

ST. MATTHEW'S

LIFE



NEWS AND VIEWS OF THE PARISH OF ST. MATTHEW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, HILLSBOROUGH, NC

JANUARY 2020

Epiphanyes at the Rectory

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Welcome to the New Year! And following the much heralded, Christmas tree bonfire and chili cook-off on January 5, welcome to the season of Epiphany, stretching this year all the way to Ash Wednesday, February 26.

Epiphany in its most basic sense means a sudden, deep perception into the true meaning of reality happening through a commonplace occurrence. Theologically, *epiphany* means a manifestation of the deity, often hidden in ordinary guise.

Finally, in Christian theology, *The Epiphany* is the manifestation of Christ as the Lord and Savior to the Gentiles. This is symbolized on the Feast of the Epiphany on January 6 with the Gentile Magi (Zoroastrian?) from the East bringing gifts to Jesus recognizing his kingship (gold), his deity (incense), and his future death (myrrh).

For us here at St. Matthew's, I'd like you to think of this season of the Epiphany as a time when we are called to discover the Lordship of Jesus in all the less church-like parts of our lives. How does Jesus' reconciling and healing Lordship reach into your relationship with yourself, your family, your work, our community? How is God active there? And, as a part of this, what epiphanyes have you had in your life—otherwise commonplace moments when you, for unknown reasons, suddenly knew the presence, the intimacy, the care and power of God?

One of the most lovely parts of being a pastor is that I get to hear the stories of such epiphanyes from all kinds of people. Perfectly ordinary, worldly, practical people tell me stories of shocking encounters with God, with a Love that is beyond this world, with a Consolation that met them in great darkness, with a Divine Release and Joy in the most unexpected moments.

As a way of getting to know such Epiphanyes, Jane and I are going to begin hosting bi-weekly **Fridays at the Rectory** this January. Every other week, for the next 18 months, we are going to have 6-8 adult parishioners over to our house for a most informal supper and conversation about what makes St. Matthew's and Christianity special. Each evening will end with *Compline* from the Book of Common Prayer.

Childcare will be provided! Sign up will be easy! Please see the sign-up sheet in the Ruffin House to sign up for a Friday at the Rectory and for suggestions of food to bring.

The fullness of joy is to behold God in all things. —Julian of Norwich

Special Epiphany Eucharist, Monday January 6, 7:00 p.m.

The Feast of the Epiphany celebrates the revelation of Jesus as the Lord and Savior of the Gentiles as well as the Jews, symbolized in the three wise men coming from the East to present Jesus with gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Come to Saint Matthew's this Epiphany for a special Eucharistic service on Monday January 6, at 7pm. I will lead us in a period of reflection, sharing, and silence aimed at deepening our sense of who Jesus is for us and how God has touched our lives. All are welcome.



Robert Frueh



Chili Cook-Off, Burning of the Greens, Kings' Cake! Sunday, January 5

Time again for one of St. Matthew's favorite events, the Chili Cook-Off, on Sunday, January 5, starting with a roaring bonfire at 5:00 p.m. to burn the greens of Christmas and welcome the visit of the Wise Men with Kings' Cake. Save your sad, dry Christmas trees, wreaths and greens and bring them to the Fellowship Hall parking lot beginning Thursday, January 2. The bonfire will be lit promptly at 5:00 on Sunday, as a chorus of familiar carols guide the ashes heavenward.

Do you have a great chili recipe that is prize-worthy? All you have to do to join the competition is to prepare your chili, put it in a crock pot and bring it to the Fellowship Hall on the 5th at 4:30. Our panel of wise judges will be assembled and ready to select the champs. Will Charlie Thomas' spicy chili be crowned again? Or will he be overthrown by a tasty vegetarian entry? Will a newcomer's chicken chili steal the show? All challengers will be vying for blue ribbons in beef, vegetarian, and "other" categories, so get out your favorite recipe and join the battle for the best. Judging will be done during the bonfire and winners announced while all are enjoying the varieties of chili. Parish Life will provide baskets of tortilla chips, shredded cheese, chicken nuggets for the kids, and beverages. After the winners are announced, we'll end the evening with sweet slices of Kings' Cake. It's a St. Matthew's tradition you don't want to miss!



