

## What Comes First? – Alpha



Over the last few months, I have been thrilled to see Epiphany's first Alpha Course in a number of years come together. Fred Apelquist and Gin Edmunds, who are leading this effort for us, are doing a great job making sure that starting at 6pm on March 29, we are ready to go. I also know many others at Epiphany have volunteered to be table leaders, or help with the meals.

If you are not familiar with Alpha, here is a simple description: Alpha is a series of sessions exploring the basics of the Christian faith. Typically run over eleven weeks, each session looks at a different question that people can have about faith and is designed to create conversation. It's just an open, informal and honest space to explore and discuss life's big questions together. (taken from [www.alphausa.org](http://www.alphausa.org)). Alpha was pioneered and developed by Holy Trinity, an Anglican Church in Brompton, U.K. Sessions are led by Nicky Gumbel, an Anglican priest and minister at Holy Trinity.

We are offering Alpha at Epiphany again because I am convinced that our growing edge in discipleship at Epiphany is evangelism. Or to put it another way, part of each of us growing in our faith needs to be sharing our faith with other people.

And that brings to mind the one thing we still need this spring for Alpha at Epiphany to reach it's full potential. We need to invite people to attend, particularly people that are curious about what Christianity is, or have questions about God.

My guess is that we all know some people in this place. I also suspect that the idea of actually inviting them to attend something at church can be a bit intimidating.

To help with that, Mtr. Pamela, will be meeting with anyone who is interested in learning about how to invite people to Alpha 20 minutes after the 10 am service ends on March 6 and March 20. Through her work with Intervarsity Christian Fellowship, and also her more-than-a-decade of experience as a missionary in Turkey, connecting with people who are curious about the gospel and inviting them to take a step toward learning more is something Mtr. Pamela has great experience in. If you would like to be better prepared to invite people to learn about Jesus,

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## Opportunities for Baptism at Epiphany in April and June

Epiphany will be celebrating the rite of Baptism two times in the next several months.

Our first baptismal service will be the Sunday immediately following Easter, April 3. The Easter season is always a particularly joyful time to baptize new members of God's family. Our second baptismal service will be June 12.

Baptism at Epiphany is a sacrament, that is "an outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual grace." We baptize infants and young children at Epiphany clear in the belief that God does the greatest work in baptism, just like he does in each of us. Baptism is also a time for parents and godparents of infants and young children to publicly make their commitment to raise their children in the Christian faith and in the church. We baptize older children and adults who are able to make these commitments for themselves.

If you, or a family member would like to be baptized, please talk with Fr. Peter ([pfrank@epiphanyanglican.net](mailto:pfrank@epiphanyanglican.net)).



There will be two baptism services at Epiphany in the next few months.

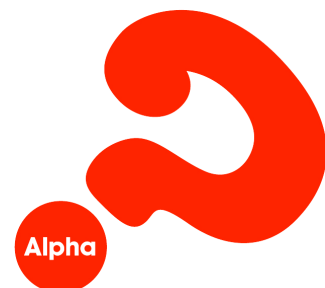


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please consider attending one of these meetings.

God is growing us as a church, and part of that helping us learn how to speak of Jesus to those that haven't heard of him, or don't know him personally. I'm excited about Alpha at Epiphany and hope you are as well.

God bless,



## Inviting for Alpha



By now you should be aware that we are gearing up for Alpha and the fun thing about Alpha is thinking more intentionally about our friends and acquaintances. The purpose of my column is to jog your heart and memory to think of people you could invite to Alpha. Facebook and LinkedIn contacts are a natural place to go. But have you thought about: extended family, past neighbors, school friends, service contacts, or employment contacts? Why not pull out your Christmas card list and old-fashioned address book? Think about people with whom you have pursued hobbies or sports in addition to the contacts you have through your children.

Next, prepare your words, taking into account some friends will need one approach and others will need a different one. In particular you want to feel comfortable enough with the words you will use that it does not sound strange coming out of your mouth! You could even start by saying that you have no idea where a person may stand in their relationship with God, but that having a low-key opportunity to talk around a table about things of faith would be an intriguing way to spend an evening. Talk up the fact that dinner is provided and that we are providing both nursery care and a fun children's event. You could mention that our church is not a traditional looking churchy-feeling building and that the kids are all on the same level as the event. Make sure you mention that there is no obligation to attend every evening but that the table groups do stay the same throughout the time.

