

Counting to Ten



One of the things Epiphany does every year during Lent is begin our Sunday worship service with the Ten Commandments.

This, I think, can feel like a rather old fashioned practice. In a certain way, it is. Most churches you might go to today don't do it. That said, there was a time decades ago when Sunday worship in most places began with the Ten Commandments each week. In fact, the Ten Commandments were so significant in the worshipping life of churches that they were often permanently painted on

the wall behind the altar. You can still see this in many older churches here in Virginia, such as in the Chapel at Truro Church in Fairfax or at Bruton Parish in Williamsburg.

Now, much could be said about why the Ten Commandments have fallen out of use, even among Christians. But instead of asking "what happened out there" as we consider that fact, I think it is more useful for us to ask what happens in our hearts at Epiphany when we hear again and again this Lent the things we "*shall not*" do, and when we have heard, we respond again and again with "*Lord, have mercy.*"

This is what I hope happens in our hearts: I hope we are reminded of what a high calling it is to live as Christians each day. We are, as the Apostle Peter says in his second letter "*a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession*" (2 Peter 2.9). That is an awesome role to have, and it is an uncompromising call to truthfulness, justice, honor, and purity as God has defined them.

I also hope our hearts feel what I can only describe as the "weight" of these commands - commands that Jesus confirmed are still for us to keep as Christians in Matthew 5. All of us have broken most of them, not once, not twice, but again and again. I know I have. We should be aware of that when we say them. We should be aware so that we can say, "*Lord have mercy upon us, and give us grace to keep this law,*" not simply because it is printed in the worship book, but because we know we actually need God's mercy for past failures and that we need God's grace if we have any hope to keep any part of the Ten Commandments in the future.

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But most of all we say the Ten Commandments at Epiphany every Lent because they point us to the fact that God's fulfillment of the Ten Commandments is coming - Easter is coming. We cannot, and do not keep these good commands from our good God. Yet, the mercy and grace we ask for each Sunday as we say them together at Epiphany is ours in Jesus Christ. In this way, the Ten Commandments are not the conclusion of our faith, but its beginning. The Ten Commandments both remind us who we are called to be and confront us with our failings, but they do it not to condemn, but to take us to the cross, and the one who can fulfill them both for us and in us.

God bless you this Lenten season,



Prayer Support

By Catherine Zimmerman, Junior Warden

I remember growing up and having my mother say, as I ran out of the house in the morning, that she was praying for me to make wise choices. It seemed at the time, words that a mother just said to her child. You know, like "I love you", "you're beautiful", and "I'm praying for you." It wasn't until I became a mother and realized that sometime the events in our lives can only be handled by prayer. That there are times when our actions fail to provide protection and sound direction. We recently had one of these events, when our son was hospitalized with an antibiotic resistant infection. The situation was unsettling as the source was close to his eye and he was allergic to two of the main medications mainly used. That left us with only one remaining antibiotic and a hospital admission that lasted five days. We were grateful to those who stepped in to help out with household needs but equally so, we were blessed with a covering of prayers for our whole family and the medical team caring for my son. Our small group and prayer partners were available immediately to love and care for us. They lifted us up in prayer support, so much so, that our worries returned to normal daily concerns of what to eat and where to get it. Our situation had not changed, what we were facing was still a threat, but our perception had changed. With the support from our church family, we physically felt God's hands working the good in the situation, so there was no need to fear.

I pray that if you have not joined a small group, as of yet, that you will seek one out and become engaged in one of the greatest gifts God has established for his people, fellowship with Him through your brothers and sisters in-Christ. Please contact Scott Reiter, scott.reiter@cox.net, Small Group Coordinator, for information on how to connect with one of the many small groups we have available in our church family.

Leviticus



We have just completed our sermon series on Leviticus. Over the past few years I have come to appreciate Leviticus more than I ever had before, and in preparing for this sermon series my enjoyment of Leviticus grew even more. Here are a few of my general take-aways from our series:

God is Holy. This point made repeatedly throughout the book. God is utterly holy—unlike anyone else in his power, purity, and perfection.

God Dwells Among His People. Because God is holy and his people are sinners, he graciously provides a way for them to be in his presence without being destroyed because of their sin. His gracious gift comes in the form of the Old Testament Law, especially Leviticus. God gives his people a way to be safely in his presence, to be in relationship with him, and to worship him as they should.

