



January Newsletter



St. Brigid's Episcopal Church

A Message From Dean Schenkel

Dear Friends-

Turning our Parish Calendar to a new month in the New Year we find ourselves entering into a very busy January. We begin with our Annual Epiphany Dinner at the Schramm's on Saturday evening the 5th. By now everyone should have received their invitation and directions to their home. In addition to the various surprises to be found in the Epiphany Cake, there will some additional ceremony and commentary relating to this meal. So adequate planning can be made please take a moment to sign up in the Parish Hall or telephone Joan at 610 759-3655.

Also, January is the month for our Annual Parish Meeting where we will receive reports from various parish organizations, committees, and individuals, elect Vestry members, and this year a proposed amendment to our Parish by-

Laws to increase the size of the Vestry from seven to nine members will be presented. If you have an Annual Report to prepare please get it to Trula by January 7th so she can prepare our written Annual Report.

The Annual Meeting is scheduled for Saturday evening January 19th and will be held in conjunction with a Potluck Supper and Holy Communion. This change in our usual format of holding our Annual Meeting on a Sunday in the context of our morning worship is necessitated as Sunday January 20th St. Brigid's together with other Nazareth churches will be holding an Ecumenical Service at 11:00 AM at the Nazareth Middle School. This service is our opportunity for congregations in Nazareth to share in a celebration of the Annual Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

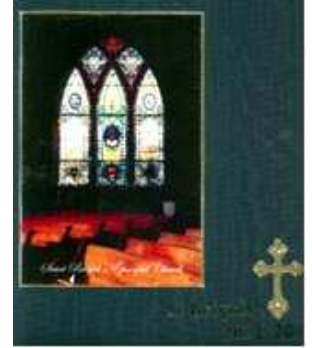
There will be a service of Holy

Communion at St. Brigid's at 9:00 AM. Further information about our Annual Meeting and this Ecumenical Service will be forthcoming.

And on Sunday January 13th the day the church celebrates the Baptism of Jesus and one of the special days in the church year set aside for baptisms during our service I will have the pleasure of baptizing our grandson Nicholas, and welcoming him into the whole Christian family.

Yes, January 2008 looks to be a very active time around St. Brigid's. But as we begin this New Year, and look forward not only to parish activities, but the ongoing daily events be they be busy times or quiet ones my prayer is that for each and everyone God will fill you with every Blessing; and that Peace, Joy, Love and Hope will be your watch words each and every day.

Faithfully, Bob Schenkel



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December 27, 2007

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Our Parish at a Glance

Ministers of the Congregation

The People

Priest in Charge

The Very Rev. Robert D. Schenkel, Jr.

Vestry

Reid Heeren, Jack Jones, Lori Dobson, Joan Schramm, Mary Jo Julian, Brian Farley, and Mike Tintle

Sunday Service Hours

Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Holy Eucharist 10:00 a.m.
Organist & Choirmaster—Robert O'Neill, Sr.

Office Hours

9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m. Monday—Thursday
Parish Secretary—Trula Mosher

Our Mission

"To Live and Share Christ's Love"

Annual Reports

If you have an annual report to prepare, please give it to Trula in the church office no later than Monday, January 7. Thank you to those who have already done so.



Thank You

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

This will acknowledge and thank you for your kind support of the Bishop's Discretionary Fund. In a time when money is tight, your generosity is especially important. The world remains full of human need arising through natural or man-made disaster, and the Church's call to minister to people in the aftermath remains strong. Local needs are also pressing. So it is on my own behalf as well as on behalf of those whose voices you cannot hear that I thank you for your Christian charity and wish you great joy in the Lord.

Faithfully yours,

Bishop Paul

January Happenings

January 1
Church Office Closed

January 5
Epiphany Dinner

January 6
Food Bank Sunday
Sr. Youth Meet After the Svc.

January 7
Annual Reports Due
Education Committee Mtg.

