

Answering the Right Question



“Very few people are looking for a theological answer - theologians maybe. Normal people - they have an existential question.”

Daniel Liberek, a missionary pastor in Belgium we support as a church, said this in a thought-provoking interview (available as a youtube video here: <https://youtu.be/zRIBMqBhQao>). He was talking about his work as an evangelist in a post-Christian culture.

In some ways, this feels a bit disappointing to me (and maybe to you). I am a professional theological-answer-knower. I think the theological answers we have as Christians are robust and more than able to stand on their own two feet in an argument. I enjoy educating others about this, whether they like it or not.

But Daniel Liberek’s observation certainly fits my own experience. Most people I know who have become Christian haven’t done so because someone finally explained the eternal procession of the Holy Spirit from the Father and the Son (or some other concept) in a way that is theologically satisfactory. Instead, they believed for much more practical reasons. They knew a Christian or Christians and saw how their faith shaped their life in positive ways. They got invited to be part of a church. Someone who was a Christian was there for them in the middle of a crisis or emergency. Prayers got answered.

At the same time, most of the people I know who have left Christianity haven’t really done so because of theology (though they may give some theological reasons after the fact). Instead, they are often disappointed by God, or the church. They have a sense that they are not loved or that they don’t matter. Or, increasingly in our culture, they just succumbed to the endless messaging we are all bombarded with that God is not relevant to modern life. If that is the case, all the good theology in the world is not enough to cover over the rift.

So, what does this mean for us? Well, one thing it means is that you don’t have to be a theologian or an apologist to evangelize. Our lives and our genuine care for other people as fellow creatures in the image of our creator are more of a witness that Jesus is alive than our theological words will ever be to most of our neighbors. It also means we are probably best

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to focus on continuing the relationship more than winning the argument when theological matters come up.

We could ask ourselves, “why are we talking about theology right now?” and “What is the question behind the question?” Who knows what we might find, and how we might be able to offer not just an answer, but Christ’s presence through us to people who need him.

God Bless,

Pat



Pumpkin Carving Potluck

Back by popular demand: families gathering around pumpkins to carve or paint them on Sunday, October 30. We will gather in the Fellowship hall 5:00-7:00pm.

I have always enjoyed this annual event because we are encouraged to be creative and relaxed. We will provide chili and ask you to bring along a side dish, chips or a dessert. This is a perfect time to come and invite your own friends. We will provide one pumpkin per child so sign up in the fellowship hall. Contact Mtr. Pamela for details pmeeke@epiphanyanglican.net.



How We Grow the Faith of our Kids at Epiphany



Some of you are keenly aware of the responsibility to disciple your children. It is nearly top of the list for families with children who are seeking a new church. How is the church helping the children to grow in the faith? Whether we are thinking about our own children or those of would-be guests, you want to know if Epiphany can help. If parents are not confident, secure, and hopeful about the discipleship of our youngest members, they will go elsewhere. “Building a multi-generational congregation that loves children and families” is so important that it is one of our chief emphases here at Epiphany.

But this goes beyond the Sunday school teaching time. What the kids get in that class is 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. But we Anglicans engage with our bodies as well as our minds. We have a sacramental view of our liturgical practices. Baptism and communion are two important sacraments that reach us when we are still children. Most children are baptized as infants, but we wait until our children are old enough to know what is happening before we offer them communion. We want to make sure they know what they are doing. Some children are keen to participate early on and others need to be coaxed along a bit. Because children mature at different rates, we let parents tell us when they think their kids are ready for communion preparation. COVID protocols from the last two years have thrown off our regular rhythm, so we are trying to get back into the practice of offering communion classes to children if you want and need this. Some families feel confident to prepare their own children to take communion and we are fine with that. Other families would prefer us to present the richness of communion to minds which are still being formed.

So, How can we help you disciple your children? Is it your hope that Epiphany is a place that families feel confident that answering that question is important to us? Let me know how I can help you. Contact me at pmeeks@epiphanyanglican.net.

Pamela +



Newcomers Class Begins Nov. 20

Are you to Epiphany and/or to Anglican Christianity? Fr. Peter will be offering a newcomers class beginning Nov. 20 between 9:15 and 10am on Sundays. The class will prepare those who attend to be formally received into the Anglican Church when Bishop John visits us on January 8

BBQ Sandwiches, Ice Cream and Fun at Fall Kickoff!

Epiphany gathered for our annual Fall Kickoff celebration on September 18. After worship, we shared a meal, the kids enjoyed bouncing in the bounce houses, and both kids and adults got to enjoy as much ice cream as seemed good to them from the ice cream truck.

Inside the fellowship hall, Epiphany ministries shared information about what they do and looked for those interested in serving with them.



As we did last year, the center of our Fall Kickoff party was a big tent in the parking lot where we had a chance to connect with each other over a catered meal.



Food was prepared by Zan and Ann Dial, friends of Epiphany and owners of Ellie's Place in Warrenton, VA.



Fall



Kids enjoyed bouncing in the bounce houses.

This year, a generous donor covered the cost of a visit from an ice cream truck!



Lick-Off



Mmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmm!



