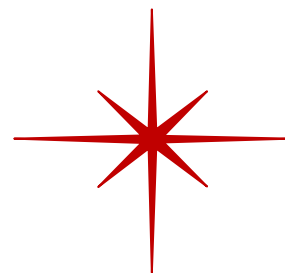




The STAR

February 2018



God Is Building the House

As I write this, it's been about a month since we began our transition to Epiphany's long term home. So much has happened in the last month. Starting the week after Christmas, dozens of us (and three rental trucks) moved Epiphany's worldly possessions out of our old location on Dulles Technology Drive. We had our final service, and remembered all that God did for us and with us there on December 31. Then, beginning on January 4, we started painting our new church. On January 7, we welcomed Bishop John to our temporary worship location at Greenbriar West Elementary School. Since then, we continue to worship together in the Greenbriar cafeteria, and make progress finishing our new church.



I couldn't begin to thank each of the dozens of people who have been part of the past month's work, so let me thank everyone all at once. Thank you. It's clear to me that not only are we making this transition with God, we are making it as a church family. It is so amazing to see how God has called us together in this transition time. That said, this isn't just a time for us to get through, but a time that we can grow through. That is exactly what I see God doing with Epiphany right now.

Growing in Worship: It may seem strange to think we are growing in worship when we don't have a permanent sanctuary, but that is exactly what I see God doing. Worshipping in a temporary setting, a public school cafeteria no less, has been a great reminder to me, and from what I have heard, to many of us at Epiphany, that the most important part of our worship isn't the setting, or the amenities, but God. I think that's a great thing for us to be reminded of, and see in action, just before we move into our beautiful new church home.

Growing Together: As I said, I couldn't count if I tried all the people who have helped in some way over the last month. This is great. Church is not meant to a sort of consumer good we purchase when we feel a need for it, but a community of Christians who worship and work together for the common good. Epiphany has always "worked" because of the time, talent and treasure its members generously give, but building our new home has helped us take that to a new level. I'm convinced God will use the way we have grown together in powerful ways in the years ahead.

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

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Growing Out: Changing our routine as a church is bringing us into contact with people who never would have found us if nothing had changed. My favorite moment so far came when I checked in with the maintenance staff person at Greenbriar West after our first service there. I asked how we did and if there was anything she needed from us. She said there was one thing. To be honest, I wondered what we did wrong. But that wasn't it at all. Her one thing was to ask if it would be okay if she worshipped with us next time she was working on Sunday.

Friends, God is doing great things with us during this time, don't miss it.

God is building the house.

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This Year's Epiphany Gift Delivered

On January 17, Fr. Peter delivered this year's Epiphany gift of \$2,000 to Coates Elementary School. The Epiphany Gift, taken from our Christmas Eve offering, is a way that we give back to our community or offer support to missionary work each Christmas season. This year's Epiphany gift will go toward refurbishing and re-equipping the teacher team room at Coates Elementary School in Herndon. The room, which is used more than a dozen times a week by teacher teams at Coates, helps teachers plan and work together more effectively.



Coates Elementary School Principal Jesse Kraft in the teacher team room that will be refurbished through this year's Epiphany gift.

Christianity Is Actually Growing Stronger



How many of you have heard the idea that religion and its influence on public life is declining faster and faster every year? Have you felt afraid for our society and for the future of the church, wondering how we might reach the next generation? Well some researchers at Harvard have taken this assumption and looked a little more closely.

While it seems to be true that faith is declining for other industrialized nations, it is not true for the United States. Indeed, there are some people who are publicly acknowledging that they are no longer affiliated with a religion. Those folks even have a trendy new title: the NONES. “But whether or not religiosity is declining comes down primarily to what *kind* of faith one is talking about. Not the belief system itself, per se, but the intensity and seriousness with which people hold and practice that faith.” Those who were always moderate in their beliefs are leaving that faith behind and saying they are no longer following the faith. But those who have always been intense and serious about their faith are just as numerous and even growing in numbers.