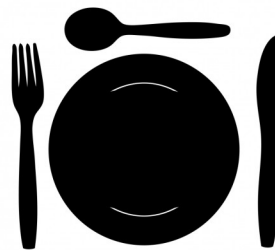
Dinners at St. Matthew's

Join a Dinner Group this Year!

Sign up January 2

Sign-up sheets for 2020 Dinner Groups are available in the Ruffin House. This is a St. Matthew's tradition that is a great way to get to know new folks as well as to enjoy the continuing fellowship of parishioners you've known for years. Each group is designed to have eight members, couples and/or singles, who come together for a dinner or any variety of meal over the course of a year. Everyone takes a turn hosting, but the dinner can take place at a restaurant as well as at a home, be a picnic in a local park or a cook out or even a bowling night! Each host can create a theme-Italian night, French cuisine, burgers on the grill, perhaps a breakfast buffet or a Sunday after church brunch-there are a LOT of possibilities!

When signing up, please include the best cell or landline number and email address where you can be contacted. Each group will have a "captain" who has hosted groups before and has agreed to host the first dinner. He or she will contact you via email-or phone- when your group is organized, and a date for the first dinner will be set when all can participate. That's when the fun begins! If you have any questions, please contact *Karen Ireland* at 919-732-7538 or *Carolyn Carlson* at 919-732-3927.



A Welcoming Committee Invite

The Welcoming Committee invites all parishioners to join in a new venture: "*Fridays at the Rectory.*" Robert & Jane would really like to get to know each member of St. Matthew's more personally and want to invite all parishioners to meals at the Rectory. To assist them in this we are helping to coordinate small group dinners. Every other Friday, a group of parishioners will have the opportunity to enjoy fellowship over a lasagna dinner and end the evening with a short service of Compline. Each couple or person is asked to bring an appetizer, salad, dessert or wine to share with 8-10 people.

The first dinner will take place on Friday, January 10th, from 6:00 pm-8:00 pm. Children are welcome: babysitting is provided with pizza for the children. We will be placing a sign-up sheet in the foyer of the Ruffin House and will renew it quarterly. The current quarter runs until Friday, April 3. We do ask that you only sign up once so that all parishioners have the opportunity to participate.

Please make sure to sign up for an enjoyable and meaningful evening of fellowship! We are excited that Robert & Jane have the desire to open their hearts and home to us and are thrilled to offer "*Fridays at the Rectory*" to all at St. Matthew's!

With Peace and Joy,
The St. Matthew's Welcoming Committee

The Vestry Nomination Process /Annual Meeting Set for February 2

At our Annual Meeting we will elect three new vestry members. *Jane Clunie, Dale Games, and Beth Swain* will be completing their three-year terms this April. The retiring vestry members comprise the Nominating Committee that is responsible for presenting a slate of at least four qualified candidates for the three open positions. The slate is in process and will be announced soon, perhaps even before the newsletter is published!

The St. Matthew's vestry is a body of nine elected church members that meets monthly with the clergy and church officers (clerk and treasurer) to provide oversight of St. Matthew's. Each vestry member also serves as a core value liaison communicating the activities and issues in their respective core value areas at vestry meetings and to the congregation through vestry cameos and reports at the annual meeting.

We have so appreciated the work of Jane, Dale, and Beth. And we look forward to the election in February.

-*Jehanne Gheith*, Senior Warden



The New Year and a New Director of Christian Formation

God works in mysterious and wonderful ways. After I had been called to St. Matthew's, but before I had started my tenure here, I received the news that Alissa, the previous Director of Christian Education for St. Matthew's, would be moving away. She was so loved by the parish! She and her family had been such a gift for so many.

In her place, vestry person *Sonja Tilley*, who has substantial experience with children and family formation, generously agreed to become the Interim Director of Christian Education through December 2019, giving the parish time to find someone to assume Alissa's old post. Sonja has not only managed our usual children's program, but overseen its growth this fall.

In addition to Sonja, *Kim Powell* was hired as the Interim Director of the Youth Program — working with the junior high and high school youth of the parish. This was a part of Alissa's ministry that Sonja did not take on. From the beginning, I and others in the staff were so impressed with Kim's experience, references, and character, that we wondered if she might become our new Director of

Christian Formation when Sonja's time as interim ended.

