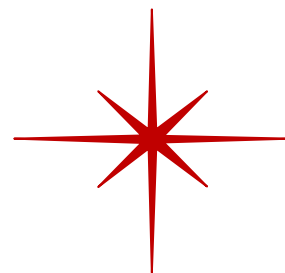




The STAR



December 2016

Announcing this Year's "Epiphany Gift!"



Last year we began a new Christmas tradition at Epiphany – giving a gift on behalf of our whole church as part of our Christmas Eve offering. This is an important way for us as a church to share some of God's great abundance with others.

Last year's Epiphany Gift went to purchase more than 800 books for students working on learning English just a few hundred yards away from our church over at Coates Elementary School.

This year, we will be working with another school, one of our church's mission partners, Uganda Christian University (<http://ucu.ac.ug/>) in Mukono, Uganda, to help 11 of their college students continue their education during the 2017 Spring semester instead of having to pull out of their programs because of a lack of funds.

The 11 students that we will be helping and their area's of study are: James (Public Administration), James (Development Studies), Anna (Governance & International Relations), Prossy (Education), Fiona (Business), Abraham (Education), Bathremew (Law), Ivan (Education), Ruth (Education), Esther (Law), and Mary (Law). Paying their outstanding expenses will cost about \$5,000.

As we do this, we are not just helping these individuals, but actually investing in the success and growth of the whole country of Uganda by helping it train that nation's leaders both as professionals in their fields and as committed Christians in their culture.

I am excited about this project and so glad that as part of the worldwide church we can make a difference in the futures of these 11 students. Participating in this year's Epiphany Gift easy. Simply attend one of our Christmas Eve services and give generously.

Special “Lessons and Carols” Service is December 18

Epiphany’s musicians and clergy will be offering a special “Lessons and Carols” service at 10am on Sunday, Dec. 18. This service, which includes many well known carols, and a short Gospel-centered sermon is a great one to invite friends and family to who may not otherwise be connected to a church. There is no celebration of the Eucharist at this service. There will be communion at the 8am service on Dec. 18.



Here 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.



What about that Stable? Is Our Christmas Tradition Right?

Some of you may have already noticed someone I quote from quite a bit: the late Kenneth Bailey (Th.D). I had the honor of meeting him while in seminary because of his deep connections with the Diocese of Pittsburgh and with Trinity School for Ministry. However, I am not normally enamored by all theologians I get a chance to meet in person. Dr. Bailey stands out. He spent 60 years (from 1935-1995) in the Middle East calling Egypt, Lebanon, Jerusalem and Cyprus his home. His knowledge of Syriac and Arabic writings and first-hand observation of village life in the Middle East compels me to pay attention to him. To top all that off, my own sojourn in Turkey makes Bailey's observations easy to follow because I experienced some of the cultural realities myself.



In his book Jesus Through Middle Eastern Eyes, Bailey points out some potential misconceptions we might have about the unfolding of the events surrounding Jesus' birth. First, since Joseph was returning to his home village where he would have deep roots, he would be able to find shelter for Mary. Middle Eastern culture dictates that Joseph would not be disrespected and be left bereft at such an important time in his life. We also really have no reason to believe that the holy couple barely made it to Bethlehem. Sure, that might be how we might stage it for dramatic presentations, but we don't actually know how long they were in Bethlehem before Jesus was born. Mary, also had relatives nearby, Elizabeth and Zechariah, who could have taken them in if need be. Bailey's compelling question is, "How could a Jewish town fail to help a young Jewish mother about to give birth" (p. 28)? Bailey makes the argument that the holy couple were almost certainly invited into a home (not an inn). What our modern ears are not accustomed to is the living arrangements. It was common for people to have only two rooms, one for guests and one for the family. At a lower level of the home (below the family level), the animals are housed at night to protect them from predators and thieves. The extra heat of the animals helps everyone stay warm as well. Often a home would have a built in feeding trough (a manger) at the end of the home where the animals were kept.

Now, you might ask, why bring this up at all? I have a love for stories and history. But when we tell a story that is historical, I hope what I am picturing is as historically accurate as possible. It is the same reason that 28 people from Epiphany are going to Israel early next year. In my own life, having a richer understanding of Scripture was one of the reasons I wanted to live in Turkey. So, I am not saying that our traditions are all wrong or that we need to now alter all of our nativity scenes. Instead, let's keep pressing in to know and explore the historical pieces of our fabulously rich heritage.

Pamela +

Prayer Retreat with Bishop John Guernsey



Mark your calendars. Bishop John Guernsey will be joining with leaders of Epiphany's prayer ministries to lead a retreat January 6-7 focused on prayer.

At Epiphany, one of the things we emphasize is "Encountering God through believing prayer." Bishop John's teaching will encourage us to do just that through personal, daily prayer and by learning how to pray together.



