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THE GOOD NEWS FROM EMMANUEL

January 4, 2009 - Second Sunday after Christmas

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NEWS AND EVENTS AND STUFF

The Middlesex Area Cluster Council will meet on Tuesday, January 6 at St. Andrew's in Northford.

Our friends at St. James' in Higganum are hosting a concert on January 17 to benefit Amazing Grace Food Pantry in Middletown. Pianist and vocalist Brian Gillie will perform American songbook standards. For more information, go to www.stjameshigganum.org/gillie1.htm

Our annual meeting will be held on Sunday, January 18 after the service.

Father Matthew Moritz is a young Episcopal priest and blogger currently serving in Rye, New York. He's done YouTube videos on a variety of subjects including each of the sacraments. His most recent video is called "Why be religious?" You can find it at www.youtube.com/watch?v=ijsH5zlnNh8

Thanks to all who contributed gifts for some homeless folk in New Haven. The Rev. Alma Pollock will be bringing them to the New Haven green for an Epiphany celebration...a great time for gift giving.

The patriarchs and heads of Christian churches in Jerusalem on December 30 issued a statement expressing deep concern and regret about the situation of violence in Gaza and calling for Sunday, January 4, to be observed as a day of prayer for justice and peace. To read this statement and one by our Presiding Bishop, go to Episcopal Life Online at www.episcopalchurch.org/elife/

The Good News from Emmanuel **is a mostly weekly publication of the Emmanuel Episcopal Church, 50 Emmanuel Church Road, Killingworth, CT. Please sent your comments and suggestions to the editor at lesliejonesie@gmail.com**

SUNDAY'S GOSPEL
MATTHEW 2:1-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: `And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'"

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road. ◆

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The illustration of this Sunday's Gospel reading is from a tapestry called *The Adoration of the Magi*, wool and silk on cotton warp, 101 1/8 x 151 1/4 inches, Manchester Metropolitan University, designed 1888, woven 1894, designed by Edward Burne Jones with details by William Morris and John Henry Dearle.