



The STAR



December 2020 - January 2021

Moving Ahead at Epiphany



As I was preparing for our annual meeting a few weeks ago, I started by going over all the ways COVID-19 has disrupted our lives and outreach at Epiphany. To be blunt, it was depressing. But then, I began listing all the ways Epiphany has adapted and moved forward together. That was really encouraging.

We haven't been stopped by COVID-19. As a church, we have kept our eyes on God, and the things that are most important to who we are and what we are called to be, and we have done them. We continue to worship together, both in-person and online. We have figured out ways to learn and grow together as Christians. We have provided timely aid to our neighbors in Jesus' name, whether through supporting the food bank at WFCM, distributing masks, or encouraging the staff at Arbor Terrace.

That's great, and very hopeful. It's also been encouraging to see the early results from two major vaccine candidates over the last few weeks. We aren't at the end of the pandemic, but it seems to me there are glimmers of light on the horizon, so-to-speak.

That said, sometimes the riskiest time in any battle is just before the end. It's easy to let our guard down or get ahead of ourselves, both personally, and as a church. We are going to try not to do that at Epiphany, while at the same time doing what we have done all year, look for creative ways we can do our work and offer worship.

Let's do the same thing as individuals and families. We have made it through nine challenging months. Whatever happens next, they are behind us now and we won't have to do them again. Let's keep careful and be hopeful in this moment when, just maybe, we are beginning to see a turning of the tide.

God bless,

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

Temporarily Deficient



I am not a Pollyanna, convinced there is a bright side to every situation, but I do try to see something good even in the midst of hard times. Attending a Zoom conference on church planting was such a boon or benefit to me recently. Ed Stetzer gave us leaders a helpful context as we recognize that it is okay to be deficient right now. He said that we have a “temporarily deficient ecclesiology (being church) in this emergency for the sake of the mission.” As he highlighted “*temporarily deficient*” multiple times, I found the phrase actually bringing me more internal peace to our current situation. See, when we say that it is temporary, we are recognizing that the changes we have had to make are only for a time. They are temporary and at some future point, we will enter into a new time that does not operate on a deficient ecclesiology, or way of being church. By the very nature of our crisis, our churches need to be deficient. We need to limit the number of people we seat in the building; we have to wear a mask which makes it harder to communicate. These are only two limitations. For many of us, we have only “met” in church via our Live-Stream services, without being able to hug our neighbor, drop a check in the plate, or take communion. That experience is certainly deficient! So, although we are grateful for the tool of technology that we currently use for getting together as a church, we certainly deem it as deficient.

But let’s go a little further. Besides the things I just mentioned, why would I say it is deficient? Put differently, how do we know that our current practices are not what we want long term? I mean, the culture would say that church has no value, but we know otherwise. My answer: our goal is still an embodied practice. What I mean is that our whole bodies would be able to enter into worship, alongside the other members of our community. As much as an on-line presence helps to keep us connected to each other and connected to God, we know that even God values embodied presence. You know where I am going, of course. The embodiment of God in the form of Jesus is the ultimate acknowledgement that bodies are important to God—even central to how God reaches out to us. God reaches out to us in the grasping fingers of the baby Jesus and in the offered kiss of betrayal in the garden. God put on a body. And we have bodies. And the physical bringing together of our bodies into his church will be a reality. See, we could not BE the church only in cyber-space. So, our longing to throw off this temporarily deficient ecclesiology, which mirrors our longing to see Jesus in the body, will one day yield a reality that is worth waiting for.

Pamela +

Advent and Christmas Schedule at Epiphany

Watch your mailbox for information about our Christmas schedule at Epiphany and for a copy of Trinity seminary's day-by-day Advent season devotional. This year we will be keeping the season with our traditional "Lessons and Carols" service at 10:15 on December 20, the Sunday before Christmas. Due to our desire to hear all the great music of this service, this will be a livestream-only service so that we can all sing along at home. Lyrics will be provided on the livestream as usual, but if you would like a hymnal, we are happy to check them out. Just stop by the church. While the Livestream service is a service of Lessons and Carols, we will still have an in-person Eucharist service at 8:30.

