

- A GRAIN OF MUSTARDSEED -

Dear Friends in Christ,

January 2024

Having followed my practice of the last few years in not sending out Christmas cards (it saves the parish hundreds of dollars in postage and stationary and seems redundant when we are already sending out a monthly newsletter!), let me take this opportunity, on behalf of my family and all the staff of All Saints' Church, to wish you all a continued merry Christmastide, a Happy New Year and a joyful Epiphany. Thanks are extended to Dr. Radu, our choir and instrumentalists for lovely music, our Sexton and Verger, Timothy Broussard and the whole crew of 'greeners' for a beautifully decorated church, honor shared by Chris Jackson and the Altar Guild and Margarete Marvin and the Flower Guild. The season of Epiphany begins with the feast on Saturday, January 6th (see the note below), continuing the Christmas theme of "Emmanuel: God with us." We witness the "power of God and the wisdom of God" in Jesus' humility, His teaching, and His miracles (or more properly 'signs'). We worship Him with the Magi, learn from Him with the Doctors in the temple, and adore Him with Anna and Simeon. In all we find our soul's hope and joy in the tiny baby, the young boy, the grown man. We present Him our gifts, we offer Him our praise, and we anchor all our hopes in Him. We can never know what a new year will bring, but we can know this: Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, today and forever. Whatever plans we make for the coming year (and we have a few as a parish) we shall meet it full of the confidence that life in Christ gives us, for He is "God with us," and *that* no man can take from us!

Yours in Christ, Edward L. Rix

EPIPHANY CELEBRATIONS: JAN. 6TH

We will have one celebration of Holy Communion for the Epiphany on Saturday, January 6th at 7:00 p.m. in the Church with hymns. Following the service we will have an **Epiphany Dessert Party** at the Rectory (723 Braeburn Lane). The party is potluck so please bring a dessert dish. Beverages will be provided and friends are most welcome.



VESTRY NOMINATIONS

Names are still needed to fill upcoming vestry vacancies. Give your nominations to the members of the Nominating Committee (Jonathan Wistar, chairman, Claudia Christian and Christine Jackson) or to the Wardens (Michael Yoh and Kathleen Stephans) or the Priest in Charge. Guidelines for eligibility are posted throughout the church and are available from any of those mentioned above.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Our AGM and Luncheon will be on Sunday, February 4th at 11:30 a.m. Sandwiches and Chili will be provided (donations gladly accepted). Parishioners are invited (indeed encouraged!) to bring their own soft drinks, beer, or wine as well as dessert items to share. Hot drinks will be provided. Please submit Committee Reports to Fr. Rix (preferably as a Word Document in Times New Roman Font, 12 pt.) at elrix@allsaintswynne.org no later than Friday, January 26th.

LOOKING AHEAD TO LENT

We are already making our plans for Lenten activities (Ash Wednesday is February 14). Our Quiet Day is scheduled for Saturday, February 24. Our Wednesday evening program will use, as a study text, the newly published edition of the late Dr. Robert Crouse's *Images of Pilgrimage: Paradise and Wilderness in Christian Spirituality*. The book is available on Amazon and we encourage participants to get a copy now.



"The kingdom of God...is like a grain of mustard seed, which a man took, and cast into his garden; and it grew, and waxed a great tree; and the fowls of the air lodged in the branches of it." *St. Luke 13:18-19*