



## Easter's Challenge: What if It All Ends Well?



I am not by nature a blindly optimistic person. I'm at least as good at seeing challenges and obstacles as I am at seeing blessings and opportunities. Maybe you can relate.

But Easter challenges that in me. How can I be anything other than optimistic about everything when I see Jesus Christ alive on Easter morning? To quote the English mystic Julian of Norwich, *"All shall be well, and all shall be well and all manner of thing shall be well."*

Now, I know that makes for an encouraging, but vague, thought this Easter season. But how do we actually apply it? Here are two suggestions.

First, we should rest a little easier as we look over the vast cultural changes our nation is currently undergoing. To name one obvious example, it's true that the Supreme Court is likely to redefine marriage this summer (I'll be happy to be wrong about this). In all kinds of other ways, some of which are at least as discouraging than marriage's redefinition, our nation is moving in a cultural direction different than what we as Christians can support. As committed disciples of Jesus Christ in this increasingly post-Christian culture, I am afraid we are going to have to get used to being "weird" instead of "mainstream" in the culture we are living in, at least for a time.

But you know what? *"All shall be well."* The truth is that Christians have a long and fruitful history of being different than the culture they are in, and an equally long, but often sad, history of being largely the same as the culture they are in. Let's embrace that and trust that while things won't be as easy in a culture where our Christian beliefs and values face rejection, and, sometimes, hostility, the Gospel is still good news, and the Christian way of life is still worth living and commending to others. Let's also take advantage of the increasing number of opportunities we can all expect to have to give an answer for the hope that is in us that will come with living lives that look different in many ways from these new cultural norms.

Speaking of the hope that is in us, my second suggestion is that we recognize just how unique our belief is that things will end well, and share that with our friends this Easter season. Most of the people around us try not to think about how things will end for them. Without Jesus and the

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resurrection, there is just death on the individual level, and the Second Law of Thermodynamics (things come apart) on the universal level. Neither of these are things that bring meaning and joy into life. In contrast, we know something amazing about how things end. We know that we are loved by a good God who created us for a purpose. We know that death is not the final answer. We know that the best, in fact better than we can ever imagine, is yet to come for those who love Jesus. How can we not be excited about these things no matter what?

“*All shall be well,*” friends. In fact, all is already well in ways we barely understand through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. May we carry that knowledge with us gladly as we go about our lives this month.

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## Stewardship

Now that Stewardship Sunday is behind us and we have made our personal pledge commitment to God, I want to let you know that following through with this matter need not be stressful. There is no right or wrong way of fulfilling this faith commitment and there certainly will not be someone checking to make sure everyone is giving. Whatever God placed on your heart to give, we pray God will bless you for giving with a life that bears an abundant amount of fruit.

The process is not complicated, nor does everyone need to structure their tithe the same. Some people may decide to give weekly or monthly, and others might want to give quarterly or even yearly. Your family may decide to place their offering in the plate on Sunday morning, or use the credit card or bank account on-line. With today's technology, what used to be hard is now easy. If you decide that making contributions on-line fits into your schedule, then visit our church website, [www.ephiphanyanglican.net](http://www.ephiphanyanglican.net) at your convenience. The “give on-line” button makes it easy to generate a one-time donation or set up regular donations as you see fit with your credit card, bank check card, or pay-pal accounts. If you are uncomfortable with internet access for banking, the plate at church will always be available to you.

No matter how you give, I want to encourage you during the offertory to pray for the total amount that our church willingly gives to God. That the “loaves” will be blessed, multiplied and sufficiently used to strengthen and advance the Kingdom of God.

Thank you for your faithfulness!  
The Stewardship Committee

## Lenten Fundraisers

In Lent 2015 Epiphany's younger members had two fundraisers. First, the youth group participated in World Vision's 30 Hour Famine on Marcy 13-14 in which participants voluntarily go without food for 30 hours while learning about poverty and raising money for World Vision's work around the world. Second, the children's ministry sponsored Epiphany's participation in the Anglican Relief and Development Fund's mite box project. The mite box project promotes prayer for the poor of the world and raises money for ARDF's development work around the world. This year the 30 Hour Famine raised \$290 and the mite box project raised \$530.28!

