



## January 2010

### ST. CHARLES' EPISCOPAL CHURCH www.stcharlesepiscopal.org

The Rt. Rev. Jeffrey D. Lee, Bishop  
 The Rev. William R. Nesbit, Jr. Rector  
 The Rev. Elizabeth G. Meade, Deacon  
 Beth Burnette, Parish Administrator  
 Dan Williams, Director of Music  
 Liz Ryan, Dir. of Youth & Children's Formation  
 Laurie Michaels, Deacon in Training

**Phone** 630.584.2596      **Fax** 630.584.8633  
**eMail** scecoffice@sbcglobal.net

### VESTRY

Colin Campbell, Senior Warden  
 Kathy Heikkinen, Junior Warden

### 2010

Christina Foster  
 Dick Hattan  
 Taushia Mugge  
 Katie Thomson

### 2011

Katie Ditch  
 Karen Flood  
 Greg Steamer

### 2012

Mike Custer  
 Carol Townsend

### CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

02 ..... Labyrinth Walk, Noon  
 07 ..... Prayer Shawl Ministry, 7 p.m.  
 10 ..... Epiphany Pageant, @ 11:45 a.m.  
 10 ..... Taizé, 7:30 p.m.  
 11 ..... Order of St. Luke, 7 p.m.  
 14 ..... Vestry, 7 p.m.  
 15-16 ..... Hesed House  
 19 ..... Prayer Shawl Ministry, 10 a.m.  
 21 ..... Women's Book Club, 7:30 p.m.  
 24 ..... Annual Meeting, 9 a.m.  
 25 ..... Order of St. Luke, 7 p.m.  
 27 ..... Soup Kitchen Precook, 7 p.m.  
 28 ..... Soup Kitchen, 10 a.m.  
 31 ..... Free Spaghetti Dinner, 5 p.m.

*Please submit articles to [scenewsletter@sbcglobal.net](mailto:scenewsletter@sbcglobal.net)  
 before January 15 for inclusion in February's newsletter.  
 Note that articles may be edited to fit.*

# JANUARY 2010 CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>31</b> 7:30, 9, 10:45 a.m. Eucharist / 9 a.m. Adult Formation / 10:15 a.m. Youth Formation / 5 p.m. Free Spaghetti Dinner					<b>01</b> 9 a.m. Morning Prayer / 5:30 p.m. Al-Anon / 8 p.m. AA	<b>02</b> 8 a.m. AA / 10:30 a.m. Cleaning Service / Noon Labyrinth Walk
<b>03</b> 7:30, 9, 10:45 a.m. Eucharist / 9 a.m. Adult Formation / 10:15 a.m. Youth Formation	<b>04</b> 5:30 p.m. AA, Evening Prayer / 7 p.m. Boy Scouts	<b>05</b> 11 a.m. Cleaning Service / 5 p.m. AA	<b>06</b> 9:30 a.m. Staff Mtg / 11 a.m., 6:30 p.m. Eucharist / 11:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study / 7:30 p.m. Adult Choir	<b>07</b> 7 p.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry	<b>08</b> 9 a.m. Morning Prayer / 5:30 p.m. Al-Anon / 8 p.m. AA	<b>09</b> 8 a.m. AA / 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Boy Scout Training / 10:30 a.m. Cleaning Service
<b>10</b> 7:30, 9, 10:45 a.m. Eucharist / 9 a.m. Adult Formation / 10:15 a.m. Youth Formation / @ 11:45 Epiphany Pageant / 7:30 Taizé	<b>11</b> 5:30 p.m. AA, Evening Prayer / 7 p.m. Boy Scouts, Order of St. Luke	<b>12</b> 11 a.m. Cleaning Service / 5 p.m. AA	<b>13</b> 9:30 a.m. Staff Mtg / 11 a.m., 6:30 p.m. Eucharist / 11:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study / 7:30 p.m. Adult Choir	<b>14</b> 7 p.m. Vestry	<b>15</b> 9 a.m. Morning Prayer / 5:30 p.m. Al-Anon / 8 p.m. AA / 11 p.m. Hesus House	<b>16</b> 3 a.m. Hesus House / 8 a.m. AA / 10:30 a.m. Cleaning Service / 5-8p.m. Family Game Night
<b>17</b> 7:30, 9, 10:45 a.m. Eucharist / 9 a.m. Adult Formation / 10:15 a.m. Youth Formation	<b>18</b> 5:30 p.m. AA, Evening Prayer / 7 p.m. Boy Scouts, Order of St. Luke	<b>19</b> 10 a.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry / 11 a.m. Cleaning Service / 5 p.m. AA	<b>20</b> 9:30 a.m. Staff Mtg / 11 a.m., 6:30 p.m. Eucharist / 11:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study / 7:30 p.m. Adult Choir	<b>21</b> 7:30 p.m. Women's Book Club	<b>22</b> 9 a.m. Morning Prayer / 5:30 p.m. Al-Anon / 8 p.m. AA	<b>23</b> 8 a.m. AA / 10:30 a.m. Cleaning Service
<b>24</b> 7:30, 10:45 a.m. Eucharist / 9 a.m. Annual Meeting, Adult Formation	<b>25</b> 5:30 p.m. AA, Evening Prayer / 7 p.m. Boy Scouts, EFM, Order of St. Luke	<b>26</b> 11 a.m. Cleaning Service / 5 p.m. AA	<b>27</b> 9:30 a.m. Staff Mtg / 11 a.m., 6:30 p.m. Eucharist / 11:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study / 7:30 p.m. Adult Choir / 7 p.m. Soup Kitchen Precook	<b>28</b> 10 a.m. Soup Kitchen	<b>29</b> 9 a.m. Morning Prayer / 5:30 p.m. Al-Anon / 8 p.m. AA	<b>30</b> 8 a.m. AA / 10:30 a.m. Cleaning Service

