

February - March 2020

One Family



I just got a call from my youngest brother, Ben. He let me know that after five years of work, and a ton of paper-pushing, he will be getting ordained as a Baptist pastor on March 15. I'm thrilled for him. When all is said and done, he will be serving as an active-duty Army chaplain, building on his previous military service as an Army Ranger.

Not so long ago, it would have seemed odd for a single family to produce both a Baptist chaplain and

an Anglican priest, or at least for them to get along. But something hopeful has happened in the last few decades. Just as the institutional ecumenical movement seems to have lost energy, or let itself be sucked into "lowest common denominator" sorts of agreements and political activism, a new kind of local ecumenicism has flourished.

It's person-to-person, family-to-family, or as is the case for me and my brother - or maybe for your own family - within families. This ecumenicism is based on a very simple

realization: Even though the differences between various Christian groups are real and shouldn't be swept under the carpet, there is much that we share and can celebrate together.

Friends, this is a hopeful thing. It means more and more people recognize that the heart of the Christian faith is the person and work of Jesus Christ, and that comes before our denominational distinctives. It means that we are also taking Jesus seriously, when he prayed fervently that his followers would be one, "*so that the world may believe that you have sent me.*" (John 17.21).



Chaplain Candidate (1st Lt.) Ben Frank comes home after summer Army Reserves training in 2018.

(Continued on page 3)

Got Grit?



How do you cope with roadblocks or difficulties that affect your plans? Are you easily swayed when things get tough, questioning if you are on the right track? The truth is, it's easy to get discouraged when things are not flowing the way we expect them to. It's easy to second guess if the original decision and plans were based on solid thinking. "Maybe we really shouldn't go through with this after all, since it has gotten so hard to fulfill the vision," we think to ourselves. The questioning we do is natural and not altogether bad. Challenges to our thinking can have positive results because we go back and rehearse the decision and can end up more determined than ever.

God's people found themselves in difficult circumstances in 538 BC when they were allowed to return to Jerusalem to rebuild the temple. They began the project with fervor and excitement. Plans were made, resources collected and people committed themselves to the project. But then, God's people became disappointed and discouraged. Inevitably, roadblocks sprang up and the opposition from the surrounding peoples began to take its toll. People began making excuses and rather than resist or fight their enemies, they had given up. "Maybe it's not time to rebuild the temple," they reasoned. "***If God wanted us to rebuild the temple, wouldn't God make it easier for us?***" So instead, they had moved on to building their own homes, leaving the foundation of the temple, but little else. The temple of the Lord sat unfinished for sixteen years. Who knows what happened to the unused resources that may have "walked off" the site and ended up in someone's personal home. But then God sent his prophet Haggai to encourage his people to have pluck, grit and the kind of indomitable spirit to see the project through to completion. And his encouragement worked to motivate the people to finish what they had begun.

If God wanted us to _____, wouldn't God make it easier for us?" God's people found out the answer to this question. In a word, "No." We might want the path to be easy but that doesn't mean that it will be. Sometimes, God calls on our pluck, grit and determination to see something through to the end. Naturally, we would like things in life to come easily. We love working in a "sweet spot" to reaffirm that we are doing exactly what we are supposed to do. But, really, lots of time, things in life are not smooth sailing. Instead, that's when we are called on to use our grit and determination. Sometimes, God wants us to do something even though it is not easy. Let's not get discouraged by setbacks and roadblocks.

Pamela +

(Continued from page 1)

So, let me encourage you this month in your relationships with Christians beyond our Epiphany congregation. Those connections are valuable, whether they are to a Bible study in your neighborhood, a prayer group at your workplace or to a family member in another church. They are a way of being the one body of Christ in the world that is exactly what Jesus hopes for from us. While the divisions in Christianity are real, and serious, we all have ways and opportunities to be part of their healing that begin with actually knowing and loving Christians who do things differently than us.

God bless,

Rt



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.



Ash Wednesday is February 26

Epiphany will mark the beginning of the season of Lent on February 26 this year with two Ash Wednesday services. We will gather for the imposition of ashes on our foreheads as a sign of repentance for our sins at noon and 7:30 pm at the church. The service is a bit less than an hour in length.



