

A Quick Tour of Epiphany's Natural Church Development Survey Results.



This past November, 30 members of Epiphany took a “Natural Church Development” survey as part of our effort here at Epiphany to take stock of where we are, and provide information to our leaders as we plan for the future. The basic conclusion we can draw from the survey results is that we are a healthy and happy congregation, with a few things to work on.

I'm including with this article a graph that lays out how we scored as a church. As you read it, remember a score of 50 is average, and any score over 65 is in the top 15 percent of all churches in North America. We are clearly an “above-average” church, with four of our scores, in the areas of Gift-based ministry, Passionate Spirituality, Holistic Small Groups, and Loving Relationships, in that top 15 percent category.

I'm glad our results look like that. We have a lot to be thankful for, both to God, and to the many people who over the years have made our church community what it is. At the same time, we are far from perfect. While most of us, for instance, have experienced loving relationships at Epiphany, I am sure some of us have not. The real power of this survey is

What is “Natural Church Development”

In the 1990's a Christian social scientist from Germany named Christian Schwarz asked “what makes church's grow?” Of course there are lots of books written on this topic. In many of them, formulas and programs that have brought about numerical growth in one church are held up as models. Other Christians strongly believe that only God makes churches grow, but sometimes fall into also believing what we do doesn't matter.

Schwarz thought both of these answers were lacking, so he began a study, initially involving 1,000 churches around the world. Instead of asking “how to grow a church,” he asked questions about each church's health and ministry. What he discovered was that the greatest cause of church growth isn't a great program that worked at another church, or doing nothing except praying, it is simply being and building a healthy church as defined by the Bible. Healthy churches, like healthy plants, grow by themselves. Even more important, healthy churches produce good fruit – healthy Christians. Since that initial study in the 1990's, more than 70,000 churches have participated in the Natural Church Development survey, and benefited from the fair, statistically-normed, snapshot of their health that the survey provides. That number now includes Epiphany.

Continued on page 2

not so much to tell us we are doing fine, or help us rank ourselves in comparison to other churches, but to give us some direction in the areas we need to grow and work.

This is also very clear from the results. There is in fact only one basic area of ministry that the Natural Church Development survey looks at that we fall below average on as a church community, and that is “Need-Oriented Evangelism” (See the box with this article for a definition of “Need-Oriented Evangelism”).

This is not a big surprise. We have faced some challenges as a church, and as Tom Herrick, the diocese’s canon for church planting who is working with us on this, told our vestry while going over our results, it is easy to turn inward in times like that.

So what happens next? This survey is a first step, a “taking-the-pulse” that will lead into work by the vestry with Tom Herrick at our retreat this January, and also with the congregation. The goal is simply to take what these results show us about Epiphany, and prayerfully ask God how he is looking for us to grow as a church in the years ahead. While I don’t know exactly what this will bring about, I’m excited to have some good information before us about our strengths and those areas where we could be stronger. I invite you to pray with me that the work we do over the next few months will be fruitful as we work to identify the direction and ministries God has for Epiphany over the next few years.

I’m also looking for individuals interested in being part of a planning and visioning committee that will be willing to dive deep into the survey results and work with me, Tom and the vestry in building a concrete plan for our church. If you are interested in this, please send me an email and we can talk further (pfrank@epiphanyanglican.net).

What is “Need-Oriented Evangelism?”

Need oriented evangelism is the process by which we intentionally cultivate relationships with people who are not yet Christians so that they can become followers of Jesus themselves who are actively participating in the life of the church and community.

This is not a “pushy” or “manipulative” style of sharing the Gospel. Rather, it is to share the Gospel in a way that meets the questions and needs of those who are not yet Christians. For example, Epiphany’s sports camp, which provides both an introduction to the Gospel, as well as meets our neighborhood’s need for safe summer youth activities, is an example of Need-Oriented Evangelism in action. The Alpha Course, which Epiphany has run in the past, is another example of Need-Oriented Evangelism.

