

Children in worship Dec. 28 & Jan. 4

Children in Catechesis of the Good Shepherd will join the congregation for worship on Sunday, Dec. 28 and Sunday, Jan. 4, as we continue our celebration of the Twelve Days of Christmas. They will return to their atriiums on Sunday, Jan. 11. Please see the article on Page 1 for information about the children's Epiphany Celebration, set for Saturday, Jan. 3.

Bell Choir to perform Jan. 4

The St. Andrew's Bell Choir, under the direction of **Susan Sommerville**, will perform *Carol of the Bells*, by Kykola Leontovich, arranged by Cathy Moglebust, on Jan. 4. We extend our appreciation to the Bell Choir for enhancing our worship on Jan. 4, the Sunday when we celebrate The Epiphany, as well as throughout Advent.

Birthdays

Azubike Akunne
Justin Anthony
Trina Anthony
Cole Beverick
Ann Collins
Emelie Deslauriers
Tom Dunlap
Kevin Gartrell
Patrick Giese
Tom Girard
Jennifer Hambrick
Pat Highley
Jan Johnson
Didi Loseth
Alex McKeown
Jenny Marinov
Shirley Maxie
David Patton
Coey Podraza
Juliann Purner
Jack Reeks
Jim Roberts
Ellie Schramm
Frank Scott
Marcie Smith
Brenda Spradling
Natalie Stanley
Eric Thomas
David Warner
Laura Wilhelm
Karolyn Yoakum

Anniversaries

Tom & Sarah Hubbard
Tom & Nanci James
Steve & Beth Myers

Letter from Liberia

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,
Peace be with you. Thanks for accepting that you are going to sponsor me. I will be doing 15 credit hours this coming semester, which is \$525; book rental, \$100; registration, \$50, and clinical fees \$125, totaling my tuition to \$800 US.

My registration will begin from December 19, 2008 to January 2, 2009. I will be glad to hear from you any time within this week or next week through Mommie (Marty Scott).

Thanks for your support and I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Regards,
Tellewoe

(Editor's Note: Tellewoe is the nursing student whose education is sponsored in part by contributions given previously through St. Andrew's for mission in Liberia.)

Office closed Dec. 25 - Jan. 2

Parish office closed Christmas Day through Friday, Jan. 2 to allow our staff to enjoy the Christmas holiday with their families. The office will resume regular hours on Monday, Jan. 5. If you have a pastoral emergency during this time, please contact Deacon Nancy Stanton at 614-519-0746.



Individuals invited to sign Jerusalem Declaration

Parishes and individuals are invited to join with the hundreds of people who personally subscribed to the Global Anglican Future Conference's (GAFCON) Jerusalem Declaration and affirmed the GAFCON Statement on the Global Anglican Future at the Wheaton celebration and worship service on December 3. All signatures collected will be kept in a memory book for the Anglican Church in North America's historical records.

A signature sheet is available in the Gathering Area for those parishioners who wish to add their name to the document.

Due to photocopier damage from last week's burst pipes, the final "Let us count our Blessings" feature will appear next Sunday.

THE DAILY LECTIONARY

Week of the First Sunday after Christmas (December 28 - January 3)

Sunday, Dec. 28 — Psalms 93, 96/34; Isaiah 62:6-7,10-12; Hebrews 2: 10-18; Matthew 1:18-25

Monday, Dec. 29 (Feast of the Holy Innocents) — A.M., Psalms 2, 26; Isaiah 49:13-23; Matthew 18:1-14; P.M., Psalms 19, 126; Isaiah 54:1-13; Mark 10:13-16

Tuesday, Dec. 30 — Psalms 20, 21:1-7(8-14)/23, 27; Isaiah 25:1-9; Revelation 1:9-20; John 7:53-8:11

Wednesday, Dec. 31 — Psalms 46, 48; Isaiah 26:1-9; 2 Corinthians 5:16-6:2; John 8:12-19; **Eve of the Holy Name** — Psalm 90; Isaiah 65:15b-25; Revelation 21:1-6

