



# The Flame

January 2022

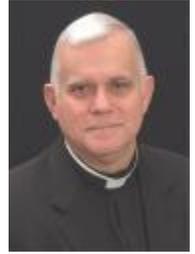
**Our Mission** is to be a welcoming place where people meet Christ and grow in their relationship with God through our worship, service, and fellowship.

## Christmas Pageant

What a wonderful job our youth did in sharing the story of our Lord's birth. As always, their efforts were greatly appreciated, and the parish joyfully shared a few Christmas tunes in the waning days of Advent. Of course, the cutest of all were the lambs, who always give us cause to smile and say awwww. Thank you to Cindy who found us a perfect script, and to all those who helped make the pageant possible; and a special thank you to our youth, who so gladly give of themselves each year.



## Fr. Tom's Tidbits



I pray all have enjoyed a blessed holiday. As we enter into a new calendar year, we do so with an excitement, and some trepidation, about what lays ahead. Covid is still with us, impacting our lives in so many ways. Thankfully, the latest strain seems to respond well to the vaccination and booster shots made available. While no vaccine is perfect, they do provide us a layer of protection that reduces the major health risks covid presented this time last year. If you have not yet gotten your vaccine, please do. We have been blessed that none in our parish has had any significant issues with the virus, and we pray that we don't. One way to help assure this, is for all who can, to get vaccinated and then the booster. As we have an aging population, doing so is a major step forward to making our time together safer for all.

As we look towards the coming year, it is my hope we can find a way to make our time together more joyful as well. I am not thinking we need to add more parties to our already busy schedules, but I am looking for ideas on how we can reduce the stress some of our parish ministries feel; stress that arises out of the constant demands we place on them to provide more, working with less. While I am overjoyed with the wonderful response to our annual fundraising efforts, we are still in need of volunteers to help do what needs to be done.

I understand with an aging population, many of us are unable to do what we used to be able to do, I for one have back problems that limit me more than I care to admit, and that many in our parish have given a great deal of themselves over the years and find the need for a well-deserved respite before stepping forward again. But we face some significant challenges ahead that can only be solved by working together. As the year moves forward, and you hear the occasional call for volunteers, please prayerfully consider answering that call and lending a helping hand. Most projects and efforts require only a little time, and do not require special skills.

If you are not sure what you might do, please call, and make an appointment with me. I will gladly help you find a way to match your passions with a parish, or community need. We can meet in the office, the comfort of your home, over a cup of coffee, or even lunch. Also, if you find yourself, or the ministry in which you serve, being stretched to thin, I would like to hear about that as well. My hope is that in the coming year, we will find great joy in coming together, giving thanks for our many blessings, and deepening our relationships with God and one another.

*Father Tom*

## Roy Philips Ordination

Last month, Roy Philips, our last diaconal intern, was ordained as a Deacon in the Episcopal Church. It was a wonderful celebration of his new ministry at All Saints Episcopal Church.



### Office Closed

The office will be closed on two Mondays this month, January 3<sup>rd</sup>, and January 17<sup>th</sup>.

# Parish Life

## 2022 Service Times



As was announced last month, our 2022 Sunday service times and locations are changing. Our 8:00am Sunday service will move to the chapel, and the trial 10:00am Sunday service will return to 9:30am. We will continue to broadcast live our later service. These decisions were not made lightly, nor in haste. Our Vestry has been discussing and praying about them for several months. We know that these changes will not be welcomed by all, but we believe they are in the best interests of our community as a whole. Should we see growth that suggests a return to two services in the sanctuary on Sunday morning, we will gladly revisit service times again in the future.

## Annual Reports

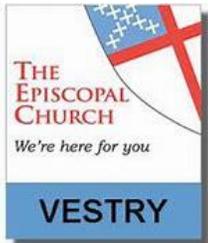
Ministry Team Leaders are asked to please submit all end of year reports to the office by Sunday (9 Jan). Reports should include a short description of last year's efforts and the next year's aspirations. Thank you in advance.

## Annual Meeting

Our annual Parish Meeting will take place on Sunday (30 Jan) following the 9:30 am service. A brunch will be provided by the Vestry and a short meeting will follow to recognize off going Vestry members, elect new members, and elect delegates to Annual Council. Also, we will hear from our Treasurer and Fr. Tom on the financial and spiritual wellness of our parish community. All Holy Spirit members are asked to attend this important meeting in the life of our parish community.