# JANUARY 2010 SERVER SCHEDULE

	January 03	January 10	January 17	January 24	January 31
<b>Eucharistic Ministers</b>					
7:30 a.m.	Diana Brown	Michelle Moore Gib Moore	Kathy Mertes Jerry Mertes	Diana Brown Doug Brown	Kathy Mertes Bill Johnson
10:45 a.m.	Gary Meade Katie Thomson	Jim Bachman Holly Parks	Joe Ryan Becky Kruse	Bev Nesbit Dick Hattan	Joe Ryan Katie Thomson
<b>Lector</b>					
7:30 a.m.	Bill Johnson	Alan Wolff	Henry Mora	Mary Kerr	Kathy Mertes
10:45 a.m. 1 <sup>st</sup>	Sr. High	Bo Smith	Kathy Heikkinen	Sharon Miller	Jim Bachman
10:45 a.m. 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Sr. High	Carolyn Campbell	Mark Senn	Tom Miller	Mark Senn
<b>Ushers</b>					
7:30 a.m.	Fay Viverito	Marina Morrow Larry Engel	Jack Benning Gerry Miles	Fay Viverito Bill Johnson	Marina Morrow Larry Engel
10:45 a.m.	Sr. High Sr. High	Jan Bach John Hollis	Tom Flood Katie Thomson	Wink Bangs Jeff Burnett	Jan Bach John Hollis
<b>Acolyte</b>					
	Dillon Muggle	Taushia Muggle	Eoin Cottrell	Sam Nesbit	Carolyn Campbell
<b>Intercessor</b>					
	Kathy Heikkinen	Bo Smith	Dalia Bach	Wendy Bangs	Kathy Heikkinen
<b>Altar Bread</b>					
	Beverly Nesbit	Lisa-Ann Barnes	Katie Thomson	Jane Van Nortwick	Dalia Bach
<b>Greeter</b>					
7:30 a.m.	Dorothy Payleitner	Jody Rullman	Diana Brown	Dorothy Payleitner	Jody Rullman
9 a.m.	Kathy Hari	Kerri Hildebrand	Janet Craft	Kathy Hari	Kerri Hildebrand
10:45 a.m.	Sr. High	Wendy Bangs	Beverly Nesbit	Wendy Bangs	Beverly Nesbit
<b>Coffee Hosts</b>					
7:30 a.m.	Morrow	Needed	Needed	Women's Cursillo	Needed
9 a.m.	Needed	Needed	Needed	Women's Cursillo	Needed
10:45 a.m.	Heikkinen	Lester	Needed	Women's Cursillo	Needed
<b>Home Eucharist</b>					
	Rixleben (Brown)	Rullman (Campbell)	Craft (Thomson)	Campbell (Meade)	Rixleben (Brown)
<b>Closing</b>					
	Kathy Heikkinen	Dick Hattan	Carol Townsend	Katie Thomson	Gregg Steamer
<b>Altar Guild</b>					
	Jody Rullman Ann Mora	Carol Paschal Sarah Travis Annie Hollis	Dorothy Payleitner Barbara Bachman Diana Brown Maria Owen	Bernice Ludtke Jeanne DeVore Barbara Haase Sandy Parsons	Bernice Ludtke Jeanne DeVore Barbara Haase Sandy Parsons
<b>Flower Guild</b>					
	Liz Benning Jody Rullman	Carol Paschal Sarah Travis	Carol Paschal Sarah Travis	Dottie Finatri	Dottie Finatri
<b>Flower Dedication</b>					
	Betty Zupke				
<b>9 a.m. Hosts</b>					
	The Manning Family	The Larson Family	The Muggle Family	The Blane Family	The Custer Family

