



*We feed people — body,  
mind, and spirit.  
Come as you are.*

St. Giles  
Episcopal Church  
Northbrook, Illinois

Volume 66 Issue 9  
December 2020

## A Message from our Priest-in-charge, Fr. Tom Scott:

Dear friends,

40 years of experience in four dioceses have taught me that there are four areas of a priest's "job description" and that a congregation shares these with the priest who will be the rector of St. Giles. I wrote about that last month and the Senior Warden asked me to say a little more about the "beyond the parish bounds" ministry.

The rector of St. Giles is a priest of the diocese, participating in the ministry of the diocese and wider church. The congregation makes the same commitment, by the way.

The rector is also the chief pastor, chief liturgist and educator, as well as the administrative and organizational resource for the congregation and its leadership circle.

The rector is a major contributor in the congregation's work and presence in the community, in particular with other religious bodies for work and witness, which might involve serving on ethics committees, review boards, and chaplaincy to Fire and Police Departments, and so on.

The rector is also a partner with the congregation to improve and facilitate community life—offering, for example, a "ministry of public music" (as we do already) or providing space for public activities—voting, blood drives, meetings, etc. An obvious example for St. Giles is the incredible work of the leaders of Hunger Resource Network. That stupendous ministry is volunteer work, underwritten by churches, individuals, organizations, and businesses. All of those partners make it work. The many ministries and places of service in our diocese and the wider church need similar support.

Participation by the congregation is essential. Congregational commitment to being "outward looking" for ministry opportunities and engagement with the diocese and larger Church is fundamental for healthy parish life and growth. This is a matter of balance with a proper parish focus, to be sure, but the point is that the rector needs the congregation to understand and find the balance needed.

We don't often say it, but the majority of diocesan ministry is done by volunteers, clergy and lay. There are some paid diocesan workers at 65 East Huron. These are support staff for the bishop and the lay volunteers. There is no "behind the scenes" stage crew that makes all the other things happen. The diocesan organizations and departments we pray for each week are clergy and lay persons from the congregations in this diocese. In this diocese, for example, the members of the Standing Committee, the Bishop and Trustees, the Commission on Ministry, and more are also serving in congregations as both lay and ordained leaders. The board of Episcopal Charities and each of its eleven agencies, the deans and deaneries, many operating committees (convention planning, bishop search committee, etc.), the Episcopal Church Women (ECW), and so on are all made up of volunteer parish clergy and lay persons.

I haven't even mentioned Cursillo, Daughters of the King, Brotherhood of Saint Andrew, Education for Ministry, and many more.

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### Current Schedule

#### Sundays

Sunday services are  
virtual on Zoom;  
10:15 AM

#### Thursdays

5:30 PM: Zoom Virtual  
"Pray & Chat"

**St. Giles  
Episcopal Church**

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Phone: 847-272-6622  
[www.saint-giles.org](http://www.saint-giles.org)

**Office Hours**

Monday: Office closed  
Tues-Thurs: 9 AM - 2 PM  
Friday: Office closed

**Diocese of Chicago**

The Rt. Rev. Jeffrey D. Lee,  
Bishop

**Vestry**

James Brooks, Sr. Warden  
Kay Okoli, Jr. Warden  
Ellie Bonebrake  
Ted Chabraja  
John Hanzel  
Glenn Hunt  
Lewis Kirkwood  
William Perley

Gloriann Harris, Treasurer  
Ned Libby, Bookkeeper  
Tom Page, Chancellor

**Team Leaders**

*Building & Grounds (Facilities)* -  
Bob Schultz  
*Communications* - John Hanzel  
*Fundraising* - Huw Williams  
*Green* - James Brooks  
*Hospitality* - Jan Hutchins-DeWitt  
*Newcomers* - George Miller  
*Pastoral Care* - Leslie Ruttenberg  
*Social Justice* - Jocelyn Turner

**Staff**

The Rev. Thomas Scott  
Priest-in-charge  
The Rev. Charles Hensel  
Assisting Priest  
Jim Brown  
Director of Music  
Cathy Leimbeck  
Parish Administrator  
[admin@saint-giles.org](mailto:admin@saint-giles.org)

**Diocesan Convention:** *(Submitted by John Hanzel)*

The 183<sup>rd</sup> Diocese of Chicago convention was held via Zoom on November 21. Well, technically, it wasn't Chicago's 183<sup>rd</sup>, since the Episcopal Diocese of Illinois started in Peoria in 1835. Chicago's population was about 3,000. You can read more at <https://chicagobishopsearch.org/our-history>.

It was a condensed version of what I had experienced and enjoyed in past years.

