

Responding to the Court and Being Honest about Ourselves



At several of the Anglican churches I have served as a minister, the congregation has included Christians who experience same-sex attraction. Some are single and celibate for many years. Some are living out the Christian pattern of marriage after decisively turning away from gay culture and its assumptions. A few, frankly, are still trying to figure it all out. Among them are some of the most winsome, joyful, and committed Christians I know. I am grateful for their friendship. I couldn't help thinking of these men and women as I processed the Supreme Court's decision last Friday to change the legal definition of marriage so that it now includes same-sex couples in the United States.

On one hand, we must continue to be clear. At Epiphany, and in The Anglican Church in North America, we will stay the course and commend and uphold marriage between one man and one woman. This is the relationship, and not any other, that we can bless in God's name. It is part of God's "very good" over his creation (Genesis 2:24). Jesus reaffirmed marriage's importance (Matt 19:4-6). Paul tells us male-female marriage gives us insight into the reconciling mystery of Christ and the Church (Ephesians 5:32). We will also continue to teach that God's gift of sexual intimacy is reserved for couples inside this covenant of marriage. No court, including the Supreme Court, gets a vote on this. Honestly, we don't even get a vote on this.

At the same time, I recognize that at times Christians like us have allowed their theological convictions about marriage and sexuality to produce, in their hearts, a unique dislike and/or distrust toward those for whom these questions about same-sex attraction are not merely academic but are deeply personal and familial. We must avoid this, and repent of it where it has characterized our thoughts and feelings. Truth and genuine love must never be opposed in us.

God loves each and every person, no matter who they find attractive. He loves the whole world and everyone in it (John 3:16). Being pulled toward choices and ways of life that are not commended by Scripture doesn't make gay Christians unique, it makes them exactly like everyone else (Romans 13:13-14). We are all at war with our natural desires in one way or another if we are trying even the least little bit to follow Jesus (Ephesians 4:17-24).

We are not all the way there yet, but my prayer is that as Epiphany is a place where we stay the course on Scripture's pattern for marriage and sexuality, we also know and shout from the

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rooftops that every person is precious to God. I pray Epiphany is a place where there is no “us and them” when it comes to each of our struggle to follow Jesus’ hard teachings – only us. I pray that those who are part of us today, or at any time in the future, who experience same-sex attraction, would not just hear, but feel their welcome and Epiphany’s gratefulness for their presence in the body of Christ.

God bless,

P.S. I understand these are complex times and complex issues, and as such are hard to cover in a single newsletter column. As always, I’m happy to meet with Epiphany members if further conversation would be helpful. Just give me a call (703-481-8601) or send me an email (pfrank@epiphanyanglican.net).

Other Helpful Commentary on the Supreme Court Decision

Statement From the Bishops of the Anglican Church in North America - <http://goo.gl/NQFoQ7>

Six Things to Do after the Gay Marriage Decision (Mark Galli, editor of Christianity Today) - <http://goo.gl/5pOF5P>

Hoping For Love (Dr. Wesley Hill, professor at Trinity School For Ministry) - <http://goo.gl/0FcGFf>

Dearly Beloved...About Marriage (the Rev. Cn. David Roseberry, Rector of Christ Church, Plano) - <http://goo.gl/xOUlsw>

Virtues not "Values" Are our Calling as Christians

I am in the midst of preparing for my summer teaching series on Christian Character which begins July 8, 6 to 7:30pm (and continues July 15, 22 and 29). I have found it more interesting than I first expected to dig into the meaning and application of a bunch of old-fashioned sounding words like temperance, fortitude, prudence and bravery.

Here are a couple of early take-aways.

- Humility is at the heart of Christian character, and pride is at the heart of bad character. In the end, questions of character hang not so much on what we do or why we do it, but on who is at the center of our lives. Are we humble enough to put God there? If so, we will want to behave in certain "Godward" ways. Are we proud enough to put ourselves there? If so, all we do will tend away from God.
- We live in a culture that loves to talk about values, but we need to talk about virtues. While values are private matters (my personal values), virtues are public truths. For instance, it is not just good for me personally to be truthful, we all should be truthful.

