

JANUARY 2020 NEWSLETTER

Baptism is a Game-Changer

Sunday the 12th of January we celebrate the Feast of the Baptism of Our Lord. It is kind of funny that the previous Sunday we celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany, the arrival of the Magi who present the gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh to the Christ Child. Why does the church jump 30 years or so in Jesus' life in just one week? One reason may be that we don't have much in scripture about Jesus' life between these events. Another reason could be that we are urged not to stay at the manger simply gazing at the infant Jesus, but immediately see him discovering who he is and entering into his mission of ministry to God's poor, captive people.

The word baptism means "to immerse", to jump into the deep-end so to speak. Jesus allows John the Baptist to immerse him into the waters of the River Jordan. *"And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."* Matthew 3:13-17. Wow! That must have been an incredible experience. Jesus came out of the water, had an epiphany from God and immediately was commissioned into the work the Father had given him to do. Baptism is a Game-Changer.



But, wait a minute. That is not how most of us have experienced baptism ourselves or have witnessed during the ceremony in church. How come we haven't seen or experienced such epiphanies? I don't fully understand this either. I personally know of people who have had profound experiences of their own adult baptism. I will share one such story in my sermon on the 12th.

I believe that baptism is a mystical game-changer. We are incorporated into the Body of the Risen Christ during this sacrament. All of us, who are baptized, are immersed into the death and resurrection of Jesus and are bound together with him and each other for all eternity. As members of this Body we are called to do the same things that Jesus was called to do...to reach out with love and healing to the poor, the sick, the oppressed and bring God's justice and peace to this broken world. We however, are given free-will, so the choice is ours. Do we live into this reality of our baptism or do we sit as merely spectators in the bleachers of life? My hope is that you step up to the plate and play ball with all your heart, mind and strength. Be the Game-Changer you were born or should I say born-again to be!

God's Peace to you all,

Padre Tim

Notes from the November 9, 2019 Church Council Retreat:

Present: Pam Borgeson, Vicki Burke, Lisa Clairmont, Pat Gladbach, Audrey McNevin, Jeff Stone, Padre Tim

The retreat began at 10:15am with Pastor Tim offering a prayer followed by a team icebreaker to set the tone for the day.

Jeff led a discussion on our church life since the December 2017 Congregation Assessment/Survey was taken by 41 members of the congregation. Some of what was discussed centered on:

- Has leadership focused on the important things that the survey pointed out?
- Is anything different about the congregation versus two years ago?
- What excites and frustrates us about JIC today?

The general consensus of this two hour session was that the survey called us to take some bold new directions with mission, worship, and music and while some initial strides were made to change worship and music – over time those directions became somewhat muted. The congregation is divided as to what, why, where and how we are doing what we are doing today. The council would encourage members to re-read the CAT results summary (included as an addendum to these notes).

There was a feeling that regarding mission, we HAVE stepped out of our insular congregational life and have been much more focused on living the new mission of *Building Bridges of Caring, Compassion and Civility*. We are trying to change our definition of CHURCH as not just what happens on Sunday morning for 90 minutes, but what happens and who is served when we take our love for our neighbors into the neighborhoods.

More work has to be done. Everyone is not going to be happy with whatever decisions are made. And we have to be able to sit in place and be at peace with that.

After lunch Pastor Tim lead the group on a journey discussion centered on Why we do what we do – what is the purpose. This discussion was based on a 10+ year old TED talk that Simon Sinek gave exploring the WHY of things – not what do you do or how do you do it, rather – WHY does JIC do what it does?

Why do we WORSHIP at JIC? Answers: to be closer to GOD, comfort, hope, helps us cope, keeps us grounded, for support, out of obligation, connects us to the divine, to get the gift of unconditional love, we are accepted here, we are welcomed here, there is a sense of belonging, there is a communal history with specific folk in the congregation

Why do we Fellowship together? Answers: to catch up with each other's lives, it gives us a sense of belonging, I feel like I matter, respect for differences, sharing milestones – happy and grief, its safe, empathy, celebrations

Why do we do community outreach (mission)? Answers: Joy in giving, solve or address local community issues, called by Jesus to do so, thanksgiving out of awareness.

