

January 2015

“Try It, You’ll Like It”

There are lots of choices these days. Whether it’s a new restaurant, a television series we may have been thinking about watching, or a place to take the car to be serviced, we have a tremendous number of options available to us. How do we decide between them? While there are many factors, the single greatest influence upon our decision making is often the testimony of others. “Hey, have you been to that new Italian place?” says your friend. “You should try it. They have the best linguini!” Or your brother-in-law might say to you, “Have you watched that new action and adventure show yet? I know the reviews are iffy, but I’ve seen it and it’s totally worth your while.” Recommendations like that, from people we know and trust, help us to sort through the vast array of choices and discover something that might be good for us that we would not have found otherwise. We rely on our friends and families to guide us, often more than we even realize.

We are now in that portion of the Church calendar known as the season after Epiphany. It is a short season with readings that highlight God’s revealing of Jesus Christ to the world. Jesus was the savior from the moment He was conceived, but very few people knew this. Even after Jesus’ birth, only Mary, Joseph, and the shepherds had any indication that there was anything special about the young boy. On the Epiphany, God began the work of letting the wider world know that Jesus is the Son of God come into the world to save it. The star led wise men from the east to find the young boy in his home and lavish Him with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh, the kind of gifts you would give to a king. Those walking by that day might not have understood what was so special about Jesus, but when they saw the wise men and what they were doing, they certainly would have understood that there was *something* special about Him. Similarly, at Jesus’ baptism in the river Jordan many years later, John the Baptist preached to those who were following him that he was not the Messiah but that another was coming. When he baptized Jesus, God sent His Spirit upon Him and said, “This is my Son, the Beloved, in whom I am well pleased.” John accepted this revelation from God that the Messiah had finally arrived and pointed his followers towards Jesus as the one they should truly follow as Lord. John told Andrew to follow Jesus, who then told his brother Simon Peter, who then told others (John 1:35-41).

We rely on the testimony of others to help us discern between the various choices that exist in this world. And that is as true for our relationship with God as it is for our choice of restaurants, television shows, or any number of other things. It is only in the Church where the good news about Jesus Christ is preached and sinners are slowly transformed into saints. And what is it that makes someone dare to darken the door of a church? “Hey, you know that church on the corner of Burmont Road and Bond Avenue?” says your friend. “I’ve been going there, and you should come with me some time. The way they talk about God there has really changed my life.”

We get nervous about talking like that. We do not want to impose. We do not want to be seen as *that kind of Christian*. And yet, if we truly believe what we say we believe, that Jesus Christ is the savior of all people and that it is only in knowing Him that we are set free from sin and death, then we ought to be

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at least as willing to recommend Him to people we care about as we are willing to recommend a new restaurant or a good place to get your hair cut. Think about your own experience of coming to know Christ and how the witness of other people affected that. We are Christians because someone else in our lives pointed us to the value of what had been revealed to them. And while some members of Holy Comforter have been a part of the parish all their lives, most of you came into the church because at some point someone encouraged you to be there.

During this season after the Epiphany, let us take to heart our calling to be like the wise men and like John the Baptist, to not only receive God's revelation about who Jesus is for us but to share that revelation with the world. It is the time of year when many of us make resolutions. Let us resolve that in 2015 we will recommend our parish church as a spiritual home to the people we care about and the people we encounter in our everyday lives.

**In His Mercy,
Fr. Jonathan**

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## MOTHERS' HOME

by Barbara Wilson

### Giving Tree

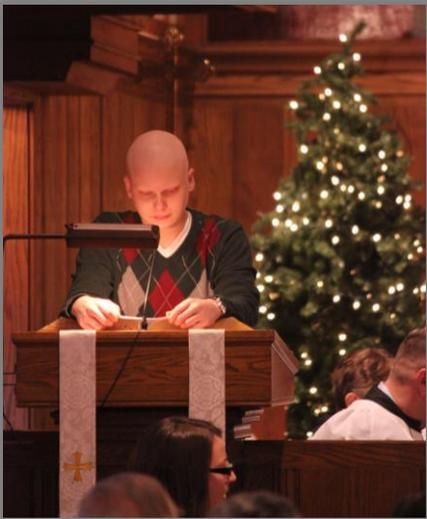
A huge thank you to everyone who participated in this year's Giving Tree. Ornaments for **Mother's Home** residents and the **Delaware County Domestic Abuse Project** shelter residents and Secret Santa Workshop quickly disappeared from the tree in the Upper Parish Hall.