On Christmas Eve, we will have two services at 5pm and 9pm. Both services will be open to limited attendance assuming conditions allow, but you will need to sign up in advance. The worship services will also be livestreamed. Mtr. Pamela has creatively planned a recorded Christmas Eve youth drama and we are excited to be able to share that with the congregation in both worship services.

Bishop John Guernsey, our diocesan bishop, will be visiting Epiphany on Epiphany Sunday, January 3. As part of his visit he is happy to receive those desiring to formally join the Anglican Church and also confirm those who are ready to make an adult commitment to the Christian faith. If you would like more information about either reception or confirmation, please contact Fr. Peter (pfrank@epiphanyanglican.net).

Christmas 2020

Festival of 9 Lessons and Carols - December 20, 10:15am - Livestream Only

Christmas Eve - 5pm - Livestream and In-Person (please sign-up)

Christmas Eve - 9pm - Livestream and In Person (please sign-up)

Space Very Limited - Sign-Up Now for In-Person Christmas Eve Worship

Sign up at: <http://anglican.pub/christmas>

Join Us Online on Christmas Eve and 10:15am Every Sunday at <http://livestream.com/epiphanyanglican>



Christmas Drama

This year instead of a live action Christmas Drama, we decided to offer a video of the children. But, we also have children who are too young to be in a drama. That's why we are calling on all the parents of children connected to the church to send in a little video or still photo of their child so we can include them in our video. Please, dress up your child as a shepherd, or angel or a Bethlehem town's person and send us the picture or file. Mother Pamela is collecting these and would request that submissions be received by December 13th. pmeeks@epiphanyanglican.net



Continue Studying Scripture with Deacon Aaron Eime

This past month, we were able to study the Lord's prayer with Deacon Aaron Eime of Christ Anglican Church in Jerusalem. Deacon Aaron's class helped us understand the Jewish context for the Lord's Prayer and the way that people at the time of Jesus would have understood him.



While Epiphany's class with Aaron has ended, he is teaching a weekly zoom Bible Study. He is currently looking at the last words of Moses in Deuteronomy. All are welcome to join in on Wednesdays.

- Link: bit.ly/biblestudyCCJ
- Time: 19:00 Israel Time - Each Wednesday 12:00 East Coast time

Class Description: *This is our Bible study that looks at the Hebraic context of scripture. It is a very detailed study which means that often they go through less than one chapter a study. The current series is called "The Last Words of Moses" and is on the book of Deuteronomy, with a specific look at the words of Moses throughout the book.*



This Year's Epiphany Gift: Livestream Equipment for the Libereks

We are delighted to continue our tradition with the Christmas Eve offering, designating a portion of it to a specific mission or outreach project, either locally or among our international mission and outreach partners. This year we have chosen a couple serving in Belgium with United World Mission, Daniel & Myriam Liberek.

Like many around the world in this unprecedented time, our ministry partners, the Libereks, have had to launch virtual outreach and worship services for their church in Belgium, even while providing food and space for the hungry in their community. Among European nations, Belgium has been hit particularly hard in the COVID-19 pandemic. Many members of the Liberek's congregation have been sickened. They have acquired the basic equipment needed like a camera, a used computer, some software, etc., managing to continue outreach, albeit on a limited scale. But, they are conscious that they could do much better if there were an investment in more equipment. Their technical team estimates that it would take about \$3,000 to purchase hardware and software to be better equipped and more efficient.

Gifts can be received via mailed in checks to the church office or on Christmas Eve in the offering plate.

Book Group Meeting

December 16th at 6pm at the home of Diane Reed. We will be studying "The Cutting Season" by Attica Locke.

In person or via Zoom • Contact Diane Reed for details • (571) 265-1165
diane.cudoc@gmail.com



Drive-In Pledge Sunday Nov. 22

New times call for new plans. This year, we held our annual pledge Sunday on Nov. 22, and happily accepted pledge cards from individuals and families during the 8:30 in-person service, by mail, and in front of the church as parishioners drove by. If you didn't receive a pledge packet in the mail, we would be glad to send you one. Just call the office (703-481-8601) or send an email to reception@epiphanyanglican.net.

