their training. Further down under Discussion Items Homeschool update is a discussion about the possibility of a training course for the coordinator/schoolteachers/parents.
- 4. Strategic Planning. Margaret reported after small groups on Sunday 8:00 and 10:00 and Wednesday night, the little post it notes from the four different questions were collected by Desi. A tally was made and given to the committee. The group looked it over, the common theme in answer to what was special about Epiphany and what is our greatest asset was the people (different ages; backgrounds; talents, assets; welcoming and working together. Music was another common theme also. All the questions and answers were coordinated and given to the group. A meeting has been set up with Julie Secora on October 23 to help us with looking at the data we have and help us go forward in our strategic planning. There was a small group for the children involved but the committee wants to reach out to young adults for their input also.
- 5. Stewardship/Annual Giving. Deb reported that we are right on target with pledges coming in. Actually, we are at the total we ended up with last year. It's a quick tally with more pledges to come hopefully.

- 6. AED. Don reiterated that Jim and Linda Wackerow would like to donate an AED machine. They are going to contact an agency suggested by Marsha for a recommendation on what type to buy. Once it has been purchased, we will go through and see who wants to be trained on how to use it.
- 7. Organ taskforce. The task force has met with John Sherer (the Bishop's husband) and organist at St. Pauls. John is very knowledgeable about organ replacement. He discussed pipe organs and digital organs. He said from an organ standpoint a pipe organ is much more desirable. The taskforce is meeting with him on Saturday to check out a pipe organ that is available at St. Stephens which is a step in the right direction to try to stay local with our options.
- 8. Window replacement. Rochester Colonial is replacing the broken northwest window in the Auxiliary Room within the next 2 weeks and WOE has offered to pay for the replacement.
- 9. Organist Update. Robert Poovey, our organist, resigned his position to take effect after this coming Sunday. He will be missed greatly. Gail Hyde will be stepping in again and has offered to help us out for the next couple of months. Fr. Greg has reached out to a couple of other supply to see if we can get somebody for Christmas. Don said, officially, we'll find out something more for next month and what we are going to do to find another organist.
- 10. Xmas update. Fr. Greg is talking about 2 services on Christmas Eve probably at 4:30 and l0:30. Carols would start at 4:30, the service at 5:00. At this point not sure of music at the later service.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- 1. Small group updates.
 - a. Social Media. Margaret reported there wasn't anything new.
 - b. Adult Formation. The committee met last week and set some things up; the dates have to be firmed up and then they will get the info out. The Christmas tree lighting will be on the first Saturday in December. Maria has offered to do a couple of presentations, one about Creation Care and the other about gender expansion within the Episcopal Church. The Committee would like to do both, but just deciding if a Sunday after Church would work or do a true Wed. night cafe.
 - c. Liturgy Planning. Nick said he talked to Fr. Greg about the 2 services for Christmas Eve and they are definitely at 4:30 and 10:30. He's not sure if carols would start at 4 or 4:30. There will not be a Christmas Day service.
 - d. Welcome. Kathie had the Welcome update from Donna. Donna checked with Lori and there is nothing new to report.
 - e. Youth. Sue reported the Youth will have Trunk or Treating on Saturday, 10/26. They will meet prior to the event for food, games and decorating pumpkins to which the parish is invited. Then Trunk or Treating will happen which is open to the public. On Saturday, 11/23 they will be meeting from 4:30 to 8:30 to make peanut clusters to be sold on 3 consecutive Sundays, beginning 11/24 The proceeds are saved for whatever projects they have going, i.e. community service or leading towards the pilgrimage. The Rite 13 girls and the younger children hope to do Christmas ornaments (possibly angels) for Seabury Woods residents. Still working on plans for what the Youth could do for Christmas service, possibly like last year when they carried the figurines down the aisle and sang their own song.

