



# Annunciation of Our Lady

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Magnificat

Feb 2018

## Events

HAPPY FEBRUARY!

### February 4

Souper Bowl Sunday / Scout Sunday  
Confirmation Classes Start 11 am

### February 7

Evening Prayer 7:00 pm

### February 10

Men's Group 9:00 am

### February 11 - ONE Service ONLY

Mardi Gras Brunch / Fat Sunday

### February 14

Ash Wednesday Noon, 7:00 pm

### February 16

Stations of the Cross 7:00pm all Fridays through lent

### February 21

Lent Program starts 6:30 pm

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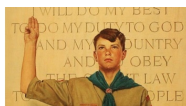
Lunch Bunch

ASP

FMSC

PADS

## Scout Sunday



Charter Representative  
Brian Penticoff

Cub Scout Pack 1627, Boy Scout Troop 627, and Venturing Crew 1945 will be observing,

### Scout Sunday on Feb. 4th at the 10:00 mass

So what is SCOUT SUNDAY and why do we observe it?

A Scout is Reverent.....

The Boy Scouts of America program (started by Lord Baden Powell in England on August 1, 1907), annually celebrates it's founding date of February 8, 1910 on the first Sunday of February. The Scout Sunday tradition is to make people in Houses of Worship aware of Scouting, and to allow Scouts to live into their "Duty to God" pledge. The Scout Law says that a "Scout is Reverent" and the Scouts of all ages promise to do their "Duty to God". These values strengthen youth character in their family, community and faith. If you are a former scout, or even a

### Quick Links

[Calendar](#)

[Annunciation Website](#)

[Archived Magnificats](#)

[Archived Sermons](#)

[Episcopal Diocese of Chicago](#)

current scout participating in another troop - please by all means wear your uniform.

## Evening Prayer



Evening Prayer....Vespers, also called Evening Prayer, is part of the Liturgy of the Hours, also known as the Divine Office. Through this prayer, the people of God sanctify the day and offer prayers of intercession for the needs of the world. Beginning on Wednesday, November 1st we will be gathering in our chapel to pray the Evening Prayer together at **7pm**. All are welcome to join us on the **first Wednesday of each month** as we come together to give thanks for the day just past and make an evening sacrifice of praise to God. Please see Deb Bill or Sue Whipple with any questions. Hope to see you!

## Confirmation and Reception



In anticipation of Bishop Jeff Lee's visit on **Sunday, April 8**, we'll be offering classes for youth (**7th grade and up**) and adults who wish to be confirmed or received into the Episcopal church. Confirmation is an intentional, mature affirmation of the baptismal vows made on your behalf when you were baptized (which, for most people, happened in infancy or very early childhood); being Received is for those who were confirmed in another liturgical tradition (i.e. Roman Catholic or Lutheran), but who wish to make a formal commitment to the Episcopal faith.

There are 5 classes, each of them covering one of the five questions that are central to the baptismal covenant. The classes will be held on the following Sundays, beginning after the 10am service, and continuing until 1pm; lunch is included.

We'll be meeting on the following days:

**February 4, February 18, February 25, March 4, March 11**

If you are interested in participating, or have questions about the classes, please contact Maggie Attiyeh or Rev. Elizabeth.

## Fat Sunday / Mardi Gras



### Laissez les bon temps rouler! Fat Sunday February 11

Join us for a taste of New Orleans Mardi Gras on Sunday, February 11. Following ONE service at 9am - featuring some of NOLA's favorite music (did you know that our Director of Music, Westley Hodges, is a New Orleans native?) - we'll process out to the parish hall to enjoy a pre-Lenten Mardi Gras style feast. Please see the sign-up sheets on the communication wall in the parish hall to help with set-up, cooking, and clean up. For more information, contact Maryann Esguerra.

## Lent Program



Join us on Wednesday evenings this Lent for a potluck soup and salad supper, followed by a program and discussion. On February 21 and March 21, we'll be looking more deeply at some of the scriptures of Lent. On February 28, March 7, and March 14, we'll be joined by local therapist/counselor, Sue Panger, who will be talking about False Guilt. The supper begins at



**February 18th , 5 pm**

**Full schedule and  
details on the website!**

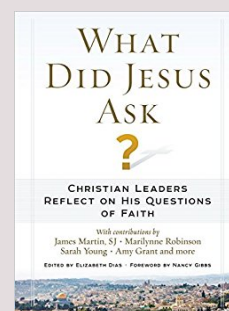


Adult Forum meets between the 8am and 10am services. Sessions are held in the adult forum room, just off the parish hall, near the kitchen. Everyone is welcome to attend, and no advance preparation is needed; just come with an open mind and a willingness to participate in lively discussion!

