



June - July 2021

”Red-Eyed Time Travelers”



Outside my office at church, summer has arrived. This year’s batch of baby groundhogs have their heads up among the clover in the field across the street. And I can hear the constant drone of cicadas – Brood X has arrived and is making itself at home.

I understand, your mileage may vary significantly when it comes to your appreciation of the hordes of loud, red-eyed, bugs that are frantically living their last few weeks of their long lifespan in our neighborhoods. That said, there is so much about these insects that is miraculous.

- **Their lifecycle:** How can we not see a creative designer at work in the universe when billions of creatures learn to tell time and emerge in unison from the earth when the ground temperature reaches 64 degrees Fahrenheit?
- **Their survival strategy:** Cicadas are easy prey for many animals and always have been. To counteract this, their 17-year lifecycle is long enough that most common predators will have never seen them before. They also emerge all at once – evidently on the theory that there are only so many cicadas most animals can eat.
- **Their flavor:** I have been told they taste a bit like shrimp.

We have much to be anxious about these days – and not just whether cicadas really taste like shrimp (if you have tried them, feel free to report back). The truth is that the waning of COVID-19 is bringing changes to our lives. Some of us are returning to in-person work for the first time in 14 months. We must decide whether or not it’s time to take off our masks when we are grocery shopping. We might be asking ourselves if it makes sense to return to church.

In the middle of it, I think it does us good to stop and notice the God-given wonders that continue around us. Sunrises and sunsets, green trees, west winds on hot afternoons, and even the 17-year-visit from Brood X. We



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

live in a world that for all its chaos and unpredictability, is wonderfully made and ordered. The signs of its maker and His work are all around us – even in this summer's cicadas.

God bless,

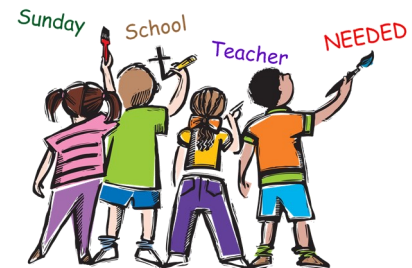


Loving Children and Families this Summer

It is great to see children and families back in church as COVID-19 wanes. We know that part of the reason families have been able to return is because we have restarted our Sunday school and nursery.

Here is the challenge - we need more volunteers for both programs to be able to offer them every Sunday. We know that we are in a transition time when a portion of Epiphany is comfortable returning to church and others are more comfortable remaining at home and worshipping on the livestream. That's okay. At the same time, many of our kids have been without formal Christian instruction and community for more than a year, and we need help rebuilding our volunteer teams so that we can offer it to them.

Would you consider helping, even temporarily, this summer? Sunday school teachers and nursery helpers need to be vaccinated. There is a background check and an abuse prevention training that is required. To learn more, please contact Mtr. Pamela at pmeecks@epiphanyanglican.net.



Mark Your Calendars: Baptism Sunday July 11



Epiphany will be baptizing for the first time in almost a year-and-a-half on July 11 at church. Please plan to attend this special 10:15am service as we joyfully welcome new Christians into a relationship with Jesus Christ.

If you or a member of your family wishes to be baptized, please contact Fr. Peter (pfrank@epiphanyanglican.net) for details.

Jesus and our babies



Last time I wrote about a lifetime of touches from God. Here's one more little story of faith. Set in the Mediterranean city of Antalya, Turkey our firstborn was just days old when she developed a case of jaundice. We had been living in the country for 2 years, feeling more at home with each passing day. On the other hand, we were also having our first child in a land far from family and far from the support networks we were accustomed to.

Brianna was born without complications in a clean and modern hospital with my attending physician who had inspired my trust. When she developed jaundice early on, we carefully monitored her, worrying about when to take her for treatment. After several days our new pediatrician, with whom we had only just begun a relationship, insisted we go to the hospital for phototherapy, but a more outdated and bigger hospital. She would need to lie under lights with little clothes on, something we had anticipated. But we didn't want to go to this outdated hospital. Instead we opted for the hospital she was born in, among people that we already trusted. Well, this new doctor stormed into the hospital causing a scene and insisted she get transferred to this other hospital. It was an obvious power play but we felt helpless to resist it so we complied, but Brianna lost precious hours when she should have been under the lights.

This other hospital was not at all like the clean and new one we were used to, and accommodations for me, as a nursing mother, was a hard chair in front of her little incubator. I was in major crisis mode and listened to the other mothers in the room talking about me. They did not realize that I spoke Turkish. Brianna's bilirubin numbers only climbed higher and higher. After 2 days of bad news, we were told that a final lab result would determine if she would get a "blood exchange." I remember feeling overwhelmed that her blood would need to be exchanged with someone else's.



