

St. Francis at the Point Anglican Church



JANUARY 2022 Newsletter



JANUARY

Sunday, January 2 - 10 am
First Fruit Sunday

Thursday, January 6 - 4:30 pm
Finance Committee

Saturday, January 8 - 8am
Men's Breakfast

Saturday, January 8 - 9:30 am
AWG Meeting

Sunday, January 23 - 11:30 am
Vestry Meeting

Sunday, January 30 - 11:30 am
Children's Ministry meeting



VESTRY:

2020 - Gerald Lewis – Junior Warden

2020 - Anne Howard

2021 - Gypsie Van Antwerp

2021 - Maureen Moreland

2022 - Paul Renn

2022 - Theresa Lacey

Robin Renn – Secretary

Jeanine Wickham – Treasurer

WHAT IS THE EPIPHANY?

According to the Evangelical Dictionary of Theology the word is a transliteration of the Greek word *epiphaneia*, which means a disclosure or unveiling. In the early church, they settled on January 6th as the day to celebrate Epiphany and it came to be recognized as the day we remember the wise men coming to worship Jesus. It is the gospel being revealed to the gentiles. Therefore, traditionally, the church sees this time of the church year to emphasize evangelism and missions.

Unlike other seasons in the church year, the Epiphany season is not a fixed number of weeks because it lasts until Ash Wednesday. Ash Wednesday moves based on the date of Easter. Therefore, the Epiphany season can be 5 Sundays long or up to 9 Sundays in length.

The church year follows the life of Christ and the birth of the church. The Epiphany season is also the time we remember the three ministry years of Jesus. When I think of Epiphany as a time of revealing, or unveiling, I see the entire life of Christ as a time of revealing himself to the people of Israel and to the gentiles. Examine many of the events of his life, and you can see people becoming aware of who he is: the Son of God. For instance, his first miracle at the wedding at Cana in Galilee or the transfiguration on a mountain with Peter, James and John. There are many others.

As we worship and go about our daily life, let us remember we are in the season of Epiphany and allow the light of Christ to shine in our lives so others may see.

MIT PROFESSOR TOOK A CHANCE ON GOD

MIT professor Rosalind Picard shares how she met the Author of all knowledge:

As early as grade school, when I was a straight-A student, I identified with being smart. And I believed smart people didn't need religion. As a result, I declared myself an atheist and dismissed people who believed in God as uneducated.

In high school, I babysat to earn money. One of my favorite families was a young couple; both the husband (a doctor) and the wife were really sharp. One night, after paying me, they invited me to church. I was stunned—people this smart actually went to church? When Sunday morning came around, I told them I had a stomachache.

Eventually, the couple tried a different tack. They said, "Going to church is not what matters most. What matters is what you believe. Have you read the Bible?" The doctor suggested starting with Proverbs. To my surprise, Proverbs was full of wisdom. I had to pause while reading and think. I then read through the entire Bible. I felt this strange sense of being spoken to. I began wondering whether there really might be a God.

During my freshman year in college, I reconnected with a friend who was a straight-A student and a star on both the basketball court and football field. I had never known anyone so smart and athletic. He then he invited me to his church.

One Sunday, the pastor got my attention when he asked, "Who is Lord of your life?" I was intrigued: I was the captain of my ship, but was it possible that God would actually be willing to lead me? In the spirit of Pascal's wager, I decided to run an experiment, believing I had much to gain but very little to lose.

After praying, "Jesus Christ, I ask you to be Lord of my life," my world changed dramatically. It was as if a flat, black-and-white existence suddenly turned full-color and three-dimensional. I felt joy and freedom—but also a heightened sense of responsibility and challenge.

Today, I am a professor at the top university (MIT) in my field. I work closely with people whose lives are filled with medical struggles, people whose children are not healthy. I do not have adequate answers to explain all their suffering. But I know there is a God of unfathomable greatness and love who freely enters into relationship with all who confess their sins and call upon his name.