Vestry Leaders for 2020

Epiphany's vestry elected leaders and committee liaisons at their organizing meeting on January 14. For the year ahead, our senior warden will be Mark Oliphant. Our Junior Warden is Lisa Baehr. Vestry Registrar (secretary) is Amie Boncher. Epiphany's Home Group Ministry is being led by Sally O'Brien McNeely, The vestry liaison to the Finance Committee is Carole Menzel, and Jim Boggs is serving as the liaison to the Missions Committee.



Evensong

Please join the Choir and Clergy of Church of the Epiphany for Choral Evensong on February 23 at 6:00pm.



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, and is one of the oldest traditions of the Church. Prayer and Praise are the essence of this service. If you have never experienced Evensong, please come and be with us to this holy and peaceful close of the day and the beginning of your week. The Choir will be ministering the works of John Ireland and Ian Higginson.



Open Part-Time Position at Epiphany

Epiphany needs help getting the church open and closed on Sunday. This is a paid position that involves opening the church, putting out signs, turning on lights, making coffee, and other minor tasks between 7:15 and 8am on Sunday. After church, the church needs to be locked-up, lights turned off, trash taken out, and basic cleaning done in the fellowship hall, multipurpose room, and classrooms between noon and 12:30. While in the past, both opening and closing has been done by a single person, this role can be split up. This position is open both to adults and responsible students including those who are not members of Epiphany. For more information, contact Fr. Peter (pfrank@epiphanyanglican.net)

Next Holy Land Pilgrimage will be Feb. 14-24 2022

Epiphany's next pilgrimage to the Holy Land will be Feb. 14-24 in 2022. During this trip, we will be traveling with Shoreside Study Tours, which is connected to the Church's Mission to the Jewish People (CMJ).

While our 2017 trip focused on Northern Israel and Jerusalem, during this journey we will be spending more time in Southern Israel. Among the many places we will visit are Valley of Elah, where David and Goliath, fought, the Wilderness of Zin, where Moses led God's people during the Exodus, Ein Gedi where David hid from Saul. We will also see Herod the Great's fortress palace at Masada, before heading north to visit Jerusalem and Galilee.

During our time in Jerusalem, we will be staying at the Christ Church guest house, just inside the Jaffa Gate of the Old City. Christ Church is an active Anglican congregation, and the oldest place of protestant worship in Jerusalem. It is an amazing place, and has one of the best locations available to experience the Old City as pilgrims.

Mark your calendars now and expect more information in the second half of this year.



Epiphany pilgrims visiting the ruins of Beit Shean, one of the cities of the Decapolis from New Testament times.



A Galilee fishing boat from the time of Jesus on the north shore of the Sea of Galilee.



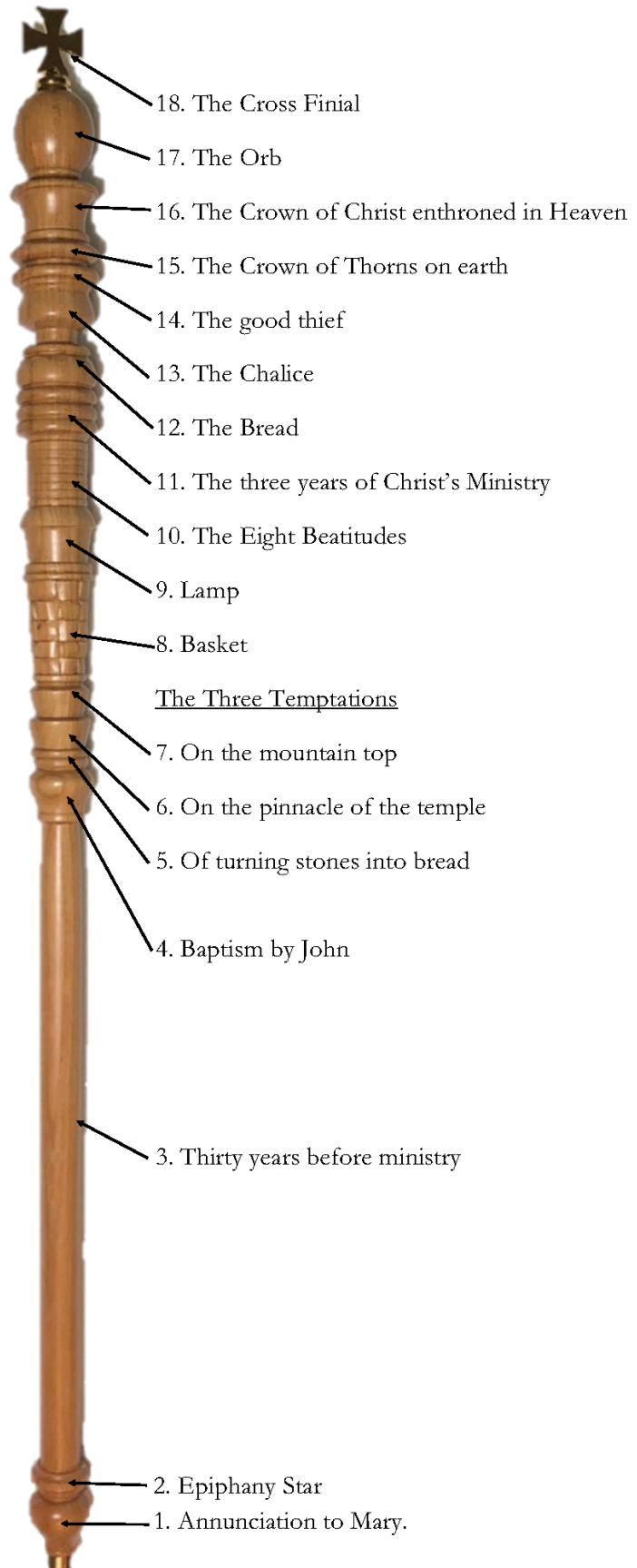
Andy Baehr overlooking the countryside around Jerusalem from one of Herod the Great's fortresses.

