



36W957 Highland Ave.
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Voice of the Swan Newsletter

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The Holy Eucharist

Sunday: 8:00 AM and 10:30 AM

Tuesday: 7:00 AM

The Staff

Reverend Marion Phipps, Rector

Dr. Margaret Brady, Director of Music

Debbie Wild, Senior Warden

Stephen Wendorf, Junior Warden

Sue Diebold – Martin, Treasurer

Ash Emmanuel, Vestry Clerk

Karen Warner, Administrative Assistant

Cheri Walter, Altar Guild Director

**January Birthdays
Happy Birthday!!**

Jeremy Reynolds	1 - 2
Marsha Markham	1 - 6
Victor Moeller	1 - 7
Larry Brook	1 - 13
Cindy Rauschenberger	1 - 15
Derek Rayner	1 - 17
Lance Puccio	1 - 18
Jason Woertendyke	1 - 19
Rita Padilla	1 - 22
Stephen Wendorf	1 - 27

***January Anniversaries
Happy Anniversary!!!***

Mike & Marion Phipps 1 - 23



Voice of the Swan

January 2017

Volume 20
Number 1

The News Letter of St. Hugh of Lincoln Church

Dear Parish Family,

Blessings to you as you continue to celebrate the Christmas season! While stores are finishing up their "Christmas Season" with after Christmas sales, in the church we celebrate Christmas until the feast of the Epiphany on January 6th. Don't cut short this most holy season! Continue to ponder anew the wonders of the Incarnation! I am currently reading a book titled *Unwrapping the Gifts: The Twelve Days of Christmas*, written by Curtis G. Almquist, SSJE, an Episcopal priest and the Superior of the Society of Saint John the Evangelist. Each of the days following Christmas and preceding Epiphany offers a reflection on various gifts that come to us in Jesus. Day 1 reflects on "The Gift of Love," noting that we are "rooted and grounded in love" (Ephesians 3:17) p. 3-4 and that "We have been created in the love of God and for the love of God. Love is the essence of who we are." (p.5). Revel in that love for a while!! What a different place this world would be if all God's children took God's love deeply to heart and loved one another from that central place of God's love for us! Love isn't always an easy task, but it is exactly what God requires of us. How might we share this gift of love which God has so freely given us? God's gift of love is the essence of the Incarnation! God's love for us is so great that He became one of us! Day 2 offers thoughts on "The Gift of Revelation," and the many ways that God reveals God's self to us and offers us guidance. Almquist noted that a third of God's revelation to folks in the Bible come to them in dreams and the psalmist reminds us that God will "give his angels charge over you, to keep you in all your ways." (Psalm 91:11). Almquist encourages us to reflect on all the ways God has guided us in the past and to trust in God's continued guidance. He ends Day 2's reflection with the following questions: "What is God revealing to you now in this season of your life? What's your sense?" p.18.

The book continues each day with reflections on "The Gift of Forgiveness," "The Gift of Joy," "The Gift of Hope," "The Gift of Redemption," "The Gift of a Name," "The Gift of Humility," "The Gift of Companionship," "The Gift of Gratitude," "The Gift of Peace," and "The Gift of Blessing." Even without reading the book, you could unwrap and ponder one of these gifts that Jesus offers us each day as we continue our journey through this holy season. My prayer for each of you is that you continue to "unwrap" the many gifts that Jesus offers us in the days ahead and throughout the year. God's love is the gift that keeps on giving!! May we freely share this gift that God so freely gives us in Jesus!

I made it safely to Kissimmee, Florida and am enjoying a visit with my Dad and brother. I will return by January 6th. There will be a celebration of Nancy Rayner's life on Saturday January 7th and our regular Sunday worship schedule of 8:00AM and 10:30AM services resumes on January 8th. I look forward to seeing you all on my return. Happy New Year to each one of you!! I am grateful to have such a loving home parish! May Jesus continue to bless, guide and reveal God's plan for us in the year ahead as we continue to celebrate 50 years of God's love in this place!!