God Desires Holy People. Because of God's holiness, he expects his people to reflect his holiness. So much of the law in Leviticus is designed to separate the Israelites from the other nations by having them reflect God's purity and righteousness. The laws surrounding ritual purity constantly remind the people that there are ways to honor God and dishonor him, to be holy or unholy, in all areas of life. The Holy God expects holiness from his people in all aspects of life.

Jesus is the Ultimate Sacrifice. Christians often emphasize the fact that Jesus is the ultimate sacrifice for sins. This is unmistakably correct. But, the New Testament writers also emphasize that Jesus fulfills the other sacrifices as well. Jesus is not only the ultimate burnt offering (Leviticus 1) who atones for our sin, he is also the ultimate purification (or "sin") offering (Leviticus 4-5) that cleanses us from the defilement of sin, and the ultimate fellowship (or "peace") offering (Leviticus 3) that reaffirms God's covenant with his New Covenant people. Understanding the various sacrifices mandated in Leviticus helps us understand all that Jesus accomplishes through his substitutionary death and resurrection.

I hope that you have enjoyed our study of Leviticus. And most importantly, I hope that your love for God and the depth of your understanding of the good news of Jesus has increased through studying this wonderful book of the Bible.

Michael

Missions Update - Danger in Niger



We wish that the updates we receive from the missionaries we support were always full of uplifting success stories. The reality, however, is that our missionaries frequently face emotional trials and occasionally physical danger as they toil in our country and abroad. Here are excerpts from reports sent by Steve and Nancy Brown, who are serving in Niger, about recent protests in that country:

“We want to write briefly to tell you that it has been a difficult night and day for us and friends here in Niger. This morning a group descended on the mission property. They burnt down the two SIM houses that were built and occupied almost continuously since the 60's. We lived there for 6 years. Nobody is living in the houses now and nobody was harmed. However, they brought to the ground almost 400 meters of boundary wall. The place is in ruins and all the possessions lost. At least two Goure Christian families had their houses burned and the church was burned up.

At 2:20 pm, I received my first call from a pastor friend about an attack in Zinder, a city about a 3-hour drive east of where we are living. He reported that one of the main churches in town had been burned. His own daughter had been living with a family on the church property, but she was able to escape harm, and call her father with the news. The attackers burned down the church and “brought down the walls.” Then later on, the same pastor called to tell me that all five of the churches in Zinder had been put to flames, and many of the homes of Christians were burned up also. In the last hour or so, I saw a report that four people died, one of them a gendarme (a type of well-armed policeman, who died fighting against the rioters).



We are aware that the news coverage is that all of this is “in response” to the publication of images of Mohamed in the French satirical weekly “Charlie Hebdo” and the spontaneous groundswell of anger that it produced. This is about 30% true and 70% untrue, but it is easy to express it in those terms, so that is how it is portrayed.

Please pray for the protection of the many Christians in Niger, especially those who have lost their homes, their churches, and their possessions. It has been a terrible day for those who were attacked, and a pensive one for the rest of us. Please pray for us all. We can only imagine the devastation for now.

Above all, please pray for God to be at work in the Muslim world. When I went out to see the head of the gendarmes I dropped in to see my welder friend who is making metal doors for the construction work up in Dakoro. He is an observant Muslim. He saw no rationale for

the actions of the people in Zinder, and just shook his head. Another (Muslim) person who works for missionaries in Niamey said, “Surely Muslims could not do such a thing.” I leave as obvious what is obvious: they can. But both these people represent the truer picture of the people of Islam. They have a desire for goodness and righteousness and are following the script that they know, believing fully that what they seek is to be found in Islam. Really, truly, they can find a facsimile of what they seek just as a clever color copier can reproduce a dollar look-alike. But the righteousness that is a gift of God comes only in Jesus.

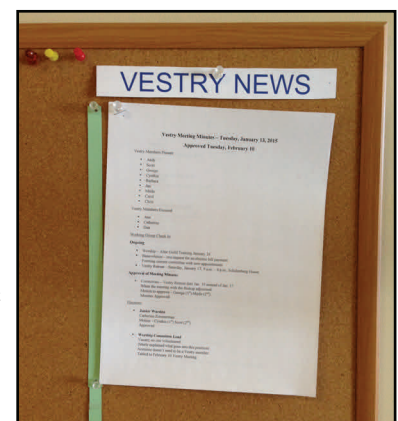
At the end of the end, that is why we are here. It is good to be reminded of this in a day of harsh contrasts and sorrow.”



