



The STAR



October - November 2021

How Things Will Be



When will the pandemic end? This is a question that I have been asking myself in one way or another since March of 2020.

Over the last few months, I have realized it is time to stop asking this question. Here is why. While the pandemic will end at some point, I have come to accept that there is unlikely to be a moment when “all clear” is sounded and we all return to “normal,” pre-pandemic patterns.

Instead, COVID will be with us going forward. We will get better at treating it (as we have). The vaccines do a good job limiting hospitalization and death (which is great). Still, just like strains of influenza related to the 1918 pandemic are still with us today, so will COVID variants be with us from this time forward.

So, what does this mean for us at Epiphany? Well, it means instead of waiting for a return to normal, we need to focus on fulfilling our calling as a church now and making sure that all we are doing is sustainable for the long term.

We owe so much to selfless volunteers at our church, many of whom have taken on more responsibilities since the pandemic began. I am so grateful for this and I hope you are as well. The reality is that at this point our in-person Sunday attendance is about two-thirds of what it was before COVID began. In my conversations with church leaders beyond Epiphany, this is what other congregations are seeing as well. Yet in many areas we have the same in-person volunteer needs as we had pre-COVID. This has led to some real stress. Our small group of nursery workers are sometimes serving twice a month. Our tellers (who count the offering) have half as many volunteers as they had before COVID. The Altar Guild and livestream ministries also have volunteers who serve almost every week because there is no-one else.

Two things need to happen. First, pray that we have the volunteers we need to do the important things on Sunday and at other times at church. If you felt a nudge toward a particular ministry during our ministry fair on Sept. 12, please take that a step further and volunteer. Second, it is time for ministry leaders to ask if what they are doing is sustainable for the long term with the volunteers they have. Ministries at Epiphany are not intended to be

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

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either life-sentences or full-time jobs. If either of these descriptions feel true to you, let me give you permission as a ministry leader or participant to make some changes. I recognize deciding to potentially “do less” is difficult, but we are in a marathon, not a sprint. I am happy to have any conversations with you that might be helpful.

We are blessed at Epiphany, and I am blessed by the way so many give so much to our life

Pat



Annual Congregational Meeting is Nov. 14

Epiphany’s annual business meeting will be at 11:30am on November 14 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.

The chief business item of our meeting will be the election of four new vestry officers to serve a three-year term beginning on January 1, 2022.

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!



Tellers Needed

Epiphany is in need of a few new tellers. This involves coming to the late service, receiving the offering from the ushers after communion, and then counting it in the Financial Administrators office. There are two tellers each Sunday, and this would be once a month commitment. We will train you on your first Sunday. Please contact Amie Boncher if you are interested. 703-593-3366 aboncher@gmail.com.



Questions in the Dark



You may have noticed that I often quote Paul David Tripp. Besides focusing on grace in the message of the Gospel, he asks good questions. For example: Do you judge God's goodness by the amount of suffering or difficulties in your life? Do you judge the faithfulness of God by how much disappointment and grief you have had to endure? These kinds of questions get me thinking about how easy it is to make presumptions about God's goodness or faithfulness based on our circumstances in life at the time.

It is relatively easy to take the good days and thank God for them. We may have had a good night's rest, we see the sun shining, and we get to eat our favorite breakfast. "God is good and God is faithful," is easy to say. But what happens when we wake up after a couple hours of sleep, our back is sore, and the coffee tastes stale for unknown reasons? How do we trust God's goodness when circumstances have completely upended our lives and we struggle to stay emotionally stable? The temptation to doubt God's goodness and faithfulness is strong when we have tied our perception of God's goodness to how we are feeling.

But what happens when life is disappointing and we experience loss and trials? Do we think that God is good and faithful even in the midst of that? Can we trust that God has a plan to redeem the awful stuff in our lives? These moments do not mean that God has forgotten us or has somehow failed to hear our prayers by ignoring our cries for help. Don't get me wrong, faithful people experience horrifically difficult situations in life that would be hard to endure and to remain a faithful disciple. In times like these, it would be hard to say that God is good. But we have to remember a couple things. God may not intervene in every situation that brings us pain. God could look at these situations and consider that this trial could strengthen our faith, grow our resilience, and deepen our perseverance. Nothing in life is guaranteed, so we may not come out stronger or more resilient but we certainly do not grow our character when all of life goes along smoothly. We wouldn't even know if he had true grit if not for the opportunities to fail at it.

