



## Rector's Letter

Dear Friends in Christ:

Happy New Year! I hope this newsletter finds you having rung in 2014 in fine fashion.

Although the temptation on January 1 is to look forward, I hope you will allow me to look back for a moment and reflect on Christmas at St. John's.

Most of you know that after a lengthy hiatus, we resumed a Family Service on Christmas Eve in 2012 with much success. This year, we decided to change that service by including a Christmas Pageant and a celebration of the Eucharist. We were thrilled by the response: attendance increased nearly 40%! While the children who narrated and played Mary, Joseph, Gabriel, shepherds and Wise Men deserve our praise and thanks for so brilliantly bringing the story of Jesus' birth to life, we also extend our deepest gratitude to Ellen Dyakiw. Without Ellen's vision, careful planning, and attention to countless details, the performance simply would not have been possible. Likewise, many parents offered invaluable assistance in helping with rehearsals and costumes. Thanks to everyone whose contributions made the first Christmas Pageant at St. John's in a long time so memorable and well done.

A real treat awaited everyone who attended the seasonal music performance later on Christmas Eve. A visiting woodwind trio joined with our choir to offer a sublime presentation of cherished carols and classical works. Rarely have I heard more positive reviews about a performance. Thanks go to E. Kay Putnam and Deb Cree for their organizational efforts, and to our section leaders and the members of the parish choir for their generosity of time and talent.

The music could not have been better preparation for Midnight Mass, which was especially grand and glorious itself this year. The altar guild's careful work in decorating the church was on magnificent display: the nave was bathed in the glow of dozens of candles; swags of evergreen hung from the rood screen; and Christmas colors burst forth from the altar in the form of red and white poinsettias, through which clouds of incense lifted our prayers to heaven. I hope others felt as strongly as I did that the liturgy was festive, celebratory and befitting the feast.

And now, half-way through the Twelve Days of Christmas – which conclude on the Feast of the Epiphany – we turn our attention to the month ahead. The parish has business to conduct: our annual meeting will take place on January 19. As always, there will be a potluck lunch prior to the meeting in the parish hall after the 10:00 service. But there will be one difference this year: the rector's address will take the place of the sermon at both services that day. A quorum is required for the annual meeting to be held; all are asked to make a special effort to be present.

Meanwhile, there are a variety of other noteworthy news items found in the pages that follow. Please read them, and plan to join us for food, fellowship and worship.

Faithfully yours,

The Rev. Christopher V. Pyles

### Welcome, Cyrus!

Longer-term parishioners will know that interns assigned by the diocese have regularly featured in the common life of St. John's. That tradition is being revived on January 5, when we will be joined by Cyrus Lanager, whose home parish is St. Paul's, Philipsburg. Cyrus will be with us for one year to serve a "discernment internship" to help him determine whether he is called to the priesthood. In the coming months, a committee will be formed to work with Cyrus and the rector and provide a means of evaluating Cyrus' participation in parish life. Expect that Cyrus will serve at the altar, preach from time to time, make home and nursing home visits, help with Christian education and other formation projects, and assist the clergy in other ways.

Cyrus is from Carthus, Pennsylvania, and works as a production manager at a factory. He is married and has three children. At St. Paul's, he has led Bible studies, been involved in children's ministries, served as a Lay Eucharistic Visitor, and has provided pastoral care.

This Sunday, please give Cyrus a warm welcome to St. John's!

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### Altar Guild and Building Fund Envelopes

The "special envelopes" in the offering envelope boxes – a new addition in 2013 – proved to be an invaluable tool in supplementing the church's budget lines in the areas of altar supplies, the building fund, and clergy discretionary funds.

