



**Advent, Christmas 2009 – Epiphany 2010**

A publication of Saint Peter's Episcopal Church

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## **January and the Feast of the Epiphany**

A friend never tires of reminding me that “January is a month without which life would be greatly improved—annual reports, final days of reckoning with postponed business, new budgets, clearing out files, starting new ones, forgetting those wonderful resolutions made on New Year’s Eve and feeling guilty about the failures, to say nothing of Christmas bills.”

“January,” he attests, “is a miserable, harassed, sniveling, crass, over-bearing, worldly wretch of a month.”

And I never tire of reminding that friend about January 6, about the Feast of the Epiphany. “January is like the Epiphany. January and the Epiphany are all about gifts.” Gifts.

Every January 6, the prophet Third Isaiah tells of gifts being carried to Jerusalem, the holy city:

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn....You shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense.

(The Book of the prophet Isaiah 60: 1-6)

Matthew writes of gifts brought to a new-born king:

Wise men from the East set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

(The Gospel according to Matthew 2: 1-12)

The author of the Letter to the Church in Ephesus writes of gifts given by God, in and through Christ, to both Jews and Gentiles who are now made one in him:

In former generations, the mystery of Christ was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit; that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

(The Letter to the Ephesians 3: 1-12)

Three stories, stories of people journeying and searching in response to the God who called them.

January is a gift, thirty-one days for us to journey and search in reply to the God who calls us; thirty-one days for us to come to the place where we, at last, discover a child. Who is that child? Where is that child? That child is the new person God is calling you and me to become.

It is for the birthing of that child inside ourselves that God asks us to give our gifts—our gold, our frankincense, our myrrh; the deepest elements of our hearts and minds and souls and strength—our energy, our integrity, our intelligence, our loyalties, our hope.

When we allow the child within us to be born, we will strive to bring to life that child of hope and possibility and new creation at every other level—in our relationships, in our vocations, in our play, in the world of our day.

Through each of us, the eternal and holy child of hope and possibility can be born daily, not in a remote past, but in the present—even in January, in “that miserable, harassed, sniveling, crass, overbearing, worldly wretch of a month.”

As another friend puts it,

Do you see a great and mysterious thing? You are the story. You yourself are the child of God who is daily being called into birth. You yourself are also the wise man or woman seeking the child. You yourself are the living, breathing Bethlehem in which the Christ child is continually being born.

Thank you, dear God, for January.



James H. Purdy, Rector

# Worship News

## Advent Services of Worship

Continuing a tradition of the Western Church and Saint Peter's Church, we shall light the Advent Wreath candles on the four Sundays of Advent at the beginning of the Worship Services. Everyone is welcome to the Saint Peter's Choir Concert—George Frideric Handel's *Messiah (Part I)*, on Sunday, December 6 at 5:00 P.M. The Woman's Guild will host a reception for all following the concert. On Sunday, December 13, on the Third Sunday of Advent, we will celebrate a Festival of Advent Lessons and Carols during the 10:30 A.M. Worship Service.

## Christmas Eve Worship – December 24:

- 4:00 P.M. Holy Eucharist
- Children's Christmas Pageant
- 6:00 P.M. Holy Eucharist
- 10:30 P.M. Carol Service
- 11:00 P.M. Holy Eucharist



## Christmas Day Worship – December 25:

- 10:00 A.M. Holy Eucharist

## New Year's Eve – December 31:

- 6:00 P.M. Prayers in Grace Chapel

## Christmas Private Communion

The clergy will consider it their privilege to administer Holy Communion to those shut-in or otherwise unable to participate in the worship of Christmas. Please telephone the Church Office at (314) 993-2306, ext. 100 for scheduling.

## Christmas Offering

The Christmas offering has been designated by the Faith in Action Commission and the Rector, Wardens, and Vestry of Saint Peter's Episcopal Church to support the mission and ministry of The Haven of Grace. Please use the special offering envelopes to be enclosed in the Christmas Eve/Day service booklets if you wish to support this ministry in our community. Loose checks which are clearly marked for the Christmas Offering will also be designated for The Haven of Grace.

