



The Breastplate

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Epiphany Jan. 7th Pageant

Help us put on the best pageant possible!

Let the pageantry begin!

Calling all stars! Join us for the St. Patrick's Epiphany Pageant on Sunday, January 7th at 4:00 PM. A brief celebration will follow our pageant at this service. There are speaking roles, or join us as a participant in a non-speaking role. There will be one brief rehearsal on the morning of Saturday, January 6th. Click [here](#) to sign up, or email [Emily LaMonica](mailto:Emily.LaMonica) with any questions !



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The Episcopal
Church Welcomes
You.

From the Rector's Desk

I love the new year. I've been deeply culturally nurtured to embrace the New Year as a time of fresh starts, a time to instill new habits. It can also be a time to reinforce positive habits as well.

Many of us embarked on the Advent Read-A-long of Mark's gospel and practiced daily bible reading as a spiritual discipline. No worries if you weren't absolutely consistent and had to catch up to finish the book before Christmas. No worries if you didn't finish the book at all. Spiritual Disciplines are not about perfection they are about returning. Every time we return to a spiritual discipline, be it prayer, or worship, or reading scripture, we are once again returning to the embrace of God.

So whether you finished up Mark and really enjoyed it, or you didn't and you want to give something another go, I invite you to join me in the Good Book Club this Epiphany. The Good Book Club is organized by Forward Movement and includes Christians from around the globe who commit to reading scripture together each Epiphany Season. This year we are reading the book of Genesis. You can find the reading schedule and sign up to receive updates, reading reminders, and more here: <https://www.goodbookclub.org/readings/>

I also be talking about my own reading experience on our podcast, St. Pat's Faith Talk. You can find the podcast by searching "St. Pat's Faith Talk" in either Apple Podcasts or Spotify.

Let's start the new year, "In the beginning..."

God's Peace,

Father Jason †

Grief Support

The Grief Support gathering will be Monday, January 22, 2024, at 6:30 pm in St. Patrick's library. (Please note that this is the 4th Monday instead of the 3rd Monday - this change is for January only.) Please consider joining us if you have lost your spouse or another significant member of your family for love, support, and understanding as we travel together this road called grief. We have added a Zoom link and will use the OWL if you wish to join us by Zoom. Please let Becky know you want to Zoom and she will send the link. Please contact Angel Cinco or Becky Stains for more information.



St. Pat's Parish Retreat at Procter Center

Friday, January 12 at 5pm

Sunday, January 14 at 8:30am

Cost: \$100/night for a room for up to 4 people (so, \$200 for the entire retreat) and \$58/person for meals

A Gift of Love

Mark your calendars now to spend the first half of Martin Luther King Weekend with us at Procter Center in an Intergenerational Retreat. The focus will be in Martin Luther King, Jr.'s vision of Beloved Community.

Please click [HERE](#) to register!

God's Peace, ~Jodie Emerson

Men's Retreat

A Men's Retreat is being planned for Saturday, February 24th, from 9 – 4:15 at St. Patrick's Smith Hall. The Rev. Canon John Johansen will be our guest speaker enlightening us on all things "Diocese of Southern Ohio". Later, we will engage in exercises aimed at helping all to discover ways to live a Christ-centered life. A light breakfast and full lunch will be provided. Sign-up easily throughout the month of January via Realm or by completing a paper registration form. A nominal fee of \$25 per person will be charged at the point of registration. All men ages 16+ are welcome to attend! Click [HERE](#) or scan the QR code to register today!



CATCH –Freedom Ministry

St. Pat's CATCH Court lunches are now going to be served on the [second Thursday](#) of the months January-November. If you would like to donate food or go downtown to Court to serve the meal to women survivors of sex trafficking, please contact Fran Montgomery or Mary Kay Arbogast. We look forward to your support in 2024!



2024 Young Adult Retreat!

Oh heck yeah! It is on. The 2024 Young Adult Retreat is approaching quickly, so get on the train! Register today! Can't wait to see you. The retreat will start the evening of Friday, January 19th and conclude Sunday morning on the 21st. Once you register, we will send you more details like that the price of the retreat is FREE:) If you are 18-30 years old or will be by January 19th and you want to do some retreating, then this retreat is for you!