Thursday, Jan. 1 (Feast of the Holy Name) — Psalms 103/148; Genesis 17:1-12a,15-16; Colossians 2:6-12; John 16:23b-30

Friday, Jan. 2 — Psalms 34/33; Genesis 12:1-7; Hebrews 11:1-12; John 6:35-42, 48-51

Saturday, Jan. 3 — Psalms 68/72; Genesis 28:10-22; Hebrews 11:13-22; John 10:7-17

The Net

St. Andrew's Anglican Church

December 28, 2008

Epiphany: Feast of light

By Fr. Ron Baird

The word Epiphany comes from a Greek word that means "revealed." This feast was first celebrated in the Eastern part of the Mediterranean world as the festival of the Revelation of God in human form. The chief stories in this celebration were the Visitation of the Magi and the Baptism of our Lord. This feast of the Revelation was celebrated on Jan. 6 because under the old Eastern calendar, this coincided with the Winter solstice. Thus, the days stopped becoming shorter and began to have more daylight. Christians in the East adopted the pagan festival and gave it a Christian understanding. The understanding of the true light that has come into the World, Jesus the Christ.

In the West, a separate feast to celebrate the coming of God in human form was adopted. It was called the Feast of the Incarnation (enfleshment), or what we now call Christmas. Again, this was done because the Western calendar at that time placed the Winter solstice on Dec. 25. Of course, we now find the winter solstice on Dec. 21.

Eventually, the East and West learned of one another's feasts. It was decided to keep both dates and that both East and West would celebrate both feasts. Both are important to our understanding of the revelation of God in Christ Jesus. In our observation of them we find that Christmas does indeed have 12 days!

In the Eastern Orthodox Church, Epiphany is still the primary festival, while in the Western churches, we place the primary festivities on Christmas.

The Magi story was originally added by the West to its celebration of Christmas. Thus, we still sing songs such as "We Three Kings" as Christmas carols. This story was then adopted by the West as the primary Epiphany story: The revelation of God to the Gentiles.

The three kings bring gifts to the Christ child that befit such a noble birth: Gold as tribute to a mightier King; Frankincense as the offerings of our prayers to one who is God, and myrrh to anoint for burial the one who is to die for us.

These symbols are still used in our sacramental life today. We often use gold in our Eucharistic vessels; we use real frankincense in our Thurible, and we anoint people with oil at baptism as they are buried with Christ in his death. The gifts for our King are still in use in the Church today!



Perhaps, like the three Magi, we too will remember to bear homage to our King, Jesus, the Christ.

We celebrate the festival of the Incarnation/Revelation of God to humans. We celebrate the coming of the promised one of the prophet Isaiah, Emmanuel, God with us. We celebrate the coming into the world of our long hoped for salvation, Jesus, our Savior and our Lord!

Celebrate the 12 Days of Christmas!

After a glorious celebration on Christmas Eve, we continue to observe the Feast of the Incarnation of our Lord through the 12 Days of Christmas. Come join us on Saturday, Jan. 3, as our children celebrate the visitation of the Magi to the Christ Child and the Feast of Light at 10:30 a.m. (see story below), and on Sunday, Jan. 6, as we observe the Feast of the Epiphany at all three Sunday services.

Children's Epiphany celebration Jan. 3

Children in Catechesis of the Good Shepherd will celebrate Epiphany, the Feast of Light, with a special liturgy on Saturday, Jan. 3 in the Sanctuary. Children should be at the church at 10 a.m. to prepare for the liturgy, which begins at 10:30 a.m. A light luncheon will follow in the Gathering Area. We do ask that you let us know if you will be attending so the proper amount of food can be prepared. Please RSVP to **Kelle Giese** at francesdev@wowway.com or leave a voice mail message at the parish office, 614-423-4250.

The liturgy will include a processional, Scripture readings, the lighting of the advent wreath and Christmas candle, songs, and Catechesis presentations, including "The Adoration of the Shepherds" and "The Adoration of the Magi." Epiphany, from the Greek word meaning "revealed," marks the visitation of the Wise Men, and is traditionally celebrated on Jan. 6.