



The Rock in the Sands



Sometimes my head spins. It seems like every day, I get another email, another invitation to a webinar, another prediction about where we are in a world changed by the COVID-19 pandemic and what will come next.

If there is a theme to the onslaught of information and prognostication, it's that "everything has changed," and that the post-pandemic future will be very different than the past in all kinds of ways, big and small.

This is very likely right. Things have changed in major ways after other historic events. Those changes can be long-lasting. For instance, the practice in many churches of celebrating communion with trays of small individual cups became common after the 1918 flu epidemic and continues to this day – more than 100 years later. While I don't see individual communion cups in our future at Epiphany, we are going to have to adapt in other ways and those changes may well last quite some time.

To help us through this process, the vestry at its May meeting has called together a "Regathering Committee" to plan our next steps. Members are myself and Mtr. Pamela, our Senior Warden Mark Oliphant, our Junior Warden Lisa Baehr and vestry members Bill Hoover, Pat Meyer, Carole Menzel and Margaret Stromberg. Please feel free to share thoughts you have about regathering Epiphany with any one of us. Our goal over the next few weeks is to create a plan for beginning in-person worship that will be aligned with state guidance, acceptable to our bishop (who has put guidelines in place that we must meet before reopening for Sunday worship) as well as clear and workable for all of us in the congregation. We aren't going to hurry this. At the same time, we all want to be back together on Sunday as soon as practicable.

In the meantime, if you are like me, and find the thought of significant changes less than exciting, also be encouraged. We have great sources of stability in this changing time. First and foremost one of the strongest promises of Jesus is that he is the same "*yesterday, today and forever*" (Hebrews 13.8). Sometimes it takes seasons of change like the ones we face to realize what a great thing this is. When the waves reshape the sand, Jesus is the rock the waves break against.

Secondly, one of the things we value at Epiphany is stability. We follow a liturgical way of worship

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that has deep roots. It invites us to worship not just in unity with us in this time in place, but with Christians in all times and places. It's humbling when we think about it, to realize the words we say every Sunday (right now over the livestream), repeated in thousands of languages over thousands of years in times of feast and famine, defeat and victory, plague and health in every corner of the world.

Friends, much may change. But the rock stands firm. *"Lift up your hearts! We lift them up to the Lord*

Art



Arbor Terrace Thanks

In April, we delivered on behalf of Epiphany, a trunk-full of break-room snacks and beverages for the 70+ employees at Arbor Terrace, along with a thank-you for their work. We got a nice note from the staff in the mail recently. Please continue to remember our friends at Arbor Terrace in your prayers as they work to keep the residents who live there and themselves safe. We look forward to resuming our in-person ministry at Arbor Terrace when conditions are safe!

Epiphany's connection with Arbor Terrace goes back several years. In more normal times the church holds regular worship services and Bible studies with the residents and staff. This spring, Arbor Terrace had to make the difficult decision to close their doors to outside visitors in order to protect their residents from COVID-19. While this temporarily brought Epiphany's on-site ministries to an end, the church has made a point to stay connected and particularly support the staff as they care for residents

Dear Friends at Epiphany,

Thank you so much for your very generous donation for our staff! It was truly a gift that has lifted our spirits during this time. Our staff has already started to enjoy it! Thank you again for such a wonderful gift!

Thank you!
Arbor Terrace Fairfax Staff



Following Jesus

“I have decided to follow Jesus, no turning back, no turning back.”



This is a song of our youth. We sang it in youth groups, around the campfire, and at special revival gatherings. Its sentiment is relatively simple but the depth of the decision is quite far reaching and profound.

When you decided to follow Jesus wholeheartedly and unreservedly did you consider how much your life would need to change? How much we would need to reorient everything we hold dear?

