

# Cluster Chronicle

*"A community of Episcopal congregations sharing the love and power of the Risen Christ in our communities through worship, evangelization and apostolic service."*



This stunning bronze figure is *George Washington Taking the Oath of Office* as the first president of the United States. It stands at the former site of Federal Hall, Wall and Nassau Streets in New York City, then the capital of the United States.

Here is where the oath of office was administered to Washington on a second-floor

## *The measure of a man and nation*

We are now obliged to celebrate the births of two of the greatest American presidents on the same day, February 17, the actual birthday of neither. It's hard to be stirred by this third entity, Presidents Day, as it is empty of image or event. So, it is up to us to give it life.

Washington and Lincoln embodied rare qualities. They were able to remain focused and hopeful under the weight of staggering foreign and domestic upheaval. Most historians consider Washington the greatest president---the standard by which all future presidents would be measured. Promising to honor President Lincoln in a future issue, we look more closely at Washington's own standards of measure.

George, no middle name, Washington was born on a plantation on Pope's Creek, Virginia, February 12, 1732, to Augustine and Mary Ball Washington. Little is recorded of his childhood and teens. The cherry tree legend and other stories have been discounted as endearing fiction popularized in a book by a Pastor Weems.

George had basic schooling, but his real education came as a surveyor of western lands, enduring pioneer hardship, skirmishing with Native Americans and earning credits for courage in the French and Indian War. When British rule led to armed conflict, the two Georges faced off an ocean apart in a battle about more than independence. The vision of General Washington was not of power and prestige and plunder, and it bewildered the royal George. After a long and painful labor, the umbilical cord was cut, and the infant country delivered, still in swaddling clothes.

Beloved as a military giant and universally revered for his personal integrity, grace, Christian faith and humility, Washington was pressured to lead what would become the first successful experiment in self-government. He refused a kingship and reluctantly accepted the presidency. We stand in the shadow of this unparalleled leader born to the aristocracy and ask what shaped and grounded his lifetime of service?

*Con't on p.2*

## Measure of a man

balcony by New York Chancellor Robert Livingston April 30, 1789.

Unveiled in November 1883, the sculpture shows Washington at the moment when he lifted his right hand from the Bible at the completion of the swearing in ceremony.

Washington was a member of the Masons and the Bible used was from St. John's Lodge No. 1, Ancient York Masons. It was randomly opened to Genesis 49.

The sculpture is the work of John Quincy Adams Ward, Urbana native and grandson of Urbana founder William Ward.

JQA Ward was among the first to depart from the classic perfection of Greek and Roman sculpture and portray his subjects as they were in life. His original style and body of work earned him the title Dean of American Sculpture.

Author Craig Shirley has an answer---George Washington was a committed Christian. In Shirley's biography of Washington's mother, Mary Ball Washington, he writes that Mary was devout, lived with virtue, prudence and Christianity and passed her faith on to her children.

Mary read the Bible and Scott's *The Christian Life* to her oldest son; how to practice the virtues and live with faith. George learned of a man, human and divine, and another revolution where law was rewritten with love. The man refused a kingship and gave his life to free mankind.

Mary also read from Matthew Hale's *Contemplations, Moral and Divine*. Decades later it was still a favorite devotional at Mount Vernon.

Many believed Washington's religious upbringing shaped his worldview and his and his generation's call for independence. The president's contemporary, Washington Irving, agreed. "Let those who wish to know the moral foundation of Washington's character consult Hale's *Contemplations*; it may have been as much a founding document of this nation as any other."

On President's Day and every day, encourage men and women in power, and those who seek it, to realize the gravity of their office. To realize that they hold in their hands the aspirations, the opportunities, the very lives of their countrymen, and to measure their service by the humanity, courage, integrity and faith of our first president.

## Shrove Tuesday community supper



A highlight of February in the Cluster and the community is Epiphany's sausage and pancake supper, the latter topped with real maple syrup from Marc and Shary Stadler's farm. The public is invited free of charge to the traditional Shrove Tuesday meal.

It will be served from 5 to 7 p.m. Tuesday, February 25, at the church. The Kenton Street entrance is handicapped accessible with an elevator to ferry guests to the dining room.

