

## A Tale of Two Christmas Concerts



Where I am from in the upper Midwest, there is a strong tradition of choral music. The highpoint of the choral year, particularly among a subset of mostly Lutheran affiliated colleges and universities from that part of the world, is the Christmas concert.

These are heavily-produced events with full orchestras, massed choirs of hundreds of voices and beautiful staging. They are often broadcast on local TV stations in the Midwest. Every year, Andrea and I go hunting for them in our Northern Virginia program listings. We usually find at least one or two that make it all the way out here on PBS.

This year, we found two to watch. One simply let the Christmas story be told through sacred music, some of it traditional, other parts more adventurous, but all firmly grounded in the Christian faith. The other clearly was uncomfortable with that approach, and felt the need to use a generic gloss of secular togetherness as the unifying principal of their program.

It probably won't surprise you to know that I liked the one that just organized their concert around the Christian faith best. But what really stood out to me was not just that I liked it more, but that it actually worked better as well. At the end of the day, Christmas is not "reducible" to secular values like peace, goodwill and togetherness, as fine as those things are. You need God's Son, born of a virgin and announced by angels to have those things. They are the messengers of peace and goodwill, and they only have those things to announce because they have "*good news of great joy*" to bring – "*For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior who is Christ the Lord.*" (Luke 2.11,14). Without them, you just get pretty music and a bunch of ethical non-sequiturs.

My prayer for all of us during this season of Christmas and Epiphany is that we got the whole story, that we got all of Christmas, and that's Jesus Christ, born for us.

God Bless,

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

## News From Around Our Diocese



One of the joys of working in our diocese is the commitment we share to planting new churches in addition to helping churches reach out to their diverse neighborhoods. When we come together at our yearly synod meeting in November, we hear an update on the progress of these new efforts. Since many of us were encouraged by this, I thought I would share a little snapshot of what our diocese has been up to.

We welcomed the transition from mission fellowship to congregation status for Redeemer Anglican in Richmond. They are also working together with another Anglican diocese to train a new church planter for 2 years before sending him off to plant elsewhere in Richmond. They just turned 2 years old!

Led by Fairfax native Jim Beavers, Christ Church in Orange, VA was admitted as a congregation. Orange has been faithfully keeping up progress for the past five years in a rural area which will just not see explosive growth regardless of what is done. We are encouraged to have a solid Anglican presence outside the metro area.

The Mosaic district of Merrifield has seen explosive growth and we Anglicans are in the midst of this. A team of Truro folks are hosting a variety of outreach efforts along the lines of a method called Fresh Expressions. I support this work as a ministry coach with one of the young women working and living there. Just last month a young man trusted in Jesus and is now being disciplined!

Years ago when Restoration Anglican in Arlington began as a church plant, they wanted to plant other churches. Incarnation Church is an outgrowth of that vision and their focus is carefully tuned to South Arlington. Led by a team, they formally launched in September and are getting good traction.

Church of the Ascension in Kearneysville, West Virginia launched on Palm Sunday of this year. They have already outgrown their rented space but are experiencing some difficulties to getting approvals from all the important people who need to sign off on their new space.

Five years ago New Creation Church in Hagerstown, Maryland began and they have just outgrown their space. Taking their next big step has led them to rent a downtown church in the heart of Hagerstown.

Families in Transition is a ministry among the poor in Newport News, pulling in the energy and excitement of Christopher Newport University students. I know about this outreach, because I am a ministry coach for their leader. It warms my heart to hear stories of children's lives being touched by God's love expressed in tangible ways.

Some of you may remember that I was previously working with Church of the Apostles to help start Apostles Campus Church at George Mason University back four years ago. It is exciting to see that they have continued to grow and develop even as their lead church planter has just moved away. In transition, the student leaders have been taking the leadership role seriously and will carry the church forward.

We praise God for all of these new endeavors and pray that as a diocese we will continue to do more to reach our world with the Gospel.

*Pamela +*

## Joint Altar Guild - LEM Training

Annual Altar Guild - LEM training will be held on Saturday, February 2, groundhog or no groundhog.

So, you may be thinking “I’ve been doing this for years, I don’t need training!” There is always something to learn, new ideas to share, suggestions to make, so we want everyone to try their best to attend.

Mark your calendars now. February 2; 10:00 AM; at the church. Lunch will be served immediately following.



## Hospitality Coordinator

We are looking for a new Hospitality Coordinator for this quarter. There are currently several teams and couples who help with coffee hour. The Coordinator would need to recruit volunteers to fill in for Sundays when no one has signed up.

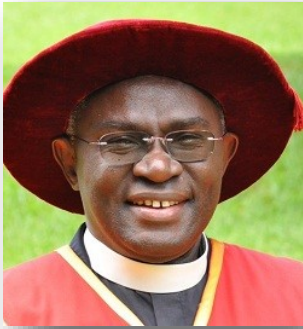
We are also looking for volunteers to sign up for Sundays. Volunteers can be singles, families, couples, Bible Study, or Home Groups! All we need is someone to make the drinks and set out the food, plates, and napkins. The set up before and clean up after church is about 15 minutes each on Sunday mornings (before and after the Worship Service).

