

Ministering God's Love



Cultivating Faith

THE KING'S VOICE

JANUARY 2015

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EPIPHANY

The Feast of the Epiphany marks the end of the Christmas season and comes on January 6, which is reflected in the old English song the "Twelve Days of Christmas" with the twelve lords a-leaping, five gold rings, three French hens, two turtle doves and a partridge in a pear tree.

It is a celebration that has been lost to us over the years, such as the custom of decorating and celebrating Christmas beginning on Christmas Eve and continuing that celebration for twelve days and taking down our decorations on Epiphany Eve.

The word epiphany means "showing forth" and commemorates Christ's manifestation to the Gentiles exemplified by the visit of the Magi to the place of Jesus' birth, as well as Jesus' baptism and his first miracle at the marriage feast in Cana of Galilee. In all three of these events, we celebrate the fact that Jesus' divine power and glory are revealed publicly to all of us. In these events, we see Jesus as "the light of the world."

Epiphany originated in the Eastern Church, probably from the second century, and was introduced in the Western Church in the fourth century. In the Western tradition, it became associated with the coming of Christ to the Gentiles as symbolized by the Magi and was less focused on Jesus' baptism. In England, it became the custom for the King to bring gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh to the Chapel Royal on the feast day of Epiphany.

For me, the spirit of the Epiphany season begins in a much humbler place, in a stable on a cold winter's night with the birth of Christ that we celebrate twelve days earlier on Christmas Eve. I recall the first time that I saw my own sons as just born infants. Even in those early moments, they would reach up their tiny hands in response to my touch and firmly grasp my finger in their little fist with surprising strength. With that touch, the bond was sealed between us, and we would be together always as parent and child.

In my imagination, I can see the connection between that great fresco on the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel in Rome that Shelia and I visited a few years ago, in which God the creator reaches forth his finger for Adam to touch, the same finger of God that carved the Ten Commandments in stone and gave them to Moses and the fingers of the Christ child lifting up his little baby hands to grasp the finger that Mary or Joseph or one of the Wise Men would extend for him to hold. It is a hand that we all would have extended our own fingers to if we had been present and, with that touch, would have been connected through him to God in Heaven forever.

With that little hand, He touches us all, which is the key message of the story of Epiphany that goes beyond the Magi and reaches down the ages to all of God's children in this world; none are excluded; all are welcome.

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Perhaps, with God's help, that is what the family of Christ the King is called to in this coming year, to learn, teach, and proclaim the good news of God, and to serve, love, and respect one another and welcome all who come through the doors of Christ the King and beyond. This may be best reflected in a prayer attributed to St. Francis. "Lord, make me an instrument of

your peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is discord, union; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy..." My prayer for all of us, and for the church as a whole, is that in 2015 God's creative Spirit will help all of us, wherever we may be, to

bring this vision closer to reality in our individual lives, our church, and in our world.

May God's Peace and Blessings be with you all in this coming year.

Fr. Wally+

God's creative Spirit will help all of us, wherever we may be

We are going to miss you!!

Dear Father Wally & Shelia

Father Wally, you and Shelia came to us about 3 years ago and breathed fresh air into our small family. Our attendance numbers have grown over those years, from about 40, to nearly 85, due in no small part to your hard work. We have had wonderful education programs and lots of fun with you, bowling, going down water slides, and accepting the Ice Bucket Challenge. We have vicariously enjoyed your vacations through your Facebook posts, and as the old saying goes, wished we were there.

Your sermons and teachings have taught us biblical truths, and have challenged us to not only search our souls, but to reach out and step out of our "comfort zones" to spread the word of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Shelia's readings from favorite children's books have not only made us smile, but also made us look inside and outside our lives, to the truths that living a Christian life is really about.

So, we, the members of Christ the King, thank you, Fr. Wally and Shelia, for your love and kindness, and for sharing your lives with us these past few years. We wish you all the best in the coming years, and want you to know that the doors of Christ the King will always be open to you.