Abundant gifts were returned by December 14. A group of parishioners delivered gifts to the Mother's Home on December 15. The residents enjoyed hot chocolate, cookies and caroling led by Erin Sprague and Mike Christopher. And, the 10 babies, all less than 4 months, seemed to enjoy the music, too. Items were dropped off to the Domestic Abuse Project just in time for children to select a gift for their Moms at the Secret Santa Workshop along with other much needed items for families staying at the shelter. What an amazing demonstration of the giving spirit of Christmas!



**Thank you one and all!  
Barbara Wilson and Chris Stanley**

# Christmas Pageant Collage



# Annual Meeting and Advent Conspiracy Collection

We have two new candidates thus far for Vestry, Tracy Gray and Gerry Doyle. More details on our newest candidates will follow. Please keep an eye on church bulletins for more information.

Our Annual Meeting, to be held on January 18, will include proposed by-law and articles of incorporation changes that will reduce the size of the Vestry.

Reminder: We will also be collecting for our Advent Conspiracy ministry at the Annual Meeting.



## SPCA Special Holiday Collection

Our SPCA Holiday Collection brought in lots of great items for the homeless animals at the Delaware County SPCA. Food, toys, blankets, and treats filled the boxes and bags to overflowing.

Many thanks to everyone who donated for their generosity and obvious outpouring of compassion for the animals in need of loving, forever homes.

Please remember that donations to the shelter are welcome any time, not just in December.

## New Baby Announcement

Bill and Carole Kunigonis are the proud Grandparents (#6) of BENJAMIN ARAGAO (Mother is Brazilian - Aragao is her maiden name). The baby's full name is BENJAMIN ARAGAO KUNIGONIS.

Baby Benjamin Aragao Kunigonis was born on December 23, 2014, tipping the scales at 9 pound 5 ounces! A true Christmas miracle!

Congratulations to the whole family, especially the proud grandparents!





## Church of the Holy Comforter Calendar of Events ~ Jan 2015

### **Thursday, January 1**

10:00am Mass for the Feast of the Holy Name

### **Friday, January 2**

7:00pm Alcoholics Anonymous

### **Sunday, January 4**

7:15am Morning Prayer

8:00am Holy Eucharist

10:00am Christmas Lessons and Carols

11:30am Acolyte Meeting

### **Monday, January 5**

9:30am Morning Prayer

5:00pm Evensong

7:00pm Alcoholics Anonymous

### **Tuesday, January 6**

4:30pm Evensong

7:30pm **Epiphany Choral Eucharist**

### **Wednesday, January 7**

10:00am Healing Eucharist

5:00pm Evensong

### **Thursday, January 8**

9:30am Morning Prayer

5:00pm Evensong

7:30pm Choir

### **Friday, January 9**

7:00pm Alcoholics Anonymous

### **Saturday, January 10**

11:00am Funeral for Chick Geiger

### **Sunday, January 11**

7:15am Morning Prayer

8:00am Holy Eucharist

10:00am Holy Eucharist

11:30am **Women's Group Meeting**

### **Monday, January 12**

9:30am Morning Prayer

5:00pm Evensong

7:00pm Alcoholics Anonymous

### **Tuesday, January 13**

4:30pm Evensong

### **Wednesday, January 14**

10:00am Healing Eucharist

5:00pm Evensong

### **Thursday, January 15**

5:00pm Evensong

7:30pm Choir

### **Friday, January 16**

7:00pm Alcoholics Anonymous

### **Sunday, January 18**

7:15am Morning Prayer

8:00am Holy Eucharist

10:00am Holy Eucharist

### **Monday, January 19**

7:00pm Alcoholics Anonymous

### **Tuesday, January 20**

4:30pm The Great Litany

7:15pm Vestry Meeting

### **Wednesday, January 21**

10:00am Healing Eucharist

5:00pm Evensong

### **Thursday, January 22**

9:30am Morning Prayer

5:00pm Evensong

7:30pm Choir

### **Friday, January 23**

7:00pm Alcoholics Anonymous

### **Saturday, January 24**

6:30pm **Quizzo**

### **Sunday, January 25**

7:15am Morning Prayer

8:00am Holy Eucharist

10:00am Holy Eucharist

### **Monday, January 26**

9:30am Morning Prayer

5:00pm Evensong

7:00pm Alcoholics Anonymous

### **Tuesday, January 27**

4:30pm Holy Rosary

### **Wednesday, January 28**

10:00am Healing Eucharist

5:00pm Evensong

### **Thursday, January 29**

9:30am Morning Prayer

5:00pm Evensong

7:30pm Choir

### **Friday, January 30**

7:00pm Alcoholics Anonymous

<http://comforterchurch.org/about/calendar/>