

## ST. JOHN'S JOURNEY

January, 2021



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### St. John's Episcopal Church

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Priest

Tom Manney

Senior Warden

Becky Foster



### A Note from Tom

2021. Feels good to say it, doesn't it?

Never has the promise of a new year meant so much to so many

people. The Coronavirus has touched all of our lives. It has caused us to shut down our beloved church. It has caused us to restrict travel and not see our family and friends as we would like. And for some 350,000 families in America, it has meant the death of a loved one.

But as always, we Christians look to Jesus for help. January 6 is the **Feast of the Epiphany**. It is the day where we Episcopalians celebrate the appearance of Christ to the world. The feast combines commemorations of three events that were considered manifestations of Jesus: the visit of the Magi (led by the star of Bethlehem); the Baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River; and Jesus' first recorded miracle, the changing of water into wine at the wedding of Cana. Look for these stories in our gospel readings for the next several Sundays.

And as we celebrate the beginning of

2021, it is important to remember that our faith in God and Jesus does not mean the end of our troubles. The virus will certainly not disappear just because it's a new year. Throughout the history of the world, religious faith has never equaled deliverance from suffering. But having faith in God and Jesus does mean that we will not endure the suffering alone. God will have our backs as we continue to deal with the pandemic or any other problems we eventually face.

And that thought has always brought me comfort. I feel strengthened knowing that I am never alone. God is with us in the bad years and in the good. And even as the pandemic continues into our cherished new year, God will be with us. And that is certainly happy news.

+Tom

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Find us on Facebook!



## Editor: Becky Foster

St. John's Journey is published monthly. We're looking for your photos and articles. Please email them to "stjohnschurchdryden@gmail.com" with the word "Newsletter" in the subject line. Deadline for February is January 29th.



### Happy Birthday...

Corinne Fry  
Donna Lou Haynes  
Linda Neros

Dear Friends,

I'm writing this just a few days before Christmas and must admit I'm still busy with to-do's for the



holiday. I thought it would be fun to take a look at some of our 2020 pictures for this newsletter. I hope you enjoy it. It was a pretty good year, all things considered.

Still, the Vestry is already working on plans for 2021 and for our upcoming **Annual Meeting on January 17<sup>th</sup>**. There are some exciting projects coming in the new year. We're gathering information on replacing the roof over the sanctuary. We're hoping to have some estimates soon although local contractors are pretty busy at the moment and may need more time to inspect the roof and provide their estimates. We have a good start on the funds for this project and will talk with you in the annual meeting about options for additional funds.

We also have an opportunity to participate in a program for small congregations with part-time clergy. The sponsor, the Seminary of the Southwest (an Episcopal seminary in Austin, TX) calls this situation a Bi-Vocational ministry. They have found that over 35% of Episcopal churches are in this situation - and we are one of them. This means that both the clergy and the lay leaders of the church must work together differently than churches with full time clergy. The school is offering a FREE three-year program to help clergy and lay leaders explore how to

strengthen and grow these congregations. Most of the work will be over the internet but there will be a few trips to Austin to meet on campus (also paid for). Rev. Tom, Neil Hargrave and myself are interested in being St. John's participants in the program. The Diocese has agreed to put our names on the list of possible nominees. We're not sure what the workload may be and further information may change our decision to participate. Also, given the number of spaces available in the program (11 slots for a national pool), there is no guarantee that we will be chosen. If we ARE chosen, it will be a great opportunity to share with all of you as we work to improve and grow our congregation.

There's more coming and we'll talk further at the annual meeting. Assuming that Covid restrictions are still in place in mid-January, we'll need to hold it in virtual mode. You'll receive an email in the next few days with a link for a Zoom connection. If you've never tried this program and would like some assistance, we'll be happy to work with you prior to the meeting to set things up. There is also a call-in option for those unable to work with a computer.

Wishing each of you a blessed and Happy New Year.

Peace - Becky



Tom Manney's Ordination in March — a sacred moment for all involved.

