



St. Augustine Episcopal Church

Rev. Meredyth Albright

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January, 2025

Dear St. Augustine's family:

Happy Christmas (now it really is Christmas) and Happy Epiphany. The reason so many of us do or do not enjoy the Christmas Holidays is because we often think of Christmases past. And, if we are blessed, we think about special memories or moments that help put all of our Christmas memories into one patchwork quilt.

I am pretty certain that no one, when I was eight years old, thought I might be a priest for my second career. But here I am. And there is a connection between then and now.

Family photographs help me remember that Christmas; it was the year I received a telephone operator set. The photo shows me in my proper Christmas dress and my very long hair brushed and bobby-pinned into a twist hairstyle.

Also in the picture is my sister, of course; and the black telephone operator set.

I had so much fun with that. My interest in such a set probably stemmed from the fact that once in a while I would go to my mom's place of work, usually after piano lessons or Girl Scouts, and wait for her to finish for the day. I would then ride home with her. While sitting in the lobby I was fascinated watching and listening to Franny – the operator. She pulled those black cords in and out of their spots so fast, I couldn't believe she didn't get anything messed up. To make it even more interesting for me, she would chew and snap gum between calls. She was

always talking so I couldn't understand how she could snap the gum, and not have others hear it. I still haven't figured that out. Of course, I really was tickled when she would call up to my mom's phone and say "Grace, your adorable daughter is here." Then the game began. Mom would ask "which one," (even though she knew) and Franny would say "guess." You can imagine how that played out.

This story is all about communication. (That's the connection that links the telephone set and preaching God's word!)

Life is about communication. It doesn't matter our method, what matters is that we are aware of how we communicate and the messages we send. Communication could be by written word, spoken word, emoji text, a facial expression, a gentle touch on the shoulder, being present for someone, picking up and using a snow shovel...

Communication is life. Let's use it to our benefit to show God's love.

Happy New Year!

Faithfully,

Meredyth+

New Years' Day

A New Year's Day (Holy Name Day) service will be held at St. Augustine's at 9 a.m.

This service is observed in the Christian Denominations of the Catholic Church, the Lutheran Church and the Anglican Church. The service is always held on January 1, which is the 8th day of Christmastide, returning to Jewish Tradition of male children being circumcised and named on the 8th day following their birth.

In the church world, New Year's Day can be referred to as the Feast of the Circumcision of Christ, and the Feast of the Holy Name and Solemnity of Mary.

Mailing Address

If you are mailing items to the church, please use our P.O. Box 771 address. Previously, if mail was addressed to our street address, it was generally put in our Post Office box. That's not the case anymore. The mail addressed to the church is delivered to the rectory. Yes, I can bring it to the church; my concern is that it will get mixed up with my mail and get misdirected. Thanks for changing your routine.
(M+)

Outpouring of our love

Many grateful words of thanks to each of you for supporting our holiday outreach opportunities. We purchased gifts for 30 children in the community; and raised a substantial amount of money to help another family in need. Thank you for loving from your hearts.

Poinsettias

Keep your eyes peeled. As you notice poinsettias being moved into the guild hall, as they begin to fade, please feel free to take one home to try your hand at overwintering it.

Epiphany Open House at the Rectory

Let's celebrate the arrival of the Kings to meet Jesus and tell the gentiles all about him. We will plan to do that at the rectory on Sunday, January 12. This celebration will be instead of our usual coffee hour. After the church service, grab your coats and head on over to the rectory.

ECW

ECW will meet at noon on Monday, January 13. This will be a business meeting and a potluck. Please bring a dish to pass.

SUNDAY: Worship 9 a.m.

The Meeting ID: 812 8610 0297. Passcode: 94205

To connect through video:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84626513503?pwd=TTVoVWxmbExJMGZVUnhCYWNCSnhxQT09>

To connect by telephone: 1-312-626-6799.

Office Hours

Office hours are generally 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

Mother Meredyth is in the office during the office hours, on Monday, as well as additional times. If you are planning to stop in to see her, please call first to make sure she is available.