And so it has turned out. Over the past months Kim has shown us excellence in organization and communication, a great vision and skill for formation with children and youth. Best of all, she has worked great with the clergy and staff at St. Matthew's, and brings with her a sincere, deep spirituality and a passion to grow with others in the faith.

After conversation with the staff, vestry, and members of the parish, I asked Kim to consider becoming our next Director of Christian Formation, overseeing our ministry from toddlers through Youth and Young Adults, and assisting in crafting the vision of adult Formation. She enthusiastically said "Yes!" to my offer.

I believe Kim is a very special gift to our parish community and I encourage you all to welcome her as she begins her post on January 1. We will have a special liturgy in the New Year to commission her formally.

Thank you God for Alissa, for Sonja, and for sending us Kim! -*Robert*

Passing of the Torch

Now that my time of service as your interim Director of Christian Formation has come to a close, I want to take a moment to say a most *heart-felt thank you* to the St. Matthew's family for the myriad ways you welcomed and supported me in that role for the last half of 2019. It was my honor to step in during this time of transition and keep the formational programs of the parish running as we welcomed a new rector. And I thoroughly enjoyed the ride, particularly my time getting to know the children of the parish during the weekly Children's Chapel services. (We have some amazing young servants of God in our midst!) Now it is time for the torch to be passed to our new Director of Christian Formation, *Kim Powell*. I am delighted to be leaving these ministries in such capable, creative, and faithful hands. Welcome, Kim! -*Sonja Tilley*

All Christian Formation Programs resume on January 5^h.
Family Faith Formation: Three Kings' Day

Join us on Sunday, January 5th at 9:15 in the Fellowship Hall as we resume our program year by celebrating the Feast of the Epiphany, or "Three Kings Day," when we commemorate the visit of the Magi to the Christ child and the revelation of God with us in Christ. All are welcome to gather for this family-friendly service designed for the young and young-at-heart.

Sign up for Secret Pals!

Secret Pals is an annual tradition at St. Matthew's bringing all generations together for the three F's...food, fellowship, and FUN! If you like mystery, suspense, and happy endings...consider signing up for Secret Pals! Adults who sign up to be a secret pal send treats and clues to their younger pal the week of February 2, and on ***February 9*** their identity will be revealed at the Secret Pals Breakfast at 9:15am in the Fellowship Hall when the pals meet and eat breakfast together. Sign-up sheets will be available in the Ruffin House. Please sign up by January 19.

Children's Formation

It's a new year, and we have a new feast schedule. Please sign up for a date when drop off your child at Sunday School or by using the link sent in the weekly Children's Update emails. You can also sign up by emailing a Sunday School teacher. Thank you for supporting our program in this way! *Godly Play* will start the month exploring the sacrament of baptism followed by a focus on the parables of Jesus. *Growing in Christ* will continue to work on their green basket lessons and begin preparing for their Service to Others project.

Youth

- **January 5th**: Join us at 9:15am for Three Kings Day! Come back at 5pm for the annual burning of the greens, chili, and hangout.
- **January 12th**: Join us in the Youth Room at 9:15am for Sunday School. Come back for Youth Group in the evening from 5-7pm!
- **January 19th**: Join us in the Youth Room at 9:15am for Sunday School. **No Youth Group—MLK Weekend**
- **January 26th**: Join us in the Youth Room at 9:15am for Sunday School. Come back for Youth Group in the evening from 5-7pm!

Sunday Forums

Sunday Forums are held weekly from 9:15-10:15 am in the Fellowship Hall (lower level of the Hayden Building). PLEASE NOTE: We will start early on January 12. (Details below)

- **January 12:** *"The Greensboro Four"* – In one remarkable day, four college freshmen changed the course of American history. On February 1, 1960, four young men began a sit-in at a Woolworth's lunch counter in Greensboro. The act of simply sitting down to order food is now widely regarded as one of the pivotal moments in the American Civil Rights Movement. Join us as we view the landmark PBS film about this event. ***Note that this forum will begin at 9:10 am sharp to allow time to see the film and engage the film maker who will be on hand for discussion.***
- **January 19:** *"What is a Parish?"* – Join us as we explore this intriguing question with the guidance of our rector, the Rev. Robert Fruehwirth.
- **January 26:** *"Listening to Our Neighbors"* – We will be joined by the leadership from Orange County Justice United, a local grassroots organization seeking to develop leaders within the community and bridge divides. The Rev. Robert Fruehwirth will be part of a conversation about the ways we can better listen to and engage in ministry with our neighbors.

