

## The Purpose of “Christian Character”



This past May, I asked Epiphany’s junior warden, Catherine Zimmerman, about what might be a good topic for Epiphany’s summer discipleship series. She suggested I teach on “Christian Character.”

To be blunt, this is probably not an idea I would have come up with on my own. I have two suspicions when people start talking about “Christian Character.” One suspicion is that talking about how people should behave toward God and each other will replace talking about Jesus, and how his death and resurrection save us in spite of how we behave toward God and each other. My second suspicion is that character conversations tend to mostly focus on how other people behave, instead of how we behave.

But, there is nothing like a deadline to focus the mind, and I realized Christian character wasn’t something I had thought about a lot. So I bought some books, read some Scripture and decided to press forward. I am glad I did.

What I saw more clearly than I had before was that what the Bible teaches us about Christian character is the map, so to speak, of who God made us to be and a picture of who God is by nature. In fact, it is actually God’s love that we are seeing just the littlest bit of when we, or someone else we know, live out Jesus’ command to “*Love your neighbor as yourself*” (Matthew 22:36-40). In the same way, we are seeing just the smallest hint of God’s mercy at work in the world when we, or someone else, practice the virtue of mercy in our day-to-day lives.

It is so exciting to see that these character traits are real in us because they show us that God is real and we are made in his image. It is exciting to see that at the end of the day, we aren’t just animals jockeying for enough to eat and a good shot at passing on our genes to the next generation, but actual created beings of a good God. By studying character and virtue we see that we love, we give, we tell the truth, and 1,000 other things not because it does us any evolutionary good at all, but because we were made to be that way by God.

So character and virtue don’t save us, Jesus does. Character and virtue also aren’t great tools for

*Continued on page 2*

judgment aimed at other people (Matthew 7.3-5). Those two things are, to quote Martin Luther, “most certainly true.” But character and virtue do have this unique ability to show us that God’s image, obscured as it so often is by sin, is indeed present in us, and in other people. That’s a great, God-revealing, gift, in and of itself. I’ve enjoyed learning more about it this summer.

God Bless,



P.S. If you missed this summer’s teaching series, all four sessions, as well as previous teaching series are now available online. (<https://goo.gl/5sGVe0>)



July 5, 2015

My Dear Epiphany Family,

Words cannot express my thanks and appreciation to all at Epiphany for all that you did to honor Ken and celebrate his life. The Service and reception were amazing. It is sad to think of my returning to Epiphany under such sad circumstances and yet I had a comforting feeling of coming home. My family expressed you made an extremely painful and difficult situation bearable. My sister felt so welcomed and shared with me that as soon as she entered the church she felt the family was surrounded by people who showered us with compassion and love. I cannot express enough the gift you gave all of us. You enabled us to celebrate Ken’s life and his love for God as well as giving us a safe and peaceful place where we could say goodbye. You are all very special and I am so thankful for Epiphany.

Gods Blessings to you all,





If “doing evangelism” is not in your comfort zone but you want to be part of fulfilling the Great Commission, this month is speaking to you. You can help finance a group or individual who is exceptional at “doing evangelism”. Here is a list of some who are on the forefront of spreading the gospel.

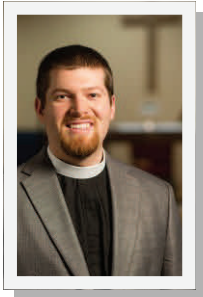
- Prison Fellowship, PO box 1550, Merrifield, VA, 22116. “I was in prison and you came to visit me”
- Two missionaries for Campus Crusade (write check out to CRU) because “we will tell the next generation” Psalm 78:4.
  - Maggie McNeely, 47506 Tilden Ct., Sterling, VA, 20165
  - Chad Young , 1534 Haven Crest Dr. , Powder Springs , GA, 30127
- Compassion International, phone 1-800-336-7676 to sponsor a child. “Let the little children come to me.” Mt. 19:14
- Billy Graham Evangelistic Assoc. 1 Billy Graham Pkwy, Charlotte, NC, 28201. “How can they hear without someone preaching to them?” Rom. 10:14.

