



Glad Tidings

"Publish Glad Tidings, Tidings of Peace"

Happy Epiphany!

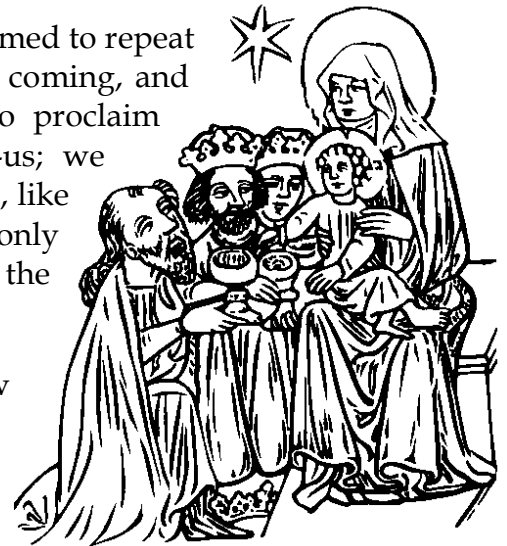
After the glorious celebration of the birth of Christ, the busy-ness of our lives during the longer Holiday break and all that entails, where does that leave us – beyond just an exhausted stupor? It leaves us in the season of Epiphany – it leaves us with the quiet adoration of the magi. What do we know about them? We know that the Gospel of Matthew calls them *Magoi*, which is a mysterious word. The gospel tells us that they came from the East, following signs in the heavens which they believed told them a new King was born in a foreign land, with a foreign religion. They paid their respects to the reigning monarch, but heeding their dreams never returned to him. They found the child, bowed down and worshipped him, gave some bizarre presents, and went on their way.

Nothing in the gospels about their being wise. Certainly nothing about them being kings. There's not even anything to indicate how many of them were there – just that there were three gifts described. They came into the story as an enigma, and remain mysterious to this day.

You may have seen the bumper sticker that says "Wise Men Still Seek Him". While I think this is very true, the inclusion of the Magoi in Matthew's version of Jesus' birth narrative points to a larger story – one told repeatedly by Jesus both conversationally and in parable. The truth is that those who were supposed to be expecting the coming of Christ did not notice him when he came into their midst. Here at Jesus' birth, instead of the religious and political elite of Judea, Christ was found and worshipped by strangers from very far away. I believe their mysterious and non-native identity is the point of this story.

So what about us, then? Are we doomed to repeat this pattern? The world prayed for his coming, and he came – and we rejoiced! We who proclaim Christ as Lord, Emmanuel, God-with-us; we who celebrated his Incarnation – will we, like the Magoi, bow before his presence not only in the Eucharistic celebration, but also in the world around us?

Now that he is in our midst – how will we respond?



The Monthly Newsletter of
Incarnation Holy Sacrament
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**January
2012**

CLERGY & STAFF

The Rev. Alexander (Sandy) C.
Graham, IV, Rector
FrSandy@ihchurch.org

Joanne Sabatino
Organist and Choir Director

Bev Brescia
Parish Secretary

Diane Tapley
Financial Secretary

VESTRY

Cheryl Avery

Sue Bevilacqua

Maria Buonviri

Tom Chadwick

Kevin Dale

Greg Gutierrez

Betty Lou Hadley-Laird

Kris Haelle

Bev Rorer

Dane Tanner

Ashley Thomas

Barb Thompson

www.ihchurch.org

JANUARY CELEBRATIONS

1/1 Elizabeth Elder
 1/1 Lori Robinson
 1/7 Andile Moyo
 1/8 Marcia Verna
 1/12 Joe Toriello
 1/13 Sara Lynn Mingle
 1/18 Bernie Reilly



1/19 William J. Gaul
 1/19 Sharann Null
 1/26 Brian Henninger
 1/26 Thabo Moyo
 1/26 Lydia Ziminsky
 1/27 Gugu Moyo
 1/31 Kristyn Tanner

Please let the Church office know of any additions, deletions or corrections that need to be made in the above two lists. This is our most recent information, and we depend on you to keep us current.