It's 7:00 P.M., Wednesday; do you know where your Choir is?

Once a week each week during the program year, the Adult Choir gathers for a 90-minute meeting unlike any that the majority ever experience. These weekly Wednesday gatherings are the bread-and-butter of the Choir, the place where it's most crucial work gets done. *What?* I hear you gasp. Yes, 'tis true: for as significant as the Choir's weekly offerings on Sundays are the heart and soul of its labor is at the rehearsal.

Continued on the next page

For anyone who has never attended a music rehearsal, a rehearsal may seem an evasive and mysterious occasion. Once or twice through a piece of music before Sunday? Learning new selections? Getting our ducks in a row for Sunday? These may seem secondary to main thing (Sunday), but, in reality, the choir's foundation, character, work ethic, and inter-personal chemistry, all of which are vital, are carved out and finely chiseled during the mid-week rehearsal. This is certainly where we grow as musicians. We learn about how to take care of our voice, if not of our entire bodies as singers, how to warm up and condition. We don't simply learn music; we learn about the music we sing. We don't simply sing together; we learn how to sing together. These are not discoveries to be left for Sunday morning for, by that time, such efforts would be too late. The principles of preparation run far beyond one or two run-throughs of the Sunday anthem.

Ask any athlete, and they'll tell you that practice is the heart and soul of the sport. The game will, of course, get all the notoriety as a public event, but try to play a game without properly warming up and conditioning, without understanding the basic plays of the game and adopting some new ones, without some grasp of the routine, and without reaffirming the treasured relationships among team members (or between player and coach/caddie), and...well...you may well know the result. It's no different with making music. A choir has to understand itself as a team at the very least and – as an ideal in Christian context – as the body of Christ. Without this essential understanding, the choir loses a critical aspect of its identity in the context of the wider Parish and even wider community. At times, our rehearsals are a time for doubling down on our efforts; at others, they are sheer celebration. For me, whether work or celebration, rehearsal is pure joy – especially rehearsal with St. Matthew's singers.

I confess that I am thinking a bit more about the importance of the choir and choir rehearsal as we continue to assess space needs at St. Matthew's. What do we want as a choir? More importantly, what do we need in order to function as congregation-within-the-congregation at the ready whenever possible? What can't we live without, and what hopes and ideas are lodged in our imaginations? So many of these answers apply to our time on Wednesday evenings perhaps a bit more so than on Sunday mornings. Make no mistake, the choir will always take its public role to facilitate worship seriously and intentionally. But to do so, we will always strive to take every step in order to bring music and music-making of the highest order to God, to whom all glory is given. *-David Arcus, Music Director & Organist*

Altar Guild News

Dear St Matthew's,

I hope you are basking in the cold winter days of January and remembering the wonderful Christmas season filled with your family traditions. We will have decorated and undecorated the church for the Christmas season. We purchased poinsettias in King, NC from Mitchell's Nursery featured in *Our State* and on PBS. I have known this family my whole life and relished this new tradition. Jim and I made the trip to King to pick up the plants and will continue this if we are pleased with the product. Our poinsettia provider of many years from Hillsborough closed their business.

Thanks to all for the contributions of talent for our Christmas decorations, a special thanks to *Alice Moore*.

Mary Ann and I are so grateful for the weekly work done to prepare our altar. You make our role easy by your efforts. *-Kathy von St. Paul and Mary Ann Plambeck*

Highlighting Pastoral Care

Over the course of the next months, we'll be highlighting different ministries of pastoral care. Each in its own particular way works to nurture the body of Christ here at St. Matthew's for the well-being of the whole community. This month, we highlight our Shawl Ministry:

Since 2005 The Shawl Ministry of St. Matthew's has been knitting and crocheting. Our needles fly during times of prayer and contemplation. We knit around town - at the library, at the Senior Center, at Weaver Street Market, at the yarn store, and while having an espresso. We knit during games, at the bedside of a failing parent and during less than exciting episodes of *Survivor*. Whenever we knit, we knit or crochet for you. We knit to welcome, to comfort and to celebrate.

