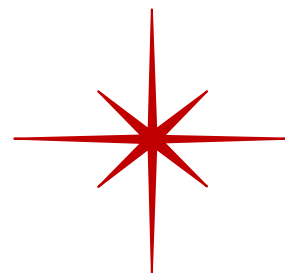




SPECIAL EDITION

The STAR



November 2021

**Annual Congregational Meeting
&**

Vestry Election

November 14, 2021

Meet the Candidates

Epiphany's annual business meeting will be at 11:30am on November 14. During the meeting, we will hear a financial update from our finance committee, as well as "state of the church" reports from the rector and associate rector.

The chief business item of our meeting will be the election of new vestry officers to serve three-year terms beginning on January 1, 2022.

Our goal will be to complete the annual meeting in about an hour.

Please plan to attend!

Encountering God, Building a multigenerational congregation, Equipping every member.

Name: Jonathan Crane

Preferred Name: Jon

Family Members: Widower

Occupation: Retired



A. How would you describe your relationship with God and how you have come to this point in your spiritual journey?

Recently my daily devotional began with the following: “Knowing *about* God is different from *knowing* God.” During my adolescent years I regularly attended Sunday school and church, actively participated in youth activities and during high school served as the church acolyte - I knew *about* God. However, it wasn’t until my junior year in college that I came to *know* God. Through the patient encouragement of a beautiful young woman who would become my life partner, God was transformed, through Jesus, from the omniscient, omnipotent creator to my faithful and personal Redeemer.

During my journey with Him, I can testify to His love, patience, provision, blessing and eternal assurance. While there have been the occasional “potholes” along the road, I can say with joy that He has kept His promise and has “never left me nor forsaken me.”

B. In order for the parish to get to know you, describe your history with the Church of the Epiphany, including how long you have been attending, what ministries you are or have been involved in.

Joanie and I joined Epiphany nearly two years ago. I am a regular participant in the Friday Men’s Bible Study group and a member of the prayer team. As we began regathering earlier this year for in-person corporate worship, I’ve helped out with some of the small details that need to be attended to on a weekly basis. It’s been a joy to help with the small things that make our worship meaningful and fulfilling.

C. What are your hopes and dreams for Church of the Epiphany?

I’ve had a long fascination with lighthouses, intrigued by their architecture and the dedication of those charged with keeping the light burning. However, more important is the appreciation of the purpose for their existence - to warn of danger and lead the sailor on a new path to the security and peace of a safe harbor.

These past two years have been difficult ones for our country, our people and for some members of our congregation. Our lives have changed dramatically as fear, anxiety, resignation, impatience and sadly even anger have swirled around us and perhaps even settled on us. God is the answer to navigating the troubled and turbulent waters but for many He is just a three letter word; for others someone they know about but don’t know, so never seek Him.

I believe adversity offers Epiphany an opportunity to be a lighthouse here in our community. With Advent and Lent on the horizon, we have a marvelous chance to become a beacon of light to our neighbors and share the good news of God’s mercy, grace and love available through Jesus. I pray we’ll seize this opportunity and help those around us come to know God.

D. How will your life experience and abilities contribute to our leadership?

I’ve had the privilege and joy of serving in lay leadership positions in other churches although none an Anglican congregation. I believe this service coupled with my business education, military leadership and corporate management experiences will enable me to contribute in a collaborative manner to the pursuit of Epiphany’s mission and the furtherance of God’s eternal kingdom.

Name: Sara Eckard
Preferred Name: Sally
Family Members: Three adult children; ten grandchildren
Occupation: Retired librarian



A. How would you describe your relationship with God and how you have come to this point in your spiritual journey?

I was blessed to grow up in a Christian home and made a recommitment to Christ as my Savior as a young adult. I treasure my relationship with Christ and consider it the most valuable gift I can share with my children and grandchildren.

B. In order for the parish to get to know you, describe your history with the Church of the Epiphany, including how long you have been attending, what ministries you are or have been involved in.

I have been coming to the Church of the Epiphany for the past 2 1/2 years. After moving to Fairfax I looked for an Anglican church in which I could serve my new community. Prior to the pandemic I was involved with the summer sports camp, served as a substitute for Sunday School, and was a part of the Altar Guild. I am a member of the Monday women's Bible study.

C. What are your hopes and dreams for Church of the Epiphany?

Having been at the Church of the Epiphany for a relatively short time I realize I still have much to learn about its ministries and traditions. As opportunities open up I hope that outreach to the many parts of our community can continue to grow. I would like to explore ways to support reading as well as the weekend food bags at Coates Elementary School. I also hope for strengthening our support for our children and their families, reflecting the commitment made by the congregation at every baptismal service.

