

St. Alban's Episcopal Church

# The word

January February 2017 Volume 16, Issue 1

## From the Rector



*Fr. Jeff doing a children's sermon on the legend of the candy crozier on December 11. With Maggie Barker and Lois Roberts.*



*Children perform in the January 8 Epiphany Pageant. Many more pictures on pages 6 and 7. Thanks to Elizabeth Howton for overall management of this year's pageant, and to all the many people who make it work.*

As our Church year moves into the season of Epiphany, I can't help but think of the Proper Preface for the season. The *Proper Preface* is that little gap in the Eucharistic prayer marked by the phrase, "here a Proper Preface is sung or said on all Sundays...." The *Proper Preface* changes from season to season, and for Epiphany the preface is this:

*Because in the mystery of the Word made flesh, you have caused a new light to shine in our hearts, to give the knowledge of your glory in the face of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Those words are fitting as we move from 2016 to 2017. No one can deny that much happened last year that cast dark and ugly shadows: the terrorist attacks in our own country and around the globe; the cruelty of civil war and unrest in the middle-East and Africa; police becoming the targets of hate crimes as well as the police shootings of unarmed men; the murder of nine African American men and women who had come together to study scripture at a church in Charleston; and each of us has our own, personal, dark and ugly shadows to deal with.

We can dwell in despair or we can live into the words of the Preface for Epiphany: *...you have caused a new light to shine in our hearts....* This doesn't mean we live with our heads buried in the sand, ignoring the stark realities of this world. There is much pain and suffering in the world which sometimes makes it difficult to see God's light. In times of grief, sadness and despair, the Word-made-flesh is with us and the darkness will never overcome the truth and light of God's love. And never forget that God's light shines in our hearts – sometimes *we* are the bearers of God's light, bringing comfort and solace to the distressed, the hopeless and the fearful.

This season of Epiphany may we be filled anew with the light of Christ – the light of the World – and may we boldly share that light and that love with others in all that we do.  
–Fr. Jeff

**February 26 Annual Meeting and Vestry Elections; 10:15 am, one service only**

*Next Word issue March 2017. Articles are due February 15.*

## The Warden's Pen



Like I was taught to do at the Pentagon, I will start with the bottom line upfront. I want each of you to seriously consider running for Vestry at our Annual meeting next month. We have three members of the Vestry ending their three-year term, and we need three new members.

The Vestry is the official representative of the parish with regard to all matters concerning the secular side of our parish. We adopt a budget, watch our financial health, and make all major decisions about the church property. The coming year will be an important one for the Vestry, with important decisions to be made about parking lot and kitchen remodeling.

The real strength of the St. Alban's Vestry is that we represent the full range of the parish membership. We have those who attend the 8:15 am service and others who attend the 10:15 am service. We have Vestry members who have been at St. Alban's their entire life and others who are pretty new. Our Vestry members are active in a variety of the St. Alban's ministries. Several of us have children or youth. Others raised their children years ago.

So, whether you are a brand new member or old, retired or working, single or in a family, we need your voice on the Vestry. The time commitment is not great—only one hour and a half meeting a month—but you will be helping St. Albans be an even better place to worship.  
-Chuck Blanchard, Senior Warden

## Stewardship

### New Year – New Opportunities to Serve God!

Happy New Year and blessings to you! The New Year always brings thoughts of resolutions, new beginnings and new opportunities. We invite you to put some thought into what you would like St. Alban's to accomplish this year. What ministries would you like to see continue and/or expand? What new ministries would you like to see start up? How can you contribute to making those things happen? The upcoming Annual Meeting (February 26) will be a great time to speak up about what kind of church and congregation and community you would like St. Alban's to be.

Many, many thanks to those who have filled out and turned in your financial commitment card for 2017. Our annual campaign got off to a great start, and we are so grateful. We know that the holidays can be a hectic time and even things you really want to do can fall through the cracks, so if you have been meaning to fill out your card, there is still time! Whether your commitment is \$2 per week or \$200 per month or \$20,000 per year, we are grateful for your gift and your commitment to make St. Alban's a vibrant, active congregation.