With love and blessings,

Mark Schrader, for Christ the King Episcopal Church

FAREWELL

There is an old French proverb that says, "Gratitude is the heart's memory." Shelia and I know that our hearts will always be warmed by the years that we shared with you. We have always known the people of Christ the King as loving and generous. However, it seems that, as it sometimes happens, the best is saved to the last. Our heartfelt thanks to all of you for all that you have given to us over the years, but especially in our goodbyes to one another and for the wonderful 50th Anniversary party that you gave for us a few weeks ago. As it says in the 23rd Psalm, our cup runs over with the love and generosity that has flowed from you to both of us these last few months. It has indeed been an honor and a privilege to be with you as part of a parish family these last three years. Shelia and I have served nine churches during our time in the ministry, and we are blessed to have all of you at Christ the King join that long list of beloved faces that will always be a part our "heart's memory." As Flavia Weeden reminds us, "Some people come into our lives and quickly go. Some stay for a while, leave footprints on our hearts, and we are never, ever the same." Indeed, we will never be the same without you, but, as Dr. Seuss once said, "Don't cry because it's over. Smile because it happened." Today, we are smiling because of you.

Fr. Wally & Shelia



January 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
						B – Colleen Parrish
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Christian Ed & Adult class 9am Holy Communion 10am			Evening Prayer & Bible Study 7pm			
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Christian Ed & Adult class 9am Holy Communion 10am		B – Sydney Sharrow	Evening Prayer & Bible Study 7pm	B – Santos Zamora	B – Ed Weaver	 CAR SHOW
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Christian Ed & Adult class 9am Holy Communion 10am			Evening Prayer & Bible Study 7pm B – Steven Pechout	B – Pam Sharrow	Diocean Convention B – Easton Benton	Diocean Convention
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Christian Ed & Adult class 9am Holy Communion 10am			Evening Prayer & Bible Study 7pm			

The new flower chart will be here next week

We are on the web
WWW.christthekinglakeland.com

**MINISTERING GOD'S LOVE,
 CULTIVATING FAITH**

**CHRIST THE KING
 EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

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**MINISTRY
 SCHEDULE**

Ministry area	January 4, 2015	January 11, 2015	January 18, 2015	January 25, 2015
Celebrant	Dr. Wally Reynolds	Rev. Rebecca Toalster	Rev. Rebecca Toalster	Canon Tim Nunez
Deacon	Kate Yotter	Kate Yotter	Kate Yotter	Kate Yotter
LEM2	Jim Royal	Isabel Detringo	Bob Springthorpe	Sharon Rogers
Acolyte	Neila Heist	Sydney Sharrow	Elvon Hospedales	Elizabeth Hospedales
Acolyte	Mitchell Parrish	Liam Borden	Jacob Heist	Mitchell Parrish
Acolyte	Alex Parrish	Nathanial Heist	Joey Beck	Clive Borden
Old Testament	Veda Dwyer	Paige Sharrow	Susan Weaver	Andrea Borden
New Testament	Jim Royal	Bob Springthorpe	Wade Griggs	Mike Burchfield
Prayers of the people	Al Moore	Sharon Rogers	Isabel Detringo	Martha Griggs
Greeters./ ushers	Betty & Claire	Mike & Debbie	Susan & Ed	Mike & Debbie
Pre k SS (paid)	Debbie	Colleen	Debbie	Colleen
Elementary SS	Pam Sharrow	Andrea Borden	Pam Sharrow	Andrea Borden
Prayer Team	Isabel & Jim	Wade & Kay	Cathy & Charisse	TBD
Altar Guild	Claire	Claire	Diane & Carolyn	Diane & Carolyn
Vestry Counters	Martha & New Vestry	Martha & New Vestry	Martha & New Vestry	Martha & New Vestry

Please sign up for coffee hour and altar flowers