See, God is more committed to making our characters conform more and more into the image of Christ, than committed to our general happiness (*Rom. 8:29 For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son*). We can know for certain that God's goal for us is so much higher and deeper than what we hoped for when life is going swimmingly. Can we trust that God is good and God is faithful when life is painful? In times like these we desperately need the body of Christ to remind us that despite our feelings, we really can trust God to be good to us. We might only be able to see it in the long run and the way might be murky, but the best way to navigate the hard stuff is to continue to remember that God is faithful, regardless of all our present circumstances.

Pamela +

Summer Baptisms at Epiphany

We had the privilege of welcoming 10 infants and children into Christ's Church this summer through baptism. Congratulations to Caleb, Daniel, Hudson, Eleanor, Jonathan, Zoe, Nnaemeka, Rory, Verity, Alexander and their families.





WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Sisters in Christ Believing His Words...

"With God all things are possible!"
Matthew 19:26

Season's Fall "Retreat & Workshop"

November 6th

11:00am to 2:00pm Fellowship Hall

Agenda: Coffee with hard start at 11:15; Lunch provided;
Small group interaction with dessert & coffee.

Contact: Amie Boncher

RSVP: women@epiphanyanglican.net

Workshop Title:

"Life Through the Lens of the Beatitudes"

Speaker: The Rev. Sally Hoover



A perpetual student, I have been trained in several types of prayer ministry. I recently completed a *Certificate in Spiritual Direction* through Richmond Graduate University in Atlanta and am now immersed in studies for their *M.A. in Spiritual Formation and Direction*. Ordained as a deacon in the Anglican Church, I served at several Anglican Churches before coming to Epiphany.

A bit of history...Growing up on the coast of south Georgia, the sight of breakers crashing on sandy beaches, a chapel with a beautiful Tiffany-stained glass window, and the warmth of elderly ladies praying for me are strong childhood memories. After graduating from Emory University in Atlanta, I took off for West Africa, where I taught teachers in Sierra Leone how to teach art to primary school children. There I met and married a wonderful man from Missouri.

Our journey took us to Cameroon, in Central Africa, Indiana, where I attended graduate school and then Latvia (Eastern Europe) shortly after the iron curtain fell. From there we moved to Bulgaria, Morocco and finally home to Virginia. So, I feel like I have come full circle: having become an elderly lady praying passionately for others to know the love of our Lord ... where I first started ... but in a different role!

Women's Special Interest Groups

Women's Bible Study *Monday Mornings at 9:30*

The Women's Monday Morning Bible Study meets in the church library. The ladies are currently studying, "To Be A Christian: An Anglican Catechism." You are welcome to visit so contact Amie today!

Contact: Amie Boncher at Epiphany 703-481-8601 or

RSVP: women@epiphanyanglican.net

Spiritual Journaling *First Friday of Each Month*

Melanie Miller hosts our women's *Spiritual Journaling* group. The group gets together once a month at Melanie's home to explore a spiritual topic and then take a few minutes to journal their reflections. No skill in writing is required so plan to come.

Contact: Melanie Miller

RSVP: mwmiller73@gmail.com

Watch for future issues of
"For a Woman's Heart"



Upcoming Women's Events

Ladies Dining Out *October 6th and November 3rd*

First Wednesday of the Month

7:00pm at Piero's Corner
13340 Franklin Farm Rd

Debby Morris hosts this group for a casual dinner at Piero's Corner located in the Franklin Farms shopping center. There is no agenda except to enjoy the evening with friends.

RSVP

Epiphanyladiesdiningout@gmail.com



A Walk in the Park *Saturday, October 23 - 2:00pm*

Join Us

Ellanor C. Lawrence Park at
5040 Walney Rd

Plan to come and bring a friend!
Bring a water bottle & a snack.
Let's walk & talk!