To register visit <https://diosohio.wufoo.com/forms/x5diw8h10v831d/>

Spiritually Speaking

A New Year

As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving. (Col. 2:6-7)

Our new church year began with Advent, and now we move into the new year, a time in which many of us reflect on our priorities and direction for our lives. We could do that every day, however there is something special about this time of year when we tend to set our sights on the year ahead with a heightened awareness of Christ for us, with us, and within us during Epiphany. What are your desires in this new year? What are God's desires for you?

It may be helpful for you to write down a Rule of Life to serve as a guide for you in the new year. While it sounds somewhat inflexible to me since I picture myself in "epic fail" mode trying to follow a set of complicated rules, that's not the nature of the exercise. Thankfully, Br. David Vryhof of the Society of St. John the Evangelist has written a great guide to this practice, and I've posted a link to it below. It contains more guidance than I have space to write about here.

A Rule of Life is not about a set of rules, it is about writing down the things we value most in life and finding ways that we can live them. It serves as a guide and a support for us. After advising us to start small (perhaps just with an index card) and keep it simple, here are some general guidelines that he gives:

1. Invite God into the process through prayer, and one that he suggests is:
2. "In prayer, imagine yourself in a conversation with Jesus in which you describe to him what it is you value most and how you want to live faithfully in the world. Ask what he values most and how he wants you to live." ¹
3. Give yourself time to ponder and pray about the questions above - it might take several days, and as you revisit them your answers might change over time. That's okay.
4. Be gentle with yourself. This isn't about what you're not doing, but about what in life you want to "celebrate and sanctify."
5. Be realistic about what you have time to accomplish, and the limits on time and space you have to create your card. If it's too complicated, it will not be helpful to you, and that's not the idea here. You can always go back to it and refine it as you continue to pray.
6. Write down your goals, as simple as they are, to help you clarify them vs. just thinking about them. The act of writing it down can clarify your thoughts.

May all the blessings of Epiphany be yours, and especially in your conversations with God regarding God's desires for you in this new year.

~Kim Nelson

1. <https://www.ssje.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/Living-Intentionally.pdf>

THE RECTOR, VESTRY & WARDENS OF ST. PATRICK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Rev. Dr. Jason Emerson Rector

Alex Carter

Blair McGinnis

Ed Yuhas, Senior Warden

Bill Eddy

Lynette Palmer

Roy Barker, Junior Warden

Dick Gehman

John Russo

Vicky Bratton

Beth Landers

Ben Trotter

Vestry Candidates

Questions for the Candidates:

1. What has been your involvement with St. Patrick's and why are you interested in serving on the vestry?
2. What skills and insights do you bring to the task of serving on vestry?
3. What do you envision for the church in the next three to five years?

Angel Cinco

My involvement with St. Patrick's has been member and community oriented. Currently I serve as a youth group minister. It has been spiritually fulfilling. As I have guided our youth to develop their relationship with God, I find myself growing closer to God myself.

I volunteer for the bi-annual garage sale. This allows me to connect with other St. Patrick members as well as meet our neighbors. I believe that if we, as a church, show our neighbors that we can work together as a family, it will invite them to attend one of our services and hopefully become members themselves.

Likewise, I also volunteer for our Fish Fry. The camaraderie that Team Fish Fry has, continues to make me smile long after Lent is over.

Becky Stains and I have developed a Grief Support Group. During a very difficult time in my life, St. Patrick's lifted me up and defined church family. I'd like to keep that family feeling going. I would like to expand this sort of support group further, and not only make it about grief in the sense of loss of a loved one, but also emotional grief.

The skills I believe I can bring to the vestry are communication and transparency. Having been a member of the church for over 6 years, I would like to focus on what our members need, especially our youth group. As our youth grow, I believe they sometimes may "outgrow" our church. I would love to be able to find ways to have them grow with the church and not outgrow it.