[2017-2018 Adult Forum](#)

## Rector's Study Groups

Rector's Study **Groups meet** Wednesday morning 10am and Thursday evening 7pm. Study groups are reading "What did Jesus ask?" Christian leaders reflect on his questions of faith (Edited by Elizabeth Dias).



Study group will not meet during Lent and will resume after easter with a new book.

For more information, or if you have questions, please contact Rev. Elizabeth.



Atoma - Latin for Indivisible,

6:30pm, with the program following, from 7-8pm. Sign-up sheets for people to contribute soups, salads, etc., and to help with setup/cleanup, can be found on the communication wall in the parish hall. Questions? See Rev. Elizabeth (re: program) or Mike or Deb Bill (re: supper).

## Upcoming Musical Events



Reception to follow

Choral Evensong March 11, 2018, 6:00pm

Reception to follow

Extended Prelude March 30, 2018

15-minute extended prelude before the Evening Service

Beer and Hymns April 27, 2018, 7:00pm

BYOB and Bring a finger food to share!

Westley in Concert June 10, 2018, 4:00pm

[Click to see the poster](#)

Atomic, that which cannot be cut. Atoma - "Annunciation" for Youth Group!

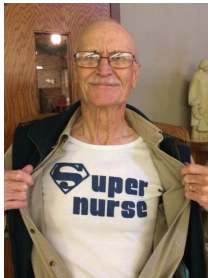
Atoma - Mission - to provide a safe and fun space for our youth; to interact & socialize with one another, to develop friendships with peers who are being raised with a common set of values, and to comfortably comment on their faith & its role in their daily lives.

5th grade and up.

Come and play with us. Look to the Parish News for our next meeting or contact Beth/Bill Hagan if you have any questions.

## NOTES FROM THE NURSE

Dale Sander, RN



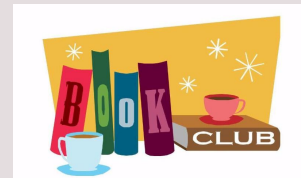
### WAVERING

Having a hard time keeping your resolutions? You may need to cut back a bit.

Here are some ideas:

- Park further from your destination.
- Meditate 2 minutes daily.
- Call or talk to a friend once a week.
- Read a chapter in a book daily.
- Limit your social media intake!

An even less strenuous exercise might be to designate a word for the year (or the month), like Believe, Love, Walk, Humility, Relax, or maybe YES!



### Book Club

West - O'Morchoe

Mon, February 7, 2018, 7pm-9pm

East - Potestas

Mon, February 19, 2018, 6pm-8pm



Date:

Wednesday, Feb 28th

Time: 1:00pm-2:00pm

**Location:** Lunch gathering for women of the parish at 1 pm. Location will rotate and date will be 4th Wed of each month. For reservations contact Jane Schaefer at 224-372-7940 or at [cs.js@comcast.net](mailto:cs.js@comcast.net)



## From Our Rector

Rev. Elizabeth Molitors



### Annual Meeting Address ...

Read on

## From Our Deacon

Linda Lutter



Practice, practice, practice ... in order to do anything well you must practice.

Read on

## From Our Musician

Director of Music





## Music in Lent ...

Read on



## From Our Sr. Warden

Mike Bill

We have just completed our New Year Parish Meeting (aka Annual Meeting) ...

Read on



## Appalachia Service Project:



Appalachia Service Project: In April 2018, Annunciation will embark on its fourth trip to Appalachia, to work with other Appalachia Service Project (ASP) volunteers to help make damaged/sub-standard homes "warmer, safer, drier" (ASP's tagline). If you think you might be interested in joining this effort, please talk to Rev. Elizabeth or Mike Bill (3 year veterans) or any of the other Annunciation volunteers who have gone on previous trips (Deb Bill, Cindy Hibbard, Lisa Kleine, Cindy and Geoff Pullinger, Dave Schunk, Tony Waynick, Dan Whipple). They'll tell you that not only is the work satisfying and appreciated, but it's also a great opportunity to connect with other volunteers, and homeowners with life experiences very different than what we experience suburban Chicago. (It's also great fun, too!!) Trip dates are April 14 thru April 22, and we'll be traveling to Jonesville, Virginia. Cost is \$325 + transportation costs (last year we chipped in to rent a 10 person van and trailer).

