



The STAR



August - September 2021

Looking to the Fall



It's 90 and humid as I write this, but Fall is coming. At Epiphany we are planning several events as we look ahead.

August 15 – Acolyte Interest Meeting – Youth 10 and up along with their parents are invited to an interest meeting at 11:30am on August 15. This short meeting will go over our hope to draw together a new cohort of youth acolytes to join in leading worship on Sundays.

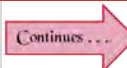
September 5 – Baptism Sunday – It's been a joy to begin to “catch-up” on baptisms this summer. Our new opportunity to welcome children (and adults!) into the church will be on September 5. If it is time for you or a family member to be baptized, I would love to talk with you about what is involved. Baptism is an essential part of following Jesus, and one that he commands “*Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved,*” (Mark 16.16).

September 12 – Fall Kick-Off – This is new this year. Our plan is simply to have a party outdoors after church on September 12. There will be a tent to provide shade, a lunch prepared by our congregation's restauranters, the Dials, bounce houses for kids, and a ministry fair in the Fellowship Hall.

September 19 – Parents Ministry Meeting – We are strongly committed to protecting our children at Epiphany. All parents are invited to a meeting at 11:30am on September 19 to learn about our standards and how we do things. We do this not only to provide information, but also to encourage church members to know our standards so that they can help us if they see an issue.

We have a lot going on as we move into the fall season. At the same time, I do want to say a word about where we are in the Pandemic. It has been really wonderful to be able to loosen things up this summer and see many of you at church. At the same time, we need to take on board that we are not necessarily out of the woods yet. As I write this, cases have spiked again in our area (though so far at much lower levels than we have seen in the past), and there is talk of tighter pandemic rules. Depending how things develop, these may include a return to wearing masks indoors as we move into the fall even for those vaccinated. I don't know how you feel about this, but if it is anything like I feel, it's not a happy thought at all. Still, it

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has been clear to me since the beginning that the way we respect governing authority as scripture commands, serve our community and serve each other is by taking seriously the mandates of federal, state and local authorities - even when we might claim a religious exemption.

The upshot is that depending on how things play out this fall, we may need to tighten up some of our practices again at Epiphany. The Regathering Committee (myself, Mtr. Pamela, Margaret Stromberg, Mark Oliphant, Lisa Baehr, Pat Meyer, Bill Hoover, Carole Menzel) is keeping an eye on this.

God bless,



✨

Epiphany Bibles Off to Aliquippa PA

What do you do with more than 100 extra sanctuary Bibles? In late July, we found a home for several boxes of lightly used English Standard Version Bibles that have been sitting in various Epiphany storage rooms since 2012. The Bibles are going to Aliquippa, PA, where they will be distributed to school students by Deacon Herb Bailey, who leads the Uncommon Grounds ministry there. Though it has been a while, Epiphany has sent a youth mission team to Uncommon Grounds in the past.

“It’s great to find a home for these Bibles where they will be put in the hands of people who will use them,” said Fr. Peter.



One of several boxes of Epiphany Bibles that are on their way to Aliquippa.

Believing Children



Some of you may be aware that there have been very serious concerns raised about the Diocese of the Upper Midwest's handling of incidents of child sexual abuse. These are times in our lives when we are forced to grapple with the awfulness of sin and the fall-out of sin in the lives of others. Some of those situations are ones where we know someone we admire for their accomplishments, but then allegations of a darker side emerge. When the allegation is the abuse of children, it is particularly jarring. As the recipient of this much darker revelation, we are at a decision point. We could completely reject the accusation, because we are sure that we know this person in totality thereby convincing ourselves the accuser is lying or entertain the possibility that we have been deceived.

And that is where the real conundrum begins. Everything within us hates the idea that we have been deceived. The mess comes because we have to admit something about ourselves, that our perceptions are flawed and that we have been duped. That's a hard reality for us to accept. We want to think of ourselves as being smart, intuitive and rooted in reality. We have to question if we allowed ourselves to be deceived by the abuser. We might not want to change our view of them because we do not want to face the disrupting, troubling thought about someone we assumed to be good. What if they really are a prowling wolf?

The MinistrySafe Parent Training

Gathering Epiphany parents to talk through the protocols we have in place to protect our children while you are here at Epiphany. We will watch a video from our resource partners MinistrySafe. This is what they have advertised.