# Taizé Prayer Resumes

January 10, 7:30 p.m.

Contact Deacon Liz @ [scecdcaon@sbcglobal.net](mailto:scecdcaon@sbcglobal.net) or 630-584-2596, Dan Williams @ [scecmusic@sbcglobal.net](mailto:scecmusic@sbcglobal.net), or Dick Hattan @ 630-208-1978 or [richardhattan@sbcglobal.net](mailto:richardhattan@sbcglobal.net).

The Taizé Prayer Service will resume on the second Sunday of Each month, starting on **Sunday, January 10** at 7:30 p.m. Please come to this service of light and darkness, singing and quiet contemplation to revive your soul. The service lasts about an hour, and there is no Eucharist. It is a feast for all your senses and a respite from a left brained world.



## ANNUAL MEETING

January 24, 9 a.m.

Contact Colin Campbell @ 630-232-1132 or [cccampbell38@gmail.com](mailto:cccampbell38@gmail.com).

Our Annual Meeting will be held on January 24 at 9 a.m. There will be two services that day (7:30 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.) with the meeting sandwiched between them.

New Vestry members will be chosen, the proposed 2010 budget will be discussed and voted on, and other things important to the life of our community will be presented. If you have an item that you wish to place on the agenda, please contact Fr. Nesbit.

As our time for this meeting is somewhat limited, and in order to insure that all who wish to speak have an equal opportunity, the Vestry is asking that everyone limit their comments on a given topic to three minutes. If everyone who wishes to has spoken, and there is time, a person may be recognized to speak a second time on a topic.

There will be no regular Formation on this day. However, **activities are planned for youth and children** during the meeting, and **the Nursery will be available** from 9 a.m. to noon. If you are interested in helping with the children, contact Liz Ryan.

Everyone, 16 and up, is encouraged to attend the meeting.



## Sing-A-Long

January 10, 2 p.m.

Contact Tri-City Family Services @ 630-232-1070 or [www.tricityfamilyservices.org](http://www.tricityfamilyservices.org).

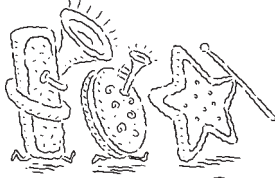
Grab your white t-shirts, pegged trousers, leather jackets, and poodle skirts and join us for some FUNdraising for the Tri-Cities Family Services on Sunday, January 10 at 2 p.m. Your chills will be multiplyin' and the mood electrifyin' as you sing along to the hit tunes in Grease.

Don't fret! The movie will feature subtitled lyrics.

The event will be held at the Norris Cultural Arts Center 1014 Dunham Rd. in St. Charles. Tickets are only \$10 and include a costume contest, goody bag with props, and more! Concessions will be available.