## Outreach Central

Welcome to our second Outreach column. Look for us every month as we let you know what our next project will be and give you an update on the prior projects along with happenings with the ongoing projects, like the Starbucks deliveries, PADS and other ministries.



**February 4**, Super Bowl Sunday, the Outreach committee will be hosting a "Soup-er Bowl of Caring" with a choice of three soups to warm your tummies.

"Soup-er Bowl of Caring" was started when Rev. Dr. Brad Smith was a seminary intern at a Presbyterian Church in S.C. He thought, Why not collect canned soup and/or money for local charities on the day when people are gathering for fun and football. His prayer (which has become a permanent part of the ministry) is: "Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us be mindful of those who are without a bowl of soup to eat." This was in 1990. Mostly youth groups do this ministry but adults can do it as well which is the case here at Annunciation. Since 1990, over \$100 million has been given in cash and food to soup kitchens, food banks and other local charities across the country. Our soup will go to the Warren Township Food Pantry. So, bring a can or two and enjoy some delicious soup. Wear your favorite team's attire too; it doesn't have to have anything to do with the teams playing!!!!

Sue Whipple and Deb Gallinger will be co-chairs leading the Outreach committee from now on and Miriam Berry will be doing communications (like this one) and serving as the Vestry liaison for one more year.

To repeat Sue Whipple's message from the January 28 "Annunciation New Year's Celebration (a.k.a. the Annual Meeting): "We are excited to take this opportunity to introduce ourselves as co-chairs. Although we will handle different aspects of this position, we are all looking forward to offering support in any way needed.

"We hope to continue to reach out to share God's love through our donations, activities and prayers. We understand that there are many demands on everyone's time and finances. We look forward to offering opportunities where our congregation feels excited and welcomed to participate in something without feeling obligated, overwhelmed or overextended financially or time-wise.

**Feed My Starving Children**

"Please see our upcoming information on the communications wall for a complete calendar of events for the entire year. Hopefully, this will allow you to select anything you may like to participate in and plan ahead for it.

"Please join us for a meeting to learn more about a particular event, more about what we are about or to share an idea. Watch for our upcoming announcements in the bulletins, "The Magnificat", calendar and Facebook page, too.

"Thank you all for your "YES!" and for the many hardworking hands and generous hearts that continue to reach out and make a difference out in the world."

As we begin this new year and new chapter in Outreach, we would like to thank Jan Harastany for her leadership and dedication for the past 10 years. We appreciate all her hard work and although she is stepping down as coordinator, we look forward to her continuing to be an important part of this powerful ministry.

**Also on February 4**, we will have our first Outreach meeting of the new year. Please grab your soup then join us in the Adult Forum room at 11:30. We will be laying the groundwork for the projects for 2018 and getting organized. 2018 looks to be a very exciting year for Annunciation's outreach ministries. Come see what is in store. If you have any questions, please see Sue Whipple, Deb Gallinger or Miriam Berry.

#### Re-CAP

On January 21, we hosted Long John Sunday where you could "wear 'em, and/or donate 'em and/or eat 'em." You all donated 225 pieces of long underwear and regular underwear. Thank you so much for your generosity. Hope you enjoyed the pastries!!!!



That's it for this month. Remember to look for Outreach information on Annunciation's Facebook page, the website, the weekly bulletin and future editions of "The Magnificat".

Sue Whipple, Deb Gallinger and Miriam Berry

See you on Sundays!

for I was  
**hungry**  
and you  
gave me food...  
Matthew 25:35

If you would like to be a part of this ministry of feeding the hungry please join us. Mark your Calendars ... Here are the Saturday dates,

**9:00 am to 11:00 am**

**+Feb 24, 2017**

**Last Saturday every  
Month**

God's Peace and Blessings!  
text/call @ 847-340-3253  
Linda.lutter@hotmail.com



#### **PADS ~ Hot Meal Program Friday, February 16th**

Our next PADS meal will be February 16th. On the menu are Herb Roasted Chicken, Italian Meatball Soup, Corn, Garlic Buttery Parsley Potatoes, Dinner Rolls, Brownies and Vanilla Ice Cream. Look for opportunities to support February's meal by signing up on the Communications Wall in the parish hall.