Why are you a part of Joy in Christ Lutheran? Answers: Felt totally welcomed when I first came, Family feeling, Rootedness connections, Acceptance for diversity, the intentionality of being Lutheran, comfort – common history, the church is small – INTIMATE.



Prior to the week of Thanksgiving, members of Abington’s Joy in Christ Lutheran Church and The Outreach Program teamed up with over 600 other Abington community members for a food drive. The event was held in the gym at Abington High School on Friday, November 22. Meals were packaged for people who are food insecure around Plymouth County.

According to Jeffrey Stone, coordinator of this event and an Abington alumnus, around 43,000 people are food insecure in Plymouth County. At last 13,000 of these people are children. However, for this year a much larger team was needed. “It was so well received in 2018 that we broadened the steering committee in 2019 to include other people from Abington beyond our church, including Kate Casey from AHS.” Stone said they wanted to “set a goal to break the New England food packaging record.” And they did. Previously, the New England food packaging record was 168,000. It was exceeded when Abington packaged 250,000 meals at the November 22 event. This food was sent all over Plymouth County to schools, food pantries, and to programs which send students home from school with food to bring back to their homes. In addition to our own South Shore community, 25,000 meals were sent to Haiti. Although most of the volunteers were individuals of the Abington community, many teams and other extracurricular groups participated. Some groups included club softball teams, members of the AHS girls’ soccer and boys’ hockey teams, Girl Scout Troops, and Abington High’s senior class of 2020. The gym was also filled with loud energetic music, and groups competitively racing to pack the most food, which boosted the camaraderie and motivation for his event.



When discussing the awareness this event raises, Stone said that many members of the Abington community might never question food security. He said, “I think most of us on the South Shore never worry about where breakfast, lunch or dinner is going to come from. The food is just in our house.” But, he pointed out, “There are many people in our local neighborhoods who struggle with food insecurity.” He said it is “not Roxbury, not a New York inner city neighborhood, not in some third world country, but right here on the South Shore people hunger every day.”

Stone urges the community to become aware of these poverty issues in our own neighborhoods and to reach out to make a difference. He said, “We are hoping that events like this will nudge people to spend more time being involved in building a caring, compassionate and civil community.”

Church Council Notes from the December 3, 2019 Meeting:

Present: Pam Borgeson, Vicki Burke, Lisa Clairmont (by phone), Audrey McNevin, Kathy Remes, Jeff Stone, Lee-Ann Trigler, Padre Tim. The meeting opened at 6:05 p.m. with devotions offered by Kathy.

The October financial reports and Council meeting minutes were approved as presented. The November Council Retreat Minutes are pending as they were just reviewed yesterday by Jeff and Tim.

Jeff presented a “first pass” of the budget and income for 2020. 19 pledges have been received. 10 have not been received and 2 from last year will not be received due to illness or death. Based on expenses thru November and pledges received so far, we are \$46K short for the preliminary budget for 2020. We will need to finalize the budget at the end of December and hopefully all of the pledges will be in by then.



The Annual Meeting is scheduled for **January 26, 2020** and all meeting materials need to be available for pickup at the church or in the mail by January 12, so Jeff will need them by January 9th.

Jeff reported that there was an error in the Council Annual report from January 2019. Three Council members that were noted to have terms expire in January 2020 actually expire January 2021. Pat and Jeff’s first terms expire January 2020 so if they elect to stay on for a second 3 year term, we will not need any new members. Jeri Screnci is retiring and will not be available as treasurer, so we will need a new treasurer; Jeff to fill in until (if) someone volunteers for this role. We will need a fourth auditor and Lisa volunteered to fill that position.

Mission projects for 2021 were discussed.

