

Don't Read the Bible Alone?



As part of Epiphany's summer teaching series this year, we have been talking a lot about all the different ways people have misunderstood and misused the Bible over the years, as well as the desire we all have to directly hear from God.

That conversation got us to a good question. "How do we protect ourselves from misunderstanding what God is saying to us personally through the Bible?"

This is what I suggest. First and foremost, never read the Bible alone. Now, I don't mean don't have a personal quiet time (far from it). What I do mean is to recognize that we read the Bible as part of the church. That means that the main question we should ask ourselves when we read scripture isn't just "what does this mean to me," but "what does this mean to us." In other words, we need to ask how this passage fits into the

story of God's salvation through Jesus Christ?

Secondly, we should ask ourselves how other Christians have understood a particular text. This is part of why it is important to be part of a church. At church, we not only hear Scripture together, but a preacher helps us understand what the passage means. When we preach, we're not just making the meaning up, but engaging in prayer, study and our training to faithfully communicate what scripture is saying. That's our jobs, and we work hard to do it well so that all of us can understand and appreciate the truths God has revealed to us in the Bible. In fact, our whole worship service is in many ways simply an interpretation of the Bible, and an application of it to our lives today. If you want to know what Jesus meant when he said "This is my body" in Matthew 26.26, you can certainly read a commentary (I would be happy to loan you one), but it would probably be better to simply come to church on Sunday and listen to the liturgy. If you wonder how to interpret what the Bible says about the identity of God, say the Creed with your church family - it's all there, and more.

Finally, we should be open to God speaking directly to us and our situation through the words of the Bible. God does that. Scripture touches our lives because it describes not only who God is, but also what he desires for each of us and how He loves us. On top of that, it gives us a healthy helping of the challenges, victories, fears and joys of those who have followed Him over many, many years. As individual followers of Jesus, we are part of that community, and it shouldn't surprise us to find our own story on the pages of the Bible. At the same time, the Bible is ultimately God's story, and it is not just for us as individuals, but for all of us as the Body of Christ.

God bless,

A handwritten signature in red ink, appearing to be 'P. +', located below the text 'God bless,'.

Ladies Dining Out



There will NOT be a gathering in July, as our class on Heresies is meeting on Wednesday evenings. The next date is August 2 at 7:00pm at Peiro's Restaurant in Franklin Farm's Shopping Center.

Contact Debby Morris if you have any questions. 703-631-1687;
debbyjmorris@verizon.net



Epiphany Has Helped 40 People This Year

We are exhorted by the Lord Jesus Christ, and by the Apostles' teaching, to give to those in need. All Church of the Epiphany (Anglican) parishioners are encouraged to aid their fellow church family members in times of financial crisis.

Your Vestry established a policy primarily to establish procedures for the disbursement of benevolence funds (BF) to meet the basic necessities of life to people and families in crisis in our congregation and community. This would include funds for food, clothing, shelter, medical care and other types of assistance to applicants.

Your Benevolence program is administered by a three-member sub-committee of the Vestry, referred to as the Benevolence Team (BT). The team is comprised of the Team Lead (Dave Schreiner) so designated by a vote of the Vestry and two other Vestry members (Doug Greenwood and Duncan Sutton) that have volunteered to work with the Team Lead.

Our Church budget for these activities is not large, but with it and two anonymous donations during this past fiscal year, we were able to provide the following types of help to over 40 needy people from our parish and community:

Gift cards for both food and gas, auto repairs, housing assistance, childcare, rental costs, utility bills, financial help, doctor and dental care.

Please contact one of our team members for more information about this program.

Dave Schreiner: 571-251-3955, cyclonefigi@gmail.com

Doug Greenwood: 703-444-2904; 804-677-7863; douglasgreenwood@gmail.com

Duncan Sutton: 571-408-1041; dsutton.iwl@gmail.com

What About the Children?



Some of you are keenly aware that this question about children is nearly top of the list for families with children, young or older, when they consider a new church. Indeed, WHAT ABOUT the children? And it is not just the children of would-be guests, but our own children as well. If parents are not confident, secure, and hopeful about the discipleship of our youngest members, they will go elsewhere because the care and discipleship of children is such a tightly held value. By now you would know that “Building a multi-generational congregation that loves children and families” is important enough to make it one of our chief emphases here at Epiphany.

As we think about the discipleship of our youngest members, we offer a specific time for teaching every Sunday morning at the beginning of our services. We are following a well designed curriculum that will take them through the entire Bible in three years with an emphasis on the Gospel story every single Sunday. Our teachers are your friends and family members who plan and execute a fun and interactive lesson. At the same time, we want to make sure that we keep our children safe and that means that every classroom has two adults who provide help and accountability. Right now, with our teenagers heading off to college, we are in an especial need for folks who may not have a spectacular gift for teaching but know how to follow the lead of the teacher. Our goal is that teachers and helpers serve once a month. To achieve that goal, **we need five new Epiphany members** who are willing to be a helper in the classroom.