## Vestry Nominations



If you have ever wondered what you might do to help our parish community thrive, then you might wish to consider serving on the Vestry. As a member of the Vestry, you share in the leadership of our parish, empower the work of our ministries, and ensure we act as good stewards of the resources we are entrusted with. Those elected to the Vestry serve a three-year term, meeting once a month and attend a day-retreat, usually in late February or early March. Vestry members serve as VPOD (Vestry Person of the Day) on Sunday mornings, on a rotational basis. As VPOD, Vestry members help open the church for worship, welcome members and guests at the Spirit Hub, offering answers to any questions that may arise about parish activities and programs, oversee the weekly count by the Ushers, and ensure the building is secured after Sunday worship. If you might be interested in learning more about this ministry, please contact either Michele Hagen, Ken Gomeringer, or Fr. Tom. Nominations will be submitted and members elected at our annual parish meeting.

## Delegates to Annual Council

Next year's Annual Diocesan Council will be held Oct 28-29<sup>th</sup> in Kearney, NE. If you might be interested in servicing as a delegate, on behalf the Church of the Holy Spirit, please contact Michele Hagen or Fr. Tom. Nominations will be submitted and voted upon during our Annual Parish Meeting.



## Holiday Craft and Bake Sale

Last month's Holiday Fair and Bake Sale was a huge success. Several of our long-time vendors, along with some new smiling faces, offered a wide assortment of crafts and gifts for the holiday season. Of course, the fair would not have been complete without our usual tables wonderfully stocked with baked goods, and our little Christmas shop.



Thank you to Karen Gray for organizing everything, Dean and Chris for helping set up, and our youth group for bringing all our stored items down from the attic (and for returning them after the sale was over).



## Brotherhood of St. Andrew

The Brotherhood of St. Andrew, like the Daughters of the King, gathers together regularly for worship, study, and service and is committed to a life of daily prayer for both the growth of God's kingdom and the well-being of those who are in need. This ministry's vision is to inspire, empower, and equip men and boys to fulfill the Great Commission. Brochures describing this ministry can be found at the Spirit Hub. If you might be interested in learning more about this men's ministry, and how we might start a local chapter here at Holy Spirit, please let Fr. Tom know, and an organizational group meeting will be placed on the parish calendar in February.



## Parish Out Reach

### Coats for the homeless

Last summer, a member of our parish, Arlene Gagne, generously donated funds to purchase coats for the homeless. Watching for sales to maximize the number and types of coats purchased, we were finally able to make her dream come true. We purchased 33 coats for the homeless (donated to Seina Francis House) and 30



coats for youth in need (donated to Bellevue Together). This was an amazing gift given, that definitely impacts the lives of those who receive them, and is one that demonstrates just what we can do when we think outside the box, and into the world around us.

### Mobile Pantry

Last month's mobile pantry, like always, was a success and we thank our many volunteers who were able to join us on a brisk December morning. We distributed just over 100 family food packages. The remaining food items were taken to the Bellevue Food Pantry for distribution. Our next pantry is scheduled for Saturday (29 Jan). As of right now, we are expecting another drive through event. However,



we are hoping to return to indoor distribution as the winter progresses. The food we share is for anyone who is in need of grocery assistance. So, please, when you see the event pop up on Facebook, we ask that everyone shares it with family and friends, helping us get the word out to as many people as possible. Anyone who wishes to volunteer during our next event is asked to arrive at the church by 9:30 am with distribution beginning at 10:00am.



### Collections for Friends of Tamar

Friends of Tamar has asked us to delay our item collection until February as they reassess their needs. As a result of the pandemic, they are making changes in their distribution methods in hopes of being able to better serve their clientele. Watch next month's issue of The Flame for an update on our support of this very special diocesan ministry.



