



Following a Star

By The Rev. George Greer

On January the 6th we celebrated the feast of the epiphany. In our gospel lesson that day we hear of wise men arriving at a stable in Bethlehem. They have



journeyed far, guided only by a star and the hope in their hearts of finding an extraordinary king. They carry with them gifts of great value to offer to the King: gold, frankincense and myrrh. And where do they end up? Not at a palace or before a richly adorned throne! They arrive at a stable, where the newborn child of a couple of nobodies rest on a bed of straw.

Don't you wonder how surprised they were? Yet that seems to be the way God works. We too have searched hard for something we wanted, often to find something quite different from what we expected. And our disappointment was sometimes bitter.

Scripture says nothing about the wise men being either disappointed or elated at the end of their journey. Maybe it was because they didn't have any set expectations. They just followed a star without knowing where it would lead them. They could only trust that somehow the journey would be worth the effort.

However well we have planned our journeys through life, we often end up at an unexpected place. Where we are today was certainly not where we wanted to be and, yes, we are sometimes disappointed. There is little luxury inside the walls that surround us. Instead, there is loneliness and pain. Yet the infant born in that stable lives here with us and in us, and our journey is not yet over. Ahead of us lies a destination that will surprise and delight us. In faith, we follow the example of visitors from the East. We trust that somehow the journey is still worth the effort and that the star we follow will guide us safely to the king in whose realm there is healing, peace and happiness. Amen.

January 2023

Sunday

8:00a.m.	Holy Eucharist Rt. I
9:15a.m.	Adult Christian Ed.
10:30a.m.	Holy Eucharist Rt. II
10:30a.m.	Children's Chapel

Wednesday

10:30a.m.	H.E. Rt. II with Healing Prayer
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Dates to Remember

Jan. 9	Preschool Returns	
Jan. 10	Finance Committee	6p.m.
Jan. 13-16	Annual EYC Pilgrimage to the NC mountains.	
Jan. 22	Annual Parish Meeting	9a.m. With breakfast served by the Men's Club
Jan. 25	Vestry Meeting	6p.m.

Adult Christian Education

Beginning January 8th 2023, our Adult Christian Education group will participate in a study through *The Good Book Club*. What is the Good Book Club?

"The Good Book Club is an invitation to all Episcopalians to join in reading the Bible as a community. Episcopalians will read a section every day through the Epiphany season. In surveys taken before and after the first Good Book Club project in 2018 (reading the Gospel of Luke and the Book of Acts), participants reported growth in their understanding of scripture and a deepening of their prayer life. Perhaps most significantly, the percentage of people who reported reading the Bible on a daily basis



increased to 73% at the end of the first Good Book Club reading, from 45% percent when it began". For our journey through scripture this Epiphany, the Good Book Club will explore **Ruth and Esther**, books that explore the faithfulness and courage of two remarkable women. The stories of Ruth and Esther have much to teach us about the Hebrew concept of *chesed*, which means sacred kindness, as well as the willingness to be in sacrificial relationship with loved ones and our communities.

We will meet in the Conference Room each Sunday between the two services, beginning at 9:15 am. Participants will be sent a link to download and view the readings and study guides for the discussion.

<https://www.goodbookclub.org/>



SAVE THE DATE!

Ruth and Esther | Epiphany 2023

Friday, January 6 – Shrove

Tuesday, February 21

Children's Christian Education

For the Season of Epiphany our Children will continue using the Sparks Children's Bible study program. The program explores one Bible-based curriculum with four flexible models for age 2 to grade 6. It allows us to connect worship and Sunday school with this three-year curriculum based on the Revised Common Lectionary. It includes activities kids love.



Lively, age-appropriate activities—including games, crafts, and creative play—accommodate various ways kids learn.

Each week we follow the lesson plan around the Gospel story. Each child receives an age appropriate activity sheet to complete and take home with them.

We meet each Sunday at 10:30 in the Parish Hall. Children may join their family in the Sanctuary at about 10:15 to participate in Holy Communion. Please feel free to have your children join us!



Cookout for the residents of our cities homeless shelter.

Friday, December 16

Tommy Parker prepared the meat and bbq sauce while Tony Inscore and helpers prepared the boiled potatoes and coleslaw.

That day our team served apx. 65 plates. Great job everybody!



