



The Adoration of the Magi tapestry by Edward Burne-Jones.

## The Manifestation of Christ

*Continued from page 2*

the doorway of Christian homes. The letters are the initials of the traditional names of the Three Magi: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar. These letters also abbreviate the Latin phrase *Christus mansionem benedicat*, "May Christ bless the house." The beginning and ending numbers are the year, 2019, for example. The crosses represent Christ.

If you would like your home blessed this Epiphanytide, please contact Amy Negrete at [amyn@stpetersbhm.org](mailto:amyn@stpetersbhm.org).

As we continue this season, let us remember Christ's appearance as Savior of the world. In your celebration of Epiphanytide I invite you to pray the Epiphany collects found under resources on [AnglicanChurch.net](http://AnglicanChurch.net). These are the same collects we pray each Sunday in our worship services together.

## A letter from Pastor Bryan

*Continued from page 1*

Honestly, my first several weeks were a matter of leading us through Advent and Christmas, our Annual Parish Meeting, and my installation. Now that the dust has settled, I've begun a new season of listening here at St. Peter's. This has involved meeting with our staff, interns, current and former vestry members, and other members of the church family. It's been helpful to hear more about what first brought you here, the ways you've seen God work, and the opportunities you sense lie ahead. I'm taking all these

into account as I lead us in praying and dreaming about our future at St. Peter's, and look forward to sharing more about what I sense in the future.

In the meantime, I want to draw your attention to our opportunity for baptism on Sunday February 3rd. We're excited to baptize at least one person that morning, though it's possible you or a family member have also been wondering about baptism. If you'd like to learn more, please contact one of our clergy.

I look forward to seeing what God has in store for us this year!

In Christ, Pastor Bryan

## Praise Notes

*Continued from page 3*

Suddenly I was alone in a room the drabest of grays. No window, no phone, no TV. The first quiet I'd had since parking my car.

I had the night alone. It turned out my surgeon had the best record for cardiac surgery in the hospital, and the hospital was one of the best in the world for heart surgery.

Nevertheless, a man I'd only met for a few minutes was going to see my chest open in a few hours. What would you do if you had one night to live? A last meal was out of the question. There wouldn't be parole from the drabness. I decided to confess my sins then to pray.

Every prayer had to be for a specific person, and it had to be for a blessing. I started with family, then neighbors and friends. The more I prayed the more fun I had. I didn't realize I had so many friends.

A nurse came in and asked what I was doing. I said I was praying and got to tell him about Christ. He later came to visit my church several times. I never had so much fun alone in my life as I did that night.

At 4:00am a couple nurses came in to give me a full body shave. They had a race, each taking one side. We laughed. I asked them to prep someone else and move me down the schedule. I wasn't done praying. They wouldn't do that though, and I was still praying when my anesthesia took over. What a blessing to realize you have more friends than you can think of all night!

Thursday was surgery. Lots of pain. Friday was get up and walk day. Saturday was good. People came to see me and said they'd been praying. The ones I prayed for all night were praying for me.

Sunday I was discharged. I walked the bank of the Little Cahaba River. It was time for more prayers, but all of thanksgiving.



# St. Peter's ANGLICAN CHURCH

Sunday  
January 27  
2019

### What's Inside?

1 - A letter from  
Pastor Bryan

2 - The Manifesta-  
tion of Christ

- Update from  
the Vestry

3 - Save the Date  
for VBS 2019

- Praise Notes  
from Bill Wood

4 - Continuations

Do you have a testi-  
mony or article you  
would like to submit  
for the newsletter?  
Send it to Anna Rus-  
sell at [annar@stpetersbhm.org](mailto:annar@stpetersbhm.org).



Our new senior pastor, Bryan White, holding his son Tucker and standing beside his wife Laurin and Archbishop Foley Beach at his installation ceremony on January 5. Several clergy members from St. Peter's and Bryan's former church in Houston were also part of the service.

## A letter from Pastor Bryan

Rev. Bryan White  
Senior Pastor

Dear St. Peter's,

Since arriving in December, this is my first opportunity to speak to you through this newsletter. I want to take a moment to give thanks, update you on my the last several weeks, and highlight at least one important opportunity coming up in February.

First, Laurin and I can't thank you enough for how graciously you've welcomed us. I honestly don't believe any church could do more to help a new pastor and his family transition. At times the reception has almost been uncomfortable, only because we feel so underserving. Yet the meals, notes, and acts of service have reminded us of just how gracious God is to us in Christ. Thank you! As I've said before, I also want to thank our current leadership team for supporting me in the

transition, as well as my predecessors (Pastors Brad, Mark, Victor, and John) for giving themselves so sacrificially to this church. We're finally out of our moving boxes (ok... almost), and settling into our home in Mountain Brook.

My installation service in early January meant more than you can know. Obviously it was a privilege to have Archbishop Foley Beach leading. I was also grateful for visiting friends from my former church, including my previous bishop and senior pastor, and one of our deacons. At the same time, having so many of you attend and play a role meant a great deal. Many of you also went out of your way to make the reception afterward possible, and for that I can't thank you enough.

Now that all that's behind us, you might naturally be wondering, "So what are you doing, now?"

*Continued on page 4*

# Epiphany: The Manifestation of Christ

Katherine Ladd  
Intern

In the Christian Church calendar we are currently in the season after Epiphany, also known as Epiphanytide. We celebrate Epiphany January 6 of each year. During this season, we celebrate the Baptism of Jesus (the first Sunday following Epiphany), as well as the Presentation of Christ in the Temple.