Continued on P. 4

Not Just a Hashtag Faith

August 14-17 from 10:00am to 2:00pm.

**New this year: A discipleship camp for youth
just before school starts and before the college bound head out.**

- Fun Activities, Fast-moving, Interactive, Some Bible, Some prayer, Definitely laughter!
- This program is for rising 6th-12th graders with guest presenters who are college students or college bound.
- We will have creative food options, not pizza or hamburgers!
- Cost: Not yet decided, but could be minimal to offset the creative food options.
- If your teen needs transportation, don't let that stop you.
- Faith is too important to be just a hashtag!

Continued from P. 3

Let me tell you how it works: Once every two months, respond to an online poll stating which Sundays you are available. Then read the email and mark your personal calendar for the two times you are scheduled. There is a reminder email to read as well, as time gets closer. That one day a month, a helper needs to show up ten minutes early to greet students and help the teacher prepare. Then about forty-five minutes into the service, when the ushers come, the helper returns to the service at the “Passing of the Peace.”

Does that sound hard? Folks who are in the choir, altar guild, or counters can still do their duties that same day. Other folks who help with greeting, video, audio, nursery or ushering will need to set aside that one day a month. Granted, the entrance into this ministry is just a little bit steep. A person needs to fill out a form and undergo an interview with me, scary I know! And, as keeping children safe from predators is important, a two hour training to Protect God’s Children is also required. But, I ask you, “What about the children?” Is it your hope that Epiphany is a place that families feel welcome and confident important to you? Let me know if you have any questions or ideas regarding this topic (pmeeks@epiphanyanglican.net).

Pamela +



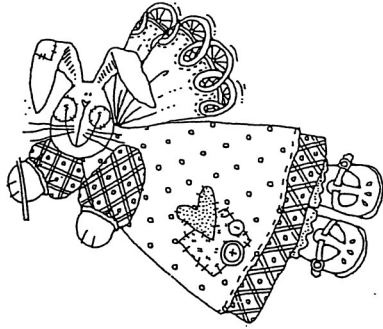
THANK

Last school year, Epiphany members contributed more than \$600 for yearbooks at Coates Elementary School when it came to our attention that some children would not be able to afford a yearbook. Because of our generosity, the entire sixth grade class received a yearbook and we received many thank you notes, including ones from folks who bought their own yearbook. If you want to get a little teary eyed, read some of the those notes! Two examples are on the next pages.

Once again, thank you Epiphany for demonstrating the love of Jesus to children!

YOU!

You're
Homebunny
Special



||||

Dear Yearbook Donor,

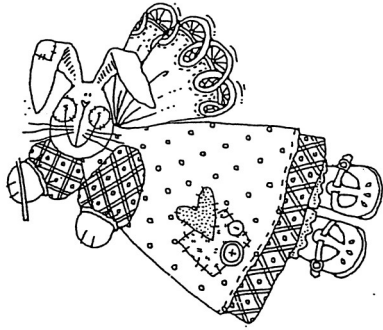
Thank you for donating money so people could have yearbooks. Because of you people in our classroom and other classrooms can have memories of their last year at elementary school. Your generosity makes us all happy. Because of you, when we grow up we could look into our book and remember our friends. Our classroom is very grateful for you because of your donation. We are all thanking you for your donation. Thanks again - we really appreciate your thoughtfulness.

FRIEND TO FRIEND



Sincerely,
Kishank

You're
somebunny
Special



Dear Church of the epiphany

Thank you for donating your
money for me to have a year book.

May god bless you. I am very
greatful of ^{your} donation. If I could
pay you back I would, but I
can't. You are all great people for
donating, I think. This is very special
to me because this is my last year
at this school. Thank you again for
your generous donation.

Senciraly
Elisha S

FRIEND TO FRIEND





We got off to an encouraging start two weeks ago Sunday to our "Journey of Joy" Capital Campaign. It's not too late to participate. Extra pledge forms are available from the ushers at church. Pledges and gifts can be given this coming Sunday, or any Sunday going forward by placing them in the offering plate.

Full information about our building project and our "Journey of Joy" campaign are available on Epiphany's website.

<http://epiphanyanglican.net/epiphany-journey-joy-centerview-drive/>



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.*

Missions Update: Steve & Nancy Brown

Our missionary update this month comes from Steve and Nancy Brown. Rather than reporting on their medical clinics in Niger, they wrote about their recent visit to the United States. Here are some excerpts:

Dear friends (and family),

We are at the tail end of a time visiting family in North Carolina and Virginia, so it seems a good moment to choose to write a brief note. We came out of Niger in late May after a final push to get a lot of projects finished up in the last three weeks before leaving. It was a very intense time, but we also know that we left a lot of things completed. That itself was a good feeling. Still, we were in great need of a break. Both our mothers needed special attention for the sake of their health, plus we were looking forward to seeing family.

We began with a wonderful time with Bryce and Joel up in Wisconsin together. We rented a resort timeshare unit on a lake and had a good time boating, fishing, and playing board games. I caught just one 5-inch perch when fishing in a rowboat minutes before a pelting rain, but the blessed creature was the difference between something and nothing for the week. I took photo evidence of my catch before returning it to the waters to catch him again in 2022 when he is 12 inches long (?).