Snacks (packaged and frozen) are kept at the church to be used for Fellowship. There is no need for our Fellowship Hour hosts to bring food.

Thank you for your support of this ministry and serving our visitors and church family! If you have any questions, please contact Amie Boncher at 703-593-3366.



## Uganda Christian University Vice-Chancellor Visiting Feb. 3



On February 3, Epiphany will welcome the Rev. Dr. John Senyonyi, vice chancellor of Uganda Christian University. Dr. Senyonyi will be preaching at both the 8 and 10:15 services. In Uganda, the responsibilities of a college “vice chancellor” is equivalent to that of a American college president.

Epiphany has a long relationship with Uganda Christian University as one of our mission partners, including sending a team from Epiphany to visit in 2014. The school, which educates some 10,000 college and graduate students at multiple campuses in Uganda is committed to training the future leaders of Africa both in academic excellence and in the Christian faith.



## Thank You – Epiphany Gift Report

This year’s Epiphany Gift, given on Christmas Eve, came to \$3,989, just \$11 short of our planned giving of \$2,000 each to two worthy missions projects. Thank you for your giving!

Our first gift of \$2,000 will help provide a car for Ezra, a disciple of Pastor Ahmet in Turkey. You may remember Pastor Ahmet from his time with us at Epiphany last summer. Ezra needs a to further his ministry in Turkey. In the past few years, Ezra helped tend to Syrian refugees who were traumatized by the brutal civil war. He now has been assigned to minister to a church in an overwhelmingly Muslim area in Turkey that receives an average of 1500-2000 visitors per month. Ezra’s tasks include sharing the faith with those visitors and believers, meeting with inquirers in the surrounding districts and provinces, and journeying to Kurdish areas as he works on a translation of the New Testament in their mother tongue.

We are also helping get SAT-7’s Social Media Viewer Engagement Initiative off the ground with a gift of \$2,000. With 1.9 million Facebook followers and over 2 million SAT-7 Arabic YouTube downloads a month, SAT-7 has designed and implemented social media resources to help people with parenting and life questions. Helping people become better parents is a worthy goal in itself, but more than that, it enables SAT-7 to lead people into a discussion about faith and ultimately into a relationship with God.

God has blessed us richly as a congregation, and it is an honor and a privilege to give a gift in thanks every year on Christmas Eve here at Epiphany!



# Our First Christmas in our new home!





# The Children's Pageant



## Missions Update: Transforming Eden

*Here are excerpts from a report from David Meeks regarding the expanding role of Ezra in spreading the Word in Western Asia. One of Epiphany's Christmas gifts this year is going to further Ezra's valuable work.*

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Ezra had no plans or desires to lead a team to translate the Bible into **Zaz**, his mother tongue, until two recent events. As Ezra welcomes visitors to his Church, he points to Turkish, Arabic and Kurdish Bibles as proof that the Christian faith embraces all cultures and languages. One day, after **Zaz** students asked for **Zaz** Bibles, Ezra sheepishly had to tell them there was no **Zaz** translation for the 3-4 million **Zaz** speakers. Months later in another city, he witnessed people excitedly calling others to listen to portions of Luke. These conservative Muslims felt honored

when they heard the "Injil" in their own language, and later opened their hearts and homes to Ezra. Within days, the Lord gave him a comprehensive 10-year vision built around translating the New Testament into **Zaz**.

When Ezra first shared this vision with me, I wasn't thrilled. Surely this could wait, as Ezra's busy and fruitful enough without taking on another large commitment. However, as we fasted



(Continued on page 8)

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and prayed for weeks, the Lord reminded me that He, **not I**, would show Ezra the best way to reach his people.

Ezra's leadership impressed me, as he presented his vision to church leaders. The Bible Society and translators gave us confidence as they shared their process and experiences translating the Bible. Some in attendance also had unexpected things "happen" to them that they interpreted as God leading. By the end of our meeting, all the leaders were of one mind to move ahead on the first 3-year phase of translating the Gospel of Luke into the standard dialect.

The Lord had a personal surprise for Ezra and **me**. The project needed a Turkish speaking "exegete" who could connect the translation team to Greek and Hebrew language resources. That is an area I love working in. The translation experts and I started talking about me joining the translation team as the exegete. Ezra **was** thrilled to have someone he **knows** on the team. I will need some classes this January, but the translation experts are confident **that** I can fill the role under their guidance. What a gift the Lord has given me, to be able to contribute with skills I love using.