Here's to a great 2017, full of love, worship, and ministry! -Allison Blanchard

### St. Alban's December Hypothermia Shelter

My deepest thanks to all you lovely people who helped out with our Hypothermia Prevention program the week before Christmas.

All of you gave so generously of your time and shared your food with our less fortunate neighbors.

-Delores Baisden



*Christmas eve serving team: Delores Baisden, Christine Cannon, Lori Jones, Jim Cannon and Rod Grandon. Parishioners donated and served warm meals to homeless people seeking overnight shelter at St. Alban's from December 19-24.*

### EfM Classes 2017

The Bible, Church History, and Theology for Lay People  
“Challenging, fun, deep, and rewarding”  
Registration now open.  
Classes start mid-January 2017  
Mondays 7-9 pm or  
Wednesdays 9-11:30 am  
Contact **Kay** or **Steve Lusk**



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### Next Edition March 2017

Articles/photos welcome!  
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## CHOIR NOTES



**January 8.** The Genevan Psalter dates from 1539, when the protestant reformer John Calvin directed the publication in Strasbourg of a collection of 19 psalms suitable for congregational singing in the local language (French), rather than the Latin of the Roman Catholic tradition. Subsequent editions were published in Geneva, beginning in 1542. *Lord, When You came to Jordan*, with a text by the English hymn-poet Brian Wren (b. 1936), uses Geneva 130, a tune in the 1542 Geneva Psalter that was harmonized by Claude Goudimel in 1564.

**January 15.** George Frideric Handel (1685-1759) was born in Halle, Germany in the same year as J.S. Bach. The two never met, even though Handel resided in his country of birth until leaving for Italy in 1706, where he continued his budding career as a composer of operas in the Italian baroque style. Handel moved to London in 1710 and became a British citizen in 1726. As Italian operas fell out of favor with London audiences, he began composing oratorios. The best-known of these is *Messiah*, written in the very short time span between August 22 and September 14, 1741 and first performed in Dublin in April 1742. This Sunday we will sing *Behold the Lamb of God*, the opening chorus of Part II of *Messiah*.

**January 22.** I think everyone will happily “Handel” another chorus from *Messiah*. *His Yolk is Easy and His Burthen is Light* is the conclusion to Part I.

**January 29.** Sir H[enry] Walford Davies (1869-1941) was born in Shropshire. He studied, then taught at the Royal College of Music; served as organist at various churches in the London area; was briefly director of music for the Royal Air Force; became a popular host of a BBC radio program on classical music; served for 20 years as Professor of Music at Aberystwyth University in Wales; and became Master of the King’s Musick from 1934 to his death in 1941. His compositional output is modest and consists mainly of sacred music. We will be singing his anthem, *Blest Are the Pure in Heart*.

**February 5.** Our anthem this Sunday is *Arise, Shine, Thy Light Is Come* by the French composer, Camille Saint-Saëns (1835-1921). The text is from Isaiah 60. A prolific composer in a wide variety of genres, including the opera, *Samson and Delilah*, and that Halloween favorite, *Danse macabre*, Saint-Saëns was also an outstanding organist (the best of his time, according to Liszt).

**February 12.** L. Paul Drummond (1947-2007), a native of Midland, Texas who served in the U.S. Marine Corps before earning a doctorate in music from the University of Northern Colorado, was Professor of Music and director of the choir at Central Methodist University in Missouri from 1981 to 2007. Our choir director, **Fred Binkholder**, is one of his distinguished students. We will be singing Drummond’s anthem, *Gratitude C.M.*

**February 19.** The text of *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*, penned by Charles Wesley (1707-1788), has been set to music by a number of composers. The setting in our hymnal (#657) is by Rowland Hugh Prichard. We will be singing this hymn to music by the late Sir David Willcocks (1919-2016), who served for a number of years as Director of the King’s College Choir, Cambridge.

