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Athens, Ohio 45701

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Good  
SHEPHERD  
News

*Church of the Good Shepherd, Athens, Ohio*

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*The Church of the Good Shepherd is an Episcopal Parish  
on the campus of Ohio University  
seeking God's will through  
worship, service, and Christian Hospitality.*



the  
church  
OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

The Rev. E.F. Michael Morgan, Ph.D., Rector

Marsha Reilly, M.Mus, Music Director  
Glenda Frost, Parish Administrator

Parish Office: (740) 593-6877  
FAX: (740) 593-5213  
E-Mail: [chogs@frognet.net](mailto:chogs@frognet.net)  
[www.frognet.net/~chogs](http://www.frognet.net/~chogs)

64 University Terrace Athens, Ohio 45701-2913

January  
2002



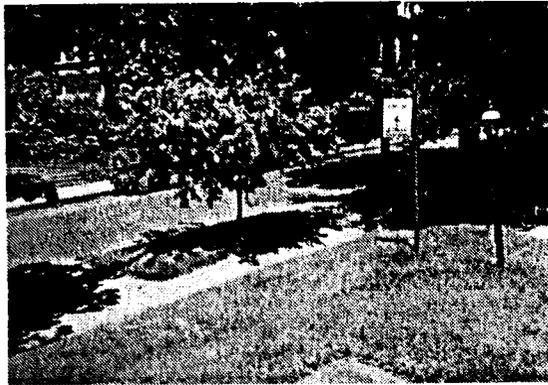
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*The Episcopal Church on the Campus of Ohio University*  
Since 1875 - Established 1907 - Parish 1958

*George Cohen  
1980*



## View from the Terrace

Recently a book, *The Gospel According to the Simpsons: subtitled the Spiritual Life of the World's Most Animated Family* (by Mark Pinsky, Westminster John Know Press, Louisville, 2001) arrived on Alden Library's selection

shelf. Being a fan of the Simpsons and remembering the book *The Gospel According to Peanuts* this book fell into my own must read category. Peanuts portrayed a life of gentle faith, but with that dark undercurrent of unfairness in life. Similarly with its more 'eat my pants' humor *The Simpsons* seems almost a leftist tragic opera of failures and frustrations of the world and economic system within which most of us live, yet beneath the series apparently promotes the more gentle agenda of the favorable portrayal of God, faith, family, and honest relationships.

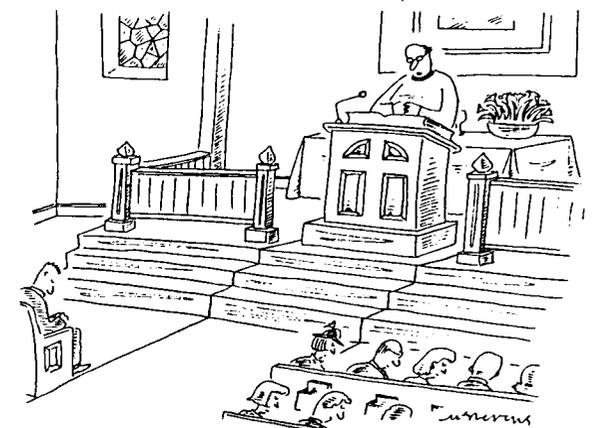
Pinsky, a Jewish journalist from Orlando, did not want his children watching a show widely criticized for portraying a dysfunctional, chaotic, and lazy family with disrespectful children. Upon checking, he became intrigued and interpreted 275 episodes of *The Simpsons* (viewed by over 60 million people in 70 countries) and writes chapters about the Simpson family's beliefs and analyzes the research/anecdotes about the series over the years. Here are some chapter headings to give you a flavor of the mix of sacred and profane found in *The Simpsons* -

1. Divine Imagery: "Perfect Teeth. Nice Smell.  
A class Act All the Way;
2. Does Lisa Speak for Jesus? "There's Something Wrong with That Kid. She's So Moral.";
3. Personal Prayer: "Dear God, Give the Bald Guy a Break!";
4. The Evangelical Next Door: "If Everyone Were like Ned Flanders, There'd Be No Need for Heaven";
5. The Church and the Preacher: "We Don't Have a Prayer!"
6. Heaven, Hell, and the Devil: "I'd Sell My Soul for a Donut"
7. Moral Dilemmas: "Dad, We May Have Saved Your Soul"
8. The Bible: "I Think It May Be Somewhere toward the Back"
9. Catholics: "That's Catholic, Marge... Voodoo"