Thank you for your support!



## God Shows His Love to Us

**1 John 4:9** *This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him.*



What is “love”?

In a culture that uses the same word to describe the relationship one has with a spouse and the relationship one has with the flavor chocolate, it can be a confusing question.

I am not trying to give a complete answer to the question here, but I offer an observation. 1 John 4:9 says explicitly something that numerous passages in the Bible indicate: that God routinely *displays* his love for us. God’s love for us is clearly shown

- in his work in creating us
- in calling Abraham to be the father of God’s chosen people
- in guiding us with his Holy Spirit
- in adopting us as his beloved children
- and ultimately in sending Jesus so that we might live through him

God’s love is active; it is powerful. God wonderfully displays his love for us in many ways, and ultimately his immense love is shown in Jesus Christ. In Christ God himself becomes a man, lives, teaches, heals, suffers, dies, and rises to life again. In Christ eternal life is available to those who turn to him in faith.

This is the wonderful message that the precious children will hear at Epiphany Sports Camp next week (August 3-7). Many will hear for the first time about the love of God displayed in his work in the world and ultimately in Jesus himself. So join in and pray with me that God’s love would be powerfully shown among these children—the wonderful truth that God “*sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him.*”

*Michael*



July 2015

Dear Epiphany Family,

We cannot thank you enough for all that you did to help us Celebrate Scott's life. We were overwhelmed by your generous spirit to help us move this celebration to Vienna Presbyterian Church (strictly due to the number of people attending). It was a monumental task. Merle and Margaret Stromberg spent so many hours figuring out all the logistics, and then making it happen. Brad's French horn, the Chime Choir, the Adult Choir, Jimmy on the organ, Father Peter and Father Michael who led the service, those bringing remembrances of Scott, and the bagpiper ending with Amazing Grace made it perfect. The reception was breath-taking and a huge thank you to Linda Bassert who created the most beautiful reception and to so very many of you who contributed time and food to make those tables overflowing.

Many from the Vestry, along with Peter, came on very little notice in response to James 5:14 and anointed Scott and prayed over him late one night in the hospital. Father Peter walked beside us through those dark days in the hospital, came at a minutes notice several times, and walked with us the day Scott passed into glory and for many days after that. He was so kind and patient with us as we worked our way through those difficult days of planning. We were and are so grateful.

My hearts desire for this Celebration of Life was for God to be glorified and Scott to be honored. Three churches (Vienna Presbyterian Church, Church of the Free (Rick's church), and Church of the Epiphany) came and worked together beautifully. And then, you all came to help us honor Scott, a very loving, gentle spirit who loved the Lord with all his heart.

We are so blessed to be a part of this Epiphany Family. Thank you so much.

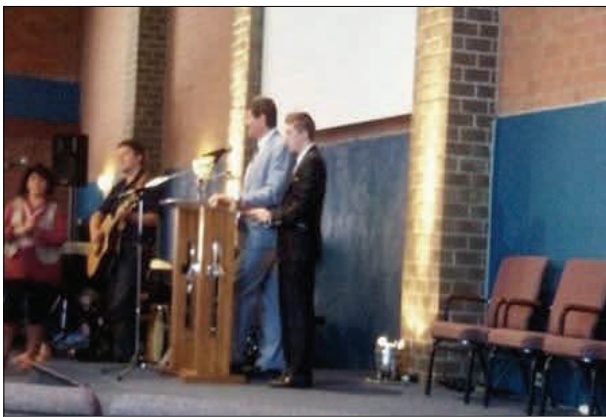
Jan, Brian, Rick and Melissa Reiter

## Missions Update

While most of Europe's attention is focused on Greece, two missionaries supported by Epiphany, Daniel and Myriam Liberek, toil in their church in Belgium, trying to spread Christianity in an increasingly indifferent, if not hostile, environment. Daniel preached to us last winter, bringing his appealing combination of inspiration and humor. Here are excerpts from Daniel's most recent report:

Greetings Partners,

Last Sunday [June 10, 2015] was father's day in Belgium. I had scheduled our son Timothy (first year at Bible School) to lead the worship service for the first time. He did well. I loved ministering as father and son tandem on Father's day. Others loved it too as someone posted this picture on Facebook.



