

Epiphany commemorates visit of Wise Men

Counting from the first day after Christmas, the twelfth day of Christmas falls on January 6th or Epiphany.

The word "epiphany" is Greek in origin and means manifestation, or the act of revealing.

Epiphany commemorates the visitation of the Christ Child by the Wise Men or Magi as recorded in the gospel of Matthew.

This visit is the first of three instances in the Bible in which the divinity of Jesus is revealed.

The second instance is at the baptism at the River Jordan when the Holy Spirit descends in the form of a dove.

The third instance is at the wedding feast at Cana where Jesus performs his first miracle by changing water into wine.

Supposedly, all three manifestations



occurred on the same day of the year.

Epiphany marks the beginning of the Carnival Season, which will continue until Shrove Tuesday, the day before Ash Wednesday.

In the United States, this period is celebrated in New Orleans as Mardi Gras.

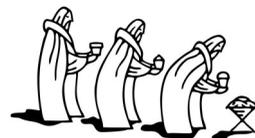
Twelfth Night celebration and benefit

Thank you to Chloe Tuttle for once again hosting our annual Twelfth Night Celebration on Sunday, January 15th from 6-8 p. m. Please invite family and friends.

Just as the Wise Men brought gifts to the Christ Child, we are asked to bring our monetary gifts to benefit Blessings in a Backpack, an ecumenical weekend feeding program for over 100 children in our county.

During the school year each Friday selected students receive a bag of six (6) food items to take home to help sustain them until

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Bringing Our Gifts

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Monday.

Without this bag of food, these children might have to go the entire weekend with no food due to either parental neglect or lack of resources.

These children have been identified as needing nutritional food.

Blessings in a Backpack is the ecumenical ministry program that helps feed children in our county during the weekend.

Jody Bickerstaff, Memorial Baptist Children's Ministry Director, directs the Martin County Program. It is a national organization which means there is accountability and monies roll over back into Martin County.

When making contributions at the Twelfth Night Celebration, please make checks out to **Church of the Advent** with **Blessings in a Backpack** on the memo line.



Enclosed is the 2017 budget presented by Treasurer Lowell Taylor.

Lowell reported that no monies were needed from the Barnes Endowment to meet the 2016 General Budget.

Congratulations to Doug Chesson, Betty Jones, and John Price, who were voted in as new vestry persons.

Thank you to outgoing vestry persons



Joe Jernigan, Lowell Taylor and Bill Webb for their service.

Thank you to Doug Chesson and John Price for volunteering to be delegates to the Diocesan Convention and to Christine Chesson for volunteering to be an alternate delegate.

Senior Warden Al Chesson thanked the following for their service during 2016.

- ★ Joe Jernigan as junior warden
- ★ Lowell Taylor as treasurer
- ★ Grant Michel as acolyte leader
- ★ Russ Johnson as organist
- ★ Grant Michel as choirmaster
- ★ Joe Jernigan, Kit Reddick for *Advent Advisor*
- ★ Lucia Peel for *Comings and Goings*
- ★ Jim Allen, Kit Reddick, Bill Webb as worship leaders
- ★ Regina French, Lucia Peel for Fellowship Commission
- ★ Jim Allen for Pastoral Care Commission
- ★ Sue House, Kit Reddick for Outreach
- ★ Lowell Taylor, Bill Webb for Marketing and Sustainability
- ★ Frankie Biggs for Worship and Christian Education
- ★ Joe Jernigan, Don Beach for Buildings and Grounds

The Fellowship Commission reported that at least one major fellowship event occurred each month during 2016 in addition to the work done by Pastoral Care.

The Pastoral Care Commission sponsored evening services and a meal on the third Wednesday during the months of September through December.

The Commission sent out 106 birthday cards and other cards of encouragement.

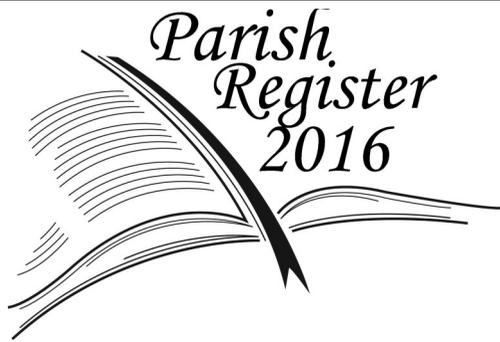
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The library now holds over 1,500 books. Looking to 2017, the vestry will continue its search for a 3/4 priest in charge. The search generates from the Diocesan Office.

As part of the search, Church of the Advent is updating its website.



46 services of Holy Eucharist
 9 services of Morning Prayer
 1 funeral
 1 wedding
 3 services of Compline
 1 Holy Baptism
 3 services of Evening Prayer

Around the church

- ◆ Thank you to Senior Al Chesson for conducting a very organized and informative Annual Meeting.
- ◆ Approximately 24 people attended A Candlelight Service for the Longest Night. They enjoyed Wassail and Advent Spice Cookies served up in the sacristy and fellowship in the church after the service. Thank you to Bobby Greene for leading us in the singing of *Silent Night* on his baritone ukulele. Thank you to Joe Jernigan and Kit Reddick for developing and leading the service.
- ◆ Thank you to the Parish Family for such a warm and generous response in providing presents for our Christmas family. And thank you to those who went beyond the requests.
- ◆ There has been a strong response to receiving the parish newsletter electronically. This will help to save postage and paper.
- ◆ Plans are in the works to offer Sunday School for our youth beginning in February.

Thank you for the overwhelming response in offering poinsettias for the Christmas Eve Service. Over 30 poinsettias were ordered!

Thank you to John Price for spearheading the new way. How did you like John's idea for providing poinsettias? Please let him and Beverly Mills know.

And thank you to Beverly Mills and John Price for their December Altar Guild work over and beyond.



It is a new year, time for renewal and new beginnings. The Prayer Notebook is in the process of being refreshed. If you should find that your prayer request(s) has been removed, then please reenter your request(s) in person or by calling or emailing the church office. New prayer requests may be done in the same way.

The *Prayer List* is found on a notebook marked "Prayer Lists" found on the table in the vestibule of the church. Names may be added at any time by writing them in the notebook or calling the church office. The Prayer List is read weekly at Sunday services. Periodically, names are removed from the list. Contact the church office if you wish to have a name added, re-listed, or taken off the list.

Prayer List

- Beverly Mills
- James Ford
- Rudy Worsley
- Howard Daniel
- Chuck Ellis
- Mary McDaniel
- Rusty Lilly
- Bill Smith
- Nita Smith
- Jim Horton

Birthdays in January

- 6, Lowell Taylor
- 12, Adison Bosso
- 13, Will Michel
- 15, Joey Godard
- 18, Maria Allen
- 19, Carrie Elizabeth Mills
- 22, Maryann Crowe
- 22, Don Mills
- 25, Sara Chesson

The Church of the Advent
 Founded 1850

Al Chesson, senior warden
 Joe Jernigan, junior warden

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