My vision for the church is to continue having support for the members who have stayed faithful to St. Patrick's, and at the same time help to grow our congregation and expand our membership.

Dianne Clay

I regularly attend the Sunday 8:00 service and help lead the Wednesday Noonday Service each week. Ministries I have been involved in over the years include Lay Eucharistic Visitor, Women's ministry, Children's ministries, Youth ministry, EFM, Chicken Soup for the Soul, and Foyer Group. I care deeply about our church and parishioners. Building on and respecting our

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Vestry Candidates*Continued from page 5*

traditions, I want to help support the staff and ministry leaders as they implement our mission, vision, and core values in a changing world so that we will continue to be a vital, growing community of faith for all of our members for years to come.

My wide experiences over the years at St. Patrick's gives me a broad understanding of the parish. My prior experience on the vestry, my experience in multiple dioceses, and being the daughter of an Episcopal priest bring an understanding of Episcopal Church governance. From my work in public education, I bring my leadership experiences implementing revised vision statements while respecting the culture of an institution. My experiences as a diocesan Licensed Lay Worship Leader and my involvement in the Beloved Community group that meets at Proctor once a month has given me an exposure to the workings of our diocese, and St. Patrick's place in it, which I think is helpful for a vestry member.

I envision St. Patrick's continuing to be a welcoming joyful community of faith. I see us continuing to offer diverse worship, formation, and outreach opportunities in creative ways that help all new and long-time members grow in their faith journey as we carry forth Christ's call to love God and our neighbor in today's world.

Heather Dudash**Heather Dudash**

I have been attending St. Patrick's for 10 years as of this year. I have been impressed and proud of how St. Patrick's lives up to the Lord's 2nd commandment to love one another. I don't know of any other community with as many well-staffed ministries and congregants stepping up to fund those ministries. This was especially obvious during the pandemic lockdown. Everyone came together to keep St. Patrick's ministries alive while at the same time being extra careful for personal safety. I have personally been involved with the children's ministries. I primarily work with the Sunday school children, but I've also helped with the youth group on occasion. With Sunday school, I have been involved with designing the lessons, acting as the primary teacher for the younger classroom, and working with the other youth ministers to expand the programs in a robust and meaningful way.

I have been wanting to serve on the vestry for quite a while now and I can finally dedicate the time to do a good job. I think every congregant should take a turn on vestry in order to understand how St. Patrick's works and to provide input on how to make St. Patrick's better.

I have been an IT professional for over 30 years. Through my career, I can offer insight into new technology that might benefit St. Patrick's. I am also a world-class organizer. I adore organizing stuff, data, and people. I am task, detail, and delivery oriented which means I can take anything given to me, come up with a detailed plan, and wrangle the cats into a prompt result. Also, due to my career, I have become a focused team player. That means listening and respecting everyone on the team and striving to help each team member live up to their potential.

I want to help St. Patrick's grow their membership, especially with younger people. I'm Generation X and I see a good membership from the Boomer generation and an adequate membership from my generation. I really feel we need to find a way to reach the Millennial and younger gen-

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erations. I'm not just speaking from the concern of a shrinking congregation. Each generation brings a unique perspective to the world around them and St. Patrick's needs to embrace and absorb those perspectives. I see my Millennial coworkers struggling with a lack of purpose in their lives. They need to hear the words of the Lord to show them that life, and their life in particular, does have meaning and value. I truly believe Generation Z (of which my niece and nephew are members) is going to change the world. They are in the unique position of coming of age in a post-pandemic world. They are already dictating where and how they will be employed, to the improvement of wages in the service industry. What insights might they bring to our community?

I'm also an advocate of expanding our children's programs. I know of some congregants that only attend services because they want their children to get a good foundation in Christianity and because their children ask to attend (how great is that?!) I'd really like to see St. Patrick's increase its attendance/membership over the next few years with the 30 and younger crowd, especially those with young children. I think the best way to do this is by reaching out to our current 30-members and getting their input, especially in the areas of how they communicate and where their primary interests lie. I know we can reach the younger generations without sacrificing the Lord's message of love and mission.