- 2. Sound system update. Don said Kim is still working on trying to better the sound, the volume of the audio part for Facebook Live. If preaching from top of the stairs rather than in front of the first pew, difficulty hearing them. Also freezes when you're videotaping with a slow connection. So, there are still problems to be addressed.
- 3. Front Entrance area. Kathie was approached by someone who wanted the front entrance to be more welcoming, especially with the Turkish Community event taking place, hoping the Vestry could do something to warm up the area. Kathie asked Sue if the Rite 13 girls would be available to give some suggestions and do the work necessary to make it more welcoming. Sue said they are working on a project in their own room right now but feels they would be very open to this idea.
- 4. Parish grant. Kathie said that the grant we requested for next year's budget from the diocese is a good possibility, but still has to have approval with their budget by the Diocesan Convention. Once that happens, an announcement will be made to the parish.
- 5. Home School update. Don reported that 5 families have been meeting on Mondays. They haven't been given a key yet. Right now, they are using the space, trying it out to make sure it's good for them. There was discussion about the increase in utility costs for us. It was suggested that even if the utility costs are a little more for us, it would be a good way for the Church to be supportive to our community. A proposed contract has been submitted and reviewed by Vestry. A note will be given to Fr.Greg asking about the amount that will be paid to us, plus the possibility of incorporating safe church training before the contract is signed.

Maria closed with a prayer. The Vestry meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Next meeting will be November 19 @ 7 p.m. at the Church

Respectfully Submitted,

Pat Lesher, Clerk of the Vestry

Vestry Views for November STAR – Heidi







DECEMBER SERVICE MINISTRY PROJECT

As the Christmas season approaches, Epiphany will be participating in two familiar holiday projects. We will be supplying hot cocoa packets and individual size facial tissue for the Christmas Bag project coordinated by Meal & More, Inc. A Meal & More, Inc. is a community kitchen housed in Christ Church in downtown Rochester. They will be making 130 Christmas stockings this year for their guests. They are requesting about 650 individual packets of hot chocolate and 130 small facial tissue packets to be included in the stockings. The collection has started and will conclude on Sunday, December 8th.

Epiphany will also be adopting a family for the Christmas holidays from Family Promise of Greater Rochester (FPGROC). FPGROC assists families at risk or experiencing homelessness and we will be providing Christmas gifts for a family of 4 this year. The Christmas tree with ornaments is in the back of the sanctuary with the gifts the family is requesting for Christmas. The gifts need to be returned to church by Sunday, December 1st. Please read the bulletin about the specifics of how the gifts should be wrapped.

We concluded our joint service project with the Turkish Cultural Center helping Cameron Ministry with a winter clothing in early November. Cameron Community Ministry is an urban outreach community center in the Lyell-Otis neighborhood in Rochester, NY. The outreach center delivers basic needs and emergency service to help individuals and families in this neighborhood. Take a look at the photo of all the clothing we collected for Cameron Ministries. Cameron was overwhelmed with the donations we provided.

Epiphany joined with the Gates Chili Community Connections organization on Saturday, November 2^{nd} from 10am-12 noon to help pick up trash along Lyell Avenue and Trolley Blvd. in the Town of Gates. We worked together helping a volunteer organization called "Keep Gates Clean". Take a look at the photo provided and try to find the four individuals that participated from Epiphany.

The Service Ministry Committee would like to thank the parish for your support with our monthly service ministry projects and wish everyone a joyous Christmas holiday season.

Marsha Pulhamus, Birdie Ames, Nancy Mancini and Donna Perry

DECEMBER YOUTH UPDATE

The youth will be busy this holiday season as we prepare to make our peanut cluster to sell before Christmas. The peanut clusters will be sold after the 8 and 10 am services on November 24th, December 1st and December

8th or until all the peanut clusters are gone. The monies raised from the peanut clusters help cover the cost of youth events and service projects.

The Sunday school classes will be busy during the month of December making Christmas ornaments for the residents of the memory care and assisted care units at Seabury Woods. The youth will be delivery the ornaments to the Seabury residents after church on Sunday, December 15th.

The youth will have a more active part in church during the Advent season. It will be great to have them be part of the 10 am Sunday services and the 4:30pm Christmas Eve service. We have roles for all ages of the children so it will be a very special time at Epiphany this Christmas season.

A gentle reminder as we entertain this holiday season is that the youth are also collecting can and bottle money to help with fund raising. You can either put your empty cans and bottles in the trash receptacle in the hallway leading to the fellowship hall or hand in bottle receipts or monies received when you redeem the deposit on your cans and bottles. The container for the bottle receipts and money redeemed is located on the large desk in the main hallway.

Please feel free to talk to anyone on the Sunday school staff with any questions about the Sunday school program or Youth activities. We appreciate Epiphany's support of the youth and their activities.

