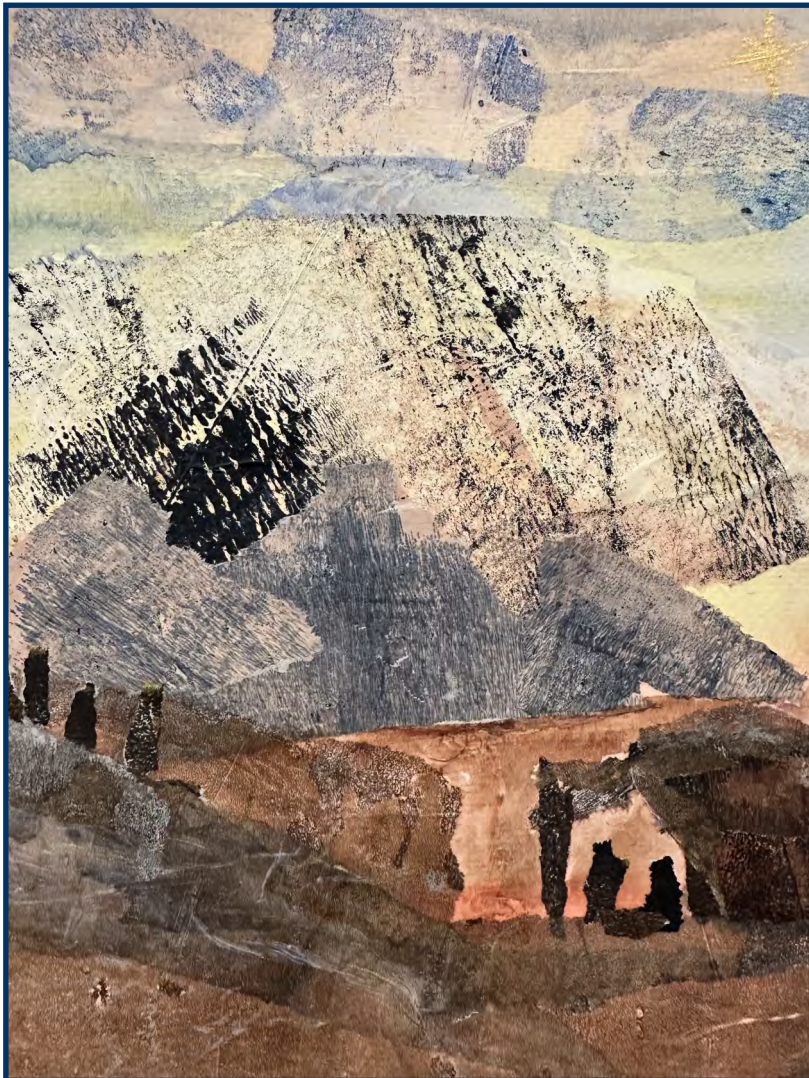


Cross-Finder

St. Helena's Episcopal Church & School

January 2024

The Season of Epiphany



The Greek meaning of the word, Epiphany, is 'showing forth, appearance, manifestation, revelation.'
Starting January 6th, the Feast of the Epiphany, we move into the six Sundays of the season of Epiphany and our focus centers on the good news that Jesus reveals God to all people.

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About the work of art on the cover:

This artwork by Mary Ann Simmons of the Art Haus group depicts the three wise men coming to worship and later announce the arrival of Jesus, the Son of God.

January Calendar at a Glance

Holy Eucharist Services are Wednesdays at 10am (HS) and Sundays at 7:45am (HS), 9:00am (WH) and 11:00am (HS). Sunday School is at 10:10am(PH). Wednesday afterschool: 1st-5th 4-5:30 pm (CMC) and middle school (YH). 6 pm High School (YH)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
AW - Annex West on Rock St CMC - Children’s Ministry Center on Rock St; GR - Great Room 2nd floor WH; GH - Gathering Haus behind office; HS - History Sanctuary Building on Rock Street; PH - Parish Hall is in the basement of HS; WH - Great Room in Wendler Hall on Johns Road; YH - Youth House on Rock Street; Note: Calendar is subject to changes.						
	Jan 1 Church office closed	Jan 2 Church office closed	Jan 3	Jan 4	Jan 5	Jan 6 Epiphany of our Lord Jesus Christ
Jan 7 Sunday Services	Jan 8	Jan 9	Jan 10 After school programs resume 5:30 pm St Helena’s Singers (choir room PH) 7:00 pm Chancel Choir (choir room PH)	Jan 11 7:30 am Men’s Bible Study, AW 11 am Room 1 PH Crochet/Knit Group	Jan 12	Jan 13
Jan 14 Sunday Services Young Families Lunch 12:15 pm. Inferno’s Pizza	Jan 15 Office closed MLK Day	Jan 16	Jan 17 Same as Jan 10	Jan 18 7:30 am Men’s Bible Study,	Jan 19	Jan 20
Jan 21 7:45 am and 10 am Holy Eucharist (HS) 11:15 Annual Meeting (WH)	Jan 22	Jan 23	Jan 24 Same as Jan 10	Jan 25 7:30 am Men’s Bible Study Senior Fellowship 11:00 am Meet at Hill Country Family Services	Jan 26	Jan 27
Jan 28 Sunday Services, 10:10 am 1st day of Adult Sunday School (PH)	Jan 29 1-2:30 pm PH, Art Haus	Jan 30	Jan 31 Same as Jan 10			

From Our Senior Warden

Happy New Year Brothers and Sisters!

