**The Apostles Post**

26238 North Highway 59

Wauconda, Illinois

DECEMBER 2015

2015



**FROM THE VICAR’S DESK** *(M. C. Gillette)*



***And now… an update.***

*Many of you will remember that last June I wrote about the unfortunate reality that I was in the midst of a major depressive episode. I spoke a little about what this meant for me; asked you to please (‘please, please, please,’ to be exact) continue to approach me as your priest to share your joys and sorrows with me, while ‘warning’ you that my response might not be what either you or I would desire; and offered a couple suggestions on what you could do, as members of our shared community, to help me. As some of you have commented, I seem to be feeling/doing a little better. I’ve found a combination of medications that appears to be working for me, and have been doing some other personal work that I, at least, feel is having a positive effect. So thank you all for hanging in there with me. If you’ve been doing the ‘let’s not bother her right now’ thing – please (please, please, please) ‘bother’ me again. My response still might not be what either you or I would desire, but I believe that at this point, my failing would be more because I’m at least as flawed a human being as any of the rest of us, than the result of a particular medical situation. THANKS!*

Well, it’s December. If you Google ‘December’ images, just about every one you see is related to Christmas. That’s not surprising, but it’s probably neither useful nor healthy; although with Christmas items appearing in stores in October, maybe by December nobody even notices anymore!

Many of us spend our Decembers ‘looking outward.’ We are focused on external things – cleaning, decorating, parties, greetings, gifts, guests, and so on. And while any or all of these things can delight and fulfill us, it seems to me that what tends to happen if we’re not careful is that our picture of what Christmas *could* mean to us gets blurry pretty fast. But no matter how hard we try, it is almost impossible not to get wrapped up in the commercial frenzy of the season, because it surrounds us so completely and permeates just about every aspect of our culture. And so we feel pressured to do it all, to get it right, to capture the elusive and undefined Christmas Spirit, to make the day itself ‘perfect.’ In the process, we lose sight of one of the most profound mysteries of our faith, the thing which started this whole ‘Christianity’ business in the first place. Santas and snowmen and jingle bells and carols and ice-skating penguins – all of which are good things in and of themselves – tumble across our field of vision and obscure our view of the Incarnation, which we need an unobstructed lens of faith to see clearly.

Well, isn’t it nice we have Advent. In Advent, we both look back to the original Incarnation, when God came to earth as a human child, and ahead to the Second Coming, when the Lord will come again in power and great glory. Advent is a time to follow the example of the child in the picture above and try to view things from a different perspective, look inward, be curious and contemplative, and not really care if the people around us are laughing at us. It is the time to lose ourselves in wonder and delight, simple pleasure and deep joy. As always, I strongly encourage you to do whatever you can to allow yourself some ‘breathing room’ this Advent. Strive to find the time to periodically look away from the hustle and bustle of the world so you can more clearly see the things of the kingdom of heaven which have already been given to you. Take some time to rest and pray and be still. You can wash your windows and cook all the traditional holiday dishes – yes, even those sweet potatoes with the marshmallows on top – and take everyone to A Christmas Carol *and* The Nutcracker *and* to get a picture on Santa’s lap – but please, also take some time to nurture your relationship with the God who gave you the greatest Christmas gift of all.

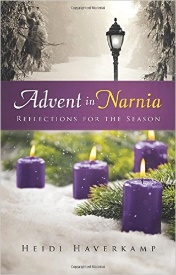


**HERE AND THERE** (M. C. Gillette)

*In this on-going article, we pull things from our various Diocesan calendars and church websites to see what’s going on around us. For more information about what's happening at the Diocesan Headquarters and the Cathedral of Saint James, you can always visit their websites:* [http://www.episcopalchicago.org](http://www.episcopalchicago.org/) *or* [*http://www.saintjamescathedral.org/*](http://www.saintjamescathedral.org/)

*or for a direct link to Diocesan and Cathedral events calendars, go to:* <http://www.episcopalchicago.org/our-diocese/calendars/>