## Grace Prayer Network is Back!

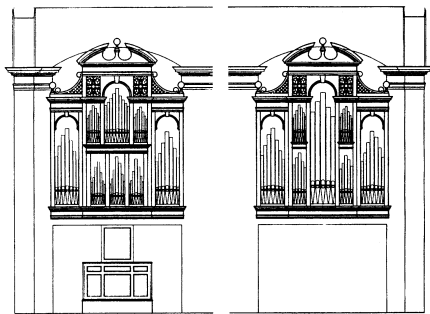
The Grace Prayer Network is back, in a new, improved format, on its own website at [www.graceprayernet.org](http://www.graceprayernet.org). Meditations are emailed, and they're also available indefinitely on the site itself. The format is now along the lines of a blog. Instead of being limited to a weekly emailed meditation on the lectionary, editor Bryan Miller and others post on other topics as well, several times each week. Please come and check it out!

## Epiphany Gospel Drama

**On Sunday, January 3** the children of Saint Peter's are invited to participate in an Epiphany Gospel Drama during the 10:30 Service of Holy Eucharist. Please contact Laura Schultz if you would like to participate.

## The Meandering Musician by S. William Aitken

Join the Saint Peter's Choir, Soloists and Chamber Orchestra on **Sunday, December 6, 5:00 P.M.** for George Frideric Handel's MESSIAH (Part I), followed by a Reception by the Woman's Guild!



FRONT ELEVATION OF CASES

### ADVENT LESSONS & CAROLS – Sunday – 13 December – 10:30

**A.M.** Join us as we celebrate the season of Advent in our traditional service of Lessons and Carols, with music by the Children of the Church School, the Choristers, the Bell Choir and the Saint Peter's Choir. This year's service includes carols by parishioner Philip Barnes, Felix Mendelssohn (a rarely heard carol for Advent), Maurice Durufle and Franz Biebl, along with lots of Advent hymns for the congregation.

### CHRISTMAS EVE CAROL SERVICE AND EUCHARIST – Thursday – 24 December – 10:30 p.m.

This year's Carol Service begins with the Plainsong chant for Christmas – *Hodie Christus natus est* (Today Christ is born). A festive setting of *Resonemus Laudibus* by David Willcocks is followed by Ralph Vaughan William's haunting carol, *No Sad Thought His Soul*

*Affright*. The service continues with a carol written for the Saint Peter's Choir by Sasha Johnson Manning – *Make We Joy*, and concludes with the traditional setting by Harold Darke of *In The Bleak Midwinter*. Music for the Eucharist includes the magnificent *Gloria in excelsis* setting by G. P. da Palestrina from his Mass for Christmas Day (*Dies sanctificatus*) as well as carols by R. L. Pearsall, David Willcocks, Charles Wood and W. J. Kirkpatrick, and Carols for the Congregation !

### Recital: January 3, 5:00 P.M. – Max Tenney – Organist, The St. Louis Cathedral Basilica

**Evensong for Epiphany: Sunday, January 3, 5:30 P.M.** Join the Saint Peter's Singers for Choral Evensong with Carols in honor of Epiphany! Here is a wonderful chance to hear a set of Christmas Carols about the Three Kings! Like last year's Epiphany Evensong, we are replacing the usual canticles at Evensong with carols. This service includes the festive New Year Carol – *What Cheer? Good Cheer!* by William Walton; Harold Friedell's lovely carol – *Song of Mary*; Peter Cornelius's carol for choir and baritone soloist – *The Three Kings*; and Richard Lloyd's carol for soprano and tenor soloists with choir – *It Was Upon the 12<sup>th</sup> Day*. This service will be conducted by Karen Romeri.

**In 2010** – We are celebrating with concerts honoring each of them – the 325th anniversary of the births of Johann Sebastian Bach, George Frideric Handel and Domenico Scarlatti.