One of the most interesting chapters is the one about the Simpsons series creators "Humor Is in Indirect Proportion to One's True Belief". One of the founders and long term associates with the series is Matt Groening, the creator of the *Life in Hell* series appearing in the Athens News. Other writers are from David Letterman, Saturday Night Live, and several from Harvard's National Lampoon. These writers have combined into a rich theological mix of childhood upbringing, and over the years Simpsons has made fun of Catholics and Episcopalians (particularly deserving targets), Protestants, fundamentalists, Jews, and Hindus. (Certain topics such as the resurrection were off limits because people "get touchy" about that, or Muslims because of lack of knowing what is really offensive and the Salman Rushdie dampening experience.) Many of these writers consider themselves 'Jewish or Catholic Atheists', an attitude summed up by writer Al Jean who notes "I consider myself someone who believes in the teachings of Jesus Christ but who is not a huge fan of organized religion."

Of course *The Simpsons* satirizes the whole of American life; TV, fast food, public education, capitalism, rock music, moral dilemmas and quite often the generic pseudo-religion found in American popular culture. The show is high in sophisticated religious content, and though works in as much blasphemy as possible, episodes end up affirming what is important. The series has been the subject of much study amongst theology students and sociologists and the subject of Web sites. Originally considered the epitome of Western decadence, *The Simpsons* now has converts ranging from Billy Graham to the Most Rev. Rowan Williams, Archbishop of Wales who writes "*The Simpsons* is one of the most subtle pieces of propaganda around in the cause of sense, humility, and virtue. Mark Pinsky manages to decipher the code without deadening the humor..." So for some fun and to explore as well the mainstream American brand of Judeo-Christian faith and spirituality, give this book a read.

**Ted Foster,**  
Newsletter Editor



"And may the Lord in his wisdom see to it that we get our hands on some of that government scratch."

## Senior Warden's Comments



By the time this newsletter arrives in your mailbox, 2002 will be here. I hope everyone had a good holiday and that the new year will be a happy and healthy one for each of you.

We are back to "normal" (whatever that means) again with our Rector home from four months at Harvard. I am happy to be relieved of some extra duties that came my way in his absence. I received a gift of a Harvard Divinity shirt (excuse me, it is my Vestment) which I wear with pride!

There were many plusses this fall as we enjoyed a variety of visiting clergy and were able to put some new ideas in the works. Be alert! Watch the announcements so you don't miss out.

In starting a new year, I found myself counting my blessings which not only included happenings and friends but also my dogs who "run" my house.

I want to share a newly discovered article which provided the answer to "Where do pets come from?"

Adam and Eve said, "Lord, when we were in the garden, you walked with us every day. Now we do not see you any more. We are lonesome here, and it is difficult for us to remember how much you love us."

And God said, "No problem! I will create a companion for you that will be with you forever and who will be a reflection of my love for you, so that you will love me even when you cannot see me. Regardless of how selfish or childish or unlovable you may be, this new companion will accept you as you are and will love you as I do, in spite of yourselves."

And God created a new animal to be a companion for Adam and Eve. And it was a good animal. And God was pleased. And the new animal was pleased to be with Adam and Eve and he wagged his tail.

And Adam said, "Lord, I have already named all the animals in the Kingdom and I cannot think of a name for this new animal."

And God said, "No problem. Because I have created this new animal to be a reflection of my love for you, his name will be a reflection of my love for you, his name will be a reflection of my own name, and you will call him DOG." And Dog lived with Adam and Eve and was a companion to them and loved them. And they were comforted. And God was pleased. And Dog was content and wagged his tail.

After a while, it came to pass that an angel came to the Lord and said, "Lord, Adam and Eve have become filled with pride. They strut and preen like peacocks and they believe they are worthy of adoration. Dog has indeed taught them that they are loved, but perhaps too well."

And God said, "No problem! I will create for them a companion who will be with them forever and who will see them as they are. The companion will remind them of their limitations, so they will know that they are not always worthy of adoration."

And God created CAT to be a companion to Adam and Eve. And Cat would not obey them. And when Adam and Eve gazed into Cat's eyes, they were reminded that they were not the supreme beings.