Ruth Vance, now of Epiphany, headed this event when it was held at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in Bellefontaine where she attended. When Holy Trinity closed, Ruth transferred her membership to Epiphany and took on organizing the Shrove Tuesday event. The public is now invited to celebrate Shrove Tuesday as

well as members of Cluster parishes, Our Saviour in Mechanicsburg and Epiphany. In the Episcopal Church and several other denominations, Shrove Tuesday is the day before Ash Wednesday which marks the beginning of Lent.

## *Yearly business meetings*

Our Saviour and Epiphany began the new year with reviews of 2019: mission, financial, administration, priest transition, outreach, buildings and grounds, parish and community events, election of officers and delegates.

### **The Church of Our Saviour**

Senior Warden Todd Boeck convened Our Saviour's annual meeting January 19 with prayer. Minutes of the 2018 annual meeting were read and approved. Warden Boeck and Junior Warden Jim Westfall each reported on 2019 programs and projects. Treasurer Susie Westfall presented the 2019 financial transactions and the proposed budget for 2020 which was approved.

During elections, John Wing was chosen Senior Warden with the following returning to additional terms: Jim Westfall, Junior Warden; Susie Westfall, Treasurer, and vestry members Todd Boeck, Larry Rammel, Emily Rozmus, Gary Lantz, Bill Westfall and Rochiel Foulk.

Todd and Rochiel will be Our Saviour's delegates to the 2020 Diocesan Convention and Todd, John Wing and Amy Boeck will represent Our Saviour on the Cluster Council in the coming year.

Reports of committees were distributed and approved. There was discussion of some major building maintenance that will be needed in 2020. While the 1892 church is brick, the steeple bearing the cross and bell, is of wood painted white. Recent repairs have been disappointing, allowing deterioration of the wood and shifting from plumb. It was agreed that restoration of Our Saviour's steeple, for two centuries a landmark in downtown Mechanicsburg, must be addressed in the coming year.

Our Saviour's 2019 Annual Meeting was concluded with gratitude for the continuing service of wardens, treasurer, vestry and committees and volunteers. The meeting was adjourned with prayer.

### **The Church of the Epiphany**

A potluck lunch preceded Epiphany's annual meeting called to order with prayer by Senior Warden Mary Neal Miller. Printed reports from Senior Warden, Treasurer and Altar Guild were distributed. Treasurer Shary Stadler reviewed and commented on the year's income, expenses and investments and presented a proposed budget for 2020 which was accepted.

The slate of officers and vestry members was approved with Cindy Heffner the new Senior Warden. Ed Hardin, Junior Warden and Barbara Renkert, vestry. Other vestry members whose terms continue are Angela Murray, Heather Angus, Paddy Barr and Diane Kremer.

Senior Warden Cindy Heffner, Diane Kremer of the vestry and congregant Mary Neal Miller will represent Epiphany on the Cluster Council. Delegates to the annual Diocesan Convention will be announced.

Canon Jason Leo has nothing new to report on the search for a Cluster priest. Mary Neal said a formal plan, requested by the Diocese, for ongoing and emergency

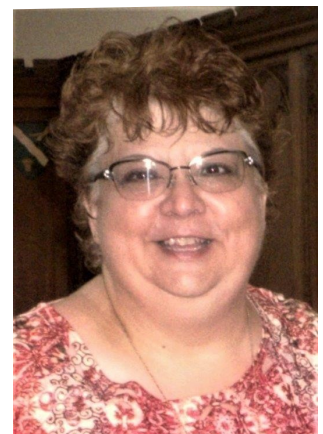
*Con't. on p. 4*



*John Wing  
Senior Warden  
Our Saviour*



*Jim Westfall  
Junior Warden  
Our Saviour*



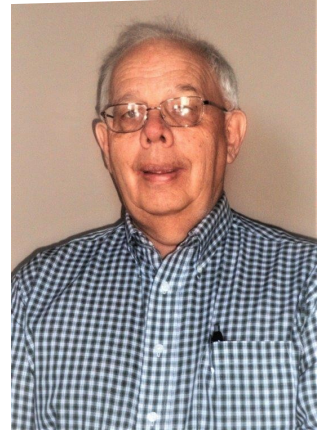
*Cindy Heffner  
Senior Warden  
Epiphany*



## *Yearly business meetings*

safety of congregation and staff, church records and valuables is partially completed. Secured are an automatic external defibrillator---training session held; a scanner to computerize archival and other church records; video of church valuables; steel core door with crash bar at the north (outside) entrance to the parish hall with lighted exit sign.

