

Faithful Presence in a Foreign Land



This summer when I was in Israel I had a chance to go to a lot of museums (I'm a bit of a museum junkie). I saw amazing things like the High Priest Caiaphas' ossuary (coffin), and Queen Jezebel's signet ring. If you have ever wondered if the people in the Bible are real, the national Israel Museum offers lots fascinating evidence.

But the thing that connected with me most was a little exhibit at a smaller museum, the Bible Lands Museum in Jerusalem. It was not about Israel's kings and queens, or the early church, or anything that happened in Israel for that matter. Instead it told the story of a far-away village in what is now Iraq, a village where exiles from Judah were resettled during the Babylonian captivity.

The exhibit included business contracts and property markers, information about crops and livestock, family names and worship in this little village. In short, it was full of lots of small details of day-to-day life that show God's people living out their lives in exile just like God commanded through Jeremiah that they do.

"To all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat their produce. Take wives and have sons and daughters...multiply there, and do not decrease. But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare" (Jeremiah 29.4-7).

America isn't really Babylon. But we aren't Israel either. As our culture continues to rapidly secularize, it's hard not to be anxious for what's next for us as Christians. I feel that anxiety at times, and maybe you have as well.

What I was struck by as I looked at this little exhibit on God's people in exile was that while cultural change is hard, God has walked with his people through this before, even a cultural change much more abrupt, and painful than what we face as Christians in North America today.

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At Epiphany, my prayer is that we remain a church faithful to God and uncompromising in our decisions to follow Him, even if it makes us feel like strangers in our own land sometimes. At the same time, my prayer is that we see God walking with us and encouraging us to love our neighbors and work for their welfare while we do it.

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Mark your Calendars for Fall Events

Fall is a busy time at Epiphany, full of opportunities to worship, grow and serve together. Upcoming events include:

October 14 – Adult Education begins: Epiphany's slate of fall adult education classes on Sunday morning begin at 9:15. Classes include a close look at the Psalms with Jane Burkett, and a class by Elizabeth Hudgins exploring types of Christ in the Old Testament.

October 28 - Pumpkin Carving: Begins at 5 pm. Bring your family, friends and a dish to share to our kid-friendly fall celebration and meal together. Pumpkins and carving tools are provided.

November 11, Vestry Elections: Epiphany will be electing four new vestry members and hearing updates on our church's life and ministry after the 10:15 am service on Nov. 11.

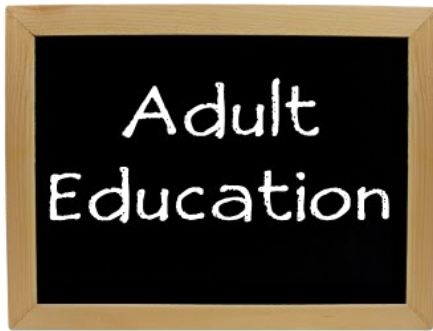
November 21 – Prayer, Praise and Pie: We gather on Thanksgiving eve to share our favorite pies, and to spend an informal time singing and giving thanks to God for His blessings on us over the past year.

December 23 – 10:15 am, Lessons and Carols: Epiphany will begin our Christmas celebrations with a musical Lessons and Carols service. This is a great service to invite friends and neighbors to attend.

December 24 – 5pm and 11pm, Christmas Eve Services: Be part of Epiphany as we celebrate Jesus' birth.



Adult Education Fall Choices at Epiphany



Adult education at Epiphany will kick off for the Fall term on October 14 and continue through November. Classes are each Sunday between 9:15 and 10:05. While each class will have its own schedule, all Fall classes will conclude by Dec. 2.

The Psalms: Jane Burkett will be teaching a five-week course on the Psalms. This five-week course will cover what a psalm is, how the book of Psalms is arranged, Hebrew poetry, psalms as prophecy, what to do with the psalms that ask God to smite our enemies among other topics.

Jane is a lifelong Anglican, originally from Florida, who moved to Northern Virginia 3 years ago. She has a Master of Divinity degree from Nashotah House Theological Seminary and a Master of Theology in Biblical Studies from Duke Divinity School. She currently works as an operations research analyst for a government contractor. Her hobbies include reading, hiking, music, gardening, her two Chinese Crested dogs, and playing with her nieces and nephews.

Jesus in the Old Testament: Elizabeth Hudgins will be teaching a class on Jesus in the Jewish Scriptures. Each class will look at a particular passage or type of Jesus in the Old Testament.