This past week we moved from the season of Christmas and into the season of Epiphany, with Epiphany having begun Saturday, Jan 6th. It is a beautiful time of the year with the well know story of the three Wise Men (Magi), and a season where we celebrate the manifestation of Christ's divinity. Epiphany is also a wonderful time to spend in prayer and reflection, seeing creation through new eyes, and opening our hearts to God's unfolding grace in our lives.



In our day-to-day “post holidays” world we often focus on making New Year’s resolutions such as losing weight, resetting goals, being healthier, and the list goes on. Some of these goals we will successfully keep, but many may fade by the wayside as they become casualties of older habits or calendars filled with too many commitments.

I would like to offer that we walk through this Epiphany season combining our prayers and reflections with our New Year’s goals. Living in a healthy relationship with Christ as the foundation and motivation for all aspects of our daily lives. Consider spending a few quiet minutes every day in regular prayer including prayers for your goals, and very importantly, prayers for one another. As I was thinking about how one might approach this, I realized that we do this every week across the church, so I propose you use these familiar words as part of your daily prayers,

“O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servants as we begin another year. Grant that we may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen our trust in your goodness all the days of our life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.”

God’s grace and peace with you!

Tommy

Jan 28 - Adult Formation Class

Crossing Thresholds

In Celtic spirituality, thresholds are considered pivotal passage points whereby the old has been released and the new has not yet come into being. Thresholds are markers of transition. In our collective lives as the community of St. Helena's, we stand at particular thresholds as we wait in a thin space of sacred transition.

Together, we will explore our thresholds and how we approach those thresholds as we stand in the potent place of sacred waiting.

Join Mother Jamie starting **Sunday, January 28th at 10:10 am in the Parish Hall** for this creative adult formation opportunity.



More than 100 women attended the Decades Dinner

The women who spoke represented nine decades of life. They each shared a bit about their lives and then responded to two questions:

- 1. What do you know now that you didn't know 10 years ago?*
- 2. What would you tell your younger self?*



LAUGHTER

Wisdom

REFLECTIONS

AWE

WINE

GREAT FOOD



Young Families Gathering



Young Adult Ministry (YAMs)



The Young Adult Ministry, better known as YAMs, had a great year full of fun and growing closer. We went on many adventures including hiking at Enchanted Rock and Garner State Park, playing Mini Golf, escaping at Boerne Escape rooms, chilling at cook outs, feeding families at the Ronald McDonald House, helping with pie day and trunk or treat, watching movies at movie nights, celebrating thanksgiving with other college and young adult groups, and baking cookies. This is only a snapshot of the many outings we had this year. We also did bible studies and a great devotional! This year has been filled with our growing in faith and friendship.

In the new year, we will continue monthly Bible studies, hang outs, and community service. January is already packed full of fun! We are planning a movie night (thinking about making this a monthly hangout), going to an escape room, doing Bible study and working to improve Maty's Box (a donation site to distribute food).

Here is what some of members have to say about our group: Jamie says "Well, I joined late but I find YAMs to be a group of young people who have come together through shared faith and become companions walking the path. I've been in lots of friend groups over my years but very few have the realness that YAMs has and the love and openness. It's a homely group that fosters faith through actions and contemplation on the Word. I'm happy to have joined such a group."

Stephen says "YAMs has been a consistent source of good company! I've enjoyed myself thoroughly at our meet ups and look forward to another year of fellowship, and yummy food."

Brenna says, "YAMs has been a way for me to reconnect with my church and with God, as well as build a community."

If you are interested in YAMs and want to get involved in the group, please reach out to Cayce Mann at cayce@sthelenas.net for information.



Advent... St. Helena's Way



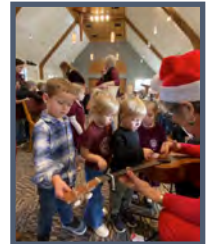
Through the eyes of our children, we prepared for Christmas as **St. Nick** arrived Dec 3! Games and art brought Advent to children of all ages.

Dec 5 & 6, **A Walk in Bethlehem** once again shared the story of Jesus's birth with hundreds of families.



St. Helena's helped bring Christmas to **more than 100 families** with the **Angel Tree Project**.

Seniors shared color, beauty and music with their hand-made cards and gift bags, and three Christmas concerts by the Ukuladies.



Dec 11 Music filled our hearts with **Lessons & Carols**.

Dec 17 was the **Christmas Pageant, Tamales in the Parish Hall and Greening of the Church**



Celebrating Christmas

What a joyous time as just under **800 people** shared Holy Eucharist at St. Helena's on Christmas Eve.



Many thanks to The Rt. Rev. Dr. David G. Read, The Rev. Jay George and The Rev. Dr. Ben Nelson for assisting as Celebrants at our services.

Youth Christmas Party



College Friends Reunite



ST. HELENA'S STAFF – WE ARE HERE TO SUPPORT YOU!

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Looking for information, want to pledge or make a donation?

Scan the QR code with your cell or go to our website: www.sthelenas.net