In any case, I'm looking forward to beginning my class in a few weeks. I still can use some help organizing meals. If you, or your small group would be willing to take on a week (July 8, 15, 22, 29) please send me an email (pfrank@epiphanyanglican.net).

Field Day 2015

Several members of Epiphany had the opportunity to assist at the annual Field Day held at Coates Elementary School last month. If you missed the chance to help, there is still time to sign up for the Soccer Camp which will be held at Coates in August.




Epiphany Sports Camp 2015



WHEN: August 3-7, 9AM-Noon
WHERE: Coates Elementary School, Herndon
WHO: Rising Kindergarten - Rising 6th Grade
COST: FREE

Please sign up to help! We can always use extra hands!



Evangelism Idea

of the Month!

Next month our church is “doing evangelism” through our kids’ Sports Camp at Coates Elementary. Bring a child to camp or volunteer there yourself. Oops, are you on vacation and can’t do that? Then your assignment is to go to church wherever you are. Praise the Lord in a new venue and your family will witness your honoring the Sabbath and your worshipping God!

Understanding the Whole Story



You may have noticed that I am very passionate about reading and interpreting the Bible faithfully. Every time I preach I have you open the Bible and follow along. Every week in children's Sunday school and youth group the

children and teens open the Bible and seek to understand what God says through it. Part of interpreting it faithfully is learning to interpret the individual parts in light of the whole Bible. The Bible is not a collection of separate verses and stories and teachings, but it is the coherent Word of God which weaves together the works and words of God for his people. When properly understood, the Bible becomes the lens through which we interpret the world and the events of our lives.

The fact is that our world tries to offer us different lenses through which we can interpret the world. For example, in our (post)modern western world we are told that as human beings we are nothing more than a random collection of cells. This is a "story" that our culture tells to make sense of the world, but it is a false one that denies the very existence of God. False though it is, many in our world interpret reality through that lens—they see themselves and others as mere accidents of nature with no inherent value. How different this is from the way the Bible teaches us to view ourselves and others! The Bible makes clear that we are made in the *image of God* (Genesis 1:27). Humans are the climax and culmination of a good creation made directly by a good God. Properly viewing reality through the lens taught by Scripture will radically differ from seeing the world through the lens suggested

by much of our culture.

Another example of the importance of our lens through which we interpret the world can be seen in attitudes about divorce. The author Craig Bartholomew points out that while divorce will sometimes be necessary and appropriate in our sinful and fallen world, Christians must always view divorce as tragic. Divorce is always the result and evidence of a fallen world and broken people. It always falls short of God's intended order for the world. Contrary to this Biblical teaching, those influenced by the modern western explanation of reality with its extreme value placed on individualism and consumerism often see divorce as "a courageous step of personal growth." When people say, "I married the wrong person" as justification for divorce they are viewing reality through the modern western lens instead of a biblical one.



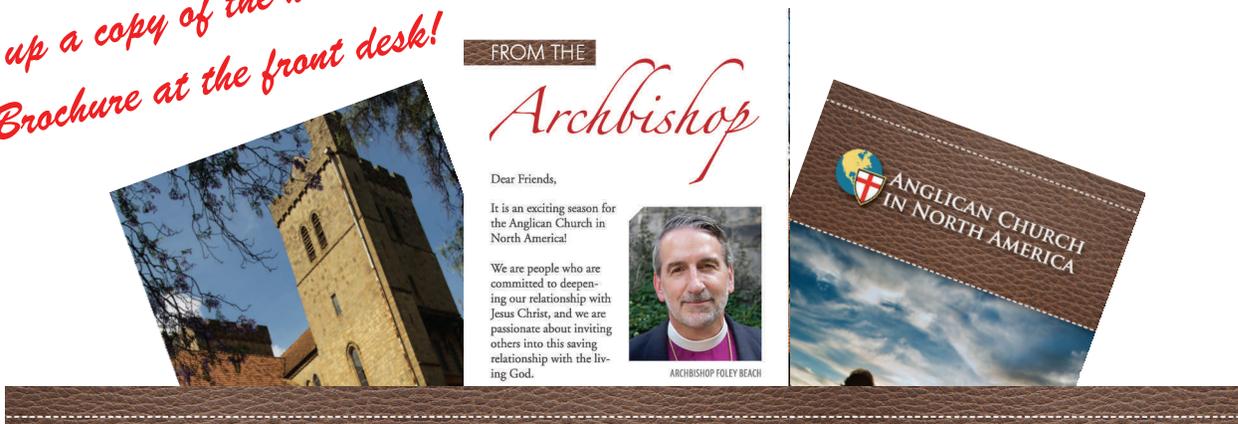
The unifying lens that we use to make sense of the world is crucial, and we need to implement the right one. I challenge you to immerse yourself in the Bible and allow God's Word to properly shape the way you understand and interpret the world. Allow God's Word to inform your understanding of the world and events around you. Learn to identify and resist the false stories offered to you by our culture that will distort instead of clarify reality.