So began the drama of finding a person who would donate blood for her. We were told that we personally had to find someone. Her blood wasn't even rare, thanks be to God! As for me? I was a complete, emotional mess. My blood type matched but the doctors would not allow me to donate. Our small community of fellow missionaries were more experienced with Turkish hospitals, therefore not as concerned for Brianna as they were concerned about my fragile physical and mental state.

In little bits of time stolen outside the hospital all I could do was pray for (and worry about) a donor. "Lord, we need a blood donor to match our little 5 days-old baby who needs your intervention," I prayed. Our German teammate, who didn't much like needles, decided to donate blood for what we were preparing for: numbers needed to be below a certain threshold or she gets a transfusion. So, our prayers continued that her body would do the job and she

Continues ...

would not need this procedure. In my distraught state I heard God's clear voice: **"I will give my blood for her. I did give my blood for her."**

Within that instant, my emotions calmed down and I began a lifelong lesson of parenting. God cares for my babies even more than I care and therefore can be trusted. The fear and adrenaline stopped ruling my heart because I recognized that Jesus did, indeed, give his blood and that deep knowledge gave me the confidence to relax in his loving arms.



But to continue the story, our reluctant friend donated blood and the lab prepared it for the transfusion. We were getting the results at midnight and Dave went into the hospital one last time to find out if she needed the treatment. He came back with stunning news, using words that the doctors used, "It's a miracle!" Her numbers had **dramatically** and **inexplicably** dropped. She no longer needed the transfusion. I had been ready for either answer, but was grateful for the beautiful gift of grace from my loving Father who spoke to me at a deep, deep place, bringing me peace and teaching me truth.

Pamela +



Tea Time



It's Tea Time! Join us at Rosemont Manor on June 26, 2021 for a traditional Ladies Tea. Prior to tea, the Rosemont team will deliver a historical presentation about the property and all the notable folks who have spent time on the estate. The historical presentation will begin promptly at 12:00 noon, with tea being served at 12:30. Epiphany's Women's Ministry is picking up the majority of the tab, so cost per attendee is \$10.00. Attendees should wear masks for a brief tour. Once seated, the masks can come off.

Social Distancing at Church Ends Wine Now Offered at Communion

As State and Federal guidance has changed and COVID continues to recede in Northern Virginia, Epiphany is adapting its Sunday worship patterns.

Our 8:30 service is now “mask optional” in line with the new guidance that those who have been vaccinated can safely meet together indoors without masks. If you are not wearing a facemask, we will assume you are vaccinated. If you would like to or need to wear a facemask at the 8:30 service, you are more than welcome to continue doing so.



Our 10:15 service will continue to require facemasks as we relaunch nursery and Sunday School beginning. With children under 12 not yet eligible to be vaccinated, we believe it is important to do this, particularly as we encourage families with younger children to return to in-person worship. Our livestream worship will continue to be offered at 10:15.

Other changes are also moving forward.

- Following the state decision to end capacity limits on May 28, we have reopened closed seating and are no longer asking for people to sign-up in advance.
- Paper worship books and bulletins are available alongside the projected responses and lyrics on the monitors at the 10:15 service. The 8:30 service is using the Book of Common Prayer and Hymnal which will be passed out at the beginning of the service and then returned. Bibles will be available at both services.
- Sunday School and Nursery will remain “mask required” activities at this time. Teachers will wear facemasks and are fully vaccinated. Children over five will also wear masks.

We are now offering communion in both kinds by intinction (dipping) the bread into the chalice. We still have the option to receive the bread only for those who would prefer.

These are significant steps forward, yet there is still much of our status quo for the last year that we are maintaining as COVID-19 wanes. For some of us, the steps we are taking will seem to be “too much too fast,” and to others “not enough too slow.” Part of loving each other as Christ loved us (John 13.34) is recognizing that differences of opinion can exist even when all parties are prayerfully making decisions and doing their best. The Regathering Committee continues to watch local COVID-19 data as well as federal, state, and local guidance and will make further changes as we can.

Marriage Mentors



Epiphany Couples celebrated their marriages and spring by taking a walk in the park on May 2 at Meadowlark Botanical Gardens. Couple selfies and fun conversations were encouraged. If you missed this walk, just make a “date” with your sweetheart and take a stroll!