#### **March 14, 2010, 5:00 p.m. Concert**

*CELEBRATING HANDEL'S 325<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY*

**THE FOUR CORONATION**

**ANTHEMS**

**plus Two ORGAN CONCERTOS**

*St. Peter's Choir, Soloists and Chamber Orchestra*

#### **October 2010 Concert - Sunday**

**date to be announced**

*CELEBRATING DOMENICO*

*SCARLATTI'S*

*325<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY*

**CHARLES METZ – Harpsichord –**

**Scarlatti Sonatas**

**MISSA QUATUOR VOCUM – St.**

**Peter's Choir**

#### **December 5, 2010 – 5:00 p.m. –**

**Concert**

*CELEBRATING JOHANN*

*SEBASTIAN BACH'S*

*325<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY*

**MAGNIFICAT IN D + Other**

**Works**

*St. Peter's Choir, Soloists and*

*Chamber Orchestra*

Notes on the composers and music for each Sunday will be found at the bottom of the 10:30 A.M. service sheet page. A listing of the Choral Music for September through December is available on the Saint Peter's Church website, or in Choral Music Booklets located in the Narthex or the Church Office.

## A Year of Meditations by Bryan Miller

Saint Peter's parishioner Bryan Miller is one of 24 authors included in *Praying Day by Day: A Year of Meditations*, just published by Forward Movement. Her 23 one-page essays were published alongside contributions by writers including Barbara Cawthorne Crafton, Bo Cox, Thomas L. Ehrich and others. For more information, visit [www.forwardmovement.org](http://www.forwardmovement.org) or call Forward Movement Publications at 800-543-1813 to place your order. The cost is \$14.95.

# Education News

## Continuing the Conversation

Join clergy and parishioners in the Elliot Room for these opportunities to grow in faith with one another:

- On the first, second and fourth Sunday mornings of each month, join the preachers of the day to Continue the Conversation, at 8:50 and again at 9:30.
- Sunday, January 17, 9:00 A.M. – Join parishioners Mimi and Landers Carnal and Sue O’Brien to continue our series on **Finding Grace in the Wilderness**. The discussion topic will be “When Dementia enters in”...transitioning to a new relationship with a parent or a spouse.
- Looking ahead: Sunday, February 21, 9:00 A.M. - Recovery Sunday - Two members of Alcoholics Anonymous will talk about how God’s grace helped them to overcome their addictions to alcohol.

## Christmas Classic Movie Night

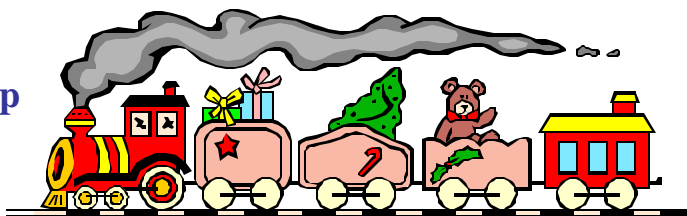
Kelly Carlson and Jay Kanzler invite you to join them to watch “It’s A Wonderful Life” on Wednesday, December 2, at 6:00 P.M. in the Undercroft. Join the fun!

## Book Group

We continue to meet once a month on Wednesdays at 1:45 P.M. in the Elliot Room. Our January 6 book will be a 1948 novel *I Capture the Castle*, by Dodie Smith. It will be fun to read in December (a month in which we don't meet)—a Christmas present to ourselves!

On February 3 we will discuss *The Second Journey*, a memoir by Joan Anderson. In 2001 we very much enjoyed her book *A Year by the Sea*. Our March 3 selection will be *Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet*, a first novel by Jamie Ford. We hope you will join us for any or all of our meetings.

## Peeps From The Playgroup



Do let your Christmas go to the dogs and read *Carl’s Christmas* with your children. Then let your Christmas go to the trains and read *The Polar Express* and finally take your holiday to Whoville to round out the season. Merry Christmas to All from the Playgroup. For information please call the Playgroup Office: 314-993-6774.

## Christian Education News by Laura Schultz, Director

**Sunday, November 29– The First Sunday of Advent:** Advent marks the beginning of the new church year. We will celebrate with our annual Advent **wreath-making workshop**. The wreath-making will be in the Undercroft immediately after the 10:30 Service. Each person is welcome to make a wreath, or you may make one for the family to enjoy. There are many people in the parish who enjoy having any extra wreaths to take home for themselves.

The **Giving Tree** will be in the Narthex once again beginning November 29. As in years past, the gifts on the Giving Tree will benefit needy children in our community.