I once thought I was too smart to believe in God. Now I know I was an arrogant fool who snubbed the greatest Mind in the cosmos—the Author of all science, mathematics, art, and everything else there is to know. Today I walk humbly, having received the most undeserved grace.

Source:

Rosalind Picard, "I Got Smart and Took a Chance on God," CT magazine (April, 2019), pp. 71



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Ryan Mello - 01/06
 Hannah Baggett - 01/10
 Alice Cutright - 01/10
 Nina Secrist - 01/19
 Gary Blaylock - 01/26
 Bettye Bowick - 01/31
 Jeanine Wickham - 01/31

ANNIVERSARIES

Jack and Bevelyn Wallace - 01/04
 Ann and Henry Russell - 01/25



If your date is not on these lists or if your information is incorrect, we do apologize. Please email the church office at stfrancisatthepoint@gmail.com or fill out a communication card with the correct information.



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY COMMITTEE

We are forming a committee to oversee all aspects of our children's ministry, from the nursery up to middle school. Our first informational meeting will be on Sunday, January 30th, after church during the brunch. If you are interested, we would love to have you attend the meeting. After the meeting, you can let Fr. Gary know if you want be on the committee.



Bill Pleasants

Mr. Bill Pleasants has joined the St. Francis congregation. He was born and raised in Virginia.

He spent six years in the United States Navy. He was stationed in Southeast Asia for two of those years.

He has resided on the Gulf of Mexico for thirty-three years and comes to us from the Atlanta area. After retiring from the Federal Aviation Administration, he decided to make our area home.

He reads and studies the King James Bible and the 1928 Prayer Book.

His hobbies include painting with acrylics on stretched canvas and cooking Cajun, Louisiana and some Italian cuisine.

Please introduce yourselves to Bill and welcome him to our church family.



MORTGAGE REDUCTION PLAN AND REPORT

Our mortgage currently stands at \$ 290,195.93 for November

We are asking every member to prayerfully consider giving a small amount every month towards the mortgage. Every dollar you give to reduce the mortgage is worth more than a dollar to the church because we will no longer pay interest every month on that dollar.

total given to date: \$ 13,315.00

FIRST FRUITS SUNDAY

For the month of January, we will be collecting cereal for Ecumenical Ministries' food pantry. Remember all our donations are distributed to **local** families in need. Our friends and neighbors will benefit.



FATHER GARY'S SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

Father Gary's new Sunday School class will start on January 23rd at 9:00 A.M. It will be focused on the book "Mere Christianity" by C.S. Lewis. Please sign up and read the preface, chapter 1 and chapter 2 in preparation for our first session. You will need to get your own copy of the book.



FATHER MILTON'S SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

Father Milton's Sunday School class will resume on January 16th at 9:00 A.M. The study will continue to examine the life of St. Paul through his writings in the New Testament.



FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

Our regular monthly Finance Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, January 6th at 4:30 P.M. in the Parish Hall. All members are welcome to attend.

MEN'S BREAKFAST WILL START UP IN JANUARY

The men's breakfast will be starting back up on January 8, 2022. All male members are welcome to come participate. Meet in the Parish Hall at 8:00 A.M.



FINANCIAL REPORT

The most recent financial report which has been approved by the vestry will also be posted on the bulletin board next to the vestry minutes. Any member who wants to see a more detailed report can ask the Treasurer, Jeanine Wickham, for a copy.

NOVEMBER

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Income:	\$ 28,475	\$ 19,647
Expenses:	\$ 20,347	\$ 21,969



AWG MEETING

The monthly meeting of the AWG will be held on Saturday, January 8th at 9:30 A.M. in the Parish Hall. Plans for the coming year will be on the agenda along with a discussion of the St. Patrick's Day Dinner.

*All ladies of the church are invited
and encouraged to attend.*



VESTRY MEETING

The vestry will meet January 23rd immediately after Sunday brunch. All members are invited to attend.