January 9
Vestry Meeting

January 13
Schenkel Baptism

January 19
Potluck Dinner Followed by Annual Church Meeting

January 20
Ecumenical Service

January 21
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
Church Office Closed

January 25-26
"Nightwatch" in NYC



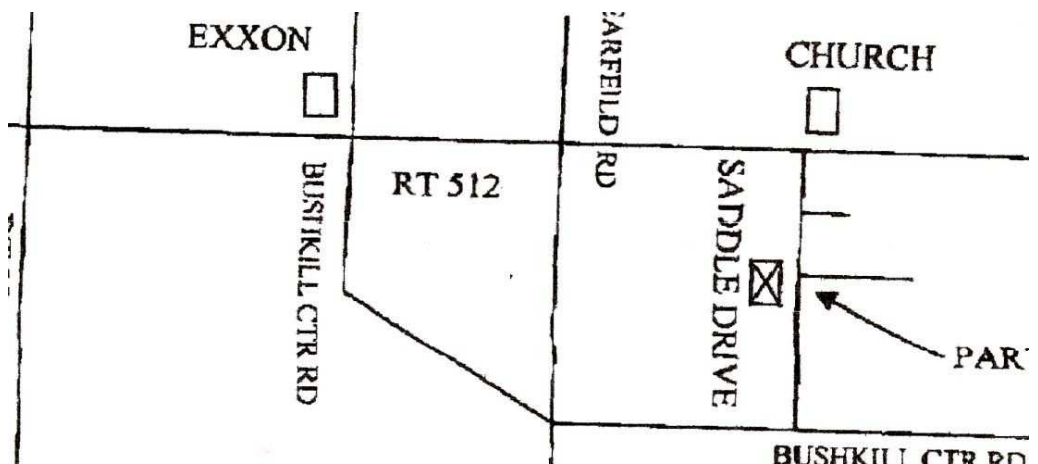
Keep the dream alive!

Epiphany Dinner Invitation

Please join us Saturday, January 5, 2008 for the annual St. Brigid's Epiphany party. This year we will commemorate the arrival of the Magi by sharing our gifts with those less fortunate. Each person is asked to bring a non-perishable food item to be donated to the Nazareth Food Bank. Our evening program will be led by Bob Schenkel highlighted with supper. The evening is open to all members of the parish including children. Let's start the new year off by reaching out to those in need in our community. The program begins at 6:00 p.m. at the home of Bob and Joan Schramm. If you need transportation please let us know and we will see that you have a ride. Please either RSVP to our home phone (610-759-3655) or sign up in the parish hall. Please see directions, below.

Ecumenical Service

St. Brigid's will participate in the ecumenical service to be held at 11:00 a.m. Sunday, January 20, 2008 at Nazareth Middle School. Welcome the new year with friends of other denominations. St. Brigid's will hold its own brief service at 9:00 a.m. that morning.





Why Nametags

I'm sure several of you have asked that same question. After all, you know everybody's name, right?

The name tags are not necessarily for you, but for our visitors and newcomers. Think back to the first few Sundays when you attended church and how you struggled to remember everybody's name.



Please wear yours.

This gives our newcomers the advantage of not having to ask you (or someone else) your name. Of course, it also helps us so we don't have to ask the newcomers their names.

Please take the extra time each Sunday to pick up your nametag, located in the front doorway.



Have You Made Your Pledge?

The members of the Vestry have made their annual pledges for the financial support of the parish, and many at the service on Consecration Sunday offered theirs as well. If you have not made your pledge please do so. If you need a form please ask Trula to send you one, or pick one up on the shelf at the back of the church and return it to Debbie Jones. While we do receive much appreciated assistance from the diocese and fund raisers our individual pledges are the main means of support for the mission and ministry of St. Brigid's.

Social Outreach

Thank you to all who participated in the sponsorship of two children from the "Angel Tree" at St. John's Lutheran Church. Two large bags filled with clothing and toys were sent over to St. John's following the service last Sunday. A special thanks to the members of the Junior Youth Group who wrapped the presents!

****Child care is available during our Sunday Service.****

Choir

Choir practice is at 7:30 p.m. each Thursday evening in the church. Please join us.

Men's Group

The men's group will not meet in January. The next meeting will be held on Saturday, February 9, 2008. All men of the parish are welcome to join us.