**Sunday, December 13:** The Service of Advent Lessons and Carols will be at 10:30 A.M. **The Choristers and Young Singers** will participate in this special Service. There will be Church School, with the children going to their classes after the Third Lesson. This will be a wonderful opportunity for children to be a part of Worship. Children ages four years old through second grade are invited to participate in the Young Singers Group. We will begin rehearsing on November 15 at 10:30 A.M. in the Little Building.

**Saturday, December 19** is the date for the famous, one-and-only rehearsal for the Christmas Eve Pageant. The rehearsal will be **from 9:00-10:15 A.M.** Children of all ages are welcome to be part of the Pageant. All children enrolled in Church School will receive a letter with more details about the Pageant. Please contact Laura Schultz if you would like to participate. Also, adult helpers are needed for the rehearsal and the Pageant.



**Thursday, December 24** is the Christmas Pageant for children of **all ages, at 4:00 P.M.** Join us for this special Service of Worship. In order to make the Christmas Pageant more enjoyable for everyone in attendance, **we request that photographs be taken without flashes, and videos and photographs be taken from your seats.** Thank you for your cooperation.

**Sunday, January 3 is Epiphany** and the children of Saint Peter's are invited to participate in an Epiphany Gospel Drama during the 10:30 service. The only rehearsal will be at 9:30 that morning. Please contact Laura Schultz if you would like to participate. Needed are readers, kings, Mary, Joseph, scribes, and others.

**Children in Action!** - During the season of Advent, children in Kindergarten through Fifth grade will be experiencing a unit called "Stations of the Creche." This unit will emphasize preparing the way of the Lord as we enter into the season of Christmas. After the new year, the children will learn about the disciples of Jesus with a Rotation called "When Jesus Was a Child." If any parents want to join in the fun of guiding our children through their active learning process, please contact Laura Schultz to volunteer.

**Preschool Church School** – Our preschool age children are responding well to the new curriculum for their class. They absolutely love the flannel story board. So far, they have completed units on Creation, Noah's Ark, and Abraham. Upcoming units include the Christmas story, Jesus in the Temple, the Baptism of Jesus, the story of the Loaves and Fishes, and Jonah.

**Communion Instruction Class starts January 10, 2010.** The Episcopal Church has published a resource for Communion Instruction with Children, *This Bread and This Cup*, which is designed to be used with children and at least one parent. We invite you to join us in a three-week class based upon this new resource **on Sundays from 9:30 until 10:15, January 10, 17, and 31.** (There will be no class on January 24 due to the Annual Meeting.)

This communion instruction is designed to offer age-appropriate theology, liturgy and tradition to children and their parents. Each session will be a hands-on learning experience for both child and parent. The children will receive a book that will be used for each session. The sessions are geared toward children in Kindergarten through Third Grade but may be used with older elementary children, too.

We welcome your participation. Please let us know if you are interested in the class so that we may purchase and prepare materials. Contact Laura Schultz at 314-993-2306, ext. 106 with any questions that you may have.

## **Warrant of Annual Meeting**

Pursuant to the By-laws of the Saint Peter's Episcopal Church of St. Louis County and at the direction of the Rector, Wardens, and Vestry, **the Annual Meeting of the Parish shall be held on Sunday, January 24, 2010**, in the Undercroft of the church building at 110 North Warson Road, Ladue, beginning at nine o'clock in the morning:

- To receive reports of the Rector, the Staff, the Officers, the Commissions and Committees, and Organizations of the Parish;
- To elect five members of the Vestry (one for a term of two years, four for terms of three years);
- To elect six Delegates and one Alternate Delegate to the Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Missouri who will also serve as Representatives of the Parish to Assemblies of Metro IV Convocation of the Diocese (each for terms of three years);
- To receive and act upon resolutions and to transact such other business that may be brought before said Meeting.

A duly attested copy of this Warrant shall be placed at the public entrances of the church building by or before January 9, 2010.