Finally consider how they might respond and be ready to say the appropriate thing. I know it sounds funny, but often we carefully think about our entrance invitation but not how to respond to a less than enthusiastic response. Most people will need time to think about it. Be ready to negotiate how and when you might follow up. Leaving it open ended is not terribly effective so people might appreciate something like, "Sure I understand you want to consider this. How about we talk about it again in a week?" If you agree to talk again, make sure you initiate the conversation in the time you agreed upon. Most people will appreciate you helping them to come to a decision, even if they have forgotten all about it.

Consider multiple ways to communicate and invite, knowing that a personal face-to-face is the most effective. Nevertheless, we don't want to ignore the folks we won't see in person. Consider messaging friends and then finding out a time that you can talk by phone. Certainly, an email is possible, but frankly, we know how overwhelming our inboxes can get. The more personal we can make the invitation, the better. Most importantly, pray about the list you will make and how to best reach them. When you do make contact, do all you can to affirm your friendship and relationship. I know this advice is not at all necessary for some of you extraverted people, but not everyone is a natural speaker. Planning and thinking ahead can take the anxiety out of stepping into an uncomfortable situation.

Well, this has been fun thinking through the process of inviting. Let me know how it goes!

*Pamela*

## Missions Update

Epiphany supports Daniel and Myriam Liberek, who minister in Belgium. A year ago Daniel preached to us about his life's work.

Like most Western European countries, Belgium has seen church attendance (or at least Christian church attendance) dwindle in recent years. You also may have read that several of the Islamic terrorists who killed scores in Paris came from Belgium. We believe that Daniel's and Myriam's unflagging efforts to bring light to this part of the world remain critical. Here are excerpts from their most recent report:

Greetings Partners,

We asked you to pray and left you hanging. Sorry ! The foundational gathering of the *Community of Mentors* (under the auspices of the *Forum of the Evangelists*) took place February 5th and 6th. at a retreat center run by the Province of Liège in Belgium.



Eleven of us (we could not find a date that was acceptable to all those interested) gathered for an overnighter. We spent time in the Word, in prayer, and in fellowship. We majored on listening to each other and to the Lord. One participant observed that he had never been given close to an hour to share who he is and his life story. He had never felt so listened to. It was extremely encouraging to him and the rest of the group.



Each member had been asked to think about his/her life and map it out on a sheet of paper. Several commented on how helpful an exercise it had been. It was also enlightening to hear how each had gone through very difficult and testing times. But for God !!

The Community of Mentors for Belgium was launched and we all felt the closeness and experienced the bond that we believe are necessary if we are going to function as mentors to a new generation of evangelists. We first need to mentor each other (horizontal mentoring) in order to be able to function as mentors to a younger generation of leaders (vertical mentoring). Thank you for praying for this initial gathering of the Community of

Mentors. It is now our task to see what the next steps will be.

As you probably remember 2016 is the year for our Home Ministry. Dues to various factors it won't be possible for us to take 4 or 5 months to visit you, our partners. We are planning on making several shorter trips and to spread our visits over a longer period of time. Thank you for being patient. If you can't wait to see us you can always jump on a plane and drop in on us in Belgium :-)

As we press on we thank God upon every remembrance of YOU who have stand by us. It is great to have a team of partners like you.



## Holy Week and Easter at Epiphany - 2016

Walk the way of the cross and celebrate the resurrection at Church of the Epiphany, March 20-26.

**Palm Sunday:** Palm Sunday services will be at **8 am and 10 am**. Children will participate in the Palm Sunday procession with the congregation and then attend Sunday School. There is no Sunday School for 1-5th graders. Instead, we encourage children to sit with their families and do a craft that we provide.

**Maundy Thursday:** We will remember the Last Supper and Jesus' commandment that we "love one another" with worship, foot-washing and communion at **7:30 on Thursday, March 24th**. All Epiphany members are welcome to participate in the foot-washing ceremony.

**Good Friday:** This solemn service is at **noon and 7:30 pm on Friday, March 25th**.

**Prayer Vigil:** Epiphany will be keeping a prayer vigil in the chapel beginning at the conclusion of the evening Good Friday service through to the start of the Great Vigil of Easter on Saturday evening. For more information about participating in this time of watchful prayer, contact Mr. Brad Johnson ([bravhorn22@aol.com](mailto:bravhorn22@aol.com)).

**Great Vigil of Easter:** Epiphany begins our Easter celebrations with the Great Vigil of Easter service at **7:00 pm on Saturday, March 26**. This musical and traditional service tells the story of salvation and joyfully welcomes the beginning of the Easter season.

**Easter Sunday:** Easter worship at Epiphany is at **10 am on March 27th**. Join us for this glorious and joyful service. There is no Sunday School for 1-5th graders. Instead, we encourage children to sit with their families and do a craft that we provide. There is no 8 am service on Easter Sunday.