Our hearty January meal - Beef and Gravy over mashed potatoes and a Beef Barley Soup - was enjoyed by our guests of PADS. We served a total of 45 guests - 32 women, 7 men and 6 children. Thank you to everyone who participated this month, donating food or money, cooking, delivering, or serving: Judi Standford, Cindy and Dave Hibbard, Jennifer James, Steve Kulbis, Mike Bill, Barbara Crowe, Pam Myers, Andy and Darlene Campbell, Jami Haines, Maryann Esguerra, Cindy and Geoff Pullinger, Jan Harastany, Jane Schaefer and Elizabeth Danos.

Thank you to all who support the PADS ministry. See you in the Kitchen! ~Cheri Johnson





**Rector**  
Rev. Elizabeth Molitors

## Annual Meeting Address - January 28, 2018

When my now-grown child was just a little bit of a thing - 2 or 3 or 4 - eating out at restaurants was always a bit of an ordeal. Like most kids, I suppose (including me), Eli was nervous about the prospect of unknown food - food that wasn't prepared like mom made it, and so, to be on the safe side, our usual restaurant meal order was plain pasta. I would emphasize to the waitstaff that I really meant "plain." Nothing on it. No butter, no oil, no cheese.

One Christmas Eve, we were out with the whole extended family at a restaurant near my parents' home. As usual, I ordered plain pasta for my child - emphasis on the plain - but what came out of the kitchen was... not. There were bits of green scattered through and atop the creamy white strands: parsley. Horrors! I can only imagine that the chefs were loath to send out a plate so plain and unadorned.

I watched as Eli's face fell and began to crumble, on the verge of tears and a subsequent meltdown. I considered my options: to reassure ("it's o.k."), to downplay ("there's not that much; you won't even notice"), or to fix (send the plate back to the kitchen to try again or spend several minutes picking out minuscule pieces of parsley).

Luckily, happily, my sister-in-law, Tracy, mother of two young children herself, jumped in to help. Instead of viewing the offending parsley as a problem that needed to be fixed, she modeled acceptance and reframed the issue. "Ohhhh," she said. "This is great. They gave you flavor spots!"

It was genius, and it worked. Now, parsley and other things like it weren't predicaments, they were unexpected gifts - flavor spots. Armed with a new way to view the world - a new paradigm - my child could, at last, give up her anxiety, and face the formerly intimidating and overwhelming universe of restaurant food with confidence and trust, openness and curiosity.

Of course, I tell this story not to talk about pasta, but rather, the subtext, the metaphor, that runs underneath; and it's an apt metaphor for the Church. Hardly a week goes by when I don't receive something in my news feed or read an article forwarded to me by a colleague, that addresses how to cope with change, manage anxiety, approach the unknown. Reassure, downplay, or fix. 5 keys to a healthy church. 6 signs your church is dying. 7 things your church needs to stop doing, now. 8 things your church must start doing, now. There is anxiety aplenty: faced with that, we'd like plain pasta, please. Something that we know and can count on (even if it's bland as all get out) and that we imagine we always had in the mythical, wonderful parsley-free past.

Except change and challenges and the unknown aren't a new phenomenon; every age faces it. In the first century, after Jesus' death and resurrection, when the Christian faith was just getting off the ground. Through the times of persecution of the early Christians by the Romans. During the 16th and 17th centuries in England, with bloody battles between Protestants and Catholics, out of which our Anglican faith tradition was born. The difference between now and the centuries and millennia past is not that everything was stable and lovely then, but that technology allows us to record forever, communicate immediately, and churn endlessly about whatever it is that we're facing.

So, how do we choose to respond to the changes and unknowns that come our way? The model this community draws on is right there in the name of our church, and it's articulated in the tagline printed on the back of your annual report. We are, like Mary, a people - a congregation - of Yes.