Come bathe in a bit of nostalgia, give your kids a great laugh, and raise money for this worthy charity.

Order tickets online at [www.tricityfamilyservices.org/2010\\_Grease.html](http://www.tricityfamilyservices.org/2010_Grease.html).



Contact Wendy Bangs @ 630-377-1174 or [wsbangs@aol.com](mailto:wsbangs@aol.com).

### Hooray For The Bakers!

Thank you to all the bakers that baked and dropped off Christmas cookies. We took 15 dozen yummy cookies to Fox Valley Hospice and put together 12 lovely cookie boxes for “shut-ins.”

Bill and Becky Kruse asked to include this note: “A big thank you to all the bakers (whoever you are) for the wonderful box of Christmas cookies. We were so cheered by them.”



January 16, 5-8 p.m.

Contact Maria Foran @ 630-584-6013 or [2grlsmom@gmail.com](mailto:2grlsmom@gmail.com).

The first game night was such a success and so much fun that we decided to do it again! The next game night is Saturday, January 16th from 5 to 8 pm. We will have even more games to choose from and lots of delicious munchies. Stop on by and bring your friends; What a great way to beat the winter blues.



Please update your Directory. William (Wink) and Wendy Bangs have moved to 51 McKinley Street, St. Charles, IL 60174-4171. Their telephone remains the same: 630-377-1174.



Contact the office @ 630-584-2596 or [scecoffice@sbcglobal.net](mailto:scecoffice@sbcglobal.net) or one of your Vestry members.

Is there an upcoming SCEC event you need to schedule? Is there an event that you need to reschedule? The SCEC Google Calendar—which has all the important dates you need to know about for the different meetings and activities in the parish—can be updated quickly with just a few keystrokes. Parish staff and all Vestry members can access the calendar and make additions, changes, or corrections. Get your important dates on the calendar.

### Food, Fellowship, FUNdraisers

Contact Christy Becker at 630-377-4369 or [knitterchristy@sbcglobal.net](mailto:knitterchristy@sbcglobal.net).

Thank you to all who ordered Gino’s East pizzas! You raised \$356.00 to help SCEC meet its end of the year needs. We hope you enjoy them so much that we can do another pizza fundraiser in the Spring!

The fundraising committee is planning another Eat Out fundraiser in January. Watch your pulse and e-mail for date and location. Then come and enjoy a bit of fellowship!



January 21, 7:30 p.m.

Contact Deacon Liz @ [scecdeacon@sbcglobal.net](mailto:scecdeacon@sbcglobal.net) or 630-584-2596 or Wendy Bangs @ 630-377-1174 or [wsbangs@aol.com](mailto:wsbangs@aol.com).

The SCEC Women’s Book Group will be reading Kathryn Stockett’s *The Help* as our January selection. Please join is for discussion on Thursday, January 21 at 7:30 p.m. at the church.

# THE WHOLE BIBLE. ONE WEEKEND. Miqra Chicago 2010

January 16-17

Contact Liz Ryan @ 630-584-2596 or [scceyouth@sbcglobal.net](mailto:scceyouth@sbcglobal.net).

The entire Bible will be read throughout Martin Luther King, Jr. Weekend. **Readers will begin Friday morning, and the reading will end on Monday morning, as part of a new Diocese event called Miqra.** Members of the Diocese are invited to stop by and listen throughout the weekend.

**Saturday, January 16 will be a diocesan day of workshops and worship** built on the place the Bible holds in our common life.

We will bring ourselves and our questions, our hopes and our reservations, our gifts and our wisdom, to gather as a community forming deeper understandings.

**A YOUTH EVENT will kick off with the workshops on Saturday** (including some geared for youth). We will stay overnight Saturday and Sunday, keeping the reading going and exploring the Bible through groups, games, movies, and worship.

There is a **\$55 registration fee** for youth attending this retreat and each participant will need to fill out the registration form found at [www.miqrachicago.org/documents/Miqra1RegistrationForm.pdf](http://www.miqrachicago.org/documents/Miqra1RegistrationForm.pdf).



