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**St. John's**  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

# ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH NEWS

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## Happy Holidays!

*You thought the holidays were over. Technically, no — not until Jan. 6, when Christians all over the world celebrate Epiphany. In some places, the day is known as “Three Kings Day” after the wise men, or Magi, who, the Bible says, brought the infant gifts and proclaimed him the Son of God. In other places, the day is known for giving gifts, for extremely cold baths and for biting into babies. Let us ’splain ...*

### What do you mean, the holidays are not over?

Maybe you've heard of “The Twelve Days of Christmas?” Besides being a catchy or crucifying little ditty, depending on your point of view, the title refers to the period between Christmas Day, when Christians celebrate the birth of Jesus, to Epiphany, when they mark his manifestation — “incarnation,” in some Christian traditions. In fact, the word “epiphany” is drawn from the Greek and means “manifestation.”

The period refers to the story in Matthew that tells of some kings who followed a star in the East to find the baby in the manger. They brought him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. Ten points to you if you can name the kings (Melchior, Caspar and Balthazar) and 10 more points if you know what myrrh is (a scented oil).

### But didn't the wise men visit Jesus on the night of his birth? Like in the church Christmas pageants?

Who knows? The Bible isn't exactly a timetable. In fact, the Bible says nothing about the number of kings, their robes, turbans or crowns they wear in every Christmas pageant in the world, nor does it say they rode on camels or how they learned the star would lead them to a baby in Bethlehem. People have just filled in all those blanks since Epiphany became a church feast in the second century, making it one of the oldest of Christian celebrations.

### How is Epiphany celebrated?

That depends on where you are and what kind of Christian you are. Most U.S. Protestants mark the day on the Sunday closest to Jan. 6 and it is usually limited to

# St. John's Episcopal Church • Schedule: January to March 2017

**VICTORY!**  
**CONGRESS PASSES  
 DAYLIGHT SAVING BILL**



**"Get Your Hoe Ready!"**

**Daylight Saving Time begins Sunday, March 12**

	January 8	January 15	January 22	January 29	February 5	February 12	February 19	February 26	March 1	March 5
<b>Day</b>	Epiphany 1	Epiphany 2	Epiphany 3	Epiphany 4	Epiphany 5	Epiphany 6	Epiphany 7	Epiphany 8	Ash Wednesday	Lent 1
<b>Service</b>	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Holy Communion		Holy Communion
<b>Time</b>	10:30am	10:30am	10:30am	10:30am	10:30am	10:30am	10:30am	10:30am	7pm	10:30am
<b>Greeters</b>	Deb Bush	Josephine DeWitt	Genny Bettger	Angela Tillotson	Deb Bush	Martha Moewes	Alethea Durney	Deb Chidsey	*	Deb Bush
	Martha Moewes	Jim McEvoy	Deb Chidsey	Shane Tillotson	Walter Johnson	Jim McEvoy	Mickey Waddell	Josephine DeWitt	*	Walter Johnson
<b>Acolyte</b>	Dylan McEvoy	Deb Chidsey	Natalie Dillivan	Grant Dillivan	Dylan McEvoy	Deb Chidsey	Natalie Dillivan	Grant Dillivan	*	Dylan McEvoy
<b>Worship Leader</b>	Laura Greathouse	Tim Seeley	Robert Rumbolz	Charlotte Patrick	Kim Dillivan	Susan McEvoy	Laura Greathouse	Tim Seeley	Charlotte Patrick	Kim Dillivan
<b>Lectors</b>	Alethea Durney	Bill Hassler	Elaine DeBuhr	Susan McEvoy	Mickey Waddell	Laura Greathouse	Bill Hassler	Shane Tillotson	Jane Woods	Tim Glatzer
	Jim McEvoy	Deb Bush	Tim Glatzer	Jim McEvoy	Bob Grover	Josephine DeWitt	Elaine DeBuhr	Angela Tillotson	Susan McEvoy	Alethea Durney
<b>Presider</b>	Megan Nickles	Megan Nickles	Megan Nickles	Megan Nickles	Megan Nickles	Megan Nickles	Megan Nickles	Megan Nickles	*	Megan Nickles
<b>Intercessor</b>	Carra Wetzel	Katy Lytle	Mary Dillivan	Carra Wetzel	Diana Anderson	Mary Dillivan	Katy Lytle	Carra Wetzel	Kim Dillivan	Diana Anderson
<b>Preacher</b>	Megan Nickles	Diana Anderson	Carra Wetzel	Mary Dillivan	Tim Seeley	Charlotte Patrick	Megan Nickles	Diana Anderson	Carra Wetzel	Mary Dillivan
<b>Eucharistic Servers</b>	Walter Johnson	Tim Seeley	Robert Rumbolz	Tim Glatzer	Kim Dillivan	Walter Johnson	Angela Tillotson	Walter Johnson	*	Kim Dillivan
	Alethea Durney	Shane Tillotson	Mary Dillivan	Alethea Durney	Genny Bettger	Mary Dillivan	Laura Greathouse	Steve Nickles	*	Diana Anderson
<b>Sound</b>	Robert Rumbolz	Scott Larsen	Steve Nickles	Steve Nickles	Scott Larsen		Steve Nickles	Steve Nickles	Megan Nickles	
<b>Eucharistic Bread</b>	Charlotte Patrick	Carra Wetzel	Susan McEvoy	Diana Anderson	Genny Bettger	Mary Dillivan	Laurel McKeen	Charlotte Patrick	*	Carra Wetzel
<b>Coffee Host</b>	Grover	Tillotson	Bush	Annual Meeting	Larsen	Nickles	McEvoy			
<b>Flowers</b>	Wetzel	Wetzel	McEvoy	McEvoy						

