

# 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."*

## *Reverend Fetz to preside at Cluster service*



Urbana native, the Reverend Derrick Fetz, now Dean of St. Paul's Cathedral in Buffalo, New York, his wife, Jamie, and their daughter, Mari Belle, will spend the holidays in Urbana with his parents, Robert and Sheila Fetz. We are pleased to announce that Rev. Fetz will preside at a Cluster service at Epiphany at 10 a.m., Sunday, December 29. A potluck coffee hour will follow the service.

Fetz of Epiphany is a graduate of Otterbein College and earned his Master of Divinity from Seabury Western Theological Seminary in Chicago. He was ordained into the Episcopal priesthood in 2006 and married Jamie, his college classmate.

They were first associated with St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church near Cincinnati where he served as rector of a Cluster of three parishes in the Appalachian foothills. Rev. and Mrs. Fetz then moved to Longmeadow, Massachusetts, where he served as rector of St. Matthew's Episcopal Church and their daughter, Mari Belle, was born. Rev. Fetz was named Dean of St. Paul's in Buffalo in 2018.

St. Paul's is the Mother Church and spiritual center of the diocese of Western New York and Rev. Fetz's responsibilities have included supervision of the day-to-day life of the Cathedral staff and programs.

Jamie Fetz loves her role as wife, mother and partner in family and church activities. Daughter Mari Belle is a delightful young lady who celebrated her sixth birthday November 23. Please come and welcome these dear friends back to the Cluster.

## Dear Brothers and Sisters

We have become family to Father Justin Gibson, Priest of St. Francis on the Hill Episcopal Church in El Paso, Texas. In a recent handwritten letter, he greets distant Epiphany congregants as loving brothers and sisters and thanks them for the \$1,000 sent to address the needs of asylum seekers and immigrants, especially immunizations for children, being detained for months in bleak shelters across the border in Mexico awaiting processing. Here is Father Gibson's message:

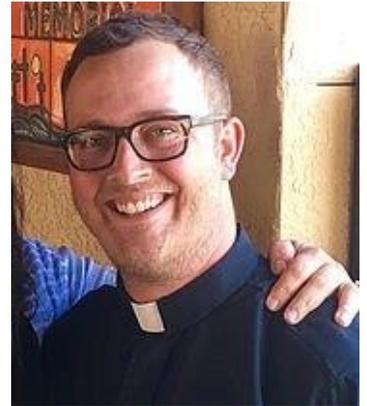
*Dear Brothers and Sisters,*

*I received your donation in support of children refugees and asylum seekers here in the El Paso area. I will be in touch with a shelter that I visited not too long ago to give them the funds. The shelter is a large house in Juarez for asylum seekers, many with children. I'm humbled and deeply appreciative of your gift. There are so many beautiful works taking place and still so much need.*

*Thank you for your far-away love.*

*Blessings,*

*+Father Justin Gibson*



*Fr. Justin Gibson*

## Enlightening Mr. Kristoff

A recent article by newspaper columnist Nicholas Kristoff states that a quarter of Americans now live alone; that loneliness has become a serious health risk. He quotes former U. S. surgeon general Dr. Vivek Murthy: "I trained in internal medicine and I expected most of my time would be spent on diabetes or heart disease or cancer. What I didn't expect was that so many people I saw would be struggling with loneliness."

If you live alone, a bit of socializing with friends and family, church, a job or volunteer activities may be all the togetherness you want. But without the stimulation of human relationships, stress hormones can actually produce inflammation.

And, Mr. Kristoff adds, loneliness can hasten a general decline---from poor diet, ignoring regular medical checkups, not taking medications regularly and from no one to listen.

Wait just a minute, Mr. Kristoff, I intruded, let me enlighten you about the Cluster's Community Meals! Yes, they start with food---home cooked, healthy and

delicious---but as guests and church folks come together and consume, they also converse, they ask questions about the interests and situations of people beside them and across the table. They listen. Differences fade as common ground is uncovered. Kids

chatter, spill and giggle.