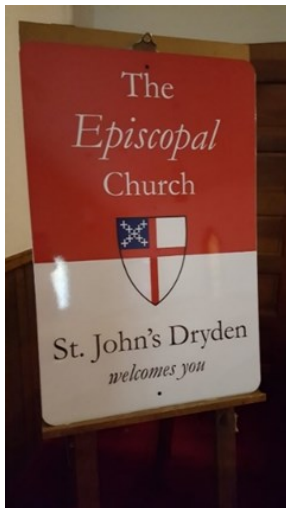
## 2020-Some Good Things That Happened

Neil Hargrave received his Preaching license from the Diocese in September. We always look forward to hearing his sermons.



We had a brief period in early summer when we were able to gather for worship... Note the masks. It was a hot day, the church was full and it was Rev. Tom's first eucharist! It was so good to see everyone! Even Margaret was able to join us!

## Looking our Best!



Our Junior Warden was a VERY busy fella – The building and grounds looked better than they have in years. New Signs for Dryden Road and new signs for the front and back of the church. Jack and Ida gave the Union Street sign a nice red frame that looks outstanding! They could paint other colors too – black wrought iron looks so much better with a fresh coat...



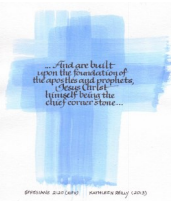
Speaking of Red – how about the new look for our side doors?



# 2020-Some MORE Good Things That Happened

An even bigger job – repairing the Bell Tower and replacing our front steps. With Covid making supplies and workers hard to find, Jack Dodd just kept at it and the results were impressive!

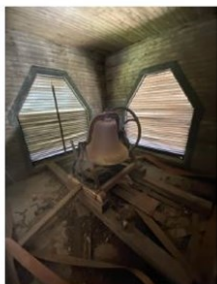
The bell rope had been horribly frayed by an exposed screw. Once the cause of the problem was addressed, a new rope was installed. Significant testing was deemed to be necessary.



When they removed the old porch boards, they found rotting, broken timber at the base of the building – that was repaired as well.



When we got up in the Bell Tower, there was an interesting



find. Here's the inside of the tower before the repair. That bell has been up there a long time. And so has the crucifix.





# 2020-Even MORE Good Things That Happened

## An Expanded Manger Scene for Christmas



In memory of Don Smith and with a little help from some other donors, we now have three wise-men complete with their individual gifts. We enjoyed having them at the back of the church for a few weeks but when Advent came, it was time to move them outside...

The installation of a spotlight for our Nativity Scene provides the penultimate finishing touch (the Baby Jesus is the ultimate addition). What a lovely view of our church for this special time of year.



And we now have a new manger for the Baby Jesus, thanks to Jack Dodd. Notice the handsome red cross.



The wisemen were moved a little closer to the manger each week. They've looked a little cold these last few weeks.



# 2020-Even MORE Good Things That Happened

## Technology Upgrades and Advances



During the initial shutdown, we used the internet and Zoom to help us connect and to worship. Sometimes our sessions looked more like this...



Which of these is the Sr. Warden? (hint: Becky )

This is Becky using a computer to stream the service from the back of the church.



### St. John's Annual Congregation Meeting

Sunday, January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021

4 PM on Zoom

Topics include:

Review of 2020 projects and final budget report

Discussions regarding 2021

**Updating by-laws**

**Roof Replacement project**

Bi-Vocational Ministry program application

On-line giving options

**Election of new Vestry members**

**Election of representatives to Diocesan Annual Convention**

**2021 proposed budget**

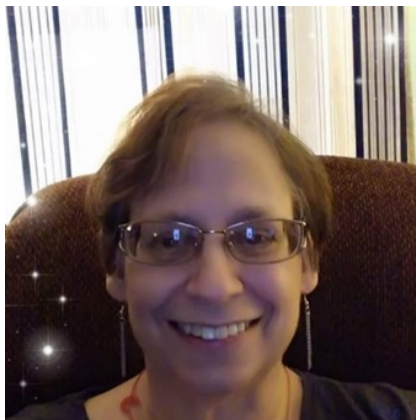
Bolded items require a vote from eligible meeting attendees.



But the most memorable thing about this year is how each of us has made the effort to keep our community strong in spite of the challenges. That's what we do at St. John's – we care for each other. But we've still missed seeing everyone SO MUCH! We are grateful that our members have stayed healthy and trust that 2021 will see the end to this dreadful virus and allow us to gather in person once more. Here are some pix from the files to help us remember our beloved church family.