Next Holy Land Pilgrimage Oct. 30-Nov. 9 2023

Traveling to the Holy Land and walking where Jesus walked is a life-changing and faith building experience. Epiphany will be going on pilgrimage October 30 - November 9 in 2023. While our trip is still more than a year off, details are beginning to come together.

During our ten-day trip, we will be spending time in Galilee, the mountains of Judea, the Negev, Samaria, and of course the Old City of Jerusalem. When we are in Jerusalem, we will be staying at the Christ Church guest house. Christ church is Jerusalem's Anglican church and also the oldest protestant church in the city. It is also just inside the Jaffa Gate of the Old City, just a few minutes-walk from the Church of the Holy Sepulcher (Jesus' tomb) and Golgotha, the Western Wall, the Via Dola Rosa and countless other amazing locations.

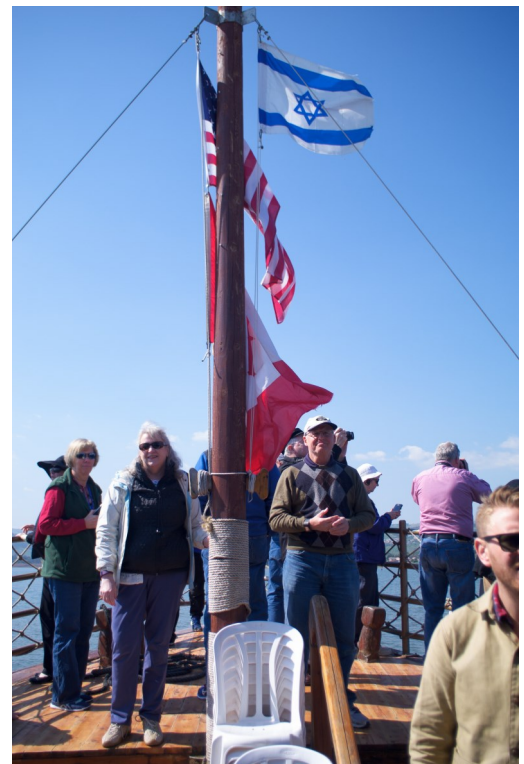
While inflation and increased travel costs are a reality, the trip is reasonably priced, at \$2,804 assuming 20 travelers. To this, we will need to add the cost of plane tickets (which we will get as a group).

If you would like to be on Epiphany's information list for this pilgrimage, send Fr. Peter an email (pfrank@epiphanyanglican.net).



Going to the Western Wall (or as it is sometimes called, the Wailing Wall) where Jews have prayed since the destruction of the Temple by the Romans in AD 70 is an amazing experience.

Sailing on the Sea of Galilee.



Missions Update: Uganda Christian University

*Epiphany has proudly supported **Uganda Christian University** for over 10 years. During that time, UCU has grown in size and stature. Here are excerpts from a recent report about the many ways in which UCU helps its students and the community:*

UCU health week focused on mental health

Olivia Kamusiime, is finishing her last year and pursuing a Bachelor of Arts in Journalism and Communication. She thanked the university and the student leaders for the initiative of the addressing addictive substances and mental health challenges during this year's health week.

She said that so many students face challenges which could lead them into abusing drugs and alcohol. With campaigns like those held at the health week, she is optimistic a positive change will be registered.

Not only did the health week effort address the challenges that students face, the campus hosted a blood drive and provided free dental and vision screenings to all.



When I think of dancing, I think of Molly...



Molly Nantongo with Elizabeth Bacwayo (former Dean of Social Sciences, now Director of Postgraduate Studies)

Molly Nantongo, a 2015 UCU Bachelor of Social Work and Social Administration graduate, is finishing her last year of her MSW program at UC Berkley.

She recently flew back to Uganda to lead a project designed to help youth who suffered from COVID lock-down develop skills to help support their families financially. [Nantongo's story](#) starts when she was 10, living in a Kampala slum and was discovered for her dancing abilities. Her talents led her to various opportunities that have supported her (and her family) from youth to the present.



A UCU research project helps the local elderly



Sarah Namutebi, 67, cannot imagine life before the UCU Faculty of Agricultural Sciences and UCU School of Medicine vegetable project. She couldn't get a job because of her age and, without money, she couldn't eat. Now, as one of more than 100 elderly Mukono-area men and women engaged in the project, she's getting food, and she has a job of documenting her health through nakati (also known as the African egg plant).

Two weeks of exams



The last two weeks of August were intense on the UCU campus as students took final exams.



Sunday Prayer Corner Re-activated



During the pandemic we missed the ministry of Epiphany's prayer corner. The prayer corner offers prayer on the spot on Sunday mornings while communion is being distributed. Located under the cross on the lefthand forward wall of the sanctuary, the prayer corner prayer team is available to pray with you.

Christmas Morning Lessons and Carols

This year, Christmas Morning falls on Sunday, and the second Sunday of the Christmas season falls on New Year's Day. We will be worshipping on Christmas morning by gathering together for a simple "Lessons and Carols" service at 11am. This service of carol singing and scripture reading is most appropriate for Christmas! The service will be under an hour long.

