



# CHRIST AND THE EPIPHANY

VOLUME 22

JANUARY 2018

## MISSIONAL PRIEST

Father Charles Kamano

Dear Christ and The Epiphany family and friends,

The period from Thanksgiving to New Year's Day is supposed to be a season of joy. But all those plans and expectations of joy can turn tougher and more stressful than they sound. Some people can barely muddle through as they deal with grief, trauma, illness, and many other challenges of life.

Sometimes you are forced to spend time with family you rarely see and don't always get along with well. Or maybe you are alone when everyone else is with family. Or you are at work and can't be with those you love. Or you are off from work, with more time to think troubling thoughts.

Even though we can't control the challenges and stresses that come with the

holidays, we know that God - Emmanuel - will be with us. And that changes everything. Not all at once, but one step at a time.

Remember that the real Christmas story is not set in a warm and cozy house, tastefully decorated and filled with more gifts than can fit under the tree, however wonderful that all may be. The real Christmas story is set amidst those who know enduring poverty and danger. What more loving witness could you offer than to seek out some holiday opportunity to identify with the poor and downtrodden as God does?

During this Christmas and New Year seasons, I invite you to look at the manger and the Child it holds. "God is in the manger, wealth in poverty, light in darkness, and succor in abandonment." (Dietrich Bonhoeffer) We should feel more alive because of the hope we have in Emmanuel -

God with Us. Lay hold of that abundant life the Child of Bethlehem came to give you that is full of peace, joy, and contentment. "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest" (Matt. 11:28)

Please do not let this holiday season go by without considering the real reason for the season. Please remember the little star that led the shepherds to where precious Baby Jesus was laying in the manger. Celebrate the birth of Christ, our Lord! Jesus is the reason for the season, and the gift he came to bring to us all was the gift of being forgiven, transformed and loved. He came to bring us the gift of salvation for if we only ask Him into our hearts and believe in Him, He will give us the gift of eternal life in Heaven! Oh Glorious One! Wonderful Counselor, Prince of Peace. So let us keep Jesus a priority in this New Year!

I believe that at Christmas and New Year, God makes everything new - including you and me!

God bless you and your loved ones in these holy days!

## My Journey

Diane Villano



Bishop Laura Ahrens and Diane Villano

It wasn't quite the forty years the Israelites wandered in the wilderness, but it was certainly more than thirty. That's how long it took me to hear what God had been telling me all along - that I

needed to be a member of a church family.

I was raised, baptized, confessed, confirmed and married in the Roman Catholic Church. As an adult, I "religiously" avoided church. I didn't feel comfortable attending because I disagreed with so many of the church's policies and prohibitions. I only darkened the doorstep for funerals, weddings and the occasional Christmas and Easter services. Going to church was an onerous obligation. So, I stopped. And by rejecting one denomination, I rejected all, because, strangely, it felt disloyal to the Catholic Church to attend another.

And then Newtown happened. A deeply troubled man took the lives of his mother and twenty children and six educators at Sandy Hook Elementary School. The country cried. The headlines went global. The emotions ran deep. Trying to make sense of a

## Upcoming Events

**Sunday, January 28th - Annual Parish Meeting** for electing Wardens and members of the Vestry and transacting other business as needed, will be held following a single combined Eucharist Service at 9:00 a.m. In the event of inclement weather, the meeting will be held February 4th.

**Before or on February 4th - Souper Bowl Sunday** - bring packaged and canned soup for our neighbors served by the East Haven Food Pantry to Sunday services or drop off at the Good Shepherd Thrift Store, Tues. and Thur. 9-11 and Sat. 9-1.



**CHURCH LIFE in photos**

Bishop Ahrens, Rev. Dr. William Veinot, and Confirmands



George Coulombe, Barbara Parsons, Diane Villano, Rev. Charles Kamano



senseless tragedy, I discussed it with my family, my co-workers, and members of my artist group. But I needed something more - more support, more understanding, more prayer; another type of community to share sorrow and explore ways to heal. I needed a worshipping community.