Elizabeth was confirmed at The Falls Church and has lived in the D.C. area most of her life. She entered college with a declared major in mathematics only to discover she fell in love with teaching. Unable to understand why math was not intuitive for others as it was for her, she shifted her major to literature (realizing rather suddenly that people could sit around and read...and still get credit!). She received her BA from Mary Washington and began teaching. Two years later she received an MA from UNC-CH, and then, years later, her doctorate from GWU. These days Elizabeth teaches Bible and iconography as well as hosts a foreign movie group she calls "Popcorn and Subtitles." She is currently working through all of Charles Martin's novels, rereading *The Spirit of Early Christian Thought*, and writing a series of daily meditations for Advent. She has had poetry and articles published in a variety of magazines and has a half-finished, half-baked novel that needs to be put out of its misery.

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Church Directory



There is now available an app that can be installed on your Android or iOS (Apple) smart phones to view the Church of the Epiphany Anglican's Church Directory. If you interested in using the app, we will have a table available in the fellowship hall on three Sundays (September 16, 23 and 30) to help you sign up, download, install, and use the app. Just your mobile phone and the email address that we have on file for you.

Managing Youth Disappointment



Suffering, discouragement, and hardship are major parts of life. We adults know this all too well so, we have developed ways to cope with our disappointment when things do not go the way we expect. Sure, we might be tempted to judge God's goodness by the degree to which our life is difficult, but our youth face that temptation many times over. This is why a big part of discipling our church youth is to guide them through life's disappointments.

I pay attention to the messages from our schools and sports teams that our kids hear day in and day out. Most of the time, the message is the same. "*Strive hard and you will achieve your dreams. Pick yourself up and try again.*" The hard thing for me to watch, though, is to see all the drivenness and motivation which can then backfire for a teen struggling to achieve an unrealistic goal. Then, when reality begins to sink in, managing the huge disappointment becomes a faith issue. "Didn't the adults in my life, whom I trusted, encourage me to dream? Now, I can't trust them anymore," says the heart of a teenager working through disappointment. This challenge of trusting in adults easily slides into a challenge to trusting in God. The slide into faith issues is especially likely if the teen prayed earnestly about their dreams and goals.

Our job as adults who care for young people is first and foremost: listen. It is so easy as adults to jump into advice giving or minimizing the pain of disappointment. Sitting and really listening to the heart of a young person requires patience and a guarding of our own tongue. Maybe we want to lead out with our own story of managing disappointment, but if the teen does not feel heard first, that story may only serve to alienate. It is so easy for me to assume what their pain is, when actually if I had listened a little more, I would have discovered my assumptions were wrong.

After we have asked caring questions and the person feels that they are being heard, people will often ask us, "What do you think?" Again, the temptation to give advice is strong here, but I try to keep focus on helping them to discover a new truth for themselves. As someone in a pastoral role, I want to focus on the faith issue first. And what is it that I want them to understand above all else? **"God loves you and is walking through this disappointment with you."** I want teens to see above all else that God does care and is the best listener in the world. Rather than hide our disappointment, which is a huge temptation for all of us, we bring our disappointment to the Lord to get his "take" on it. Learning to walk through hard times with the Lord, instead of avoiding the pain, is a valuable lesson best learned early in life. But secondly, we all need to be reminded that our disappointment does not mean that God is somehow trying to thwart us or sending us a message that we are unloved or unloveable. We have to take on the reality that **God is more interested in forming the character of Jesus in our lives** than in fulfilling our personal dreams, whatever they may be.

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God has us on a character building trajectory and it takes us right past our pain and our disappointment. Our Lord is more interested in capturing our hearts than in giving us whatever our sinful hearts desire. It doesn't mean that we shouldn't or won't ever fulfill our dreams, but that they are not the most important thing about us in God's sight. My hope is that we become the kind of church family that encourages dreaming big dreams, but also loves us in our disappointing failures to achieve them.

Pamela +



Report from the Global Anglican Future Conference in Jerusalem

This June, Fr. Peter and Merle and Margaret Stromberg were able to participate in the third Global Anglican Futures Conference (GAFCON) in Jerusalem. Peter and the Strombergs supported Epiphany's bishop, the Rt. Rev. John Guernsey, who was in charge of all the worship services at the conference for the 1,962 Anglican leaders from 52 countries. The GAFCON conference serves as a focal point for the large majority of the world's Anglicans who remain committed to the authority of Scripture and united in a desire to remain faithful to Christian teaching. GAFCON is not a "replacement" for the Anglican Communion, but a body of faithful Anglicans both inside and outside of the Communion's formal Canterbury-based structures who recognize each other as fellow Anglicans and are committed to serving Christ together.