And Adam and Eve learned humility. And they were greatly improved. And God was pleased. And Dog was happy. And Cat didn't give a hoot one way or the other.

Happy New Year!

**Julia Nehls  
Senior Warden**



## Parish Health Ministry

Somewhere in the flurry of the season, may we find

### Time to Dream

About that blessed Holy Night that changed the world...

### Time to Wonder

About the Awesomeness of the day he comes again...

### Time to Remember

The truths he taught and everything he has done for us...

### Time to give thanks with all our hearts

That God so loved the world.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16

Wishing you the gift of time to share with Him and those you love in this Christmas season and all through a joyful new year. Sincerely,  
Debbie Hillard

Health ministry will have a blood pressure check Jan. 6<sup>th</sup> after the 10:30 a.m. service and the team will meet Jan. 7<sup>th</sup> at 7pm to look at how we grew in 2001 (wow!-look for a full report in the annual Parish report), how we can address the findings of the survey that many took the time to fill out (thank you all), and what we would like to do in 2002. If you have concerns or suggestions, please take the time to pass them on to: Clarissa Campbell, Zelma Coleman, Lynn Graham (our secretary), Doris Green, Joanne Larson (coordinator of Wed. free lunch), Helen Marsh (card ministry), James Mowery, Ann Rathbun (OU liaison, health fair coordinator; intern recruiter), Reid Sinclair, Jamie Tevis, Sheila Williams, and I'm adding Glenda Frost who, while not an official member of our team, continually assists us with our endeavors. Please take time to thank them as they have all supported Good Shepherd, Southeast Ohio, and myself in many ways as we develop and grow our health ministry. As always you are welcome to contact me any time if you have a health related concern, the church office will assist you in finding me.

**Debbie Hillard**

**Coordinator, Parish Health Ministry**

## Church School Update

### **Unit 4: The Cost of Discipleship**

The Twelve, The Women, Paul

Teachers: Lynn Graham, Gifford Doxsee

"Adam, where are you?" God asked in the Garden as the first man and woman hid in the bushes, having become aware that they were naked. "Samuel, Samuel," God called out to the little boy sleeping in the temple. "Jonah, preach repentance to the people at Ninevah," God commanded the reluctant prophet. And then, through Gabriel, "Mary, blessed are you among women; you will bear God's son." Over and over through the centuries God called and commanded and invited men and women to serve him and to serve one another. Those calls, and that service, have been the subject of our church school classes during the fall months of 2001, the first three units of the year. Teachers have asked students to learn the stories, to know the people involved, and to think about how God speaks to all of us and how we might hear him and respond to his call.

All the people we have studied so far, however, have been those who lived before or (most recently) at the same time as Jesus. We have thus been thinking about the ancestors of Jesus and about humankind's long struggle to obey and serve God while constantly falling short. We've been learning about our long wait for God to return to live and walk among us as he did before Adam and Eve got thrown out of Paradise. During the four weeks of Advent we talked explicitly about those years and months of waiting, from Adam and Eve until—in the fullness of time—the new Eve and the new Adam. Then at last, as the carol puts it, "Eva fiat Ave": Eve became Mary as she acquiesced to God's call, bore God's son, and so restored to humankind the opportunity to dwell again with God.

Now, in a new year of grace, the year of the Lord 2002, the church school will turn from the stories and people of the Old Testament to those of the New, those whose lives were shaped by Jesus, the man of Nazareth, the Incarnate God.

The first unit of this year corresponds precisely with Epiphany, beginning on Epiphany Sunday and ending the Sunday before the beginning of Lent. As Advent is the season anticipating the coming of Jesus, Epiphany is the season celebrating his having come, bringing

light into a dark world, extending God's love from beyond Israel to the Gentiles. And as we talked about the word and the liturgical season of Advent last month, this month we will talk about the word and the meaning of Epiphany.

The unit will begin with God's call to the Magi, who were led by a bright light in the sky to find the light of the world in a house in Bethlehem. We saved the Magi out of our discussion of the Nativity in order to make the point that they came separately, called from afar and arriving about two years after the shepherds. (A sermon I heard some years ago said that the shepherds got directions from angels, but the Magi were drawn by inference. Their time delay, I always think, says something about the difference between angelic guidance and the ordinary human effort to figure out what things mean and how to do them.)