I remember that decision well as a freshman in college. I had already decided to follow Jesus but I still had reservations about allowing him full access to my deeper self. I wanted to remain in control because I had trust issues. At the same time, my spiritual life was taking off because I was being discipled by InterVarsity staff and an older student. I was reading Scripture and praying regularly and that only increased my desire to fully surrender to Jesus, but I was just not so sure. Do you know the thing that helped me build trust with God? Reading the entire Old Testament. I do not remember the specifics but I know that reading the stories again as an adult and having them all put together in my mind as one narrative of God's action in the world, I learned the meaning of faithfulness. I saw that time and time again, God was faithful to his promises, that I really could trust him with my life. See, the decision to follow Jesus was not just about this charismatic personality who captured the imaginations of a generation. No, Jesus fully fits in the whole story of God's creation and purpose for the world. Getting the big picture made all the difference.

And I said yes to Jesus, to follow him wholeheartedly and unreservedly. THAT was when the crisis of realization hit me, that Jesus might even call me to follow him overseas. I was not in a panic, per se, but it did make me nervous. “I said I would go and I would do anything, but deep down I don't want to do the missionary thing,” were the thoughts on my mind when I was honest with myself. So, I did the thing that needed to be done: I prayed that God would make me willing to go even to the ends of the world, if he so called. I prayed for a heart for people, and especially people who were different from me. So, you can guess the rest, can't you? Every college student gets distracted, but all of a sudden I was distracted by my world map on the wall. I started studying other cultures and made efforts to meet students from other countries.

As I write this, I am reflecting on the approaching Feast of Pentecost. The folks hanging out in Jerusalem were from my favorite places: Pontus and Asia, Cappadocia, Phrygia and Pamphylia. I lived in Pontus and enjoyed visiting Cappadocia. My kids were born in Pamphylia and Phrygia was a favorite vacation spot. My husband David works with the Medes. The richness of this passage from Acts chapter 2 in my own personal life came about because I decided to follow Jesus wholeheartedly and without reservation. I am so glad I did not turn back.

Pamela +

Missions Update: Fran Boyle

Fran Boyle, one of the seven missionaries supported by Epiphany, recently sent a detailed report on the children she helps in South Sudan and neighboring countries. Here are excerpts:



What an unusual time for the world! What are we to learn from this?

As the Pandemic coincides with Easter and Passover, we remember that the Jews were awaiting deliverance from slavery in Egypt while on lockdown, fearful and waiting for the plague of death to pass over. May the blood of the Lamb be on our lamp posts and may this plague pass over us. I pray that each of you are safe, healthy and with loved ones during this Easter and lockdown. I have my son and one granddaughter staying with me right now, so we are supporting each other.

South Sudan has only a few known cases of the virus, however testing is scarce, so it is difficult to know. There are many cases in Kenya however and Kenya is on lockdown. It is difficult to imagine this virus spreading across South Sudan which has so few medical resources.

Our children are safe. We continually pray protection over them. We are sending up medicines and vitamin C to help boost their immune systems. Pastor Santino was in Kenya with his family when the lockdown came in mid-March, so he has been confined there and unable to get back to South Sudan. I know that Santino's family is happy to have him at home during this time.



I visited with Pastor Santino's family on my recent trip to Kenya. His children are growing up and they have a new baby as well. While there, I also visited the families of Pastor Philip Ajing and Pastor Joseph Makauch. Abraham and Beck have recently graduated from high school. Both were top in their classes and are hoping for scholarship help to go on for further studies. We have supported these young men since they began elementary school. I am so proud of them and so happy that we could invest in their lives while their fathers work for the church in South Sudan.

While in Nairobi we attended Holy Trinity Anglican Church where my friend Bill Omongu is rector. It was a challenge to navigate around flooded streets from the heavy downpours. Such rains are very rare for this time of the year but had been nonstop for days. I spoke at three services and shared at a women's meeting. One of the services was a service for South Sudanese. It was wonderful to share with them and hear their feedback. Some were from an area of Western Equatoria where I visited on my first trip to South Sudan. It was a typical "all day" African church meeting!