See Epiphany’s results on Page 3

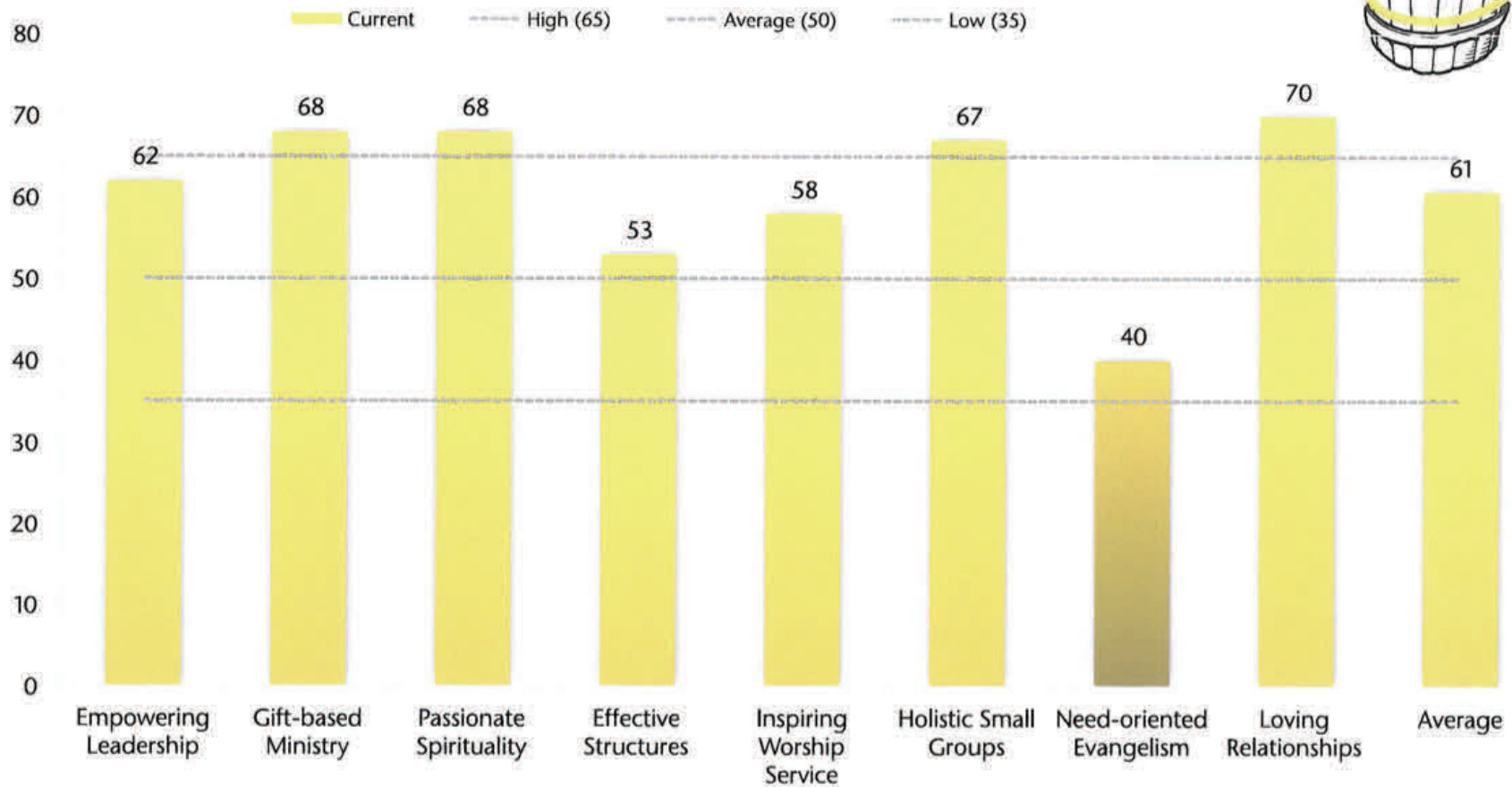


Natural Church Development *profile*

of CHURCH OF THE EPIPHANY

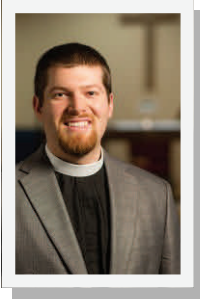
December-2014

Service attendance
Our minimum factor
Quality characteristics



Epiphany's Natural Church Development Survey Results. A score of "50" is average for North American churches. Scores above 65 are in the top 15 percent of all scores, while scores below 35 are in the bottom 15 percent.