Mary Neal's printed report included thanks for outreach programs; monthly Community Meals, Ed Hardin coordinator; Paddy Barr and Sharon Applegate for care of landscaping and for the Cluster Chronicle. She thanked retired Cluster priest Rev. Donald Duford; supply minister Rev. Melody Williams, guest preacher Rev. Derrick Fetz and Rev. Elizabeth Hoster who will fill Cluster pulpits for the first six months of 2020. A motion of gratitude for the faithful service of outgoing Senior Warden Mary Neal Miller was passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned with prayer.



*Ed Hardin  
Junior Warden  
Epiphany*

## *Prepare for a possible attack*

A bulletin from the Diocese states that the **RISK** of an attack by an active shooter(s) **is REAL**. Most shootings have been random and without known motivation. The Diocese urges us to do everything possible to prepare for such an incident at church or elsewhere. The Diocese offers suggestions. Register for on-line Active Shooter Training on Diocese website:

<https://dslearning.org/courses-list/>. Use email to register.

**NOW** Know and mark all building exits.

Report suspicious persons or activity (911 or law enforcement).

Create map of places to hide; e.g., windowless rooms with solid doors that can be locked; under pews, tables; behind heavy furniture.

Learn first aid, especially how to stop bleeding.

**DURING** Run to safety, call 911 with location and description of shooters, weapons.

Hide separately, not in groups; stay out of sight, quiet; text law enforcement then turn off electronic devices; stay hidden.

Fight, in danger with no other options, seize makeshift weapon (chair, fire extinguisher, books) and try to distract or disarm attacker.

**AFTER** Remain calm. Keep hands visible and empty.

Law enforcement's priority is to end the incident and may not attend injured immediately.

Follow law enforcement's instructions for when and where to evacuate.

Get professional help for injuries and long-term trauma.

## *Hot off the griddle*

He had two electric griddles going with six fluffy pancakes baking nicely on each. Raymond Scott, king of the kitchen during Our Saviour's January Community Meal, produced the fabulous buttermilk pancakes that were partnered with succulent sausage, fruit, apple and pecan pie from Oasis Food Pantry and Hemisphere Roaster's hot coffee---a great cold weather supper.

Raymond's system was impressive and efficient. He deftly dipped cups of batter onto griddles, flipped each baking cake with a flourish and stacked the finished, golden circles onto Dusty Hurst's trays to replenish the servers' pancake supply. And started dipping and flipping another batch.

The buffet was especially attractive with the hot, fragrant food, bright, fresh flowers and three pretty young hostesses, Madison Rugh, Grace Rozmus and Cecilia Bradford. Grace and Cecilia are daughters of Emily Rozmus and Sarah Bradford who are regular Community Meal volunteers. Will Boeck, too, son of Our Saviour's Community Meal Coordinator Amy Boeck, was on duty. We love that second-generation enthusiasm and energy!

The Chronicle chatted with Raymond when he was off duty and enjoying his own meal. We learned that he really likes to bake. One of his favorites is chocolate cake with a secret ingredient that he says especially pleases lovers of chocolate covered strawberries. It was confidential, so we can't publish, but maybe Raymond will share if you promise not to tell.



*Clockwise from top right: Will Boeck fields requests for assistance; Hostesses are, l to r, Madison Rugh, Grace Rozmus and Cecilia Bradford.; Raymond Scott produces fresh-baked, buttermilk pancakes for the January Meal guests.*



## *Don't go it alone*

So advises the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) which pledges life-long assistance for service members, veterans and families. An echo of God's pledge of unconditional support. *The Lord spake to Joshua: "Be strong and of good courage... for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.* It's not likely that Joshua will have to go to the VFW to claim veterans' benefits, but, if he did, he knows he could count on God to stand in line with him.

Commander Anthony Markin of Urbana's VFW Spriggs-Wing Post 5451 interprets the term *assistance* broadly and the Post lends a hand whenever it may benefit members and their families. It responded generously to Epiphany's invitation to sponsor of the church's first free Community Meal of 2020. Urbana's Disabled American Veterans (DAV) also contributed. We are indebted to these men and women who have worn the uniform of their country so courageously and who, even in retirement, give freely.