With Love and Gratitude,

Marion+

Senior Warden Report

Wow! Is it January already? Where did December go? We had a great but busy month as we went through Advent and into Christmas. Thanks to everyone who helped with all the Christmas preparations. The Altar Guild did a fantastic job this year with all the cleaning and polishing, as well as with the beautiful sanctuary flowers. Everyone worked hard greening the church, and thanks to Mike Phipps and the Gebalas for serving the delicious soup and sandwiches. The soup kitchen gift bags were also packed with extra love and care. Many hands do make the work light! Special thanks also to Margaret and the choir for all their hard work to provide so much beautiful music during Advent and the Christmas services.

As we start the new year there are other tasks that need our attention. Pledge sheets and time and talent sheets need to be turned in to help prepare for the annual meeting and the 2017 budget. Be adventurous: try a new ministry this year. As always, the first Sunday of the month is Food Pantry day for the Elgin Crisis center, and prayer partner Sunday, however we will be collecting on 1/8, as 1/1 is New Year's Day and will allow for more participants to donate. The Martin Luther King annual food drive is underway, that donation will be collected on 1/15. Please donate to one of the collections or both, as you wish.

Recently the topic of helping the needy and homeless people in Elgin came up at a meeting. There are many ways to provide help on an ongoing basis through St. Hugh. Donations to soup kitchen are always welcomed: just specify "soup kitchen" on your check or offering envelope. Marion also has a discretionary fund to help people in need both within and outside the church. Donations to this fund can be made any time. Again, just label your offering to specify "discretionary fund." The RELICS also give to people in need both locally and around the world, and are happy to receive donations any time.

As you start the new year, may you be blessed by God as you seek Him and grow in your relationship with Jesus.

Debbie Wild
Senior Warden

PLEDGE ENVELOPES

Pledge envelopes for 2017 are in your mailbox in
Wiedrich Hall.

If you are missing a box, please let the office
know.

Save the date...

January 17th Annual Committee Reports are due

January 24th February Newsletter articles and calendar dates are
due

January 29th Annual Parish Meeting and Brunch 9AM

Please advise the office of the current College Students that should be on the prayer list.

Please add names to the prayer list for the bulletin, we'll start fresh for 2017. Please note if they should be on the weekly list (short term) or on the perpetual (long term) list.

FLOWERS

Please remember to sign up to remember someone or a special occasion on the Flower list in the narthex. The cost per Sunday is \$30. Envelopes are available near the list. Please drop the completed envelope in the offertory plate or the mailbox on the office door

From the Music Department

Dear St Hugh Family:

Many, many thanks for a wonderful Advent and Christmas season. Thanks for the beautiful congregational singing. Thanks to all the children and adults that shared their artistic gifts!

This month we celebrate Christmas season on January 1st with Christmas carols. Epiphany will be lovely and long this year, so we will celebrate old and new traditions together. Please let me know if you would like to share your gifts and I will find a place for you here in our worship arts.

On January 29, we welcome Rise' Dawn Jones as a special guest for our 10:30AM worship service. Rise' will also be sharing her music at noon as part of our Coffee Concert Series. Come have a cup of coffee and enjoy Rise's beautiful voice and presence.

Thanks again as we rejoice in love together in this 50th Anniversary year!

Dr. Margaret Brady

RELICS Disperse Outreach Funds

At our 2016 December meeting, RELICS made decisions to disperse \$3000 in funds raised this year for outreach. The charities supported are as follows:

Feed My Starving Children	\$200.00
Media Associates International (Larry Brook's Mission)	\$200.00
Elgin YWCA	\$200.00
Fox River Valley Initiative	\$200.00
PADS of Elgin	\$200.00
Northern Illinois Food Bank - Soup Kitchen	\$200.00
Community Crisis Center	\$200.00
Well Child Center	\$300.00
Little Angels	\$200.00
Taylor YMCA for at risk children	\$200.00
Elgin Literacy Connection	\$100.00
Tuition for Manouchecha Sinrilus, a Haitian Nursing Student	\$300.00
Jericho Ministry, Honduras	\$200.00
McGregors' Madagascar Mission	\$200.00
Episcopal Church Women - Diocese of Chicago	\$100.00

Outreach Project – Feed My Starving Children

We have 25 volunteer spots available for an upcoming food packing event with Feed My Starving Children (Schaumburg, IL) on Wednesday, February 8th, 2017 (6:00 - 7:30 pm). Please add your name to the sign-up sheet in Wiedrich Hall if you wish to join our team. We're also accepting donations for an offering to FMSC, which will cover the cost of the food that we pack (learn more at www.fmsc.org). Please make sure to indicate on your checks or envelopes that your donation is for FMSC.