- January Sock Drive - Leeann will lead.
- Lent - Joint services with Holbrook and Whitman at JIC—Tim will lead and will connect with the Raymond’s
- May-June - Carnival for homeless families - Lisa will lead
- July-September - Backpack supplies - Kathy will lead
- August—November, potential Food Packaging Event. Jeff and Pam are having an event review meeting on 12/10 with the food packaging steering committee to discuss the interest of doing this event again in 2020
- November-December - Christmas Toy Drive—Lisa will lead

Tim announced that there would be a December 18th caroling event at 10:30am at the Colony Nursing facility on Route 18 – just down the street from the church. We would love to see some support from the congregation at this event!!

Budget review conference call to be held in late December, or as soon as pledges have been received.

**NEXT REGULAR MEETING:
Monday, January 6, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.**

Brief Notes from the December 13, 2019 Worship & Parish Life Meeting

Present: Vicki Burke, Carol Porter, Padre Tim, Lee Trigler, Candy Stone

There was discussion about the upcoming Christmas Eve service and concerns with passing of the peace with flu season. Tim will announce that we will still continue with passing of the peace but those who wish to refrain should just give a peace sign.

Thanksgiving service with St. John's was well attended. We decided that each time we share a service with St. John's we will have a Pot Luck coffee hour.

Vicki & LeeAnn will be in charge of the **Epiphany**, January 5th, pot luck with St. John's.

We will take all the Christmas decorations down on January 8.

We will host a **game night** with St. John's on January 18th starting at 5:00 p.m. We will ask people to bring appetizers and pizza will also be ordered. Lee-Ann will check to see if Marcello's or Venus delivers pizza.

Every 3rd Wednesday of the month, starting at 10:30 a.m., Padre Tim will be conducting Worship at Colony House with parishioners from Joy in Christ, St. John's, and All Saints.

LeeAnn will be running the annual **sock drive**, starting January 12 and running through January 31st.

**NEXT MEETING:
January 15th at 1:45 a.m.**



The *Flower Chart* for 2020 is posted in the front hallway by the elevator. You are invited to donate the cost of the flowers (\$10) and dedicate them to the glory of God in honor of a special occasion or in memory of a loved one. Print your name and the dedication on the line by the date you want, and place the contribution in an envelope marked "flowers" in the offering plate (or office). You are welcome to take the flowers home at the end of worship or leave them for a homebound or hospitalized member.



We will be starting a new **Prayer List** as of the first of the New Year. If there are people you want to stay on the prayer list, please talk to Pam Borgeson or email her at: bioborg20@hotmail.com. As a reminder, on the first day of each quarter we start with a blank slate.

SUNDAY DISCIPLES

| DATE | ASSISTING | READER | TECH | GRUSHER | WORSHIP SET-UP | COFFEE HOUR | ALTAR GUILD |
|----------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------|----------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| DEC 29 TH | EMILY CLAIRMONT | KATHY REMES | JEFF STONE | GEORGE SULLIVAN | GEORGE PORTER | PAM BORGESON & JERI SCRENCI | MARIANNE DJUSBERG & INGRID WILLIAMSON |
| JAN 5 TH | LEE-ANN TRIGLER | JEFF STONE | JEFF STONE | CANDY STONE | GEORGE PORTER | LEE-ANN TRIGLER | STEVE CORKREN |
| JAN 12 TH | PAT GLADBACH | LISA CLAIRMONT | STEPHANIE BURKE | GEORGE PORTER | STEVE CORKREN | AUDREY MCNEVIN & JOSH LEHR | STEVE CORKREN |
| JAN 19 TH | JEFF STONE | JERI SCRENCI | LEE-ANN TRIGLER | INGRID WILLIAMSON | KATHY REMES | STEVE CORKREN & PAT GLADBACH | STEVE CORKREN |
| JAN 26 TH | KATHY REMES | PAT GLADBACH | JERI SCRENCI | GORDON WILLIAMSON | JEFF STONE | VICKI BURKE | STEVE CORKREN |
| FEB 2 ND | NOREEN PLASSE | LEE-ANN TRIGLER | JEFF STONE | STEVE CORKREN | JERI SCRENCI | CANDY STONE | STEVE CORKREN |



January 5th: Epiphany of our Lord – Joint worship service with St. John’s followed by a Pot Luck luncheon and Yankee Swap.