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| |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | *[Bishop Letter header](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=0018GlPlusCD70aRRc7xj9WBAvlB-z86sPRUj3YtEWKGjKX-l6q7QJ_8T3JIjPyavrhAt9vpPADUJ-OmOM4u180FjT6vGJXQDE16JAEpZO1XTZCfyA3IXVKaDZ0BAW9kgun71hB7btN0_bFDAN8Z-sFCbmEVAUk88A25ZJBSiOpw5i5vrSK1KZQig==&c=LCitC2-gy9hnIsXudNE2AdxuYvpljENsMQAzOCv2QWsP7Yubsi2FdA==&ch=Nqul4cEqXbPms0wNrfi9zyVKUF2ivFsv2xCJxUEUlEDeVSr8OhWhZg==)* | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | November 23, 2015   Dear Friends,  In this season of Thanksgiving, I want to express my gratitude for your support and to share just a couple of the reasons why I am so grateful to be the bishop of our diocese.  Last month, right here in our cathedral, I had the privilege of welcoming 91 new members into the Episcopal Church during a spirited and beautiful Hispanic Confirmation Liturgy. The service reminded me of how grateful I am to lead a diocese that is so wonderfully diverse.  On the very northern boundary of our diocese, in the village of Antioch, the good people of St. Ignatius Episcopal Church are working to change the world by engaging in anti-racism training and hosting cutting-edge conversations about religion and spirituality with nationally recognized authors and speakers. This kind of dialog helps move our communities and our world to a new and better place, and it is happening not just in Antioch, but all across our diocese.  I am grateful to serve as your bishop at this exciting time, I am grateful for your part in our shared ministry, and I am grateful for God's wondrous and abundant blessings as we experience them together.   May you have a very happy Thanksgiving.  +Jeff | | | | |  | |

**Advent Quiet Day at Grace Hinsdale** **Saturday, December 12**

[**Grace Hinsdale**](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001ZnF_v73fIuye0HJn99TnmdWN51ScgVWlK4gCmpzIM-5_KrgY9-iQRfwn__7zb3-wExWB_MVge8Wz709wvlxxioySvOPXZNVbvj99FwpZxoZpssWtDqPo89aEQTU8N1rlbLZeGEP2Vt_p003Bumu9ADo8AeF1X0Fyrw_e6WKqi9NF7tv8hRn0jQ==&c=ly7bWMXkwU2bGiRg69dIUFqbJ7eHJdSGbAO808wntL_OMVmrge9-2w==&ch=s3s6Fn0VfryWmse2_1gpwIEKUZh4ZdwCY_8gwcS43tAkGthpvg4iwA==) and the Oak Park Deanery present [**Advent in Narnia: A Quiet Day with The Rev. Heidi Haverkamp**](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001ZnF_v73fIuye0HJn99TnmdWN51ScgVWlK4gCmpzIM-5_KrgY9-iQRS3cBks_OLEQcjH7ABMkWKm9DS-JXFUtXSITenqVn31gGaDrULy6GzaaXI-5Yaxy9EiFkZBp2AiIJIIiDxVjN1GtntJOpW4mosWeE5py8Sa2uGUi3bMAOj-MJ1f5r9ONO1VZIIlKQhHKTiHu8RX5KTi_F9nvc9BAIGq3DLrY-riwhaowXjTe4oN4wgFa-rocAQ==&c=ly7bWMXkwU2bGiRg69dIUFqbJ7eHJdSGbAO808wntL_OMVmrge9-2w==&ch=s3s6Fn0VfryWmse2_1gpwIEKUZh4ZdwCY_8gwcS43tAkGthpvg4iwA==) on Saturday, December 12 from 10 am - 2 pm. C.S. Lewis's novel for children, "The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe," is also a story for adults. Haverkamp will lead a conversation about the novel, about faith and imagination, and having fun keeping Advent with the themes of Narnia in mind. A simple lunch will be served; a free-will donation is requested. Please [**RSVP by email**](mailto:rwyatt@gracehinsdale.org).

**Fierce Conversations Winter Workshop**  **January 27 - 28 at St. James Commons** Fierce Conversations training will be held January 27 - 28 at Saint James Commons, 65 East Huron Street, Chicago. Both days are required. The training will run from 8:30 am – 5 pm, with continental breakfast and lunch provided. [Register online](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001ZnF_v73fIuye0HJn99TnmdWN51ScgVWlK4gCmpzIM-5_KrgY9-iQRQAJqTWrK5btxYNZTpfWNQ-Gs1ykNyiYs4Om2hS9AFLKYSQLILc3C7hYKkjv8wJjfixpcbo26hl_lvPl6yN7KNrlFFZheTldWuGqoidO3RAJ2JCz6hiulzy_43fN3b9IrxXvIOYD4qILmlJVodS0kPie5VWoj_8GniHaBWUE3PIA&c=ly7bWMXkwU2bGiRg69dIUFqbJ7eHJdSGbAO808wntL_OMVmrge9-2w==&ch=s3s6Fn0VfryWmse2_1gpwIEKUZh4ZdwCY_8gwcS43tAkGthpvg4iwA==) at[**www.episcopalchicago.org**](http://www.episcopalchicago.org)Fierce Conversations training teaches people how to have vital conversations that interrogate reality, provoke learning, resolve tough challenges and enrich relationships. While no single conversation is guaranteed to change the trajectory of a career, a congregation, a relationship, or a life...any single conversation can.



