

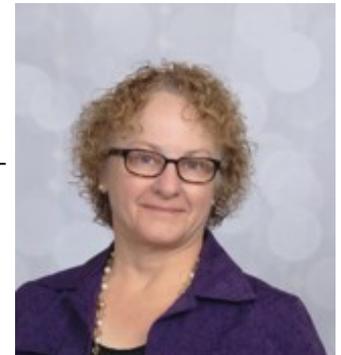


# ST. JOHN'S MESSENGER

## Welcome Amanda Highben!!

(Week of January 7, 2019)

We have much to be thankful for in this new year at St. John's, Columbus! Our partnership with The Abbey has brought us new friends in Christ, with whom we just shared a warm Advent Season. The **Reverend Amanda Highben**, "Pastor Amanda," began her tenure as extended supply priest with us on Epiphany Sunday 2019, yesterday. We are blessed to have her Christian leadership and gentle spirit on Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings and as other congregational needs arise. Our partnerships with other churches through His Place and Street Church are continuing; God continues his work in Franklinton.



As we begin this new year, we look to our Annual Meeting scheduled for January 20 after the 10:30 am worship service. Much of the business conducted then will be the usual tasks: consideration of the 2019 budget, election of 2019 Convention delegates, election of new Mission Council members **Charles Spissiu** and **Jonathan Youngman**, congregational consideration of whether to waive Mission Council term limits *only* for the two people who otherwise would rotate off the Mission Council. If this waiver is not passed, then we would need to replace four Mission Council members – half of the membership – one of which is the Senior Warden; the Mission Council requests that you seriously consider this vote and pass the waiver.

A significant issue facing St. John's is the long-term financial health of the church. As you know, last year's departure of two of the three largest financial contributors to the church budget is reflected in this new budget year, as both honored their commitments for the remainder of last calendar year. Further, the Commission on Congregational Life (CoCL) no longer funds salaries; consequently, moving toward a full-time priest arrangement will not be a simple matter for St. John's. The Mission Council will begin identifying and evaluating creative ways to reduce our expenses and/or increase our income through collaborations with other organizations or new uses of our space. The Mission Council will seek input and participation from members of the congregation as we engage in this process.

**Please reserve January 20<sup>th</sup> on your calendars for 10:30 am worship, immediately followed by the 2019 Annual Meeting . A light lunch will be served.**

Suzan Waller, Senior Warden, St. John's Columbus

**As mentioned above, our Annual Meeting is scheduled for January 20, 2019. We will present the upcoming budget and discuss plans for our future and have a few minutes to get to know each other better. With the congregational approval, we will welcome Jonathan Youngman and Charles Spissiu to the Mission Council.**

**\*Mark your calendar, all members are expected to attend.**

## **Feast of the Epiphany - Stars** (excerpted from *Sermons that Work: The Rev. David W. Peters serves as the Vicar of the Pflugerville, Texas, Church Plant in the Diocese of Texas.*)

In our Gospel reading for Epiphany, we see wise men coming from the east, following a star. It is not clear to a modern reader how they knew this rising star announced the birth of “the king of the Jews,” as the connection between the rising star and the birth of a king is shrouded in mystery. What is even more strange, perhaps, is how everyone in the story—especially Herod—just rolls with it, accepting the wise men’s account of the star and the birth of the king. In fact, King Herod takes the wise men’s astronomical report so seriously that he drops everything to search for and eliminate the baby.

There are dozens of theories on where the wise men originated and how they knew so much about stars; the Greek word used in Matthew’s gospel is *Magi*, a group of learned scholars who advised kings by interpreting dreams and astrology. While much about the wise men is unclear, what *is* clear is that these men are not Judeans, but Gentiles. They are bearing witness to a cosmic event of astronomical proportions: the birth of a baby of whom nobody knows the exact location.