Meet Your New Vestry Members

New Vestry members, elected at the November 13th Annual Meeting are (L-R) Doug Greenwood, Debby Morris and Duncan Sutton. They will officially assume their positions in January, 2017. Departing Vestry members are Merle Stromberg, Senior Warden; Ann Guest, Registrar; Jan Coffee; and Barbara Noble. Bios for the newly elected members can be found in the [November edition of the STAR](#).



Bishop John Visiting Epiphany January 8

The Rt. Rev. John Guernsey will be making his yearly visit to Epiphany on Sunday, January 8. On this Sunday, Bishop John would be happy to formally receive individuals and families into the Anglican Church as well as pray over those who would like to reaffirm their faith. Please talk with Fr. Peter if you would like to learn more about either of these opportunities.



AED/CPR Training December 17th From 9:00 AM till Noon at Epiphany!

As many are aware, Epiphany now has an Automatic External Defibrillator (AED). We are encouraging all those interested in getting training to sign up. Meanwhile, Epiphany is offering an ESCI AED/CPR training class to the congregation in December. There is a \$14 fee to attend the class that is waived for Epiphany ushers and Sunday school teachers. Class size is limited to 12 students, and if you are interested and available to attend this class, please indicate your interest on the sign-up



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Epiphany 101 Class Begins Nov. 27

Are you new to Epiphany, or just curious about our church? Fr. Peter is offering a class titled “Epiphany 101” beginning on Nov. 27 from 9:10-9:50 in the chapel. The three-session class will provide a brief introduction to Anglican theology and history, as well as information about Epiphany itself.

Although already underway, please feel free to join the two remaining sessions.

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Year-End Giving At Epiphany

As you consider your year end giving, we would love to be part of your plans at Epiphany. There are two ways we would like to specifically encourage you to financially support Epiphany this December.

Through unrestricted gifts to our general operating fund. At Epiphany giving fluctuates month to month. While the end of the year is usually our strongest time of support, the beginning of a new year is usually our weakest. Strong giving in the holiday season helps us ride out the early months of the year without having to dip too deeply into our reserves.

By a designated gift to our relocation fund: Gifts to the relocation fund give us a head-start on fundraising for any future move. The current balance of this fund is a bit over \$100,000. We have made real progress, but also have further to go.

For giving to be counted as part of this year’s giving, it must be at the church, or postmarked by December 31. Remember, due to Christmas falling on a Sunday, we will not have a service on December 25 and the next Sunday will be January 1.

God continues to more than meet our needs as a church through your giving. We are grateful to Him, and to the congregation for this generosity.

*Pictures from Epiphany's first ever
Thanksgiving Eve service of
Prayer, Praise and Pie*



Christmas and New Year's At Epiphany Kids Drama and this Year's "Epiphany Gift"

This year, both Christmas and New Year's Day fall on Sunday. Epiphany will be celebrating the holiday with two Christmas Eve services, **but will not have services on Christmas Day**. We will worship at 8 and 10am as normal on New Year's Day.

Epiphany's **Christmas Eve** services this year will be at 5pm and 11pm. The 5pm service will be family-oriented. This year, for the first time, Epiphany's kids will be performing a short **Christmas drama** at the 5pm service. We pull out all the stops for the 11pm service, including candles, beautiful vestments, and a full compliment of Epiphany's musicians.

At both Christmas Eve services, we will be designating a portion of the offering for this year's "Epiphany Gift." Every year at Epiphany we make a point at as a church to celebrate Christmas not just by receiving, but by sharing what we have received with others in Christ's name. Last year, we helped our neighbors at Coates Elementary school by purchasing a library of more than 800 books to assist students learning to read. This year, we will be supporting our longtime mission partners at Uganda Christian University. Read Fr. Peter's column for details on this gift.



Joshua Committee Update

At Epiphany's annual meeting on Nov. 13, the Joshua Committee reported on the results of the congregational survey regarding facility wants and needs. It was clear from the 81 responses that Epiphany received that the large majority of those who filled out the survey thinks we should ultimately move to a better facility, but at the same time, to only do so when the time, finances, and new location are right. The committee has been at work to identify whether there are any facilities available now that combine a good location, appropriate costs, and the potential to be Epiphany's long-term home. Essentially, we are asking God and doing the legwork to answer the question, "Is this the right time?"



Our goal is to present the gathered information to the vestry in January 2017 for their prayerful consideration about whether or not to move forward this year, or to remain in our current location for the time-being. Once we have clarity about this, we will also report to the congregation. We have available to us two 3-year extensions of our current lease (six years total), giving us plenty of time to explore our options without the pressure of a mandatory move.

Please pray with us for God's clear direction as we gather this information and think together about what would best serve the long-term needs of Church of the Epiphany.

Missions Update: Daniel and Myriam Liberek

Epiphany is delighted to support Daniel and Myriam Liberek, who do evangelical multi-tasking by running churches in Belgium and supporting outreach in Africa. Here is a recent dispatch from Daniel on his efforts to sow the seeds of faith:

Sowing seeds ... waiting for others to water ... and God bring a harvest !

