

August - September 2022

An Answer to Prayer



I was in a hurry. The line at the local donut shop was taking longer than I had hoped. When I got to the counter, the worker recognized me (probably because I was wearing a clerical collar) and made some small-talk. “It’s been a while since I’ve seen you. You’re an answer to prayer!”

I smiled, got my donuts and swiped my credit card. Even though there was a line building behind me, I had a sense that this busy clerk’s line about prayer had something behind it. So I asked as I left, “how can I pray for you?”

What did I expect? Well, I am not sure. Maybe nothing. People don’t always know how to answer when we put them on the spot in this way. But, I didn’t expect what she did. She pointed to a corner of the store where an older man sat in an easy chair. “That’s my dad, he has terminal cancer.” I asked for her dad’s name, and promised to pray for him. We didn’t have time to talk more. The other donut seekers were growing restless.

Well, since then, I have been doing the one thing I can do; bringing her dad to God every time I pray.

This little moment has also challenged me to look at the random people I meet with a bit more compassion. We never know what challenge, tragedy or anxiety the person we are interacting with is carrying. Honestly, few of them will tell us either, just like we are unlikely to share our most tender and troubling realities with the strangers we meet.

But the truth remains that almost everyone is carrying something heavy or going through something difficult. Part of our job as Christians is to see that in people, and recognize it for what it is, a sign of the sickness of the world as it is, and our deep need for God to make all things new through his son Jesus Christ.

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

What do you see in the people you bump into every day? What do you know about them and their lives? It is a safe guess that they need Jesus as much as we do. *“When Jesus saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd”* (Matthew 9.36).

God bless,



Clergy Meet at Epiphany

Bishop John led a practicum for recently ordained clergy at Epiphany on August 2. The clergy spent time developing their skills as liturgical worship leaders by practicing leading holy communion. Margaret Stromberg, the chair of Epiphany’s altar guild, also provided training to help new clergy work well with their church’s altar guild ministries.



What IS Our Trajectory?



I admire John Stott and it doesn't bother me that this admission essentially dates me. Just this week I was contemplating his dedication to serving the non-western world through quality theological education and his foundation, Langham Partnership. Nearing the end of his daily devotional Through the Bible Through the Year, I was reflecting on how much I respect the man, not realizing that we had just passed an eleven year anniversary of his death. He was a faithful steward of his intellect and leadership abilities but also his wealth. Rather than take the royalties to his many, many books to make life more comfortable for himself, he poured his resources into the Langham Partnership. His decision was to practice the discipline of simplicity, living in a small flat in London while eating and dressing frugally and simply. Even then, he recognized his great possessions in comparison to many, many people around the world.

But talking about simplicity is something that is incredibly counter-cultural right now. We are more accustomed to being influenced by the world that encourages us to want more, spend more, increase our productivity, or our comfort. It has gotten so easy to spend our resources for ourselves or our family. We live in a culture of fast and easy so we can devote our minds to more important issues or to leisure. Now, I am not saying that all of these innovations are bad, but what I am doing is warning us, myself included, about being aware of consumer pressures. I am saying that maybe we might consider slowing down our consumption to make sure that we THINK about our lifestyle and the direction of our hearts.

Following simplicity is a hard discipline because it is counter cultural and we are not accustomed to it. But it does not automatically make us holy people. As many of you know, I spent 2 weeks preaching from Colossians and I was reminded of the emptiness of asceticism for its own sake. **2:18 "Let no one disqualify you, insisting on asceticism and worship of angels, going on in detail about visions, puffed up without reason by his sensuous mind..."**

Talking about self-denial and moderation is not a way to win friends, I know. The danger of writing about our lifestyle choices could come across as judgmental or critical. Just this week we found out that Ron Sider, who challenged the evangelical church regarding poverty, had died. Some recognized his wise words but it is too easy to shift into defensive mode or pointing out the lifestyle choices of other people. So, you ask me, why did I bring it up at all? If it is a potential hornets nest why not write about something everyone will agree on? I mention it because contentment, gratitude, increased generosity and freedom are outcomes of a simple lifestyle. I was personally challenged this week so I am asking you to think about it. What is your trajectory? A life of greater simplicity or greater complexity? Talk it over with God and with those who know you best.