## January Birthdays

- 01 - Constance Cooper
- 01 - Darlene Gillis
- 01 - Sharon Miller
- 03 - Helen Gouldthorp
- 03 - John Larson
- 04 - Ted Danielson
- 04 - Nate Nesbit
- 04 - Connor Ryan
- 05 - Danica Sikora
- 07 - Lisa Parse
- 08 - Emily Vitel
- 09 - B. J. Griswold
- 11 - James McGaan
- 11 - Ann Mora
- 12 - Douglas Johnson
- 12 - Katherine Williams
- 13 - Ginny Monken
- 14 - Bobette Dodson
- 14 - Jack Groskopf
- 14 - Jeanne Monken
- 16 - Jim Mertes
- 16 - Austin Schuetz
- 17 - Laura Graf
- 17 - Patrick Parks
- 18 - Fritz Koch
- 18 - Carolo Engel Nasisse
- 20 - Sarah Vitel
- 21 - Hannah Barnes
- 21 - Tom Havard
- 22 - Claire Johnson
- 22 - Bob Parks
- 23 - Becky Kruse
- 23 - Drew Van Zandt
- 26 - Eric Foster
- 27 - Mary Elfring
- 28 - Shannon Foran
- 28 - Bill Yeck
- 29 - Eva Bach
- 29 - Will Ditch
- 29 - Christina Foster
- 30 - Jessica Elfring
- 31 - Elizabeth Owen

## January Anniversaries

- 10 - Michelle & Gilbert Moore

# Homecoming

## A Message for Christmas and Epiphany from the Bishop of Chicago



Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ in this Christmas and Epiphany season in the Church. In many parts of Latin America and this country, Christians celebrate Las Posadas, which is a way of observing the days leading up to the Christmas feast from December 16 to December 24. The custom is for families to travel between homes. Different roles — the part of Joseph, the part of Mary, the part of the innkeeper — taken up by different members of the community. Joseph and Mary go from house to house looking for a place, looking for the inn as Luke's gospel tells us, where the baby Jesus might be born. Until at last they find the designated house where the party is to be held and where the birth of Jesus can be celebrated fully.

That homecoming is the theme I want to hold out to you in this Christmas and Epiphany season. Christ finding a home in our hearts. We look for Christ where Christ has made his home, in the hearts of our sisters and brothers across our communities and across the globe. At our recent Diocesan Convention, three new congregations found a home here in the Episcopal Diocese of Chicago, and we rejoice and welcome them completely into the family. We recognize the presence of Christ in one another, in them. And we celebrate the many ways that Jesus Christ has come among us.

This Christmas season I invite you to find a home for Jesus in all those places in the world, perhaps particularly the places where you might be inclined least likely to look for him, in the homeless, the hungry, in those who are lonely, those who find themselves on the margins of this world. Find Jesus Christ there. Look for him. Knock on the door. And when you find him, serve him, and welcome him, and thank him for his great love.

Merry Christmas and happy Epiphany in this season of the church's year.

Jeffrey D. Lee, Bishop of Chicago

Illustration: "God's Heart" by Friedrich Peter. From the *Salt of the Earth—A Christian Seasons Calendar 2009-2010*

# The Frederick N. Ludtke Scholarship Applications

**Applications Available: January 3, Due: March 1**

*Contact Liz Ryan @ 630-584-2596 or [scecyouth@sbcglobal.net](mailto:scecyouth@sbcglobal.net).*

Applications are available as of January 3 for the Ludtke Scholarship. If you are a high school senior but did not receive one, contact Liz Ryan, Director of Youth & Children.

In 1985, to honor Father Ludtke, the first rector of St. Charles' Church, Jim Kelly, a former SCEC parishioner, established the Ludtke Scholarship. When Father Ludtke died in 1992, the Ludtke family began funding the scholarship with memorial contributions. When Ludtke Memorial Funds were depleted, the vestry made the Ludtke Scholarship a line item in the annual operating budget of the church and increased the scholarship to \$500 annually for four years, as long as the student maintains full-time status.