Seniors have wonderful stories about how coping with aging turned comical.

Laughter is contagious.

We've noticed that people are loath to leave Community Meals. They linger, savoring the voices, the understanding eyes, the warmth

and comfort of clasped hands. In spite of the vast number of ways technology connects us in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, it has failed the lonely.

A simple meal is a most basic, unsophisticated thing to give. Survival of a sort, without pretense or protocol, sharing feelings as well as food may be what it means to be truly, Christianly connected. Please, everyone, come to Community Meals at Our Saviour and Epiphany and feed a body, a mind, a spirit---and maybe help heal a lonely heart.

*Seniors have wonderful stories about how coping with aging turned comical. Laughter is contagious.*

## *The continuing life of St. Martin's cloak*

When Canon Jason Leo led services in Cluster parishes in November, he praised Our Saviour's annual coat collection and distribution and commented on its remarkable relevance to this point in time. He told the story of another gift of outerwear that has influenced our lives into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Canon Leo explained that Martin was a young Roman soldier serving in Gaul (France). One day as he approached the gates of Amien, he saw a poorly clad beggar. A compassionate youth, Martin took his sword, cut his warm military cloak in half and shared it with the beggar.

There are several versions of what happened next: one claims that the following night, Martin dreamed that he saw Jesus wearing the half-cloak; another that the next morning Martin found his restored cloak returned to him. In any case, Martin became a Christian and was baptized at age 18.

What is known is that the half-cloak St. Martin kept became a holy relic, preserved by French royalty in an Abbey near Tours. Oaths were sworn on it and it was carried into battle to insure victory. Records verify that the relic was ceded to the monks of St. Denis. The priests who cared for the cloak were called cappellanu. Later all priests who served the military were cappellani (chaplain in French) from which came the English word chaplain.

Yet another modern term was born when small, temporary churches, built to house the relic, were called cappella---little cloak. Over time, the small churches were no longer associated with the cloak, but retained the name cappella or chapel in English.

It is also claimed that Martin Luther was named for St. Martin and was baptized in 1483 on St. Martin's Day, November 11---coincidentally our Armistice Day, the end of World War I---now Veteran's Day in the United States.

St. Martin is also the patron saint of a variety of entities, one being---did you guess?---the United States Army Quartermaster Corps, outfitter of soldiers. Many thanks, Canon Leo, for this marvelous legend and its significance for us. It would not be surprising if St. Martin becomes the patron saint of Our Saviour's yearly compassionate efforts to find new owners for gently used "cloaks" and accessories. St. Martin would be astonished---and exceedingly pleased.



## *An important rehearsal*

Epiphany recently offered training in CPR (cardio-pulmonary resuscitation) and the use of a defibrillator. Both are emergency measures which can restore normal heart/lung function when they have stopped or become so irregular as to be life threatening. Cate Brinnon, who gives regular classes in these techniques at the Urbana YMCA, conducted the session at the church.

Did you know that Epiphany has a defibrillator? It's housed in a glass-fronted case beside the church office door. It uses electric shock to stop "fibrillation," that fine, rapid, abnormal fluctuation of the of the heart muscle that can have such serious consequences. Fortunately, the defibrillator is fully programmed with instructions for use. After being plugged in to an electrical outlet and turned on, it will give step-by-step directions.

If such an emergency should occur during a worship service or other activity at the church, we are advised to call 911 immediately and then apply one of these procedures until medical help arrives. Knowledge of either technique can save a life. If you missed the class at Epiphany, you can get instruction at the Y.



## *Fire department volunteers lend a hand*

When Emily Rozmus called, the Mechanicsburg Fire Department responded! Versatile firefighters and EMT volunteers Jeremy Moore, Jeremy Nangle and Zach Davis appeared on cue and served hot chicken-noodle soup, tossed salad, dinner rolls, cranberry sauce, pumpkin pie and brownies to Our Saviour's November Community Meal guests---more than 60 folks counting carryout meals and home deliveries.