Ten days after the Sandy Hook shooting, on Christmas Eve, 2012, I attended my first worship service at Christ and The Epiphany. I enjoyed the service; it was close enough to the Catholic Mass so that I could follow the flow and I learned how to juggle the bulletin, the BCP and the Hymnal. Instead of a sermon, Father Stan led a heart-warming discussion with the children in front of the altar about the meaning of Christmas. The songs of the season soared throughout the sanctuary and the church bell was

rung. I drove home with grateful tears in my eyes.

I had found a worshipping community.

Attending church was no longer a debt paid for a positive check mark on my eternal permanent record. It became a pleasure and privilege to worship God in prayer and song with those who welcomed me so warmly. To share grief, to offer comfort, to rejoice in the joy of others. I became a member of a worshipping community.

Almost five years later, I decided to make it official. It was my great honor and joy to be received into the Episcopal Church on November 30, 2017 at St. Andrew the Apostle Church in Rocky Hill. When Bishop Laura Ahrens said to me, "Welcome home," I knew I already was.

Thanks to God, who, when I was finally ready to listen, pointed me to Christ and The Epiphany. Thank you to all who welcomed me and made me feel appreciated and treasured. Thank you to all who patiently answered my questions and forgave my mistakes. Thank you to all my brothers and sisters in Christ at Christ and The Epiphany Church.

I am home.

### Midnight Run

Kathy Alison

We did not participate with the Midnight Run outreach mission in the month of December since our scheduled Monday fell on Christmas day. We will resume our participation in January.

Just a reminder that anyone wishing to contribute to this mission to help the homeless may do so by donating sandwich

crackers, applesauce, or for the cold winter months Chapstick, (2 or 3 pack for \$1 at Dollar Tree), gloves, or knit hats.

### Pastoral Care

Joyce Aurelius

Please remember the homebound in our community, especially at this season. We can offer communion or a simple social visit if you know anyone who needs or wants it.

### Who put the X in Xmas?

Readers Digest-Christmas Trivia  
Barbara Coulombe

Turns out the Greeks did. What we English speakers know as the letter X is the same shape as the Greek letter chi, best known for its supporting role in sorority house names as well as in the Greek word for Christ. Modern speakers aren't the first to borrow Jesus's Greek name for a

## CHURCH LIFE in photos

### Christmas Fair 2017



George Coulombe and Pat Walters



Santa and a Believer





**CHURCH LIFE in photos**

**Christmas Fair  
2017**



Hand-made crafts table with Joyce Aurelius, Yvonne O'Brien, George Coulombe, and Audrey Sundwall



Christian items table with Astrid Swanson



holiday abbreviation: There's evidence of Christmas being abbreviated to Xmas as far back as the 16th century; no offense intended then or now.

**Thank You**

Barbara Coulombe

Many thanks to the singers who raised their voices in joyful song with Natalie Sleeth's "Singing Alleluia" on Christmas Eve! You were a blessing to us all!

**Seek and ye shall find**

Diane Villano



Where in the church building was this photo taken? Send the exact location of this item to Diane Villano at

Communications@ChristandTheEpiphany.org or call (203) 887-3392 by January 21 and your name will be entered in a drawing for a \$5.00 gift card. Answer and winner will be posted in the February newsletter.

**ECCT Cycle of Prayer**

Thank you for joining your prayers with others in our common witness as the Episcopal Church in Connecticut.

**Jan. 7, 2018:** Grace Church, Broad Brook; St. Paul's, Brookfield; Trinity, Brooklyn  
For all immigrants, refugees and the ministries that serve them, especially IRIS - Integrated Refugee and Immigrant Services, New Haven

**Jan. 14:** St. Peter's, Cheshire; Holy Advent, Clinton; Trinity Church, Collinsville; St. James', Danbury

Wardens, treasurers, clerks, and all vestry members; elected delegates; annual parish meetings

**Jan. 21:** All ecumenical and interfaith endeavors involving

our congregations and people;  
for peace and peacemakers

**Jan. 28:** St. Alban's,  
Danielson; Saint Luke's,  
Darien; St. Paul's, Darien;  
Ministry to, with, and for the  
deaf

## Communications

Inclement weather

We care about our  
parishioners and visitors. In  
the event of worship  
services being cancelled  
due to weather conditions,  
a notice will be posted on  
Fox 61, News 8 and MYTV9  
TV stations and can also be  
viewed at

[www.fox61.com/closing](http://www.fox61.com/closing)

and [www.wtnh.com](http://www.wtnh.com) as well  
as on our Facebook page.



