

A quarterly publication of the
Saint Stephen Cathedral parish



Christmas at
the Cathedral
Page 4



Kentucky
Youth Choir
Page 7



the Parishioner

What's Inside

Porch Progress
Page 2

Thank You Deacon
Dirck and Chona Curry!
Page 3

Epiphany Vespers and
Potluck
Page 5

Welcome New
Parishioners
Page 6

Children's Liturgy
Page 7

Preschool Christmas
Program
Page 11

and more!



This Little Light of Mine

By Tanja Wells-Walker

Three years ago in December of 2015, I went on a Google mission to learn about the Peacelight of Bethlehem. I was born and raised in Germany, and my family still lives there. I had always heard my sister talk about this mysterious flame which travels from Bethlehem to Germany in December every year. It really seemed to brighten those dark days for her. So, I had to ask myself, why does this light not travel to America? Well of course distance might be an issue, but if it can travel to Europe, surely there has to be a way to bring it here. Imagine my surprise when I learned that the Peacelight has been coming to America since 2001.

(Continued on next page)

Porch Progress

This Little Light of Mine

(Continued from page 1)

Each year, a child from Upper Austria fetches the light from the grotto in Bethlehem where Jesus was born. The light is carried in two blast proof miner's lamps on an Austrian Airlines jet from Tel Aviv, Israel to Vienna, Austria from where it is distributed at a Service of Dedication to delegations from across Europe who take it back with a message of Peace to their own countries. Austrian Airlines then flies the miner's lamps containing the Bethlehem Peace Light to New York City. The goal is to help the light, rooted in New York, to spread across the continent, like the branches of a huge tree.

And so, a new family tradition began. I received my first Peacelight along the interstate in Dale, IN. There is a very intricate network of individuals who help to distribute the Peacelight. I lit two lanterns, just in case one should go out on the way. Belted into the seat next to me, secured inside a metal can, I brought the light to Maceo, KY. Looking at this light and realizing that the same flame is burning in so many families' homes throughout the world, including my sister's, was absolutely magical.

I look at this light as a symbol of our faith. It starts as a small flame lit from another. It has to be protected from the elements. So many things can blow out our light. The lantern requires us to fill it twice daily. Like our faith, it needs nurturing to keep it burning. And so far, every year we have been able to spread a light a little bit more. It really does bring light to our dark days, and it is when our true Christmas season begins.



Thank You Deacon Dirck and Chona Curry!

Congratulations and best wishes to Deacon Dirck and Chona Curry, who will be relocating to Virginia, Illinois. The great news is that their move was delayed a few months! We are grateful for the many ways they have both served our parish and community.



Doctor Deacon Dirck Curry and Chona Curry, who will be greatly missed.



The meal and gathering was enjoyed by some of our young parish family members (and those who are young at heart!)



Father Jerry Riney thanks Deacon Dirck Curry and his wife Chona for their years of dedication and service to Saint Stephen Cathedral Parish by presenting them with a gift from the parish family.



Deacon Dirck Curry gives the homily at the December 8 Mass, which was also the 16th Anniversary of his Deaconate Ordination.



Parishioners enjoyed a delicious meal and fellowship to celebrate Deacon Dirck and Chona.

Christmas at the Cathedral



A wonderful Christmas Eve Mass, complete with joyful worshippers, lovely decorations, and beautiful music!



Father Sinoj



11pm Mass Servers: Clayton Lewis, Jacob Fischer, Carson Lewis, Michael Calhoun, Corey D. Bruns



4pm Vigil Servers:
Front: Joseph and Tom Kurtz.,
Luke and Kolbe Reffitt
Back: Landon Reffitt, Max
Kurtz, Corey D. Bruns



Melchior, Casper, and Balthasar (Magi) gather at our Baptismal font for a long journey!



Nativity Scene



A few of our little parish "angels" (and a shepherd in the background) waiting to return to Mass after Children's Liturgy of the Word.



A photo taken from the main doors of the Cathedral.



