

THE GOOD NEWS

January 2022

St. Ignatius of Antioch
Episcopal Church
Walking in love as Christ taught us



A LETTER TO OUR ST. IGNATIUS FAMILY

Dear Ignatians ~

Grace and peace to you from God our Father, Jesus our Savior, and the Holy Spirit our Guide.

It is an incredible honor that I was ordained a priest 45 years ago – first serving 28 years in the Roman Church, and then received to serve in the Episcopal Church the last 17 years. These years and experiences have been a blessing of “grace upon grace.”

In my *Letter of Agreement* with you dated March 1, 2019, I was called by a vestry vote, and with the Bishop’s approval, to serve as your priest-in-charge for three years ending February 28, 2022. Now with Terry’s and my time with you coming to its contractual end, we will return to Florida.

Working with our vestry, treasurer, and many other fine volunteers as a team of leaders, *together* we have promoted worship, fellowship, formation, and outreach – even in the midst of a pandemic. We can

perhaps be proudest of our “Mission of the Month” outreach efforts as a parish family – each month, opening our hearts and reaching beyond our church doors to assist an agency or entity nearby in Illinois and/or Wisconsin. In this *you* have been a blessing to our wider community.

My unexpected hospitalization and diagnosis of end stage kidney failure has certainly changed my life. For the last two years I have been on an inflexible Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday dialysis schedule with four hour treatments per session. I have unsuccessfully sought a donor for a transplant, and as a result require dialysis three days every week for the rest of my life.

With the end of our contractual time with you approaching, Terry and I have been praying about our future. I will soon be 73, and we have revised our lives to work around my dialysis reality. We are especially grateful to Rev. Andrea Mysen, Director of Ministry for the Diocese of Chicago, along with family, friends, and others who have offered listening ears, supportive prayer, and true concern.

Andrea met with our current vestry twice in recent months, and she and the Bishop's staff will work with the new vestry you will elect at our January 30th Annual Meeting to begin the work of discerning your future. The Diocese will guide and equip you through your present and future needs.

Terry and I have contacted our former Florida realtor who is assisting us in downsizing to a small condo; we're listing our house here; and I'm making arrangements to transfer to a reputable dialysis center.

We contacted our former Bishop, and have received a vestry call to serve the people at St. George Episcopal Church in Bradenton, Florida as their part-time interim priest.

When Terry and I leave next month, we want to do so on the best possible terms with you. Together we've written three years of our parish history. During these years our parish family thrived spiritually – even surviving a pandemic – as we did ministry together, to God's greater honor and glory, while in service to you and to our wider community.

We thank each of you for the privilege of sharing your faith journey during these years. Terry and I now ask your prayers as we leave you to serve others. Do know that you will always have a place in our hearts and prayers.

In the Lord's love and peace,

~ Fr. Brian



Outreach Summary

**December Mission
of the Month:**

We are so grateful to our congregation for all the generous gifts and monetary donations that our little giving tree generated. 128 items were delivered to the women and children being serviced by The Home of the Sparrow in Third Lake.

This organization supports and empowers women and children as they journey from homelessness to self-sufficiency.



Our January “Mission” invites us to reach out to offer relief to the tornado victims in Mayfield, KY. Please write checks payable to *Episcopal Relief & Development*, and in the memo section write: *Mayfield*. We will collect until *Sun., Jan. 23*.

-Outreach Committee


Christmas Attendance:


	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>
Eve in-person:	57	10	35
Eve zoom:	0	10	16
Day in-person:	20	6	18
Day zoom:	0	14	1



Christmas Thanks:

- A very special “thank you” to the folks who decorated the Church for Christmas. The Church looks great for our celebration of the Lord’s birth!
- We not only decorated the Church with greenery and lights, but for the first time since before Covid we beautified our worship with Hymns (Carols). It was good to hear singing (although masked) coming from the pews once again! I’m sure it also pleased the Lord greatly. (I think it’s safe to suggest that moving forward Opening and Closing Hymns are back at the 10am Eucharist!)
- Further thanks to those who brought Nativity Scenes from their homes for our display of twenty Nativity Scenes, each different from the others, in our Fellowship area. They are shared with us for our inspiration during this Holy Season through Sunday, January 9th, “The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord.” Now anyone wishing to share their Kings (Magi) are also invited to set them up along the Communion Railing – leading us in our spiritual procession to discover Christ anew.
- And thanks to all those who assisted with the usual liturgical ministries during the Holy Season serving as Greeters, Crucifers, Readers, and those who presented the Bread and Wine at the Altar.

Together our efforts set the scene for us to assist the congregation, as Psalm 96 suggests:

“Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.”

Tri-Parish Christian Wellness Ministry:

CWM held a craft session on Dec 17th to make evergreen centerpieces at UMCA. Eight merry ladies got into the holiday spirit and had fun making wonderful creations! Do you see the antlers? Hope to see more ladies next year!



CWM will be coordinating CPR and First Aid classes with the Antioch Fire Dept in January. We don't want anyone inside our churches to have an accident or sudden loss of consciousness; hopefully these would be rare events.

Would you be able to help? The minutes until the ambulance arrives are precious and could make a difference in the outcome for the injured person. We need to be prepared for emergencies.

Each class is 4 hours in duration and will cost \$40. The times and location have not been finalized. Check the Sunday bulletins in January for updated information.

Please call Carol with any questions (630-399-0089).

GOD'S WILL RESALE SHOP

January Special:

50% off BLUE sticker items



questions call the shop at 224-321-4475



COMEDY CORNER



Let's Celebrate!

January Birthdays

- 1/18 – Nancy McConnell
- 1/20 – Brian Mielke
- 1/24 – Mike Brown
- 1/24 – Larry Ward
- 1/30 – Jim George

"Heavenly Father, look with favor, we pray, on your servants as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their life." (BCP, p830, #50)