Pamela +

Final “Meet and Eat” Evening is August 31

Epiphany has always been a church that likes to eat together, and a church where people build friendships with each other. The past two years of pandemic have made both of those things harder than they used to be.

This summer, we are jump-starting “meeting and eating” again at Epiphany. We will be gathering together a final Wednesday night on August 31 at 6:30pm at the church. We will share a simple meal, and then take some time to get to know each other in our table groups. There will be a “kids table” and activities for younger children. Our goal will be to begin at 6:30 and wrap up by 7:30.

There is a sign up at church, or you can send an email to Fr. Peter (pfrank@epiphanyanglican.net).

While food will be provided, we do need some help to hold these events. Particularly, we need people to coordinate the meal, folks willing to be table group facilitators, and people willing to help with clean-up and set-up.

If you can help in any of these ways, please contact Fr. Peter (pfrank@epiphanyanglican.net).



Candidates For Our Next Bishop

My dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

It is with the greatest enthusiasm, and with unbounded gratitude to Almighty God, that the Diocese of the Mid-Atlantic's Committee on Nominations publishes to the Electing Synod its slate of the final candidates for bishop. The candidates are:



The Rev. David M. Hanke
Rector
Restoration Anglican Church
Arlington, VA



The Rev. Patrick A. Ware
Rector
Grace Anglican Church
Winchester, VA



The Rev. Christopher S. Warner
Rector
Church of the Holy Cross
Sullivan's Island & Daniel Island, SC

The committee's work spanned seven months, and has been a diligent, insightful and, most importantly, a prayerful, time of discernment. Beginning with a strong pool of nominees, we walked alongside each throughout a lengthy and detailed process that included extensive vetting and, with those advancing to the latter stages, Zoom interviews, answers to written questions, in-person interviews with nominees and their wives, background checks, and consultation with references and others familiar with the candidate's present and past ministry. In the end, each nominee advanced to the final slate by unanimous vote – we feel strongly that all of these candidates will make an excellent bishop. The committee has been guided throughout by the conviction that the Lord has chosen our next bishop, and it has been our privilege to walk with Him in discerning His will.

You can learn more about each candidate at this link <https://www.anglicandoma.org/candidates> to view their resumes, spiritual autobiographies, and answers to written questions; and by following the appropriate links to two sermons submitted by each man.

All eligible voters for the Electing Synod on October 15, 2022 will likewise have the opportunity to interact with the candidates at the two diocesan [Walkabouts](#), on September 27, at Truro Church in Fairfax, and on September 28, at Redeemer Anglican in Richmond. Information about the Walkabouts can be found online. Each delegate is expected to attend one event, as seeing and hearing the candidates in person affords a much better way to get a sense of them.

Over the next 90 days leading up to the election, we ask you to join us in two practices:

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

Practice prayer, not politics.

Although we are electing a bishop, the process must be prayerful, not political. While it is perfectly acceptable for delegates to discuss candidates among themselves, candidates will not be talking with delegates, as this could be considered “politicking.” Please respect this, and avoid participating in conversation with a candidate about his candidacy. Also, please add David, Patrick, and Chris to your prayer list, and earnestly pray for them, their wives and families, and the Electing Synod on October 15, 2022, together with all its delegates.

Practice discerning, not deciding

We are called to discern God’s will, not simply to make a decision. Take this time to prayerfully and carefully discern whom God is calling to lead and shepherd us. The decision is God’s; it is for us to discern His “good, pleasing, and perfect will.” (Romans 12:2.)