Thank you for your indispensable gifts and prayers,  
Merry Christmas

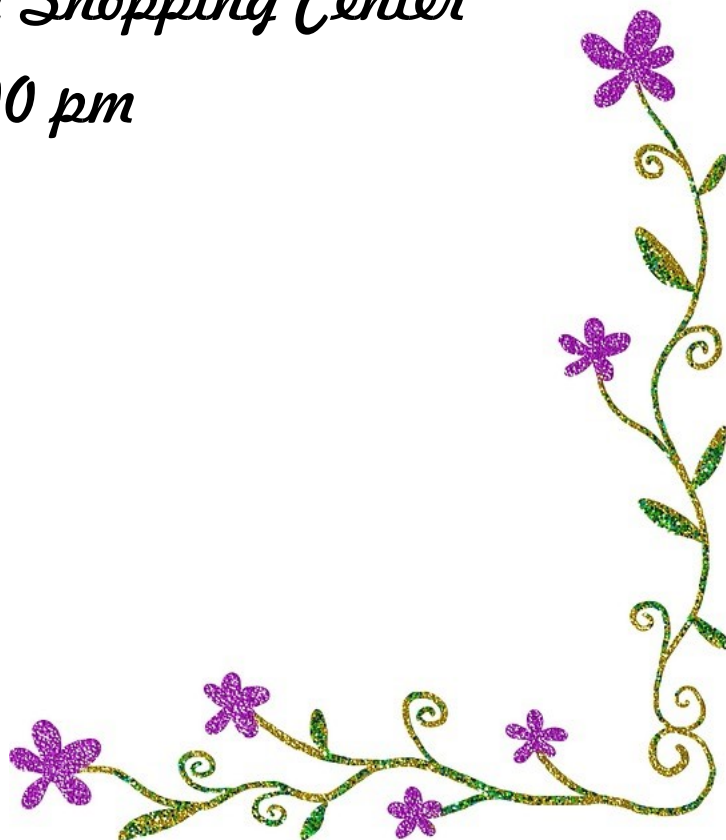
David

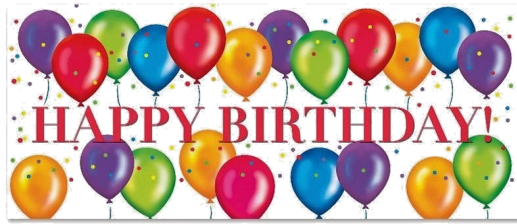






*Ladies Dining Out.*  
*Wednesday, January 16*  
*Piero's Restaurant*  
*Franklin Farm Shopping Center*  
*7:00 pm*





**BIRTHDAYS**

1	Bethany McKenica	16	Daniel Baecht	23	Christopher Frost
2	Maria Luisa Torabi	17	Ryan Ellis	24	Nolan Hanger
4	Teagan Merrill		Pamela Meeks	25	Nancy Vander Voort
6	Linda Boggs	18	Joanne Harp	27	Susan Rayo-Jones
10	Frances Miller	19	Brittney Marcum	28	Wyndy Fredrick
11	James Boggs		Ellie Dial	30	Maggie McNeely
	Care Murphy	22	Sandy Stoddard		
	Jessica Francis				

*Happy Anniversary*

**WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES**



2	Jan & Gordon Coffee	18	Shahmala Kamalanthan & Ragu Nadarajah
3	Barbara & Mark Oliphant	20	Linda & James Boggs
4	Andrea & Peter Frank	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.



**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

### 2019 Vestry

Lisa Baehr  
 Amie Boncher  
 Kelly Derrick  
 Doug Greenwood  
 Sally McNeely  
 Carole Menzel  
 Pat Meyer  
 Debby Morris  
 Mark Oliphant  
 Margaret Stromberg

### Vestry Officers

Senior Warden..... Mark Oliphant  
 Junior Warden ..... TBD  
 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:star@epiphanyanglican.net)  
[candle@epiphanyanglican.net](mailto:candle@epiphanyanglican.net)  
[jcrawford@epiphanyanglican.net](mailto:jcrawford@epiphanyanglican.net) (for weekly bulletin)

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





3863 Centerview Drive, Suite 100  
 Chantilly, Virginia 20151  
 Main Number: 703.481.8601  
 Prayer Line: 703.389.7292

Visit our website at [www.epiphanyanglican.net](http://www.epiphanyanglican.net)

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

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

January		
1	All Day	Church Office Closed
6, 13, 20, 27	8: 00 AM and 10:15 AM	Holy Eucharist
13, 27	6:00 PM	Youth Connections
13	1:30 PM	Marriage Mentors
15	7 PM	Vestry Meeting
27	2:00 PM	Worship at Arbor Terrace
February		
6, 13, 20, 27	8: 00 AM and 10:15 AM	Holy Eucharist
10, 24	6:00 PM	Youth Connections
12	7 PM	Vestry Meeting
24	2:00 PM	Worship at Arbor Terrace

*To get your item on the*



***Jimmy Crawford***

***[jcrawford@epiphanyanglican.net](mailto:jcrawford@epiphanyanglican.net)***