Attest: William R. Gilbert, II  
Secretary

By action of the Rector  
with the concurrence  
of the Wardens and Vestry  
November 24, 2009

## **2009 Contributions** by Cindy Heuermann, Stewardship Ministry Coordinator

Just a quick reminder of IRA requirements for contribution credit for the year 2009:

- All monies must be in the Church Office on or before December 31, 2009. If mailed, they must be postmarked on or before December 31, 2009.
- Stock gifts and transfers must be received into the Saint Peter's account on or before December 31, 2009. Instructions for gifts of securities are:
  - Saint Peter's Episcopal Church
  - Acct# 750215030
  - DTC # 2170
  - Commerce Bank NA ID #26447
  - Commerce Bank NA Agent Bank number 26388
- Please contact Kathy Jones or Cindy Heuermann in the Church Office when gifting securities.
- Contributions failing to meet these requirements will be posted to the 2010 contribution statements.
- Your 2009 Year-End Contribution Statement from Saint Peter's Church will have the required wording for income tax credit.

If you have additional questions, please contact call the Church Office at 314-993-2306: Kathy Jones, Financial Administrator (ext. 116) or Cindy Heuermann (ext. 126).

# Pastoral Care News

## Christmas Flowers and Greens

The deadline to order flowers and greens to beautify the sanctuary for the Christmas Season will be **Tuesday, December 1**. If you would like to have the intention for your loved one listed in the Christmas Eve/Day service sheet, please fill call the Church Office for a form, and return it with your check no later than December 1. In order to meet the print deadline, names submitted after the 1<sup>st</sup> will not be included in the Christmas service sheets.

## Wednesday Family Night

Bring your family to the Undercroft at 6:00 P.M. on the second Wednesday of the month—November 11 and January 13. Please note that we will not meet in December.

We'll order pizza; salad and dessert will be provided. The cost is \$5/person or \$15/family. RSVP by Noon that day to Ann Sutter, [ann.sutter@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ann.sutter@sbcglobal.net) so we will have a count for pizza.

## Men's Breakfast



Join us on the second Tuesday of the month—December 8 and January 12—at 7:15 A.M. in the Undercroft for a breakfast gathering of the Men's Group of Saint Peter's Episcopal Church.

## Sunday Sandwiches

2nd – 8th Graders, please help! Join other parishioners one Sunday each month to make lunches for the Sunshine Ministries, which provides services to homeless men in St. Louis. Let's make as many lunches as we can! We meet 10:00 – 10:30 A.M. in the Undercroft kitchen on Sunday, December 13. In 2010, we will meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month: January 10, February 14, March 14, April 11 and May 9.

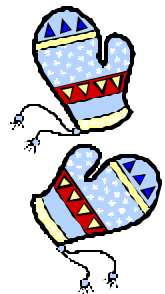
Would your family like to help by shopping for supplies, or by delivering the sandwiches? If so, please call the Church Office at 314-993-2306, ext. 100.

## Youth Group

We meet every Sunday, 11:30 A.M. – 1:00 P.M. Service projects are every month on the second Sunday of the month, always starting at 1:00. Youth worship is always on the third Sunday of the month, 5:30-7:00 P.M. We will not meet on the weekends of Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's. Please join us!

## Thank You!

Throughout the month of October the Saint Peter's staff collected gloves and mittens for the St. Louis Crisis Nursery and for the Williams Temple emergency clothing closet. **Thanks to you**, we collected **200 pairs of gloves and mittens** for babies, toddlers, children, teens and adults. We are grateful for your help in making our project so successful.



## St. Louis Chamber Chorus Concert

Plan to attend the next concert of the St. Louis Chamber Chorus, *A New World Christmas*, on Sunday, December 20 at 3:00 P.M. at Cathedral Basilica of Saint Louis (New Cathedral), on Lindell Boulevard. For tickets or more information go to [www.chamberchorus.org](http://www.chamberchorus.org) or call 636-458-4343.

## Old Trees and New Trees by Tom Ott

We have had to make the decision to remove two trees from the Saint Peter's Church grounds. Both trees have been declining in health for several years, with sparse foliage and many dead limbs. Both arborists who were consulted recommended their removal at this point. The pin oak in the front of the church building will be replaced with a choice variety of Black Gum tree (*Nyssa sylvatica*) called "Wildfire". This cultivar has exceptional red-orange fall color and has been donated in loving memory of B.J. Williams, by her friends. It will eventually reach 40-50 feet high and has a beautiful pyramidal shape. The oak just northwest of the chapel entrance will be replaced by the "Valley Forge" variety of the American elm (*Ulmus americana*)—an elm variety which does not develop the Dutch elm blight which destroyed most of our elms several decades ago. These trees reach 60-70 feet eventually and have a magnificent vase-shaped canopy, providing fine appearance and shade. It is donated in loving memory of Jane Eberle Newbold, by her family.