Our Parliamentarian Tom Young started with a few of his classic jokes. We took care of all of the corporate issues. Voted to elect members of Standing Committee, and Bishops and Trustees. Looked at the minutia of things like the budget and Bishops Lee's appointments. We reviewed and passed 6 of the 7 Resolutions. In the past, most of the Resolutions I remember were either operational or statements and suggestions, not hard actions.

D-183, Confronting Apartheid, did not pass. Its focus was the same as many we have approved, in favor of Palestinians and the two state concept. This one seemed to be interpreted as more aggressive against Israel and Jews at large, and not in line with what the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem would like to see.

The "standard" F-183, Minimum Clergy Compensation [for 2021] did not pass on the first round after an energetic discussion about how it doesn't have any statement about part-time clergy. Which left the Diocese with no mandate, even if it had only been used as a strong standard. And which St. Giles indeed has used. But after a motion to reconsider that vote, and a lot of discussion and a few amendments, it did pass. There are still the complicated issues about "part time clergy" and local COL adjustments and lay employee levels.

We did pass, with an estimated cost of \$10,000, G-183, Fighting Systemic Racism and Economic Divestment Through Cooperative Group Purchasing and Investment in BIPOC-Owned Businesses [Black, Indigenous, People of Color]. The Community Purchasing Alliance has a proven record of success, and you would enjoy exploring more about it.

There was a great Morning Service. It was compiled and edited and presented with readings and signing that had been worked on for a long time. A dozen choir members all recorded and timed. Clapping hands. And what might have been Bishop Lee's next to last sermon (it's about 1:46 into the You Tube video of the Convention). My guess is that he'll say something interesting at his farewell celebration on Saturday, December 5, which we are all welcome to "attend". I have posted ways to view the You Tube convention, read the paperwork from the convention, and how to join in the Farewell on our website.

I did miss the option for learning seminars, and especially the opportunity just to meet people and say high. I saw Cynthia last year, usually get a hug from Louisa, talked to Lee about her husband, crossed paths with Jon and Betsy Ward - she was our associate rector in the late 1980's, get to talk with Newland Smith who we know from St. David's, and many more.

All of these conventions were trending to be available to watch on line, and the virus accelerated the use of technology to let people participate fully from home. My guess is that in 2021, and almost certainly in 2022, people will have the option of showing up in person or participating and voting remotely.

As always, please feel free to talk... in the many different ways we do that these days... with me and Meredith about this convention, or Kay, Meredith and myself about the election convention on December 12.



## December Birthdays & Anniversaries

### Birthdays:

- 1 Erick Cervený
- 2 Margaret Pearson
- 4 Merle Lehman
- 5 Lynne Adams
- 8 Warren Pearson
- 14 Huw Williams



### Anniversaries:

- 10 Bob Robinson & Ellie Bonebrake

## December Lectionary Readings

### December 6—2 Advent

Isaiah 40:1-11  
 2 Peter 3:8-15a  
 Mark 1:1-8  
 Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

### December 13—3 Advent

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11  
 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24  
 John 1:6-8, 19-28  
 Psalm 126

### December 20—4 Advent

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16  
 Romans 16:25-27  
 Luke 1:26-38  
 Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26

### December 24—Christmas Eve

Isaiah 9:2-7  
 Titus 2:11-14  
 Luke 2:1-14(15-20)  
 Psalm 96

### December 27—1 Christmas

Isaiah 61:10-62:3  
 Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7  
 John 1:1-18  
 Psalm 147:13-21

## Christmas Lessons and Carols Service ~ Sunday, December 24 at 4:30 p.m. ~

2020 is unlike any other! This year, in place of our usual Eucharist celebrations at Christmas, there will instead be a Lessons & Carols Service on Thursday afternoon, December 24 (Christmas Eve) at 4:30. In the context of an online Zoom service, individuals will read lessons and sing carols from wherever they may be, unmuting themselves to be heard by all. It will be a new way to share the spirit and love of Christmas.

I will be organizing the lessons and carol choices during the next two weeks and will notify everyone via the Baby Bells about what is needed. In the meantime, please consider how you may want to participate. Perhaps families with several singers/instrumentalists could offer a carol. An unaccompanied simple carol is also lovely.

Wishing you a blessed Advent season,  
*Jim Brown*



## Sr. Warden's Report:

*Greetings All Saint Gileans,*

Sometimes it feels as if we take a few steps forward and then have to retreat a few steps, especially during a global pandemic.

Here we are in December, and we're back to where we were in March when Covid-19 was beginning to spread through our town and state, at least in terms of how and where we conduct our services.

We have made some progress, however, and for that we have to thank our friend, Technology. Beginning on Sunday November 22, 2020, we held our first "virtual" prayer service. Father Tom was in our sanctuary, reading the appropriate lessons and leading a stalwart group of 12 parishioners in morning prayer.