that day's church service and sermon. But it opens the church's "season of Epiphany," a time when sermons and lessons focus on the miracles of Jesus; the season ends on the Sunday before Ash Wednesday (this year on March 1), the start of the Lenten season.

Episcopalians focus heavily on Jesus' baptism at Epiphany, as do Orthodox traditions, with priests in places such as Russia, Bulgaria and Greece tossing crucifixes or crosses into the water, which devotees then dive for.

## Following the Star

For the past 15 years, the people of St. John's have worked to make manifest the Lord our God in our worship, teaching, preaching, outreach, administration and community life: we work from the authority granted at

at the center of our vision, like a star, leading us on.

But there are a couple of questions we ask along the way: how can we live most fully into our vows of Baptism so that St. John's can make a difference to the world?

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*The meaning of **manifest** is "obvious to the eye or*

***mind."** Its synonyms: clear, plain, apparent, evident,*

*patent, palpable, distinct, definite, blatant, overt, glaring, barefaced, explicit, transparent, conspicuous, undisguised, unmistakable, noticeable, perceptible, visible, recognizable*

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Baptism to exercise our gifts and lay them at the manger, so to speak. It has been a rich, abundant experience responding to God's call to us.

This fundamental value of our congregation will remain

As people both release and embrace new ministries, are we ordering our common life to support that ministry? This kind of inquiry is part of the on-going discernment of the whole church.

### **That sounds bracing. Are there any Epiphany traditions that don't involve becoming a polar bear?**

You bet. First, some Christians give gifts all over again on Jan. 6. In Spain, children leave their shoes outside in the hopes they will be filled with candy and presents if the youngsters have been good. Naughty ones are told they'll get only clumps of coal.

—Kimberly Winston, *Religion News Service, USA Today*

Margaret Babcock was here in December to facilitate conversation around this inquiry, and an Inquiry Group will continue that work in the next month or so. We have two primary concerns: could we reorganize our work around our baptismal vows to open more doors for ministry? And how will we facilitate intentional, individual gifts discernment for ministry?

Discernment work is always demanding, as it requires patience and careful listening. But it is always energizing, fruitful and fun. As the season of Epiphany progresses, keep your eyes upturned to see where the light of Christ is calling you.

## Cold and Poor

*Many of us have been disturbed in these colder months with the immediacy of people in poverty in Powell, and with a sense of helplessness in our ability to help. Christ Church Cody began work last year to address those issues in the county, and we have recently made connections with that work.*

Through Christ Church, the Episcopal Diocese of Wyoming funded a grant to West Park Hospital and the Park County Poverty Alleviation Coalition in January of 2016 to address poverty in Park County. The grant has three areas of focus:

A class for people living in poverty called "Building a Brighter Future Today" is provided twice a year. The curriculum is based on Bridges Out of Poverty (Ruby Payne) research. A new class will begin on February 2nd in Powell. Wendy Morris and Dawn Garrison are so appreciative of Saint John's Episcopal Church for offering their facility for this 16-week class. We are also looking for people willing to provide a dinner for these classes. Typically the dinner includes

sandwiches, fruit, a sweet of some type and chips with dip for 12 people at most. Teams of people are encouraged to work together on this effort each week. Angela Tillotson, who is coordinating these meals, will be in touch with more details as February approaches.