D. How will your life experience and abilities contribute to our leadership?

I was a member of the Falls Church Anglican for more than 40 years before coming to the Church of the Epiphany. There I was involved in many aspects of the Children's Ministry, including teaching Sunday School, helping with summer camp and organizing a prayer partners program. I worked with The Falls Church ESOL program and currently volunteer with the Literacy Council of Northern Virginia. I have also organized programs for children and teens as a youth librarian in a public library. Recently my most challenging and rewarding experiences have been finding creative ways to share fun and faith with my ten grandchildren as we've all been navigating our time at home.

Name: Douglas Ted Hanger
Preferred Name: Ted
Family Members: Wife - Debbie, Kate-17, Nolan-15, Brody-12
Occupation: Software Sales



A. How would you describe your relationship with God and how you have come to this point in your spiritual journey?

I would characterize my relationship with God as a journey which continues to get better. I grew up in a Methodist church named after my Grandfather. My dad was a Sunday school teacher and my mom has been the organist/pianist for 60 years. My brother is a pastor. I do think it was helpful and important to grow up in the church as it provided me with a solid foundation. During college and then as a young adult, I can look back now and say that attending church and my relationship with God was not what it is today. So I would describe my relationship with God as a journey. He has always been there for me and always will be, so I want to make sure I continue to learn and grow on this exciting journey.

B. In order for the parish to get to know you, describe your history with the Church of the Epiphany, including how long you have been attending, what ministries you are or have been involved in.

Debbie and I were married at Truro in 2004. In 2011, with 3 kids and wanting to find something closer to our home in Herndon rather than driving into Fairfax, especially trying to get 2 small kids ready for church! We attended Church of the Epiphany and heard Robin preach and were actually there when Peter had his 'interview' sermon. I helped out when we moved from the Franklin Farm location to the office park location. Currently I serve as an usher.

C. What are your hopes and dreams for Church of the Epiphany?

We were impressed with Church of the Epiphany early on which is why we have continued to worship at here. My hopes and dreams for Epiphany would be to continue to spread the word of God, which will lead to growth and allow the ministries to help even more in the community, so more people are exposed to God.

D. How will your life experience and abilities contribute to our leadership?

I mentioned some of my background in an earlier question and do feel my upbringing and life experiences will add value to the vestry at Church of the Epiphany. Prior to Debbie and I getting married we both understood the importance of a God in our lives. We do want to provide our kids with the Christian foundation needed so they can be as prepared as possible when they go out into this challenging world. I was also our community HOA President for 4 years having served on the Board for 10 years. And when the kids were younger and in daycare, I was the President of this non-profit Board. I do believe my life experiences, plus having been a part of the congregation for 10 years, allow me to contribute to the continued growth and success of Epiphany.

Name: Joyce Schmalz
Preferred Name: Joyce
Family Members: Estevan (Stephen) and Olivia
Occupation: Software engineer/manager



A. How would you describe your relationship with God and how you have come to this point in your spiritual journey?

I was raised in a church but did not enter into a relationship with Jesus until I was 19. At that point, I realized that I was a sinner in desperate need of a Savior, and that Savior was Jesus. The Bible came alive to me and I saw that God has an intense love and vision for His people that is far beyond what I ever could have dreamed up. Along the way, I have adopted two children, been diagnosed with (and recovered from!) cancer, and lost my husband after a long illness, and Jesus has walked through all of it with me.

B. In order for the parish to get to know you, describe your history with the Church of the Epiphany, including how long you have been attending, what ministries you are or have been involved in.

I have attended Epiphany since July 2019. The Anglican denomination is still new to me, but I appreciate how much Bible is included in the liturgy and the emphasis on Scripture. I am currently involved in a small group and in co-leading the Coates weekend food bag ministry.

C. What are your hopes and dreams for Church of the Epiphany?

I would love to see Epiphany continue to grow in the direction of a multi-generational church that meets the needs of the community around us in tangible ways. I'd love to see the people of the Epiphany embrace and expand on reading the Bible together beyond Sunday mornings. And I'd love for each person at Epiphany to know that there's a place for every one to serve, and that God has good works planned in advance for all of us to do.

D. How will your life experience and abilities contribute to our leadership?

From a vocational standpoint, I have been a manager and team leader at a large company, so I have an understanding of the organizational and logistical skills needed to keep ideas and ministries moving forward. I also spent a number of years leading discussion groups for Bible Study Fellowship and learned many leadership skills from that organization. My kids are in college, but I well remember and empathize with the needs of parents of little ones.



Church of the Epiphany Anglican

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