Randy Edwards

My wife, Mary, and I joined St. Patrick's about seven years ago, after many years at St. Cecilia Catholic Church in Columbus. I was received into the Episcopal Church in 2020 by Bishop Price. The culture of service at St. Patrick's is infectious, and we quickly found ourselves involved in several ministries. I'm a lay reader, and Mary and I lead the Foyer ministry and we regularly serve at coffee hour. Recently I was asked to lead the Creation Care ministry.

I've spent my career in journalism and communications, and my strongest skills involve facilitating communication and collaboration. Based upon the many ministries and the enthusiastic engagement in them, this congregation demonstrates a commitment to a "community" that extends beyond the church's membership. I like that about St. Patrick's and would encourage even more people to get involved in service to the broader community.

I'll need to spend some time listening and learning, as I still feel relatively new to St. Patrick's and to the Episcopal Church. My hope for St. Patrick's is that we will continue to rebuild from the setbacks suffered during the COVID years and expand both the membership and our service to the community. In addition to our community outreach, the church is adding new and diverse opportunities for worship, which could be important to expanding our membership. A second priest will increase the capacity of the church's leadership, an important goal as we grow.



Randy Edwards

Nick Machesky

My wife, Kim, and I did not feel that the prior church we attended was right for our family. Other churches we attended seemed to focus on what the congregation needed to do to be in good standing with the church. One of my favorite stories about Jesus was

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Vestry Candidates*Continued from page 7***Nick Machesky**

how he met people where they were, going to "unsavory" locations to bring his guidance to sinners and help them become better people. St. Patrick's has inspired my family with its sense of community and how the church leadership focuses on what they can do for everyone else, especially those in need. For St. Patrick's, we currently serve coffee hour after the 9:30 AM service. We also support the biannual garage sales by donating our kids' (Joe and Mike) out-grown toys. Kim periodically leads Wigglers for Jesus and served on the planning committee for VBS, and my oldest son, Joe, participates in Youth Group. I'm interested in serving on the vestry because I want to give something back to St. Patrick's after it has done so much for the community and my family.

My job as a scientist with Battelle involves meeting the needs of clients while managing limitations on resources and staff availability. I feel that finding this balance has helped me to listen carefully and find the best path to success. At times, that involves telling clients something they don't want to hear or telling staff that the requirements of the client will push us out of our comfort zone. I feel that these job requirements have helped me to listen carefully, think from other perspectives, and balance needs and wants in the face of limiting factors.

Many people in my generation and those younger than me have pulled away from the churches they grew up with and may think that organized religion will force them to be something they aren't. Instead, St. Patrick's allows people to be who they are and support what they believe most in, while utilizing the church's resources to do God's work. I would like to find new ways in which we can show our community the synergistic relationship between St. Patrick's and societal good. This effort could result in additional ways to help our community, benefit a larger number of people, and grow our St. Patrick's family.

Kelsey Sicker**Kelsey Sicker**

The presence of God is most tangible for me through loving relationships. Specifically, relationships with a foundation of sharing authentically and feeling that what is shared is understood and accepted. In order to feel loved, a person must first feel understood. Otherwise, love is misdirected to a perception of a person rather than how the person truly is or identifies themselves. I started attending St. Patrick's when I was 10 years old, about 20 years ago, when my family moved to Dublin. I transitioned my church of worship to campus when I went to undergraduate and medical school at The Ohio State University. While there, I served on the vestry at St. Stephen's episcopal church. I returned to St. Patrick's after completing school/training when I moved back to the Dublin area. I am involved in attending worship, adult forum, EFM, and various volunteer opportunities, but also, importantly, I am involved on a personal level, working on forming relationships.