I think there is room for encouragement and challenge here. The encouragement is that folks who used to be somewhat luke-warm in their faith are actually admitting it to people. The pretending is gone. Folks are more free to say what they really think and I think that honesty is a better place to offer a challenge. Some folks are moving away from the church, but the kind of church they are moving away from, is the not kind of church we are. We at Epiphany are folks who have paid the price for our loyalty to the faith once delivered and we are calling folks to serious discipleship. We are not encouraging people to explore their own kind of religious experience, regardless of its direction. No, we call one another to the radical step of following our Lord Jesus, even against the prevailing winds of “Let’s just water down our beliefs so we can all get-along with one another.”

At Epiphany, we have taken our call to submit under the authority of Scripture as serious. We might have unpopular views, according to the outside world, but we are not interested in a popularity contest. We are more interested in being found faithful by the one cares not for accolades of the world. We only want to hear the kudos from the Father. So be encouraged Epiphany that not only are we not alone, but the future of God’s church is solid. “And on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it” (Matthew 16:18).

<http://thefederalist.com/2018/01/22/new-harvard-research-says-u-s-christianity-not-shrinking-growing-stronger/>

Epiphany's Move in Panoramic Photos

This December and early January, Epiphany began its transition to our long-term home. Doing so took the hard work of dozens of church members, and a flexible and committed congregation. We're grateful for all God has done as we began this adventure together!



Dozens of volunteers packed up Epiphany at our Dulles Technology Drive location during the last week of December.



Before the last truck pulled away after our final service, a small group gathered with Fr. Peter to formally secularize our space, thanking God for the use of it, and acknowledging that it is no longer an Anglican church.

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On January 7, Epiphany prepared for its first service at Greenbriar West Elementary School in Chantilly.



Bishop John made his annual visit to Epiphany as we worshipped together for the first time at Greenbriar West Elementary School.

Epiphany Paints the Church Red (and Blue, and Green)

Epiphany came together to do most of the painting in our new church the week of January 7-14. People under 10 and over 80 participated. Through a generous donation, painting teams were able to enjoy lunch together every day. At this point, there are just three rooms left to paint. We will work together as a church family to paint those as well once our contractor gives us the go-ahead to proceed.

Wyndy Frederick painting in the choir and bell choir practice room.



Patti Schaf and Jan Coffee work in the entryway at our new church.



Géraldine (L) and Els Smits (R) and Margaret and Merle Stromberg painted the sacristy.



Work Moves Ahead at Centerview Drive

Work continues to finish our new location at Centerview Drive. At this point, work on the church interior is focusing on the installation of audio visual wiring and equipment, painting, and finishing the electrical installation. We are waiting for the Fairfax County Fire Marshal to confirm that our fire suppression system is installed correctly. Once we have that confirmation, we will be able to finish the installation of the remainder of the ceiling and begin installing carpeting and other flooring surfaces throughout the church.



Ross Cummings, Jim Humenik and Ralph Morris have been working together to install the cabling for our audio visual system.



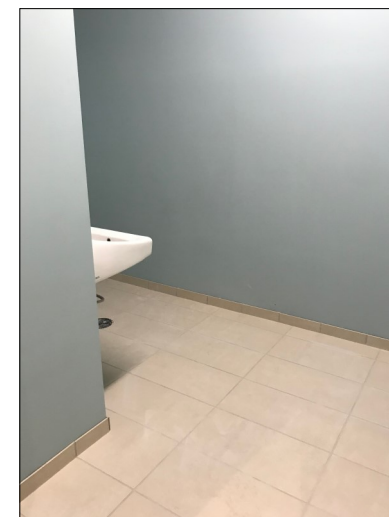
The Fellowship Hall's two-tone paint and wood accents (such as the chair rail) are nearly complete.