The Apostle Paul says it well in his letter to the Christians in Philippi: “I thank God in my prayers for all of you, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in us will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 1:6.) God has, indeed, begun a good work in the Diocese of the Mid-Atlantic; may He carry it to completion.

Yours faithfully in Christ Jesus,

W. Allan Sharrett, Church of the Resurrection, Emporia, Virginia
Chair, Committee on Nominations for Bishop

Members of the Committee

- Alicia Bradford**—Truro Anglican Church, Fairfax, VA
The Rev. Corky Eddins—Christ Church Vienna, Vienna, VA
The Rev. Mary Gardner—Restoration Anglican Church, Arlington, VA
Vivian Hayes—Church of the Messiah, Chesapeake, VA
The Rev. Tom Herrick—Holy Spirit Anglican Church, Lewes, DE
The Rev. Dan Marotta—Redeemer Anglican Church, Richmond, VA
Dondie McNickle—Church of the Holy Spirit, Leesburg, VA
John Palafoutas—Christ the King, Alexandria, VA
The Rev. Morgan Reed—Corpus Christi Anglican Church, Springfield, VA
Allan Sharrett—Resurrection Church, Emporia, VA, Chair
Kristen Short—The Falls Church Anglican, Falls Church, VA



Back row: (L-R) The Rev. Morgan Reed, The Rev. Corley Eddins, Allan Sharrett, The Rev. Dan Marotta, John Palafoutas

Front row: (L-R) The Rev. Tom Herrick, Dondie McNickle, Vivian Hayes, The Rev. Mary Gardner, Alicia Bradford, Kristen Short

Sovereign Lord who raises leaders, thank you for these candidates and their families. Thank you for faithfully granting generous wisdom to those who ask. We ask that your gracious Spirit may rest upon and guide the process of selecting our next bishop. May your kingdom come, and your will be done in the lives of each candidate and the Diocese of the Mid Atlantic, to the glory of your name.

Missions Update: SAT-7



For several years Epiphany has supported the work of SAT-7, which beams TV programs, broadcasts podcasts, and provides written materials for adults, children, and inquirers throughout the Middle East and North Africa. Here is an example of SAT-7's outreach:

Since August 2021, Elham, * a man living in Afghanistan, has been in contact with the SAT-7 PARS Viewer Support Team, who has walked virtually with him through the turmoil of Taliban control in Afghanistan and Elham's ongoing search for truth and freedom.

“The people of Afghanistan are living through a disastrous nightmare,” wrote Elham to the team as he watched his country fall to the Taliban last year. “As a human being I ask, please don't forget to pray and offer humanitarian cooperation.”



Since then, Elham, who is highly educated with a master's degree in law, has remained in touch with the channel, sharing his thoughts and frustrations as time went on, providing a unique and on-the-ground insight into what is happening in the country.

“In my province, the leadership roles of the majority of functions are now in the hands of the Taliban,” he wrote soon after his first message. “All [government] departments, including law and land services, have been taken over by this group that embodies ignorance and terror.”

“After strenuous exams and hard work, I was able to enter the Afghan legal system and practice as a judge. My hope was to guarantee the values of justice in this country, but in just one moment everything has been turned upside down. Now all we can do is remain at home and devise some means of staying alive, and nothing more.”

Finding Hope in Despair

Surrounded by hopelessness, Elham increasingly turned to SAT-7 PARS' live and pre-recorded programming for hope. In January this year, he contacted the channel to say, “Whenever I find an opportunity, I watch with enthusiasm your engaging programs, which are full of kindness. I have learned many valuable things so far, and when I watch your programs, I receive peace and feel empowered.”

Nevertheless, the challenges Elham and people in Afghanistan face are overwhelming. “I am grappling with a thousand and one difficulties because of unemployment, economic vulnerability, and endangerment of life and limb. All these have combined to make life miserable for everyone. The extreme and restrictive application of fanatic religion has brought darkness and misery into our lives.”

