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St. Paul's ePistle from McHenry  
January 11, 2017

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*New and Notable...*

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*Thoughts from Lori*

Epiphany is both a feast day (always January 6th) and a season. As a feast day, it celebrates the arrival of the Magi - the kings or wise men - who followed the star to find and worship the Christ Child. As a season, it represents the light of Christ that has come into the world for all people. The gospel

readings began with the baptism of Jesus by John and will focus on his teachings and early ministry.

It's ironic, don't you think, that we celebrate the Light of Christ during the heart of winter, this most dreary time of year. And yet, somehow fitting. When else do we most need Jesus than in the darkness of the world and the darkness of our lives? In addition to being the name of a feast day and a season, the word *epiphany* means "a sudden and intuitive perception of or insight into the reality or essential meaning of something." (from Dictionary.com) That is how Jesus most often comes to us, or at least to me: as a sudden perception that God in Christ Jesus is with us, no matter what the circumstances. And in fact, when we most need that presence.

So whether your gloom is winter weather related or deeply personal - or if this moment, these days, are anything but gloomy for you, are in fact full of joy and happiness - may this season of Epiphany remind you, remind us all, that the Light of Christ has come. Is here. And is always with us.

Faithfully,

*Lori*

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Annual Parish Meeting  
Sunday, January 29<sup>th</sup>  
Covered Dish Lunch after the Eucharist  
Followed by the Annual Meeting

On Sunday, January 29th, we'll have our official Annual Parish Meeting following the Eucharist. As usual, it will begin with a covered dish lunch, so plan to bring your favorite dish to share - and please make it generous enough to make up for those who forget or who haven't done this with us before. Also, remember to bring canned or dry goods for our grocery basket in the spirit of "feed ourselves, feed others."

I call this the "official" meeting to differentiate it from the informal spring and fall meetings we have. (More on these meetings below.) At this official meeting, we do the things required by church canons and our parish bylaws, such as presenting a financial report for 2016 and a budget for 2017, along with other reports on the activities of the past year. It's also when we elect new vestry members.

Do you know where the term "vestry" comes from? Back a century or so ago, lay leaders of the parish would step into the vestry - that is, the vesting room - as the rector/vicar was vesting before the service (or perhaps removing vestments after the service) to confer regarding various parish matters. Thus this little gathering became known as "the vestry." It is, of course, something like a board of directors.

There are local bylaws regarding vestry membership as well as basic church canons governing who may serve and the responsibilities of a vestry. Here are the general requirements:

- Members must be 18 years old [with the exception of a designated youth member]
- Be a member of the parish in good standing; that is, regular in attendance and participation
- Be known to the treasurer to have made and maintained a financial commitment to the parish for the year prior to election (in other words, a pledge)
- And be committed to The Episcopal Church

In addition to these requirements, vestry members should be people who work well with a group using a consensus model, and who while loving the traditions of The Episcopal Church, are open to the leading of the Holy Spirit.

Our current vestry consists of six members who each serve three-year terms in a staggered rotation; and two wardens, a senior warden and a junior warden. The junior warden becomes the next senior warden. [See "Expectations of Vestry Members" [here](#).] The nominating committee for new vestry members consists of the outgoing members and the wardens in consultation with the Rector and Treasurer. It is our policy to present a slate of nominations to the Annual Parish Meeting. That committee is: John Patnaude, Marilyn Bell, and the wardens, Beth Lukas and Michelle Wiejaczka. Their nominations will be announced next week.

In a church as small as St. Paul's, the traditional committee/staff structure simply doesn't work. Our pool of volunteers tends to be the same people who already do everything, and our staff is small and mostly part-time. This is why we began to have the two informal meetings, one in the spring and one in the fall; that is, to keep everyone informed and involved. While the Vestry's responsibilities are related to managing the fiscal affairs of the parish and assisting the rector in overseeing its spiritual matters, the life of St. Paul's needs all of us to be as active and involved as possible.

Please plan to come to the covered dish lunch and meeting on the 29th to share in "the councils of the church," a time honored phrase for such gatherings. Your presence is what makes us the Body of Christ!



## SPECIAL THANKS

Special thanks are in order for the Vonderohe family's generous donation of flowers throughout 2016 in loving memory of Donald and Patricia Seaton, Anne's parents. Their contribution not only beautified our worship week after week, but enabled the development of our Flower Guild.

## NEW DIRECTORIES

You will soon be receiving updated directories in the mail. These are print information only (no pictures). Please let Lisa ([lisa@stpaulmchenry.com](mailto:lisa@stpaulmchenry.com)) know if there are corrections or additions to be made. We have purchased a program to take our own pictures and create a pictorial directory. Plan to participate in this project right after Easter.



## Children's Chapel

This week's lesson will be "Jesus' Teaching."  
Leaders are Kerry and Tommy Obermeyer



All children are welcome to attend after the service for a snack, bible story, and activity.

*In case you missed it....*



## Opportunities to help!

As you're considering your new year's resolution, think about adding something to your life. The Altar Guild, Flower Guild, and Children's Chapel, as well as Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors, Intercessors, and Ushers are wonderful opportunities to grow and bring you closer to our Church. There are never too many hands to help and this is a great way to take part in the life of the parish.