A natural partnership, Urbana's Spriggs-Wing Post and Epiphany collaborated on the January supper. VFW provided the food; church members, led by on-site manager Paddy Barr, prepared and served it. Also, on duty were Epiphany stalwarts Sharon Applegate, Julia Robertson, Mary Neal Miller and Ed Hardin, Community Meal program coordinator.

Thus, on a foggy winter evening, we were all guests of the Urbana VFW Spriggs-Wing Post 5451 and the DAV. The hearty meal of lasagna, fresh green salad drizzled with Paddy Barr's sensational homemade dressing, hot, buttered garlic bread and a selection of cookies pleased every age and appetite. We're happy to report that this diverse fellowship included several veterans. In the warmth of the moment many kinds of hunger were satisfied, and concerns shared. Don't go it alone.



*Mary Neal and Rev. Elizabeth chat with the kitchen crew.*



*Left: Julia carefully takes hot lasagna from the oven; above: Serving the food are, l to r, Paddy, Mary Neal and Sharon; right: Paddy put herbs in the salad and added her homemade dressing.*



## Seasons of the Church Year

The second in a series by Heather Angus

In the Episcopal/Anglican tradition, the Season of Lent is preceded by Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday, the latter marking the beginning of Lent.

### Shrove Tuesday

Shrove Tuesday is not an official church celebration, but it has led to some lively, enjoyable customs. The word *shrove* is a form of the English word *shrive*, meaning to obtain absolution for sins by way of Confession and doing Penance.

In England, Shrove Tuesday is observed by the pleasant custom of making and eating lots of pancakes because pancakes used up the supply of eggs, sugar and butter which were forbidden in the more austere menus of Lent.

The tradition of a Pancake Race is said to have originated in 1445 when a Buckinghamshire housewife was so busy making pancakes, she forgot her church service until she heard the bells ringing.

She raced out of the house carrying her frying pan, tossing the pancake to prevent it from burning. This legend inspired the Pancake Race, still a fairly common festivity in the UK, especially England.



*Pancake Race: Participants run through the streets flipping pancakes as they go.*

Shrove Tuesday led to the excellent custom of a pancake/sausage supper for the Cluster, first

organized by Ruth Vance at Holy Trinity in Bellefontaine, then part of the Cluster. When Holy Trinity closed, Ruth became a member of Epiphany and continued the Shrove Tuesday pancake supper to which the public is now invited free of charge.



### Lent

The beginning of the Season of Lent on Ash Wednesday is determined by the date of Easter. Our forty days of Lent (excluding Sundays) correspond to the period Jesus spent in the wilderness after his baptism by John. We know that during Jesus' time in this barren region, he fasted and was tempted by Satan, "and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him." The liturgical color for Lent is purple, recalling Jesus' time of fasting and prayer. Lent is to be a similar period of quiet contemplation.

In years past, it was customary for people to "give up" something during Lent, but more recently it is equally proper to consider "taking on" something instead---a regular time of prayer and scripture reading or charitable work such as serving food at a local shelter or visiting care centers.

The custom of marking the start of Lent with Confession (if not with pancakes) has been documented for centuries.

AElfric of Eynsham's *Ecclesiastical Institutes* from around 1000 AD states: "In the week immediately before Lent everyone shall go to his confessor and confess his deeds and the confessor shall so shrive him as he then may hear by his deeds what he is to do [in the way of penance]."

## *Mark your calendars for February*

February 2	Regular service schedule
February 5	Worship Service Meeting, Epiphany, 5:30 p.m.
February 9	Regular service schedule
February 14	Valentine's Day
February 16	Regular service schedule
February 17	Presidents Day
February 19	Community Meal, Epiphany, 5-6 p.m.
February 25	Shrove Tuesday community supper, Epiphany, 5-7 p.m.
February 26	Ash Wednesday services: Our Saviour, 4 p.m.; Epiphany, 7 p.m. Community Meal, Our Saviour, 6 p.m.
March 2	Regular service schedule
March 8	Regular service schedule Vestry Meeting, Our Saviour, following the service

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*Sunday Worship Services: Our Saviour, 9:15 a.m., Epiphany, 11 a.m.*

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### **THE CHRONICLE**

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