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Vestry Meeting Minutes Now Being Posted

As a step toward making Epiphany’s operations and leadership decisions transparent and accessible to members, vestry meeting minutes are now being posted, as they are approved by the vestry, on the bulletin board between the coat racks. For further information about the vestry’s work, also feel free to talk to vestry members (who are identified by “vestry” nametags on Sundays), the clergy, or Epiphany’s Senior Warden Merle Stromberg and Junior Warden Catherine Zimmerman.



Please Note: The date of the Annual Meeting has been changed from March 15th to April 26th. Please note on your calendars.

Tabitha's Threads

We are mostly a knitting ministry (but crocheters always welcome) providing prayerfully hand-crafted and clergy blessed items of comfort to those in distress.

Often it is within our own Epiphany family. Recently we took a prayer shawl to Joanne Harp, recovering from surgery, a lap robe to Ran Cottingham who has a long term illness, another shawl went to Margaret Donivan's mother at her nursing home. We have a shawl prepared for Susan White, a former member who recently lost her husband, Fr. Bill. And a while back, we sent a shawl to Ellen Hogan, another longtime member, who just passed away after a long battle with liver cancer.

Knitted items also go to charities and to the newly baptized at Epiphany. Just this month we began a new tradition with "The Sisterhood of the Travelling Shawl." Gorgeously made with the Trinity stitch by Patricia Stachew, it will travel between Tabitha members as needed.



HELP WANTED



Join The Video Team!

Looking for a ministry to join? Consider joining the Video Team! We provide Internet streaming during regular church services and special events such as weddings. For those who cannot make it to church due to weather, shut in, or traveling, the Internet streaming capability brings our church services to them.

Please contact Ron Harp (cyberias@icloud.com) or Catherine Zimmerman (catzim2@verizon.net) if you are interested.

Women's Fellowship -- Ladies Dining Out

On Saturday, February 28th, there was a gathering of women at the Red, Hot and Blue restaurant in Herndon. The gathering was for fellowship and encouragement as women of faith. What a blessing that we could meet together, out in public, with our Bibles, and praise God and hear a message directed to each of His precious daughters. We were refreshed in the words from the 23rd Psalm, that our Heavenly Father "leads me", "renews me", "guides me", "protects me", "raises me up", "honors me", "pursues me", and that "He will spend eternity with me". What a comfort to know that we are so treasured by God, the creator of the universe.



If you were unable to attend this month, please consider making time for this fellowship with us in the near future. An announcement will be coming out soon as to our next gathering time. If you have any questions, speak with Judy Schulenberg or Debby Morris.



Requiem: Ellen Anne Hogan



(nee Bock) February 26, 2015 Beloved wife of Glen E. Hogan. Loving mother of William (Courtney), Scott (Lisa) and Glen Jr., (Rani) Hogan. Dearest grandmother of Mary Claire, Quentin, Aspen, Annie, Ryanne, Mac and Connor; predeceased by her parents William and Geraldine (nee Fish) Bock, and father-in-law Dr. Thomas (Eileen) Hogan. Our dear daughter, sister, aunt, great-aunt, cousin & friend.

Ellen enjoyed music, played the piano & the bells. She was a member of four church choirs, instrumental in the organization of Home Bible Study Group and led Women's Retreats. She was an avid tennis player, enjoyed bridge and had a passion for travel.

Services: Memorial Service: 2:00 p.m., Saturday, March 7, 2015 at King of Kings Lutheran Church, 13765 Olive Blvd., Chesterfield, MO 63017. Visitation Friday 4 to 8 p.m. at O'SULLIVAN MUCKLE MORTUARY, 13996 Olive Blvd., Chesterfield, MO 63107. Memorials to Siteman Cancer Center, Attn: Dr. Benjamin Tan, BJC Hospice or King of Kings Lutheran Church preferred. Interment private: Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery.

Note: Glen and Ellen Hogan were long-time members of Epiphany. Glen served as Senior Warden, and Ellen served as a member of the Vestry. Ellen also sang in the choir and was very involved in women's ministry. Together, they led a home group for years.