**A note about daily services during Holy Week.** Epiphany's daily worship services will continue on a limited schedule during Holy Week. There will not be a Morning Prayer service on Tuesday or Friday.



## Lutherans and Anglicans Together

*From the Rector: A couple of times each year I am away from Epiphany to take part in the Anglican Church in North America's ecumenical dialogue with the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod and the Lutheran Church - Canada. We recently completed a significant portion of this work, and published a report that outlines our shared faith, as well as areas of difference with our Lutheran brothers and sisters. The report below reflects on that work.*

Participants in the Anglican Church in North America (ACNA), The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS), and Lutheran Church—Canada's (LCC) ongoing ecumenical dialogue have released an interim report on their work so far. Entitled "On Closer Acquaintance," the document is the culmination of six years of regular discussions between the three church bodies, and highlights the discovery of significant doctrinal agreement between the Anglican and Lutheran participants.

The authors are clear that there is still much work to be done before altar and pulpit fellowship between the two sides would be possible. Nevertheless, they have found the discussions promising enough to publicly declare their prayer "that, in the time and manner of His choosing, our Lord would grant each side in our conversations to acknowledge our 'first cousin' to be in fact a true sister church, with the result that we would welcome each other wholeheartedly to our respective altars and enjoy the blessed situation in which our clergy and people would be interchangeable with each other as we stand under the grace of God and work for His kingdom."

In the meantime, they encourage all three church bodies to "consider the ways in which we can cooperate and come together in ways that fall short of full communion but do allow the greatest measure of cooperation while maintaining full theological integrity."

The report can be [downloaded here](#).

### Church leaders react

The leaders of the three churches welcomed the report warmly, reflecting on the growing relationship between confessional Anglicans and Lutherans.

"In a time when so many churches are departing from the teachings of the Bible, it has been refreshing to see the stand for Scriptural Truth that is being made by The Lutheran Church—



Members of the ecumenical dialogue team of the Anglican Church in North America, The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod, and the Lutheran Church – Canada, including our Archbishop, the Most. Rev. Foley Beach, and Epiphany's Rector, the Rev. Peter Frank, at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, on Feb. 8-9.

Missouri Synod and Lutheran Church–Canada,” said ACNA Archbishop Foley Beach. “We agree on the essentials of the Faith, and share a common desire to evangelize North America with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.”

The LCMS’ President Matthew Harrison had a similar perspective. “In these trying times for global Christianity, we were joyously surprised and deeply heartened to learn of ACNA and its struggle to be faithful to the New Testament and historic Christian faith,” he said. “By God’s grace we have found real friends who have encouraged us deeply. We have been inspired by the journey of these men and women out of a church body which had abandoned the New Testament. They have sacrificed greatly, virtually all of them losing the properties of their respective congregations due to the structure of the Episcopal Church. I pray that we would be so courageous facing such difficulties.”

LCC President Robert Bugbee praised the dialogue and the growing theological consensus between confessional Lutherans and Anglicans. “These discussions have been marked by great thoroughness and theological integrity,” he noted. “Nobody reached for easy compromises, nor did anyone paper over matters that needed to be fully worked through on the basis of God’s Word. Biblical Christians throughout North America face many pressures, not only with the secularization of our society, but also because of the doctrinal decay and revisionism in much of mainline Christianity. We thank the Lord for the commitment of our Anglican friends, and ask Him to use our witness to hold Christ the Saviour out to people all around us.”

All three leaders were present for the most recent round of dialogue between the

LCMS, ACNA, and LCC, held February 8-9 in St. Louis, Missouri. A major focus of the meeting was finalizing the report on the six-year dialogue so far.



## Evangelism Idea of the Month!



Ask God for names of 3 friends and pray and then invite them to join you at the first ALPHA dinner at Epiphany on Tuesday, March 29. Be sure to sign up yourself so we can plan wisely! Pray for this course to give light into the darkness, and joy to all who come.



# EVERYDAY EVANGELISM

## PRACTICAL EQUIPPING AND TRAINING

### COME LEARN TOGETHER

- ▶ What Gospel Are You Sharing? • SHAWN HART ◀
  - ▶ Tell Your Story • TOM TARRANTS ◀
- ▶ How to Share the Gospel • MICHAEL SUDERMAN ◀

Saturday, March 12

9:30 am – 3:00 pm

All Saint's Woodbridge · All Purpose Room  
14851 Gideon Dr · Woodbridge VA



Questions?  
Rev. Jay Baylor  
jaysbaylor@gmail.com





## Pentecost in the Park May 15

Mark your calendars. We will be returning to Frying Pan Park for congregational worship and a picnic under the shelter on Pentecost Sunday, May 15 at 10 am. Chad Young, a missionary we support as a church, will be preaching.