The second area of focus is the Poverty Alleviation Coalition. The mission of the Coalition is to take the information we obtain from the "Building a Brighter Future Today" class on what it is like to live in poverty in Park County and begin the process of significantly changing some of the conditions that cause poverty. The coalition is always looking for additional people to help with this mission. This group meets monthly (one month in Powell, the alternate month in Cody)

at noon on the last Wednesday of each month. We invite you to join in this effort.

Thirdly, a Poverty Simulation gives Park County citizens the opportunity to experience what it is like to live in poverty. The simulation can be offered to churches, community organizations, etc. Please note that a minimum of 50 people are needed to schedule the 4.5 hour event. The simulation process takes an additional 25 volunteers.

Wendy Morris and Dawn Garrison of Cody are our contacts at West Park Hospital. They are both looking forward to working with the members of Saint John's Episcopal Church and thank you for your willingness to be a part of this effort.

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# Chalk One Up

A part of church history is the custom of blessing homes during Epiphany. By doing so, we invite Jesus to be a guest in our home, a listener to each conversation, a guide for troubled times, and a blessing in times of thanksgiving.

“Chalking the door” or the door step may be used as a way to celebrate and literally mark the occasion. In the Old Testament the Israelites were told to mark their doors with the blood of the lamb on the night of the Passover to ensure that the angel of death would pass them by.

Deuteronomy 6: 9 says that we shall “write [the words of God] on your heart; and you shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house ... and you shall write them on the door posts of your house and on your gates.”

Chalk is made of the substance of the earth. As the image of the chalk fades, we will remember the sign we have made and transfer it to our hearts and our habits.

Typically, blessed chalk is used to write: **21+C+M+B+17** above the doorways or on the

steps: **21** for the century; **C, M, B** for the 3 Magi (Casper, Melchior, and Balthasar) and for **Christus Mansionem Benedicat**, (Latin for “May Christ Bless this House”) and **17** for the year.

Chalk will be blessed during our regular service on January 8, 2017. Each household may take a packet with chalk and suggestions for prayers and markings to welcome and invite the Christ in each who crosses the threshold.

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Our hearts are saddened by the sudden death of our dear friend, Jan Lenhard, on December 18. A funeral service was held at St. John’s on Friday, December 23, 2016. A graveside committal will be held at a future date.

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Congratulations to Brian and Patricia Lovell, who celebrated their marriage on Wednesday, December 21, 2016 at St. John’s.

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Congratulations to Shannon and Tyrell Tyra on the baptism of their daughter, Sophie Marie, on January 8.

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## Save the Date:

on February 25 Bishop Smylie invites lay people within the Big Horn Basin to join him for Deanery Dream Days. These events are a way to come together in fellowship and worship while learning what God’s dream is for you and your parish. The meeting is at Holy Trinity, Thermopolis from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. More information will follow as the date approaches.

## Dave Ramsey Financial Peace University

St. John’s will be offering this 9 week course beginning Tuesday, Jan. 31, 6:30pm. This course will provide opportunities to learn the basics of personal finance. Our very own Rusty McKeen will be facilitating this course. Please call him at 307-202-2215 if you are interested in signing up or need more information. Scholarships are also available.

## Powell Valley Loaves & Fishes

Contributions are always needed and appreciated. There is a basket for Loaves & Fishes contributions in the Narthex for items that will be delivered to the Annex.

During the month of November, 98 families/361 people were served. With winter

and frigid temperatures upon us, please remember the hungry in our community and how God encouraged us to be His hands and feet.

**The Rev. Megan Nickles** (754-4218) is available at any time. Please call to make an appointment or for any other emergency.

## Altar Guild:

January Megan Nickles/Deb Bush

February Mary and Natalie Dillivan

March Mary and Natalie Dillivan

## Thrift Shop Cleaning Days:

January 30

February 27

## BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

### January

15 Gretchen Beerline

20 Walt McCauley

20 Kathy Riley

23 Doug Bettger

26 Rusty McKeen

30 Carra Wetzel

### February

2 Gary Lankford

7 Charlie Larsen

10 Miles Rumbolz

13 Rachelle Burgess

13 Jim & Susan McEvoy

14 Josephine DeWitt

16 Justine Larsen

21 Laura Greathouse

25 Alethea Durney

Aden Blaise Goubeaus

### March

6 Hidee Urbach

9 Sam Haberstroh

10 Scott Larsen

11 Madelyn Morris