As background, I would consider myself to have grown up quite achievement-oriented with rigid expectations of what it means to be a "good" person. Rigid expectations helped me get good grades in school, complete numerous projects and extracurricular activities, and even thrive during rigorous medical training. But it also meant hiding perceived failures and avoiding vulnerability. This limited my ability to feel

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understood and therefore to feel loved. Naturally, this turned me toward prayer and my relationship with God who I deeply believe intends for every person to love and be loved. As a result, I am learning the value of authenticity and spending time understanding myself and others as a way of knowing and being in relationship with God.

I am hopeful to serve on the vestry as a form of gratitude to the St. Patrick's community who offered safe spaces for me to explore myself and my faith. I want to contribute to a supportive environment for others exploring love, vulnerability, and faith in this way. My skills, as mentioned, include my prior vestry experience, my achievement-oriented determination to get things done, and my passion for growth and understanding. My vision for the church over these next few years revolves around this foundation of understanding. I picture a diverse church community that values genuine sharing of passions, talents, backgrounds, and conversations. I am interested in growing our interfaith participation with existing local organizations in order to better understand and love other religious groups. Ultimately, I envision a church community that spreads the tangible presence of God by authentically engaging with the world, listening to understand, and forming loving relationships. Thank you for considering me as a vestry member for St. Patrick's.

December Vestry Meeting Summary

The meeting was called to order at 7:06pm. Fr Jason led an opening prayer and then called attention to his report focusing on the events of the last month and the preparation of the advent season. He presented results of viewership of Gospel of Mark videos with 40 to 50 views per video. The attendance at the Thanksgiving Day service was very sparse and the question of continuing that service was discussed. He also shared the attendance figures for this past Sunday. There were 62 people at the 8am service, 124 at the 9:30 service and thirty-seven at the 4:00 service as well as 40 views online.

Ed Yuhas presented his Senior Warden report which was a recap of all the items and events that the vestry, special committees, and ministries were able to accomplish over the past year. He also expressed thanks to the Vestry and convention nominating committee for their work in obtaining a full slate of candidates for all the positions.

Roy Baker presented the Junior Warden report covering the completion and scheduling of projects identified in the site survey.

Fr. Jason presented an overview of a program that the Diocese is presenting for the feasibility of congregations using solar panels to help with utility costs. The vestry decided that this idea is worth looking into. A committee was formed to meet with the Diocese program leaders to obtain more information.

The discussion then turned to the proposed budget for 2024. Various line items were visited, and adjustments were made. There are still pledges trickling in.

The treasurers' report showed that for the month operating pledges were \$600.00 under budget and the year-to-date total is \$69,600.00 under budget. The expenses for the month were \$4,000.00 under budget with the year-to-date total of \$23,000.00 under budget.

The minutes of the last meeting were approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm with a closing prayer.

Blair McGinnis

Vestry

Wellness Words

Happy Western Calendar New Year! We celebrated the church's new year the first Sunday in Advent, we have yet to celebrate the Asian New Year, not to mention the myriad of other traditions that start the new year at different times. Most people like things to be consistent and in line with what makes us feel comfortable and connected. The different New Year celebrations are probably a minor example of the inconsistencies in the world.

One of the inconsistencies that has taken a front row seat in our society is that of the "Epidemic of Loneliness" (<https://www.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/surgeon-general-social-connection-advisory.pdf>) that the Surgeon General (SG) has made a priority for healthcare professionals to include in their assessments. The inconsistency is that the Western world is probably the most digitally connected society in history, and yet, half our population, particularly our adolescents and young adults, report experiencing loneliness. This epidemic of loneliness has fueled anger, increased suicides, distrust of the health professions, fear of "The Other," poor wellness practices, and many other actions that violate the norms of society and especially the norms of Christian life. Many people believe that this is a consequence of the COVID pandemic. Research indicates that the pandemic has had an influence, but it is not the total reason. Research conducted in 2021 suggested that during the pandemic, over 120 million people were informally helping others and 60 million were formally (via volunteering or professional practice) helping others. Thus, apparently the pandemic did stimulate some social connection.