RSVP

women@epiphanyanglican.net



Epiphany is Traveling to the Holy Land February 14-24, 2022

Israel has recently reopened to international visitors. We are very close to reaching the group size needed for our planned pilgrimage to the Holy Land February 14-24 of next year.

There is still time for you to be part of this special journey. We will travel into the Judean Desert, visit the Dead Sea, and Qumran. Then, we will make our way north to the Sea of Galilee, Capernaum, the Mount of the Beatitudes, and Nazareth. Finally, we will spend time in Jerusalem at Christ Church, just inside the Jaffa Gate of the Old City.

Walking where Jesus walked, where the Bible was written, and where the patriarchs and matriarchs of Israel lived is an amazing experience that will change forever how you understand the Bible. It will increase your faith as you see how the words of the Bible describe real places and people.

The deadline for registration is November 1. If you would like more information, please talk with Fr. Peter (pfrank@epiphanyanglican.net).



Epiphany pilgrims enjoying a meal together on the outskirts of Bethlehem.



Overlooking the incredible model of Jerusalem as it was at the time of Jesus at the Israel Museum.

Visit from Jerusalem Oct. 30-31

Mark your calendars, Samer Makarios, Epiphany's much-loved guide during our 2017 trip to the Holy Land, will be visiting Epiphany October 30 and 31. Samer will share insights from his time guiding pilgrims and offer olive wood items produced by Palestinian Christians in Bethlehem for sale at 2pm on Saturday Oct. 30 in the Fellowship Hall. Samer will also be at Epiphany on Sunday morning, Oct. 31. Those who host pilgrims in Israel and the West Bank have been very hard hit by COVID-19 which has closed-down almost all international visits for more than a year. This is a way for us to learn from Samer again, and potentially help him and others make ends meet during this time.



Samer Makarios was Epiphany's guide during our 2017 pilgrimage



Samer is a believing Christian and studied theology before becoming a guide.



Food, Fun and Ministry

For the first time since the Spring of 2020, Epiphany was able to gather together for a meal on Sept. 12. Our “Fall Kickoff” was well attended, and gave our church a chance to reconnect, and learn about 22 of our congregation’s ministries that set up tables for our ministry fair.



Kids loved getting to play !together in the bounce house.





(Top) Catching up over lunch (catered by Ellie's Place in Warrenton) under the tent in the church parking lot.



(Bottom left) Debbie shared information about Epiphany's partnership with Western Fairfax Christian Ministries (WFCM) at the ministry fair in the fellowship hall.

(Bottom right) Zan and Ellie of "Ellie's Place" getting ready to serve lunch.

(Left) Rose approves of the ice cream!

(Top right) Melanie, Helen and Jan at the ministry fair.

(Middle right) Wyndy introduces a new generation to the chimes.

(Bottom right) The weather was beautiful.





(Top) Lisa, Epiphany's senior warden, and an ultrasound technician at Life First, shares information about their ministry, and Epiphany's partnership with them.

(Bottom left) Zan and Ann brought a portable flattop and great locally-raised beef for hamburgers, along with brats and hotdogs.

(Bottom right) Bob and Dave discuss the Men's Ministry, The Band of Brothers.

MISSIONS UPDATE: FRAN BOYLE

Among the missionaries Epiphany has supported over the years is Fran Boyle, who succors orphans and other displaced youths in east Africa. Here are excerpts from a report Fran sent recently:

The clinic that we built about 16 years ago, was the first permanent structure to be erected in our compound in Northwestern Aweil. Unfortunately, it wasn't so permanent after all. Deep cracks in the cement walls now render the building unsafe. Construction has been underway and is now complete except for solar panels which they hope to add. This building is much larger than the original building and will be able to accommodate patients that need to be admitted for a few days. We are so thankful for those who have made this project possible.

COVID-19 has not been a big issue in our area. Thanks be to God!

We recently sent in much needed antimalarial drugs. This is malaria season which is also rainy season, and cases are up. The clinic was completely out of antimalarial drugs. When the funds which we sent arrived there last week, a new supply was purchased. Peter in our Clinic likes to give the children antimalarial doses prophylactically during the worst part of the malaria season. It works and keeps our children safe.