The pies and rolls were gifted by devoted friends Bill and Kay Miller of the Oasis Food Pantry, Amy Boeck made the cranberry sauce and Tom Keller brought his favorite German chocolate brownies! Our thanks to Amy Boeck for taking photos for the Chronicle.

Food, the firefighters and fellowship were surely among the things everyone mentioned the next day on our national day of Thanksgiving. This is a community and a congregation that doesn't give thanks just once a year, but once a day---for life's abundance and for those with whom it is shared.

Spread the word that there will be **no Community Meal at Our Saviour in December** as the last Wednesday of the month is Christmas. But we'll be here to start the new year with you in January. Cheers!

*Middle: Jodi Compton, left, assists Tammy Rice who came for supper and also found coats for several family members in the outerwear collection. Bottom: Enjoying coffee and conversation are, l to r, Tom Keller, Larry Rammel, Shelly Foulk and Marilyn Foulk, all of Our Saviour.*



*Staffing the buffet are Fire Department volunteers, l to r, Jeremy Moore, Jeremy Nangle and Zach Davis. Sarah Bradford, left, and Emily Rozmus serve pumpkin pie.*



## *Brugh's—a full-service firm*



You can count on Ryan Brugh and his staff---whether they're servicing your vehicle at Brugh's Auto and Tire in Urbana or providing and serving a pre-thanksgiving Community Meal at the Church of the Epiphany.

They do both with care and skill and over a hundred people who shared Epiphany's November 20th dinner will testify to that.

Guests of all ages filled the dining room to capacity---most eating in, others carrying out.

All enjoyed the savory roast pork, mashed potatoes, green beans and the choice dessert of the season--- pumpkin pie with whipped topping! With unlimited coffee, cold beverages and congenial conversation.

Epiphany's "regulars," Paddy Barr, Sharon Applegate, Heather Angus, Diane Kremer, Mary Neal Miller, Ruth Vance and Ed Hardin prepared the food, helped serve, greeted guests and, after all were fed and homeward bound, cleared it all away.

A special thank you to Diane Kremer for the photos. And, we are ever grateful for Brugh & Company's partnership in continuing to expand and create Christian Community in our community.



*Top: servers, l to r, included Mary Neal Miller, Jay, a Brugh associate, Heather Angus and Ed Hardin. Middle: guests on the way to the buffet. Bottom: youngsters keep things lively.*



## *Give to the departed eternal rest*

Funeral services for Virginia Ruth Buxton, widow of Richard Buxton, were held at noon December 4 at Epiphany where she had been a member for many years. Virginia died December 1, a few days short of her 91<sup>st</sup> birthday. Rev. Nancy Hardin presided at the funeral and at graveside services at Urbana's Grandview Cemetery. A luncheon was served for family and friends at Epiphany. We pray that Virginia may know the light and joy of God's glory and that the bereaved will be comforted. We pray especially for Virginia's daughter, Mary Beth Henry, granddaughter, Elisabeth Risen Wing and great-granddaughter Amelia Ann Wing, all members of Our Saviour.

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*Virginia Buxton, left, and Mary Beth Buxton Henry.*



*At this season of the year, so filled with memories and family occasions, grief can seem unbearable. But, after awhile we begin to savor the remembrance of those times when we were all together, when the tenor of the days was festive and mutually cherishing. Memory, then, nourishes the heart and can ease sorrow's sharp edges, spreading its arms to comfort and to gather us together again as part of the great human family.*