The Surgeon General's research has also supported the notion that being in poor health can interfere with social connections (duuuuh, Captain Obvious.) It has also supported the fact that using social media for more than two hours a day doubled the odds of study participants reporting increased perception of social isolation. Online harassment predisposes people to feelings of increased loneliness and difficulty in forming and maintaining healthy relationships.

So, what do we do to make this better? One suggestion is judicious use of social media- the SG suggests fewer than 15 minutes a day. Wow, talk about breaking an addiction. There is also the suggestion that the time that is available when one is NOT on social media can be used to listen to a friend without the distraction of the phone (or the smart watch.) Another suggestion is to get outside and walk without earphones or Bluetooth. We are blessed with many walking trails in our community. Better yet, do it with a friend. Research in wellness has indicated that getting out among the trees or in a garden decreases the feelings of loneliness and increases a sense of connectedness and gratitude. Another suggestion is to take the time and volunteer at a community project- one that emphasizes being with people and developing friendships.

Most importantly, if you are feeling lonely, isolated, or thinking about hurting yourself, **GET HELP RIGHT AWAY. The suicide hotline is 988, and it's available 24/7 every day.** Asking for help is not a weakness. If you don't think you need the suicide hotline, talk to your healthcare provider who can find the right counselor for you. We are blessed here to have many outreach opportunities both from St. Patrick's and our surrounding communities. Look at the great job our youth leaders are doing in helping our youth group develop caring and resilience. St. Arbuck's and EFM are other stellar programs for connecting.

Building lives that are healthier makes us more resilient and able to deal with challenges in a productive manner. So, here's to putting the cell down, tapering off an addiction to social media and engaging in face-to-face community building.

Lissa and Rose

Notice of Proposed Changes to By-Laws

Periodically, healthy congregations intentionally review their by-laws. Over time, through changes in leadership (including clergy, staff, and lay), culture, norms, etc., it is likely there will be some drift in behavior from what was originally written and intended in the by-laws. Note, the last time a revision to the document was made was in February, 2021, where the congregation voted in favor to add an online option to the Annual Meeting.

Earlier this year, our by-law document was reviewed in its entirety by Joe Dehner, Legal Counsel for the Diocese. Additionally, the Vestry studied the document and recommended changes to four clauses—all surrounding lay leadership. At the August meeting, the Vestry voted unanimously to propose these changes be placed in front of the congregation for adoption at the February, 2024 Annual Meeting. For these to be adopted, it will require two-thirds of the congregation at the Annual Meeting to vote in their favor.

Below is a summary table of what is proposed and the rationale behind it.

By-law	Present By-law	Proposed By-law	Rationale for Change
Article V; Section 1	The wardens shall be elected for terms of three years from nominees submitted by the Nominating Committee.	The Rector chooses the Sr. and Jr. Wardens, and they are confirmed by the Vestry by majority vote.	The proposed method of the Rector choosing his/her wardens has been the standard practice at St. Patrick's for several years. The Rector should choose whom he/she feels the most comfortable given the time and commitment involved. Adding Vestry approval validates the rector's choice.
Article V; Section 7	Nominations for Vestry from the floor of the annual meeting: Any nomination made from the floor must be accompanied by a written statement of support of the nomination signed by at least five members of the congregation, as such are defined in the canons, and written consent of the nominee.	Nominations from the floor shall be considered as "write in candidates" appearing on the ballot acknowledging a "write in candidate" counts as a vote.	With a hybrid Annual Meeting, the current standard to accept nominations from the floor is cumbersome. Have a "write in candidate" option accomplishes the same goal.
Article V; Section 1	Paid employees of the parish are not eligible for membership on the Vestry	Add: Relatives of paid employees of the parish are not eligible for membership on the Vestry	Prevents potential conflicts of interest.
Article VIII	The Vestry shall elect a Treasurer of the Vestry and Board of Trustees, whose duties shall be those under the Canons of the Diocese of Southern Ohio.	Add a term limit of three years to this role.	There is no term limit today. Given the sensitive nature of this role, a term limit, similar to that of the Wardens and Vestry is recommended.