**February 26.** This Sunday we will sing an arrangement of *If Thou But Trust in God to Guide Thee* (#635), the text and tune of which were written by the German composer Georg Neumark (1621-1681). We will be singing an arrangement of this tune by Jody W. Lindh (b. 1944), who served as choir director of the University Park United Methodist Church in Dallas from 1969 to 2013. Lindh, a Lutheran, retains his membership at Elim Lutheran Church in Marquette, Kansas, co-founded by his great-grandfather in the 1880s.

-Clarence Zuvekas

### Muldoon Concert Series 2016-17

**January 15 Modern Musick,**  
period chamber music. Nave

**March 5 Washington Saxophone Quartet,**  
with guest artist, our organist Jinsun Cho. Nave

**April 9 Victoria Wyatt and Friends:**  
piano, guitar, strings, and more. Parish Hall

**May 14 Mikyoung Cho**  
piano. Parish Hall

*All concerts are at 4:00 p.m.*

## From the Deacon



*Deacon Theresa at Samaritan Ministries party on December 11.*

### Bringing God's Light to the World

As winter progresses and the days get lighter, the Gospels recount events that reveal Jesus' divinity. The season of Epiphany invites us to reflect on the ways we can reveal God's love to others.

Those who live alone or have mobility problems can become more isolated because of the weather. People who are homeless may not survive the winter if they don't have warm, dry shelter.

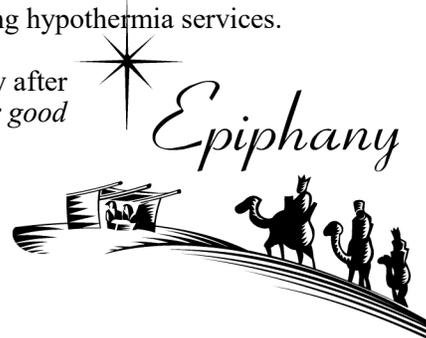
Bring God's light to the world. Reach out to those who are more isolated during the winter to provide connection and assurance that they aren't alone. Join the Sleepy Hollow team. Residents often have fewer visitors this time of year.

In December, we hosted the hypothermia shelter, ensuring that people could come off the street and experience the warm hospitality of St. Alban's. During Epiphany, we will collect new socks for women and men living at the shelter or needing hypothermia services.

In the Gospel for the Fifth Sunday after Epiphany Jesus says "...let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven." (Matthew 5:16).

May you experience and share the light of Christ this Epiphany Season.

-Deacon Theresa



## From the Seminarian

As the fall semester comes to an end at Virginia Theological Seminary, I have been reflecting on my time at St. Alban's. I have come to know many of you and you have graciously allowed me to grow and experiment in your presence with my call to the ordained ministry.



*Seminarian Adam Pierce, his wife Laurie and their daughter Alea welcomed a new daughter and little sister, Hazel Margaret, in November. Baby Hazel made her first church appearance on December 4.*

As I reflect on opportunities for future growth in the months ahead with you, I have been thinking of offering a space in which we can come together for a discussion on the ways in which we proclaim our faith in our daily lives outside of Sunday mornings. For those of you who are particularly adept, you are correct; that is what we call evangelizing.

I know that is a scary word, but know this: I do not think evangelizing means telling others they need something that I have. I believe that evangelizing relates more to how we live our lives and how our faith is reflected in the day to day decisions we make and the relationships we keep and seek. This is still a work in progress, but I hope you would be interested in a discussion like this and be open to utilizing resources outside of our tradition. I will be away from St. Alban's until February, but during this time I will be working on a structure for this discussion. I look forward to providing you with more details in the weeks ahead and I hope you would prayerfully consider joining me.

-Seminarian Adam



On December 11, Mitchell Cook was the child bishop at the 10:15 am service and Cole Lieberthal (shown with Bob Zikowitz) was the child bishop at the early service. Photo far right: "Bishop" Mitchell hands out candy crozier to Lois Roberts during children's sermon.



Mary Daymont's 3rd and 4th grade Sunday school class studied the nativity and made their own. Shown above Alayna O'Connell & James Chilton.