The Gospel on a Stick

This past Christmas Eve, a friend of our church, Sandy Clark, presented Epiphany with a brand new “virge” for use by Epiphany’s vergers. While vergers aren’t particularly common in churches, Anglican or otherwise, Epiphany has maintained this role for many years. Vergers dress in black and grey and lead the procession at the beginning and end of church services. They also act as an emcee during worship.

Originally, vergers carried a club or mace and used it as a weapon to clear the way for church processions. Over time, vergers smiting people in the aisle has fallen by the wayside, and the club or mace has become the virge, a wooden rod that is now carried as a badge of office by vergers as they go about their duties.

Our new virge is entirely hand-crafted by Sandy, and amazingly, has 18 different elements recalling events in the life of Christ. Sandy’s purpose was to make a virge that was more than just beautiful. He wanted it to tell a story, a bit like a totem pole, where each section has a purpose and meaning.



The Gospel on a Stick

1. The first curved section, showing a wing edge, speaks of the Annunciation where Gabriel tells Mary she will bear the Lord. [Luke 1:26-38]
2. The next area represents the Epiphany star announcing His birth to the wise men. [Matthew 2:2]
3. The section where the verger holds the virge is the long, plain section. This, too, speaks of the Gospel message in that it tells of the 30 years before Jesus began His ministry [Luke 3:23]
4. The next section tells of His baptism by John. The Holy Spirit, as a dove (seen in the curved edge resembling a wing), descends on Jesus. [Matthew 3:16-17]

(5-7) The three temptations in the wilderness are seen in the next three sections with the lower one being smaller than the next two.