Pledging at Epiphany is a way for each of us to set aside some of what God has given us for the ministry of the church. Pledging is anonymous, but the amount pledge in aggregate helps us as a church make responsible financial decisions for the year ahead.



Christmas Basket Time

It's time for the Christmas Food Baskets already! The signup is now open (<https://anglican.pub/baskets>) and we need even more food this time around, because all 15 families that we are sponsoring are for over 5 people! As with last time, you can signup and shop for groceries, have them delivered directly to the church, or make a monetary donation. For the latter option, please specify WFCM Food in the memo on your check. All food and monetary donations are due to the church by Tuesday, December 15. If you have questions, please contact Christina Cummings, 703-915-3575 or clcummings69@gmail.com.



Missions Update: Transforming Eden

Here are excerpts from our David 's newsletter, Transforming Eden, regarding his work with an indigenous group, spreading the Word in Western Asia

Transforming Eden

Three-family Churches

Last week, Ezra and Buket launched the first “three-family church.” Since 2012, we’ve been praying for a movement of multiplying churches. There are many ways to do this, but Ezra’s vision is for three families to meet weekly, rotate hosting, speaking and leading prayers. They’ve met twice and are close to inviting a couple exploring the Christian faith. This seemingly small gathering of six adults is a significant, groundbreaking answer to prayer.

Each “three-family church” meeting begins with lighting a seven-candle menorah, beginning with the center candle for Christ. One member of each family lights a candle. They then pray for the Lord to bring in families to light the other candles.



Bible Translation Team

Our meeting with the translation consultant at the end of September was very productive and encouraging. Luke 8-15 was provisionally approved in only two days (three were planned). The consultant praised our work and confirmed growth in our team’s capacity to translate.

The pandemic prevented us from completing field testing in time. Ezra cannot travel to or meet face-to-face with checkers. Although technical difficulties originally hindered our progress, Ezra persevered and he trained six individuals to check the translation via Zoom. We’re on track to erasing our backlog in community testing.

Ezra has prayed that community checking would accomplish more than required translation work, He wants the relationships developed while discussing the Scriptures to facilitate sharing his faith with people. This has begun to happen in November with one of the checkers.

Progress: Luke checked through chapter eighteen.

Social Media

Colleagues and a local social-media strategist gathered with us in October. The meeting was encouraging for us all, especially Buket. She now focusses her efforts on Instagram and uses a different strategy to gain followers. Engagement is up. This month she will be trying out giving some small giveaways to encourage people to invite friends to follow.

Progress: 500 Instagram followers averaging 12-20 engagements per post. Facebook continues but engagement is low.

Please Pray for:

1. Me: Stronger written communication skills in both English and the local language.
2. Translation : That the Team deepen understanding of Luke's thoughts, strategy and theology.
3. Social Media: Leadership would grow and team relationships would deepen.

Results of Previous Prayer Requests

1. Me: Thank God for Health & Open borders.
2. Translation: Team: Thank God for provisional approval of Luke 2-15. Community testing was not completed by October 1 but since then we've had a breakthrough.
3. Social Media: (1) Praise God for the launch of Instagram site. Over 500 'organic' followers with 12-20 engagements per post. Buket is encouraged. (2) We haven't produced music and videos yet. Needs continued prayer. (3) Media Creation tools and equipment were delivered to Ezra & Buket

Trip Notes

The day I got my negative Covid Test report

This was a strange time to travel. Like the US, people have varied responses toward Covid risks. After 8 days of careful isolation and a negative Covid test, I joined others for a meal and one of the participants surprised me with the traditional greeting (like a European kiss on the cheek).

I stayed separately from Ezra/Buket and local travel was difficult, so I spent a lot more quiet and alone time. I got a different perspective on the city and also gained insights and I reflected on my own overly busy lifestyle.

It was great to be with the local church to experience worship and community during Covid, including baptisms and a picnic. I had great conversation with an Orthodox priest and his family who joined both meetings.