You can read what this third GAFCON conference says about itself here:

<https://www.gafcon.org/news/letter-to-the-churches-gafcon-assembly-2018>

During the GAFCON conference, the Strombergs served on the conference altar guild, and with the rest of the worship team supported daily worship services at seven hotels around Jerusalem that were hosting GAFCON delegates. Additionally, Fr. Peter and the Strombergs had roles in the final conference Eucharist. Merle Stromberg acted as the vergier, and Fr. Peter served as the clergy chaplain in charge of planning the mechanics of the service and carrying it out..

Below are some of Fr. Peter's and the Strombergs' impressions from the conference:

Fr. Peter: I was struck by two things, first how the GAFCON movement has grown since the first meeting 10 years ago, and secondly by the great connections with Anglican Christians from all over the world.

Before I came to Epiphany I attended the first GAFCON meeting, also in Jerusalem, in 2008. That was an exciting moment. For us in North American who were unable to continue in The Episcopal Church in particular, it was very encouraging to see that we had friends who knew we were still Anglicans from all over the world. This time there were a lot more friends. Honestly, I was surprised to keep meeting Anglican clergy, bishops and lay leaders from many places that I know weren't present at the first GAFCON. It said to me that not only are we not alone, but most Anglicans in most places share our commitments as a church and see us as a valuable part of the Anglican family. Secondly, I was encouraged by hearing other people talk about their ministries, challenges and opportunities. God is working through Anglican churches in amazing ways all over the world.

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The Strombergs

Margaret and I were truly blessed to have been asked by Bishop John to attend GAFCON and support him as he led the worship portion of the conference. Upon arrival, my first thought was “What am I doing here?” It soon became apparent.

From worshipping with the 40 member Nigerian choir at Christ Church Jerusalem - and travelling with them on public transportation; Morning Prayer every morning, each day led by a priest from a different country (and the Lord’s Prayer in each person’s native language); to early morning Eucharist in the hotels, each day led by a different bishop; to the final Eucharist on Friday where Bishop John’s team administered communion to nearly 2000 people in less than 20 minutes. Margaret had the privilege of serving on the Altar Guild team and I was honored to verge the procession of 39 Primates and Archbishops.

We made new friends from around the globe. Our small group included a Bishop and his wife from Rwanda; a bishop and his wife from Nigeria; the Dean of the Cathedral from Hobart, Tasmania, Australia; and lady (lay person) from a church near Newcastle, New South Wales, Australia; and of course us. On our one day free to tour, we visited the City of David and were befriended by another bishop from Nigeria. We met folks from California with similar background to mine; we met at least two priests who were retired naval officers – one of them (with his wife, of course) were former members of Truro and friends with Mary and Wayne Howell, whom many of you know. We met the former admin assistant for The Rev. Robin Rauh when he was at Apostles.

It was really amazing to learn of some of the hardships and trials that others have gone through or in some cases are still suffering - some not unlike our own story. But to be a part of this multi-national group, all with the single purpose of **“Proclaiming Christ faithfully to the Nations”** was an honor and a blessing.

Deerle Margaret

See pictures on following pages



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.





Fr. Peter and Merle Stromberg served with a team of clergy chaplains who served during the final GAFCON conference Eucharist.



More than 50 countries were represented by over 1,900 delegates, including more than 300 bishops at the third GAFCON conference held in Jerusalem June 17-22.



Margaret Stromberg served on the conference altar guild, which supported daily worship in seven hotels as well as the final all-conference Eucharist on June 22.



Merle Stromberg served as the GAFCON conference verger at the final Eucharist.



Fr. Peter, here with the director of the GAFCON worship musicians, Ono Emonena.



What "Tea Break" for 1,900 Anglicans looks like.



Setting up the altar for the final worship service.



Fr. Peter puts out the candles at the end of the final worship service.

Vestry Nominations

It's that time of year again. Along with football and pumpkin spice lattes come vestry nominations. This year we need to fill five vestry positions as we have four vestry members coming off vestry after completing their three-year term, along with the position vacated when Duncan Sutton moved. Please prayerfully consider if you are called to serve on the vestry.