In 2014, some of these envelopes will take on a special focus. **Altar Guild envelope donations will go in support of a new set of green vestments.** This set will resemble the white set worn at Christmas, Easter, All Saints, and other times, in terms of shape and style. But the primary fabric will be a patterned green, and the orphreys (the strips of colored fabric in an "H" shape on the deacon's dalmatic and a "Y" shape on the celebrant's chasuble) will be tapestry, so the pulpit falls, riddle curtains, and Bible markers we already have will match. **This set will be in memory of several members of our parish community** who died in 2013, but who had a strong connection to the altar: Father Fred Mauger, who was an Episcopal priest and the father of Scott Mauger; Laurine Russell, longtime member of the altar guild and the mother of Bette Shugert; and Blanche Maurukas, mother of head server Charlie Maurukas. The cost of a complete set is about \$4,000, but because of funds already on hand, we only need to raise about \$3,000.

More information about building projects will be forthcoming soon, but **2014 will be the year of the Fellowship Hall.** None of us have missed the gentle but unmistakable slope of the floor; the water-damaged ceiling tiles and walls; and the difficulty and expense in controlling the climate both in winter and summer. We hope to address these issues and more in a plan that will restore and improve the Hall and make it more user-friendly for parishioners and guests alike. We expect to meet with contractors in January to develop a tentative plan to do the work during Eastertide. We have some money on hand and have promises for more from others, but this project will need support from the parish to do it right and to do it well. **Gifts received in Building Fund envelopes this year will support the Fellowship Hall project.** More details – including information about scope and cost estimates – will be shared soon.

### **New logo**

Many people have noticed the new logo that has appeared on bulletins and elsewhere recently – including this newsletter! The project, facilitated by Deb Cree using an English design company, incorporates the quatrefoils that are ubiquitous to St. John's while offering a contemporary but timeless look. After we use up the remaining supply of existing letterhead and envelopes, the new logo will be used in these places and also on our website and our Facebook page. Thanks, Deb, for handling this project, and helping the church get a new look for a new year!

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### **Annual meeting on January 19**

Q. What is the "annual meeting"?

A. A business gathering, required by the parish by-laws, at which Vestry members are elected; Vestry reports are received; the budget is presented; and any other business required to come before the parish is conducted. Our by-laws state that the meeting must be held in the month of January, and that the parish must be given notice of the meeting at least 10 days prior. Every Episcopal Church is required to have an annual meeting; only the month in which it is held varies from parish to parish. A quorum is necessary in order for the annual meeting to be called to order; a quorum consists of twenty percent of the members qualified to vote. Members qualified to vote at parish meetings include those who are: identified in the Parish Register as Communicants in "good standing"; contributors to the life and work of the parish for the six months preceding the meeting as shown on the records of the Treasurer; at least 16 years of age; physically present at the meeting; and not under ecclesiastical discipline. All are welcome to attend the meeting; the pot luck lunch alone will be worth the price of admission!

### Thanks from the Shippensburg Home

Once again this year, St. John's parishioners generously donated gift items for residents at The Episcopal Home of the Diocese of Central Pennsylvania, also known as the Shippensburg Home. Mary Grace Shearer, Executive Director of the Home, wrote in the thank you note, "Thank you for all the lovely items you sent. Every year you seem to know exactly what we need." St. John's should take pride in helping to enable the Home's residents to live more comfortably and with dignity. We look forward to offering further support to the Home's residents in the future.

### Congratulations, Karen Harvey!

St. John's congratulates Vestry member Karen Harvey on her recent election to the Bellefonte Borough Council to fill the remaining two years of an unexpired term. Karen will be sworn in on the feast of the Epiphany, Monday, January 6, at 7 p.m. at the Borough Building on Lamb Street at a public ceremony. Well done, Karen – the borough will benefit from your good counsel!