Maggie Barker (above) and Gwen Jillson (to right) discover gold coins in their shoes after 10:15 am church services on December 11. Looks like St. Nick stopped by!



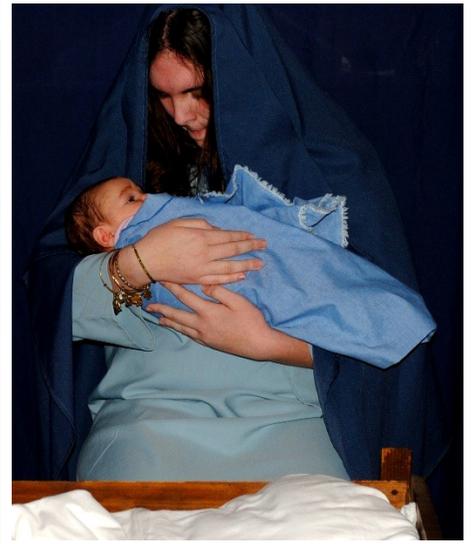
Cole Lieberthal and Sam Jillson on stage with Santa: December 11 Samaritan Ministries party.



Angela Leersnyder and Darius and Isanne Zorin help "green" the church on December 18.

## Getting Ready for Christmas!

# Epiphany Pageant January 8

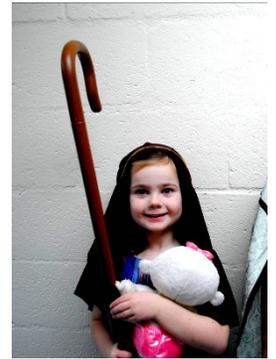




## Our pageant is a labor of love!

Thanks to our “cast”: Narrators: **Henry Clune, John Lesko**; Angel Gabriel: **Kendall Huheey**; Angel of the Lord: **Kaela Huheey**; Zechariah: **Robby Ensinger-Larson**; Elizabeth: **Olivia DePasquale**; Baby John: **Edmund Keiper**; Mary: **Allison Perina**; Joseph: **Jack Lesko**; Donkey: **Cecilia Howton**; Baby Jesus: **Hazel Pierce**; Innkeeper: **Ted Blanchard**; Innkeeper’s Wife: **Julia Lesko**; Herod: **Darius Zorin**; Herod’s Assistant: **Sebastian Roberts**; 3 Wise (Wo)Men: **Abigail Cook, Emma Conkle, Han Binkholder**; Head Angels **Sophia DePasquale, Olivia Findorff**; Head Shepherd: **Felix Howton**.

And thanks to all the supporting actor sheep, shepherds and angels. And a big thanks to this year’s pageant coordinator, **Elizabeth Howton**.



## Christmas Eve 2016



*Photo above: Children gather in procession on Christmas eve to deliver the baby Jesus to the crèche to complete the nativity scene on the altar.  
Photo left: Aaron Chilton was entrusted with the carrying of the baby Jesus to the crèche with a little help from his brothers Declan and James.*

## EfM Classes Forming

Education for Ministry (EfM) is an international program of theological education for lay people. The four year program – committed to one year at a time – covers the Old and New Testaments, the Apocrypha, church history, and theology. Through study, prayer, discussion, and reflection in a small group setting, led by trained mentors, participants discover and nurture their gifts for ministry.

There’s nothing else like it for the laity, but you don’t have to take my word for it . . .

“I don’t think you can fully understand the Bible without putting into proper context, and, of the numerous courses I’ve taken over the years, only EfM has been able to do that. If you want to know more about the Bible, church history, and the theology that are at the foundation of our faith, there’s no better way to do it than EfM.” (Mary Lynn Rynkiewicz, Class of 2018)