If you knit or crochet or if you are interested in learning how to, please join us on the first Saturday of each month in the Fellowship Hall. Our meetings start at 9:30 a.m. and end at 11:30. If you are unable to make our meetings, we welcome your contributions of shawls, scarves or lap robes. Donations of yarn are happily accepted.

-Nancy Harris (neh2357@hotmail.com)

People News

Thanks to:

- all who donated, baked, shopped, crafted, priced, worked, or contributed in any way to **FEST**. Special thanks to *Sonja Tilley*, chair; *Marion Horn* (crafts); *Karen Ireland* (the Ordinary Cafe); *Bob Shelton* (wreaths); *Edward Wright* (signage and tables); *Jim Parsley* and *Dorothy Wood* (money collection) for their leadership and enthusiasm all the way from start to finish.
- our Adult Choir and *David Arcus* for their work and artistry on the Advent Lessons & Carols Service.
- David and the choir members who led the residents at Brookshire in rousing Christmas carols on December 4th.
- *Katie Efland* for planning and coordinating the reception following Robert's Celebration of New Ministry; and, thanks to all who brought food, helped set-up or clean-up for it.
- the youth who baked cookies to sell and raised over \$600 to give to the Be Loud Sophie Foundation.
- *Katie Efland* for organizing the Parish Holiday Gathering on December 22 during the Education Hour; *Sonja Tilley* for setting up a cookie decorating and Christmas card writing stations; and *David Arcus* for serenading everyone with Christmas music.
- the **Faith & Arts** Committee members for providing great 1940s food for the reception for "Home For Christmas;" and to the carolers, organized by *Carolyn Carlson* for singing prior to the program.

Hospitalizations:

- *Janice Stratton* is home from the hospital, recuperating after surgery; *Daisy Huffman* is home after a recent hospitalization.

Recent Deaths:

- We extend our sympathy to *Carla Bailey* at the death of her husband, *Bill*, on December 8.

†Rest eternal grant to him, O Lord:
And let light perpetual shine upon him.†



Monthly Fellowship Breakfast

The presenter for the Monthly Fellowship Group meeting of January 16 will be *Mimi Roughton*, and her topic will be "Conversation." As usual, a buffet breakfast (\$7.00) will be served at 8:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall, and the presentation will begin at about 8:30. All are welcome to attend this first program of the New Year. The Monthly Fellowship Group (formerly known as the Men's Fellowship Group) began meeting in 2005, so 2020 will be our 16th year. If you are planning to come, please let *Jim Parsley* know so there can be enough food on hand. (919-732-2204) ~*John Druessedow*

**Greetings from
The NewComers Committee!**

We are rounding out our second year of service as the NewComers Committee! As we did last year, we'd like to share with you some fun facts as we kick off our next decade together. Since the beginning of 2019, our parish has welcomed 62 NewComers. During that time, 26 have either become members or call St. Matthew's their church home! We are grateful for the energy and vitality that these individuals and families bring to our parish. In addition, 24 folks are actively considering Saint Matthew's, and 12 have moved on. We are tremendously thankful for all of you-your grace, warmth, and hospitality to everyone at St. Matthew's.

We're also ringing in the New Year with NewComers Coffees on Sunday January 12th after each service in the Fellowship Hall. Please join us and our NewComers for socializing and getting to know one another.

We now have a second Name Button Bag located across from the restrooms in the Fellowship Hall! Feel free to store your button in this location or in the Ruffin House!

Special thanks to all parishioners for being open and welcoming and greeting your neighbor on Sunday morning!
~The St. Matthew's NewComers Committee

Parish Operating Budget Status as of the end of November 2019 (91%)			
Budget Expenses:	2019 Budget	Total Spent	%
Work Outside the Parish	\$62,716	\$54,289	87%
Maintenance & Improvements	\$67,604	\$62,906	93%
Clergy-related	\$179,881	\$135,775	75%
Administrative	\$87,942	\$79,026	90%
Christian Ed. Program	\$45,365	\$36,329	80%
Worship-related	\$46,536	\$40,668	87%
Expenses Total:	\$490,044	\$408,994	83%
Budget Income:	2019 Budget	Total Rec'd	%
Plate/Gift Offerings Rec'd	\$50,000	\$40,969	82%
Pledge Payments	\$427,617	\$358,407	84%
Other	\$23,100	\$22,596	98%
Income Total:	\$500,717	\$421,972	84%