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### New Vestry Member Bios

***Following are brief biographies of the three people who have agreed to serve on the vestry for the next three years. The election will take place at the annual meeting on January 19.***

**Charles Hilderbrand, Jr.** is the son of Charles Sr. and Judith Hilderbrand. Charles and his wife Shannon and two sons, Gage and Parker, currently reside in Julian. Charlie was born in Bellefonte but grew up in southern and northeast Ohio. He spent his teens and early 20's learning and working as a carpenter and mason. At age 24, he started his own contracting company rehabbing homes in the greater Cleveland area. Four years later he was hired as a project manager for a large residential and commercial builder in Cleveland, where he worked until age 35. After falling ill in 2004, he relocated back to Bellefonte and joined St. John's. He enjoys spending time with friends and family, playing music, collecting musical instruments...and then learning to play them. Charlie looks forward to serving the parish through being a member of the vestry.

**New Vestry Member Bios, Cont.**

**Jim Jackson** was born and raised in Wellsboro, PA, graduated from Edinboro University, and moved to the Pittsburgh area to teach art at Black Hawk Area School District for many years. While there, he completed his master's degree at the University of Pittsburgh. After marrying Peggy in 1993, he commuted most weekends for 3 years. When Bald Eagle hired him in 1996 to teach art in the junior-senior high school, he was able to move to Bellefonte. He joined St. John's soon after, and attends the 8:00 service. He has two daughters, Becky and Ali (both in Pittsburgh), as well as two step-sons, Matt (Charlottesville, VA) and Pete (Dayton, OH). Since retiring from Bald Eagle at the end of the school year in 2013, he and Peggy arrange their Altar Guild duties around weekend visits to their children and three grandchildren. Hunter is the newest grandchild (5 months), born to Becky and Steve; Isaac (4) and Evelyn (2) are Matt & Brittany's. This is Jim's second stint on the vestry, so he is obviously a glutton for punishment (just kidding)! He looks forward to serving on the vestry with Father Chris and the other vestry members.

**Bette Shugert** is a lifelong Episcopalian, and has been a member of St. John's since 1972. She grew up in New York City and Nassau County, NY, and completed her training to be a nurse at SUNY, Plattsburgh. She first worked as a nurse at NYU Medical Center before moving to Pittsburgh, where she taught nursing at St. Margaret's Hospital. When she moved to Bellefonte, she began working at what was then Centre County Community Hospital, and ultimately became head nurse of the pediatrics unit. She later became RN supervisor at the Fairways at Brookline before she retired in 2005. In previous terms on the Vestry, Bette served on the Property Committee, during which time she began a grounds improvement group and attended the Partners for Sacred Spaces training; on the Finance Committee, when she helped organize the Capital Campaign; on the Outreach Committee, the Columbarium Committee, and as Clerk. She has been a member of the Altar Guild for over 35 years, and was a member of the choir for over 30 years until she retired last year. She participates in the Bazaar Group, assists with other fundraisers and projects, and was the co-chair of the Search Committee that called Father Pyles. She is happy to have the opportunity to serve the parish in this way once again.

**LAY MINISTRIES SCHEDULE**

**EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS**

	8 a.m.	10 a.m.
January 5	Deacon Dyakiw	Deacon Dyakiw
The Epiphany		David Cree (cassock alb)
January 12	Deacon Dyakiw	Deacon Dyakiw
Baptism of our Lord		Thomas Quigley (cassock alb)
January 19	Deacon Dyakiw	Deacon Dyakiw
Epiphany II		Sara Witmer (cassock and cotta)
January 26	Scott Mauger	Deacon Dyakiw
Epiphany III		C. Hilderbrand (cassock and cotta)

**ALTAR SERVERS' ROTA (10 A.M. MASSES)**

January 5	Book/Server	Jason Dench
The Epiphany	Crucifer	Charles Hilderbrand
	Thurifer	Charles Maurukas
January 12	Book/Server	Bryan Hough
Baptism of our Lord	Crucifer	Jason Dench
	Thurifer	Charles Maurukas
January 19	Book/Server	Steve Dillon
Epiphany II	Crucifer	Charles Hilderbrand
	Torches	Bryan Hough, Jason Dench
January 26	Book/Server	Charles Maurukas
Epiphany III	Crucifer	Steve Dillon