Graduating high school seniors can apply for the scholarship with a letter telling the selection committee why they are a good candidate. Supporting letters of recommendation from a teacher and from an adult who is not a family member (a youth group leader or the rector) are also suggested. A committee of at least the Rector, the vestry member responsible for Formation, and one Youth Group leader will determine who will receive the scholarship.

Past recipients include (not a complete list) Carolyn Bachman ■ Elizabeth Barnes ■ Jessica Birk ■ Jessica Elfring ■ Melanie Glenn ■ Ben Hawley ■ Brittany Hildebrand ■ Gilmour Hildebrand ■ Damon Heikkinen ■ Paul Heinemann ■ Tupper Hillard ■ Lauren Hillard ■ Kim Ingraham ■ Colin Kaiser ■ Bing Koch ■ Barton Koop ■ David Miles ■ Jason Mosshamer ■ Lisa Punch ■ Chris Straley ■ Ryan Thomson ■ Peter Van Nortwick ■ Thomas Van Nortwick.

Ten years after receiving the Ludtke Scholarship, Melanie Glenn received a grant for her doctorate in aeronautical engineering. Shortly thereafter, SCEC received a letter from Melanie that expressed her gratitude for the Ludtke Scholarship that she had received to go to MIT. Enclosed was a check for a "tithe" of the grant, so others might continue to benefit as she had.

This year the scholarship recipient will be announced on Formation Graduation Sunday (June 6). All applications and letters should be given to Liz Ryan or to the church office by Sunday, March 1.



## CPR-AED Training

*Contact Karen Madura @ 630-587-6168 or [kmadura@hotmail.com](mailto:kmadura@hotmail.com).*

Did you know that the church has an AED located on the wall in Ludtke Hall? Would you like to learn how to use the church's AED—just in case? The following community organizations are offering CPR-AED training:

### St. Charles Park District

*Contact @ 630-513-6200 or [www.st-charlesparks.org](http://www.st-charlesparks.org).*

**Cost:** RES \$25/NR \$37.50

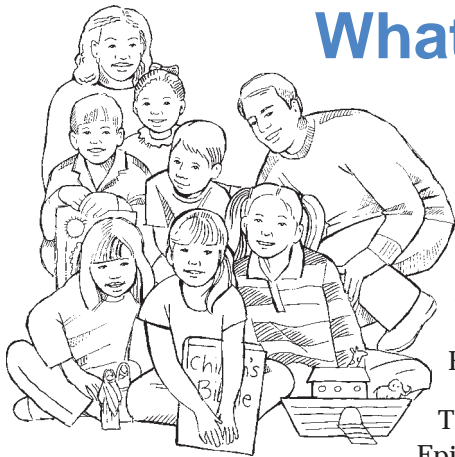
- January 13, 2010, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. (Course # 10451)
- February 17, 2010, 5-9 p.m. (Course # 10452)

### Delnor Community Hospital - Community Education

*Contact @ 630-208-3999 or [www.delnor.com](http://www.delnor.com).*

**Cost:** \$30.00

- January 21, 2010, 5-9 p.m.
- February 18, 2010, 5-9 p.m.



# What's Up In Kids Formation?

Contact Liz Ryan @ 630-584-2596 or [scecyouth@sbcglobal.net](mailto:scecyouth@sbcglobal.net).

Hope everyone had a blessed Christmas and wishing everyone a Happy New Year!

The **Jr. High Class** is in charge of the Epiphany Pageant on January 10! If your child(ren) is(are) interested in having a part in this extravaganza contact Lisa Parse or Bev Nesbit.

This month will be busy for all the classes. The **Purple Atrium** is learning about the start of Jesus' ministry. The **Green Atrium** is studying Jesus' stories in the Parables. The **Blue Atrium** is learning about how Jesus called his followers.

The **Middlers** are learning about the way we can make a difference in the world. (Look for the donation boxes as they start their annual "Hunger Doesn't End With The Holidays" Food Drive.) The **Jr. High** is discovering more about the Bible. The **Sr. High** is continuing to learn about life from the people in the Old Testament.

Busy, busy, busy!

## The Bishop's Challenge

Contact Deacon Liz at 630-584-2596 or [scecdeacon@sbcglobal.net](mailto:scecdeacon@sbcglobal.net).