After the Magi we will spend three weeks on Jesus' call to the men and women of his world to follow him and on the people he called, noting that it is not really much easier to follow the instructions of God when one knows him personally than when one only knows him through his word and law. We will learn about the disciples, looking especially at Peter, John, and Judas, and then about the women who followed Jesus, paying special attention to Mary Magdalene and to Mary and Martha of Bethany.

On Feb. 3 and 10 we will end the unit by studying Paul, called by Christ after the crucifixion and Resurrection, but called to preach the Good News to the Gentiles. So we come full circle: as we begin the unit with three Gentile wise men coming to bring gifts to the baby born to be king of the Jews, we end it with a Jewish leader called to preach the Messiah to the Gentiles. We will hope to complete the unit with a presentation for the parish on Feb. 10.

During Advent the children collected money on Sunday mornings to give gifts through the Heifer Foundation to families around the world. During Epiphany all the children will be asked to imitate the Magi by bringing their own gifts to church; specifically, we will ask them to bring a can or box of food each Sunday. They will then offer their gifts to the Food Pantry as part of the morning offering, carrying them forward with the ushers during the offertory. A basket will also be available near the door in the Narthex for adults coming to the 10:15 service to bring their gifts for the Food Pantry.

The Gospel of John begins with those famous words "In the Beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. . . . In him was life, and that life was the light of humankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness does not conquer it." During Epiphany light emerges from and indeed conquers darkness: that's what we'll be teaching the children.

**Marsha Dutton**  
**Church School Curriculum Coordinator**

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## **A Budget Update from Vestry**

As 2002 gets rolling, our job on Vestry is to present a balanced budget. We'd like to do so without drawing down on our endowment. We feel that not drawing down the endowment is **essential to the future** of the church.

Here are my suggestions so that you can help us in our journey to a balanced budget for 2002:

1. **BEFORE** the congregational meeting, please examine the most recent draft of the budget posted on the stairwell bulletin board or call the parish office for a copy.
2. Reconsider your pledge for 2002.
3. Pledge if you haven't already done so (see Joanne Worstall or Glenda in the parish office).
4. Attend the annual meeting.
5. Pray for the fiscal health of Good Shepherd.

**Riddle:** What do Wendy's, McDonald's, and Taco Bell have to do with the Good Shepherd budget?

**The answer:** Come to church on January 6th to find out!

**Ann Rathbun**  
**Vestry Member**  
**on behalf of the Vestry**

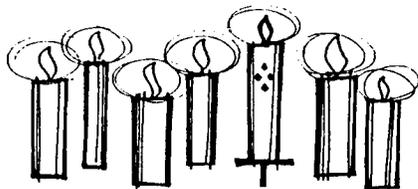
## Confirmation and Inquirers' Classes

On Sunday mornings in church we all pretty much know the drill for the first part of the service, the "Service of the Word": we stand to sing, bow as the cross goes by, kneel to pray, sit to listen, stand to sing some more, stand to hear the Gospel, sit again to hear the sermon, and then stand for our mutual affirmation of faith. "We believe," we say together in the Nicene Creed, and then we proclaim what is actually a pretty short list of beliefs, though that short list contains more sheer content than we could get through in not just a month but a year of Sundays.

But how do we know what we believe? It's one thing to have some general idea of what I believe or you believe—what each one of us believes. But what do WE believe, and who is this *we*, anyway? What do Episcopalians believe, and how does Episcopalian belief differ from that common to all Christians? What is an Episcopalian, anyway? How come Episcopalians also call themselves Anglicans? Why do we have bishops and dioceses, and what do they do? Why the changing colors, and why is the hymnal divided the way it is? What's the difference between S 50 and Hymn 50? Why is there a pink candle on the Advent wreath, and why in church of all places don't we get to sing Christmas carols until all the world around has deemed Christmas past? What are Advent and Epiphany, and when are they, and why? Why does the date of Christmas always stay the same when the date of Easter keeps changing? And what does it mean to say that the Holy Spirit descends from the Father and the Son, and what's the difference between the Resurrection of Christ and the resurrection of the body that we keep saying we believe in?