The MinistrySafe Parent Training will provide parents with:

- Critical facts and information to recognize the offender's 'grooming process' before a child is targeted for abuse
- Ways to communicate with and educate children about boundaries and help them recognize when something is uncomfortable or wrong
- Methods for parents to reduce risk, respond to inappropriate behavior and report abuse

So put September 19 11:30 on your calendar today.

These kinds of revelations are life-shifting for many people but I would say that we can prepare for them. How so, you ask? If we firmly take on board our understanding that people really are broken and deeply flawed, we can begin to accept the fact that the outward face of success and even holiness was really just a show. And the corresponding reality is that we

really can be duped. These twin realities go a long way in helping us to move forward into truth. Let me say it again a little differently. Some people are really very adept at hiding their mess from the outside world. These folks are master manipulators and we have to accept that they were successful in manipulating us. We fell for the ruse because they really are good at it. We truly only know what is in the light. When a child tries to bring to light the things that were hiding in the darkness, our job as adults is to believe them. The word from professionals is that false accusations are in the single digits. So, even though we might not want to take on board this new revelation, our first response should be to put aside our own shame of being deceived and to believe the accuser. Naturally, an independent investigation needs to be done and if we are close to people, we might need to recuse ourselves. Sometimes children are living out this verse from scripture, *“Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them”* (Ephesians 5:11).

We will not be happy about this exposure to the light, but if it is true, this is the only path towards healing for everyone. It is because of our need as a body of believers here at Epiphany to protect children that we do regular training and have certain protocols in place. This is why we are having a special session for parents after the service on Sunday, September 19 at 11:30 to talk through caring for and protecting our children here at church and out in public.

Pamela +



Calling all aunts, uncle, grandmas and grandpas

We have slowly but assuredly been coming back together as a church family and one of the main ways to continue that movement is to offer Sunday school and nursery during the first half of our 10:15 service. These are children who have longed to be together with their friends and who really need to hear these Bible stories in a way they can grasp. Right now, all of the grades from preschooling 4 year olds to 11 year old fifth graders are in one classroom. I think of it as our one room schoolhouse. We would really love to break up these 2 classes so that we can offer more age-appropriate lessons but we need exactly 5 folks who would step up and be a helper. The duties are: arrive by 10am, help the teacher, and follow our safety protocols including masking during the class time. It is that simple. Now, bringing new people on does take effort, paperwork, and training. And it means a willingness to volunteer generally once a month. But I can attest to you that we have fun with the kids and I doubt you will regret it. We are also actively looking for 3 more volunteers who would serve in the nursery. We all know this is not for everyone but it is pretty fun to hang out with our young ones too. Let's have a talk in person if you are considering this opportunity. Our Protection training is happening soon, on August 8th!

New Gospel Book for Epiphany

A bit over a year ago, a former member of Epiphany contacted our church with a request. She wanted to give a gift in thanksgiving for her time at our church and particularly for the homegroup she attended. After some discussion, she settled on a new Gospel Book. That book took a while to arrive, but now it has. The book itself includes all the Gospel readings for Sunday worship (and church holidays). The cover is brass, plated with silver. On the cover are the symbols of the four gospel-writers with Christ enthroned at the center.



Symbols of the Gospels

Matthew (upper left)
= an man, because
Matthew traces Je-
sus' human lineage.