Coffee Hour

The refreshments on Sunday after our service are an important part of our fellowship. Please consider volunteering to help on a Sunday. A sign-up sheet is available in the parish hall.



Adult Social

Do you want to know more of your fellow worshippers? Well, this is the social for you. It involves a commitment of one year during which a small group of parishioners will meet four times at the home of one of the group members to share a meal. During the evening, the group can do whatever they wish—socialize, discuss current events, study the Bible, play games, etc. Sign up in the parish hall if you're interested. Please see Debbie Jones for more details. This is not just for couples.

Our Budget As of November 2007

| <u>Income</u> | <u>Actual</u> |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Pledges & Offerings | \$ 46,321.00 |
| Grants | \$ 13,750.00 |
| Other Gifts & Offerings | \$ <u>3,395.00</u> |
| Total Income | \$63,466.00 |
| | |
| <u>Expenses</u> | |
| Staff Expenses | \$ 34,750.00 |
| Bldg. Maintenance | \$ 11,331.00 |
| Capital Improvements | \$ 422.00 |
| Diocesan Payments | \$ 10,558.00 |
| Office Expenses | \$ 4,315.00 |
| Worship Expenses | \$ 6,790.00 |
| Other Misc. Expenses | \$ <u>1,848.00</u> |
| Total Expenses | \$70,014.00 |
| | |
| <u>Fund Raising</u> | |
| Income | \$ 11,609.00 |
| Expense | \$ 7,704.00 |
| Fundraising (Net) | \$ <u>3,905.00</u> |
| Year-to-Date Gain | <u>-\$ 2,643.00</u> |

The Bible in 50 Words

God made, Adam bit, Noah arked, Abraham split, Joseph ruled, Jacob fooled, bush talked, Moses balked, Pharaoh plagued, people walked, sea divided, tablets guided, promised landed, Saul freaked, David peeked, prophets warned, Jesus born, God walked, loved, talked, anger crucified, hope died, love rose, Spirit flamed, Word spread, God remained.

Happy Birthday!!!

| | |
|--|---|
| January 2 Grace Goodin | January 11 Jonathan Fischl |
| January 4 Danielle Dronebarger | January 16 Hayley Tintle |
| January 8 Jeanette Phelps | January 23 Christopher Rodrigues Cheryl Butler |
| January 9 Vi Thiessen | January 31 Ally Fuller |



Annual Church Meeting Information

Here is information that everyone needs to know about the 2008 Annual Church Meeting.

At our annual meeting we will receive the various committee reports, elect members to our Vestry and consider an amendment to our by-laws to increase the size of the Vestry to 9 lay members.

First, annual reports from all organizations and committees are due in the church office on Monday, January 7.

Second, at our November Vestry meeting a motion to increase the size of the Vestry from 7 to 9 members was approved. The purpose of this proposal is to increase the parish representation on the Vestry and to provide additional leadership for parish activities. The members of the Vestry

believe the continuing growth of our parish and the expansion of a number of our programs support the need for additions to the Vestry. Jack Jones, Brian Farley, and Lori Dobson were appointed as the nominating committee at the November Vestry meeting. Persons wishing to be considered for the Vestry please speak to one of them.

Third, St. Brigid's will participate in the Nazareth Area Ministerium's Ecumenical Service on Sunday morning, January 20th. Details of this will be announced later, but it does mean a change in our normal annual meeting date. We will be holding the meeting at a parish dinner at 5:30 p.m. on Saturday evening January 19th. A sign-up sheet is available in the parish hall.



**ANNUAL
MEETING**

The Christian Education Place

St. Brigid's Express

Sign up to be a pen pal with one of the Sunday school children!!! We would like to exchange letters on a biweekly basis so each child and each adult would be writing one letter a month. A mailbox will be provided at the church for delivery of the letters. Our hope is to have the adults deliver their letters on the third Sunday of the month (during the children's service). Sign up in the parish hall today!!!