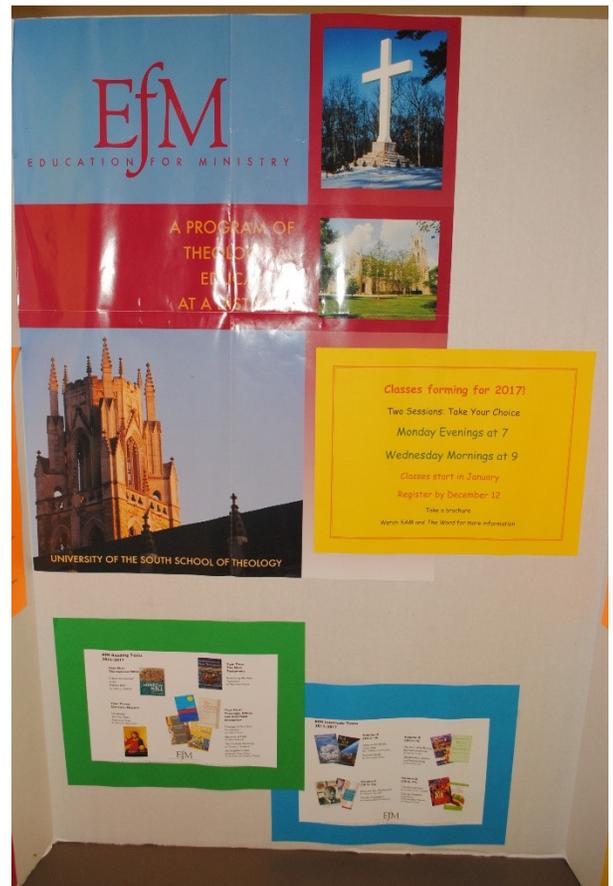
*Theology is far too much fun to leave to church leaders or the tomes of history. Encountering the Christian tradition of fierce debate around what we can extrapolate about the nature of God was like finding something I didn’t know I was thirsty for.* (Kathryn Banakis, Episcopal Priest and author of Bubble Girl: An Irreverent Journey of Faith)

EfM is “a place to give your intellectual curiosity free rein. It encourages critical thinking and asking questions. It taught me HOW to think theologically, something I now do every time I read something in the paper that bothers me.” (Delores Baiden, Class of 2014)

*If there only existed a single sense for the words of Scripture, then the first commentator to come along would discover it, and other hearers would experience neither the labor of searching, nor the joy of finding.* (Ephrem of Edessa, 306-373, theologian and hymnist)

EfM “shattered a lot of my old certainties and I moved to a faith that I have to work out going forward. This is not a solitary journey, thank God. Others in the class share this pathway with me for a time—lending encouragement, shared experience, and their own stories and insights.” (Joan Jurenas, Class of 2018)

*It has all along been God’s manner to open new scenes, and to bring forth to view things new and wonderful.* –Jonathan Edwards (1703-58, American theologian)



### EfM Classes 2017

#### The Bible, Church History, and Theology for Lay People

“Challenging, fun, deep, and rewarding”

Registration now open.

Classes start mid-January 2017

Mondays 7-9 pm or

Wednesdays 9-11:30 am

Contact **Kay** or **Steve Lusk**

EfM is “a community of believers with whom I can worship, discuss, explore, question, reflect, laugh and cry without ridicule, or judgment.” (Donna Archer, Class of 2016)

*Truth is not an individual thing; no one of us has all of it – even all of it that is known. Truth is a corporate possession, and the knowledge of it is a corporate process.* (William Porcher DuBose, 1836-1918, Episcopal priest and theologian)

“EFM should be renamed “Exploration for Me” because it is a very personal journey searching for an understanding of faith for each of us.” (Sara Zimmerman, Class of 2017)

*Do not say 'I will study when I have time to study', because you will never have the time to study.* (Hillel the Elder, 110 BC-AD 10, Pharisee)

Classes meet at St. Alban’s on Monday evenings, 7-9 pm or Wednesday mornings, 9-11:30 am, starting the week of January 23. Contact **Kay** or **Steve Lusk** to register. –Steve Lusk



*Gift Wrapping Youth Fundraiser: Jeanne Foster (now Jeanne Martinez!), Kate Wettstein, Emily Rutherford and Gwen DiFilippi wrap gifts on December 4 to fundraise for the Youth Group summer mission trip to Appalachia. Emily Rutherford (right) gave a "promo" for the gift wrapping fundraiser at the 10:15 am church service.*



*Dottie Ninde and Jean Martin serve meals at Poe.*

### **Poe Middle School Feeding Program**

Have you ever wondered what would happen if you had to go to bed hungry? What if you didn't receive a hot breakfast, lunch or dinner? Fortunately, most of us don't. However, for many of the children of Poe Middle School -- our local middle school here in Annandale-- that is a daily reality.