The **Altar Guild** tends to the physical items we use in worship, including the hangings and vestments, the linens, candles, brass, and silver. Members of the AG are scheduled to set up and prepare for the Eucharist. The **Flower Guild** prepares the flower arrangements for the altar and usually places additional arrangements near our statue of Mary and on the narthex table.

Volunteers for **Children's Chapel** take turns preparing and leading a brief lesson (provided) for our young children after church during coffee hour. **Eucharistic Ministers** are trained and licensed to assist at the Eucharist, including administering the chalice. **Lectors** read one of the lessons, **Intercessors** read the Prayers of the People, and **Ushers** greet people arriving for worship as well as directing people during Communion.

Those who serve in these positions are scheduled on a rotating basis, usually about once a month.

To volunteer for any of the above, contact:

**Altar Guild** -- Deb Lang at [dllobjn@comcast.net](mailto:dllobjn@comcast.net)

**Flower Guild and Children's Chapel** -- Pam Dietmeyer at [pwd3485@hotmail.com](mailto:pwd3485@hotmail.com)

**EMs, Lectors, Intercessors, Ushers** -- Lisa Strandberg  
at [lisa@stpaulmchenry.com](mailto:lisa@stpaulmchenry.com)

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*The usual fare...*

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**Lessons and Hymns**  
**Sunday, January 15th**  
**(Second Sunday after the Epiphany - Year A)**  
*by the Rev. William P. McLemore*

**SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS:**

**First Lesson:** Isaiah 49:1-7

**The Gradual:** Psalm 40:1-12

**Second Lesson:** 1 Corinthians 1:1-9

**The Gospel:** John 1:29-42

**HYMNS:**

**ProceSSIONal Hymn:** No. 542. "Christ is the World's True Light." This hymn was written by George Wallace Briggs to express the true nature of Christian mission work. "In Christ all races meet, their ancient feuds forgetting, the whole round world complete, from sunrise to its setting." The hymn reflects the evangelistic aspect of the season of Epiphany. The tune, "St. Joan," was composed in 1941 by Percy E. B. Collier and is named for his wife.

**Sequence Hymn:** No. 533. "How Wondrous and Great." This is one of the nine hymns written by Henry Ustick Onderdonk for the Hymnal of 1820. It is a paraphrase of the Song of Moses and the Lamb, Revelation 15:3-4. This hymn also reflects the missionary spirit of Epiphany: "To nations of earth thy light shall be shown." The tune, "Lyons," closely resembles a Haydn minuet.

**Presentation Hymn:** No. 137. "O Wondrous Type." This is one of many hymns written anonymously for use at Salisbury Cathedral at their celebration of the Feast of the Transfiguration. The 1940 hymnal had this set aside for Transfiguration, but the editors of this hymnal have placed it in Epiphany for its emphasis upon the bright light associated with this biblical event. The tune "Wareham" was composed by William Knapp and named for his birthplace, Wareham in Dorsetshire, England.

**Communion Hymn:** "Take, O Take me as I am"

***Recessional Hymn:*** No. 371. "Thou Whose Almighty Word." According to his son, this hymn based on Genesis 1:3, was written by John Marriott around 1813. It was not published during his lifetime, but was quoted six weeks after his death in a speech given to the London Missionary Society. The tune "Moscow" was composed by Felice de Giardini in the 18th century. God's healing is mentioned in the second verse of this hymn, "Thou who didst come to bring on thy redeeming wing healing and sight, heal to the sick in mind, sight to the inly blind, now to all humankind, let there be light."

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### ***Servants for January 15th***

Terry Jaworski, Don Jaworski- *Ushers*  
Rick Carlstedt - *Lector*  
Barb Moriarty - *Intercessor*  
Michelle Wiejaczka, Jeff Zabor - *Eucharistic Ministers*  
Beth Lukas - *Vestry Person of the Day*

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From the cartoons created by  
*The Rev. William P. McLemore*



**"If the rector knew how hard it is to get  
these wax spots off the floor, the service would  
be called the 'Epiphany Feast of Blights!'"**

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## *Church Humor!*

At Sunday School they were learning how God created everything, including human beings. Johnny was especially intent when the teacher told him how Eve was created out of one of Adam's ribs.

Later in the week his mother noticed him lying down as though he were ill, and said, "Johnny, what is the matter?"

Johnny responded, "I have pain in my side. I think I'm going to have a wife."

### Join Our Mailing List

### Quick Links and Info

*Click [here](#) to access Lori's sermon from January 1st*

### [St. Paul's Website](#)

Phone: 815-385-0390

Fax: 815-385-3936

St. Paul's email - [stpaulmchenry@sbcglobal.net](mailto:stpaulmchenry@sbcglobal.net)

Lori's email - [lorilowe@stpaulmchenry.com](mailto:lorilowe@stpaulmchenry.com)

### Vestry Minutes

[June 2016](#)

[August 2016](#)

[September 2016](#)

[October 2016](#)

[November 2016](#)

[\*Diocese of Chicago\*](#)  
[\*Episcopal News Service\*](#)  
[\*Lectionary Calendar\*](#)  
[\*Forward Day by Day\*](#)  
[\*Diaper Bank of Northern Illinois\*](#)



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