Pentecost in the Park will be at Frying Pan Park on May 15.

Pentecost in the Park is a tradition at Epiphany that began in 2012 when we were between permanent locations. The hotel in which we were holding Sunday services was not able to accommodate us one Sunday that May, and we ended up worshipping together at Frying Pan Park. We continue this tradition, not only because it's fun to be outside and eat a meal together, but because it reminds us both about how God has taken care of Church of the Epiphany and the past, and how our church is first and foremost a living body of people who follow Jesus together, and only secondly a piece of real estate.



## Joshua Committee Seeking Younger Member



This month the Joshua Committee has been re-energized to continue the discernment process of finding a permanent location for our church family. There are several members, whom we encourage you to seek out and discuss your ideas, concerns or opinions on this matter of location and building type. Tom Will, is the Chair for this committee, and Beth Monroe, Jan Welch and Catherine Zimmerman are standing members. We are currently looking for one additional member

to provide insight on this task from a younger generation's perspective. We would prefer someone in the 25-45 year old age group. If you are interested please contact Tom Will at (703) 489-0346 or email at [tsmdwill@gmail.com](mailto:tsmdwill@gmail.com).

Jesus Christ is the corner stone of our Church (Matthew 21:42) and wherever God leads us, He will remain our rock and salvation. Please join us in praying for wisdom and clarity; that we will hear and move forward as God calls and leads us in His plans for Church of the Epiphany.

### 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](mailto:star@epiphanyanglican.net)  
[candle@epiphanyanglican.net](mailto:candle@epiphanyanglican.net)  
[jcrawford@epiphanyanglican.net](mailto:jcrawford@epiphanyanglican.net) (for weekly bulletin)



**Deadlines:**  
**STAR: 21st of the month**  
**Bulletin: Monday, 8 AM**  
**Candle: Wednesday, 8 AM**

#### BIRTHDAYS

2	Sydney Kendrick	8	Diane Driscoll	20	Scott Boncher
3	Andrew Long	9	Sally McNeely		Liam Sutton
	Charlie Monroe		Tress Navarrete	22	Brad Johnson
4	CJ Easton	10	Faith Fisler	23	Megan Rhoads
	Don Monaghan		Christian Navarrete	26	Ellen Gross
5	Chris Beckley		Kathleen Simonds	27	Haiyan Croft
6	Ross Cummings	13	Paula Saddler	29	Gary Lawson
	Meagan Oliphant	14	William Turner	31	Laura Menzel
	Colin Zimmerman	17	Tammie Morris		
8	Clara Brukardt		David Schreiner		

#### WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

20	Courtney & Daniel Turner	22	Margaret & Merle Stromberg
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# Resources

Epiphany Staff	Email	Extension
The Rev. Peter Frank, Rector	pfrank@epiphanyanglican.net	104
The Rev. Pamela Meeks, Interim Associate Minister	pmeeks@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

## 2016 Vestry

David Bassert  
 Jan Coffee  
 Ann Guest  
 George Hamlin  
 Beth Monroe,  
 Barbara Noble  
 Andy Plummer  
 Bryan Saddler,  
 Dave Schreiner  
 Merle Stromberg  
 Carol Williams

## Vestry Officers

Senior Warden..... Merle Stromberg  
 Junior Warden ..... Andy Plummer  
 Registrar..... Ann Guest  
 Finance Committee Chairman.....Dennis McNeely  
 Treasurer ..... Tom Miller  
 Assistant Treasurer .....Charlie Monroe  
 Chancellor .....David Reed

## Intercessory Prayer Letter

Requests can now be submitted by email at a secure site,

[prayer-request@epiphanyanglican.net](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://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**

March		
5, 19	5:00 PM	Youth Connections
20	8: 00 AM, 10:00 AM	Palm Sunday Services
24	7:30 PM	Maundy Thursday Service
25	12:00 PM, 7:30 PM	Good Friday Services
26	7:00 PM	The Great Vigil of Easter
27	10:00 AM	Easter Services
29	6:00 PM	Alpha
April		
2, 30	5:00 PM	Youth Connections
5, 12, 19, 26	6:00 PM	Alpha
15, 16		Women's Retreat
15-17	 Date Change	Youth Retreat: Watermarks Camp
24		Stewardship Sunday
May		
3, 10, 17, 24, 31	6:00 PM	Alpha
14		Alpha - Day Away
15	10:00 AM	Pentecost in the Park

***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