### February Blood Drive

Coming in mid-February, we will once again host the Red Cross Blood Mobile. While the date is still being coordinated, we hope to once again fill all of the available time slots. If you are able, or you regularly give, please watch the Sunday bulletin for updates with regards to date and times. For more information, please contact Carol McLaughlin



## Christmas Services

This year, with another rise in the cases of covid, this time the omicron variant, we were unsure what to expect on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. This did not stop us from pulling out all the stops. Special thanks to those who gave of themselves to make our night so special, especially who volunteered (some for all three services on Christmas Eve) from the Altar Guild, Bell and Vocal Choirs, Ushers, Greeters, Acolytes, and Lay Eucharistic Ministers.

We were so blessed to find so many willing to brave the spread and join us for worship, and for the moderate weather we enjoyed on both Eve and Day. While the church was not filled as it had been pre-pandemic, the attendance was much higher than anticipated. Across our four services, we welcomed 154 who worshipped in-person, and an additional 24 who joined us online. While markedly lower than our pre-pandemic average of 214, it was a night filled with joy and songs of gladness for the love revealed through the incarnation, the birth of Jesus.





# Youth

## Suicide Prevention Training

On Wednesday (19 Jan), beginning at 7:00 pm, Jennifer Moffett will provide Suicide Prevention training for our Journeys youth. Jennifer, our former youth coordinator, is now chair of the Nebraska Chapter of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention and gladly offers this training for our youth at an age-appropriate level. Parents are invited to attend Journeys that evening to take part in the training as well. Please sign up at the Spirit Hub to let us know if you will be joining us for dinner.



## Youth Group Bingo



On Wednesday (26 Jan), beginning at 6:30 pm, our Journeys youth group will hold their annual Bingo Fun Night. Parish youth 10 years old and older are invited to join us for dinner, followed by a few games of bingo and the opportunity to win some really great prizes. To help us ensure we have enough for everyone, please stop by The Spirit Hub to sign up and let us know you are coming. There is no cost for this event and youth are encouraged to bring family or friends to this night of fun.

## Confirmation Class

Beginning Sunday (6 Feb), following our late service, Fr. Tom will be offering his Inquirer's and Confirmation class. This 90-minute class will meet over 8 weeks and explore the promises we make in baptism, as well as look at a little church history and the Book of Common Prayer. Those who may be new to the Episcopal Church, or who are interested in learning more about what we Episcopalians believe about our shared ministry, are invited to stop by the Spirit Hub and register for the class.



## Sunday School

Sunday school starts back on January 9th. With the second service returning to 9:30, our classes will return to 10:30 or 10 minutes after the service ends. If your children are between pre-school and 5th grade, join us.



## Vestry Meeting Minutes December 16, 2021

Meeting was called to order and opened with a prayer. Those in attendance were: Michele Hagen, Ken Gomeringer, Linda Blinston, Terri Storm, Leslie Nutting, Margie Crawford, Judy Darrell, and Fr. Tom.

A quick look at upcoming events and dates took place and Terri Storm offered an update on the progress of finding volunteers for the 2022-2025 Vestry positions. One person has expressed a strong desire to serve, with a second still thinking about it. As one of the off-going members usually fills the Jr Warden position, as the Jr Warden moves up to be Sr Warden, Terri and Linda said that with changes they will be experiencing in the next year, neither would be available to do so. Michele and Ken will meet later to discuss options on filling these positions in the coming year.

### Discussion Items

**2022 Pledge Drive:** Fr. Tom reported our 2022 pledge drive was a large success. We welcome 10 new pledges we did not have last year, and only one family who pledged last year was unable to do so again this year. The vestry's initial goal was exceeded and the large deficit we began budget planning with was much smaller than expected. Ministries will still need to use some of their reserves in the coming year.

**Parish Event/Fundraising Calendars:** Conducting a final review of next year's calendars, the Vestry noted a few minor changes that were needed and recommended that the calendars be included in the Annual Report.

**Annual Ministry Reports:** Fr. Tom encouraged Vestry members to reach out to the various ministries with which they are liaisons, to remind ministry leaders that their 2021 reports are due to the office by Sunday (9 Jan).

**Annual Parish Meeting:** Members discussed the upcoming meeting (planned for Sunday, 30 Jan). Judy Darrell offered to help coordinate the various entrees the Vestry provides and the sides and beverages our Hospitality Teams offer.

**Vestry Retreat 2022:** Members discussed next February's retreat and the possibility of having a facilitator join us to begin the development of a 5-year plan to help keep us focused on parish priorities. We are waiting to hear back from the facilitator as to whether our dates available match with their schedule. More to follow on this in next month's issued of *The Flame*.