Yearning for Freedom and Knowledge

“I am always praying for a miracle in my life,” Elham continued. “I am not asking for a great thing – just that I will be able to work in an environment that would allow me peace of mind and freedom to write the things I am forced to hold back. I want to be free to write a critique of extremist religion based on my studies without fear of intimidation, and in my turn to do work that will have a positive impact on society.”

In addition to watching SAT-7 PARS’ programs, Elham received several Christian resources from the Viewer Support Team, which awakened a hunger for more information. “I have studied all the booklets about the Christian faith you sent; please send me the others so that I may learn more,” he said. As a result, his understanding of Christianity has grown.

Most recently, Elham contacted the channel in April: “About a month ago, the Taliban started doing house-to-house searches, and they were even confiscating people’s smartphones. I had a few articles about Christianity on my phone which I have had to delete as a precaution. Now would you please kindly send a few other booklets so that I can read and be encouraged?”

Please pray for Elham and people in Afghanistan, that God’s protective hand will be upon them and that they will find freedom in Christ. Pray that God will continue to use SAT-7 PARS to open the hearts and minds of the people and that the channel will be an ongoing support to viewers. Finally, give thanks for what God has already done in Elham’s life; may his thirst to learn more about God and Christ continue.

*Name changed to protect identity.



Epiphany “Fall Kick-Off” is September 18

Epiphany will be marking the move from summer to fall with an outdoor picnic under a tent on September 18. There will be fun activities for kids, and a ministry fair for all of us to learn more about the many things we do together as a church.

Our friends, Zan and Ann Dial of Ellie’s Place in Warrenton, will be catering the meal like they did last year.

“This is a great chance to connect or reconnect with fellow church-attenders at Epiphany,” said the Rev. Peter Frank, Epiphany’s rector, “We had a great turn-out and a great time last year, I hope you will attend.”

Epiphany ministries share information about what they do and how to be involved during last year’s Fall Kick-Off.



The Dials grilling and serving under the tent.



What makes an outdoor meal better?
Ice cream!



The tent set up in front of Epiphany provided shade and a place to mingle.

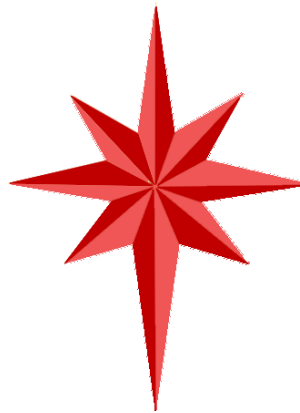


At Epiphany we emphasize:

Encountering God through beautiful worship and believing prayer

Building a multigenerational congregation that loves children and families.

Equipping every member to publicly proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ.



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 by

email at mizfiz34@gmail.com.



- | | | |
|-------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 2 Fred Apelquist | 11 Krystal Apelquist | 21 David Rhoads |
| 3 Matt Miller | Jessica Francis | 25 Katherine Bixler |
| John Newton | Severn Rash | Amie Boncher |
| 7 Jocelyn Derrick | 13 Lisa Ellis | Jan Welch |
| 8 Sheila Crawford | 16 Katherine Hanger | 29 Dave Bassert |
| 9 Rory Francis | 17 Josh Croft | Mark Oliphant |
| Verity Francis | 18 Lorena Croft | 30 Christina Cummings |
| Tom Noble | Ellen Harrison | 31 Renee Tassone |
| Jim Roberts | 19 Lucas Long | Cathy Trout |



- | | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 4 Nicolas Long | 14 Gabrielle Tucker | 27 Jane Derrick |
| 7 Sharon McKenney | 15 Mark Monroe | Judy Hall |
| 8 Brianna Ellis | 16 Kelly Ellis | Patricia Roberts |
| 9 Gordon Coffee | 20 Sherry Will | Bob Schulenberg |
| 10 Ryan McKenica | 22 Andrea Frank | 28 Tracy Plummer |
| 11 Angela Bender | 24 Cecilia Frank | Christopher Rauh |
| 12 Linda Bassert | Erin Seroka | 29 David Croft |
| 13 Cameron Bender | | 30 Bill Cool |
| Natalie Harrison | | |