With the generosity of Giant (Store #249 in the Bradlick Shopping Center), our parishioners, the Outreach Committee, as well as many countless volunteers who have committed to shopping, cooking, transporting, serving and cleaning-up, we are now making a difference in the lives on many young members of our community! St. Alban's cooks a hot meal for 350+ kids every other week.

Would you like to get involved? No matter how big or small, your involvement makes a difference. We have two

teams – spearheaded by **Remy Jurenas** and **Camille Stern**, and led by **Moirra Skinner**. We welcome you to join us!

### **Did you know:**

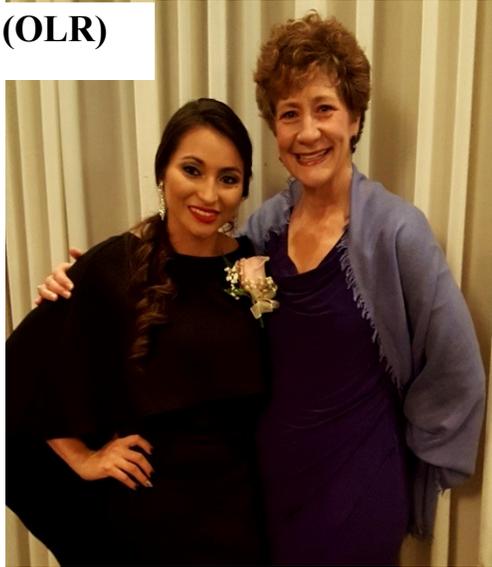
- 94.0 percent of all Poe students participated in the After-School Program during the 2015-16 school year.
- The average weekly attendance for the After-School Program was nearly 1,000 students (We usually see 300-350 per meal).
- 72.3 percent of Poe students received free or reduced priced meals -- Of those students, 95.4 percent participated in the After-School Program.
- Students who attended the After-School Program more than two times per week performed better academically and were more likely to attend school regularly when compared to those who attended less frequently.
- Students who attended the After-School Program more than three times per week performed even better academically, were even more likely to attend school regularly, and were less likely to have any disciplinary incidents at school when compared to those who attended less frequently.

-Camille Stern

## A Trip to Our Little Roses (OLR)



*Raquel, sponsored by Sarah Walinsky, Eric Jurenas, Mel Daymont, and Chet Fraunfelder as mission youth.*



*Chris poses with Eduvigas, one of the high school graduates. "Duva" as she is lovingly known, graduated with honors and spoke during the commencement ceremony. She came to OLR in 2010 and has flourished through the program. The Pecks are one of Duva's sponsor families.*



*Larry and Jo with Geneses, one of the Roses who graduated from high school this year.*



*Sponsor Chris clowns around with Kathryn as the OLR Roses and missionaries from around the country prepare for the wedding of Maricruz and Bryan. Maricruz is an alumna of OLR. The Pecks have served as sponsors of Maricruz since 2007.*



*Bethel is Raquel's daughter.*



*Ismelda serves as acolyte; she spoke at St. Alban's a year ago.*

St. Alban's missionaries **Jo** and **Larry Hodgins** and **Chris Murphy Peck** traveled to Our Little Roses (OLR) Home for Girls in San Pedro Sula, Honduras December 1 through 6. In addition to bringing medical and other supplies for the home, the trip focused on the graduation of several of the Roses – an achievement reached by only 50 percent of the girls in Honduras. Among these girls, several will go onto college, including Eduvigas, who is sponsored by the Peck Family. "Duva" as she is known, came to OLR in 2010. She graduated with honors and spoke at the commencement ceremony. Several of her sponsors from around the country were in attendance.