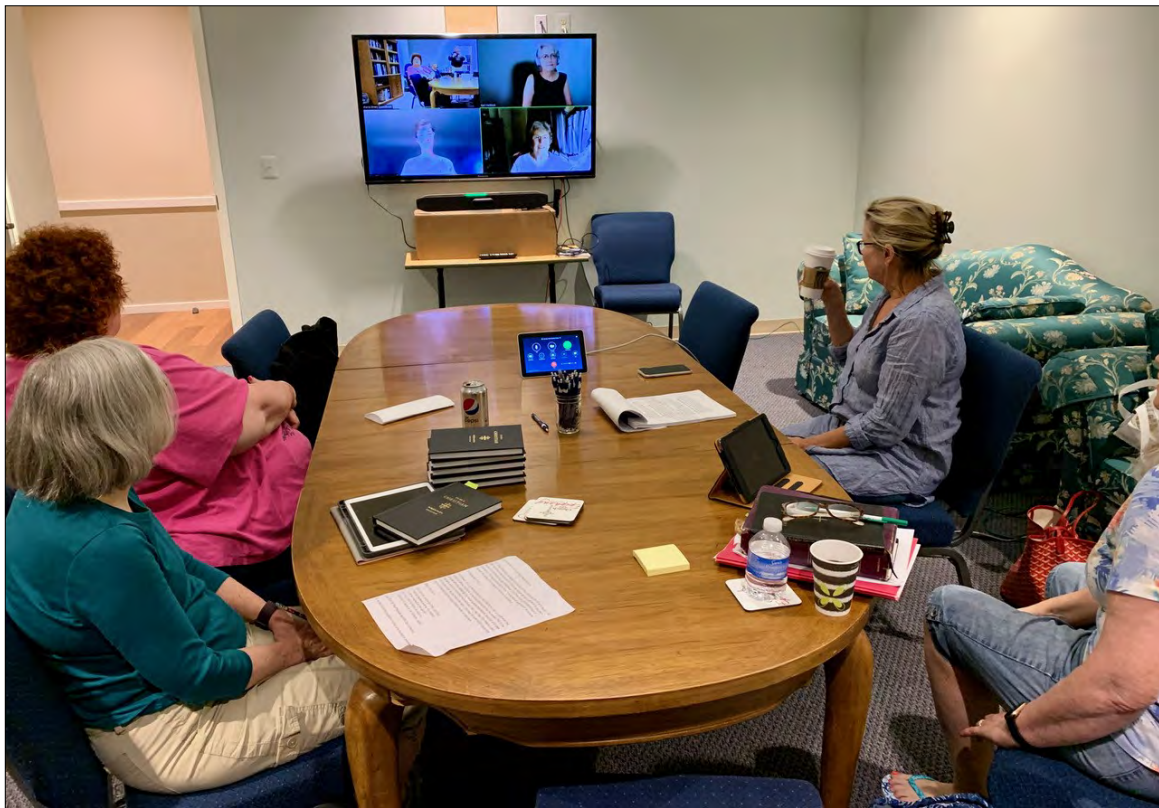
Mark (upper right)
= a lion because he
begins in the wilder-
ness with John the
Baptist

Luke (lower left)
= an ox because he
describes Christ's
sacrifice

John (lower right)
= an eagle, because
his Gospel "flies the
highest" so-to-speak
in describing Jesus'

Library Ready for “Hybrid” In-Person and Online Groups

Over the last few months one pattern we have seen again and again at Epiphany is home-groups, ministries and others needing to meet in-person and remotely at the same time. We have made this easier at Epiphany with the installation of PolyStudio video conference sound bar and camera system along with a large screen in the library. The system doesn't require a computer to operate and can launch a meeting remote members can join from wherever they are in a couple of clicks. If you would like to make use of this new tool for meeting together at Epiphany, please contact Mtr. Pamela to get on the calendar.



Members of the Monday morning women's group try out the new video conference system in the Epiphany library during an early test-run.

Epiphany Pilgrimage Feb. 14-24

Can you imagine praying at the Western Wall in Jerusalem, visiting the oasis of En Gedi where David hid from Saul, or walking in the hills along the Sea of Galilee where Jesus taught? We will be doing all of these things and much more as part of Epiphany's pilgrimage to the Holy Land February 14-24 next year.