I was hungry and you gave me something to eat. Mt. 25:35



Arrival of our 14' Crismon Tree





January 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 HAPPY NEW YEAR	2	3	4	5 Food Pantry 9-11am TRCC 4:30-6:30pm	6 <i>Epiphany</i> 	7 Men's Club 8:00am
The First Sunday after the Epiphany 8 8:00am HE Rite I 9:15am Adult Christian Ed. 10:30am HE Rite II 10:30am Children's Chapel 11:45am EYC	9	10 Food Pantry 9-11am Book Club 10:00am Finance 6:00pm Lion's Club 6:30pm	11 Food Pantry 9-10:30am Healing Service 10:30am	12 Food Pantry 9-11am TRCC 4:30-6:30pm	13 EYC Mountain Trip Friday-Monday	14
15 8:00am Morning Prayer 9:15am Adult Christian Ed. 10:30am Morning Prayer 10:30am Children's Chapel	16 EYC Returns	17 Food Pantry 9-11am	18 Food Pantry 9-10:30am Healing Service 10:30am	19 Food Pantry 9-11am 10:00am Meals on Wheels TRCC 4:30-6:30pm	20	21 Alice Lewis Recital 7:30pm
22 8:00am HE Rite I 9:00am Annual Parish Meeting 10:30am HE Rite II 10:30am Children's Chapel 11:45am EYC	23 4:30pm—7:30pm ADK	24 Food Pantry 9-11am Warm Up Guild 10:00am Lion's Club 6:30pm	25 Food Pantry 9-10:30am Healing Service 10:30am Vestry 6:00pm	26 Food Pantry 9-11am TRCC 4:30-6:30pm	27	28
29 8:00am HE Rite I 9:15am Adult Christian Ed. 10:30am HE Rite II 10:30am Children's Chapel 11:45am EYC	30	31 Food Pantry 9-11am				

LAY/LEM READERS

January 1
10:00 George Earp
Ramona Orzell
Martha Lamm

January 8
8:00 Ron Jancso
Tim Knapp

10:30 Linda Hutcheson
Sandy Suggs
Jeanie Armstrong

January 15
8:00 Albert Corinth
George Earp

10:30 Jeanie Armstrong
Jeanie Armstrong
Leslie Hall

January 22
8:00 Ramona Orzell
Tim Knapp

10:30 Elizabeth Pope
Martha Lamm
Linda Hutcheson

January 29
8:00 Tim Knapp
Ramona Orzell

10:30 Gene Arnold
Sandy Suggs
Leslie Hall

ACOLYTES

January 1
Wyatt and Walker Wells

January 8
Kate Hudgins

January 15
Mericle Family

January 22
Landon Newcomb

January 29
Wyatt and Walker Wells



Pantry Distributors

Tuesday—Patty Kennedy
Wednesday—Tommy Parker
Thursday—Elizabeth Hunter

Pantry Volunteers

Lynn Ives
Terry Noble
Martha Lamm



“Therefore, if anyone is in
Christ, the new creation has
come: The old has gone, the
new is here!”
~2 Corinthians 5: 17

GREETERS

Leslie Hall
Ramona Orzell

Lay Eucharistic Ministry

Michelle James
Catherine Jancso

USHERS

January 1
Steve Thurkill
Billy Suggs

January 8
Tom Drew
Linda Hutcheson

January 15
Jim Royal
Angela Reid

January 22
Jan Arnold
MH Pridgen

January 29
Steve Thurkill
Billy Suggs

Kitchen Clean Up

Catherine Jansco
Commie Dupree





Lessons and Carols
Sunday, December 18, 2022



Cranberry mimosa's and decorating the Crismon Tree that day as well.



And if that were not enough, we also packaged 120 backpack food bags and 99 food pantry bags. Our Warm Up Guild also knitted 60 toboggans for the children at Winstead Elementary.



Some of our EYC singing carols to the residents of Spring Arbor Nursing Home.



Ping Pong anyone?



Lunch is served!



Thank you to all of you that participated this year.



Special Delivery by Mr and Mrs. Clause to the children of Carriage Court Apt.



This year, we brightened the lives of 34 families.



Greening of the Church



Dec. 22



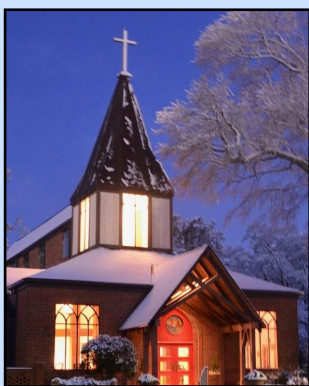


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Our Parish Family



Let Light Perpetual Shine

Jean Davenport Nelson
March 31, 1931-December 7, 2022

Wife to Joe Nelson
Mother to Neill Nelson, Kim Slason,
Lori Schacht, and Julie Pittman

**"For you formed my inmost being.
You knit me together in my mother's
womb." Ps. 139:13**

Sophie June Michalowski
Dec 10, 2022 at 8:10 p.m.

Daughter to
Brian and Kristin Michalowski
Sister to Matthew
Granddaughter to
Rick and Mary Ruffin

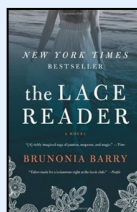


The Men's Club is meeting Saturday,
January 7th at 8am.



Every Sunday after services,
we will be packing food bags
for the students at Winstead
Elementary.

On January 15th, we will
pack bags for the food pantry
after the 10:30am service.



St. Andrew's book club will meet on
Tuesday, January 10th at 10 am in the
Church parlor. We will be discussing
The Lace Reader by Brunonia Barry.



Annual Parish Meeting will
be on Sunday,
January 22nd at 9am.
Breakfast is included!