In addition to the graduation ceremony, a wedding took place at the home! Maricruz, an OLR alumna married her high school sweetheart, Bryan. Maricruz arrived at OLR when she was 12 and has since graduated from high school, now works in one of the local call centers and is pursuing her college studies. Bryan has been coming to the home since he was a young boy with his mother to visit his cousins who grew up in the home. They have a daughter, Amy Christine. The Pecks have sponsored Maricruz since 2007.

We remain grateful for the support of the St. Alban's community for the good work we are able to do with OLR. The achievements of the Roses continue to be a shining light in San Pedro Sula, giving hope to young girls throughout the city.

-Larry Hodgins and Chris Murphy Peck



*Wedding Bells! Jeanne Foster and Salvador Martinez were married on December 18. Here is Jeanne with Salvador, her maid of honor, sister Becky Lane and best man, Salvadore's nephew, Peter Buzzanell.*



*Catalina, daughter of Winthrop Cashdollar and Patricia Ann Holcomb, was baptized on January 8. Her Godparents are Anne and Harlan Stone Cashdollar.*

## February Birthdays



Rosemary Beales	1
DeeDee Payne	2
Ted Blanchard	3
Gina Clune	4
Jayden Baer	4
Ed Caress	6
Gwen DeFilippi	7
Marta Hyde	8
Wendy Cleland-Hamnett	8
Harris Andrews	9
Edwin Allison-Espinoza	9
Robby Larson-Ensinger	10
Kit Ryan	11
Michael White	11
Bob Ensinger	12
Han Binkholder	12
Evie Tanner	13
Mikyoung Cho	14
Bill Calvert	16
Ann Gamber	17
Stephanie Farley	17
Jinny Jennings	18
Paul Lavrakas	18
Sarah Rutherford	18
Henry Clune	20
Tammy Conkle	21
Kevin Moore	21
Maggie Barker	21
Linda Cummings	22
Malcolm White	22
Jean Stonesifer	23
Cathy Casey	23
Sipho Kargbo	24
Dave Wildes	26
Al Avellino	29
Dennis Cook	29

## January Birthdays

Bill Sargent	3	Katie Slacin	19
Hillary Leersnyder	3	Amy Perina	21
Trevor Hershner	3	Ginger Caress	22
Jo Hodgkin	5	Chloe Achieng	22
Steve Hershner	5	Karen Weinberg	23
David Allison	7	Ella Jackson	23
Cole Lieberthal	8	Natasha O'Loughlin	24
Dottye Stacy	10	Steven Canales Romero	24
Jack Martin	10	Kathy Moore	25
Jeff Harre	12	Fred Chatelain	27
Ben Dillard	12	Tom Tycz	27
Erica LaPrade	13	Matt Gelman	28
Lori Ebersohl	14	Blaine Jackson	30
Stephanie Rosse	18		



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## January February Calendar Highlights

- January 15 **Muldoon Concert** (see below)
- Mid-January **2017 EfM classes start**  
Mondays 7-9 pm or Wednesdays 9-11:30 am
- January 22 **Youth Group Taco Dinner** 5:00 pm
- January 26-28 **Diocesan Convention**, Reston  
Moira Skinner; David Spencer delegates
- February 1 **Family Ministry Dinner** 6:00 pm
- February 4 **Chili Cook-off** 5:00 pm
- February 5 **Youth Group Sub Sales** between and during services
- February 26 **Annual Meeting**; 10:15 am, one service only
- February 28 **Pancake Supper**

*Note: If you wish for your event (during the period from mid-January to mid-February) to be covered in the March Word, please be sure to take photos and kindly send them and their captions to Barbara Hallman at [bhallman1@cox.net](mailto:bhallman1@cox.net). Barbara will be out of town during this period. Next edition of The Word: March*

 **Muldoon Concert Series 2016-17**  
**January 15 Nave 4:00 pm**  
Modern Musick, period chamber music.



*Fr. Jeff responds to all kinds of questions posed by the congregation during the special Sermon at both services on December 4. Below, St. Nick left coins!*