When our family gets together we spend a lot on special foods, featuring particularly the Wisconsin specialties of cheese and meats, and foods unavailable in Niger. (Seafood is an 11-hour drive away in the capital Niamey and expensive.) The board games are always memorable. We tend to play complicated board games with complex interrelations where different cards have different capacities, and the game progresses in phases (Pandemic, Seafarers of Catan, and Dominion were ones we played).

We have enjoyed our visits in Virginia with Carolyn. I had never been to the assisted living place where she is living and was impressed with how nice it is, and what a good community it is for her. She enjoyed our multiple visits and meals together. We had good visits, with conversations where not much was missed, really, particularly when older memories and long-term relationships were concerned.

In between, we had some wonderful visits with good family and personal friends, caught up on each other's lives and learned about life "In These United States." As usual, it is good to avoid television and just sit around and talk. We do not live here, so we are keenly interested to know what is new and what is shaping people's lives. This is always interesting. It is very renewing to talk to friends who have known us and our family for a while and to hear what they are thinking, particularly the older ones. It gives us a lot to praise God for mutually. One friend has been through a lot himself health-wise and gives praise to God for bringing him through some tight spots. He and his wife continue to live fully and have a legacy of faith and general good will that is seen across to their children's successes and well-being before

Continued from P. 7

God. It is these long-view friendships that teach us, and for which we are especially grateful.

We are thankful to God and thankful for God. In considering the news of the great and the small, of surgeons of tremendous capability in their field, of powerful politicians and leaders in Washington, D.C. and of those of all walks of life, for instance the check-out clerk who sold us our new whistling tea kettle with a smile, I am struck that God is the great equalizer of rank and standing. We are simply, at the most important level, essentially equal in His eyes in a way that wipes away the distinctions of favor and of power and of accomplishments that we make so much of. It is God's loving eye towards the president and the clerk and the surgeon that helps us greet each one at a near-equal level in terms of basic respect and courtesy. Knowing who we are and who the next person is before God helps us with our pride and with our low self-view in turn. I am feeling grateful for that influence of God and godliness right now, anyway. We feel blessed by the good health status that we have seen, and the good visits with family and with friends that we have had. As we prepare tomorrow to drive to Illinois again to see our sons before our flight to Paris, I seem to be in a moment of warmth, in a bit of glow and of happiness that is not to our credit but to the Lord's. I do not live in this state always but this time of taking stock by writing a note to you has brought me to a point of cherishing the moment, and of being thankful for it.

God is great indeed, (and all God's people said "Amen.")

Love,

Steve and Nancy Brown



Steve and Nancy Brown-Niger

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



BIRTHDAYS

2	Carl Bess	12	Andrew Coffee	20	Ann Guest
5	Ann Dial		Nicole Rhoads		Derek Zimmerman
6	Bethany Apelquist	13	Zan Dial		Justin Zimmerman
7	Jim Judkins	14	Shahmala Kamalanthan	24	Carol Williams
	Carolyn Pantzer	17	Kelly Derrick	27	Ann Westerman
	Adam Rwegayura		George Hamlin	28	Collin Sutton
10	Tara Meeks	18	Barbara Oliphant	29	VJ Johnson
	Carole Menzel				Donna Lea Louis
				30	Kenneth Vaughan

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

1	Gin & Bill Edmunds	17	Patricia & James Roberts
4	Sheila & Steven Mentzer	21	Susan & Richard Daugherty
9	Jane & Kelly Derrick	29	Sheila & James Todd
12	Stephanie & Jonathan Merrill	30	Malu & Shervan Torabi
15	Donna Lea & Kurt Louis		

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

9:00 AM

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday

12:15 PM

Wednesdays: Holy Communion

Resources

Epiphany Staff	Email	Extension
The Rev. Peter Frank, Rector	pfrank@epiphanyanglican.net	104
The Rev. Pamela Meeks, Associate Rector	pmeeks@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

2017 Vestry

David Bassert
 Doug Greenwood
 George Hamlin
 Beth Monroe
 Debby Morris
 Andy Plummer
 Bryan Saddler
 Dave Schreiner
 Duncan Sutton
 Carol Williams

Vestry Officers

Senior Warden..... Andy Plummer
 Junior Warden Bryan Saddler
 Registrar..... George Hamlin
 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

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

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

July		
2, 23	6:00 PM	Youth Connections
5, 12	6:00 PM	Summer Teaching Series "Bad Pennies"
11	7:00 PM	Vestry Meeting
31 Jul -Aug 4	9:00 AM	Coates Sports Camp
August		
31 Jul -Aug 4	9:00 AM	Coates Sports Camp
8	7:00 PM	Vestry Meeting
14-17	10:00 AM	Not Just a Hashtag Faith
27	6:00 PM	Youth Connections Fall Kick-Off
September		
12	7:00 PM	Vestry Meeting