Due to the generosity of our parish, **over 350 children** who have never been allowed to go to school before **will attend school this spring**. Students are prevented from attending the "free" public schools in many third world nations if they cannot purchase the required uniform. Last year, over 75 million children (three quarters of them girls) were refused an education. Thanks to your generosity, **we raised over \$4000 for uniforms** and fully met Bishop Lee's challenge. **Thank you so much.**



## Epiphany Pageant

January 10, 11:45 a.m.

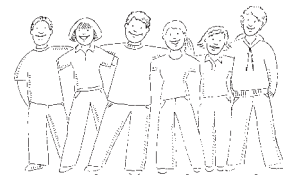
Contact Beverly Nesbit @ 630-584-3150 or [nesbit.family@att.net](mailto:nesbit.family@att.net) or Lisa Parse @ 630-584-1445 or [lisareneeparse@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lisareneeparse@sbcglobal.net).

The Jr. High Class, with help from the Atriums, will perform an Epiphany Pageant after the 10:45 a.m. service (about 11:45 a.m.) on January 10. If your children are interested in having a part in this extra-vaganza, contact Lisa Parse or Bev Nesbit.

## Youth Sunday Service

January 03, 10:45 a.m.

The Sr. High will serve at the 10:45 a.m. service.



## Youth Retreat

January 29-31

Contact Liz Ryan @ 630-584-2596 or [scecyouth@sbcglobal.net](mailto:scecyouth@sbcglobal.net).

**New Beginnings!** Any sixth through eighth grader is welcome to attend this terrific retreat at St. John's in Flossmoor. There is a \$45 fee for this retreat. Registration forms are available from Liz Ryan or online at [www.episcopalchicago.org](http://www.episcopalchicago.org).

between \$11,000 and \$14,000.

If you read the materials that we have provided, you will see that we have been forced to cut our contributions from our operating funds to local charities even further than last year. We are pledging far less to the Diocese than they request. Once again there are no pay increases or bonuses for our staff, and we are seeking further savings on building and administrative costs that have already been cut. We are not planning any building or grounds improvements and are deferring needed maintenance.

At the same time we are attempting to raise more money through fundraising to cover what we can of our shortfall.

### **O.K. So Now What?**

I know that some of you will ask that we restore funding to specific line items. We would love to but we must first find a way to generate the money for that without interfering with the Fundraising Committee's ability to meet their increased target goal for this year.

So, we welcome any and all suggestions that you might have, but we ask that if you request an increase in a line item you also provide a funding source that will not interfere with open plate offerings, regular fund raising, or other sources that we are depending on for our operating budget. If we cannot "keep the lights on and the doors open" we cannot be of much use to anyone, so that must be our first priority.

We on the Vestry, the Stewardship Committee, the ad-hoc "Think Tank" (who spent many hours helping develop this budget), and the Finance Committee are all very well aware of the Mission of St. Charles Episcopal Church. We are also aware that in the long run we cannot just print or borrow money. It falls to us to be responsible stewards of God's bounty and to conserve through the lean times in the knowledge that better times will return, and that we will still be here and be able to do more in the future.

### **Colin Campbell Senior Warden**



**Big  
Thank  
You!**

A "big thank" you to all parishioners who submitted a 2010 pledge card. The annual pledge drive closed on November 30, 2009 and the return rate was 87 percent (123 responses out of 142 letters). The Stewardship Committee's goal was to hear from 100 percent. Although the response rate did not meet this goal, the vestry has deemed the pledge drive a "success." The vestry now has the financial information to create a realistic budget. Thank you.



In a multitude of ways, the people of St. Charles Episcopal Church have shared my sadness in the illness and death of my beloved wife, Gamgee—by prayers, phone calls, cards, letters, conversation, gifts, and food, as well as by the presence of many at Baker Memorial United Methodist Church on October 31 for the inspiring memorial service following her death on October 25. Special thanks go to Fr. Bill Nesbit for his Eucharistic ministry and the administration of the sacrament on October 31. Gamgee loved the people and ministry of St. Charles Episcopal Church that virtue was returned to her abundantly in the time of her illness. I am doubly blessed by a "virtuous wife" of forty-six years and by a compassionate congregation. Many thanks to all!