Sue Gaskill, Deb Grasso, Cassie Magiera, Don Metzinger, Marsha Pulhamus and Gladys VanBrederode

UPCOMING EVENTS:

CHURCH SCHOOL CALENDAR:

Church school begins: 9:45am

Sunday, Dec. 1 - Church School
Sunday, Dec. 8 - Church School
Sunday, Dec. 15 - Church School
Sunday, Dec. 22 - Church School
Sunday, Dec. 22 - Church School
Sunday, Dec. 29 - NO Church School



JOURNEY THE WAY OF LOVE: ADVENT EVENINGS OF REFLECTION

All are encouraged to attend our Advent Evenings of Reflection. Based on a resource called Journeying the Way of Love, these gatherings will help us prepare for the coming of Christ by moving through the first two chapters of the Gospel of Luke. Luke's gospel provides a pattern for understanding how we can live the Way of Love as individuals, as families and friends, as a community, and out in the world. Please sign-up on the sheet on the board in the main hallway. We will start at 6:30 PM each Monday.

- Week 1 Dec 2: The Annunciation: Saying "Yes" to the Journey
- Week 2 Dec 9: Mary and Elizabeth: Journeying with Family and Friends
- Week 3 Dec 16: The Birth of John the Baptist: Journeying with Community
- Week 4 Dec 23: The Birth of Jesus: Journeying with the World

GREENING OF THE CHURCH

The Greening of the Church has again planned to spread our Christmas decorating out during a 4-week period. This will spread out our joyous celebration throughout the Advent season. So please mark your calendar and see if you can help out for a bit on the following dates:

- Dec 1 Hang large wreath on back wall, hang Christmas quilt & hang greens from the rood beam, banner (brave soul for ladder climbing)
- Dec 8 Outside creche, wreaths in chancel, sanctuary, outside brick wall
- Dec 15- Assemble & decorate artificial tree in front of church, decorate windowsills
- Dec 22- Arrange fresh poinsettia plants, change advent wreath to white, altar hangings to white, crèche assembled & put in front of altar

If you have any questions or comments, feel free to contact me Thank you...... Pam Metzinger

PEANUT CLUSTERS

Peanut Clusters are back – sold the first week of December until we sell out!

SPRUCE UP DAY Saturday, Dec 7, 2024 from 9am- noon

We'll be cleaning the church, sacristy, chancel, etc. Getting everything ready for the holiday season.

You don't have to stay the whole time, come & help for as long as you can.

Many hands make light work!

Thanks.

CHRISTMAS DINNER BASKETS

Drop off at Church of Epiphany, Time: 8:30am- 12:30pm daily or bring to church on Sunday

** Due date: Sunday, December 8

We will be taking them to the drop off area that day after noon.

Also, remember to put your check of \$10 or cash (with name on it) in the WOE mailbox - in envelope marked SWEM basket.

Signup sheet posted!!

PLEASE DONATE a Christmas dinner

SWEM needs you to make a difference!

Christmas baskets are designed for families of 3 to 4 people. Please donate stand-

ard sized (er: 14 to 16 or) cans and 16 ounce boxes for each item. For each basket, please provide the following: 1 fruit cocktall or canned fruit ☐ 2 soups □ 1 large fruit juice or juice box pkg 1 instant mashed potatoes (two 6oz or one 15oz) 2 regular or 1 large can of sweet potatoes ☐ 3 canned vegetables (e.g., assortment like: corn, peas, beans) ☐ 1 cranberry sauce 1 can gravy ☐ 1 bag stuffing (or boxed- two 6oz or one 12oz) ☐ 1 boxed dessert (e.g., gelatin or pudding, cake mix/ frosting, or pie crust/filling) Additionally, please add \$10 cash or check donation per basket to cover the cost of meat, eggs and margarine that SWEM will provide. PLEASE, do NOT put the money in your basket, Please give it to your organizer or to the SWEM representative. Feel free to include holiday touches of your own, such as coffee, tea, candles, mints, or napkins. Laundry baskets or totes to hold the contents make an additional gift. PLEASE NOTE: We do not have refrigeration for the baskets, so do not include rishables. We are also not able to accept or distribute toys. Cumined ve