Incarnation Holy Sacrament Prayer Cycle - You may have noticed in the bulletin and the Prayers of the People certain ministries named in our *prayer cycle*. This is a seven-week cycle, and this month's ministries are listed below. Please consider these ministries in your prayers, and allow us the privilege of connecting you with one or more of these ministries as the spirit moves you!

January 1 st	Altar Guild and Lectors
January 8 th	Choir and Sunday School
January 15 th	Development Committee and Sewing Group
January 22 nd	Eucharistic Ministers and Wednesday Wonders
January 29 th	Finance Committee and Ushers

Fellowship Gathering Sign-Up



We have started a "team concept"; presently there are 8 teams and a list of substitutes. If you'd like to join one of the teams or start your own, please contact Bev in the church office (610-259-5148) or via e-mail bev@ihschurch.org. If you are not able to join, you may bring in a box of cookies or crackers for the pantry, a gallon of iced tea or lemonade. Fellowship Gathering is a "coming together" time, and many hands *do* make for lighter work!

January 1 st	Joyce Decker, Sheila Spence & Ashley Thomas
January 8 th	McClelland & Robinson Families
January 15 th	Vestry
January 22 nd	Joyce Bernasz & Jeff Mingle
January 29 th	Nancy Holder, Mil Brady and Isabelle Murphy

Also remember during the winter months to bring an extra mug from home for use; place your name on the bottom and leave it in the kitchen.

Parish Life Committee

Would you like to help with church dinners, bazaars or other special events that energize our parish through fellowship? If you are interested in helping with events that affect the Life of the Parish, please contact the office.



News... .. Twenty Sunday School students and four pre-Sunday School students presented "The Little Drummer Boy" as their Christmas pageant on Sunday, December 18th.

It was a great success. Thank you parishioners for travelling to Bethlehem to register. A big thanks to Donna Roman for our gorgeous angel costumes. We could not have been ready to perform had it not been for the help of many adult hands downstairs. Thanks to all of you!

Thank you Joanne Sabatino for providing the piano accompaniment.

Sunday School resumes on January 8th, we still have a church to build and another service project for Covenant House. We will have a collection box for gloves, scarves, hats and mittens. Please help us by donating these items.

Submitted by BettyLou Hadley-Laird

Glad Tiding Newsletter - *Articles for the February, 2012 Glad Tidings should be in the church office by Tuesday, January 24th*

Prayer List - In this New Year, please remember to update the prayer list, removing those who needn't be on it any longer and adding those in your life who could especially use our prayers.



Altar Memorial Flowers - Do you have a loved one that you'd like to remember on their birthday, anniversary or another special day with flowers? There are many dates available during the year. The cost of the flowers is \$30.00 and if you are interested please contact the church office - 610-259-5148 or via e-mail bev@ihschurch.org - or you can see one of the ladies from the Altar Guild after the morning service.



Christmas Bazaar.....

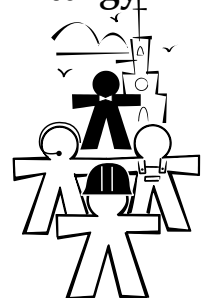
Our thanks to Margaret Chadwick and all who helped with the Bazaar. From what we've heard it was a huge success.

Some of the winners of the raffles were:

- Basket of Booze - Stacey Hawley
- Sharann & Chris Null
- Doggie Basket - Sue Bevilacqua

Thanks to everyone who helped and supported us and to you that were not there sorry you missed it!