We will return to our usual schedule of two worship services, at 8am and 10:15am on New Years Day.



Bishop Minns Preaching at Epiphany October 9



A friend of Epiphany, the Rt. Rev. Martyn Minns, will be preaching at the 10:15am service on Oct. 9. Bishop Minns served as the rector of Truro church for many years, and was the first bishop of the Convocation of Anglicans in North America (CANA). Most recently, he served as interim bishop of the Anglican Diocese of Pittsburgh.



Annual Congregational Meeting is Nov. 13

Epiphany's annual business meeting will be at 11:30am on November 13 in the fellowship hall. During the meeting, we will hear a financial update from our finance committee, as well as "state of the church" reports from the rector and associate rector.

*MARK YOUR
CALENDAR!*

The chief business item of our meeting will be the election of three new vestry officers to serve a three-year term beginning on January 1, 2023.

Our goal will be to complete the annual meeting in about an hour. We will provide child-care for younger children.

Please plan to attend!



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.**



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 Fislser by email at mizfiz34@gmail.com.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY



- 2 Ralph Morris
Judy Schulenberg
- 3 Beatriz Long
Gregory Trout
- 4 Clare Frank
- 8 Kent Johnson
Janice Wolfe
- 9 Heather Boncher
- 10 Elena Sofia Marie Long
- 15 Rebecca Bixler
- 16 Susan Brown
- 17 Joseph Navarrete
- 18 Keith Menzel
- 19 Frank Donovan
- 20 Nathaniel Bixler
- 21 Nicholas Apelquist
- 22 Theodore Bixler
Randy Rash
- 27 Catherine Zimmerman
- 29 Brett Bender
- 30 Nathan Jewell

- 1 Ted Fredrick
- 7 Kurt Louis
- 8 Bill Knight
- 10 Shervan Torabi
- 11 Emily McKenica
- 16 Penny Rauh
- 17 Melanie Miller
- 18 Catherine Croft
- 20 Ginny Roberts
- 21 Sheila Todd
Colin Tucker
- 25 Jonathan Merrill
- 28 Bessie Cool
- 30 Vonda Sines

Happy Anniversary



October

- 8 Jami & Chris Johnson
- 18 Amy & Dan Johnson

November

- 2 Christina & Ross Cummings
- 21 Sheila & Jimmy Crawford
- 24 Carolyn & Larry Pantzer
- 25 Jennie & Bob Beckley
- 28 Lisa & Michael Ellis



Resources

Epiphany Staff	Email
The Rev. Peter Frank, Rector	pfrank@epiphanyanglican.net
The Rev. Pamela Meeks, Associate Rector	pmeeks@epiphanyanglican.net
The Rev. Sally Hoover, Parish Deacon	shoover@epiphanyanglican.net
Jimmy Crawford, Music Director	jcrawford@epiphanyanglican.net
Petrina Teoh, Office Administrator	pteoh@epiphanyanglican.net

Vestry Members

Lisa Baehr
 Jim Boggs
 Jon Crane
 Christina Cummings
 Sally Eckard
 Ted Hanger
 Bill Hoover
 Leslie Johnson
 Joyce Schmalz
 Geoffrey Seroka

Vestry Officers/Committee Chairs for 2022

Senior Warden Lisa Baehr
 Junior Warden.....Geoffrey Seroka
 Registrar..... Christina Cummings
 Home Group Ministry Coordinator.....Leslie Johnson
 Vestry Liaison to Mission Committee.....Jim Boggs
 Chairman of the Benevolence Committee Ted Hanger
 Vestry Liaison to Finance Committee.....Jon Crane
 Finance Committee ChairmanTom Miller*
 Treasurer.....Charlie Monroe*
 ChancellorDavid Reed*

*Non-vestry members

Publishing Information

The **Epiphany STAR** is published bi-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 January, March, May, July, September & November.

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

OCTOBER

11	7:00 PM	Vestry Meeting
5, 12, 19, 26	12:00 PM	Simple Eucharist
2, 9, 16, 23, 30	8:00 AM	Holy Eucharist In-Person
2, 9, 16, 23, 30	10:15 AM	Holy Eucharist - Livestream & In-Person
9, 23	1:15 PM	Worship at Arbor Terrace
9, 23	2:00 PM	Worship at Arbor Terrace
30	5:00 PM	 Pumpkin Carving Potluck

NOVEMBER

8	7:00 PM	Vestry Meeting
2, 9, 16, 23, 30	12:00 PM	Simple Eucharist
6, 13, 20, 27	8:00 AM	Holy Eucharist In-Person
6, 13, 20, 27	10:15 AM	Holy Eucharist - Livestream & In-Person
13	11:30 AM	 Annual Meeting & Vestry Elections
13, 27	1:15 PM	Worship at Arbor Terrace
13, 27	2:00 PM	Worship at Arbor Terrace
20, 27	9:15 AM	New comers Class

Look for us online:



Church of the Epiphany: <https://epiphanyanglican.net/>
 Church Calendar: <https://epiphanyanglican.net/events/>
 Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/epiphany.anglican>
 YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/EpiphanyVideo>