Our three young men Michael, Simon, and Emmanuel, who started first grade at our orphanage school and completed high school last year, have received support from a generous donor to go to University in Juba for all four years! Michael will go for five years, as he will study medicine with the intent of going back to Akuak Rak to serve the community. The boys are working at our school assisting the teachers while waiting for university to open. After several delays, it is now scheduled to open in September.



Pastor Matthew, ministering in Juba, recently married in his home area of Twic. He brought his bride down to Juba to be his partner in life and the ministry. Congratulations to Pastor Matthew and his bride. *[Picture from the wedding celebration]*.

Longar is back in boarding school after a short break. There will be several longer breaks before he goes back to school in January to begin preparing for the arduous exams necessary to pass high school in Kenya. Graduation will be in March. Longar struggles with schoolwork but excels in popularity and politics at school. Agnes, the wife of our former driver who

was killed, and her children are doing well. We are still helping to support her. She expresses her gratitude in the regular messages I receive from her. Agnes continues to try to find ways to provide for her family through little market projects while the children are in school.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



- 2 Ralph Morris
- Judy Schulenberg
- 3 Beatriz Long
- Gregory Trout
- 4 Clare Frank
- 6 Chase Entsminger
- 7 Isabelle Turner
- 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 Donivan
- 20 Nathaniel Bixler
- 22 Theodore Bixler
- Randy Rash
- 27 Catherine Zimmerman
- 29 Brett Bender
- 30 Nathan Jewel
- 31 Lisa Baehr

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

Happy Anniversary



October

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

November

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



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
 Christina Cummings
 Kelly Derrick
 Bill Hoover
 Leslie Johnson
 Carole Menzel
 Pat Meyer
 Geoffrey Seroka
 Margaret Stromberg

Vestry Officers/Committee Chairs

Senior Warden Lisa Baehr
 Junior Warden..... Geoffrey Seroka
 Registrar..... Carole Menzel
 Home Group Ministry Coordinator..... Leslie Johnson
 Vestry Liaison to Mission Committee..... Jim Boggs
 Vestry Liaison to Benevolence Committee Kelly Derrick
 Vestry Liaison to Finance Committee..... Carole Menzel
 Finance Committee Chairman Tom Miller*
 Treasurer..... Charlie Monroe*
 Chancellor David Reed*

*Non-vestry members

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 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

Did you know?

Epiphany is on Facebook

Check it out. !



and

YouTube







View past sermons



EpiphanyVideo
64 subscribers

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 18:26	 19:10	 16:45	 12:26	 19:18	 17:56
Sermon Sept 26, 2021 20 views • 3 days ago	Sermon September 19, 2021 16 views • 1 week ago	Sermon Sept 12, 2021 5 views • 2 weeks ago	Sermon Sept 5, 2021 12 views • 3 weeks ago	Sermon August 29, 2021 2 views • 1 month ago	Sermon August 22, 2021 18 views • 1 month ago



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 Main Number: 703.481.8601
 Prayer Line: 703.389.7292

Visit our website at www.epiphanyanglican.net

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS

OCTOBER

6, 13, 20, 27	12:00 PM	Simple Eucharist
3, 10, 17, 24, 31	8:30 AM	Holy Eucharist In-Person
3, 10, 17, 24	10:15 AM	Holy Eucharist - Livestream & In-Person
10, 24	1:15 PM	Worship at Arbor Terrace
24	2:00 PM	Worship at Arbor Terrace
30, 31		Samer Makarios Visiting from Jerusalem

NOVEMBER

3, 10, 17, 24	12:00 PM	Simple Eucharist
7		All Saints Sunday
7, 14, 21, 28	8:30 AM	Holy Eucharist In-Person
7, 14, 21, 28	10:15 AM	Holy Eucharist - Livestream & In-Person
14	11:30 AM	Annual Meeting
14, 28	1:15 PM	Worship at Arbor Terrace
19, 20		Diocesan Synod
28	2:00 PM	Worship at Arbor Terrace

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>