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For more on this, I recommend first and foremost that you read the whole Bible...repeatedly. My recent practice has been to read the whole Bible each year. I read about three chapters of the Old Testament and about one chapter of the New Testament each morning. There is no substitute for actually reading God's Word for yourself. Next, I would recommend the book, *The Drama of Scripture*, by Craig Bartholomew and Michael Goheen which will help you understand the unified message of the Bible.

Michael

Pick up a copy of the new ACNA Brochure at the front desk!



WHAT IT MEANS TO BE AN ANGLICAN CHRISTIAN

The Anglican Church in North America is a growing church* that unites more than 112,000 Anglicans in the United States, Canada, and Mexico with a shared commitment to "Reaching North America with the Transforming Love of Jesus Christ."



Anglicans are part of a global communion of churches that unite millions of Christians in more than 160 countries. Anglicanism encompasses the rich history and traditions of both catholic and protestant Christianity, bringing together a vibrant faith in Jesus Christ, a commitment to the trustworthiness and authority of Scripture, the beauty of liturgical worship, and an expectation of the powerful work of the Holy Spirit.

To learn more: www.anglicanchurch.net

* Since 2009 the number of congregations have increased by 40% and attendance has grown by 16%. (from the 2013 Congregational Report)

THE ANGLICAN CHURCH IN NORTH AMERICA

Anglican Christians believe that Jesus Christ is Lord and that accepting Him as Savior is the only way to abundant life in the present age and the age to come.

Anglican Christians are **evangelical**.

We believe that the Bible is the Word of God and that it has unique authority in our lives. As Biblically-faithful Anglicans, our churches teach the whole Bible and how it applies to our daily lives. We believe that God's love for the whole world, expressed in Jesus Christ, is Good News that we are called to share with everyone.

Anglican Christians are **catholic**.

We are part of a worldwide church that grew out of the English reformation. We are united to each other and to the broader Christian tradition by a shared faith, sacramental worship, and apostolic order.

Anglican Christians are **charismatic**.

We believe that the Holy Spirit is active in believers, enabling, teaching, healing, and calling us to love our neighbors and change the world.

WHAT WE DO TOGETHER

Worship and Discipleship: With the release of a new catechism and the foundation of a new prayer book, Anglican congregations are being equipped to deepen their relationship with Jesus Christ.

Planting Congregations: We have found that new churches are uniquely suited to make and disciple new Christians. Our church planting effort, has helped foster 500 new churches in the last 5 years, and continues to identify, equip, and commission new church planters for the work of ministry.