Happy Anniversary



August

- 1 Care & Jim Murphy
- 4 Sally & Bill Hoover
- 20 Leslie & Bruce Johnson
Carole & Keith Menzel
- 21 Kay & Matt Miller
- 25 Barbara & Alex Peake
- 26 Diane & David Reed
- 31 Linda & Dave Bassert

September

- 8 Janice & Jim Wolfe
Jan & Dave Welch
- 10 Bessie & Bill Cool
- 15 Cindy & John Newton
- 17 Cyndie & Jim Humenik
- 23 Sherry & Tom Will



Resources

| Epiphany Staff | Email |
|---|--------------------------------|
| The Rev. Peter Frank, Rector | pfrank@epiphanyanglican.net |
| The Rev. Pamela Meeks, Associate Rector | pmeeks@epiphanyanglican.net |
| The Rev. Sally Hoover, Parish Deacon | shoover@epiphanyanglican.net |
| Jimmy Crawford, Music Director | jcrawford@epiphanyanglican.net |
| Petrina Teoh, Office Administrator | pteoh@epiphanyanglican.net |

Vestry Officers/Committee Chairs for 2022

Vestry Members

Lisa Baehr
 Jim Boggs
 Jon Crane
 Christina Cummings
 Sally Eckard
 Ted Hanger
 Bill Hoover
 Leslie Johnson
 Joyce Schmalz
 Geoffrey Seroka

Senior Warden Lisa Baehr
 Junior Warden.....Geoffrey Seroka
 Registrar..... Christina Cummings
 Home Group Ministry Coordinator.....Leslie Johnson
 Vestry Liaison to Mission Committee.....Jim Boggs
 Chairman of the Benevolence Committee Ted Hanger
 Vestry Liaison to Finance Committee.....Jon Crane
 Finance Committee ChairmanTom Miller*
 Treasurer.....Charlie Monroe*
 ChancellorDavid Reed*

*Non-vestry members

Publishing Information

The **Epiphany STAR** is published bi-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: 21st of the January, March, May, July, September & November.

Bulletin: Monday, 8 AM • Candle: Wednesday, 8 AM



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Visit our website at www.epiphanyanglican.net

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

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

AUGUST

| | | |
|----------------|----------|---|
| 9 | 7:00 PM | Vestry Meeting |
| 10, 17, 24, 31 | 12:00 PM | Simple Eucharist |
| 7, 14, 21, 28 | 8:30 AM | Holy Eucharist In-Person |
| 7, 14, 21, 28 | 10:15 AM | Holy Eucharist - Livestream & In-Person |
| 14, 28 | 1:15 PM | Worship at Arbor Terrace |
| 14, 28 | 2:00 PM | Worship at Arbor Terrace |
| 31 | 6:30 PM | “Meet & Eat” Supper |

SEPTEMBER

| | | |
|---------------|----------------|---|
| 13 | 7:00 PM | Vestry Meeting |
| 7, 14, 21, 28 | 12:00 PM | Simple Eucharist |
| 4, 11, 18, 25 | 8:30 AM | Holy Eucharist In-Person |
| 4, 11, 18, 25 | 10:15 AM | Holy Eucharist - Livestream & In-Person |
| 11, 25 | 1:15 PM | Worship at Arbor Terrace |
| 11, 25 | 2:00 PM | Worship at Arbor Terrace |
| 18 | 11:30 AM (ish) | Fall Kickoff |

Look for us online:



Church of the Epiphany: <https://epiphanyanglican.net/>
 Church Calendar: <https://epiphanyanglican.net/events/>
 Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/epiphany.anglican>
 YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/EpiphanyVideo>

