



The Angelus

January 2023

From the Rector's Desk

Our annual parish meeting is coming up on January 22! We will have one Mass at 9 am, have our meeting, and have a little something to munch on. There will be a video presentation of photos and other things from 2022 during our gathering that will allow us to celebrate the year past that God has given us.

If initial readings are correct, we will be so much closer to a balanced budget in 2023 than we have been the past couple of years. The good news for 2022 is that we kept our expenses down for 2022, too, and we got some more income than we expected, so we had no red ink for 2022 anyway! Thanks be to God!

At our 2023 meeting, we will, of course, look at the budget the vestry has approved and presented for 2023. We will elect our two wardens and vestry members. These elected leaders are essential for the ongoing functioning and, more importantly, for discerning the ongoing mission of our parish. Now that we are not as restricted by Covid, we are starting to stretch our wings again. Let's pass a budget that does more than pay the bills but funds what God has called us to do. Let's elect leaders who do more than fill our by-laws' requirements and actually take us deeper in our call and mission from God. Let's fly in 2023!

Peace,
WLB+



That's a Good Question!

Over the past year or so, this column has responded to questions you have emailed in or left in the "That's a Good Question" box in the foyer of our church. The questions have slowed to a trickle and sometimes stop altogether. This indicates the need for this is not so great. So, for the time being at least, we'll stop this column. But if the desire and need for it is brought forward by you, we can start it up again. Thanks for some great questions the past year or so!



Anglican Quote

Yet more poetry from great Anglicans. As has been said before here, in Anglicanism, we have theologians, but we also know that artists and musicians and writers reveal the presence of God and the Kingdom among us, too. Echoes of the Truth ring out in God-given creativity.

January 6 is the Epiphany, the revelation of the Messiah to all the nations of the earth. This is the holiday when we enter the Mystery found in the story of the three gentile kings visiting the child Jesus in Bethlehem and venerating him.

TS Eliot was born in the US but became a citizen of the UK. He is thought by some to be the most influential poet in English in the 20th century. And he wrote about “religious” themes in such a way that we can see more of their depths and manifold dimensions.

There’s a lot I like in this poem. But these days I’m really struck by the connection between the birth of the savior and their sense of death, as well as how seeing the savior has disrupted their lives and nothing is the same anymore for them. I wonder what you will hear in this poem.

The Journey Of The Magi

A cold coming we had of it,
Just the worst time of the year
For a journey, and such a long journey:
The ways deep and the weather sharp,
The very dead of winter.'
And the camels galled, sorefooted, refractory,
Lying down in the melting snow.
There were times we regretted
The summer palaces on slopes, the terraces,
And the silken girls bringing sherbet.
Then the camel men cursing and grumbling
and running away, and wanting their liquor and women,
And the night-fires going out, and the lack of shelters,
And the cities hostile and the towns unfriendly
And the villages dirty and charging high prices:
A hard time we had of it.
At the end we preferred to travel all night,
Sleeping in snatches,
With the voices singing in our ears, saying
That this was all folly.



Then at dawn we came down to a temperate valley,
Wet, below the snow line, smelling of vegetation;
With a running stream and a water-mill beating the darkness,
And three trees on the low sky,
And an old white horse galloped away in the meadow.
Then we came to a tavern with vine-leaves over the lintel,
Six hands at an open door dicing for pieces of silver,
And feet kicking the empty wine-skins.
But there was no information, and so we continued
And arriving at evening, not a moment too soon
Finding the place; it was (you might say) satisfactory.



All this was a long time ago, I remember,
And I would do it again, but set down
This set down
This: were we led all that way for
Birth or Death? There was a Birth, certainly
We had evidence and no doubt. I had seen birth and death,
But had thought they were different; this Birth was
Hard and bitter agony for us, like Death, our death.
We returned to our places, these Kingdoms,
But no longer at ease here, in the old dispensation,
With an alien people clutching their gods.
I should be glad of another death.

January Birthdays

Sutton Cecil 1/1
Karen Ambelang 1/2
Bob MacEwen 1/8
Bob Hanlon 1/10
Brian Heck 1/13
Louise Trost 1/18
SJ Schmeiser 1/18
Rachel Boland 1/23

Anne Hanlon
Barb MacEwen
Steve Schmeiser
Doris Yang
Darlene Bain
January Anniversary
Mary & Dale Massey
Ordination Anniversary
Fr William Bulson

1/24
1/28
1/28
1/29
1/31

1/9
1/25

Parish Staff

The Right Reverend Matthew Gunter, *Bishop*
The Reverend William Bulson, *Rector*
The Reverend Michael Burg, *Deacon*
The Reverend Paul Aparicio, *Deacon*
Dr R Benjamin Dobey, *Interim Organist Choirmaster*
The Reverend Deacon Nicci Beeck, *Parish Administrator*

The Vestry

Stuart Schmidt, *Senior Warden*
John Davis, *Junior Warden*
Brian Heck, *Treasurer*
Vestry: Jack Britton, Tasha Crouse, Mary Gallimore,
Robert McMillan, Jean-Margaret Merrell-Beech, Helen
Mullison, Pat Sather, Connie Schneider, Mary Snyder

Grace Episcopal Church
1011 N. 7th St.
Sheboygan, WI 53081
Phone: 920-459-9659
Email: office@gracesheboygan.com
www.gracesheboygan.com