Senior Youth Group News

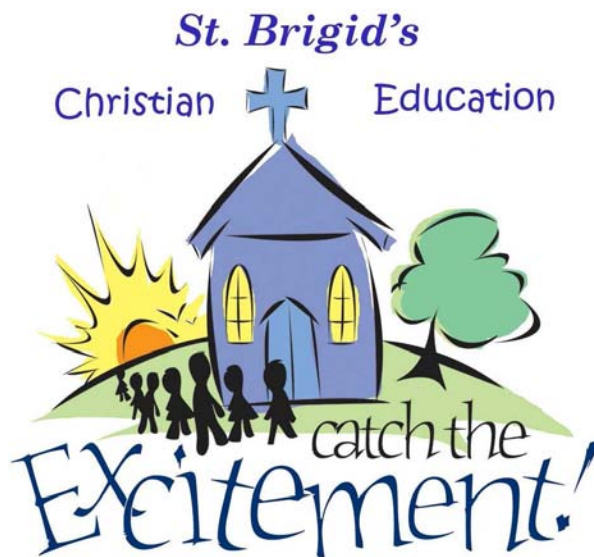
Attention all Senior Youth Group members! Starting at the beginning of the new year, January 6, 2008, the senior youth will meet regularly immediately following the service. During this meeting, we'll be planning exciting upcoming events for '08, including our annual lock-in, snow tubing trip, ice skating trip, and our next fundraiser. Remember to bring your planning calendar and your ideas.

Several members of the Senior Youth Group will be attending the "Nightwatch" event in New York City January 25-26.

Finally, thank you to all that participated in helping with the first phase of our Christmas project. We had a lot of fun with it so far, and we'll be continuing it soon. Listen up for more information later next month.

"Nightwatch"

Mark your calendars, 6-12 graders!!! January 25 & 26 is "Nightwatch" with Bishop Paul at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York City. An overnight of fun, discovery, and worship which includes singing, games, exploration of the beautifully restored historic cathedral, time with Bishop Paul, a chance to be with other diocesan youth and to meet youth from other places and different denominations, and a candlelight meditation and midnight Eucharist. On Saturday, we'll have lunch in Times Square at the Hard Rock Café. Bus service will be provided from the Cathedral in Bethlehem. More information to come—see Lori Bernardo or Jan Tittle.



Food Bank

Let's help our children become more aware of our local community and the needs of other families. We would like to see each child bring in one non-perishable item for Food Bank Sunday which is the first Sunday of every month. If for any reason that is not feasible, please let us know and we will have something available for your child to bring. Please contact Erin Banghart at 610-365-2858 or Jennifer Suwalski at 610-252-5233 if you have any questions.

St. Brigid's Episcopal Church

310 Madison Avenue
Nazareth, PA 18064
Phone: 610-746-3910
Fax: 610-746-4515
E-mail: stbrigidspa@verizon.net
On the Web: www.stbrigidspa.org



The Episcopal Diocese of Bethlehem

"To Live and Share Christ's Love"



St. Brigid's was founded in 1995 as a congregation in the Episcopal Diocese of Bethlehem and was accepted as a mission of the diocese at its 1996 Convention.

The name, "St. Brigid" was chosen in honor of our diocesan partnership with the Dioceses of Meath and Kildare in Ireland.

The congregation initially met in the basement community room of the Nazareth National Bank. On August 2, 1998 St. Brigid's held its first service in its newly acquired church building at 310 Madison Avenue in Nazareth, Pennsylvania.

The Rev. Canon Jane Teter, a member of the Bishop's staff, was our first vicar. The Rev. Judith Snyder served as the church's second vicar; and in 2004 she was succeeded by the Very Rev. Robert D. Schenkel, Jr., the current priest-in-charge.

Suggestion Box

Unsigned suggestions will no longer be accepted in the suggestion box. If you wish to make a suggestion, you **MUST** include your name. Thank you.

Thank You . . .

. . . to Jack and Debbie Jones for organizing the Consecration Sunday luncheon, and to all who contributed to it.

. . . to the Happening attendees for their lively report on Sunday the 18th.

. . . to Gary Wagner and all who help him with the cleaning of the church and for his gift of a new glass enclosed bulletin board.

. . . to Alberto & Alvia Riefkohl for donating the keyboard for use in Sunday School.