**Christmas Eve**

**Services**

2:00 pm

11:00 pm

**at**

**Church of the Holy Apostles**

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| **UPCOMING SERVICES FOR CHURCH OF THE HOLY APOSTLES – DECEMBER 2015** | | | | | | |
| Sunday  06 December  8 & 10:30 am | Sunday  13 December  8 & 10:30am | **Tuesday**  **15 Dec**  **7:00 p.m.** | Sunday  20 December  8 & 10:30 am | **Thursday**  **24 December**  **2:00 p.m.** | **Thursday**  **24 December**  **11:00 p.m.** | Sunday  27 December  8 & 10:30 am |
| Scheduled  Presider: Gillette  Preacher:Gillette | Scheduled  Presider:Gillette  Preacher:Gillette |  | Scheduled  Presider:Gillette  Preacher:Gillette | Scheduled  Presider: Gillette  Preacher:Gillette | Scheduled  Presider:Gillette  Preacher:Gillette | Scheduled  Presider:Gillette  Preacher:Gillette |
| Second Sunday of Advent (C) | Third Sunday of Advent (C) |  | Fourth Sunday of Advent (C) | **Christmas Eve:**  **Celebration**  **in Song** | **Christmas Eve:**  **Traditional**  **Mass** | First Sunday after Christmas |
| 1ST LESSON  Baruch  5:1-9  RESPONSE Canticle 16  SECOND  LESSON  Philippians  1:3-11  GOSPEL  Luke 3:1-6 | 1st LESSON  Zephaniah  3:14-20  RESPONSE Canticle 9  SECOND  LESSON  Philippians  4:4-7  GOSPEL  Luke 3:7-18 | **E**  **C**  **M**  **E**  **N**  **I**  **C**  **A**  **L**    **L**  **E**  **S**  **S**  **O**  **N**  **S**  **&**  **C**  **A**  **R**  **O**  **L**  **S** | 1st LESSON  Micah  5:2-5a  RESPONSE Canticle 15  SECOND  LESSON  Hebrews  10:5-10  GOSPEL  Luke 1:39-45 | 1st LESSON  John 1:1-5  2nd LESSON  Isaiah 11:1-2  3rd READING  Luke 1:26-31  4th READING  Luke 2:1-5  5th READING  Luke 2:7  6th READING  Luke 2:8-12  7th READING  Luke 2:13-14  8th READING  Luke2:15-16  9th READING  Matthew  2:1-5a,7-11 | 1st LESSON  Isaiah  9:2-7  2ndLESSON  Titus 3:3-7  GOSPEL  Luke 2:1-20 | 1st LESSON  Isaiah  61:10 – 62:3  RESPONSE Psalm 147  SECOND  LESSON  Galatians  3:23-25;  4:4-7  GOSPEL  John 1:1-18 |

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**SOME CHURCHY STUFF** *(M. C. Gillette)*

*In this monthly article, we look at terms and definitions of things you might see or hear around church. Nothing fancy here – these entries are out of the Armentrout/Slocum An Episcopal Dictionary of the Church, sometimes supplemented by me, and sometimes simply copied directly.*

**COLLEGIALITY.**  The principle that bishops are ordained (consecrated) into a college. It is based on the assumption that bishops succeed the apostles collectively, and not individually. As a consequence each bishop is responsible not only for a diocese but also for the universal church. The mode of exercise of this responsibility varies with circumstances. While bishops are equal within the episcopal college, the principle respects the traditional primacies, as of the Bishop of Rome (*aka the Pope*), the oriental patriarchs, regional and provincial primates, and notably, in the Anglican Communion, the Archbishop of Canterbury. By extension, collegiality is a principle at work in the college of presbyters (*presbyterium, aka priests*) within a diocese, and among ministers and people in a local parish.