Now, that Yes is not without its boundaries. Mary discerned, Mary considered and pondered. Mary even pushed back a bit - are you sure you want me? For Mary, and for us, saying Yes is not simply an open-ended, limitless answer, but a paradigm - a way of orienting ourselves, a way of viewing the world. With confidence in God's invitation, with curiosity and trust. With a

bias toward imagination, openness, and joy. Yes is not about doing more or doing everything, indiscriminately; it's about approaching all the people and opportunities - all the changes and unknowns - that God puts in our way, and seeing them not as anxiety-inducing, offending bits of parsley, but as possibilities and opportunities - flavor spots.

Earlier this week, I was at one of a series of mini-retreats the bishop is holding with small groups of clergy. At the end of our time together, after praying and sharing our stories with each other, the bishop opened the floor for questions. Knowing that Jeff Lee is coming up on his 10th anniversary as bishop in this diocese, and knowing that anniversaries often prompt deep reflection, I asked him what is his primary goal, his primary hope for this part of the church that he leads. He didn't have to think long about his answer, which was this: generosity of spirit. Then he told a story about a former Diocese of Chicago colleague who had returned for some class or event, and who commented on the kindness and hospitality of the people that she encountered here, something that she didn't always happen in the place she'd moved to.

I, too, am approaching a milestone anniversary; in the middle of March, I will have been here at Annunciation for five years. The qualities I saw in this community that drew me here, keep me here still. Hospitality, joy, willingness to try new things, meeting people where they are, welcoming everyone. Being spirited and trusting. Those things say generosity of spirit to me. Those things, to me, are what Mary's Yes was all about.

My prayer for this parish, especially as we head into a new year, is that we will continue to choose the paradigm - the view of the world - that helps us see all that comes to us, the expected and unexpected - the pasta and the parsley - as gifts. Flavor spots from the God who wants the best for God's children.



**Deacon**  
Linda Lutter



Practice, practice, practice ... in order to do anything well you must practice. Any kind of sport, learning an instrument, cooking, baking, writing. Being who God wants us to be here on earth is not any different. We practice every day by holding our tongue, by being generous with our time, talent, and treasure ... we do the loving act once and it feels good and then do it again and again and again and what do you know it is now part of our life. What's next?

We are coming to a perfect time of the church year to take a challenge of practice, Lent. What one thing would you like to do to show your love for God to God and to others. I have heard from many people "I want to try that someday" (Starbucks, Sunrise Ministry, Feed My Starving Children, etc.). Well, perhaps you could practice one of those wishes during Lent. There will be Stations of the Cross every Friday night at 7:00pm ... Morning Prayer every Friday morning at 7:00 am ... there will be a Lenten Program every Wednesday evening at 6:30.

How about practicing your prayer life for Lent? I know that is something people want but seem to run out of time. Find a prayer you like and say it every day continue your prayer time with God talking about all kinds of things or just sit and listen ... whatever. Maybe set your timer on your phone for 5 minutes and at a specific time every day that is time just for you and God. Then perhaps change the timer adding a few more minutes daily or weekly ... by the end of Lent you might have spent many hours of precious time spending time with God, time that you might just want to continue.

How about reading a book? I have tons of spiritual books I would be happy to lend to you to read during Lent. There is also help from the Diocese of Chicago:

### ***Resources for Keeping a Holy Lent***

#### ***Devotions, curricula from Episcopal Church partners***

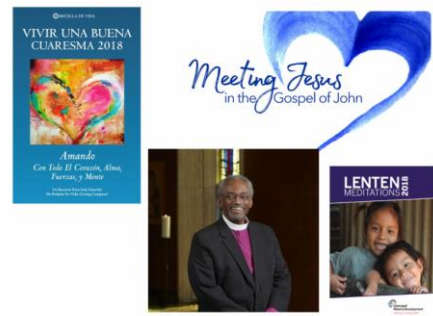
*The season of Lent--the 40 days between Ash Wednesday and Easter--begins on February 14 this year. Several Episcopal Church organizations have created no- or low-cost Lenten devotions, reflections, and curricula for individuals and congregations.*

*Resources include a six-week curriculum on John's gospel with a discussion guide for small groups, a series of reflections on civil discourse written by Bishop Lee and other Episcopal bishops, booklets from Living Compass and Episcopal Relief & Development, and more.*

*New this week: Join the Journey webinar explores ways to participate in The Good Book Club.*

Find Lenten resources on the website

Whatever you choose to do this Lent make it a time of practice ... practice adding another step to get to know God better. Hopefully it will be something that you find is uplifting and brings joy to your heart.