Many of Saint Peter's large old trees require regular pruning to remove weakened or dead branches, both to promote better health of the tree and to prevent damage to property or injury to people who may be below when branches fall. As the Saint Peter's Church budget allows, much more needs to be done. Our trees are old now, and there will need to be a regular program of ongoing maintenance to keep things looking as beautiful as they have in the past. In addition to the new trees, several critical pruning jobs will be undertaken.

## Evening Women's Association

Join us on **Friday, December 4** for the Baking Project for the Mariners. We'll prepare fudge and drink treats for our contribution to the Christmas on the River project. Come join the fun in the kitchen and get a good workout stirring the fudge! Meet at 7:00 in the Undercroft kitchen.

Plan to join the fun on **Friday, January 8**, for Holiday Recovery. We'll wind down from the hectic holiday pace with a simple evening of conversation, food and mulled wine.

For more information, call Jane Gilbert at 314-569-9443 or Linda Ryder at 636-256-0897.



## All Hands on Deck

On Saturday, December 5 join our Ministry on the River outreach team at 9:00 A.M. in the Undercroft for the ninth annual Christmas on the River packaging work-party. We will package our gifts of scarves, Christmas cards, candy, and warm wishes for inland mariners who will be away from home during the holidays. We need your help on the morning of December 5 to prepare packages for distribution sites in the St. Louis area. Donations appreciated of items to pack—Chapstick, hand lotion, sugarless chewing gum, and candy—all to brighten the mariners' holidays! Please bring donations on the packing day or in advance to the Undercroft.

## Woman's Guild



The members of the Woman's Guild want to thank all those who helped make the Boutique/Treasures Plus Sale a wonderful success. So many people baked delicious cookies, brownies, pies, cakes, and candy! Others knitted amazing clothing and accessories for children and adults; and some made beautiful hand-painted children's furniture, doll beds, and a doll house. The treasures donated were thoughtfully chosen and carefully displayed. We also want to thank the congregation for supporting our endeavor by purchasing so many items. Because of your generosity many organizations will benefit.

May your Thanksgiving and Christmas be filled with joy.

We will resume our programs on Tuesday, January 12, with Crafts at 9:30 A.M., Yoga at 11:00, Lunch at 12:15 P.M., and Program at 12:45. The 2010 program schedule includes:

- Jan. 12 "Computers – Can you twitter? Are you on Facebook?" - Explore the latest Internet tools with teacher Mike Caulkins
- Jan. 19 "Computers – Be careful online – managing financial transactions and protecting against identity theft"
- Jan. 26 "Computer – Wi Fitness" and it's fun, too
- Feb. 2 "Laumeier Sculpture Park-its History and Highlights of the Permanent Collection" – Clara Coleman
- Feb. 9, 16 & 23 "A Survey of Women's Interpretative Approaches to Scripture" - Deborah Krause, Dean and Professor at Eden Theological Seminary
- Mar. 2 "Prayer" led by the Reverend Kelly Carlson
- Mar. 9-Apr. 6 Easter Recess
- Apr. 13 "Theodore Link – the architect for St. Louis' Union Station" - Gary Tetley
- Apr. 20 "Frank Lloyd Wright" – Agnes Garino, docent
- Apr. 27 "What's Happening in Dance Around the World" – Michael Uthoff, Artistic and Executive Director, Dance St. Louis
- May 4 "Arts in the Inner City" – Eileen Manganaro of COCA
- May 11 Playday in a Garden, Commissioning of Woman's Guild Officers
- June 9 Garden Tour

Join us!

## **The Haven of Grace** by Carrie Marks

Merry Christmas from The Haven of Grace!