**COLORS, LITURGICAL.**  Although early Christians preferred white for liturgical dress, other colors gradually came into use. Patterns of colors designating seasons and feasts date from the 12th century in western Europe, with many regional variations. A fixed scheme came into being with the 1570 missal of Pius V. In reaction against medieval practices, Anglicans at the Reformation abandoned liturgical colors. Anglican Prayer Books have never designated a liturgical color scheme. Under the influence of the Oxford Movement and as a part of a revival of medieval customs, Anglicans began to restore the use of colors in the 19th century. Most Anglicans today follow modern Roman Catholic practice, sometimes mixed with medieval Sarum use. (*Sarum is Latin for Salisbury; the Sarum Rite was the liturgical form used in most of the English Church prior to the introduction of the first Book of Common Prayer in 1549.*) Liturgical colors include white or gold for Christmas, Easter, other feasts (except those of martyrs), marriages, and funerals; blue or violet for Advent; violet or Lenten array (*unbleached linen*) for Lent; red for Holy Week, martyrs, the Day of Pentecost, and ordinations; green for the ordinary time after the Epiphany and after the Day of Pentecost. Some (*like us, because I have an awesome antique one*) use rose for 3 Advent and 4 Lent. Many Anglican parishes use combination of fabrics and colors, and some have returned to the old custom of wearing the ‘best dress’ – whichever garments or hangings they consider their best – for special (‘best’) occasions. Church of the Holy Apostles, while it is relatively ‘high’ church in some regards (holy water stoups, sanctuary candle indicating the presence of reserve Sacrament, etc.) is very ‘low’ church in having none of the usual liturgical-color drapings and hangings.

[](https://www.google.com/url?sa=i&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=images&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=0CAcQjRxqFQoTCMHnv53j2McCFQKYgAodLYgKGw&url=https://www.youtube.com/user/SaintColumcille&psig=AFQjCNFf7Fn8_1IrdNt2rDcdI3JwCxWgAQ&ust=1441297894984130)**COLUMBA, SAINT (c. 521 – 09 June 597)**. (*Also known as Saint Columcille.*) Founder of many churches and monasteries in Ireland. He was born in Gartan, County Donegal, Ireland. Columba was trained in several Irish monasteries. He was ordained priest around 551. In 563 Columba left Ireland with twelve companions and went to the Isle of Hy, now called Iona, to train missionaries for the evangelization of the Northern Picts. He spent the remaining 34 years of his life at Iona (*which is a wildly beautiful, but small and extremely remote island – you’d get to know it pretty well in 34 years*). His greatest triumph was the conversion of King Brude of the Picts at Inverness. Columba was a scholar, a preacher, and a courageous leader. He is commemorated in the Episcopal calendar of the church year on 09 June.

Images: Collegiality <http://anglicanink.com/article/lambeth-conference-cancelled>

Colors, Liturgical <http://www.vermontchurchsupply.com/search.php?mode=search&page=96>

Columba, Saint <https://www.youtube.com/user/SaintColumcille>

**MUSIC SURVEY-2015-NOVEMBER**

***Please complete this form and return to Mother Martha***

Which service do you generally attend?

Is music an important/preferred/desirable part of your regular Sunday worship experience?

What is your idea of ‘good’ music for regular Sunday worship services? *(Please be as specific as possible. For example, if you say ‘upbeat hymns’ – does that mean tempo? Lyrics? Genre?)*

What are the 3 things you would most like to see changed/added/eliminated/done with the music (or current lack thereof) during regular Sunday worship services? *(Again, please be as specific as possible. For example, if you say ‘familiar hymns,’ that presupposes that everyone’s ‘familiar’ hymns are the same; and this is simply not true. For this response to be truly useful, it should somehow identify at least a few hymns that are ‘familiar’ to you.)*

Assume a decision was made to implement the 3 things you listed above. How would you propose we might go about doing that? *(For example, if you say ‘hire a professional vocal quartet,’ how might it be paid for? With a limited budget, what might be ‘exchanged’ for it? Would it only perform independently or would it lead congregational singing? At both services? Every week?)*

What else would you like to say about music during regular Sunday worship services at Holy Apostles?