I self-quarantined (mask + no close contact with family) at home in Virginia for 12 days. This made transitioning back strange.

Overall, the trip was much less busy than normal, but renewed personal connections with key people were invaluable and hopefully allow me to sustain long-distance relationships for the next six months.




December



- 1 Fay Cochran
Brianna Meeks
- 2 Janice Monaghan
- 3 Chris Johnson
Dan Johnson
Will Schreiner
- 5 Maria Murphy
Charlotte Camak
- 7 Katie Miller
- 13 John Murphy
- 19 Michael Ellis
- 21 Michaela Turner
- 22 Andy Baehr
- 23 Jan Coffee
- 26 Joel Monroe
- 28 Annabelle Easton
- 31 Ran Cottingham

- 1 Bethany McKenica
- 2 Maria Luisa Torabi
- 3 Amy Johnson
- 4 Teagan Merrill
- 6 Linda Boggs
- 10 Frances Miller
- 11 James Boggs
Care Murphy
Jessica Francis
- 16 Daniel Baehr
- 17 Ryan Ellis
Pamela Meeks
- 19 Ellie Dial
Joanna Torabi
- 22 Sandy Stoddard
- 23 Christopher Frost
- 24 Nolan Hanger
- 28 Wyndy Fredrick
- 30 Maggie McNeely

Happy Anniversary



December

- 2 Andy and Lisa Baehr
- 14 Fred and Krystal Apelquist
- 29 Frank and Margaret Donivan

January

- 2 Jan & Gordon Coffee
- 3 Barbara & Mark Oliphant
- 4 Andrea & Peter Frank
- 18 Shahmala Kamalanthan & Ragu Nadarajah
- 20 Linda & James Boggs
- 24 Debbie & Ted Hanger



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.

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
The Rev. Sally Hoover, Parish Deacon	shoover@epiphanyanglican.net
Jimmy Crawford, Music Director	jcrawford@epiphanyanglican.net
Janice Monaghan, Financial Director	jmonaghan@epiphanyanglican.net

2021 Vestry
 Lisa Baehr
 Jim Boggs
 Amie Boncher*
 Christina Cummings**
 Kelly Derrick
 Bill Hoover
 Leslie Johnson**
 Sally McNeely*
 Carole Menzel
 Pat Meyer
 Mark Oliphant*
 Geoffrey Seroka**
 Margaret Stromberg

* Retiring **New Members

Vestry Officers

Senior Warden Mark Oliphant/TBD
 Junior Warden.....Lisa Baehr/TBD
 Registrar.....Amie Boncher/TBD
 Finance Committee ChairmanDennis McNeely/TBD
 Treasurer.....Tom Miller
 Assistant Treasurer.....Charlie Monroe
 ChancellorDavid 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

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS

December		
2, 9, 16, 23, 30	12:00 PM	Midday Eucharist In-Person.
6, 13, 20, 27	8:30 AM	In-Person Worship.
6, 13, 27	10:15 AM	Holy Eucharist - Livestream
20	10:15 AM	Lessons and Carols - Livestream only
24	5:00 PM	Christmas Service - Livestream and In-Person (Please sign-up)
24	9:00 PM	Christmas Service - Livestream and In-Person (Please sign-up)
January		
6, 13, 20, 27	12:00 PM	Midday Eucharist In-Person.
3, 10, 17, 24, 31	8:30 AM	In-Person Worship.
3, 10, 17, 24, 31	8:30 AM	In-Person Worship.

Look for us online:

Church of the Epiphany: <https://epiphanyanglican.net/>

Church Calendar: <https://epiphanyanglican.net/events/>

Sign up for In-Person Worship Services
Look for the link in the weekly Candle

Due to current circumstances, many of the normal activities have either moved online or have been postponed. Check with your Ministry Organizer for details relevant to your specific activity. See the weekly Candle for the most current information.

Space Very Limited – Sign-Up Now for In-Person Christmas Eve Worship

Sign up at: <http://anglican.pub/christmas>