All those things and many more are subjects that we will explore in two sets of classes beginning in Epiphany 2002 (which is to say in January and February). Four confirmation classes will begin in the second week of January for students aged ten and older, and Inquirers' classes for adults will begin in the second week of February. Both classes will welcome anyone of the right age, including anyone who is already confirmed but interested in joining with others in learning more about the church. I will lead both classes. If you are interested, or just curious, give me at call at 594-5921, send me an email at [dutton@ohiou.edu](mailto:dutton@ohiou.edu), or catch me after church. I want to schedule meetings at times convenient for all that wish to join them, so do let me know of your interest.

**Marsha Dutton**



## News from the Pews. . .

**Therese and Keith Lackey** and children opened their home to the house tour to support the Federal Hocking freshman class project. **Our rector** and children also opened their home on East State Street to the Athens house tour earlier in the fall.

**Rachel Adeyanju** has joined the O'Bleness staff as an assistant nurse manager. **Zelma Coleman** exhibited her jewelry art at the recent Dairy Barn Arts and Crafts show.

**Jane Palmer, Leonard Majalia, and Jim Walker** entertained children of various ages and parents with the drumming group *Ngoma* at the Solace Solstice show at the Athens Public Library. **Lucile Jennings** is serving a second stint with Americorps. **Blythe and Roger Fuller-Finlay** are wintering at Dataw Island in South Carolina.

**Margie Stone** was honored with an open house at the Athens County Historical Society and Museum on the publication of her book *As Time Goes By: A Pictorial Journal of Athens, Ohio*. It is available at the Museum on North Court Street, at local bookstores, and at Krogers.

Visiting children and grandchildren for Christmas; **Lyn and Richard Butrick** (first time in many years), **Al and Margaret Topping** (Al "The Greek" is excused from the usher corps on Christmas Eve), **Reid Sinclair**, sometime Scotch substitute for Al "The Greek" Topping, will be in El Paso. **Julia Nehls**, Senior Warden, was unanimously voted in by the 3 Greeks to fill in for **Al Topping**.

In town before Christmas; **Debbie Daniels**, from her new home in Texas. **Anne and Harold Swardson**. Harold's December 16<sup>th</sup> column in *The Athens Messenger* and the Archdeacon's sermon of that same morning suggests how great minds can run in the same gullies.

**Lauren Spero** has received notice of early admission into the highly competitive School of Journalism. **Gordy Ruchti**, a sophomore at Athens High, was named to the Ohio University Honor Band.

Christmas cheers for **Joanne Worstall**, the planner and coordinator of the successful Ornament Party. And for **Bruce Ergood**, who manned the Salvation Army bucket at Krogers.

**Reid Sinclair**  
Roving Reporter



## Office Expenses at Good Shepherd

It is no secret that the parish is cash-poor, especially this time of year. But if we are to go on doing what we do, continuing to communicate with one another and with the world, we have to go on spending money: it's a lot like the fact that we have to go on eating and paying our utilities even when our own paycheck isn't big enough to stretch that far. This year our office expenses have gone way over budget—as of the end of November we had spent 123.8% of what was budgeted for supplies and 120.6% of what was budgeted for postage, though (the good news) only 86.2% of what was budgeted for the telephone. Those figures mean that of the \$4833 in our budget for office expenses this year we have spent \$5423.75—with a month to go. That means --. Some of the penny-pinching measures adopted so far have included cutting the mailing list for the *Good News* and eliminating printed lections and (briefly) announcements from the bulletin.

The good news, of course, is that church attendance is booming: we have a need for bulletins and newsletters, we want to correspond with church school teachers and the children and youth who participate in our programs, we are grateful to have had visiting clergy to whom we express our gratitude. While the church of the catacombs may not have needed a copy machine and the paper to feed it, the church of the twenty-first century and of Generation X needs paper and toner and postage. That's just the way it is.

So where does the money budgeted for office expenses go? Here's a breakdown of the monthly accounts:

- **Paper** - big expense - this includes paper for not just bulletins and newsletters, material for Vestry packets, music copies for our choir, the annual report, and the list goes on. On average we go through 10 - 15 reams of paper per month at a cost of \$5.49 per ream. When making draft copies of meeting minutes or bulletins or just to print out an email message to someone we do use scrap paper.
- **Copier expense** - We have a service contract that supplies general maintenance and toner. The cost is \$700 per year or 75,000 copies, whichever comes first. We make so many copies on the machine that it takes \$1,400 per year for a service maintenance contract on our copier.
- **Newsletter covers and Bulletin covers** - It costs \$93 per 500 covers we have printed. Before cutting the mailing list of the *Good News*, we were mailing 350 copies per month - now it is down to 225. Generally 100 Sunday Bulletins are printed per Sunday - a little less during the summer, a little more during Easter and Christmas.