Name (optional but helpful for follow-up) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE HOLY APOSTLES PLEDGE FORM FOR 2016**

**------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------**

***While our 2016 budget is not yet finalized, it is reasonable to expect***

***it will be in the neighborhood of $150,000.***

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**After prayerful consideration, I (we) pledge to offer to God and the work of God’s church the following portion of what I (we) have:**

$ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ per \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (week, month, year);   
  
and/or these services, supplies, or other gifts of time or talent:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**PLEASE provide your current contact information, even if you choose not to/are unable to pledge this year. *If your birthday or anniversary was not included in the Prayers of the People, please provide that information as well.***

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  
  
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*(If you are responding as a couple and have individual addresses and/or phone numbers, please provide both.)*

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Email Address:

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Birthday/Anniversary Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**I prefer to pay my pledge by credit card. My card information is:**

Number: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*(If you prefer not to provide this information on this form, please let Jackie Smith, our Parish Administrator, know privately.)*

**IN OUR** **PARISH LIFE**

**WHO DO YOU SAY THAT I AM?** Please join us in Lincoln Hall at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 3 for the final session of our “Who Do You Say That I Am?” series. This series looks at the Gospels and the identity, qualities, and characteristics of Jesus that it highlights.  As each of the Gospels was written in the context of a particular congregation facing a particular set of circumstances, we get a rather different picture of Jesus in each one.  It is these differences, along with certain similarities, that we will discuss.  Supper will be provided, with donations accepted to help defray the cost.

**A COMMUNITY FESTIVAL OF LESSONS AND CAROLS:** All are invited to join with our brothers and sisters in Christ from Island Lake and Wauconda as we prepare for Christmas Day with readings and carols on Tuesday, December 15 at our own Holy Apostles. The service begins at 7:00pm, followed by a light reception.

**BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP:** The book discussion group generally meets the fourth Tuesday of the month at 7:30pm  (exceptions will be noted). New members or one-time visitors are always welcome!

This month we meet on December 29 - *The Short and Tragic Life of Robert Peace* by Jeff Hobbs at the home of Lisa Earley.

**CHRISTMAS MUSIC PERFORMANCE**: The choirs at College of Lake County will be presenting a Christmas program to kick off the season on Saturday, December 12, beginning at 4:00 PM.   As usual, tickets are quite reasonable but it's best to buy them in advance, since this popular program gets sold out quickly. You may call the box office at [847-543-2300](tel:847-543-2300) (open Mon-Fri, 11-5) to reserve your tickets.

**ALTAR GUILD POLISHING PARTY:** All are welcome to come at 9:30am on Saturday, December 19 to polish the brass pieces for the altar in honor of the birth of Jesus. Coffee and bagels will be served- and many hands make light work!

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**GREENING OF THE CHURCH:** Please stay after the 10:30am service on Sunday, Decemb****er 20 to help with the greening of the Church. It is a wonderful way to get into the spirit of the Christmas Season!

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**CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS:** Please use the “Flower Offering” envelopes in the pews to donate toward

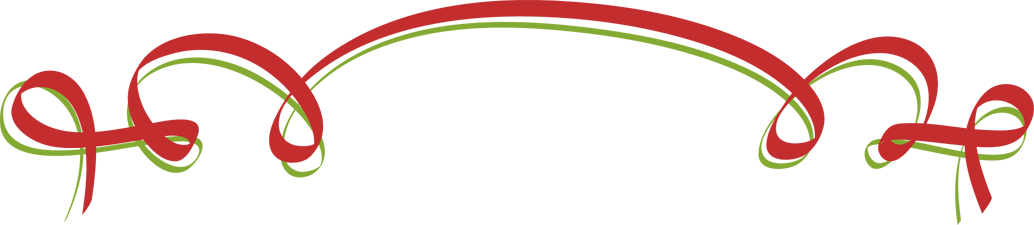
poinsettias for our altar. Donations may be made in honor or in memory of a loved one (Please indicate this on

the envelope) or simply to help beautify the church. Thank you!

**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES:** This year, there will be two services offered on Christmas Eve. A Celebration in Song, beginning at 2:00pm, will be a joy for all those who love to sing the Christmas hymns and carols! The traditional Christmas Eve mass will begin at 11:00pm, instead of midnight as in years past.

**ECW VISIT:** On November 12 we hosted a visit from Beth Petti, President of ECW Diocese of Chicago.Beth presented the goals for 2016, along with some of the events in the coming year. She emphasized that all women of Holy Apostles are members of ECW, and we are always welcome to attend any of the ECW events. ECW provided a room at the Diocesan Convention for women who wished to stop by and knit. Beth was impressed with the vitality of our ministries, and mentioned that some of the smaller churches in the diocese were gathering together so that they could knit in community.