We can imagine their shock when they discover that Herod is clueless about where this baby was located. Surely, King Herod would know if a king were born in his kingdom. It is in this detail that we can see how foreign these wise men are; they are seemingly naïve, unaware of the dangerous politics of Judea and unaware of how different this new king will be from other kings. They are simply seeking the king whom the star announced.

They follow the star until it stops over the place where Jesus was. It’s so simple. While it may seem mysterious and strange to us to follow a star this way, it is not strange for them. It is simply how they understand the world. It is simply how they found Jesus.

We must be open to the many ways people find Jesus, especially the ways that people different from us find Jesus. The Feast of the Epiphany commemorates the manifestation of Jesus to the peoples of the earth. Just as every human culture is unique and different, the ways in which different cultures find and understand Jesus will be different, too. We cannot predict or assume how the diverse cultures within our own communities will find Jesus. We must be open to all the ways the Spirit leads people to our Savior, Jesus Christ.

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## Feast of the Epiphany - Stars (continued from page 2)

The vision John sees in his Revelation contains all the diversity of the human species: “And there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands.” They are all worshipping Jesus, celebrating the new life they have found in him. Like the wise men who watched the star stop over Jesus and were overwhelmed with joy, the people in John’s vision are overwhelmed with joy in the presence of God.

Today, we are a community of people from many different backgrounds and places, gathered in the presence of Jesus. This itself is a miracle. This means that there is hope for a better world. This means the good news that Jesus died and rose again is a story for everyone, no matter how far they have come to find him. So, rejoice today that the wise men followed the star and found Jesus. Rejoice today because we found him, too.



## For convenience, you can also use your Financial Institution Bank “Bill Pay”

Remit your regular offering or one-time donation to St. John’s using the free remittance service at your financial institution. Set up St. John’s Episcopal Church, 1003 W. Town St. Columbus, OH 43222 as a new Vendor/Biller and your bank will remit checks as you direct them anytime.

### Interfaith Prayer for Our Climate



#### We Hold the Earth

*We hold all who suffer from storms and droughts intensified by climate change.*

*We hold all species that suffer.*

*We hold world leaders delegated to make decisions for life.*

*We pray that the web of life may be mended through courageous actions to limit carbon emissions.*

*We pray for right actions for adaptation and mitigation to help our already suffering earth community.*

*We pray that love and wisdom might inspire our actions so that we may, with integrity, say we are doing our part to care for all beings and the future of the children.*

*May love transform us and our world with new steps toward life.*

*~Interfaith Power & Light*

### Some Steps We Can Take



#### Be Energy Efficient

Use LED bulbs



Sign up for an Energy Audit with your utility



#### Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

Buy minimally packaged goods

#### Eat a mostly plant-based diet



#### Walk, bike, use mass transit, and car pool



#### Be an advocate

Support policies for renewable energy and more energy efficiency

For more about Ohio Interfaith Power & Light go to [www.ohipl.org](http://www.ohipl.org). Thank you for your support of our mission to build connections, reduce carbon impacts, advocate for climate justice policies, and inspire new leadership for a sustainable, just world.

## KUDOS TO FRANKLINTON CYCLE WORKS

[Franklinton Cycle Works](#) (FCW) is a non-profit community bike shop that has done great things in 2018!!

Mayor Ginther visited in February of 2018 as part of his community tour. He visited community center in several neighbors, and he chose FCW as the host site for Franklinton. I invited several other community leaders to join us for the discussion. Mainly we talked the importance of maintaining the identity of Franklinton in the face of development and preventing the displacement of neighborhood residents (@mayor\_ginther). We installed donated bike racks at the Boys And Girls Club. We donated a few hundred bikes to Ghana Africa. We received hundreds of bike donations from all over Columbus. We rode bikes all over town and enjoyed the growing scene. Letitia Cetina (@dessert.hoarding.dragon) joined the team as our shop manager and is totaling killing it! We installed new bike storage racks thanks to a grant from SWACO. We became the official donation partner of Trek Bicycles Columbus (@trekstorecolumbus) and re-distributed 150 bikes to kids in need. And we rode with city planners to rethink street design in Franklinton. These are just a few highlights of a great year.