Kitchen (seen here), sacristy, front desk, and fellowship hall countertops and cabinets have been installed.



Flooring is able to go in at a few smaller spaces, here is the new tile in the family bathroom which is located directly off the fellowship hall.



Missions Update

Honoring the command in Matthew 28 to make disciples of all nations, Epiphany supports missionaries who toil both near and far. Attached is a report discussing one missionary's efforts in Turkey:

Encouragement from Eastern Turkey

Laughter and rapid banter as well as the aroma of freshly baked Turkish bread fill the kitchen amidst intermittent discussions of Scripture. Gokhan (all names are pseudonyms), a middle-school teacher, was recently baptized. Now, the weeks are exhausting him as he commutes two hours to attend discipleship classes twice a week. He brings his obedient and uncomplicated faith in Christ to school. This morning, he and his wife gave up cigarettes.

AFM National Partner Ezra exhorts Gokhan and other new believers to clearly communicate their decision to follow Christ with their families. Although declaring their new allegiance often results in intense initial persecution, a clear stand ultimately helps their families adjust to their newly found faith and it helps the new disciples to better love and honor their families. A loving and encouraging Christian community is also crucial to supporting new believers during this often painful and difficult transition. Ezra and his wife Buket excel at encouragement!

Later that day at a newly renovated church building, a Muslim drops in, asking informed and thoughtful questions. Even though he feared what other Muslims might think, God has been working in his life.

On another day, Ezra and Buket encourage a Syrian refugee family who has recently been granted refugee status in Europe. The mom felt uneasy about leaving her mom and nervous about the many unknowns for their children. Her anxiety had stressed her marriage. Ezra and Buket loved-on, listened, and encouraged this couple. When the couple left that day, joy and peace returned to their house. Five days later infectious smiles were still on their face, a sign that the encouragement had stuck.

Sunday morning was exciting when 20 Muslims, who arrived 15 minutes before the service started, began asking so many questions that we had to delay church by ten minutes! How many churches delay services because crowds of Muslims are asking questions about the Gospel? What a privilege to see God move in Eastern Turkey!

Epiphany's Vestry Leadership for 2018

During 2018, Fr. Peter has appointed Beth Monroe to serve as Epiphany's senior warden. Under Epiphany's bylaws, the senior warden is appointed by the rector from among vestry members. The Junior warden and registrar are elected by the vestry. For 2018, the vestry has elected Mark Oliphant to serve as Epiphany's junior warden, and Amie Boncher to serve as Epiphany's treasurer. The vestry also confirmed that Debby Morris will continue as Epiphany's small group coordinator, and David Schreiner is continuing as head of our benevolence ministry.


Epiphany's vestry members are: Class of 2018 - Beth Monroe, Bryan Saddler, David Scheiner and David Bassert, Class of 2019 - Doug Greenwood, Debby Morris and Duncan Sutton, Class of 2020 - Amie Boncher, Sally O'Brien McNeely, and Mark Oliphant. Epiphany's vestry meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 7:00pm.



Vestry's Senior Warden Beth Monroe and Junior Warden Mark Oliphant.

JANUARY

BIRTHDAYS

1	Bethany McKenica	13	Patricia Stachew	23	Christopher Frost
2	Maria Luisa Torabi	14	Abigail Sutton	24	Nolan Hanger
4	Teagan Merrill	16	Daniel Baecht	25	Nancy Vander Voort
6	Linda Boggs	17	Ryan Ellis	27	Susan Rayo-Jones
10	Frrances Miller		Pamela Meeks	28	Wyndy Fredrick
11	James Boggs	18	Joanne Harp	30	Maggie McNeely
	Care Murphy	19	Brittney Marcum		
	Duncan Sutton		Ellie Dial		
	Jessica Francis	22	Sandy Stoddard		