**WARM BLANKETS NEEDED:** Deacon Laurie Michaels of St. Michael’s Episcopal Church, Barrington, is involved on Monday nights with CUMALI-Homeless Chicago Urban Ministry and Life Intervention.“CUMALI” is a small (in size) but hugely successful ministry that provides complete meals, socks, clothing and the “ministry of presence” to those homeless individuals “living” under Lower Wacker Drive in Chicago. In existence for over 8 years they are a dependable resource to those “living on the streets”. Laurie is collecting warm blankets to take out next Monday night and in the Mondays ahead. (Also we always need sleeping bags and any men's L, XL and XXL coats and sweatshirts or L and XL women's coats, warm hats and gloves)The need for WARM blankets/quilts is acute as the temps have dropped these past weeks. If you have something you can donate please email Laurie at [travelaurie@hotmail.com](mailto:travelaurie@hotmail.com)



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| **DECEMBER 2015 (See PAGE 4 above for Service Schedule.)** | | | | | | |
| **SUN** | **MON** | **TUE** | **WED** | **THU** | **FRI** | **SAT** |
|  |  | 1 | 2 | 3 “Who Do  You Say  That I Am?”  7:00 pm | 4 | 5  Food Pantry  10am-noon |
| 6  8:00 am service  10:30 am service | 7 | 8  Bishop’s Committee 7 PM | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12  Food Pantry  10am-noon |
| 13  8:00 am service  10:30 am service | 14 Shawl Ministry  7:00 p.m. | 15  Lessons and  Carols 7:00 p.m. | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 Altar Guild  Polishing  9:30 a.m.  Food Pantry  10am-noon |
| 20  8:00 am service  10:30 am service  Greening of the  Church 12:00 p.m. | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 2:00 pm  Celebration  in Song  11:00pm  Service | 25  MERRY  CHRISTMAS! | 26  Food Pantry  10am-noon |
| 27  8:00 am service  10:30 am service  3:45 pm WCC | 28 | 29  Book Discussion  Group 7:30 PM | 30 | 31 |  |  |

**December Birthdays**

Dec 02 John McLaughlin Dec 26 Karole McLaughlin

Dec 08 Dave Thompson Dec 28 Olga Zuellig

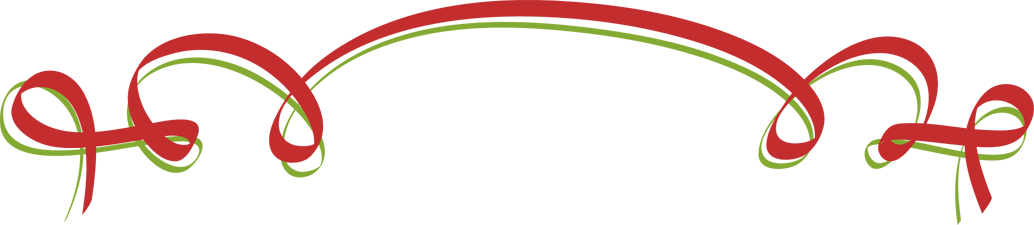
Dec 10 Penny Treptow Dec 30 Sharon Thompson

Dec 15 Stacey Pyne Petersen

Dec 18 Robin McAlister

**December Anniversaries**

Dec 15 Charlie and Jean Miller Dec 18 Robin and Lynn McAlister



**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

**Church Assessment Tool (CAT) / November 2015**

**Episcopal Church of the Holy Apostles, Wauconda IL 60084**

***A total of 48 congregants responded, meaning each individual represents 2% of the total population (using round numbers, which the survey does).***

*The Wardens, Bishop’s Committee, and Priest-in-Charge will be discussing our CAT results in further detail and coming up with proposals on how these survey results might best be used/implemented. If you have specific questions, comments, or concerns about the survey, please address them to the Priest-in-Charge, your Wardens (Sandy Brown and Alien Denges), or one of your Bishop’s Committee members (Johnna Bradfield, Geoff Cooper, Betty Jo Hoebbel, Jim Pinder, June Kramer, Lynn McAlister, John McLaughlin, and Penny Treptow). Many thanks to each of you who took the survey!*

* Ultimately, the survey breaks churches down into 1 of 4 quadrants:
  + High Energy/Low Satisfaction
  + Low Energy/Low Satisfaction
  + Low Energy/High Satisfaction
  + High Energy/High Satisfaction
    - Holy Apostles is in the High Energy/High Satisfaction quadrant. This is referred to as the ‘transformation’ quadrant. Churches in this quadrant are defined as those which are sources of new meaning and purpose for their members, churches which might also serve as mentors to other churches.