Greetings Partners,

It was about a year ago that we sponsored a showing of the film "Dr. Mukwege, the man who repairs women" in cooperation with the city and various organizations. This movie highlights the work and ministry of the doctor (who is also a pastor) who has treated, at the Panzi hospital, tens of thousands of women who have suffered rape and abuse in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Every year the white ribbon week is organized in Belgium (and beyond) to denounce violence against women and children. This year our city decided to double down on highlighting the work of Dr. Mukwege. Last night they organized a conference and invited Dr. Véronique De Keyzer who chairs an organization called "*Les enfants de Panzi et d'ailleurs* (The kids of Panzi and elsewhere)". I had a scheduling problem as the church had organized a day of prayer and fasting and a time of worship in the evening. I figured I should show up at the conference even if only for a few minutes. I told Myriam I was going to do an in-out job to show interest but would be back quickly to take part in the time of worship.

As I sat listening to the opening remarks of Professor De Keyzer (who, among many other things, taught in and chaired the psychology department of the University of Liège, was a member of the European parliament ...) I was baffled. I heard her talking about the atrocities committed against elderly women, mothers, teens and even infants. Human cruelty is almost unbelievable. I paid attention as she spoke of working alongside Dr. Mukwege and being astonished by his passion, his service, his resilience and his work. She said:



"... Plus athée que moi, tu meurs [French expression for: more atheist than me, you die]." However when I am there at Panzi I feel good... For it to work there is need of love. His holistic approach works. It is difficult to understand how young women who could no longer talk are helped and start singing and dancing [to the Lord]. One must respect his faith. It is the one thing that has helped him to start Panzi... When I look around I see all kinds of atrocities [in Syria, in Soudan, ...] and then there is Panzi. At times I just need to get back there to recover joy and be able to continue [the fight I am involved in].

Continued from page 10



I submitted a couple questions during the Q/A time asking her to comment, as a former member of the European Parliament, on the role of the former colonial powers and the U.N. After the close I went up to see her . Having visited Panzi last October it was easy for me to connect with her. However, witnessing is a bit different. Since she proclaimed loudly and clearly that she is an atheist I knew that I should not expect her to come to faith through a five minute conversation with a total stranger. However I also realize that God has a team it includes Dennis Mukwege, other staff members at Panzi ... and me :-)

I also understand that with very smart and educated people it is best to ask questions than try to explain things to them. That's what I did. I commented on her observation that there was unexplainable love at Panzi and asked where such love could come from. I planted a few seeds and, as I pray, trust that the Holy Spirit will lead others to water until a day of harvest. I also praise God for the ministry and life of my brother Dennis Mukwege ... he is a light shining in the darkness.

Thank you for allowing us to be here sharing his love. Thank you for praying and for being ... simply ... partners ! You were one of the reasons for our Thanksgiving !



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

BIRTHDAYS

1	Fay Cochran	5	Charlotte Camak	20	Michaela Turner
2	Janice Monaghan	6	Mason Sutton	22	Andy Baehr
3	Chris Johnson	7	Katie Miller	23	Jan Coffee
	Dan Johnson	13	John Murphy	26	Joel Monroe
	Will Schreiner	19	Michael Ellis	28	Annabelle Easton
5	Maria Murphy	20	Larry Davis	31	Marshall Cottingham

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

2	Lisa & Andy Baehr	28	Kathleen & Daniel Simonds
14	Krystal & Fred Apelquist	29	Margaret & Frank Donivan
20	Diane & Bob Driscoll		



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

9:00 AM

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday

12:15 PM

Wednesdays: Holy Communion

Resources

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

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>2016 Vestry</u></p> <p>David Bassert Jan Coffee (D) Ann Guest (D) George Hamlin Beth Monroe Barbara Noble (D) Andy Plummer Bryan Saddler Dave Schreiner Merle Stromberg (D) Carol Williams</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(D) - Departing Members</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Vestry Officers</u></p> <p>Senior Warden..... Merle Stromberg Junior Warden Andy Plummer Registrar..... Ann Guest Finance Committee Chairman.....Dennis McNeely Treasurer Tom Miller Assistant TreasurerCharlie Monroe ChancellorDavid 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.



<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

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

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

December		
3	1:00 PM	Santa's Store for Coates students
10	11:00 AM	Israel Pilgrimage Meeting
11	6:00 PM	Jr. Connections
11	6:45 PM	Youth Connections
13	7:00 PM	Vestry Meeting
18	6:00 PM	Youth Group Party
24	5:00 PM & 11:00 PM	Christmas Eve Services
25	NO SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE	
26-30	Office Closed	Christmas & New Years Holiday
January		
2		Office Closed
6-8		Bishop John Visitation
8, 22	6:00 PM	Junior Connections
8, 22	6:45 PM	Youth Connections
10	7:00 PM	Vestry Meeting
17	8:00 PM	Ask Me Anything!
21	All Day	Prayer Corner Annual Meeting
February		
5, 19	6:00 PM	Junior Connections
5, 19	6:45 PM	Youth Connections
14	7:00 PM	Vestry Meeting
26	5:00 PM	Chili cook-off and concert