*"De père en fils !!! (From father to son !!!)  
Le seigneur nous bénis !!! (The lord blesses us !!!)"*

I had planned on having Victor, my father-in-law, lead communion in order to have three generations involved in the service but, with my mother-in-law, Marie, extremely unwell, he was in no condition to do so and I replaced him.

Just before I left for the retreat we hosted the young adults from "Nuances", a day center for handicapped adults. We hosted a breakfast fundraiser late May. It was encouraging to see them singing and doing a choreography and to hear how the Gospel was touching their lives and is having a lasting impact on them and on their families. You can see

them interpreting a song by clicking the following link. [HERE](#)

What's on our plate for the coming weeks ? This coming Sunday, Daniel will baptize six new believers. The service will also provide a chance to share the Gospel with some of their family members. In the afternoon we'll be involved in a wedding ceremony which will present us with a great chance to share the Gospel with many unbelievers. Late afternoon we'll celebrate Samiel's first birthday with the family. In the next few days Daniel needs to take the first steps to launch the Mentoring community for evangelists in Belgium. Obviously we'll also keep providing support to Myriam's mother and father.

As we press on we thank God upon every remembrance of you, our faithful partners, who have stood and are standing by us. It is great to have a team of partners like you.



## How A 30 Minute Sitcom Changed My Life

**During the dark ages before DVRs, my wife and I arranged our weekly schedule around a sitcom. It was not easy. Amateur parents, we were learning how to care for our first newborn.**

I had a demanding job. My wife ran a start-up business. We had parish and family obligations. Yet somehow, every Thursday at 7pm, sitting on a scratchy second-hand, tan-colored couch, we managed to watch the Simpsons.

One Thursday night in 1993, God struck us with the absurdity of our faithfulness to a television show, and changed our priorities. From then on we would use those 30 minutes for a better purpose.

But what could we do? We had hardly any ministry experience and no special skills. Our parish had no outreach ministry to join. We had limited resources. We thought we had little to offer. All that we had was ourselves and our baby.

Then I remembered. When I was a young boy, once a week for two years, my mother wrestled my four younger siblings and me to an assisted living community. God deposited something that lasted. I learned old ladies in wheelchairs do not run away. And even if they tried, we could outrun them.



### Meeting Ruby

A Christian caregiver told my wife and I [sic] about a woman named Ruby, and God called us to visit. Institutionalized her whole life, she was a ward of the state. Many people labeled her “slow” because she struggled. To them, mental disability and frailty defined her.

I remember her crying in the white emptiness of an assisted living community hallway, despairing. “I miss my church,” she sobbed. For many years, her lifelong church picked her up each Sunday morning and enabled her to worship. But she became incontinent and soiled the church’s new carpet. The bus stopped coming. For years, nobody came. Never. Still, every Sunday Ruby waited by the door, tears searing her cheeks. God saw Ruby in her distress, and God remembers the brokenhearted.

My wife and I brought our baby each week, and over time Ruby became dear to us. Throughout our friendship, she shared a rare depth of wisdom wrought through eight decades of hardship. Eventually more people from our Dayton, Ohio parish and community heeded God’s call, joined us, and a congregation soon sprouted. Its first member, Ruby, declared joyfully “This is my church,” and before she died she ushered many into heaven. Ruby sparkled in unwavering kindness to everyone, always with a joyful heart and a wry smile. She remembered visitors’ names, prayed aloud for them, and made sure everybody knew about Jesus.