New Adult Class Coming January 14, 2015



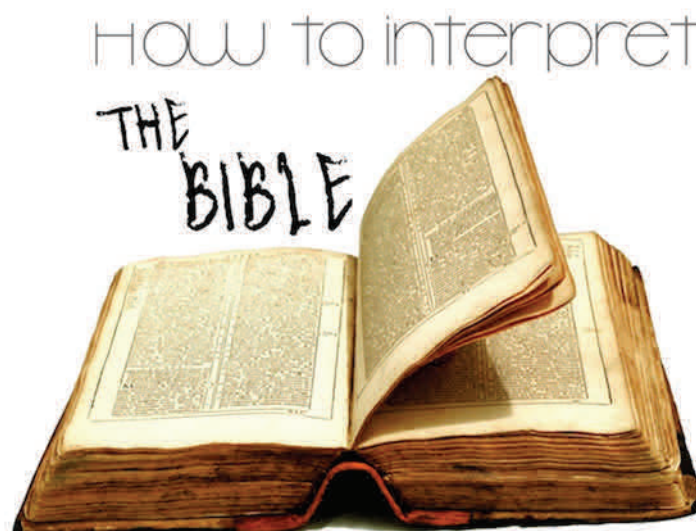
Beginning on Wednesday, January 14, 2015 I will be teaching a four-week adult education class titled, "How to Interpret the Bible." Last January I taught a class called "What is the Bible?" in which we looked at the authority and inspiration of the Bible, where it came from, and the different English translations. (DVD copies of the class "What is the Bible?" are available in Epiphany's library and online at <http://tinyurl.com/otn85nm>.) Now we come to the necessary task of reading and interpreting the Bible. This new class will focus on general principles for interpretation and will then dig into some tough passages to apply those principles. Those who attended my class last year will find this to be a logical next step from the material covered last year. Those who did not attend last year will also be able to participate fully. "How to Interpret the Bible" is a stand-alone course and both those who attended last year and those who did not will be able to enter in fully.

Come join in for this FREE class in January 2015. Classes will meet at 6pm beginning with a FREE dinner followed by the class itself from 6:30-7:30pm. Come with questions. Come ready to discuss tough passages. Come for in-depth study of God's Word.

This class will meet on Wednesdays, January 14, 21, 28 and February 4, 2015.

Sign-up for this class in the fellowship area at Epiphany.

Michael



Youth Confirmation

On December 14, 2014 two of Epiphany's teenagers took an important step in their faith by being confirmed. Confirmation is the public commitment of a mature faith by those who were baptized as children in which the bishop formally recognizes them as adult members of the church and prays for them. These boys participated in an 8-week confirmation class in which we covered topics such as the basics of the Christian faith, Anglican history, the Creeds, Anglican worship, the Trinity, and more. In addition to the class these boys read the Gospel of Mark on their own, memorized the Apostles' Creed (which is said in the Confirmation service), and memorized the names of all sixty-six books of the Bible in order. Thomas and Jeffrey did a fantastic job in their preparation work, and it was a privilege to be a part of this significant step in their lives.

As we discussed in the confirmation class, confirmation is not the end of the process; it is the beginning of a life-long commitment to discipleship as well as membership and service in the church. These boys have made a grown-up commitment and are taking on the responsibilities that come with it. Please join in welcoming and congratulating Thomas and Jeffrey.



Fr. Michael, Thomas Cummings, Jeffrey Rhoads, Bishop John Guernsey



Rector's Wife's Tea

Women of Epiphany, please join us for a morning tea hosted by the rector's wife on Saturday, January 31st, at 10 am. This event, held at the church, is open to all women of the church, including girls who are old enough to sit through a short presentation. We will enjoy a time of fellowship, refreshments, and a meditation on the church that draws upon 1 Corinthians 12:27. "Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it." (ESV)

RSVP acceptances only to Andrea Frank by January 25th (andreaandpeter@juno.com or 703-378-1239). If you are willing to help or have questions, please contact Andrea.