***The following ratings are in comparison to all churches taking the CAT. Not all churches taking the CAT are Episcopal churches. This survey tool is used by a wide range of denominational and non-denominational churches.***

* The survey attempts to identify ‘Key Indicators’ and ‘Drivers.’
  + ‘Key Indicators’ are those things which help determine Energy and Satisfaction and place participants in the appropriate quadrant. These Indicators suggested:
    - Overall Satisfaction = High. *Question: On the whole, I am satisfied with how things are in our church.*
    - Overall Energy = Very High. *This was a negative question, in which the ‘disagree’ answers are the more desirable. Question: It seems to me that we are just going through the motions of church activity. There is not much excitement about it among our members.*
    - Overall Attendance = No change in individual worship patterns. *Question: Compared with 3 years ago, I attend worship less/the same amount/more.*
    - Value of Activity Beyond Worship = Average. *Question: On the whole, participation in church activities is very meaningful to me.*
  + ‘Drivers’ are those things which people think about most (consciously or not) when they think about their overall satisfaction with their church. For example, 1 person might think about the physical space in which worship takes place. Does the building ‘feel’ like church to them? Another person might think about coffee hour. Is the fellowship that takes place there what ‘feels’ like church to them?
    - The top 3 things Holy Apostles seem to think about when considering their overall satisfaction with their church are:
      * Worship Services.
      * Intentional thought being given to members with special needs.
      * Preparing members for ministry by helping them discern their gifts.
* ‘Top Priorities’ put ‘Indicators’ and ‘Drivers’ together to assess where members think more energy might best be expended to expand or improve the church’s ministries. *Question: Where would you like additional energy placed to expand improve your ministries?*
  + For Holy Apostles, the Top Priorities are:
    - Develop and implement a comprehensive strategy to reach new people and incorporate them into the life of the church.
    - Make necessary changes to attract families with children and youth to our church.
    - Change or improve the music of the church to deepen our worship experience.
      * *As has been announced, our organist, Betty Garrett, will be retiring at the first of the year, making this the perfect time to address this issue. Please complete the survey available in Sunday bulletins or the December newsletter.*
    - Enlarge or improve the physical facilities of the church to expand or enhance our ministries.
  + Interestingly, when we look at those things people say would have the biggest positive impact on their satisfaction with the church overall if they were changed somehow, ‘music’ does not make the list. The factors that rate highest here (our ‘highest’ scores being in the ‘discuss soon’ category, rather than the more urgent ‘address soon’ or ‘address now’ categories) are:
    - Education every age and stage.
    - Priest has pastoral plan/is present for needs/listens for feelings.
* Compared to other churches taking the CAT:
  + Our theological diversity (the degree to which members hold more conservative or progressive views regarding such issues as the nature of the Scripture, the role of conversion in social change, and their relationship to the historic declarations of the church) is very high; we are considered ‘progressive.’
  + Our Flexible Style (the degree to which the church is willing to make adjustments in the way it goes about its ministry) is predominantly in the ‘more adaptable’ category.
* Our highest ratings for performance (what we perceive as our relative strengths) are:
  + Hospitality (how well we perceive we are making ourselves available to people who are new, different, or in need).
  + Morale (how positively members feel they are engaged in the mission of the church).
* Our lowest ratings for performance (what we perceive as our relative weaknesses) are:
  + Engagement in Education.
  + Worship and Music (the clear focus being on music).
* We are financially stronger than we were in 2011, when we last took the CAT, moving from the 53rd percentile of all churches taking the survey to the 74th percentile (‘higher’ being ‘better’).
* Compared to other churches taking the survey, we consider ourselves to be a Missional Church. (We have a much higher involvement with our community than is typical. We act in a way that suggests we believe that ministering to, and serving those ‘outside’ our doors is more important than restricting our ministry to those ‘inside’ our doors.)
* Compared to other churches taking the survey, we believe we are effective in fulfilling our mission; we do not believe we need to ‘rethink' who we are and what we do.



**MERRY**

**CHRISTMAS**

**TO YOU!**

**FROM: Church of the Holy Apostles**

**26238 North Highway 59**

**Wauconda, Illinois 60084**