Franklinton Cycle Works is located at 897 W Broad St. Columbus, Ohio 43222 (614) 228-1852 It is a place where you learn to fix your bike by working on your bike under the supervision of a volunteer mechanic. FCW is a membership based co-op. Annual memberships are \$25 but income based scholarships are available. We also offer new and used parts which can be purchased with shop credit, earned through volunteerism. For those who don't have time to work on their bike, we also offer traditional repair services. Check out our website for more information on volunteering, becoming a member, or dropping your bike off to be repaired.

Hours:

Tuesdays and Thursdays: 10:30AM - 5PM

Volunteer Night: Tuesdays from 6:30 - 9PM

Women/Trans/Femme: 2nd and 4th Thursdays 6 - 8 PM

Saturday: Open Shop 1-5PM

Keep a look out on our website and our FB wall for more information regarding our weekly schedule, the services we offer, what you can expect, and new programs. Open shop hours are times when all members can come in. Tools, stands, parts, grease, cleaning agents and volunteer mechanics will be available so that you can fix up or maintain your bike.

**Jonathan Youngman** is co-founder of Franklinton Cycle Works.

## WOMEN TO WOMEN

Wednesday, January 30th from noon to 1:30 pm.

We have missed everyone, as we have not been together since November. Please join us this month to share in lunch and great conversation. Marilyn & Theresa always have something fun and interesting planned for us. Come and join us!

**Becky Papp and Gay Roberts**



## St. John's is a Mission of the Episcopal Diocese of Southern Ohio

### Mission Council Members

Suzan Waller, Sr. Warden  
Karen Brown (also Clerk)  
Julie Bull  
Cheryl Mellon  
Becky Papp  
Gay Roberts  
Kurt Wacker

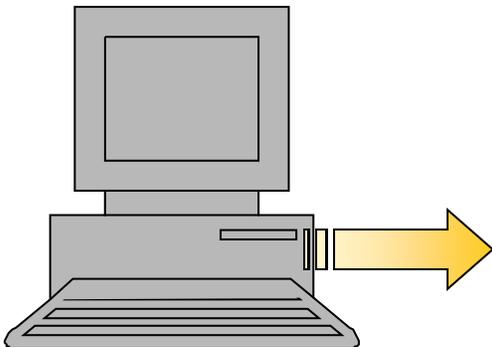
### Staff

The Rev. Craig Foster, Deacon  
Emma Helms-Steinmetz, Confluence Director  
Rich Rastetter, St. John's Treasurer  
Margaret Sirbaugh, Confluence Treasurer  
Jeanne Jewell, Bookkeeper  
Darrell Forren, Director of Music  
Don Sirbaugh, Building Maintenance

St. John's is a Body of Christians giving thanks to God through traditional worship in an informal setting and serving God, fully dedicated to being in ministry with our neighborhood and beyond.

## The Ministries of St. John's

<b>Sundays</b>	<b>Holy Eucharist</b>	<b>10:30 AM</b>
	<b>Fellowship follows service</b>	
	<b>Street Church</b>	<b>1:00 PM</b>
<b>Mondays</b>	<b>Alcoholics Anonymous</b>	<b>8:00 PM</b>
<b>Wednesdays</b>	<b>Women to Women (Last Wednesday of month)</b>	<b>Noon</b>
	<b>His Place Worship (September—June)</b>	<b>6:00 PM</b>
	<b>His Place Dinner (September—June)</b>	<b>6:30 PM</b>
	<b>Girl Sprouts (First &amp; Third Wednesday, September—May)</b>	<b>7:00 PM</b>



- Email us at [stjohnscbus@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnscbus@gmail.com)
- We're on the web at [www.st-johns-columbus.diosohio.org](http://www.st-johns-columbus.diosohio.org)
- We're on Facebook at **Saint John's Episcopal**
- We're on Twitter **@stjohnsfrnkIntn**
- Our phone number is **614-221-9328**