JANUARY 2020



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<p>Coming up in February: The Annual Meeting on February 2 The Michael Jones Gospel Choir on February 16 Shrove Tuesday on February 25 Ash Wednesday on February 26</p>					
<p>Christmas 2 OCIM Sunday 8 & 10:30a Holy Eucharist 9:15a Education Hour Noon RJR Meeting Noon Morning Silence Meeting 5p Youth Group 5p Burning of the Greens, etc.</p>	<p>The Epiphany of Our Lord 9:30a Archives & History 6:30p Education for Ministry 7p Epiphany Service</p>	<p>7:30a Morning Silence</p>	<p>The Holy Name of Our Lord New Year's Day Office Closed</p>			<p>9:30a Shawl Ministry 11a Voice for Life</p>
<p>Epiphany 1: The Baptism of Our Lord 8 & 10:30a Holy Eucharist 9:15a Education Hour 5p Youth Group</p>	<p>9:30a Archives & History 6:30p Education for Ministry</p>	<p>7:30a Morning Silence</p>	<p>9:30 Staff Meeting 10a OCRA 11:30a Staff Holiday Lunch Noon Holy Eucharist 4p Brookshire Service 7p Adult Choir</p>			<p>9a Parish Life 11a Voice for Life</p>
<p>Epiphany 2 8 & 10:30a Holy Eucharist 9:15a Education Hour 3p F&A: David Arcus Recital</p>	<p>MLK Day: Office Closed 6:30p Education for Ministry</p>	<p>7:30a Morning Silence 5:30p Food for All Hugh Tilson's team 7p Vestry</p>	<p>10a Property Meeting Noon Holy Eucharist with Healing Prayers 1p Faith & Arts 5p Newsletter deadline 7p Adult Choir</p>	<p>8a Monthly Fellowship Breakfast</p>		<p>The Confession of St. Peter the Apostle 11a Voice for Life 11a Companions of the Holy Cross</p>
<p>Epiphany 3 8 & 10:30a Holy Eucharist 9:15a Education Hour 4p RJR Movie & Potluck Dinner 5p Youth Group 7p Women's Singing Circle</p>	<p>9:30a Archives & History 5:30p Food for All Gordon Carlson's Team 6:30p Education for Ministry</p>	<p>7:30a Morning Silence</p>	<p>Noon Holy Eucharist with Healing Prayers 7p Adult Choir</p>	<p>5:30p Food for All Sharon Wheeler's Team</p>		<p>The Conversion of St. Paul the Apostle 11a Voice for Life</p>

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Faith & Arts David Arcus Recital January 19

Music Director and Organist *David Arcus* will present his recital on January 19, 3:00 p.m., entitled "Bach on the Hook (and Hastings)." Come hear a sample of compositions from the Master Composer of organ music and arguably the greatest church musician in history. The recital features everything from "chamber" trio music to a concerto transcription to hymn tune settings to the iconic prelude & fugue genre. Unmissable!



Racial Justice and Reconciliation

Join the RJR Committee on Sunday, January 26, at 4:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall to view the movie, If Beale Street Could Talk, based on the James Baldwin novel of the same title. The movie was released in the US a year ago and is described as a romantic drama. It won Academy and Golden Globe awards. There may be snacks, including popcorn! There is also the option of going out for dinner afterwards. ~Jane Clunie

A Conversation about Substance Use and Aging

Our bodies change as we age, and so do the ways certain substances (prescription drugs, medications, alcohol, etc.) impact us. Join us for a discussion about substance use among older adults. What does it mean? How can we recognize a potential problem in ourselves and others? How do we talk about it, and with whom? What treatment options are available? Experts will discuss these topics and more and be available to answer questions. Questions can be asked following the presentation, or submitted in writing. Register by: Friday Jan 17 by calling 919-968-2070 The event is FREE and will be held at the Seymour Center in Chapel Hill on Wednesday January 22 from 5:30 - 7:00 pm. For additional information contact *Hugh Tilson* (tilsonha@icloud.com).



OCIM Ingathering of Beef Stew on Sunday, January 5