5. The first section encouraged Jesus to turn the stones into bread in order to meet His own hunger after fasting for the 40 days. [Matthew 4:2-4] Jesus' response is that "man does not live by bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God." [Deuteronomy 8:3]
6. The second section shows when Jesus was taken to the pinnacle of the Temple and encouraged to cast Himself off in order to prove the text that God would send angels to protect Him from even "dashing His foot against a stone." [Matthew 4:5-7; Psalm 91:11-12] Jesus responds, "Do not test the Lord your God." [Deuteronomy 6:16]
7. The third section represents when Jesus was taken to a high mountain and offered all the kingdoms of the world if He will only worship Satan. [Matthew 4:8-11] Jesus responds, "Worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only." [Deuteronomy 6:13 and 1 Samuel 7:3]
8. A basket reminds us first of the leftovers after the feeding of the 5,000. [Matthew 14:20] It also reminds us that God will provide for our daily bread. Further, the basket has 40 small, square sections in the basket-weave pattern. Forty is a number speaking of testing and trials throughout Scripture, and here it recalls the 40 days Jesus was in the wilderness at the time of his temptations. [Matthew 4:1-2]
9. An old-fashioned lamp with a base, the glass middle section, and the top. This reminds us that Jesus is the light of the world [John 9:12] and that we are called to reflect His glory, becoming the light in the world today. We also recall that we are not to hide our light under a bushel. [Mathew 5:14-16]
10. The eight rings, separated by small grooves in the wood, represent the eight Beatitudes Jesus spoke in the Sermon on the Mount. [Matthew 5:3-12]
11. The three years of Christ's ministry.
12. The bread used in the Last Supper and continuing to feed the church in the Eucharist as "The Body of Christ; the Bread of Heaven." [Matthew 26:26]
13. The chalice used in the Last Supper and now seen in the Eucharist where it continues to offer the "Blood of Christ: the cup of Salvation." [Matthew 26:27-28]
14. The good thief of whom Christ said "this day you will be with me in paradise." [Luke 23:43]
15. The crown of thorns where He is mocked. [John 19:2; Matthew 27:29; Mark 15:17]
16. The crown speaks of the risen Lord who is crowned "with glory and honor." [Psalm8:5; Hebrews 2:9]
17. The orb represents the sovereignty of God. He is the almighty King of kings and Lord of lords. [1 Timothy 6:15; Revelation 17:14]
18. The finial is a cross. All of the rest is under that cross since Jesus came, as a lamb "slain from the foundation of the world," to die in order to save His people. [Revelation 12:8]

Yearbook Donations 2020

Last year we funded 68 yearbooks for sixth graders at Lutie Lewis Coates Elementary School for those who would not normally be able to afford to buy a yearbook. They cost \$15 and every child in sixth grade got one. We will be collecting donations again this year so look for the envelope in the fellowship hall. The best part though, is reading the thank you letters.

Sometimes they are a little too honest.

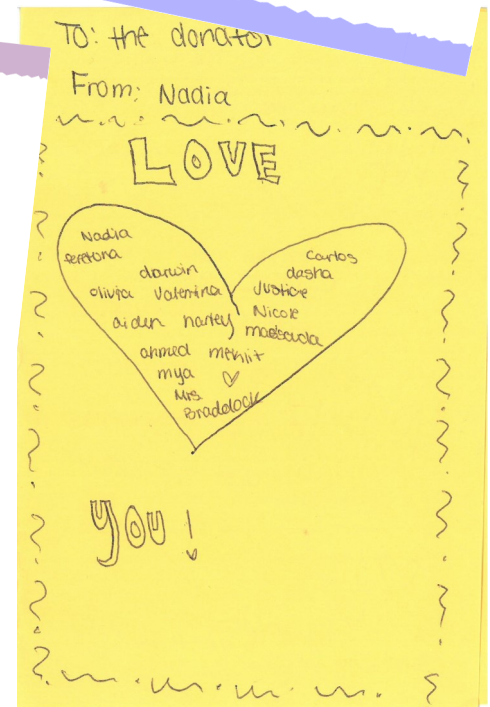
“Thank you so much for your generous (sic) donation of our yearbooks. I have been asking for a yearbook from my mom but she always said no.”

And sometimes, they make you laugh.

“From you buying me a yearbook, I now have memories. Thank you for wasting your money on me who you don’t even know!”

And most are just heart-felt sweetness.

“Dear Yearbook donor, Thank you for donating the yearbook. When you did that you put my feelings into consideration, which I appreciate very much. You thought about how I would feel when you did this. This was a very nice thing to do. You are a very kind person.”



“This was very kind of you to do this for someone you don’t even know. I just wanna give you a BIIG hug!”

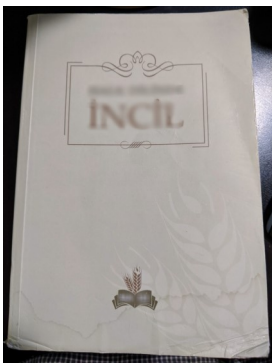
Ok, Epiphany, let’s show them our love! Checks should be made out to Coates Elementary School.