The following Sunday (11/29/2020) our musical maestro, Jim Brown, also was in the sanctuary, seated in his usual location: at our beautiful organ. Fifteen parishioners "zoomed in," and enjoyed the sound of our organ, which we had not heard since March 15, 2020.

Our **Stewardship 2021 Campaign** is underway, and everyone should be receiving packets soon (if not already). We are asking members to give what they can, and try to match your 2020 pledges. Exceeding your 2020 pledges is also encouraged!

On December 12, 2020, our Diocese will conduct the Bishop Electing Convention, and we have three delegates who will cast ballots on our behalf: Meredith Brooks, John Hanzel and Kay Okoli. If you would like to see and hear the four bishop candidates, you may view their interviews at this link: [candidates conversations](#)

You may share your impressions and/or thoughts about any or all of these nominees to any of our delegates: Kay, Meredith, John.

Speaking of interesting videos, you may enjoy viewing the video compiled by the Diocese for the bishop nominees. All parishes were invited to submit brief videos that conveyed how their congregations were doing God's work. Tracey Solano submitted a video about St. Giles, and it is a part of this 14-minute video that shows many of the parishes in the Chicago Diocese and the wonderful projects they are doing. Here's the link to this revealing video: [congregations video](#)

Finally, Jim Brown is planning a special Christmas service for 12/24/2020. He would like to present Lessons and Carols on that afternoon as a part of our Christmas service, and he would like parishioners to volunteer to read lessons and sing carols. **Details will follow in the Baby Bells and via email. (Also see the article on Page 3.)**

**Please remember St. Giles in your will and charitable giving plan. Thank you.**

Have a joyous—and safe—Christmas and New Year celebration!

Respectfully Submitted,  
James Brooks, Senior Warden





*(Cont'd. from Page 1)*

Parish clergy—your next rector—are essential workers for diocesan ministry. Lay persons are equally important. Baldly stated, your next rector has a role to take in diocesan service, and the support and engagement of the Vestry and congregation is vital to making this work well.

In addition to providing clergy and lay person time and skill for ministry beyond St. Giles, the diocese looks to each congregation to give to the diocese from its annual budget to support diocesan ministries—a tithe of operating income is a good start. These are signs of a healthy and vibrant participation in the diocese, and I know that the Vestry has heard this from the diocese and from me.

I am going to take a moment of personal privilege here. During my 18 years as a priest of this diocese, I was a full-time rector of a large parish. I also served as president of the Standing Committee, dean of my deanery for 9 years, sat on the board of Episcopal Charities, supervised seminarians, was a community police chaplain, I sat on a hospital review board, was a hospital chaplain, and was involved in ecumenical and inter-faith ministries, and served in other capacities in the diocese. When I was called to Chicago as rector in 1989, then Bishop Griswold charged me with the task of leading the congregation to become a full participant in the life of the diocese, which it had retreated from being.

By the time I left for another diocese, the congregation I served was a leader in ministry and was stronger and healthier for making the commitment to having me and many lay persons deeply involved in diocesan life. The financial, space use, and program commitment had grown tremendously, as well. I know it sounds paradoxical, but it is absolutely true that what looks like “losing” something by having leadership serve outside the parish is actually the seedbed for rich growth and development. This was true about every other call I accepted as well.

For those minded to ask what is St. Giles’ “return on investment”, it is significant. Feeling truly engaged in the life of the wider church is a joyful and energizing experience for a congregation because the local parish is plugged in to a huge network of energy, ideas, resources, and encouragement. The result is a parish atmosphere that is lighter and brighter, more hopeful and confident. That energy is attractive to visitors and present members alike. Frankly, every congregation should expect that outward engagement from itself and its priest.

Of course, worthwhile ministry is not confined to the diocese of Chicago. The Episcopal Church has levels of organization, ministry, and outreach outside our diocese, again led by volunteers supported by paid staff. There are regional groupings of dioceses into provinces, (we’re in province five—Minnesota, Eastern Missouri, Michigan, Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio—and a lot goes on). And I am leaving out summer camps, school chaplaincies, and more. All of this ministry is made possible by congregational support through contributions and participation of clergy and people.

So, it comes to this: by our very structure, our best life together involves St. Giles being much more “dialed in” to the diocese and the wider church. This is how St. Giles can reap the full benefit of being part of the Episcopal Church. I know it from decades of experience in congregations large and small. We reap what we sow, and we grow into the community we set out to be. I urge everyone at St. Giles to pray for, support, and in your fashion participate in the life and ministries of our church beyond our walls.

*God’s peace and joy,*

*TCHS*



## November Vestry Recap

Our November meeting was held on Tuesday, November 17. Because of the virus, it was a multi-mode meeting. Jim led a Zoom gathering from the multipurpose room, accompanied by Lewis and Glenn. The rest of us were online. Ted led the opening prayer.