Answering the Call sent a team into our Compound in Akuak Rak right before I arrived in Kenya. I did not go into South Sudan. The ATC team took in sewing machines and trained members of our community to sew. The locals are especially interested in sewing uniforms for the school children and perhaps some things that can be sold in the market.

Remember Psalm 91. “He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say to the Lord,” My Refuge and my fortress, my God in whom I trust.” For it is He who delivers you from the snare of the trapper and from the deadly pestilence. He will cover you with His pinions and under His wings you may seek refuge, His faithfulness is a shield and bulwark.”

Love and Blessings,

Fran



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.



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|----|--------------------|----|----------------------|
| 1 | Ted Hanger | 5 | Ann Dial |
| 2 | Tucker Hall | 7 | Carolyn Pantzer |
| 3 | Cindy Allbright | | Adam Rwegayura |
| | Evan Zimmerman | 10 | Tara Meeks |
| 5 | Merle Stromberg | | Carole Menzel |
| 6 | Abigail Nadarajah | 11 | Ayla Marie Smurda |
| 7 | Alexa Reed | 12 | Andrew Coffee |
| | Catie Reed | | Nicole Rhoads |
| | Diane Reed | 13 | Zan Dial |
| 9 | Margaret Donivan | 14 | Shahmala Kamalanthan |
| 10 | Cyndie Humenik | | |
| 11 | Frank Cochran | 15 | Don Holt |
| 11 | Jeff Zimmerman | 17 | Kelly Derrick |
| 14 | Tom Miller | | George Hamlin |
| | Margaret Stromberg | 18 | The Rev Sally Hoover |
| 18 | Jim Humenik | | Barbara Oliphant |
| | John Marriott | 20 | Ann Guest |
| 19 | Tom Will | | Derek Zimmerman |
| 21 | Jennie Beckley | | Justin Zimmerman |
| 22 | Maggie Cottingham | 27 | Ann Westerman |
| | Natalie Plummer | 29 | VJ Johnson |
| 26 | Cindy Newton | | Donna Lea Louis |
| 27 | David Reed | | |
| 29 | Courtney Turner | | |

Happy Anniversary



June

- 2 Frances and Roger Miller
- 4 Judy and Bob Schulenberg
- 9 Ginger and Murray Black
- 11 Sally and Dennis McNeely
- 12 Wyndy and Ted Fredrick
- 19 Christina and Sam Fishburne
- 29 Judy and Gary Hall

July

- 8 Jessica and Russel Francis
- 9 Jane and Kelly Derrick
- 12 Stephanie and Jonathan Merrill
- 15 Donna Lea and Kurt Louis
- 17 Patricia and James Roberts
- 30 Malu and Shervan Torabi

Resources

Epiphany Staff

The Rev. Peter Frank, Rector	pfrank@epiphanyanglican.net
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2020 Vestry

Lisa Baehr
 Jim Boggs
 Amie Boncher
 Kelly Derrick
 Bill Hoover
 Sally McNeely
 Carole Menzel
 Pat Meyer
 Mark Oliphant
 Margaret Stromberg

Vestry Officers

Senior WardenMark Oliphant
 Junior Warden Lisa Baehr
 Registrar Amie Boncher
 Finance Committee Chairman Dennis McNeely
 TreasurerTom Miller
 Assistant Treasurer Charlie Monroe
 ChancellorDavid 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 by email at mizfiz34@gmail.com.

Publishing Information

The ***Epiphany STAR*** is published bi-monthly on even numbered months 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



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Visit our website at www.epiphanyanglican.net

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

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

June		
3, 10, 17, 24	12:00PM	Midday Prayer (Livestream)
7, 14, 21, 28	10:15 AM	Holy Eucharist (Livestream)
July		
1, 8, 15, 22, 29	12:00PM	Midday Prayer (Livestream)
5, 12, 19, 26	10:15 AM	Holy Eucharist (Livestream)



Due to current circumstances, many of the normal activities have either **moved online or have been **postponed**. Check with your Ministry Organizer for details relevant to your specific activity. See the weekly Candle for the most current information.**

