



# GOOD NEWS

FROM  
EPIPHANY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

## 2016 Was A Year of New Beginnings



More than 70 people attended Epiphany's 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting to hear about the amazing accomplishments of 2016 and to learn what is planned for 2017. Our Sr. Warden, Betty-Jeanne Cousins, summed up the year as "The Year of New Beginnings." She reminded everyone that March was our "magical month" – on March 6, 2016 we welcomed our very own Priest and on March 22, 2015 we worshipped together during our first service in our new church.

Instead of stats (which may be read [online](#)), the meeting focused on sharing our blessings. Jen O'Brien, Father Rick's wife, was thanked for her pep talk to Father to step out in faith – and step out he did. Like Father Rick, Jen has jumped right in as if she had been here all along – she joined the Choir, Prayer Shawl and is a Eucharistic Visitor.

In 2016, Epiphany embraced the theme of Joy and the Stewardship ministry was no exception! The group focused on relationships, honoring our veterans, time and who could forget the stewardship play on November 13<sup>th</sup> when Mary Ellen Howey wanted to take her suitcase to heaven, Kathy Steinbrenner was the Angel of Death and the Choir sang the grand finale "Jeremiah was a Bullfrog."

Epiphany was blessed in 2016 in many ways including the choir growing to more than 20 people singing to the Glory of God. We are truly blessed with their gifts to this congregation that not only include beautiful music but also the long hours of practice and dedication.

Gina Kistle was honored for serving "more years than the Senior Warden could remember" as head of the church school and bringing on new teacher, Leslie Burton. The church school staff deserve praise for teaching the Gospel and spread the Good News to over 50 children currently registered in church school.

It was pointed out that Bishop Dan Edwards is using Epiphany more and more. Epiphany hosted Standing Committee, Stewardship (continued on page 2)

### Inside This Issue

Annual Meeting.....	1-2
Journey to Bethlehem.....	3
Chili Dinner .....	4
Farewell .....	5
NCG Education Update...	5
Giving Options .....	5
Baptisms .....	6
Community in Schools.....	6
Foyer Group .....	6
Thank Yous .....	7
Upcoming Events .....	7



(continued from page 1) Training held classes offered by Canon Catherine and even the Bishop had several workshops here and plans more in the near future.

With 2016 in the history books, many things did come to an end. Senior Warden Betty Jeanne announced 2016 was her 5<sup>th</sup> and final year as Sr. Warden. As she leaves this position she asked that the new Wardens be given the same encouragement and respect you have shown her with lots of hugs when one needs encouragement. Betty-Jeanne also complimented the congregation and said “I could not be prouder in how far we have come working together– we sure make a good team.”



Kristen Makhathini and Betty-Jeanne Cousins

Kristen Makhathini was honored for serving on the Vestry a total of seven years - longer than anyone else. During this time she did numerous things to help Epiphany to shine including heading up the Search Committee to find our new priest, Father Rick, and was instrumental in speaking to the congregation concerning a potential shortfall of \$37,000 – a shortfall that never came to be!

Carol Haley was recognized for serving one year on the Vestry and we hope in the future she once again would be willing to say “I am honored to serve on the Vestry.”



Carol Haley and Betty-Jeanne Cousins

Susan Baker presented a 2016 balanced budget and thanked the congregation for exceeding 2016’s initial pledge amount - 102% was achieved! Automatic withdrawals has been the best thing to happen at Epiphany because we no longer have the summertime slump and donations are received even when people are unable to attend mass.



2017 Vestry with Father Rick O'Brien

As Epiphany plans for a year full of exciting activities, one of the first priorities was to elect new Vestry members. Congratulations and thank you go out to Mary Ellen Howey, Peter Steinbrenner, and Laura Canon (second term) for agreeing to serve.

After thorough discussion on the 2017 proposed budget, the meeting attendees voted to approved the proposed budget. Delegates and alternates were selected for the 2017 Convention: Susan Baker, Kristen Makhathini, Carol Shaffer, Sandra Miller and the Sr. and Jr. Wardens.