For volunteers, please remember that: (1) you MUST arrive by 5:45 PM to be present for orientation; (2) no jewelry or open-toed shoes are permitted; and (3) FMSC requires volunteers to be at least 5 years old to participate. If plans change and you can no longer attend, please let Katie White know as soon as possible so that your spot can be offered to someone else!

Befrienders and Prayer Chain

Two of the ministries we have at St. Hugh are "Befrienders" and our Prayer Chain. Befrienders is a small group of people willing to help the priest with visiting folks and bringing communion to people I need. We have a couple communion kits which we use to carry reserve sacraments to those who can't get to church regularly. Sometimes it's short term during a hospitalization or convalescing from a surgery or broken bone and other times it's a longer term relationship with folks who are homebound or living in nursing homes or assisted living facilities. If you are interested in this ministry you can indicate that on your time and talent form or let Marion or Fay Kltchin know who has helped coordinate this group. Currently, we don't have too many people on our visiting rotation, but that can change at any time.

The other ministry is the Prayer Chain. If you would like to request prayer, you can put it on the list on Sunday that is by the guest book and Karen will email the requests to Fay and list it in the next week's bulletin. If you'd like to request prayer at any time or you didn't put it on the Sunday list you can email Fay Kitchin at hatfay@aol.com directly and she will send out your request. If you would like to serve as a praying member of the prayer chain, let Fay know and send her your email and she will add you into the list of folks offering prayers regularly for others.

With Gratitude to Jeanne Rayner

After 49+ years of faithful service as Director of the Altar Guild, Jeanne Rayner has decided to pass on the baton to Cheri Walter who has been co-director with Jeanne this past year. Jeanne has served as the Director of the altar guild and as one of its faithful members since the inception of St. Hugh of Lincoln parish in July 1967. Each week, the altar guild sets up the necessary items for each communion service we have. They work faithfully behind the scenes ensuring all is ready when we celebrate the Eucharist. After the service, they clean up and wash the communion chalices and other vessels and then take the laundry to clean and iron. Additionally, Jeanne has ordered supplies, overseen the securing of a team of folks to get flowers each week to beautify our worship, ordered palms for Palm Sunday, and special orders of flowers for Easter and Christmas each year, along with working with the rest of the crew to create a beautiful worship space for us, not only at the high holy days, but also throughout the year. She also takes vestments to the dry cleaner, shops for candles, oil for the candles, wine for communion and probably many other things for which I may be unaware. When I do ablutions (washing my hands prior to communion) I pray to God to "wash me Lord from my iniquities and cleanse me from my sin.." I always add on the prayer, sometimes silently and sometimes aloud, "and thank you God for my altar guild and acolytes!"

It is difficult to begin to know how to express my gratitude for Jeanne's almost 50 years of faithful service. She, along with Dick, have done what's needed to be done around St Hugh from its beginning days. It's hard for me to imagine serving in any capacity for almost 50 years!! To say "thank you, Jeanne" seems small next to such a tremendous gift of service. As a priest, it's a wonderful thing to have a faithful altar guild - without whom I'd be washing and ironing the fair linens along with changing the frontal with each service! During seminary, we all served in rotation for providing the liturgical needs, setting up and cleaning up after services along with taking our turns doing the laundry. It taught us the practical needs behind every service and also instilled in me a deep appreciation for all who serve in this "behind the scenes ministry." So Jeanne, for all you do, for all you've done, I express my gratitude to you and the rest of the altar guild for your ongoing and faithful service!!

With Love and much gratitude,

Marion+