### Decision Items

**Roof Replacement:** With the roof done, our contractor is anxious with regards to the final payment. After discussion, since funds are available to pay the contractor in advance of receiving the final check from the insurance company, Fr. Tom motioned, Michele Hagen seconded, that we pay the company out of the roof repair fund and deposit the insurance check into our account when it arrives. **M12-16 -01** passed by unanimous consent.

**2022 Budget:** In light of the good news delivered by Fr. Tom about this year's pledge drive, Margie Crawford motioned, and Michele Hagen seconded, that the final draft of next year's budget be approved. The Vestry unanimously passed **M12-16-02** approving a balanced budget for 2022.

**Housing Resolution:** Once the Budget was passed, Fr Tom offered the following motion: Whereas Rev. Tom Jones is employed as a minister of the Gospel by Church of the Holy Spirit, in Bellevue, NE., which does not provide a residence for him, the vestry resolves that of the total compensation of \$76,490 to be paid to Rev. Jones, during 2022, that \$40,200 be designated a housing allowance within the meaning of that term as used in Section 107 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986; and be it further resolved that \$40,200 of compensation is designated as housing allowance for this and all future years, unless otherwise provided. Michele seconded. **M12-16-03** passed by unanimous consent.

**Funds distribution:** Fr. Tom motioned that \$4,700 be moved from the Rector's discretionary fund to the roof repair fund, and that \$4,000 be moved from the rector's discretionary fund to the building fund. Judy seconded. **M12-16-04** passed by unanimous consent.

**2022 Service Times:** Last month, all agreed that a final decision regarding 2022 service times would need to be made before the end of the year. Over the last two months, Vestry members have been soliciting inputs from parish membership with no major stance in either remaining at 10 am or moving back to 9:30. Following Fr. Tom’s 28 Nov announcement, only one family came forward to express their desire (not demand) to keep the late service at 10:00 am. The pros and cons of making the return to 9:30 am, at the same time we move the 8:00 am service to the chapel, were reviewed. After discussion, Fr. Tom motioned, Michele seconded that the new service times and move would take place on Sunday (2 Jan 2022) and remain in effect until such time worship attendance mandated a need to worship in the sanctuary during both services. **M12-16-05** passed by unanimous consent.

**Treasurer’s report**

Blythe Becker was unavailable. Fr. Tom presented the reports

Income-Expense Report: As of the end of November, we are 97% in pledge income and 98% in overall income. There were no unexpected and unbudgeted expenses to report. Our YTD expenses exceed our YTD income by \$9,767.79. While this number seems high, it is much lower than forecast.

Changes in Equity Report: The funds report showed changes in our Fellowship fund (due to funerals and advance purchase of items for Valentine’s Extravaganza), FHFO Funds (due to expenditures on coats, laundry baskets for vets, and Thanksgiving baskets), Rector Discretionary (for financial assistance), and Building and Grounds, (for tree trimming and landscaping). The Endowment Fund saw a drop of \$6,601.23 due to market fluctuations.

Balance Sheet: We currently have net cash assets of \$213,412.29 (166,240.65 in unrestricted and temporarily restricted funds and \$47, 171.64 in restricted funds). Our Endowment Fund is at \$472,071.85 giving us a total of \$685,484.14 in available assets.

Funds Expenditures:

29-Nov	Oktoberfest	Supplies	10.00
29-Nov	Outreach Misc	Thanksgiving Baskets	620.79
29-Nov	Oktoberfest	Supplies	410.34
29-Nov	Outreach Misc	Coats	2,152.27
7-Dec	Rector Disc	Fin Sec Assistance	279.00
14-Dec	Roof Repair Fund	Roof Replacement	33,437.94

Judy motioned, Linda seconded reports be accepted as presented. **M12-16-06** passed by unanimous consent. Ken motioned, Margie seconded we pay the bills. M12-16-07 passed by unanimous consent.

Judy motioned, Linda seconded that the meeting be adjourned. M12-16-08 passed by unanimous consent. Meeting adjourned.