A candidate for the Vestry of Church of the Epiphany must: 1. Be an Eligible Voter 18 years of age or older. 2. Be confirmed or received by a Bishop of a Province of the Worldwide Anglican Communion and be a person not holding equivalent status in another church or parish regardless of denomination. 3. Submit his/her name and information to the Nominating Committee so people can pray before the election.

Each vestry member serves a three-year term, unless filling a vacant position. Vestry members are expected to be committed to Christ, have a regular time in His Word, and depend on Him for strength and wisdom. One of the most important duties of the vestry is deciding the budget, so it is required that you support Epiphany financially.

If you feel called to serve or have any questions, contact Fr. Peter or a member of the vestry nominating committee. The vestry nominating committee members are Merle Stromberg, Marilyn Tangonan, Beth Monroe, Brian Saddler, David Schreiner, and David Bassert.



Missions Update: Uganda Christian University

Epiphany is proud to support Uganda Christian University. Its graduates are starting to make a huge difference in the societies of Uganda and neighboring countries. Here are excerpts from a report from John Senyonyi, Vice Chancellor at UCU, who preached to us last year:

There is a silent cry for Africa and the Southern Hemisphere Christian community to stay steadfast and to give the West much needed evangelical fellowship. Sadly, several theological schools in the West have moved away from the authority of the Bible and have succumbed to theological heterodoxy. The same can be said about some churches in the United States.

There was much positive in the recent, one-month visit that my wife, Ruth, and I made to Washington, D.C., Atlanta (Georgia), Chicago (Illinois), Norfolk (Virginia), Montgomery (Alabama), Cincinnati (Ohio), Savannah (Georgia), Charleston (South Carolina) and San Diego (California). I preached in four churches in two states: the Christ Anglican Churches in Atlanta, Montgomery and Savannah in Georgia; and New Life Presbyterian Church in

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Escondido, California. While on this annual trip, I was named Alumni of the Year 2017 at my alma mater, Trinity Evangelical Divinity School. The fellowship with our American brothers and sisters in Christ was amazing.

However, we came away praying for strength among Christians battling western secularism and related liberalism in churches. We pray for truth in faith both in doctrine and practice.

‘More than a factory of African graduates’

Many Christians we spoke to hope that Uganda Christian University (UCU) will remain a theological beacon of light amidst the religious confusion of the West, and will produce graduates faithful to the Gospel. Now as I am back in Mukono, Uganda, I realize even more that UCU must see herself as more than a factory of African graduates. UCU has a global mission and owes it to world Christianity.

New Medical school

This visit happened shortly after the announcement of accreditation of the UCU School of Medicine (UCUSoM), thus making UCUSoM a focal subject in many of our meetings.

News of the UCU School of Medicine was welcomed wherever we announced it. Of course, we made clear the uniqueness of UCU’s brand of education reinforcing that as with all our academic programs, Christianity is what we also wish to see in the health care worker coming out of the University. As our Mission says, UCU works *“To Equip Students for Productive, Holistic Lives of Christian Faith and Service.”* To this, we must remain true.

Suffice it to say that the UCUSoM will be the major fundraising project for UCU Partners for the next several months. We met many potential partners who included the Friends of Mengo Hospital, the One World Health in South Carolina and others in the churches we visited.

One World Health may be a low-hanging fruit given that they are already involved with a Hospital in Masindi, Uganda. They promised that if through their fundraising networks they found support of a Medical nature that was best suited for the UCUSoM, they would gladly



UCU Vice Chancellor at Wesley Gardens Retreat Center, Savannah, GA
Front Row: Mark Bartels (Executive Director, UCU Partners), Rev. Dr. Joyce Brooks (President of UCU Partners Board), Rev. Dr. John Senyonyi (VC, UCU). **Second Row:** Dr. Murray Black, Dr. Tom Gurley, Marcy Osterhaus, Gwyneth Preu, Kyle Royer (UCU Partners Board). **Back Row:** Dr. Ken Bussema, Dr. Brian Dennison, Rev. Dr. Larry Adams

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direct such donors to UCU's Medical School. A pleasant surprise was finding one of our UCU graduates at their office. Our graduate is married to a One World Health staff member in Masindi. That meeting and our graduate's excitement at seeing me in the United States helped put a face on my words of UCU's influence in projects around the world.

Law, other academic relationships

The newness of the medical program joins the traditional strong positive reputation of UCU's law program. The Faculty of Law is considered the best Law School in Uganda. Proudly, we have maintained the balance between law and faith. We are cautious about conscientious partnerships that will ensure UCU's Christian character in the lawyers we send out. This visit renewed and strengthened some old friendships with UCU, especially with the privately funded, Regent University Law School. We also visited the public University of Cincinnati School of Law.

