



St. Michael's Episcopal Church

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JANUARY 2012

*“Remember, not only what Jesus did,
but what He would have us do for others.”*

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

JANUARY 15TH

12 PM

Your meeting...Your voice!

(see details inside)



Bishop

The Rt. Rev. Bruce MacPherson

Rector

The Rev. George Gennuso, Jr.

Deacon

The Rev. Belle Rollins

Vestry

Sr. Warden
Tracy Alletag

Jr. Warden
John Ray

Clerk

Scott McCoy

Chaplain

Lillian Wooley

Sandi McCoy	Michael Rachal
Londa Price	Clara Kirk
David Mobley	Brenda Milam
Frank Stevens	Kitty Wynn

Treasurer

Holli Rachal

Accounting Manager

Martha Herren

Sunday Schedule

Holy Eucharist 8 am & 10:30 am
Angel Food Breakfast - 9 – 10 am
Christian Education for all
9:30 – 10:15 am

Weekday Eucharist

Tuesday 10 am
Thursday 5:30 pm

Supply Organist, Janet Rutherford

Choir Director, Roger McCoy

Altar Guild Directress

Ann Wells

Flower Coordinator

Brenda Milam
Renee' Alewine
Cyndi Salmon

“The Epiphany of our Lord “

(meditation by Sam Portaro – taken from “Brighter and Best”)

The magi may not have been what we have thought them to be. The number of the magi, now accepted as three, is logical conjecture, based upon the number of gifts recorded in Matthew’s gospel, but there is no specific number in the text. Is it not possible that there were only two magi and that one brought an extra offering? Or might there have been more – say, six – all of whom pitched in to pay for the three gifts? We cannot even be sure that they were kings; the term magus was often a contemptuous name for itinerant magicians and entertainers. I rather like the notion that the magi might have been traveling entertainers, members of a class commonly accepted as fools in every sense of that word. Of course, such a possibility radically alters the asymmetry of the crèche, where the exotically adorned kings clearly upstate everyone, including the winsome animals and the Holy Family itself. In that regard, the magi are the most modern of all our religious symbols, sympathetic icons of power and wealth that draw more attention than a child born in poverty, more attention even than God. There is something right about a troupe of wandering artists whose whim to follow a star brings them to the cradle of Jesus. That might explain their unthinking stupidity at dropping in on Herod, asking the whereabouts of his local rival. Surely a genuinely learned person of the period would have known enough of local politics and human nature to surmise that no one in Herod’s position was going to countenance a second king within his own borders. That they may have been itinerant entertainers is also a likely explanation of their later mistrust of Herod and their ability to slip out of his territory quickly and without incident, even as they probably skipped town on other occasions when the heat was on.

But above all else, the possibility that the magi were really pretty simple people fully accords with Paul’s notion in Ephesians that God’s revelation is a truth often hidden from the learned and the wise, only to be revealed most fully to the simple. There is then no reason why Matthew or any other gospeler would have had cause to call these people kings; had they been kings, would not those who recorded the story have surely marked that detail with some pride?

Yet, we want the story the way tradition gives it to us. As it stands, the story suggests that the rich and powerful, the learned and the astute are the first to recognize and name the infant Jesus a king. This validation accords with our own belief that superior intellect and study produced insight, that truth is suspect until it is acknowledged by power and wealth. That’s the way it’s supposed to be, not only at the manger but in life.

What is more difficult --- hence more exotic, mysterious, and wonderful – is the possibility that some simple and foolish people, drawn to the side of the manger, might surrender everything to the unknown child therein. How these travelers came by their gifts, we cannot know. But is it so strange that entertainers and magicians should possess them? If we lavish material wealth on their modern counterparts, is it no conceivable that they might have come by those gifts in the course of their travels, as payment for their own talents to amuse?

There is only one thing about this story that we can hold with any certainty: whoever these people were and wherever they were from, they were henceforth called “wise.” Their wisdom was not necessarily the precondition of their visitation, but it was certainly the one gift they took with them from that stable. Wisdom, then, is not the prerequisite to relationship with Jesus, but the product of know the Lord. Those who encounter God come away with more, and better, than what they bring. And is this not always the case in every relationship? If we ever come to know wisdom in our relationship, are we not always wiser on the way home?