January 6th: Council meeting at 6:00 p.m.

January 8th: Take down Christmas decorations.

January 9th: Last day to get reports to Jeff for annual meeting.

January 12th – 31st: Annual sock drive. Socks are one of the most needed and least donated items. Bring in new socks (white is great!).

January 15th: Prayer and sing-a-long at Colony House.

January 15th: Worship and Parish Life meeting at 1:45 p.m.

January 18th: Game night and Pizza @ 5:00 p.m.!!! Please bring an appetizer to share.

JANUARY 26TH: ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING



JANUARY

- 1st: Emily Clairmont
- 7th: Charlotte Vaillette
- 7th: Missy Tupa
- 17th: Lisa Clairmont
- 20th: Marianne Djusberg
- 22nd: Jeff Stone
- 23rd: Aimee Remes
- 24th: Pat Gladbach
- 27th: Veronica Delong

FEBRUARY

- 6th: Rachel Leadbetter-Shields
- 19th: George Porter
- 20th: Lily Williamson
- 22nd: Alyssa Burke
- Michael Remes
- 28th: Lee-Ann Trigler

Did you know.....

1. Acknowledging birthdays didn't begin until calendars were created.
2. It all started with the Egyptians.
3. You can thank Greeks for all those birthday candles.
4. The ancient Romans were the first to celebrate the birth of the common "man."
5. German bakers invented the birthday cake as we know it today.
6. October 5 is the most common birth date in the U.S. and May 22 the least common.

A Prayer for the New Year:

Almighty and eternal God, so draw our hearts to you, so guide our minds, so fill our imaginations, so control our wills, that we may be wholly yours, utterly dedicated to you; and then use us, we pray, as you will, but always to your glory and the welfare of your people, through our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen. (ELW 86)

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Padre Tim is usually in the office on Wednesday and by appointment. It is always best to call the church phone first as visits and meetings sometime alter the schedule.

Tim's email address is: padretimjic@outlook.com

Tim can be reached for pastoral emergencies at: 617-755-5236

JANUARY 2020

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|---|--|-------------------------|--|---|---|---|
| | | | 1  | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 5 EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD 11:00 a.m. WORSHIP Noon POT LUCK & YANKEE SWAP | 6 6:00 p.m. COUNCIL MEETING 7:00 p.m. YOGA | 7 6:00 p.m. TOPS | 8 12:30 p.m. BIBLE STUDY Taking down Christmas Decorations | 9 LAST DAY TO GET REPORTS TO JEFF | 10 cleaners | 11 |
| 12 BAPTISM OF OUR LORD 11:00 a.m. WORSHIP SOCK DRIVE STARTS | 13 7:00 p.m. YOGA | 14 6:00 p.m. TOPS | 15 10:30 a.m. COLONY HOUSE 12:30 p.m. BIBLE STUDY 1:45 p.m. WORSHIP & PARISH LIFE 5:00-6:15 p.m. GIRL SCOUTS #62324 | 16 | 17 | 18 5:00 p.m. PIZZA & GAME NIGHT |
| 19 2 ND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY 11:00 a.m. WORSHIP | 20 MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY 7:00 p.m. YOGA | 21 6:00 p.m. TOPS | 22 12:30 p.m. BIBLE STUDY | 23 | 24 cleaners | 25 |
| 26 3 RD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY 11:00 a.m. WORSHIP NOON ANNUAL MEETING | 27 7:00 p.m. YOGA | 28 6:00 p.m. TOPS | 29 12:30 p.m. BIBLE STUDY | 30 | 31 LAST DAY OF SOCK DRIVE cleaners | |