*May you all have a Blessed Lent,*



Director of Music  
Westley Hodges

## Music in Lent

This will be my twelfth Lenten season serving as a musician in the Episcopal Church. Before I started in the Episcopal Church, I worked for several Baptist Churches. I wanted to share with you my thoughts on Lent and the music we sing during this reflective season. The first Episcopal Church I served, St. Patrick's Episcopal Church in Long, Beach, MS, was destroyed by Hurricane Katrina months before I accepted the position as Director of Music. Not only was this church destroyed in Katrina—it was also destroyed in 1969 by Hurricane Camille.

Serving a parish that had been affected by a significant natural disaster like they were taught me so much about my life and my vocation. We had church every Sunday in a gymnasium, and almost every parishioner had a job as part of the set-up and teardown procedures each Sunday. Most of the parishioners of this parish also lost their homes in the hurricane and were dealing with trying to work with insurance companies and rebuild or move. This didn't stop people from coming to church and being faithful members of the Episcopal Church.

I say all of that to say, I am thankful to be here and I am thankful for our church and all of the beauty that surrounds us.

When I walk into Annunciation on Sunday Mornings and turn on the lights, I always have a sense of wow—we have a beautiful church.

In Lent, we are going to simplify some of the accompanying instruments we use so we can celebrate our voices and truly hear the words of the hymns we are singing. Music is a huge part of the liturgy—well, it is the liturgy. What do we say liturgy is? The work of the people. In Lent, we will rely on our voices to carry the music. But, don't fear—there will still be piano and organ, just not as present as other seasons.

So, as we journey through this season of Lent, I encourage you to lift up your voice and song and sing these great words of our faith.



**Senior Warden**  
Michael Avery Bill

We have just completed our New Year Parish Meeting (aka Annual Meeting) and we elected new Vestry and said thank you to the leaving vestry members. The language of the Episcopal Church is from medieval times and it might be misunderstood by our parishioners that came from other denominations. To that end I feel that every once in a while we should go over the Vestry titles and give others the opportunity to become familiar with their job descriptions. General duties of all Vestry members:

- Have a love of God and demonstrate a commitment to follow the ways of Christ.
- Be active in knowledge of our congregation, its programs, and governance.
- Commit themselves to the partnership between Vestry and Clergy.
- Offer talents to discern and support our parish's mission and visions.
- Be active ministers of the gospel in daily life and work.
- Pledge financial support in annual and other campaigns.
- Attend Vestry meetings, worship through mass attendance, retreats, parish social events, and annual meeting.
- Pray daily for our rector, leaders, and the congregation.

Wardens are not prison guards here, they are persons responsible for the supervision of the Parish in matters of the church buildings and properties, or issues, or for ensuring that regulations associated with it Canon Law are obeyed.

- Senior Warden will act in concord with the Rector, the difficult tasks that sometime arise in Parish life concerning its members, ministries, and physical properties will require team work to accomplish its remedy. In short, the term "Priest's Warden" is given to the Senior Warden; although I always felt the Wardens should both be cognizant of issues and work together.
- The senior warden will also serve as Parish leader in the case of a priest leaving for whatever reasons. I have had that duty twice and it is not easy.
- The junior warden is often referred to as the "People's Warden" which is tasked to facilitate problems that sometimes occur between the congregates and the clergy.
- We are blessed at Annunciation in that both your present wardens have filled the wardenship in prior years and I do not see any impending issues in the horizon.

The office of the Treasure ensures the paying of financial commitments, keeping track of banking and investment procedures, and generating reports for vestry to approve. We have an added step in fiscal responsibility with our finance committee. The fiduciary responsibility however belongs to the vestry.

The office of the Clerk of the Vestry is to take notes at vestry meeting, annual meetings, prepare and date official parish documents, insure they are notarized if necessary, and insure that a historical resource is maintained for archiving the parish business. All the positions of the vestry do take a time commitment, a love of this parish, the responsibility of being prepared for making decisions and represent the congregation much in the fashion of our nations government. You have elected this vestry to be your representatives and to that end if you have a question, please ask a vestry member; they should never give you a reply that they don't know, it should be a correct answer or "I will find that out for you". I look forward to serving, praying, and worshipping with you this year.