We didn’t know it then, but today we recognize that the need in assisted living communities is both massive and growing. America’s 16,000 assisted living communities contain almost a million people. Shortly, millions more will join them. 4 out of every 5 assisted living community residents did not receive a visitor in the last year. 3 out of 5 will never receive a visitor. Not one.

People in assisted living communities need not remain neglected. In Dayton, Ohio, for example, two

## BACKPACKS AGAIN!

BACKPACK UPDATE: We are making great progress with the backpack collection and already have 21 backpacks in hand! Our commitment is to deliver 50 backpacks to Liberty Middle School. We still have 3 Sundays left to reach our goal by the deadline of August 16th.

A BIG thank you to all who have and *will* contribute to the success of this ministry.”

**THANK YOU SO MUCH and GOD BLESS YOU.** If you have any questions, please call me, Sheila Mentzer @ 703-860-4377 or 571-271-9689 (my cell) or you can email me at [escapade13@msn.com](mailto:escapade13@msn.com).



Continued from page 4

parishes in the Diocese of the Central States (REC), Christ the King and Christ our Hope, support St. Lazarus Mission. They inject the energy and enthusiasm of their younger generations into that assisted living community and receive the distilled life lessons and wisdom of the seasoned saints they touch. St. Lazarus Mission's work is to hold out the hands of Christ to the least, lonely, labeled and lost.

We administer the sacraments. We preach the Word of God. We teach the Scriptures. We comfort the wounded, the sick, and the dying. In this environment, God molds leaders, lay and ordained, and people come to Christ for the first time.

Any parish can adopt an assisted living community. It requires few resources and merely a handful of willing souls. The seeds of a congregation have already been planted in every assisted living community. If the faithful presence of God's people, empowered by the Holy Spirit, is established now, then we will be prepared to receive many into Christ's Kingdom in the years to come.

- According to the Pew Research Council, beginning on January 1, 2011, 10,000 Baby Boomers turned 65. Every day until 2030 at least 10,000 more will be added to that number.
- According to the Census Bureau, by 2050, the number of people over 85 is expected to triple, growing from 6.3 to 19 million.

The Rev. Chris Herman, Vicar (St. Lazarus Mission)  
<http://www.lazarusmission.org>



Reprinted from: <http://www.anglicanchurch.net/?/main/page/1025>



## Restoring a Forgotten Cemetery

By Sarah E.N. Kobrs

As we gathered up the tools, rain splattered the tarp, stretched tightly across the tools on the Haley's farm truck.

Rain doused the orange flames, which sizzled and popped among the remaining embers of the burn pile.

Rain drenched like a cleansing shower as I took a day's end look at the cemetery, now free from overgrowing brush and fallen logs—free and vulnerable and ready for this work of honoring and healing.



Saturday, May 16, 2015, ended with rain, but it began with contemplative hard work as approximately 25 members of the community, students and teachers of the Stonewall Jackson High School History Club, participants of the Corhaven's Men's Retreat, and gardeners of the Northern Shenandoah Valley Master Gardener Association met for the first day of clearing invasive vegetation from the "Sam Moore Slave Cemetery" at Corhaven. We nipped away old fencing, sawed down young trees, pulled weeds, removed fallen logs and branches, and revealed more graves, more depressions and flagstones, tripling the size of the known area. It was a day filled with sweat and tears.

It was also a day filled with awe. While American justice failed the men and women buried in the slave cemetery during their lifetimes, Virginia law (§18.2-127) now protects any and all cemeteries from harm.

After prayer and division of labor, we all attended to our work in tandem, lending helping hands as they were needed and being mindful of treading respectfully among the resting places of these beloved children of God. People of such varying ages and walks of life came together in a way only God can manage to network.

In several back-tingling, burning-bush moments, everyone felt God's Spirit moving among us: in the presence of Star of Bethlehem (a perennial bulb that derives from places in Europe and Africa), in finding even more unknown-to-us depressions and fieldstones that marked burials hidden by brush, and in the spontaneous combustion of a thick old tree stump well away from the burn pile—a stump that suddenly popped into flame during passionate reflection on our work that day. It was like something was being released.