We opened discussing our thoughts about a new rector. We talked about our preferences about experience, and how they might lead our approach to things such as systemic racism, the nature of sermons, and how they could improve the size of our congregation and our financial status.

The “average” time for finding a new rector is about two years, which is where we are at. The search committee has been dedicated to leading the way, and we hope that there will be good news soon.

Glenn and Ted agreed to write the stewardship letter for 2021. You will be getting it mailed to you soon. Because we can't have presentations at an in-church service, PLEASE reflect on what Saint Giles means to you and your faith, and how we have worked to keep Jesus in our lives even without being inside a stack of bricks and mortar.

We did talk about the December 12 meeting to elect a new Bishop. John and Meredith have signed up. By time you read this it will be too late to register, but I anticipate that just as with the convention, everyone will be able to view it, probably through the diocese You Tube.

Kay let us know that even without the traditional signup sheet for ReVive Christmas Basket families, we have taken care of all of the 30 people!

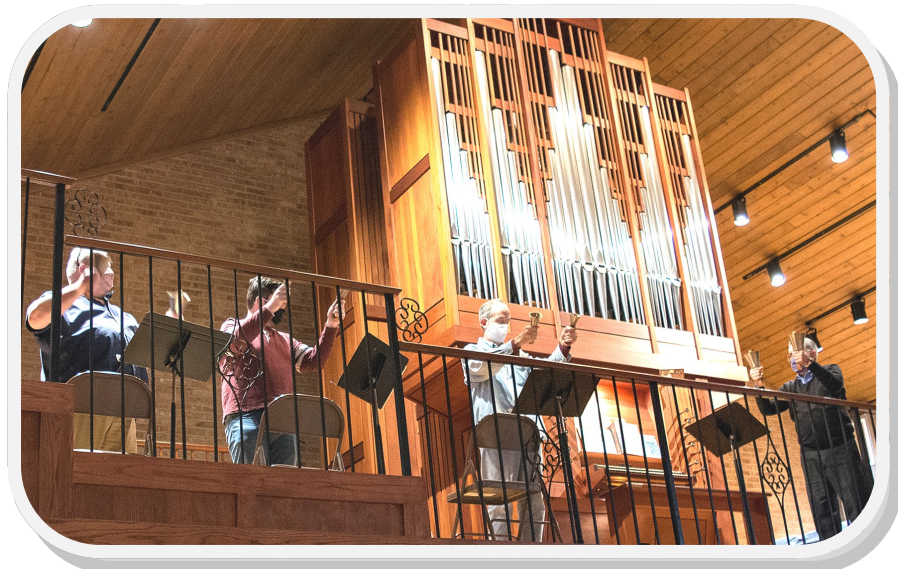
Again, without in-person meetings, we will have to ask the congregation at large to approve a variance from our by-laws about forming a new vestry for 2021. The terms of Jim, Kay and Ted are ending, so we will have openings for a Senior and Junior warden, and one or two regular members. Ellie has two years left, Bill has one more optional year, and Glenn and John offered to extend their terms one more year if approved. Contact Jim if you are interested. Please note that we anticipate finding a new rector in 2021, so you could help develop plans for St. Giles for the next decade.

We approved the October financials, and talked about forming and approving our 2021 budget. You will receive more information, and have a meeting of some sort so it can be reviewed and approved.

John led the closing prayer.

*Respectfully submitted,  
John Hanzel*

*All Saints' Day (Photos by John Hanzel)*







# ST. GILES EPISCOPAL CHURCH • DECEMBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3 Zoom "Pray and Chat" - 5:30 PM	4 Office Closed	5
6 2 Advent Zoom Morning Prayer—10:15 AM	7 Office Closed	8	9	10 Zoom "Pray and Chat" - 5:30 PM	11 Office Closed	12
13 3 Advent Zoom Morning Prayer—10:15 AM	14 Office Closed	15 7 PM—VIRTUAL Vestry Mtg. <i>January Bells submissions due</i>	16	17 Zoom "Pray and Chat" - 5:30 PM	18 Office Closed	19
20 4 Advent Zoom Morning Prayer—10:15 AM	21 Office Closed	22	23	24 Christmas Eve (Office Closed) <i>Lessons &amp; Carols 4:30 PM on ZOOM</i>	25 Christmas Day (Office Closed)	26
27 1 Christmas Zoom Morning Prayer—10:15 AM	28 Office Closed	29	30	31 Zoom "Pray and Chat" - 5:30 PM		





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[www.saint-giles.org](http://www.saint-giles.org)  
Look for us on Facebook!

Time-Sensitive Material