It is the Vestry's intention to have these voted upon prior to the Annual Meeting and results announced that day. Ballots will be available in the narthex by January 21st and you can vote until Friday, February 9th. If an absentee ballot is needed, please contact the church office by phone or email and one will be mailed to you.

If you have any questions, or need clarification, please feel free to ask Fr. Jason, me, or another member of Vestry.

Ed Yubas, Senior Warden

Boy Scout Troop 299

Throughout the Fall, Troop 299 has continued to be active going on outings and participating in service projects at and around St. Patrick's.

In November, under the supervision of trained, adult leaders, the troop held a "Shoot-O-Ree" weekend. During the overnight outing, scouts learned about safe handling, care and use of archery equipment as well as rifles and shotguns. This is one of the most popular events and all of the scouts had a great time.

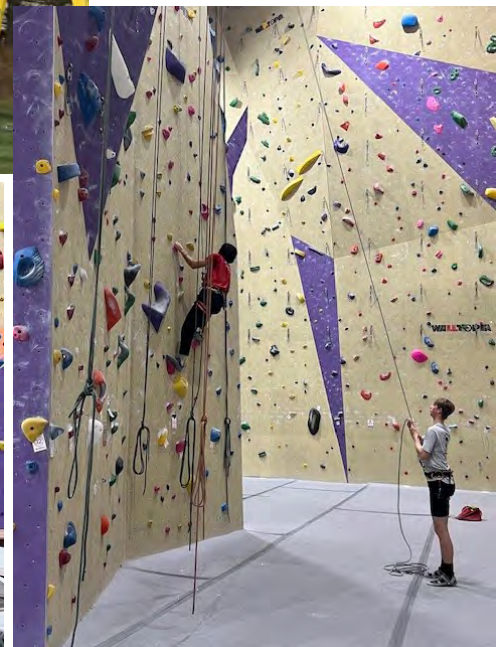
The troop also held several service project work days: scouts participated in the church clean-up day by power washing areas of the church that will be painted later this year, picking up leaves and restoring mulch; Scouts also participated in the annual "Scouting for Food" which helps gather food from local neighborhoods to stock the Dublin Food Pantry.

In early December, the troop held a lock-in at Vertical Adventures, a local indoor climbing facility. The scouts enjoyed unlimited climbing and bouldering and ate pizza well into the night then slept on the mats of the climbing gym before heading home the next morning (to recover).

Also, Dan O'Neill held two work days for his Eagle project. Under his leadership, the scouts erected a basketball goal and infrastructure for a volleyball net in the north parking lot area. These improvements will be available for youth (and adults) and help the parish and the troop enjoy more outdoor activities.

Finally, On February 4th, the Troop will hold its Chartering Ceremony in Smith Hall following the 9:30 service. All are invited and welcome to attend. The Troop will be presented with the new Charter and a new Troop flag recognizing its affiliation with St. Patrick's. A reception will follow.

Jim Bratton



Youth Group



Advent Blessings from the Youth Group! This past month has been filled with formation, fellowship, and fun! Our Way of Love formation centered our efforts on LEARN, and we investigated different ways to read scripture alone and together. This started our Bible Reading Challenge, where Youth Group members read the Forward Day-By-Day each day and earn prizes throughout the weeks. We are half-way through, but anyone can always catch up by reading at <https://prayer.forwardmovement.org/fdd>. In our Christianity in the Public Square series, we welcomed guest speakers Kelly Dufour and Virginia Tuttle to help us understand gerrymandering and become educated voters, and we looked for ways that our Christianity could affect our voting and our participation in the public square. We had a fabulous field trip with Ms. Fran to Dollar Tree to buy supplies and pack birthday bags for the Dublin Food Pantry. This is always a fun outing for a great cause!! We had our first (in a LONG time) Lock-In with amazing field trips to make visible those members of our society who work while we normally sleep! Plus, we had so much fun cooking breakfast for and visiting with our 8:00 church family! We started the season with a visit from St. Nicholas and a blanket-fort making movie night with beautiful candle-lit caroling. Pictures from our Ugly Christmas Sweater Party next month!!