Missions Update: David Meeks

Our own David Meeks helps spread Christianity in a land where Islam is the dominant religion. His most recent report summarizes the efforts to translate the Bible into the native language. Here are excerpts:

“Son of Allah” or “Heavenly Son”

At our weekly translation video conference, Ezra asked “*Can you look at the Greek in Luke 4:3. The translators of the “H” version used ‘Son of Allah’ instead of ‘Heavenly Son’ like they normally do.*” My answer came several hours later after an hour of searching the “H” Bible for all references to “Son of God.” Sure enough, the translators of the “H” version consistently used “Heavenly Son” except when God spoke from heaven at Jesus’ baptism and transfiguration and when Satan tempted Jesus. Choosing the right words for the title, “Son of God” has profound theological issues, and I had to guess their rationale and communicate that to Ezra.



The “H” version is a standardized version that our translation team starts with. The “H” version has thoughtfully worked through many complex linguistic, cultural and religious issues and its grammatical style is closer to our language than another standard version.

While we use the “H” version to guide us, we endeavor to stay faithful to the original Greek scriptures. To facilitate that, it takes 11 major steps for me to prepare exegetical notes for our translators, who then craft a translation based on an initial draft of a professional translator.

After months of prayerful deliberation and testing, Ezra chose professional translator “Mazhar” to prepare the first translation draft. His drafts really help to find ways to express the Gospel of Luke in ways that sound natural and memorable to local ears yet are understood by the many dialects. Mazhar drafts a translation of Luke from the “H” version, then Ezra and his sister carefully consider every word and sentence, correcting it for understanding in light of exegesis and theology and testing it with local speakers. Fortunately, the Bible Translation community has lots of best practices, software, and knowledge to simplify the translation effort, but its still complicated.





February

- 1 Julie Kesterson
- 2 Doug Greenwood
Timothy Stromberg
Liliauna Whitlock
- 3 Brody Hanger
- 6 Victoria Monroe
- 7 James Derrick
Barbara Noble
- 9 Bethany Hait
Larry Pantzer
Laurie Rash
- 10 Thomas Cummings
Patricia Meyer
- 11 Jeffrey Rhoads
- 14 Alyssa Noble
Faith Turner
- 17 Nancy Knight
- 20 Alex Peake
- 22 Ragu Nadarajah
Jim Wolfe
- 23 Gary Hall
- 24 Pat Schreiner
- 26 Samuel Phillips
- 27 Molly Carey Frost
Jonathan Meeks
Helen Norton



March

- 3 Andrew Long
Charlie Monroe
- 4 CJ Easton
Don Monaghan
- 6 Ross Cummings
Colin Zimmerman
- 8 Diane Driscoll
Robin Rauh
- 9 Sally McNeely
Tress Navarrete
- 10 Faith Fisler
Christian Navarrete
- 13 Paula Saddler
- 14 William Turner
- 15 Gail Haddock
Hailey Merrill
- 17 David Schreiner
- 20 Scott Boncher
- 22 Brad Johnson
- 23 Megan Rhoads
- 27 Haiyan Croft
- 29 Gary Lawson
- 30 Christina Fishburne
- 31 Laura Menzel

Happy Birthday

Happy Anniversary



February

- 3 Don Holt and Gail Haddock
- 14 Ran and Maggie Cottingham
Christopher and Molly Carey Frost
- 18 Charlie and Beth Monroe

March

- 20 Daniel and Courtney Turner
- 22 Merle and Margaret Stromberg



Resources

Epiphany Staff	Email
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 Warden.....Mark Oliphant
 Junior Warden Lisa Baehr
 Registrar..... Amie 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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Visit our website at www.epiphanyanglican.net

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

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

February

2, 9, 16, 23	8: 00 AM and 10:15 AM	Holy Eucharist
5	7:00 PM	Ladies Dining Out at Piero's Corner
8	8:30 AM	Marriage Enrichment Day
8	10:00 AM	Band of Brothers at Arbor Terrace
9, 23	2:00 PM	Worship at Arbor Terrace
11	7:00 PM	Vestry Meeting
23	6:00 PM	Evensong
26	12 Noon, 7:30 PM	Ash Wednesday Services

March

1, 8, 15, 22, 29	8: 00 AM and 10:15 AM	Holy Eucharist
4	7:00 PM	Ladies Dining Out at Piero's Corner
8, 22	2:00 PM	Worship at Arbor Terrace
10	7:00 PM	Vestry Meeting
14	10:00 AM	Band of Brothers at Arbor Terrace



Contact Jimmy Crawford

jcrawford@epiphanyanglican.net

to have your event added to the calendar.