*Michael*



## Epiphany Chili Cook-Off Crowns New Champions

More than a dozen chili-chefs put their creations to the test as part of Epiphany's Chili Cook-off on April 26. This year, Lisa Behr won first-place honors, VJ Johnson and Doug and Douglas Greenwood tied for second place, and Fay Cochran won third place. After sampling and judging chili, participants enjoyed Christ-centered music and drama performed by Epiphany members and friends.



## Missions Update: SAT-7

It is not always feasible or prudent to rely on personal interaction to spread the Word globally. For example, in many Middle East and North Africa countries, legal, cultural, or security barriers prevent Christian missionaries from working openly. An organization that Epiphany supports, SAT-7, tries to fill the spiritual void in that part of the world by broadcasting satellite shows in Arabic, Farsi, and Turkish. SAT-7's mission is to "show viewers God's love, give local churches in the region a satellite TV platform to educate and encourage their communities, combat misconceptions about the Christian faith in the region, work inter-denominationally, and foster bridges of understanding with the much larger non-Christian majority without compromising the truth of God's Word." Here are some comments from people in the region about SAT-7's work:



- **A woman from Iraq**

"Dear SAT-7. I am very sad for losing my father this year in one of the explosions. But the Lord spoke to me and the Holy Spirit encouraged me through your great programs. SAT-7 is the only source of comfort for what my country (Iraq) and I are going through."

- **A man from Palestine**

"We would like to commend you for this unique ministry. Arab Christians lacked for a long time such programs that deal with Christian issues from an Arab point of view. Because we are aware of the great impact of SAT-7 on the Arab world we offer our TV studio facilities to cooperate with SAT-7."

- **A man from Iran**

"I really like "In Step with Christ." Can you start teaching about the New Testament from the beginning?"

- **A man from Tunisia**

"Being in touch with SAT-7 opened my eyes to the fact that accepting Jesus in my heart is my only way out of a sinful life. I decided to pursue God's plan for the salvation of my soul. I prayed asking for forgiveness of my sins and I confessed Jesus as my Savior."

- **A woman from Jordan**

"I am so glad that we have an Arabic Christian channel at last. My family and I watch SAT-7 a lot."

- **A man from Algeria**

"I want to tell you that many people in my country receive the love of God revealed in Christ Jesus through watching SAT-7's programs."

## Visiting Clergy in May

Epiphany will be welcoming two visiting clergy who will be assisting with Sunday services during the month of May.

On May 3, Deacon Dave and Fr. Michael will be at the Epiphany Men's Retreat. Fr. Peter will be at Epiphany and will be joined by Deacon Andy Terry, on loan from All Saints in Dale City. Because there is only one priest present, we will not be able to offer anointing during the service on May 3. Instead Fr. Peter will be available after the service of offer anointing and prayers for healing.

On May 10, Fr. Peter and Deacon Dave are on vacation. Fr. Michael will be leading worship at Epiphany, assisted by the Rev. Bob Koth, who served for many years at The Falls Church Anglican, and St. Peter's in the Woods in Fairfax Station.

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### LOCATION CHANGE: Pentecost Sunday at the Church this Year Epiphany Missionary Maggie McNeely Preaching

With Pentecost Sunday falling on Memorial Day weekend this year, we weren't able to reserve our usual spot at Frying Pan Park. That said, we are going to continue the tradition of welcoming one of our missionaries to preach and be part of worship with us that Sunday. This year Ms. Maggie McNeely, who grew up at Epiphany and now ministers with CRU at colleges in the Tidewater area of Virginia.

Since the park is not available, we will meet at the church. After the 10 am service, we will also have a potluck picnic lunch together. Please bring a dish to share. We will also have an 8 am service on May 24, as usual. As always wearing something red on Pentecost Sunday is encouraged!

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### Evangelism Idea of the Month – May 2015

We're kicking off a new feature in the Star: an easy evangelism idea each month. Before you say "that's not my gift," listen to what Jim Petersen says in his book *Evangelism as a Lifestyle*. He says that 90% of evangelism is **love!** We can do that!