And a good time was had by all...

Pictures from the Rector's Wife's Tea, January 31, 2015



New Vestments for Palm Sunday and Holy Week

Thanks to designated gifts to support the altar guild, we have a new set of Red Eucharistic vestments for use on Palm Sunday and during Holy Week. On most Sundays, we will continue to maintain Epiphany's long tradition of wearing albs and stoles alone. We will bring out the more ornate vestments for major worship services such as Christmas, Holy Week and Easter.



Good Friday Cross Completed

We are grateful to Frank Cochran who has constructed a large cross for use during our Good Friday worship services. On Good Friday, when we remember Jesus' crucifixion, this cross will serve as a visible reminder of Jesus' suffering for the sin of the whole world, and for the sins of each of us.

Holy Week Schedule of Services

Palm Sunday	March 29, 8:00AM. 10:00 AM	The Sunday of the Passion
Maundy Thursday	April 2, 7:30 PM	Washing of Feet
Good Friday	April 3, 12:00 PM, 7:30 PM	
Holy Saturday	April 4, 7:30 PM	The Great Vigil of Easter
Easter	April 5, 10:00 AM only	The Sunday of the Resurrection

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



BIRTHDAYS

2	Sydney Kendrick	9	Sally McNeely	17	Tammie Morris
3	Andrew Long		Tress Navarrete		David Schreiner
	Charlie Monroe	10	Faith Fisler	20	Scott Boncher
4	CJ Easton		Christian Navarrete	22	Brad Johnson
	Don Monaghan		Kathleen Simonds	23	Megan Rhoads
5	Chris Beckley	13	Paula Saddler	29	Gary Lawson
6	Ross Cummings	14	William Turner	30	Michael Guernsey
	Meagan Oliphant			31	Laura Menzel
	Colin Zimmerman				

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

22	Margaret & Merle Stromberg
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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

2015 Vestry

Cynthia Aungst
 Jan Coffee
 Ann Guest
 George Hamlin
 Chris Johnson
 Dan Johnson
 Barbara Noble
 Andy Plummer
 Scott Reiter
 Merle Stromberg
 Carol Williams
 Catherine Zimmerman

Vestry Officers

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

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.



<http://anglicanchurch.net/>



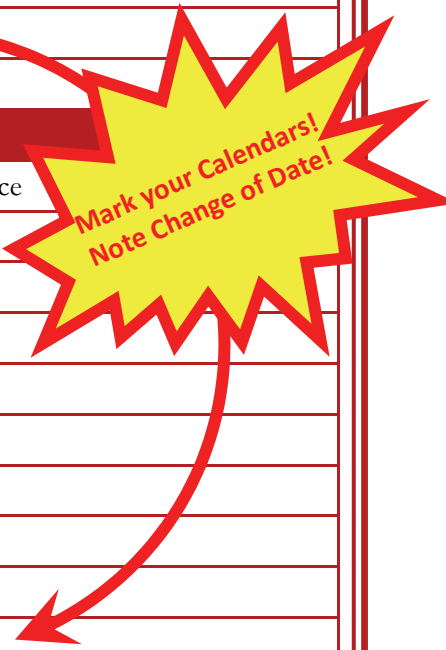
<http://anglicandoma.org/>



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

March		
7, 21, 28	3:30 PM/5 PM	Youth Worship Team/Youth Group
13-14		Youth Group - 30 Hour Famine
15	10 AM	WINGS
15	10 AM	Annual Meeting
29	8 AM, 10 AM	Palm Sunday Services
April		
2	7:30 PM	Maundy Thursday Service
3-4	9 AM	Prayer Vigil
3	12 Noon, 7:30 PM	Good Friday Service
4	7:30 PM	Easter Vigil Service
5	10 AM (ONLY)	Easter Service
10-12		Youth Retreat
11, 18, 25	3:30 PM	Youth Worship Team
18, 25	5 PM	Youth Group
17-19		Women's Retreat
26	After 10 AM Service	Annual Meeting
26		Stewardship Sunday
26		CHARGED!
May		
2, 9, 16, 30	3:30 PM	Youth Worship Team
2, 9, 16, 30	5:00 PM	Youth Group



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