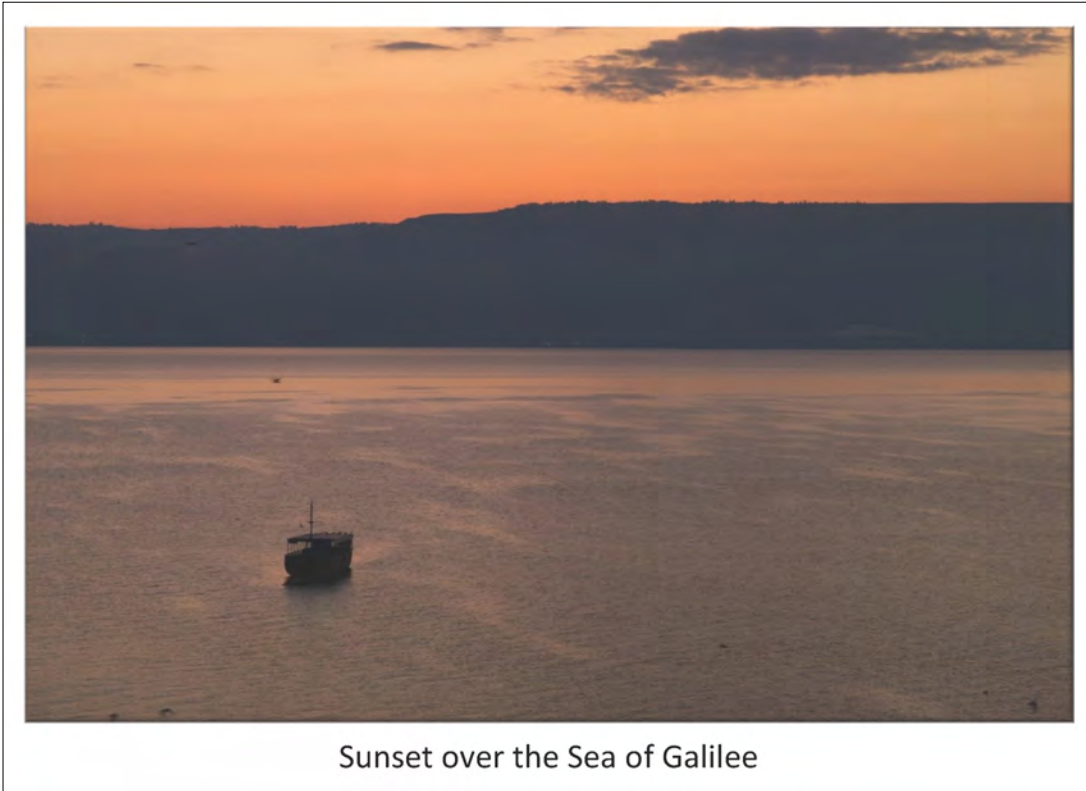
For this trip, [titled "God's Faithfulness,"](#) we are traveling with Shoresh Tours, which is a ministry of our friends at [Christ Anglican Church in the Old City of Jerusalem.](#) We will get a Christian and Jewish view of the Holy Land from people who love and know it intimately. We will also have an amazing "home base" for the portion of our pilgrimage in Jerusalem just inside the Jaffa Gate in the Christ Church guest house.

Registration is now open, and because of uncertainties around the pandemic, no deposit is required at this time. [You can see the full itinerary, costs and other details online here.](#) If you would like to be part of our group, you are most welcome. Please take a moment and sign up. If you would like more details about what it will be like traveling with Epiphany, please feel free to send Fr. Peter an email: (pfrank@epiphanyanglican.net).



The Dome of the Rock and the Western Wall in Jerusalem

Walking where the Bible happened isn't just interesting, but a profoundly changing experience for us as followers of Jesus. You will never read the Bible in the same way after you actually see where it happened and touch the ground where the kings, prophets, apostles and Jesus himself walked. Traveling with a group from Epiphany is also special. You will know members of your church better and build relationships in our church family.



Sunset over the Sea of Galilee



Fred and Andy exploring the Roman Aqueduct at Caesarea Maratima where Paul was put on trial.



Women's Ministry: Ladies Tea at Rosemont Manor

On June 26, about 35 women from Epiphany met at Rosemont Manor in Berryville, where they enjoyed a lovely tea with delicious food and some much needed in-person conversations.



Missions Update: Hot Meals



Did you know that Epiphany parishioners prepare and serve hot meals two Saturdays of every month? We feed from 80 - 120 people at a time. Volunteers buy the ingredients and goods, other parishioners prepare sandwiches and soups or salads and a team delivers the packaged meals to needy people at various locations in Fairfax County. Here are some pictures of your fellow parishioners in action.