This month's task: take a small basket of berries to someone in your neighborhood – someone new, or lonely, or elderly, or busy, or someone you've been meaning to get to know. Just say something like "these looked good and I thought of you." Add a prayer in your heart or offer to pray for them if they open up to you.

When you have completed this "berry" small task, give me a thumbs up at Church! We're in this together!

Gin Edmunds



## Benevolence at our Church

For the past couple of months our benevolence committee has been quietly waiting for God to show us individuals that needed to see Jesus in this world today. This past month, we have had two individuals seek out assistance, and twice our committee has prayerfully discerned God's desire to fulfill a need in their lives. This approval process is carefully handled through a newly created application that helps to generate sound conversation. We pray that this will lead us into understand how God wants us to help individual that walk into our church. Most of these needs are short term and are used to provide immediate security to those seeking aide. But what God is starting to show us is that we are able to give more than just money. The more important contribution we can show people is how much God cares about them. In the Bible, Jesus calls us to be his hands and feet, to comfort those in distress, and to provide encouraging words that uplift the soul to those who are crushed. This committee speaks for our church family in relaying the heart of Jesus to those reaching out to find compassion.

As a reminder, this resource is not just for those in the community. The life of this particular financial aid came about to help those in our church family that were struggling during the recent recession. If you find yourself in need, please let us know. We are eager to hear your story and to answer as God calls. The application form can be found in the back office near the copy machine, in the staff and vestry mailbox or you can speak with Fr. Peter or Catherine Zimmerman. All situations are handled confidentially.

Finally, we do ask that you pray for the approved requests this month, that God's provision produces spiritual growth for those who received these gifts.

Catherine Zimmerman  
Junior Warden  
Chairman, Benevolence Committee



### Evensong



Please join the Choir and Clergy of Church Of The Epiphany for Choral Evensong on May 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm.

Evening Prayer is a liturgy that is used in the Anglican tradition and celebrated in the late afternoon or evening. When the office is rendered chorally it is known as Evensong. Evensong is one of the oldest traditions of the Church. Prayer and Praise is the essence of this service. If you have never experienced evensong please come and be with us at this holy and peaceful close of the day and the beginning of your week.

## Youth Spring Retreat

On April 10-12, in partnership with All Saints Church in Woodbridge, nine youth from Epiphany went on the spring retreat at [Watermarks Camp](#) in Scottsville, VA. The theme for the retreat was “The Great Commission” (Matthew 28:16-20), and participants were encouraged to find common ground with friends as a stepping-stone to sharing the good news of Jesus with them. We were challenged to go deeper in our faith in Jesus as well as to take our faith outwards in order to share the Gospel with our friends and families.



## Epiphany's Congregational Health Committee Starts Work

As a part of thinking through the results of the Natural Church Development survey we took at the end of 2014, Epiphany's vestry has formed a "Congregational Health Team." Team members are Sally McNeely (chair), Andrew Plummer, Fred Apelquist, Courtney Turner, Jessica Monroe, Jeff Zimmerman, and Ryan Brukart.

What follows is a basic outline of the team's findings, purpose and work.

- **Where are we as a church?** - Epiphany is in a good place. We are in good shape and doing well as a church body.
- **Who are we?** – As we transition clergy leadership, we have an opportunity at this time to take stock of ourselves so that we can make good decisions about our future direction based on an accurate understanding of our strengths, weaknesses and opportunities as a church.
- **Why are we doing this?** - Our goal is to do the work to make sure we are walking in sync with God's will for our church
  - Example – Vacation Bible School has changed, yet grown considerably since we moved to our new location – what does that tell us about God's will for us here?
- **How we will do this?** – We have options and have chosen to utilize this resource of Natural Church Development process and the Rev. Tom Herrick, our diocese's canon for church planting and mission, to organize the work we are doing in a thoughtful way.
- **What can the congregation expect?**
  - We have given ourselves a goal of one year to complete the work of systematically clarifying our church's strengths, weaknesses and God's direction for us.
  - We started with taking the Natural Church Development survey of selected church members (intended to be a subset such as with polling) - Accomplished
  - We have called together a team dedicated to completing this work (committee is under the oversight of the Vestry) – Accomplished
  - Team's first priority is to outline our response to what the survey is telling us – Accomplished
  - Team's second priority is to engage with the congregation to gain additional information about where they believe God is leading us – In process
    - First will engage with the small groups
    - Second will develop focus groups for feedback
  - Team will make recommendations of Action to the vestry based on what our work tells us about Epiphany's strengths, weaknesses and opportunities for ministry.
  - Vestry will consider the recommendations and act appropriately