Relief and Development: Together, congregations in the Anglican Church in North America have given millions of dollars to bring relief to people suffering around the world. Our global aid agency, the Anglican Relief and Development Fund, focuses on partnering with local Anglican dioceses wherever work needs to be done. To learn more, visit: www.anglicanaid.net

Connections to the World: The Anglican Church in North America provides a connection to tens of millions of Anglican Christians in Africa, Asia, South America, Europe, and around the world. Leaders regularly participate in global and ecumenical initiatives with other Christian churches, and we are proud members of the Global Fellowship of Confessing Anglicans. To learn more, visit: www.fca.net



Missions Update

Andy Fetzer is one of our home-grown missionaries, having attended Epiphany in his youth and married the daughter of other Epiphany parishioners. Andy's youth (and hair) have receded a bit, but his enthusiasm for evangelism is undiminished, as many of us witnessed when he preached at Pentecost in 2013. Here is a report on Andy's more recent activities:

Dear Epiphany Church Family,



I want to thank you for supporting Becky and me (and the family) in the ministry of Young Life down here in the Roanoke Valley. Young Life in Roanoke is going great! There are a lot of kids who are active and involved; and many of these kids have made decisions to follow Jesus because of the work the Lord is doing through us and our team.

We oversee the ministry in Roanoke City and Roanoke County. I also guide and support other Young Life staff in Botetourt County, Franklin County, Salem/ North Roanoke and Floyd County. The Greater Roanoke Valley Young Life Conglomerate consists of 10 staff and dozens of volunteer leaders. Collectively we are reaching hundreds of high school and middle school students directly, as well as dozens of kids with disabilities.

In the Roanoke area (the area in which Becky and I directly work) there are 3 high schools and 3 middle schools where we have Young Life. (Those schools are Hidden Valley HS, Cave Spring HS, Patrick Henry HS, Hidden Valley MS, Cave Spring MS, and Woodrow Wilson MS.) A few hundred teenagers are actively participating each week in Roanoke's YL.



This past semester, my staff intern and I started the groundwork to begin YL at William Byrd HS located east of Roanoke in a town called Vinton. This is a rural school with a lot of potential.

We got the greenlight from the principal to come up to the school to meet kids, so each week we have been going up to William Byrd's lunch to meet kids. We plan on starting YL at Byrd in the Fall.

This summer we will be taking about 200 kids to summer Young Life camp at Rockbridge (VA), Saranac (NY) and NorthBay (MD). Cave Spring and Patrick Henry are heading to Rockbridge; Hidden Valley HS is going to Saranac; and our middle school friends will be going to NorthBay.

In July, the Fetzers will be on assignment at NorthBay. I have been asked to be the camp speaker for the Eastern Coast WyldLife camping this summer. What a wonderful privilege to share the Gospel with 1,500 middle school kids from all over the East Coast!

Prayer Requests

- Please pray for our assignment at NorthBay June 25-July 11. I will be the camp speaker.
- * For our camp trips:
 - ◇ - Cave Spring HS and Patrick Henry HS (Rockbridge July 16-21)
 - ◇ -Hidden Valley HS (Saranac July 19-25)
 - ◇ -WyldLife (NorthBay July 7-11)
- * For Young Life to start at William Byrd in the Fall

Thank you again for your support!

We are grateful for your partnership.

Respectfully in Christ,

Andy and Becky Fetzer



BACKPACKS AGAIN!

Please help make it happen



School is out and summer vacations are in. Well at least that's the way it is for kids who are lucky enough to be in families who can afford vacations. And sure...before you know it...school will be back in again and those same kids whose parents can't afford vacations, also can't afford to provide their children with backpacks and school supplies.

Epiphany and other local churches partner with WFCM (Western Fairfax Christian Ministries) to collect backpacks for these needy kids. (There are other Fairfax County non-profits and businesses collecting the school supplies.) All this is a coordinated effort designed to assist students who are on free or reduced cost lunch programs and to make sure that they receive the backpacks and supplies they need to start the new school year off right...like all the other kids!

This year, Epiphany has committed to collect 50 backpacks for Liberty Middle School. The WFCM counselor who heads this collection has stressed that we collect "the larger sized backpacks with 2 compartments...like Jansport or High Sierra...because that's what works for BIG students carrying LOTS of STUFF".

Hopefully, with God's help, we will be able to make it to the full 50 backpacks needed by Sunday, August 16th. The backpacks need to be delivered to the school office by the deadline date of August 21st. I will be placing a collection box near the front desk for depositing the backpacks.

PLEASE remember it's the large sized backpacks needed...in neutral/unisex colors... and please no school supplies...just backpacks.

