

The Messenger

January 2007



Dear Friends,

The celebration of God among us culminates with Epiphany on January 6. In the Eastern Church, this is still the primary celebration of the Feast of the Incarnation. Within Anglicanism, January 6 celebrates the visit of the Magi from the East to the stable in Bethlehem. We saw in our Christmas pageant, the star leading the wise men to the infant Jesus.

When the wise men from the East recognized God at work in the world through the light in the night sky, they went in search of the embodiment of the truth they had been seeking. They found God incarnate in the infant Jesus.

We discover the truth of God as it is manifest in the lives of people. None of us is God, but each of us carries God's truth in the depth of our souls. The purpose of the Church is to create a community through which the light of Christ that is within each of us can be manifest to the world of our time. Each of us is to be light of God to the world, but also to one another.

Like the wise men from the East, you and I are dependent upon the light shining for us in the night sky as we journey toward God. As a community of faith, we are to be that light for one another and to the world of our time.

May God's blessing be with all of us as we walk that path together.

Yours in Christ,

Vicki



the star which they had observed at its rising went ahead of them

ANNUAL MEETING TO BE HELD JANUARY 28



The annual meeting is the time when the parish gathers to celebrate its ministry, to honor those who have made special offering of their time, talents and gifts throughout the years, and to elect members to the vestry for the coming year. *This year's meeting will be held on **Sunday, January 28th**, following a single service at 10AM. The meeting will take place in the Great Room and breakfast will be served.*

The Nominating Committee has presented the following slate of candidates for 2007:

- For Warden, term of 2 years: **Judy Masten**
- For Vestry, term of 3 years: **Doug Barrett**
Pat Cragg
Chuck Jones
- For Diocesan Delegate: **Greg Clevenger**
- For Alternate Delegate: **Heather Melnick**

Information about these candidates, including their photo, is posted in the church lobby.

According to the Vestry Guidelines, eligibility for voting at the Annual Meeting is determined by three things:

1. You must be at least 18 years of age.
2. You must be regular in your attendance at worship.
3. You must be a contributor of your time, talent and resources to the ministry of the parish.

Please mark *January 28th* on your calendar. We look forward to the participation of all of our members.

Parents with young children --- Do you have a will?

Part of responsible parenting is making plans for what will happen to your children should one or both parents die. Who would take care of your children if you were no longer living? Have you expressed your wishes to those whom you expect to be the guardians of your children? Do you have life insurance to help cover the expenses involved in raising your children?

Consideration of end of life issues is critical for people of all ages. I hope you will plan to meet with a lawyer to draft a will or update your will if you already have one.



CHRISTMAS PAGEANT A HIT!

If you attended the 10AM service on December 17th, you know what a terrific job the children did in this year's Christmas Pageant! Led by **Sherry McCarthy**, the kids retold the traditional story of Joseph, Mary & Jesus in the stable with the animals and the wise men being guided by the angels to visit them. Thank you to all the kids who participated:

Narrator: Nick Cegelski

Prophets:

Jeremiah: Andrew Melnick
Isaiah: Dylan Valcore
Micah: Ket Cost
John: Will Cost

Angel Gabriel: Katie Kocian

Mary: Ana Leeper

Joseph: Scott Kocian

Innkeeper: Adam Morrison

3 Wise Men: Nate Walsh (Gold)
Leah McCarthy (Frankincense)
David Evans (Myrrh)

Angel with Star: Tallia Maness

Angels: Nicole Collins, Adelaide Flood, Paige Jones, Taylor Marshall, Dana Owens, Carly Seabridge, Alyssa Walsh

Shepherds:

Shepherd 1: Theo Cegelski
Shepherd 2: Daniel Melnick
Shepherd 3: Nick Maness
Shepherd 4: Timmy Collins

Animals:

Donkeys: Andrew Alexis-Hay, Sam Maness
Sheep: J.R. Marshall, Cleo McDermott, Matthew Morrison, Ann Vukceovich
Cows: Ethan Jones, Drew McDermott, Matthew Vukceovich

Thank you also to the parents and grandparents who sat through many rehearsals, prepared costumes and helped their kids practice at home.