*Note – one of the tasks of the vestry and rector is to discern the vision for this church – our role is to be informed by that vision in what we are doing and to provide feedback to the vestry during this process which the vestry may wish to incorporate in their work.*



## WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP RETREAT 2015

Nearly 50 women attended our annual retreat on 17 and 18 April in Chantilly, Virginia. This year we shortened the agenda from a three-day weekend to a Friday and Saturday event which allowed approximately 33 percent of our ladies, 16 and older, to attend. We gathered Friday evening for a light supper and a time of fellowship before hearing from our speaker, Desiree Barker. Desiree continued her teaching on Saturday with a number of spiritual exercises designed to bring us closer to the Lord. We were further blessed by special times of worship led by Constance Douglas and Brittney Marcum. We closed with the celebration of the Eucharist lead by Fr. Peter.



This year we set out to try something new and to make the women's retreat more accessible to those who may not be able to travel away for a full weekend. We had a number of ladies come to their first women's retreat, as well as several guests who joined us to build new relationships. During the retreat, we asked those in attendance to consider some options for next year. Most of those responding indicated they would prefer a location nearby or that we alternate our retreat location between someplace local and a retreat center away. If we do travel away from home, most prefer that we not travel more than two hours from home. The majority preferred that we host the retreat in April or May, with slightly more preferring April. And most would like to keep the total cost under \$200.

We thank all of those who provided feedback in this first survey. We will be giving those of you who were unable to attend the retreat a chance to share your thoughts in the near future. In the meantime, we are looking at cost-effective options for our 2016 retreat—away from home and not in a hotel. If you would like to help with this discovery process, please contact Maggie Marcum at [marcummaggie@gmail.com](mailto:marcummaggie@gmail.com).

Finally, we are looking for someone who is interested in helping to lead the retreat next year and to transition to leading the 2017 retreat. This is a great way to learn about the process in preparation for leading the next two or three years. Please prayerfully consider if you have a passion for women's fellowship and contact Judy Schulenberg at [schulenberg\\_j@msn.com](mailto:schulenberg_j@msn.com) if you would like more information.



### 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	Jan Reiter	9	Bob Beckley	18	Virginia Murphy
2	Dave Welch		Gabrielle McKenica	22	Jim Murphy
3	Andy Plummer	12	Peter Frank		Jacqueline Plummer
4	Debbie Hanger		Christopher Menzel	24	Alexis Tucker
5	Murray Black	13	Kevin Holmes	25	John Arpee
7	Bill Edmunds	16	Bobbie Fetzer	27	Leslie Johnson
8	Amanda Bryson		Gregory Harrison	28	Jose Cuellar
	Annette Rhoads	18	Olivia Baumgartner	30	Ginger Black



#### WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

5	Barbara & Tom Noble	22	Penny & Robin Rauh
13	Janice & Don Monaghan	24	Catherine & Jeff Zimmerman
14	Angela & Brett Bender	27	Bea & Andrew Long
	Melanie & Tom Miller		Laurie & Randolph Rash
16	Tracy & Andy Plummer	28	Diana & Alan Pino

## 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          Scott Reiter          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**

May		
1-3		Men's Retreat
2, 9, 16, 30	3:30 PM	Youth Worship Team
2, 9, 16, 30	5:00 PM	Youth Group
13	7:00 PM	Ladies Dining Out - Location TBD
June		
6, 13	3:30 PM	Youth Worship Team
6, 13	5:00 PM	Youth Group
8	9:30 AM & 1:30 PM	Coates Elementary School Field Day
July		
11	10 AM	Women's Summer Seasons Event
6, 15, 22, 29	6 PM	Teaching Series

***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