Souper Bowl Sale to benefit the Mission Trip

The Youth will again be offering soup for sale and pick up on Super Bowl Sunday, February 11th. Types will be: Pepper and Sausage, Roasted Vegetable, Loaded Potato and Reuben Soups. Cost will be \$8 for a pint and \$12 for a quart. Order via https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080F4DADA62AA31-46885596-souper# or on the sign up sheet in the Narthex.

January Youth Calendar

Jan 7th - Epiphany Pageant

Jan 14th - WoL Worship

Jan 21st - Interfaith Adventure

Jan 28th - Interfaith unpacking / Souper Bowl Sale planning



Wonderful Wigglers still need YOU!

Please consider sharing some of your time with the Wigglers in the remainder of the program year. There will be an activity planned and volunteering is easy and fun.

Sign up [HERE](#) or contact [Jessica Randolph](#).



FCCS Holiday Wish Follow-up

Many thanks to all that contributed to the Franklin County Children's Services Holiday Wish program. We collected a large assortment of toys and over \$400 in gift cards & cash donations. FCCS was so grateful-thank you for your generosity!

Jo Yubas



Saturday Knitting Circle: thank you to all the faithful knitters who created warm outerwear for the women of CATCH Court and the children of local elementary schools. We were able to donate 22 hats, 19 scarves, 6 pairs of mittens, and 6 baby hats to the women of CATCH court and the Butterfly program. We also donated 27 hats and 7 pairs of mittens to local elementary schools.

We have decided that we will not be meeting in person in '24. However, we have discussed teaching the fundamentals to anyone interested in learning so they can participate and this can be set up on a case by case basis. Please contact [Deanna Douglass](#) or the church office to find out more!

Calling all Ministry Leaders

Please plan to join us for our ministry leadership meeting on January 17th as we come together to review important dates, the continuation of the program year, and anything in the works for summer! We will also be rolling out a social media policy, plans for an updated website and, of course, be discussing how we can implement more streamlined communication through all these outlets and Realm to make ministry leadership easier for all!

We will plan to meet in person and have a comforting warm meal together at 6:30 p.m. and then a formal meeting from 7:00-8:00 p.m. If the weather in January does not cooperate with us, we will shift to a Zoom gathering.

Things to think about for this meeting: How can we utilize the screen in the sanctuary to spread the word of our ministries more effectively? What is one thing your ministry could really use right now? How could our website be used to showcase what goes on beyond Sunday services at St. Patrick's? What would make it easier for us to collaborate as ministry leaders so that we are not overlapping but working together to create new and better ministry opportunities for all?



Save the Dates
Fish Fry Dinners in March
To Benefit Habitat for Humanity
2024 Dinner Dates:
Friday, March 1st, 8th, and 15th

Please mark your calendars and join us as a volunteer or just come and enjoy some great food!

Menu, cost and sponsorship opportunities will be available along with more information to come in February & March Breastplates!

Want to help or possibly take over leading this ministry?
 Contact Bill Eddy!



Celebrating January Birthdays

Amelia Bath
 Eloise Bath
 Andy Bethune
 Eileen Bowling
 Gunnar Carlson
 Debbie Cline
 Rich Colvin
 Kennedy de Bear
 Emily DeAngelo
 Ryan DeAngelo
 Pyper Fairweather
 Fred Graff
 Corinne Hallermann
 Mary Horton

Mim Jester
 Aaron Jordan
 Michael Kennedy
 Ann King
 Casey Landers
 Drew Landers
 Randy Leite
 William Lewis
 Bill Loveland
 Mike Machesky
 Grace Mayo
 Devin McGinnis
 Caroline Niekamp
 Partners Prayer

Katie Rich
 Evan Richard
 Theo Righter
 Don Ritchey
 Carolyn Shubert
 Grayson Smith
 Janet Snapp
 Ayla Stains
 April Turner

Celebrating January Anniversaries

Jeff & Phyliss Beuter





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A Joyful Community of Faith

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