Safeguarding God's Children

This training is mandatory for everyone who has a parish responsibility for children or who has a key to the church. The next opportunity to attend is:

May 17, 2008

- Cathedral, Bethlehem or St. Luke's, Scranton
- Registration Deadline 5/12/08
- 9:30 a.m.—3:30 p.m.

Cost

- \$20 check (registration and lunch)
- \$15 check (registration with your own packed lunch)
- Make checks payable to

the Diocese of Bethlehem.

Also Needed to Register

- Name, position/role at church/organization, and church/organization name

Send to Diocese of Bethlehem, Attention Rosemary Kleintop, 333 Wyandotte Street, Bethlehem, PA, 18015.

Scholarship assistance will be provided on an as needed basis. Please contact Rosemary Kleintop at:

- 800-358-5655
- 610-691-5655
- rkleintop@diobeth.org



January 2008 Schedule of Participants

| | Jan. 6 | Jan. 13 | Jan. 20 8 am | Jan. 27 |
|---------------------|------------------------------------|--|---|-------------------------------------|
| Reader | Jim Baldree | Deb Metcalf | Alvia Riefkohl | Brian Farley |
| Prayer | Mary Jo Julian | Linda Jurasik | Lori Dobson | Eric Gramlich |
| Chalice | Jack Jones Joan Schramm | Loraine Curtis Brian Farley | Gary Wagner Linda Wagner | Deb Metcalf Amy Neidlinger |
| Ushers | Brian Farley Eric Gramlich | Reid Heeren Jackie Ellenberger | Jack Jones Deb Jones | Bronik Jurasik Linda Jurasik |
| Youth Ushers | Thomas Bernhart Brad Butler | Danielle Dronebarger Sebastian Riefkohl | Ekaterina Riefkohl Emilie Walter | Ally Fuller Evan Suwalski |
| Crucifer | William Baldree | Jamie Baldree | Sarah Baldree | Mason Reichel |
| Acolyte | Sebastian Riefkohl | Brad Tintle | Ekaterina Riefkohl | Danielle Dronebarger |
| Altar Guild | Deb Jones | Jackie Ellenberger | Violet Bertholt | Lois Williams |
| Greeter | Brenda Reichel | Mike Tintle | Tony Bernardo | Scott Fuller |
| Counters | Jack Jones Joan Schramm | Lori Dobson Mike Tintle | Scott Fuller Brian Suwalski | Reid Heeren Brian Farley |
| Nursery | Grace Goodin Kayla Farley | Tammy Fuller Brian J. Farley | Diane Farley William Baldree | Jennifer Walter Tessa Tintle |

February 2008

Schedule of Participants

| | Feb. 3 | Feb. 10 | Feb. 17 | Feb. 24 |
|--------------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| Reader | Tony Bernardo | Diane Farley | Sarah Baldree | Alberto Riefkohl |
| Prayer | Cheryl Schramm | Joan Lyons | Brian J. Farley | Joan Schramm |
| Chalice | Annette Fischl | Mike Tintle | Bob Schramm | Jack Jones |
| | Mary Jo Julian | Jan Tintle | Joan Schramm | Reid Heeren |
| Ushers | Mike Tintle | Eric Gramlich | William Baldree | Brenda Reichel |
| | Reid Heeren | Brian Suwalski | John Julian | Annette Fischl |
| Youth | Jamie Baldree | Brad Butler | Derrick Butler | Emilie Walter |
| Ushers | John Bernardo | Thomas Bernhart | Danielle Dronebarger | Ekaterina Riefkohl |
| Crucifer | TBA | TBA | TBA | TBA |
| Acolyte | TBA | TBA | TBA | TBA |
| Altar Guild | Amy Neidlinger | Marion Karcanes | Deb Jones | Jackie Ellenberger |
| Greeter | Linda Wagner | Lois Williams | Sean Dobson | Deb Jones |
| Counters | Reid Heeren | Lori Dobson | Mike Tintle | Brian Suwalski |
| | Gary Wagner | Bob Schramm | Tony Bernardo | Brian Farley |
| Nursery | Brenda Reichel | Grace Goodin | Tammy Fuller | Diane Farley |
| | Hayley Tintle | Brian J. Farley | Kayla Farley | William Baldree |