Likewise, we renewed friendships with Wheaton College and Water Mission. The latter donated portable water equipment to UCU years ago. But it also gave me opportunity to explore new ventures such as the Charleston Southern University (CSU) and the Clemstone Architecture Centre. CSU is a Christian University ready and willing for a relationship with UCU.

Church leadership 'true to the Bible'

In addition to these important contacts related to UCU programmatic growth, I met with Rev. Dr. Peter Moore, director of the Anglican Leadership Institute that offers training seminars to develop church leadership. He is interested in sharing his expertise with UCU.

This is vital for two reasons. Much Christian Leadership in Africa has tended to model either the secular leadership models around them or their cultural exemplars. This fails to address contemporary challenges and the need for Christ-centered leadership. Secondly, there is a dire need for African theologies that are true to the Bible and which will address modern-day issues adequately.

Given the ambivalence on Family in the West, conservative voices want to see UCU's APC become a viable influence in Africa and worldwide. Therefore the founding of the UCU's Think Tank, the APC, is timely as a voice into the public square.

The family has suffered its fair amount of onslaught from secularism, and yet its breakdown spells social disaster. The need for authentic African Christian reflections on family life is more urgent than ever before. This will preserve African culture and stability for the family in accordance with God's purpose.

Happy
Birthday



BIRTHDAYS

4	Nicolas Long	15	Mark Monroe	27	Jane Derrick
8	Brianna Ellis	16	Kelly Ellis		Judy Hall
9	Gordon Coffee		TJ Fredrick		Patricia Roberts
	Cyndi James	20	Sherry Will		Bob Schulenberg
10	Ryan McKenica	22	Lee Baumgartner		Eric Schultz
11	Angela Bender		Corey Baumgartner	28	Tracy Plummer
12	Linda Bassert		Andrea Frank		Christopher Rauh
13	Cameron Bender	24	Cecilia Frank	29	David Croft
	Natalie Harrison		Daniel Turner	30	Bill Cool
14	Gabrielle Tucker	25	Kevin Emereick		

Happy Anniversary



WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

8	Janice & Jim Wolfe	15	Cindy & John Newton
	Jan & Dave Welch	17	Cyndie & Jim Humenik
10	Bessie & Bill Cool	23	Sherry & Tom Will

Worship Schedule

Sundays

8:00 and 10:15 AM
Eucharist and Healing

At the 10:15 AM service:

Nursery available for infants through 2 years old
Sunday School for children 3 years old through 5th grade

Weekdays

9:00 AM

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday

12:15 PM

Wednesdays: Holy Communion

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
Jimmy Crawford, Music Director	jcrawford@epiphanyanglican.net
Janice Monaghan, Financial Director	jmonaghan@epiphanyanglican.net

2018 Vestry

David Bassert
 Amie Boncher
 Doug Greenwood
 Sally McNeely
 Beth Monroe
 Debby Morris
 Mark Oliphant
 Bryan Saddler
 Dave Schreiner

Vestry Officers

Senior Warden.....Beth Monroe
 Junior Warden..... Mark Oliphant
 RegistrarAmie Boncher
 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 by email at mizfiz34@gmail.com.

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: 21st of the month • Bulletin: Monday, 8 AM • Candle: Wednesday, 8 AM




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 Prayer Line: 703.389.7292

Visit our website at www.epiphanyanglican.net

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

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

September		
2, 9, 16, 23, 30	8: 00 AM and 10:15 AM	Holy Eucharist
3	Office Closed	
5	7:00 PM	Ladies Dining Out
9, 23	6 PM	Youth Connections
11	7 PM	Vestry Meeting
18	All Day	Diocesan Clergy Day
October		
7, 14, 21, 28	8: 00 AM and 10:15 AM	Holy Eucharist
9	7 PM	Vestry Meeting
14, 21, 28	9:15 AM	Adult Education
28	5:00 PM	Annual Pumpkin Carving 

Making Coffee Hour Easy for Volunteers

Our hospitality hour has been updated making it even easier for parishioners to volunteer for coffee hour!

All paper products and food are now being ordered by the church staff. This means you only have to come in about 20 minutes early and make the coffee and set the goodies on platters.

If you are interested in helping with this important ministry and need guidance, please contact Amie Boncher at 703-481-8601 and she will be glad to help you out the first time.