Finally, we want to acknowledge the adults who volunteered their time during a busy holiday season:

Costumes/Choreography: Sara Cegelski
Organ/Piano: David McCarthy
Set Crew: Don Appleton, Mike Povio, Scott Seabridge
Props: Wendy McDermott, Wendy Walmsley
Photographer: Ron Simmons



LENTEN SERIES WITH REV. MIRIAM OWENS

The Rev. Miriam Owens, retired priest and former Rector of the Church of the Ascension will lead us in our Lenten Series this year. She will guide us through a six-week study of Nouwen's book THE RETURN OF THE PRODIGAL SON. We will especially study Rembrandt's painting of the same name. This is one of the great works of art of the Western World. Miriam is an artist and a docent at the Memorial Art Gallery and will provide her artistic insight into the study.

The series will start on Sunday, February 25, 2007 and run through Sunday, April 1, 2007 at 8:45 AM in the Josie Dewey Lounge next to Vicki's office. Books will be on sale at the church in January.

If you have any questions, talk to Miriam at church or call her at 338-3463.



IMPORTANT PARISH DATES:

Jan 16 Vestry Meeting
Jan 21 Canon Lane's presentation on Sabbaticals
Jan 23 Mutual Ministry Review for Vestry
Jan 28 ANNUAL MEETING
Feb 4 Scout Sunday (Boy Scouts & Girl Scouts)
Sep 28 Incarnation 50th Anniversary Dinner at Penfield Country Club

FROM THE OAKLANDS

Michelle has accepted a new job in Stevens Point, WI. She began working for Stora Enso, a specialty paper company, on December 4. We purchased a new home and I am getting the old home ready for market with help from the kids. The movers come tomorrow and by the end of the week we will be headed West.

Our new contact information is:

*3841 Brett's Drive
Plover, WI 54467
michelle.oakland@storaenso.com
Michelle's cell: 715-213-4946
Tom's cell: 315-690-1571*

*We will miss all of our friends in Rochester.
Tom Oakland*



NOTES OF THANKS

From ESWA:

We cannot thank you enough! There were 50 "wish" angels on the Christmas tree in your lobby. All 50 angels were taken, and ALL 50 gifts were returned, wrapped and marked as asked! To have all the gifts returned is like a dream come true. Thank you.
Mark Horn

From Heart & Home of Penfield (St. Ann's):

*Dear Vicki,
I just wanted to send a note of thanks to you and the church members who helped with the new ramp & deck outside the south door. Home & Heart of Penfield participants have already enjoyed it during our late November break in the weather. Please convey our thanks to Phil Rosini and the boy scouts. We plan to thank them personally as well. I'm glad we could help, too.
The integrated fire detection system, new handicapped glass doors and ramp are tangible examples of our wonderful partnership with ECI. We also appreciate your support of our program and how we can make a difference in the lives of older adults and their family caregivers.
Merry Christmas!
Mary McCarthy*

WELCOME HOME ELENA!!



On Saturday, December 23, almost three and a half years after their first home study appointment, Greg Skizim and Loren Gifford welcomed home their new daughter, **Elena Kristine**. Elena attended her first church service with her parents on Christmas Eve, and my how everyone adored her! She will be baptized here at Incarnation on *January 21st*. We hope you will join us for a very special ceremony.

ADULT GAME NIGHT

Starting this month, we will be trying something new for Adult Game Night. It will be held on the *third Saturday of every month*, at 7:00 p.m. in the Great Room. All adults are welcome!! We ask that you bring your own beverages, and either a game or snack to share. There will be sign-up sheets posted in the church lobby each month prior to the event. For more information, contact Tracy Povio at tap55@rochester.rr.com, or by phone at 872-7431.

"CHRISTIANS" - By Maya Angelou

When I say... "I am a Christian"
I'm not shouting "I'm clean
livin'."
I'm whispering "I was lost,
Now I'm found and forgiven."

When I say... "I am a Christian"
I don't speak of this with pride.
I'm confessing that I stumble
and need Christ to be my guide.

When I say... "I am a Christian"
I'm not trying to be strong.
I'm professing that I'm weak
And need His strength to carry on.

When I say... "I am a Christian"
I'm not bragging of success.
I'm admitting I have failed
And need God to clean my mess.

When I say... "I am a Christian"
I'm not claiming to be perfect,
My flaws are far too visible
But, God believes I am worth it.

When I say... "I am a Christian"
I still feel the sting of pain.
I have my share of heartaches
So I call upon His name.

When I say... "I am a Christian"
I'm not holier than thou,
I'm just a simple sinner
Who received God's good grace,
somehow!