To wrap up the annual meeting, Father started another tradition – “Voices of Gratitude.” He invited anyone who wished to say why they were thankful for Epiphany could come forward and speak. Numerous individuals came forward and spoke about their love of Epiphany, how Epiphany is a family and how welcoming we are as a parish.



# Journey to Bethlehem



On the Feast of the Epiphany at 6:00 p.m. 32 people braved the bitter cold to walk the walk that the Wise Men travelled following the Star in the courtyard. As everyone moved from the 1<sup>st</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> Wise Men, the group then entered the Narthex.

Father lead the congregation into the Nave with the Star in complete darkness which finally rested over Mary, Joseph and the babe. It was very moving.

The three Wise Men left their gifts of Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh at the altar along with our scrolls (gifts) tied with red ribbon answering the question *“What gift would you bring to the Christ child?”*

As Father began his homily a slight whimpering could be heard which got louder and louder – yes it was Avery, only eight-weeks old, in Mary’s arms. It was a wonderful experience having real people portray the Holy family. We closed with *“Joy to the World”* and went over to the Meeting Room for a wonderful pot luck.

Many thanks to our Kings - Bill Kohn, Peter Steinbrenner, and Paul Devine - Xander who portrayed Joseph and Emmy who carried the Star and was also Mary. Thanks to Mark Woolworth for making an electric star for our Journey to Bethlehem.

Special thanks to Cathy Young who made numerous calls and organized the pot luck and to Shawn and Mark Woolworth and their daughter Cassy (and Avery’s mom!) who stayed and cleaned up the room. We sure have lots of caring people here at Epiphany.



# The 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Chili Dinner

## Showing appreciation to our clergy and first time pledgers

Once again we had a marvelous crowd of 42 who attended the Annual Chili and Appreciation Dinner at Epiphany. We had four kinds of chili, salads, cornbread and a dessert table to die for.

This year we had eight new pledgers and Kristen Makhathini called them up and gave them their pins. Rachael Black, Jeff and Kathi Colman, Lee (not pictured) and Dorothy Hubbard, Bev Hart, Paul Devine and Judy Watts. Welcome to our family!

This night is also to show our appreciation for our clergy with a small stipend to show our appreciation for a wonderful 2016.

Special thanks to Betty-Jeanne Cousins and Melissa Farr for setting up the meeting room, to Cathy Young for making and sending numerous emails, and to Shawn and Mark Woolworth for clean-up. A grand time was had by all.



Gina Kistle presented to Father Rick O'Brien



Shawn Woolworth presented to Deacon Ann Langevin



Betty-Jeanne Cousins presented to Deacon Sam Morford



Bill Kohn presented to Father Vince O'Neil



Laura Cannon presented to Father Charles Sakin



## Nevadans for the Common Good 2016 Achievements!

- Conducted 25 civic academies around issues of healthcare, education and immigration
- Conducted the 3rd NCG convention in May that had 1,500 people in attendance
- Achieved a major healthcare victory on what had been considered a done deal - stopping the privatization of Medicaid services for the vulnerable elderly, blind and disabled populations. NCG called for a transparent process and public testimony at the subsequent listening sessions prompted the State to halt their move to privatize Medicaid.
- Organized local work in Henderson to secure the City's support of increased state funding for the Meals on Wheels program to eliminate the 600 people still waiting in Clark County for service.
- Worked to develop a school organizing strategy to build relationships among parents, teachers, school staff and the community to advocate for the resources our students deserve.
- Currently have 44 proud dues-paying organizations in the NCG who are ready to continue fighting for our families and neighborhoods into 2017 and beyond!



[Nevadans for the Common Good](#) is made up of diverse institutions who work together to build relationships, find common ground on issues, and act in nonpartisan ways to improve life for all Nevadans. Epiphany is an active member of NCG.