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

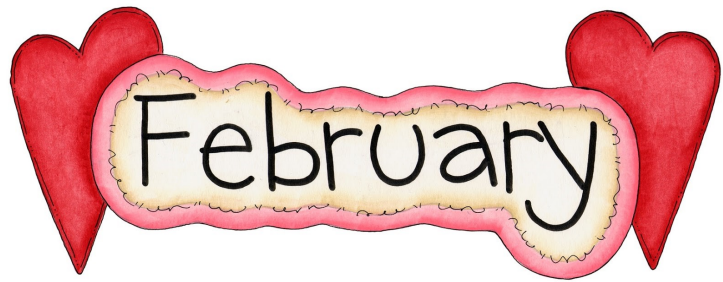


2	Jan & Gordon Coffee	18	Shahmala Kamalanthan & Ragu Nadarajah
3	Barbara & Mark Oliphant	20	Linda & James Boggs
4	Andrea & Peter Frank	24	Debbie & Ted Hanager



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.*



BIRTHDAYS

1	Lyn Adams	9	Bethany Hait	16	Cynthia Aungst
	Julie Kesterson		Larry Pantzer	17	Nancy Knight
2	Doug Greenwood		Laurie Rash	22	Ragu Nadarajah
	Tim Stromberg	10	Thomas Cummings		Jim Wolfe
3	Brody Hanger		Patricia Meyer	24	Pat Schreiner
6	Victoria Monroe	11	Jeffrey Rhoads	26	Samuel Phillips
7	James Derrick	14	Alyssa Noble	27	Molly Carey Frost
	Barbara Noble		Faith Turner		Jonathan Meeks
8	Thabie Melvin		Joy Vaughan		Helen Norton



WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

14	Maggie & Ran Cottingham	14	Molly Carey & Christopher Frost
18	Beth & Charlie Monroe	18	Debby & Ralph Morris

Worship Schedule

Sundays
10:00 AM
Eucharist & Healing
Greenbriar West Elementary School
13300 Poplar Tree Rd, Fairfax, VA 22033

Resources

Epiphany Staff	Email
The Rev. Peter Frank, Rector	pfrank@epiphanyanglican.net
The Rev. Pamela Meeks, Associate Rector	pmeeks@epiphanyanglican.net
The Rev. David Welch, Parish Deacon	dwelch@epiphanyanglican.net
Jimmy Crawford, Music Director	jcrawford@epiphanyanglican.net
Janice Monaghan, Financial Director	jmonaghan@epiphanyanglican.net

2018 Vestry

David Bassert
Amie Boncher
Doug Greenwood
Sally McNeely
Beth Monroe
Debby Morris
Mark Oliphant
Bryan Saddler
Dave Schreiner
Duncan Sutton

Vestry Officers

Senior Warden.....Beth Monroe
Junior Warden..... Mark Oliphant
RegistrarAmie Boncher
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

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.

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



3863 Centerview Drive, Suite 100
 Chantilly, Virginia 20151
 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

February

4, 11, 18, 25	10 AM	Holy Eucharist - Greenbriar West ES
4,	6:30 PM	Youth Connections Super Bowl - TBD
5, 12, 19, 28	10 AM - 12	Staff at Chantilly Library
10	10 AM	Band of Brothers - Arbor Terrace
13	7 PM	Vestry
18	6 PM	Youth Connections - TBD
25	2 PM	Holy Eucharist at Arbor Terrace

March

2	10 AM	Journaling at Melanie Miller's Home
4, 11, 18, 25	10 AM	Holy Eucharist
4,	6 PM	Youth Connections - TBD
5, 12, 19, 28	10 AM - 12	Staff at Chantilly Library
10	10 AM	Band of Brothers - Arbor Terrace
13	7 PM	Vestry
18	6 PM	Youth Connections - TBD
25	2 PM	Holy Eucharist at Arbor Terrace

To get your ministry's event on the calendar,
 contact Jimmy Crawford
jcrawford@epiphanyanglican.net