Philip M. Dripps

Thank you to Brianna for watching her little sister, so I could finish this newsletter. This public thank you note was part of the deal.



## From The Wardens

### Vestry

Colin Campbell, Senior Warden  
630.232.1132  
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Kathy Heikkinen, Junior Warden  
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### 2010

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630.208.1978  
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Katie Thomson  
630.584.2133  
katie.thomson@sbcglobal.net

### 2011

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630.584.6015  
kmditch@aol.com

Karen Flood  
630.715.5074  
tkflood@comcast.net

Greg Steamer  
630.587.3848  
gsteamer@comcast.net

### 2012

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## It's a New Year!

Here we are, entering a new year, with all of the challenge and promise that that always seems to portend. And, for SCEC, as well as for many people and institutions, some of those challenges will be particularly great this year.

You may be growing a bit tired of my repeated reports that have to do with the finances of our Church, but, as the primary responsibility of a rector is spiritual, the primary responsibility of a Vestry is fiduciary. Our first task is to see to the financial viability of our Church.

With that in mind I would like to offer a few comments on the proposed budget for 2010 which has already been made available to you.

### Oh, No! More Budget Stuff!

I do not know of any time that so many in this Church have worked so long and so hard in preparing for a new fiscal year. Quite literally, we began this process last January. We were well aware of the unhappiness caused by the decisions that we had to make, and our choice to reduce our contributions from operating funds to local charities. We also knew that the Church's overall income was likely to be less for 2010 than it was in 2009 and that even deeper cuts would be required.

The Stewardship Committee has held the most successful campaign that I have ever seen.

You have been generous beyond my hopes and expectations. Many of you were able to increase your gifts to our Church. Still, as expected, we heard from a number of families (mine included) that simply could not continue to contribute at the same level as in the past. A distressing number find that they are not able to commit anything at this time. (What should we be doing to help them through these difficult times?)

In the end, our pledges total about \$1,000 less than last year—a much better situation than many churches in our area.

### That's Not All, Folks.

Several other sources of income are also down. In the past we have received generous support from the Norris Foundation. However, we have been informed that they are in the process of restructuring, and we cannot count on that grant in the future. Since many more of you are pledging than in the past, it stands to reason that open plate offerings are also down. That was expected (but pledging is better as it helps us to know what to expect in advance).

There is much more to consider, but to put a point to it, if you look at line 10, columns M and N of the 2010 proposed budget, you will see that our overall income for this year is projected to be nearly \$24,000 less than last year. This is not quite as bad as it initially appears since some of this has to do with our changeover in accounting systems, but I am told that the actual, operating loss is still

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Greetings this Epiphany!

As we celebrate the appearance of the Magi at the crèche scene, I wonder about those three men who traveled so far to see the baby Jesus.

Travel wasn't easy in biblical times, as there were no buses, no Holiday Inns, or no 24-hour WalMarts. **What kind of men were they**—that they would follow a star in the East, take such time to travel, and bring such treasure? What did they see in that star that was worth the danger they subjected themselves to and worth the gifts they bestowed upon Him?

Their dedication and generosity causes me to wonder about our own lives. Do **we** look for stars in the East? Do **we** trust the nudgings of the Spirit as we wait for the coming of the Lord? What are **our** epiphanies? Where have **we** discerned Christ in the midst of us? Did **we** go there and lay down any of **our** treasures before Him?

Epiphany is a time to take Christ into our own hearts. It's a time to **acknowledge**, in the busyness of our lives, **that Christ is alive and in the world**. It's a time to **ask God's help** as we seek to know and serve Jesus better. It's a time to **pay attention to those little signs God sends to us**—the coincidences that aren't entirely coincidental, the mundane that suddenly feels "everyday sacred." It's a time to **look for stars in the East**.

What have you noticed? How have you responded? When we open our eyes to the coincidences and the mundane, we are able to see Christ. The Wise Men did it, and now it's our turn.

Blessings this Epiphany.

**Deacon Liz**