Matthew Constant, Cantor
(8:00am Mass Christmas Day)
"Merry Christmas from the Cantor Podium"



Thanks to our Saint Stephen Cathedral choir and Director of Music James Wells for leading us in lovely sacred music. *Group photo, front row, L to R: Alicia Jones, Margie Ebelhar, Debbie Sims, Mary Lou Kapfhammer. 2nd row: Preston Middleton, Margie Howard, Madison Wells. 3rd row: Lloyd Nash, Ross Leigh, Dr. Carroll Howard, James Wells, Matthew Constant.*



Thank you to our Epiphany Kings!
Left to Right: Christopher Lewis, Tom Kurtz, Landon Reffitt



Seated: Lora Small, Sister Consolata, Agnes Reynolds. Standing: Sister Jeannette Fennewald, Donna Tarantino, Donna Murphy, Skip Reynolds, Sister Florence, Sister Anthonia, Nancy Hendricks.

Epiphany Vespers and Potluck

When the festivities and celebrations of Christmas have mostly passed, the Church and our parish celebrate The Epiphany of the Lord. Our 6th Annual Epiphany Vespers and International Potluck was held on Sunday, January 6. The Vespers (Evening Prayer) service began at 4:30 pm in the church, celebrated with candlelight, beautiful music, scripture, and a homily, during which Father Jerry reminded us that we are all called to be hope and light to others. It was a beautiful and uplifting service concluded by singing “Go Tell it on the Mountain” and “Joy to the World.”

Afterwards, we gathered in the Community Center for a potluck dinner. The potluck is referred to as “international” because we are each asked to bring a dish from our “country of origin” to share. What a delicious representation of many cultures and traditions! It was hard to choose from the many appetizing offerings, but it was very easy to quickly fill up a plate.

The crowd was not large in size (around 65 people attended), but everyone enjoyed the time together as well as the tasty food. Three Epiphany Kings visited and processed through the Community Center carrying the traditional “king cake.” Congratulations to Gianna Reffitt, who found the baby in her slice of king cake!

Although we love the joy of the Christmas season, there are many aspects and obligations that can make the holy season feel very hectic. Our annual Epiphany Vespers and International Potluck is a wonderful way to continue to celebrate Christmas and enjoy an evening with fellow parishioners. Hope to see you there next year!

Thanks to all who attended, and to Director of Music James Wells and the Saint Stephen Cathedral Choir; Mike Bogdan, Sacristan; Lupe Ellis, Coordinator of the Epiphany Potluck. Thank you to those who assisted Lupe: Mary Lou Green, Monika Logan, Mary Riney, Rita Mauzy, and Theresa Ray. Thanks to Bern Tooley, who always keeps our Community Center looking lovely, and to Dorothy Guter, who baked this year’s king cake. Thanks also to our Epiphany Kings: Landon Reffitt, Tom Kurtz, and Christopher Lewis!

Congratulations were also extended to Father Sinoj Pynadath, who celebrated his 11th Anniversary of Ordination on January 6. After we sang “Happy Anniversary,” Father Sinoj Pynadath HGN told those gathered at the potluck about his ordination day. Congratulations, Father Sinoj! We are happy to have you here with us at Saint Stephen Cathedral!

Welcome New Parishioners!

New parish families and Welcoming Committee Members pose for a picture at the New Member Welcoming reception in November. Welcoming receptions are held at the rectory several times during the year to help make new members feel welcome in our parish family. It's always a fun evening, and the food is always delicious! If you are interested in serving on our Welcoming Committee, we'd love to have you join! Just call the Parish Office.



Left to right: Joe and Becky Stewart; Duncan Kaai (not pictured, Samantha Kaai, behind the camera); Susan Ferguson; Father Jerry; Eddy and Lorraine McFarland; Jordan and Megan Bickett and Molly; Janet Murphy; Skip and Agnes Reynolds; Brenda Clark; Layne and Lauren Rummage and Jarrett, Isaac, and Everett; Jim Murphy (behind Layne); Olivia Spears and George and Mary Catherine; Justin and Jamie Marks and Landon, Levi and Luke; Charlotte Hagan; Donna Tarantino.