The Choir



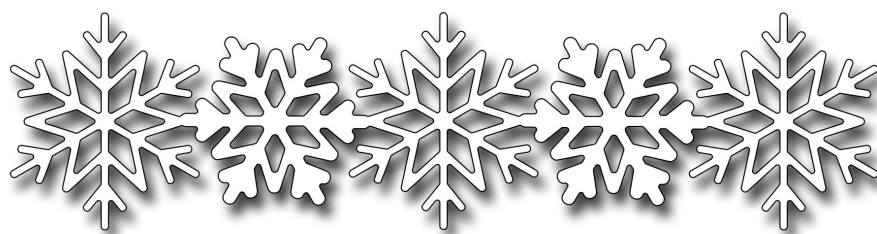
Roxanne



Rev. Barb Cavin



And a good portion of the congregation wishing





## Christmas Cookie Exchange

We just HAD to do something “normal” to celebrate the holiday! So we spaced out stations for the cookies, had gloves for every hand and everyone wore masks. And we all left with enough cookies to ensure an order for the next larger size jeans for the new year! Thanks to everyone for making this so much fun.

Chocolate covered Peanut Butter Balls – Dianne Bishop’s speciality. Even though she could not join us, she still made sure we had some to enjoy.

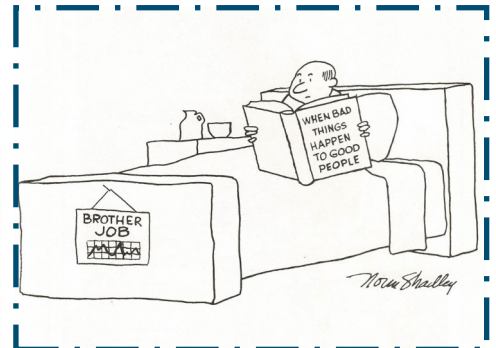


Kitty Underwood, Ina Dockham and Sherry checking out another cookie entry.



Terry Manney joined us too – and turns out Tom is a pretty handy cookie decorator. Kathy Wagner and Kathleen Buszek catching up after all this time. Richard Buszek brought his own entry – frozen venison fresh from his property.

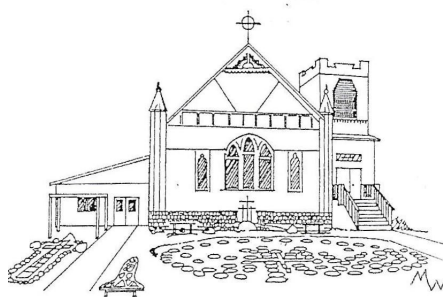
### DRABBLE By Kevin Fagan



Ministry Schedule				Counting Schedule	
Date	Lector	Eucharistic Minister	Worship Leader	Vestry Member 1	Vestry Member 2
Jan 3, 2021	Ina Dockham	Mary Cameron	Rev Tom Manney	Ina Dockham	Tim Wright
Jan 10, 2021	Lelia Wagner	Neil Hargrave	Rev Barb Cavin	Jack Dodd	Becky Foster
Jan 17, 2021	Margaret Smith	Mary Cameron	Rev Tom Manney	Tim Wright	Neil Hargrave
Jan 24, 2021	Tammy Turnipseed		Neil Hargrave	Becky Foster	Ina Dockham
Jan 31, 2021	Darlene Herndon		Becky Foster	Neil Hargrave	Jack Dodd



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27 10am - Morning	28	29 10am - Office Hours	30 4pm - Bible Study 8pm - AA	31 New Year's Eve	1 New Year's Day 10am - Office Hours	2
3 10am - Worship-Rev	4	5 10am - Office Hours	6 4pm - Bible Study 8pm - AA	7	8 10am - Office Hours	9
10 8:30am - Eucharist 4pm - Vestry	11	12 10am - Office Hours	13 4pm - Bible Study 8pm - AA	14	15 10am - Office Hours	16
17 4pm - Annual	18 Martin Luther King	19 10am - Office Hours	20 4pm - Bible Study 8pm - AA	21	22 10am - Office Hours	23
24	25	26 10am - Office Hours	27 4pm - Bible Study 8pm - AA	28	29 New Year's Respite 10am - Office Hours	30
31 10am - Morning	1 First Day of Black	2 10am - Office Hours	3 4pm - Bible Study 8pm - AA	4	5 10am - Office Hours	6



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