Epiphany Baptism Service at Truro Jan. 18

The congregation of Epiphany is joyfully invited to a service of Holy Baptism for two of our young parishioners, Hannah and Lydia Bryson. Truro Anglican Church in Fairfax has graciously allowed us to use their baptismal pool for the occasion on Sunday, January 18. The service will begin at 2:30 pm in the main sanctuary, and children are welcome to attend. There is no need to RSVP, but if you have any questions, please contact Amanda Bryson at amanda.bryson@yahoo.com.

Epiphany's Vestry to be Commissioned

During the 10 AM service on Sunday, January 4th, the 2015 Vestry will be commissioned. We will welcome the members you elected in November and say farewell to four members whose terms have been completed. Please come.

Please also look for the new name tags that vestry members and ministry leads will be wearing. We hope that these name tags will help you seek out your leaders for any need that you may have.



The 2015 Vestry members are:

Cynthia Aungst
Jan Coffee
Ann Guest
George Hamlin
Chris Johnson
Dan Johnson
Barbara Noble
Andy Plummer
Scott Reiter
Merle Stromberg
Carol Williams
Catherine Zimmerman

Departing Vestry members who have completed their terms are:

Ron Harp
Jim Humenik
Maggie Marcum
Tom Will

Missionary Visiting Epiphany Jan. 18

On January 18, Epiphany and the Missions Committee will welcome Daniel Liberek, who will be preaching at both of our services. Daniel and his wife Myriam, have been affiliated with United World Mission for almost 35 years. Daniel and Myriam have devoted most of their ministry to spreading the faith in Belgium, but also have supervised the establishment of churches in other parts of Europe and later throughout French-speaking Africa for United World Mission. Daniel was born in the United Kingdom to missionary parents and was trained at Columbia International University and Wheaton College Graduate School. Daniel and Myriam presently focus on deepening their ministry in Huy, Belgium and mentoring and facilitating younger leaders and church planters. Their vision is to see a church within reach of every person in Belgium and to see French-speaking countries around the world reached by the Gospel through a new generation of trained and deployed evangelists.

Daniel will be eager to discuss his mission and vision after the 8:00 and 10:00 services on January 18. We hope to see you there.”



Missions Update

Epiphany supports Chad and Elizabeth Young, who work with Campus Crusade for Christ in Georgia. Here is an uplifting note we received from Chad and Elizabeth:

“A lot of people express to us their concern for the hearts of today’s young people and the spiritual climate among U.S. teens and young adults.

It’s true that young people today have tough challenges and temptations, but we’ve been so encouraged by the passion so many young people have for Christ. Every year we’re seeing more and more college graduates saying ‘yes’ to God’s call to move overseas as missionaries and take the gospel to the nations!

Currently, 325 STINTers (short term international missionaries) just graduated in May and are scheduled to move overseas at the end of this month. Together, they’ll be headed to approximately 76 cities in 35 different countries.”



Another missionary Epiphany supports is Maggie McNeely, who grew up at Epiphany and who now works with college students in Newport News, Virginia. Maggie’s recent update included the following:

“This past month we’ve had an emphasis on making sure prayer is a focus in our movement, and it started with Fall Retreat. At the end of September, over 150 students from seven different campuses attended Fall Retreat. We had a speaker come for the weekend, and it was a sweet time getting to know each other and growing in our faith. One of my students said it was like this, ‘Fall Retreat was so vital for my relationship with God, I fell back in love with Him and feel renewed.’ I just love that. So many other students shared similar thoughts. Thank you for your prayers!!

Another exciting thing that happened this month was I started an inter-sorority bible study for about 7 women. We study the word together and spend time with one another in prayer. I love seeing different sororities come together because their love for Jesus.”



Publishing Information

The ***Epiphany STAR*** is generally published monthly and contains articles and information about what God has and is doing in us and through us as the Epiphany Family. It is intended to encourage each of us in our ministry and discipleship by relating how God is working in the midst of us.

The ***Epiphany Candle*** is published weekly by email, highlighting what is coming in the days ahead at Epiphany and other information that the staff and vestry feel is important to emphasize.