*An excerpt from *Healing After Loss* by Martha Whitmore Hickman*

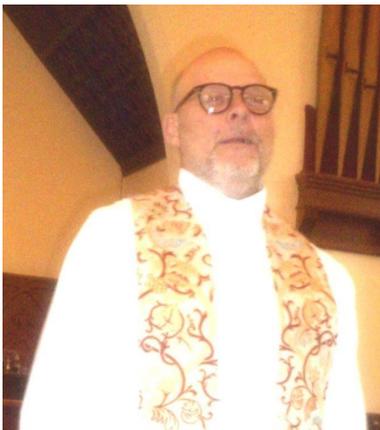
## *A December Legend*

The Christmas birds begin their song as the last leaves give way to the first snowflakes. There are traditional verses about the Baby and Star, others about Shepherds, and more that recall the Magi. Only children or the pure in heart can understand the words of the songs; one story says they are the same ones the angels sang. Children always beg to feed the birds in the Christmas season, in hope they will hear those ancient songs and have good fortune in the new year.

*Amy Jo Schoonover*



## *Hold fast to your faith*



*Canon Jason Leo*

Canon Jason Leo, addressing Culture parishes November 10, confided that Job is one of his favorite Biblical characters. Job's case is puzzling. He is a good man, living as he should, but facing one devastating experience after another; loss of friends, beloved family, health and property. Broken and bewildered he cries out "Why?"

Canon Leo paraphrased God's answer: "I made you; I know you're in a pickle right now but **have faith**, I will take care of you. Then, in the transformation of his soul, Job says, I know that my redeemer liveth, and Job's losses are restored."

Canon Leo repeated God's message to all who are broken and bewildered. "Hold fast to your faith; God made you and will take care of you."

## *On the safe side*

You'll be pleased to know that the steps outside Epiphany's west door to the parking lot will soon have a second handrail. There has been one at the left, and the Vestry has announced that a matching one is being made for the right side, a generous and thoughtful gift from Barb Renkert. We will offer a heartfelt "thank you, Barb" every time we safely enter or leave the church by that door.



*Kali Murphy, shown here with Grandmother Jennifer Murphy, received a special blessing from Canon Leo during services at Epiphany in recognition of her fourth birthday Nov. 11. Kali is the great-granddaughter of Chuck and Mary Neal Miller of Epiphany.*

## *Amy Boeck reports...*

...that Our Saviour's coat distribution had "a good opening day and has received a lot of donations of good kids' coats. We plan to be open during Christmas in the Village, December 14."

## *The birds at Bethlehem*

Folklore claims that characteristics of certain winged creatures were determined when they came to pay homage to the Christ Child in the manger: the robin's breast turned red as he fanned the fire to warm Mother and Child; the stork contributed feathers to soften the manger bed and became known as the bird of birth; a nightingale joined the carols of the angels from whom it learned the sweetest of all bird song.

*The painting on page eight is a Nativity by Jacob Jordean, a 17<sup>th</sup> century Flemish artist, the leading baroque painter of his day.*



## *Mark your calendars for December*

- Dec. 8 Regular service schedule  
Vestry Meeting, Our Saviour, following the service
- Dec. 14 Coat distribution, Our Saviour, during *Christmas in the Village*  
Champaign County Youth Choir Concert, 2 p.m.,  
Church of the Nazarene
- Dec. 15 Regular service schedule
- Dec. 18 Community Meal, Epiphany, 5-6 p.m.
- Dec. 22 Regular service schedule  
Vestry Meeting, Epiphany, following the service
- Dec. 24 Christmas Eve Services: Our Saviour, 4 p.m., Epiphany, 6 p.m.
- Dec. 25 Merry Christmas
- Dec. 29 Cluster Service, Epiphany, 10 a.m., Rev. Derrick Fetz, presiding,  
Coffee Hour potluck to follow
- Jan. 1 Happy New Year
- Jan. 5 Regular service schedule

Printed by



1333 N. Main St.  
Urbana, Ohio 43078

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

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### **THE CHRONICLE**

**A publication of the Northern Miami Valley Episcopal Cluster**

**230 Scioto St.**

**Urbana, OH 43078**



*O, come let us  
adore him,  
Christ the Lord*