MISSIONS UPDATE: GEORGE MASON CRU

In the wake of Maggie McNeely's change in career focus, Epiphany recently began supporting George Mason CRU. Here are excerpts from the initial report we received from the team leaders at GMU CRU:

Spring Retreat and Gospel Hike

Last weekend we began wrapping up our ministry year! During Spring Retreat we cast vision for students and laid plans together for freshman outreach in the Fall. Seniors were also able to share their wisdom with underclassmen. After the scheduled content ended at 9, some students stayed in watch parties until 1am just to spend time together! The next morning, some of these students and others enjoyed God's creation on a "Gospel Hike." This was another chance to build community, and also walk through physical representations of the gospel throughout the hike.



Andreea

A few weeks ago, Brett and Emma walked up to a stranger in the JC and asked if she would be willing to share her perspective on spiritual questions. Andreea shared that she had grown up in the orthodox church in Romania but was afraid of what would happen to her when she died. Brett shared the gospel with her and an invitation to know Jesus. For a moment, she became very quiet and then said with tears in her eyes, "That's so beautiful."

For the next three weeks, Emma continued to meet with Andreea, share the gospel, and hear her story. On a rainy Wednesday morning, Andreea shared that she was "very interested" in what Emma had explained but still had things holding her back. For the next few hours, they wrestled together through her doubts. Andreea was particularly struck with the idea of Jesus weeping, and God as someone who was personal, not angry and distant.

**"My sins are forgiven, and
I have eternal life!"**

Andreea was ready to take the next step. She held Emma's hand and prayed to invite God into her life. When asked what had just happened she declared through tears, "My sins are forgiven and I have eternal life!" Andreea is continuing to meet with Emma, and take other steps in her newfound faith. She's learning to read the Bible on her own, has joined a small group, and has even started sharing her faith!

Happy Birthday!

August



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

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



Happy Anniversary



August

- 1 Care & Jim Murphy
- 4 Sally & Bill Hoover
- 9 Fay & Frank Cochran
- 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 Tom & Sherry Will



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.

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 |
| The Rev. Sally Hoover, Parish Deacon | shoover@epiphanyanglican.net |
| Jimmy Crawford, Music Director | jcrawford@epiphanyanglican.net |
| Janice Monaghan, Financial Director | jmonaghan@epiphanyanglican.net |

2021 Vestry

Lisa Baehr
 Jim Boggs
 Christina Cummings
 Kelly Derrick
 Bill Hoover
 Leslie Johnson
 Carole Menzel
 Pat Meyer
 Geoffrey Seroka
 Margaret Stromberg

Vestry Officers/Committee Chairs

Senior Warden Lisa Baehr
 Junior Warden..... Geoffrey Seroka
 Registrar..... Carole Menzel
 Home Group Ministry Coordinator..... Leslie Johnson
 Vestry Liaison to Mission Committee..... Jim Boggs
 Vestry Liaison to Benevolence Committee Kelly Derrick
 Vestry Liaison to Finance Committee..... Carole Menzel
 Finance Committee Chairman Tom Miller*
 Treasurer..... Charlie Monroe*
 Chancellor David Reed*

*Non-vestry members

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.

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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 Main Number: 703.481.8601
 Prayer Line: 703.389.7292

Visit our website at www.epiphanyanglican.net

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS

AUGUST

| | | |
|------------------|-------------------|---|
| 4, 11, 18, 25 | 12:00 PM | Midday Eucharist In-Person |
| 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 | 8:30 AM | Holy Eucharist In-Person |
| 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 | 10:15 AM | Holy Eucharist - Livestream & In-Person |
| 8 | 1130 AM - 1:30 PM | Protecting Children Training ★ |
| 8 | 1:15 PM | Worship at Arbor Terrace |
| 22 | 2:00 PM | Worship at Arbor Terrace |

★ You must talk with Mtr. Pamela before attending this training.

SEPTEMBER

| | | |
|------------------|----------|---|
| 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 | 12:00 PM | Midday Eucharist In-Person |
| 5, 12, 19, 26 | 8:30 AM | Holy Eucharist In-Person |
| 5, 12, 19, 26 | 10:15 AM | Holy Eucharist - Livestream & In-Person |
| 12 | 1:15 PM | Worship at Arbor Terrace |
| 19 | 11:30 AM | MinistrySafe Parent Training |
| 26 | 2:00 PM | Worship at Arbor Terrace |

Look for us online:

Church of the Epiphany: <https://epiphanyanglican.net/>

Church Calendar: <https://epiphanyanglican.net/events/>