Strolling conversation starters include:

- *What plants/flowers remind you of your childhood, family garden, or just make Spring special for you?*
- *What are your fondest memories of playing in a garden, park, or at an outdoor event?*
- *If you could plant anything you wanted in a garden, what would you choose?*
- *What do you remember about our last walk together? When shall we take our next walk together?*
- *What is your favorite part of the walk today?*

MISSIONS UPDATE: UGANDA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

Like many universities, Uganda Christian University tries to find ways to help students who suffer from financial or physical disabilities. And like many universities, UCU has struggled with how to shelter its students during the COVID pandemic. Here is a recent report giving three examples of how the school has nobly carried on its mission:



**UGANDA CHRISTIAN
UNIVERSITY**

A Centre of Excellence in the Heart of Africa



Francis graduated after UCU offered him a scholarship to cover tuition, rent, and meals

By infancy, Francis had optical complications that only worsened as time passed. He grew up from an impoverished family and could not afford proper treatment. His mother died in 1991; his father died in 1994. His grandmother died when he was in 5th grade, and then he moved to stay with his aunt.

In 2003, Okumu completely lost sight. “I remember, I woke up one morning and my eyes were paining. I could not see anything. I felt very bad. Like my life had ended. But as I kept on moving, I realized that only God can help me—even if I had killed myself, it would not help.”

Francis originally enrolled at UCU in 2017 but could not afford tuition. In 2018, UCU

granted him a scholarship to pay his tuition, rent, and meals.

He graduated from UCU in December 2020 with a Bachelor in Social Work. “There are many poor people with disabilities who feel discouraged and think it’s over. I want to motivate them.”



Continue...



Yasiri received alternative coursework to accommodate his visual impairment

In high school, Yasiri almost quit school because of harassment due to his short height and visual impairment. There were days the bullying was so much he didn't eat.

When he got to UCU, his lecturer helped by giving him oral practical coursework. "I thank teachers and lecturers who have helped to make studying a little easier for me than it would have otherwise been."

"I wish all people who are naturally blessed differently – physically and mentally – can be considered just as important in society as those who seemingly blend in."

Yasiri is a third year student in the Journalism and Communication program.

UCU housed stranded international students during lockdown

When the Coronavirus pandemic started and the Ugandan borders closed, many international students were stranded in hostels and quickly running out of supplies. These students were assigned to the care of local families, often in homes owned by UCU staff and clergy, and some opted to stay in the UCU dorms. For Eziuzo Chizoba Oluebubechukwu, a Nigerian student, her stay with a host family was an opportunity to learn new skills.



"I learned to make snacks like pancake and chapatti," Chizoba, now in third year, pursuing a Bachelor of International Business, said. She appreciated the Christian practices, including morning and nighttime prayers, in the home and being corrected when she made mistakes. Her stay, she said, was morally and spiritually enriching.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

JUNE

JULY

- 1 Ted Hanger
- 2 Tucker Hall
- 3 Cindy Allbright
- Evan Zimmerman
- 5 Merle Stromberg
- 6 Abigail Nadarajah
- 7 Alexa Reed
- Catie Reed
- Diane Reed
- 9 Margaret Donovan
- 10 Cyndie Humenik
- 11 Frank Cochran
- Jeff Zimmerman
- 14 Tom Miller
- Margaret Stromberg
- 18 Jim Humenik
- John Marriott
- 19 Tom Will
- 21 Jennie Beckley
- 22 Maggie Cottingham
- Natalie Plummer
- 26 Cindy Newton
- 27 David Reed
- 29 Courtney Turner

- 5 Ann Dial
- 7 Carolyn Pantzer
- Adam Rwegayura
- 10 Tara Meeks
- Carole Menzel
- 12 Andrew Coffee
- Nicole Rhoads
- 13 Zan Dial
- 14 Shahmala Kamalanthan
- 15 Don Holt
- 17 Kelly Derrick
- 18 The Rev Sally Hoover
- Barbara Oliphant
- 20 Ann Guest
- Derek Zimmerman
- Justin Zimmerman
- 29 VJ Johnson
- Donna Lea Louis

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



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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Visit our website at www.epiphanyanglican.net

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS

JUNE

2, 9, 16, 23, 30	12:00 PM	Midday Eucharist In-Person.
6, 13, 20, 27	8:30 AM	Holy Eucharist In-Person .
6, 13, 20, 27	10:15 AM	Holy Eucharist - Livestream & In-Person
13	1:15 PM	Worship at Arbor Terrace
27	2:00 PM	Worship at Arbor Terrace

JULY

7, 14, 21, 28	12:00 PM	Midday Eucharist In-Person..
4, 11, 18, 25	8:30 AM	Holy Eucharist In-Person .
4, 11, 18, 25	10:15 AM	Holy Eucharist - Livestream & In-Person
11	1:15 PM	Worship at Arbor Terrace
25	2:00 PM	Worship at Arbor Terrace

Look for us online:

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

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

As the COVID-19 pandemic wanes, we are transitioning to a more normal schedule. Please check with your ministry organizer for details relevant to your specific activity. See the Candle email newsletter for the most current information.