- **Postage** - When mailing the newsletters we are able to use the bulk mailing rate and that averages around \$50 per month plus an annual user fee of \$150. Everyday something is mailed from the office for one reason or another - we try to hand deliver as much as possible.
- **General Supplies** - When purchasing anything from pens to paper clips to plain envelopes, the cheapest brand is always purchased.
- **Janitorial Supplies** - The expense for cleaning supplies, toilet paper, paper towels etc is calculated into the office supply expense total.

submitted by:  
**Marsha Dutton, Vestry Member &  
Glenda Frost, Parish Administrator  
on behalf of the Vestry**

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## Coffee Hour Schedule for January

After an overwhelming response, the newsletter will continue to list those who have signed up to host Coffee Hour each month. We hope that this will act both as a reminder to those who have signed up, and as an advertisement for those weeks, which still need hosts.

To sign up to host Coffee Hour, use the sheet posted on the cabinets in the kitchen. For more information, contact June Wieman 592-2454 or Betty Larson at 592-4847.

January 6<sup>th</sup>: All Parish Potluck  
January 13<sup>th</sup>: Geoff and Alex Buckley  
January 20<sup>th</sup>:  
January 27<sup>th</sup>:



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Tuesday, January 1<sup>st</sup>:** Mary Culp, birthday

**Wednesday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>:** Administrative Council Meeting  
9:00 a.m., Hobson Lounge  
Wednesday Free Lunch  
12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m., Undercroft  
Choir Rehearsal  
7:30 p.m., Nave  
Lauren Spero, birthday

**Saturday, January 5<sup>th</sup>:** Gail (Gault) Connell, birthday  
Bob Shelly, birthday

**Sunday, January 6<sup>th</sup>:** All Parish Potluck  
11:30 a.m., Undercroft

**Monday, January 7<sup>th</sup>:** Parish Health Ministry Meeting  
7:00 p.m., Hobson Lounge  
Sophia Karageorge, birthday  
Julie Spero, birthday

**Tuesday, January 8<sup>th</sup>:** Heather Sinclair, birthday

**Wednesday, January 9<sup>th</sup>:** Administrative Council Meeting  
9:00 a.m., Hobson Lounge  
Wednesday Free Lunch  
12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m., Undercroft  
Choir Rehearsal  
7:30 p.m., Nave  
Catherine Chagnot, birthday

**Thursday, January 10<sup>th</sup>:** Pat Elisar, birthday

**Sunday, January 13<sup>th</sup>:** Emilie Walker, birthday

**Wednesday, January 16:** Administrative Council Meeting  
9:00 a.m., Hobson Lounge  
Wednesday Free Lunch  
12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m., Undercroft  
Choir Rehearsal  
7:30 p.m., Nave

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Thursday, January 17<sup>th</sup>:** Vestry Meeting  
7:30 p.m., Hobson Lounge  
Cynthia Hampton, birthday  
Matt Robinson, birthday

**Saturday, January 19<sup>th</sup>:** Sherman Payne, birthday

**Sunday, January 20<sup>th</sup>:** All Parish Annual Meeting  
11:30 a.m., Undercroft  
Bobby Biddlestone, birthday  
Anne Alice Chagnot, birthday

**Monday, January 21<sup>st</sup>:** Keith Whitescarver, birthday

**Tuesday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>:** Anne Walker, birthday

**Wednesday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>:** Administrative Council Meeting  
9:00 a.m., Hobson Lounge  
Wednesday Free Lunch  
12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m., Undercroft  
Choir Rehearsal  
7:30 p.m., Nave

**Thursday, January 24<sup>th</sup>:** Bill Biddlestone, birthday

**Sunday, January 27<sup>th</sup>:** Daniel Richards, birthday  
Sandi White, birthday

**Monday, January 28<sup>th</sup>:** Jim Anastas, birthday

**Tuesday, January 29<sup>th</sup>:** Gene Jennings, birthday

**Wednesday, January 30<sup>th</sup>:** Administrative Council Meeting  
9:00 a.m., Hobson Lounge  
Wednesday Free Lunch  
12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m., Undercroft  
Choir Rehearsal  
7:30 p.m., Nave