## Support Epiphany When Shopping at Smith's and Amazon

By selecting Epiphany as your community rewards choice, Smith's will donate to Epiphany. To sign up visit: [Smith's Community Rewards](#)

Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to Epiphany whenever you shop on AmazonSmile. To sign up visit: <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/54-2150016>



## Farewell to Fr. Jim Wallis

On January 8<sup>th</sup> Grace in the Desert had a farewell party for Fr. Wallis. Our Sr. Warden, Betty-Jeanne Cousins, attended and represented Epiphany. Fr. Wallis was Epiphany's supply clergy for 2 ½ years by serving on the first Sunday of each month. If you want to send him a note:

The Rev. Jim Wallis  
511 Harrison Avenue  
Claremont, CA 91711

C: 702-496-1981 [jwallis61@aol.com](mailto:jwallis61@aol.com)



Epiphany is blessed to have such an amazing choir



Elliot Taff Sharrer

Baptized January 15, 2017

Grandson to Diane Jamison



## Communities in Schools

Epiphany is excited to announce we are now joining with *Communities in Schools of Southern Nevada* to provide school supplies for their resource rooms. Communities in Schools partners with over 40 local schools to support students, empowering them to stay in school and achieve in life.

We need:

- \*New Backpacks
- \*Pencils
- \*Binders (1"-3" all colors)
- \*2-pocket folders
- \*Scissors
- \*New coats
- \*New socks, undergarments
- \*New hygiene products

(No notebooks or paper – they have plenty.)

You can also get involved by volunteering during school hours to tutor or help a struggling student. Please see Laura Canon for more information.



## New Year, New Name -- Eat and Greet is now the Foyer Group

Foyer Groups originally started after WW II in Coventry, England in the bombed out ruins of the Coventry Cathedral. Small groups, numbering 8-10 people, would gather for food, drink, friendship and communion with each other in rebuilding their community.

Likewise, Epiphany's Foyer Group – previously known as Eat and Greet will gather together for a potluck social meal where the host/hostess provide the main course and beverages and everyone else brings the rest of the meal.

Members of the group - 6-8 parishioners made up of couples and singles - will rotate hosting the event once a month or so and are limited only by one's imagination. This is simply an opportunity for us to be together, to welcome newcomers and to get to better know each other.

If you are interested in learning more about and/or being part of this ministry, please contact Bill Kohn at 702-407-5187 or at [whkkkk@cox.net](mailto:whkkkk@cox.net) (that's 4 ks).

  
**EPIPHANY**  
 EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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[www.nvepiphany.org](http://www.nvepiphany.org)  
[www.facebook.com/nvepiphany](https://www.facebook.com/nvepiphany)

**Priest in Charge: Father Rick O'Brien**

Father Charles Sakin    Father Vince O'Neil  
 Deacon Sam Morford    Deacon Ann Langevin

**Vestry 2016**

Sr. Warden	Gina Kistle
Jr. Warden	Scott Luttenegger
Treasurer	Susan Baker
Clerk	Betty-Jeanne Cousins
Member	Cindy Berg
Member	Laura Cannon
Member	Mary Ellen Howey
Member	Bill Kohn
Member	Peter Steinbrenner
Member	Elsa Torgerson



A huge thank you goes to Jeff and Kathi Colman for installing the solar lighting on all our outdoor signs.

Thanks to Patricia Adams, Shelia Smith, Dorothy Hubbard, and Betty-Jeanne Cousins for assisting the Bishop in the Diocesan Office Monday – Fridays. Anyone interested in helping answering the phone please contact Betty-Jeanne Cousins.

Our sincere thanks to Susan Baker for doing the bulletin for the last two years. She has passed the torch to Elsa Torgerson and Betty-Jeanne Cousins.

Don't forget to like us on Facebook to get the latest news!

[www.facebook.com/nvepiphany](https://www.facebook.com/nvepiphany)

**Upcoming Events**

- February 25 at 2 pm - Ordination of Nicholas Neubauer
- February 28 at 5:30 pm - Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper (sign up sheet in Narthex)
- March 1 at 12 pm and 7 pm - Ash Wednesday—Imposition of Ashes
- March 18 from 9 am—3 pm - Centering Prayer workshop with Canon Catherine



Memorial Service for Jean Alexoff will be Tuesday, February 7 at 2 pm. In lieu of flowers, you may donate to St. Jude's Children's Hospital or Nevada ASPCA

Epiphany would like to welcome Patricia Newell who recently transferred to Epiphany