Welcome to the Rummages: Jarren, Layne, Everett, Lauren, and Isaac



Welcome to Megan and Jordan Bickett and daughter Molly



Welcome to Joe and Becky Stewart



Welcome to George and Mary Catherine with their mother Olivia Spears (dad, David, was at work!)

Saint Stephen Cathedral welcomes the following new parishioners!

Teena Barber

Kara Baughman with daughters Abby and Molly

Mary Ann Breeden

Kevin and Kristin Dorth with daughters Lillian and Evelyn

Julie Ferguson with sons Lincoln and Simon

Mary Goatee

Aaron and Hayden Morris with son Jack

Troy Schwartz

Alicia Stewart

Kentucky Youth Choir



Photos by Corey Bruns

Children's Liturgy

By Jade Flaherty,
high school helper

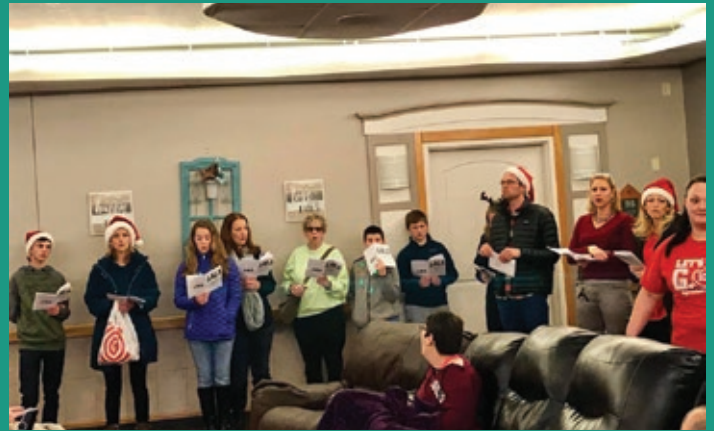
Children's Liturgy is a special opportunity for children to better understand the Word on their level. Here at Saint Stephen Cathedral, we offer this at the 9 o'clock Sunday Mass. It's a time for kids that have yet to receive their First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion to be engaged in Scripture and learn about the Faith. This time allows the kids to ask questions, receive explanations, and pray with peers that will shape the Church as they grow older together. I am a senior in high school, and I assist the adult leader by reading and helping keep eyes on the children. Walking down those steep steps to the undercroft, I sometimes wonder what I'll miss hearing upstairs. However, God speaks to me through the innocence of the children. Their wonder and excitement for Jesus sparks a fire in me. I am put back into focus and my eyes set on Heaven. By helping with Children's Liturgy, I hope to be an example for the younger kids to continue growing in faith. Evangelizing to the little ones brings me joy to see them so eager to learn about what we believe and why we believe it. They make me hopeful for the future of our Church. If you are interested in this Ministry, please contact Mary Beth Hurley 270-316-4587 or call the Parish Office and speak with Donna Tarantino.

Youth Ministry

On Sunday, December 16, the Saint Stephen Youth went Christmas Caroling to Wendell Foster, with the SPACE group that meets monthly, and to a few parishioners.



Amanda Reffitt, Tom Kurtz, Regina Lewis, Josie Pinkston, Crissy Stevenson, Corey Bruns, Aaron Pierce, Christopher Lewis, Landon Reffitt, Caleb Ward, Lincoln Ferguson, Eva Ray, Lily Pinkston, Hannah Bland, Emily Calloway, and a couple of youth from Immaculate.



Thomas Ashby, Melissa Ashby, Briley Breeden, Dana Breeden, Mary Ann Breeden, Jacob Breeden, Vince Carrico, Emily Calloway, Aaron Pierce, Amy Carrico, Amanda Reffit



Christopher Lewis, Tom Kurtz, Lily Pinkston, Eva Ray, and Abby Payne write what they are thankful for.



Amanda Reffitt, Maggie Ward, Caroline Ashby, Thomas Ashby, Luke Reffitt, Judy Carrico (behind Luke), Lily Hayden, Eva Ray, Terry Ward, Macy Ward, Carson Lewis, Landon Reffitt, Caleb Ward, Christopher Lewis, Tom Kurtz, Tut Carrico, Luke Payne, Lily Pinkston, Crissy Stevenson, Lisa Ward, Taylor Norton, and Emily Calloway attended ODYC in November.