Epiphany ends the 12 days of Christmas, also known as Christmas-tide, and lasts until Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent. In the Anglican tradition, the last Sunday of Epiphany may be celebrated as Transfiguration Sunday, where we celebrate the transfiguration of Jesus found in Matthew

chapter 17.

The word “epiphany” comes from the Greek epiphaneia, which means “manifestation,” (this comes from the verb phainein meaning “to appear”). It refers to the appearance of Jesus as Savior of the world, both to Israel and the Gentiles.

It is commonly linked with the visitation of the Magi who were most likely Gentiles (Matthew 2:1–12). The Church has long viewed the Magi finding Jesus as a fulfillment of the prophecy of Isaiah 60:1–3, mainly verse 3.

Epiphany has different names and traditions in different cultures. In some Central and South American countries, Epiphany is called “Three Kings’ Day,” and the night before is the time for opening Christmas presents. In some cultures, it is common

to celebrate Epiphany with a special King’s Cake as part of the festivities. We observe Epiphany as a single day, with the Sundays following Epiphany (during Epiphanytide) counted as ordinary time.

For this reason, on Epiphany Sunday, as well as the day, we celebrate the Baptism and Presentation of Jesus, we use white paraments. For the remainder of the season we use green.

Another Epiphany tradition is the chalking of the door, which takes place on January 6. This is often done during a house blessing.

The symbols +C+M+B+ with two numbers before and two numbers after (for example: 20+C+M+B+19) might be seen written in chalk above

*Continued on page 4*

## An update from our 2019 Vestry

Ricky Brooks  
Senior Warden

The 2019 Vestry is already hard at work. We welcomed our two new members Laura-Dee Wood and Steve Still. As you know Laura-Dee is very active in women’s ministry and the Flower Guild, and helps lead the Monday intercessory prayer group. Steve has been an adult Sunday School teacher at St. Peter’s for many years and most recently led our wonderfully successful search committee that brought us our new Senior Pastor.

Laura-Dee and Steve join Ken Mahler, Ed Sledge, Steve Smith, and Ricky Brooks with our Senior Pastor Bryan White.

The Vestry enjoyed a very productive first meeting on January 20th. The pastor shared his heart for how the Vestry will work together with the staff and congregation, reviewed an-



Laura-Dee Wood (left) and Steve Still (right) are the two most recently elected members of the St. Peter’s Vestry. Both are excited to be able to serve the congregation in this way.



other year of sound financial results, worked to finalize the budget by next month and elected a new slate of officers.

Our officers for 2019 are:  
Ricky Brooks Senior Warden  
Ed Sledge Junior Warden  
Steve Smith Treasurer  
Steve Still Secretary

The Vestry of 2019 is very excited about this new chapter in the life of our church body and is honored to be serving in this leadership capacity. Please pray for our wisdom and unity this year.

Ricky Brooks  
Senior Warden



This summer’s VBS theme is “Roar! Life is Wild. God is good.” It will focus on God’s enduring love and faithfulness even in the midst of life’s chaos. We hope all our children can join us!

## Save the Date for VBS 2019

Rebekah DeBoer  
Children’s Pastor

Save the Date!

St. Peter’s VBS 2019 is set for Monday through Thursday, June 24–27. The theme this year is “Roar! Life is Wild; God is good.” We will have a week filled with all kinds of jungle-themed fun, while learning about all the ways God is good to us, even when life is difficult or chaotic. We would love all of our children to have the opportunity to participate.

VBS is for children ages three to eleven (or pre-school to fifth grade). Grandchildren, friends, neighbors, and any other children who are not otherwise members of St. Peter’s are welcome to join us as well! We love having them.

Registration for VBS will begin later this spring and last until the week of

VBS, so mark your calendars and plan to get signed up!

We will also be seeking a great group of invested team members to join in the fun by leading age groups, leading and assisting at activity stations, helping with registration, snack, set up/clean up, and more! Teenagers are also welcome to be a part of this team.

Please let our Family Life Staff know if you would like to learn more about this opportunity. You can contact Pastor Kevin Cook, our Family Life pastor at familylife@stpetersbhm.org or Rebekah DeBoer, our Children’s Pastor at kidmin@stpetersbhm.org for more information. Youth who would like to join the VBS can contact Anna Russell at annar@stpetersbhm.org.

We had a wonderful VBS last year and look forward to another great experience!

## Praise Notes

Bill Wood

I’ve experienced healing several times in life and am truly humbled. My dad died of a heart attack, my only warning cardiac issues might be in my future. Over time I developed shortness of breath and throat pain. I had a test but nothing showed up, so the conclusion was indigestion.

But things got worse. At my next check-up early one Wednesday, I told my doctor. He wrote it down and sent me for lab work. I walked back a few minutes later, interrupting him with a patient to ask him to check my heart right then. I was having one of those episodes. He took me to another room and hooked me to the EKG. Beads of sweat broke out on his forehead and he told me to lie still.

He left an office of patients to wheel me to the hospital cardiac lab. I remember a bearded cardiologist leaning over me. I asked what was happening. He said I would probably wake up with a stent in my heart.

Then I woke and saw my wife, my brothers, and my preacher and thought, “This isn’t good.”

Before you have surgery, you must get admitted to the hospital, which means checking your insurance. That’s when we saw my wallet had fallen out of my pocket, probably during the rushed wheelchair ride.

My wallet was turned in to the hospital without the cash I’d had. It’s hard to focus on your wallet with a policeman while dredging up your medical history to a technician, talking to Blue Cross on the phone, and being rolled on a hospital bed.

Finally, I was admitted. It was afternoon. The surgeon told me I was in such bad shape and the operating staff had had such a long day he wanted to hold me overnight so I would be cared for by a fresh crew the next morning.

*Continued on page 4*