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## January Anniversary

1/15/1971 Jan & Pete Cianelli



## January Birthdays

29-Jan Charles Kamano

## Intercessory Prayers

Beverly W. - Bill Hodge -  
Bradley D. - Bruce Langlan -  
Bunny W. - Carol - Carol C.  
- Cheryl Link - Chester  
Chappuis - David - Dennis  
Family - Devin K. - Diane -  
Eileen F. - Eleanor N. - Eric  
S. - Faith and Family -  
Father Eddie - Gale -  
Goodfellow Family - Greg  
T. - Harry Bruneau, Jr. -  
Helen - J.D. - Jay - Jim C. -  
John A. - John D. - Joseph -  
Judy DeFeo - June W. - Karl  
- Kasch T. - Katherine  
Burdick - Katrina R. - Ken  
Wortz - Lage Family - Lucas  
Sundwall - Sister Madonna  
D. - Mark Conti - Marty -  
Matt - Melissa D. - Olivia  
and Family - Rachael -  
Richard - Robert J. - Sean -

Vi S. and Family - Vidar H. -  
Vivian S.

To submit names for the  
Intercession Prayer list  
please call or email the  
church office. Names will  
be kept on the list for 3  
months unless longer time  
is requested. If a person you  
have placed on the list  
recovers in less than 3  
months or passes away,  
please update the church  
office.

## February Newsletter

The deadline for the  
February 2018 issue of the  
newsletter is Friday,  
January 26, 2018.

If you have any  
contributions for the  
newsletter, or an  
update to the Birthday or  
Anniversary list, please call  
the church office at 203-  
467-2310.

-Kathy Alison & Susan  
Shultz, Editors

TREASURERS REPORT

Susan Shultz

		NOVEMBER	UNDER/OVER BUDGET		YTD	UNDER/OVER YTD BUDGET
INCOME	\$	8,060.86	\$ 239.53	\$	97,989.00	\$ 4,689.37
EXPENSES	\$	7,555.64	\$ (754.45)	\$	101,122.99	\$ (8,378.83)
NET	\$	505.22	\$ (993.98)	\$	5,244.84	\$ (13,068.20)

NOTES: Reminder- Year-To-Date expenses are still low since we still haven't spent some budgeted bulding repairs and are likely to defer them.

CHRIST AND THE EPIPHANY CHURCH

10:00 AM January Worship Schedule

	<u>January 7, 2018</u>	<u>January 14, 2018</u>	<u>January 21, 2018</u>	<u>January 28, 2018</u>
Welcomer	Barbara Parsons	Joyce Aurelius	Barbara Parsons	Joyce Aurelius
Crucifer	Ricky Alexander	Charlie Langlan	Brooke Dennis	Charlie Langlan
Chalice Bearer	Hal Levi	Steve Langlan	George Coulombe	Kristina Langlan
Lector	Susan Shultz	Kristina Langlan	Joyce Aurelius	Steve Langlan
Usher	Ron Blevins	Susan Shultz	Gail Schappa	Audrey Sundwall
Lead Counter	Pat Walters	Astrid Swanson	Susan Shultz	Diane Villano
Counter	Sally Alexander	Fred Bowden	Joyce Aurelius	Ron Blevins

## **Christ and The Epiphany Church**

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E-mail: [christandtheepiphany@gmail.com](mailto:christandtheepiphany@gmail.com)

Website: [christandtheepiphany.org](http://christandtheepiphany.org)

### **Worship Schedule**

Sunday

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

9:00 a.m. Adult Education and Discussions

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist with music

Children are invited to a youth lesson during the sermon