This year The Haven is launching an Adopt-a-Family program to provide a very special Christmas season for several of its most needy families. Members of the community will be able to provide basic necessities and Christmas gifts for women and their children in The Haven's Aftercare Program. If you or your organization are interested in the Adopt-a-Family program, please contact Alison at The Haven of Grace at [azeller@havenofgracestl.org](mailto:azeller@havenofgracestl.org) to be paired with a family.

On November 8, Larry Forgione did it again this year at his An American Place restaurant. Larry treated supporters of The Haven to a four-course meal that was fresh, local and delicious. The "Empty Hands, Open Hearts" event drew around 100 people to benefit The Haven.

Day to day at The Haven, the women are busy attending classes and pursuing job training. Current classes help residents learn improved parenting, meal planning, spiritual growth, and financial education. Many women are completing high school or GED classes. They are receiving counseling in career training, emotional therapy, and family planning. For fun they are involved in book club and art therapy programs. On December 13 members of The Haven's Aftercare program will attend a Mother's Day Out event at The Magic House with their children.

During this season of thanks, The Haven of Grace would like to express our gratitude to Saint Peter's Church for its long history of support of our women and our mission.

## **United Thank Offering**

The Fall Ingathering of the United Thank Offering was received by Saint Peter's Church on Sunday, November 22. There is still time to participate. Please mark your offering for U.T.O. and drop it into the offering plate or submit it to Kathy Jones in the Church Office.

## **Prayer List**

We pray for all those in this congregation who work in God's ministry—Jim, Kelly, Stephen, Jay, and Joe, our clergy; the other members of the staff; and for our parish family. For our Ministry on the River, and for mariners who labor on our river systems and their families. For the Diversity Task Force. For Shenandoah Elementary School, its students and teachers and for the Saint Peter's/Shenandoah School Partnership. For The Haven of Grace staff, babies, and their mothers; and all previous residents of The Haven of Grace and their children. We pray for those committed to our ongoing prayers—for all parishioners and for our families and friends.

## **Upcoming . . .**

Mark your 2010 calendars for these Sunday opportunities:

January 3      10:30 A.M. Epiphany Gospel Drama  
                     5:00 P.M. Organ Recital  
                     5:30 P.M. Evensong

January 17      9:00 A.M. Finding Grace in the Wilderness

January 24      9:00 A.M. Annual Meeting



## Office Notes

Please welcome **our new Receptionist, Mandy Van Velkinburgh**, to the Saint Peter's Church staff. If you are in the building Monday through Thursday, stop by the Church Office and introduce yourself. You may reach Mandy at 314-993-2306, ext. 100, or email [Office@StPetersEpiscopal.org](mailto:Office@StPetersEpiscopal.org).

The Church Office will be closed and the buildings locked for the following holiday schedule:

Christmas Eve – Office closes at Noon

New Year's Eve – Office closes at Noon

The Office will be closed on the following days:

December 25 and 28 – Christmas holidays

January 1 – New Year's Day holiday

January 18 – Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday



**The deadline for the 2009 Annual Report is Tuesday, December 29.** The deadline for the next issue of *Rooster Tales Express* is **January 22**, for Lent. Please submit your article to the Church Office, or e-mail it to Carol Lyons at [clyons@StPetersEpiscopal.org](mailto:clyons@StPetersEpiscopal.org).

## THE PARISH STAFF

**The Reverend James H. Purdy**, Rector

**The Reverend J. Stephen Bergmann**, Pastoral Assistant

**Rabbi Joseph R. Rosenbloom**, Rabbi in Residence

**Laura M. Schultz**, Director of Christian Education

**Muriel Morley Jahn**, Co-Coordinator of Youth Ministries

**Kathy M. Jones**, Financial Administrator

**Carolyn S. Lyons**, Parish Secretary

**Alexandru Mixich**, Full Time Sexton

**The Reverend Kelly B. Carlson**, Assistant to the Rector

**The Reverend Jay L. Kanzler**, Assisting

**S. William Aitken**, Organist and Choirmaster

**Lisa Reynolds**, Playgroup Director

**Phil Potaczek**, Co-Coordinator of Youth Ministries

**Cindy K. Heuermann**, Stewardship Ministry Coordinator

**Mandy Van Velkinburgh**, Receptionist/Office Assistant

**Florica Mixich**, Part Time Sexton