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Weekly Happenings at St. Paul's

January 4, 2018



This Sunday: **January 7 Epiphany**

Happy New Year!

*Sunday School classes resume this Sunday
(Epiphany).*





What's YOUR Word for 2018?

“For last year’s words belong to last year’s language and next year’s words await another voice.” T.S. Eliot

Every person who comes to church **this Sunday – Epiphany Sunday** – **will receive the gift of a word.** Yes, one word. You are invited to ponder what significance this word might have in your life, and how God might be speaking to you through that simple message throughout the year ahead.

Epiphany House Blessings

Our homes are places where love is nurtured, grows, and practiced day after day after day. It is the foundation for our spiritual formation and center of Christian practice. Jesus was known to have visited many homes and offered blessings to those he visited. *Epiphany is traditionally the season when we bless homes for the new year and dedicate ourselves, our lives, and our homes to God.* **Come to worship on January 7th to receive your own piece of blessed chalk and prayers for blessing your home.** If you would like Rev. Mary to offer a blessing at your home during this season, please email her at rector@stpaulschatham.org.



January 6

Women's Christmas

This Saturday, January 6th is our ***Women's Christmas Retreat from 10am – 3pm***. It's not too late to participate, but please let Rev. Mary know ASAP (rector@stpaulschatham.org) for planning purposes. The day will allow for time for ***rest, reflection, and fellowship*** as we consider those who traveled to welcome the Christ child.



Stewardship Update

On behalf of the vestry, I would like to thank you all for your generosity in our 2018 stewardship campaign. Pledges have risen significantly over last year. This increase has enabled us to budget for the salary of a part-time assistant, our goal for this year. In addition, we are able to increase our outreach, Diocesan pledge and programming. ***Thank you all for supporting the growth and goals of our congregation.***

Jed Evans
Treasurer

Annual Meeting and 2017 Reports

Mark your calendar now for our **Annual All-Parish Meeting, February 11, 2018**. We will share a meal, reflections on the year past, hopes for the year ahead, elect new vestry members and Diocesan delegates, and enjoy the amazing fellowship of our community! ***If you are Chair of a committee – Altar Guild, Greeters,***

EfM, Outreach, Ushers etc. etc. – please write your annual report as soon as possible, with the deadline January 28th.

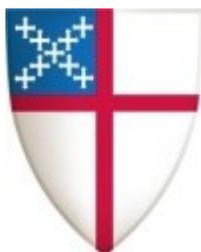


Diocesan News

After Bishop Beckwith announced his plans for retirement, our Diocese of Newark has been praying and searching for our next Bishop. These next few months will involve interviews, screening, and Diocesan-wide “walk-about,” so that we can meet the candidates. Then all Diocesan clergy, together with 3 lay delegates from each of the 100 parishes in the Diocese will gather for a special convention on May 19, 2018 for the election.

If you are interested in learning more about the Episcopal process of electing bishops, or service as a delegate for the coming year (which also includes serving as a delegate during the annual Diocesan Convention, January 25-26, 2019) please let Allison Pishko allisonpishko@yahoo.com or Rev. Mary rector@stpaulschatham.org know.

Stay warm!



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