The Carpenter's House

Unknown Author,
Submitted by Father Jerry Riney



Have you heard this story? It's one of my favorites. I would like to share it with you! It inspires me to do my best each day with what I have!

An elderly carpenter was ready to retire. He told his employer-contractor of his plans to leave the house building business and live a more leisurely life with his wife enjoying his extended family.

He would miss the paycheck, but he needed to retire. They could get by. The contractor was sorry to see his good worker go and asked if he could build just one more house as a personal favor. The carpenter said yes, but in time it was easy to see that his heart was not in his work. He resorted to shoddy workmanship and used inferior materials. It was an unfortunate way to end his career.

When the carpenter finished his work and the builder came to inspect the house, the contractor handed the front-door key to the carpenter. "This is your house," he said, "my gift to you."

What a shock! What a shame! If he had only known he was building his own house, he would have done it all so differently. Now he had to live in the home he had built none too well.

So it is with us. We build our lives in a distracted way, reacting rather than acting, willing to put up less than the best. At important points we do not give the job our best effort. Then with a shock we look at the situation we have created and find that we are now living in the house we have built. If we had realized that we would have done it differently.

Think of yourself as the carpenter. Think about your house. Each day you hammer a nail, place a board, or erect a wall. Build wisely. It is the only life you will ever build. Even if you live it for only one day more, that day deserves to be lived graciously and with dignity. Use your God-given gifts (and we all have them) unselfishly. Your life tomorrow will be the result of your attitudes and the choices you make today.

Baptisms



Beau Michael Reeves, son of Jay and Madeleine McCormick Reeves, grandson of Jim and Maire McCormick, was received into the Church community through baptism on November 18, 2018.



Landon Wayne Grayson, son of Colby and Michelle Grayson, was baptized on Holy Family Sunday.



Amelia Claire Brewick, daughter of Eric and Katherine Ellis Brewick, was baptized on December 29, 2018.



Layne and Lauren Rummage requested Baptism for their three children: Jarren Layne, Everett Wade, and Isaac James.



Breanna and Alex Reid celebrate the Baptism of their daughter Ainsleigh, Sunday, December 30. Godparents are Madison and James Wells.



Godparents Sam and Emily Sharpe help welcome Evelyn Dorth to the Church with parents Kevin and Kristin, sister Lillian Dorth, along with grandparents Eddie and Peggy Tichenor and Mark and Donna Dorth.



Cathedral Preschool Registration!

It is time to think about registration for preschool for 2019-2020 school year. We serve children of all faiths in a loving Christian environment that are three-, four-, or five-years-old by August 1. We will begin accepting registration from currently enrolled families and St. Stephen Cathedral members on Monday, February 4th. Forms were mailed to families with preschool age children in late January. You can also print forms from our website, www.cathedralpreschool.com.

Check the website for information about class days and times or give us a call at (270) 926-1652. Registration will be open to the public on Monday, February 11th.

Preschool Christmas Program

Children from Cathedral Preschool's four- and five-year-olds' classes performed "Say Cheese for Christmas" for their annual Christmas Program. Pictures in costume were taken earlier in the month, then as the story of Mary's and Joseph's travels to Bethlehem unfolded, the pictures were shown on the big screen as the children sang songs throughout the program. We had a full house! The celebration of the birth of Baby Jesus was continued in the Fr. Vaughan Community Center with cookies and punch.



Future stars from the Cathedral Preschool give us the Christmas spirit!



610 Locust Street
Owensboro, KY 42301-2130

NONPROFIT
US POSTAGE
PAID
OWENSBORO, KY
42301
PERMIT 900

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Newsletter Contributors

Writers

Jade Flaherty

Tanja Wells-Walker

Photographers

Corey Bruns

Donna Tarantino

Editor

Katie Pagan

Layout Designer

Taylor West

Proofreader

Haley Roby



**Eddie and Mary Ann O'Bryan
celebrate their silver
anniversary of marriage with
Fr. John Vaughan and Fr.
Jerry on December 30, 2018.**

***Like Saint
Stephen Cathedral
on Facebook!***