Articles and Subscription requests: star@epiphanyanglican.net
candle@epiphanyanglican.net
jcrawford@epiphanyanglican.net (for weekly bulletin)

Deadlines:

STAR: 15th of the month

Bulletin: Monday, 8 AM

Candle: Wednesday, 8 AM



BIRTHDAYS

2	Maria Luisa Torabi	16	Megan Butler	26	James Todd
5	Maria Bolin	17	Ryan Ellis	27	Susan Daugherty
6	Linda Boggs		Kris Young		Susan Rayo-Jones
10	Frances Miller	18	Joanne Harp	28	Wyndy Fredrick
11	James Boggs		Alan Pino		Ronald Jones
	Care Murphy	19	Brittney Marcum	29	Tim Bixler
13	Patricia Stachew	22	Sandy Stoddard	30	Maggie McNeely
16	Daniel Baehr	24	Nolan Hanger		
	Katherine Beckley	25	Nancy Vander Voort		

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

2	Jan & Gordon Coffee	20	Linda & James Boggs
3	Barbara & Mark Oliphant	24	Debbie & Ted Hanger
4	Andrea & Peter Frank	24	Joanne & Ron Harp
8	Laura & Ronald Jones		



Resources

Epiphany Staff	Email	Extension
The Rev. Peter Frank, Rector	pfrank@epiphanyanglican.net	104
The Rev. Michael Guernsey, Associate Rector	mguernsey@epiphanyanglican.net	106
The Rev. David Welch, Parish Deacon	dwelch@epiphanyanglican.net	703-309-0527
Jimmy Crawford, Music Director	jcrawford@epiphanyanglican.net	101
Janice Monaghan, Financial Director	jmonaghan@epiphanyanglican.net	105

<p><u>2015 Vestry</u></p> <p>Cynthia Aungst Jan Coffee Ann Guest George Hamlin Chris Johnson Dan Johnson Barbara Noble Andy Plummer Scott Reiter Merle Stromberg Catherine Zimmerman Carol Williams</p>	<p><u>Vestry Officers</u></p> <p>Senior Warden TBD Junior Warden..... TBD Registrar..... TBD Finance Committee Chairman Dennis McNeely Treasurer..... Tom Miller Assistant Treasurer Charlie Monroe Chancellor David Reed</p>
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Intercessory Prayer Letter

Requests can now be submitted by email at a secure site,
prayer-request@epiphanyanglican.net
 or written and left in the prayer request box in the Fellowship Area.

All prayer requests are collected after the Sunday morning services and prepared for Monday morning distribution. For more information or questions, contact Faith Fisler at 703-591-6645 or email her at mizfiz34@gmail.com.



**ANGLICAN CHURCH
IN NORTH AMERICA**



Diocese of the
MID-ATLANTIC
Anglican Church in North America

<http://anglicanchurch.net/>

<http://anglicandoma.org/>



13515 Dulles Technology Drive, Suite # 1
 Herndon Virginia 20171
 Main Number: 703.481.8601
 Prayer Line: 703.389.7292

Visit our website at www.epiphanyanglican.net

TO STAND for Jesus Christ, GROW TOGETHER as God's family and MAKE HIM KNOWN through the power of the Holy Spirit!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

January		
10, 17, 24, 31	3 PM	Youth Worship Team
10, 17, 24, 31	5 PM	Youth Group
4	10 AM	Vestry Commissioning
14, 21, 28	6 PM	How to Interpret the Bible (Adult Class)
18	8 AM, 10 AM	Missionary Visit
18	2:30 PM	Bryson Baptism (Truro)
24	10 AM	Altar Guild/LEM Training
31	10 AM	Rector's Wife's Tea for Women of Epiphany
February		
4	6 PM	How to Interpret the Bible (Adult Class)
7	9 AM - 3 PM	Marriage Enrichment Day
7, 14, 21, 28	3 PM	Youth Worship Team
7, 14, 21, 28	5 PM	Youth Group
March		
7, 14, 21, 28	3 PM	Youth Worship Team
7, 14, 21, 28	5 PM	Youth Group

Worship Schedule

Sundays

8:00 and 10:00 AM

Eucharist and Healing

At the 10 am service:

Nursery available for infants through 2 years old
 Sunday School for children 3 years old through 5th grade

Weekdays at 9:00 AM

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday:

Daily Morning Prayer

Wednesdays: Holy Communion