OCTOBER FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Income	Oct. YTD 2024	Oct. Budget YTD	
Pledge & Plate	\$94,995.21	\$100,416.67	
Investment Income	16,800.00	18,666.67	
Diocesan Grant	20,833.30	20,833.33	
ERTC	1	21,434.17	
Flowers	1,390.00	1,666.67	
Special Offerings	1,377.74	2,291.67	
Building Use	140.00	41.67	
Other	5,922.07	3,583.33	
Total Income	\$141,458.32	\$168.934.17	

Expenses		
Worship	5,662.32	3,612.50
Formation	730.64	666.67
Diocesan Apportionment	16,135.80	21,013.00
Stewardship	7,636.35	8,533.33
Other Action	ı	541.67
Youth	ı	83.33
Evangelism	714.43	624.68
Supplies & Utilities	8,689.80	15,333.33
Insurance	8,963.83	8,791.67
Copier Expense	2,594.49	2,930.00
Other Office	9,027.64	6,125.00
Oversight	29,275.76	33,180.00
Salaries & Benefits	111,210.29	113,534.48
Total Expenses	171,365.59	181,789.66
Surplus/(Deficit)	(29,907)	(12,855)

Submitted by Deb Grasso, Treasurer

WOE UPDATE

Rummage Sale 2025

Held on: April 4 & 5

Keep saving your items to donate! There will be NO donation trailer! It is again a scaled down sale.

Sorting & pricing – March 31- April 3
On our Sale days, especially – April 4 & 5
CLEANUP – April 5

The following donations will be accepted:

Books, toys (children's & baby), Holiday décor & nik naks items, housewares (kitchen items, dishes, glasses, mugs, etc), linens (sheets, blankets, pillows, towels, etc), small, & adult coats ONLY, notions/crafts(yarn, material, sewing items, etc), purses, CD's only, jewelry, book bags, scarves, mittens, hats

NOT accepted:

Stuffed animals, shoes, furniture, lamps, large artwork, large appliances, clothes of any kind except coats, VHS tapes, large power tools

Any questions, concerns or clarifications of donations – feel free to contact me through email, text or a phone call.

Thank you. Pam Metzinger



Christmas Services:

- CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICES: We have two Christmas Eve services scheduled for this year, as we did last year; a family-oriented service at 4:30 p.m. (come early at 4:00 to enjoy some festive caroling), and a later service at 10:30 pm.
- <u>LESSONS AND CAROLS</u>: On the first Sunday <u>after</u> Christmas, December 29, we will hold **just one worship** service at 9:30 am. The first half of the service will be the traditional Lessons and Carols. This will be followed by the Holy Eucharist.

Christmas Flowers

Please share in making the church beautiful for Christmas. You may wish to offer a gift in memory of loved ones or in thanksgiving for a particular blessing in your life.

Please use Christian names (John & Mary Doe,

not Mr. & Mrs. John Doe), <u>printing</u> clearly with only one name per line; use additional sheets if necessary. Bring your form with your check, payable to "Church of the Epiphany, Memo: Christmas Flowers," to the office, or mail it to the Parish Office, <u>by Monday</u>, December 16th.

In memory of:	In thanksgiving for:	

Donor:		_
Amount of Check: \$	Phone:	



Free Holiday Concert





Striking Strings Hammered Dulcimer Ensemble

Sunday, December 8, 2:00 pm



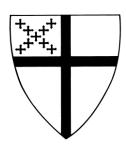
Church of the Epiphany 3285 Buffalo Road, Rochester NY 14624 (585) 247-4190







Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Church School Greening the Church Peanut Clusters Sale Until gone.	Advent Reflection 6:30	3	4	5	6	7 Spruce Day 9-noon Lighting of Xmas tree 4:30
8 2:00 Hammered Dulcimer Ensemble Church School Greening the Church	9 Advent Reflection 6:30	10	11	12	13	14
15 Church School Greening the Church	Advent Reflection 6:30	17	Moe Breakfast 8:30 Johnny D's	19	20	21
22 Church School Greening the Church	Advent Reflection 6:30	24 4:00 Carols 4:30 Service 10:30 Service	25	26	27	28
NO Church School	30	31				



CHURCH OF THE EPIPHANY

3285 Buffalo Rd. Rochester, NY 14624-2413

O: 585-247-4190 F: 585-247-0631

coeoffice@frontier.com
www.epiphany-gatesny.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