There is still much to do. As we research primary historical resources, converse with members of the community that might be connected with the site in some way, and engage archaeologists in mapping and documenting the site, we'll hold May 16 close at heart. The day couldn't have gone better.

Please pray for God's guidance and grace as we work together toward the goal of honoring those buried in the cemetery and providing a place of reconciliation and healing in the community.

*Sarah E.N. Kobrs is the coordinator for the restoration of the Sam Moore Slave Cemetery at [Corhaven](#), the retreat center in Quicksburg VA. She creates written and visual art, including poetry, pottery, and photography, that seeks a unique perspective on how surroundings kindle hope in even a disparaged heart. Her work has been published in *From the Depths* and *Virginia Literary Journal*. She lives in Mt. Jackson, VA. - See more at: [http://anglicandoma.org/pages/page.asp?page\\_id=228468&articleId=49070#sthash.J9849hWo.dpuf](http://anglicandoma.org/pages/page.asp?page_id=228468&articleId=49070#sthash.J9849hWo.dpuf)*

Reprinted from the June 15, 2015 issue of [The Mid-Atlantic Messenger](#)



### 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: 15th of the month**  
**Bulletin: Monday, 8 AM**  
**Candle: Wednesday, 8 AM**



### BIRTHDAYS

1	Stephen Antal	11	Erin Schultz	18	Ellen Harrison
	Gisele Cuellar	12	Connor Vaughan	19	Lucas Long
2	Fred Apelquist	13	Gin Edmunds	21	David Rhoads
3	Matt Miller		Lisa Ellis	22	Julia Judkins
	John Newton		Kate Oliphant	25	Katherine Bixler
8	Sheila Crawford	14	Lesley Ermalinski		Amie Boncher
9	Dennis McNeely		Daniel Simonds		Jan Welch
	Tom Noble	15	Richard Daugherty	29	Dave Bassert
	Jim Roberts	16	Katherine Hanger		Mark Oliphant
10	Norma Davis		Bryan Saddler	30	Jorden Butler
11	Krystal Apelquist	17	Josh Croft		Christina Cummings
	Jessica Monroe		Reginald Grier	31	Renée Tassone
	Severn Rash	18	Lorena Croft		

### WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

1	Care and Jim Murphy	22	Patricia and Ed Stachew
9	Fay and Frank Cochran	23	Julie and Bill Kesterson
19	Ann and Charlie Westerman	25	Tammie and John Morris
20	Leslie and Bruce Johnson	26	Diane and David Reed
	Carole and Keith Menzel	31	Linda and Dave Bassert
21	Kay and Matt Miller		



## Resources

Epiphany Staff	Email	Extension
The Rev. Peter Frank, Rector	pfrank@epiphanyanglican.net	104
The Rev. Michael Guernsey, Associate Rector	mguernsey@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;"><b><u>2015 Vestry</u></b></p> <p>Cynthia Aungst          Jan Coffee          Ann Guest          George Hamlin          Chris Johnson          Dan Johnson          Barbara Noble          Andy Plummer          Merle Stromberg          Carol Williams          Catherine Zimmerman</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Vestry Officers</u></b></p> <p>Senior Warden..... Merle Stromberg          Junior Warden ..... Catherine Zimmerman          Registrar..... Ann Guest          Finance Committee Chairman..... Dennis McNeely          Treasurer ..... Tom Miller          Assistant Treasurer ..... Charlie Monroe          Chancellor ..... David Reed</p>
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**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).



<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**

<b>August</b>		
3-7	9:00 AM	Summer Sports Camp (Coates ES)
19, 26	11:45 AM	Boys Bible Study
1, 8, 15, 22, 29	2:30 PM	Girls Bible Study
9	11:00 AM	WINGS
<b>September</b>		
TBD		
<b>October</b>		
4	11:00AM	WINGS
16-18		Parish Weekend
25	5:00 PM	Charged!

***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