Newcomer's Welcoming Liturgy - will be Sunday January 22nd. If you are new to the church and would like to be part of the service, please see Fr. Sandy after church or contact the church office at 610-259-5148





Delaware
Deanery
★
Epiphany
Jazz Mass

3:00 PM – Sunday, January 8, 2012



The Jazz Mass Singers – Members of
the Deanery Church Choirs

Congregational Songs and Hymns

Instrumental music by the
St. John Quartet

Lee Morrison – Drums
David Nelson – Piano/Director
Len Oranzi – Bass
Tom Rudolph – Trumpet

Dean Sandy Graham and
Sub Dean Adam Kradel will be
Preaching and Celebrating

A light supper follows the service – It
is free but please make reservations by
January 6, 2012 (610.544.8113)

Held at: Church of the Redeemer, 145
W. Springfield Road, Springfield, PA
19064

Sewing Group



Seated on the floor is our **mascot**
Chloe Ann Staley.

First row, left to right: Joan Gibson, Sheila Spence, Nancy Holder, Mildred Brady and Isabel Murphy. **Second row, left to right:** Kris Haelle, Joyce Bernasz, Lois Gelbarth, Fr. Sandy, Harriet Feeney, Jo Kay, Sue Reilly and Joyce Wilson. **Not Pictured:** Joy Grenfell, Chris Grenfell, Ellen Grenfell, Sharon Freeland and Marie Niconella.

The IHS Sewing Group has been very busy. This year **13** people received prayer shawls. Kris learned of a soldier that returned home from Iraq with both legs missing. She made a lap blanket for him to use with his wheelchair. We made **20** scarves and shipped them to California's Army National Guard to be sent to soldiers overseas. Thirty-four (**34**) lap blankets were given to the Veteran's Hospitals. We also provided **22** Baby Blankets (some regular, some preemie), **4** Child's Blankets, **6** Baby Hats, **1** Baby Sweater, **1** pr. Baby Booties, **1** Baby Hat and Bootie Set, **1** Baby Hat and scarf set, **2** Preemie Baby Blanket and Hat sets and **2** Baby Blanket, Hat and Bootie Sets to Keystone Mercy Insurance

Company. They give them to families in need. Five (5) Hat and Scarf sets were provided to a group in Keystone Mercy to go to a family for Christmas. We also made 88 chemo hats for Children's Hospital. We have 12 Hats, 21 Scarves and 5 Hat and Scarf sets for the Sunday school's winter project.

Submitted by Kris Haelle

2011 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

As of 12/20/2011

Year to Date Income

Envelope	78,684.75
Plate	2,063.61
Special Event	2,261.00
Great Beginnings	18,150.00
Investment Interest	12,306.94
Christmas/Ester	1,939.00
Miscellaneous	146.25
Endowment principal Used in 2012	25,000.00

Total Income for 2011 **140,551.55**

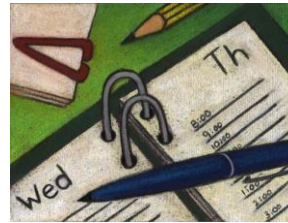
*Income Needed to Date to avoid
use of any additional Endowment
Principal in 2011* **25,366.45**

Total Budget for 2011 **165,918.00**

2012 Church Calendars – are available in the rack at the back of the church. The cost of the calendars is \$3.00



IHS Annual Meeting – Sunday March 11^h – *Mark your calendars* for our Annual Meeting, which will take place after church



on Sunday morning, March 11th. The form to nominate a parishioner to serve on vestry or as a Representative to the 2012 Convention is included with this Newsletter. Please return your nomination to the church office by March 1st. ***If you need to do a report, please start working on it and submit it to the office as soon as possible.***

101 Reasons to be Episcopalian

Reason #99

Our Eucharistic table is not made less special if all are invited, which is contrary to the understanding that I grew up with. Adjusting to the idea that everyone is invited to this most holy meal took me some time, but it has become one of the things I love most about the Church. Understanding that the true presence in the body of Christ is strong enough to survive inside someone who might seem less worthy requires more, not less, faith in its power. I am saddened that I cannot share in communion at my parents' church, and that they will not receive in mine, but I would rather be in that position than the other way around.

*Sean P. Hackett
Diocese of Bethlehem*



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