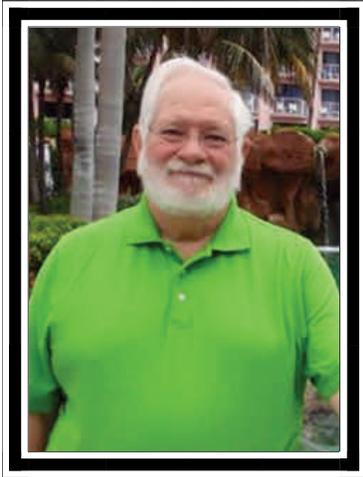
Epiphany has been there to help school children in need through this program for many years now. I am confident that God will help us find a way to be there for them again this year.

If you don't have the time to shop, you can give a check to me or to Janice Monaghan or put it in the collection plate on Sunday (any amount is a blessing). The check should be payable to Church of the Epiphany Anglican and please make sure the memo line reads "for backpacks". I will gladly do the shopping for you and all your contributions are tax deductible.



THANK YOU SO MUCH and GOD BLESS YOU. If you have any questions, please call me, Sheila Mentzer @ 703-860-4377 or 571-271-9689 (my cell) or you can email me at escapade13@msn.com.

Rest in Peace; Rise in Glory



Kenneth Murray Bracy
October 7, 1948 - June 12, 2015



Richard Scott Reiter
September 29, 1944 - June 18, 2015



Elsie Earle Moore Gabriel
June 25, 1946 - June 19, 2015

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: 15th of the month
Bulletin: Monday, 8 AM
Candle: Wednesday, 8 AM



BIRTHDAYS

2	Carl Bess	12	Nicole Rhoads	24	Joshua Bryson
	Alex James	13	Zan Dial		Carol Williams
5	Ann Dial	17	Kelly Derrick	27	James Arpee
6	Bethany Apelquist		George Hamlin		Ryan Brukardt
7	Jim Judkins	18	Barbara Oliphant		Ann Westerman
	Carolyn Pantzer	20	Ann Guest	29	VJ Johnson
10	Carole Menzel		Derek Zimmerman		Donna Lea Louis
12	Andrew Coffee		Justin Zimmerman	30	Kenneth Vanghan

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

1	Gin & Bill Edmunds	17	Patricia & James Roberts
4	Sheila & Steven Mentzer	21	Susan & Richard Daugherty
9	Jane & Kelly Derrick	28	Jan & Scott Reiter
11	Tracy & Michael Guernsey	29	Sheila & James Todd
15	Lee & Rob Baumgartner	30	Malu & Shervan Torabi
	Donna Lea & Kurt Louis		



Resources

Epiphany Staff	Email	Extension
The Rev. Peter Frank, Rector	pfrank@epiphanyanglican.net	104
The Rev. Michael Guernsey, Associate Rector	mguernsey@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

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>2015 Vestry</u></p> <p>Cynthia Aungst Jan Coffee Ann Guest George Hamlin Chris Johnson Dan Johnson Barbara Noble Andy Plummer Merle Stromberg Carol Williams Catherine Zimmerman</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Vestry Officers</u></p> <p>Senior Warden..... Merle Stromberg Junior Warden Catherine Zimmerman Registrar..... Ann Guest Finance Committee Chairman..... Dennis McNeely Treasurer Tom Miller Assistant Treasurer Charlie Monroe Chancellor David Reed</p>
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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

TO STAND for Jesus Christ, GROW TOGETHER as God's family and MAKE HIM KNOWN through the power of the Holy Spirit!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

July		
1, 8, 15, 22, 29	11:45 AM	Boys Bible Study
8, 15, 22, 29	6:00 PM	Summer Teaching Series
11	9:00 AM	Women's Summer Season
19	10:00 AM	Holy Baptism
August		
3-7	9:00 AM	Summer Sports Camp (Coates ES)
5, 12, 19, 26	11:45 AM	Boys Bible Study
9	11:00 AM	WINGS
September		
Stay Tuned		

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 at 9:00 AM

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday:

Daily Morning Prayer

Wednesdays: Holy Communion