# FINANCIAL REPORT

## Financial Report as of November 30, 2021

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>
Pledged	\$ 15,190.00	\$ 15,057.08	\$ 161,938.70	\$ 165,627.92
Other Inc.	\$ 1,406.00	\$ 1,532.25	\$ 17,426.00	\$ 16,854.75
Total Inc	\$ 16,596.00	\$ 16,589.33	\$ 179,364.70	\$ 182,482.67
Expenses	\$ 20,189.44	\$ 18,666.75	\$ 189,132.49	\$ 205,334.25
Balance			\$ -9,767.79	



**UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS!**

- Jan. 3** - Office Closed
- Jan. 8** - DOK meeting 1pm
- Jan. 13** - Vestry Meeting - 6:30
- Jan. 17** - Office Closed
- Jan. 29** - Mobile Food Pantry
- Jan. 30** - Annual Meeting

**LAY MINISTRIES SCHEDULE**

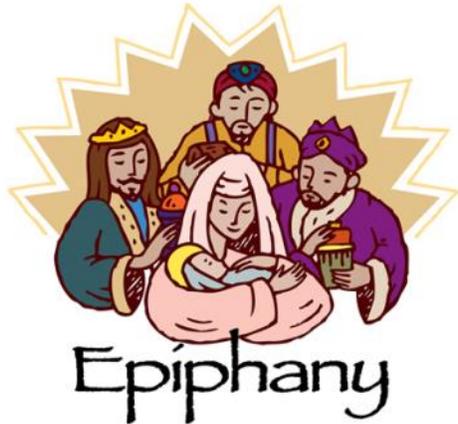
Ministries	Jan 2	Jan 9	Jan 16	Jan 23	Jan 30
<b>VPOD</b>	Cindy P	Margie C	Terri S	Michele H	Linda B
<b>Hospitality Team 10 am Greeters , Ushers &amp; Coffee Hour Host</b>	Team 2	Team 3	Team 4	Team 1	Team 2
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Team 1	Team 2	Team 3	Team 4	Team 1
<b>Recycle Team</b>	Jan S	Marcia A	Lynda W	Karen G	Jan S
<b>LEM Saturday 5:00 pm</b>	Alberta Y	Charlotte A	Kristi S	Alberta Y	Charlotte A
<b>LEM Sunday 8:00 am</b>	Doug A	Anika S	Doug A	Rick S	Doug A
<b>LEM Sunday 10:00 am</b>	Lori E Michele H	Ken G Lex G	Jan S Margie C	Vince C Jennifer W	Terri S Rick S
<b>Acolytes</b> Crucifer Torch Torch	Anika S Vincent C Evelynn C	Isaiah H Kyper M Ailynn M	William R Olivia H Eric G	Emily W Vincent C Evelynn C	Anika S Kyper M Ailynn M

*Please submit articles for the  
 February 2022 FLAME to the  
 church office by January 17th.  
 Thank you*



**Like Us!**  
**Facebook**

# January



## Regular Services:

**Sunday:** 8:00am Holy Eucharist Rite I  
9:30 am Holy Eucharist Rite II \*  
**Wednesday:** 9:30 am Holy Eucharist \*  
**Saturday:** 5:00 pm Holy Eucharist  
\* Broadcast live on Facebook

## Education:

**Sunday:** Sunday School @ 10:30 am  
(September-May)  
**Wednesday:** Bible Study @ 10:15 am  
Journeys to Adulthood @ 6:30 pm

## Office Hours:

**Monday – Thursday:** 9:00 am–3:00 pm  
**Friday:** 9:00 am–Noon

## Rector's Day Off:

**Friday**

*The Flame* is a monthly production of the Church of the Holy Spirit, Episcopal, in Bellevue, Nebraska. We welcome all stories, pictures, and suggestions, but must reserve the right to choose what we can print. Please send articles and pictures to CHS Admin at [holyspirit@chsepiscopal.org](mailto:holyspirit@chsepiscopal.org). The next deadline for submitting news is January 17th.

**Webpage:** [www.chsepiscopal.org](http://www.chsepiscopal.org)

**Email:** [holyspirit@chsepiscopal.org](mailto:holyspirit@chsepiscopal.org)

**The Flame**  
**Newsletter of The Church of the Holy Spirit - Episcopal**  
**1305 Thomas Drive**  
**Bellevue, NE 68005-2973**  
**402-291-7732**