JANUARY 2012	<i>January 1 Holy Name of Jesus</i>	<i>January 8 The Epiphany</i>	<i>January 15 Conversion of St. Peter</i>	<i>January 22 Conversion of St. Paul</i>	<i>January 29 4th Sunday after the Epiphany</i>
ALTAR	WHITE	WHITE	WHITE	WHITE	GREEN
SUNDAY READINGS	Numbers 6:22-27 Psalm 8 Galatians 4:4-7 Luke 2:15-21	Isaiah 60:1-6 Psalm 72:1-7-10-14 Ephesians 3:1-12 Matthew 2:1-12	Acts 4:8-13 Psalm 23 1 Peter 5:1-4 Matthew 16:13-19	Acts 26:9-21 Psalm 67 Galatians 1:11-24 Matthew 10:16-22	Deut. 18:15-20 Psalm 111 I Cor. 8:1-13 Mark 1:21-28
ALTAR GUILD	Diane Lawton Barbara Alewine Rebecca Williams	Dorothy Adrion Christy Adrion Nancy Gingras Gail Wilking	Barbara Dupre C.Fernandez M.Hampshire Carol Hampshire	Ann Wells Jeannie Basco Pam Childress	Diane Lawton Barbara Alewine Rebecca Williams
VESTRY HOST	Frank Stevens Clara Kirk	Tracy Alletag John Ray	Londa Price Frank Stevens	Michael Rachal David Mobley	Brenda Milam Frank Stevens
ANGEL FOOD BREAKFAST	Edward's family	EYA	Brotherhood	Clay's/Prices	ECW
ALTAR FLOWERS	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS	Londa Price Kelly Edwards	Londa Price Kelly Edwards	Londa Price Kelly Edwards	Londa Price Kelly Edwards	Londa Price Kelly Edwards
HOME COMMUNION	Deacon Belle	Renee' Alewine	Gail Wilking	Renee Alewine	Gail Wilking
NURSERY	Pam and Johnny Childress	Bud Sweeney Kelly Edwards	Grace Gennuso Dawn Arceneaux	Londa and Michelle Price	Josh and Lacey Brown
LEM - 8 AM	Londa Price	Cyndi Menton	Suzanne Long	Martha Herren	Michael Rachal
ACOLYTE 8 AM	Nathaniel Rachal	Nathaniel Rachal	Nathaniel Rachal	Nathaniel Rachal	Nathaniel Rachal
USHERS/ GREETERS 8AM	Don and Linda Savage	Fred and Jean Normand	John and Brenda Ray	Cyndi and Chuck Menton	John and Mary Jo Morrow
LEM 10:30 AM	Brian Warner Hollie Rachal LaNell Alletag	Michael Rachal Suzanne Long Renee Alewine	Renee' Alewine Johnny Childress Lacey Brown	Patti Noel Pam Childress Josh Brown	Michael Rachal Kelly Edwards Tracy Alletag
ACOLYTES 10:30 AM	Boley Edmonds Julia Clarius Jimmy Clarius	Bud Gingras Kay Lea Ward Alex Brady Preston Edwards	Jimmy Clarius Paris Edwards Luke Ward	Julia Clarius Boley Edmonds Nathaniel Rachal Paige Edwards	Abbi Clarius Skylar Edwards Bud Gingras Dax Clarius
READERS 10:30 AM	OT S. Rogge PS N. Rachal NT B. Milam POP B. Warner	OT M. Callaway PS N. Gingras NT L. Alletag POP T. Alletag	OT F. Stevens PS P. Childress NT S. Branch POP J. Childress	OT S. McCoy PS O. Rogge NT L. Cutshall POP D. Mobley	OT M. Herren PS K. Edwards NT L.V. Shipp POP B. Milam
USHERS/ GREETERS 10:30 AM	Trish and Steve Clarius	Patti Noel Grace Gennuso	Steve Branch Stuart Spurlin	Nancy Gingras Bud Gingras	Suzanne Long Brian Corley
COFFEE HOUR	<i>January Birthdays</i>	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA



A Study of Judaism...

REDISCOVERING OUR CHRISTIAN ROOTS!

**February 2 through March 29
(every Thursday in February and March)**

Schedule as follows:

5: 30 p.m. – Eucharist

6 PM – Dinner

6:30 PM – 8 PM – Study

Nursery provided!



How did Judaism developed from its biblical roots to the highly developed system we know today? What has changed – – and what has remained constant? The answers to these questions are relevant to all faiths, as well as to anyone seeking to broaden their understanding of ancient history – – a passed that is unavoidably linked to the present.

The roots of Judaism reached back to the Hebrew Bible – – also known as the Old Testament by Christians. For thousands of years, Jews have looked to the Scriptures for their origins, and have located in them the tenets of their faith. The Bible provides Jews reasons for sadness and joy, wisdom, and most of all, a profound belief in what God expects of them and as promised to them.

For example, worshiping in places other than the single, original Temple in Jerusalem is expressly forbidden by the Bible area nevertheless, Jews today worship and synagogues wherever there might be a Jewish community. Similarly, the Rabbinic model, for centuries the most visible example of religious and communal leadership among Jews, is not mentioned anywhere in the Bible.

The above is an example of the kind of information that will be shared and discussed. Please join your St. Michael's family as we rediscover our Christian roots in the study the origins of Judaism and how they lived and lived into their faith.



**St. Michael's
Annual
Parish Meeting
Sunday
January 15 pm**



WE NEED YOU PRESENCE!!!!

**This is your meeting....
St. Michael's is your home
and we need your voice.**



The annual meeting is an opportunity for us as a family to gather and remember 2011 and look forward to 2012.

We will elect new vestry persons, celebrate the new year and eat lunch together and hopefully find reason to laugh.

PLEASE, PLEASE...MAKE TIME FOR YOUR CHURCH FAMILY AND HELP US GROW INTO THE NEW YEAR!!!