**ALTAR GUILD SCHEDULE**

December 28 through January 3	-	Jim & Peggy Jackson
January 4 through January 10	-	Jim & Peggy Jackson
January 11 through January 17	-	Jim & Peggy Jackson
January 18 through January 24	-	K. Harvey, J. Dench
January 25 through January 31	-	K. Harvey, J. Dench

**VESTRY COLLECTION COUNTERS**

Susan Christy & Karen Harvey

**COFFEE HOUR HOSTS**

January 5	Cathy Feters
January 12	Stuart & Paula Hough
January 19	Annual Parish Meeting <i>Volunteers needed to set up fellowship hall.</i>
January 26	Larry & Barbara Roberson

**BIRTHDAYS**

January	1	-	Patrick North
January	2	-	Joyce Banker, Rachel Pifer
January	4	-	Kayleigh Fitzgerald, Paula Hough
January	8	-	Christine Holt
January	16	-	Jonathan Obourn
January	19	-	Jennifer Zeigler
January	22	-	Warren McMullin
January	23	-	Arbutus Fitzgerald
January	25	-	Charles Maurukas
January	27	-	Alice Wilkinson, George Holt
January	29	-	Wesley Mauger, Scott Mauger



January 2014						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<b>1</b> The Holy Name. Low Mass with healing – 9:30 a.m.	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> Community Lunch. 10 a.m. at the Presbyterian Church.	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> The Epiphany. MP – 7:30 a.m. Low Mass – 8 a.m. Solemn Mass – 10 a.m. Coffee Hour	<b>6</b>  Men's Group. 7 p.m.	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> Of the Octave. Low Mass with healing – 9:30 a.m.	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> Baptism of our Lord. MP – 7:30 a.m. Low Mass – 8 a.m. Solemn Mass – 10 a.m. Coffee Hour	<b>13</b>  Men's Group. 7 p.m.	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> Feria. Low Mass with healing – 9:30 a.m.  Vestry Meeting. 7:30 p.m.	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> Epiphany II. MP – 7:30 a.m. Low Mass – 8 a.m. Sung Mass – 10 a.m. Annual Meeting and pot luck lunch	<b>20</b>  Men's Group. 7 p.m.	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> Vincent of Saragossa. Low Mass with healing – 9:30 a.m.	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> Epiphany III. MP – 7:30 a.m. Low Mass – 8 a.m. Sung Mass – 10 a.m. Coffee Hour	<b>27</b>  Men's Group. 7 p.m.	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> Feria. Low mass with healing – 9:30 a.m.	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>Notes:</b>

**ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

**120 WEST LAMB STREET**

**BELLEFONTE, PA 16823**

Office: 814.355.0497

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Parish Website:

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*St. John's is a parish in the  
Diocese of Central Pennsylvania,  
The Right Reverend Nathan  
Baxter, Bishop*

**PARISH CLERGY**

The Rev. Christopher V. Pyles, Rector  
[cvpyles@aol.com](mailto:cvpyles@aol.com)  
215.870.4809 (cell) (Off Tuesdays)

The Rev. Alex Dyakiw, Deacon  
[deaconalex@gmail.com](mailto:deaconalex@gmail.com)  
814.883.0430 (cell)

**PARISH STAFF**

Sara Witmer, Secretary  
Barbara Roberson, Treasurer  
E. Kay Putnam, Organist/Choir Director  
Terence Riley, Sexton

**LAY LEADERS**

Larry Roberson, Senior Warden  
Mike Fitzgerald, Junior Warden  
Ellen Dyakiw, Director of Sunday School  
Charles E. Maurukas, Acolyte Director

**ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
**120 WEST LAMB STREET**  
**BELLEFONTE, PA 16823**



**NAME**  
**STREET ADDRESS**  
**CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE**