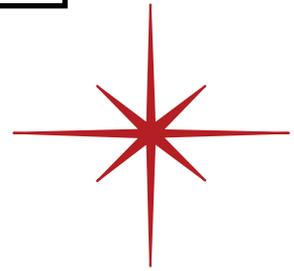




# The STAR

December 2015



## An Epiphany “Christmas Gift” to our Neighborhood Christmas Eve Offering to Purchase 900 Books for Coates Kids



One of the things that has been clear to me over my last five years at Epiphany is that we are a church that has been both blessed with great resources, and that wants to be generous with what God has given us.

With that in mind, I’m excited to announce an opportunity to do that this Christmas Eve, when we will work together to purchase almost 900 beginning English books for Coates elementary school in order to help our local kids become better readers. This is a real challenge in our area, where there are many new immigrants who don’t know, but would like to learn, English, and many, many children (according to Fairfax County Public Schools, a full 45 percent of the student population at Coates) who only have limited command of the English language.

While purchasing a small library of books (and some requested English teaching aids for teachers at Coates) might sound like a lot, it’s actually a manageable project for Epiphany. Individual books that meet this need at about \$4 each. The vestry has agreed to set aside the offering, up to the approximately \$4,200 needed, from both Christmas Eves services for this project.

To be part of this chance to serve a real need of our neighborhood in Jesus’ name, just give your financial gift on Christmas Eve, and divide by it four if you’re interested in knowing how many books your donation will purchase. This would also be a great project to do with our children. Our plan is to have sample books of the kind we will be purchasing available to see at church in the weeks leading up to Christmas.

A team from Epiphany led by Jan Coffee, Barbara Noble and some of teachers who are members of our congregation, will then buy the books, using sources recommended by the library team at Coates. We will bless them, and deliver them to the school in January.

I’m excited to see us have an opportunity as a church to give what will be a significant gift to the students and teachers at Coates Elementary School. Our goal as a church, and my goal as your

*Continued on page 2*

rector is to see our church become a powerful force for spiritual and material good in this place. This is simple, and effective way with can join together to do that this Christmas.

God bless,



## Christmas Services At Epiphany

This year, we will be celebrating the Christmas Season at Epiphany beginning on Sunday, Dec. 20 with Lessons and Carols, and then continuing with two services on Christmas Eve.

Lessons and Carols is a musical service at 10am on Sunday, December 20. This traditional service combines readings from scripture with well known Christmas carols that we sing together as a congregation. This year, Lessons and Carols will include a short sermon focused on the meaning of Christmas. While Communion is not part of the Lessons and Carols service, there will be an 8am Holy Eucharist on Dec. 20.

Christmas Eve Worship at Epiphany this year will be at 5 and 11 pm. Our 5pm service includes an interactive children's sermon. The 11pm service is a traditional candlelight service with the adult choir and chime choir.

"All are welcome at Epiphany. We are looking forward to a great Christmas Eve celebration this Wednesday," said the Rev. Peter Frank, Epiphany's rector.

Church of the Epiphany is located at 13515 Dulles Technology Dr. Suite 1, Herndon VA 20171 and is part of the Anglican Church in North America through the Diocese of the Mid Atlantic.

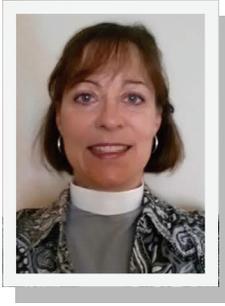


### **Evangalism Idea of the Month!**



You're getting a gift from us this month! We've put together some "Blessing Bags" for you to have in your car in case you see a homeless person who needs a blessing. In each bag there is a bottle of water, some canned fruit or juice, peanut butter crackers, a snack, and a word from The Lord. Pick up a bag as you leave church on December 6th and be ready to bless someone this Christmas season. Your children might decorate your bag to make it even more special. Merry Christmas!

## Church Vitality



November was a fantastic month, most notably because our whole diocese came together for teaching and training during Synod. It was so exciting to see more than 100 people from all over the diocese crammed into the room for a 3-hour teaching on Evangelism. The next day during Synod our Canon for Church Multiplication, the Rev. Dr. Tom Herrick, encouraged us to consider what kind of plumb line or score card we use when we assess the vitality of our churches. He gave examples:

- what percentage of the congregation can articulate the vision;
- what percentage of the congregation is active in the whole life of the church;
- what is our ethnic mix;
- what percentage of the budget is allocated for ministry and for maintenance;
- how many of our ministries are externally or missionally focused;
- how many church plants or new ministries have we launched in the year;
- how many first and second time visitors do we have?

Tom used a helpful analogy. While it is still important to “take an x-ray” of the church, we live in a time that we have the option of going deeper and taking an “MRI” in addition. Because thinking missionally is the way I am wired, I was so encouraged by these talks and would welcome anyone who wants to explore further.

*Pamela ✦*



## Extending Mtr. Pamela’s Service at Epiphany

Since last month, members of the personnel committee have worked with me to complete several interviews with possible candidates for Epiphany’s next associate rector, but it has become clear to myself and to the personnel committee that completing this process by this January is not realistic.

Epiphany also continues to benefit greatly from Mtr. Pamela’s work as our interim associate minister. With that in mind, I have asked, and she has agreed to extend her time with us through the rest of this school year (June 2016). I’m grateful that even through the search process is moving slower than originally planned, we have been given a talented and committed interim. Please join me, and the personnel committee in praying for God’s guidance and direction as we seek our next associate rector.

*P ✦*

## Missions Update SAT-7



In recent months, the press has marveled at the propaganda war being waged by ISIS, which uses Twitter feeds, chat rooms, and slick videos of violence and purported testimonials to promote its "Caliphate." Epiphany is proud to support SAT-7, which provides a Christian retort to ISIS, minus the depravity. SAT-7 operates TV stations and an internet site to promote Christianity in North Africa, the Middle East, and Iran. SAT-7's three channels, SAT-7 ARABIC, SAT-7 PARS and SAT-7 KIDS, can be seen in every country from Morocco to Afghanistan. Arabic, Farsi and Turkish speakers living in European countries can also view the broadcasts. Here are some comments from listeners:

**Man from Algeria:** "I do not know how to start or how to empty my heart before you. I am unable to express my admiration for your channel. The more I view SAT-7, the more I am amazed by its programs. They have cost me many sleepless nights wondering whether I am on the wrong track or not."

**Woman from Syria:** "We are about 140 families and we live in a remote area of Syria in Middle East where there are no churches yet. SAT-7 programs are like medicine to our sickness."

**Man from Tunisia:** "Thanks to your inspirational programs, the Holy Spirit has filled my heart and cleansed it from sin. Now I know why the Christian faith is so special. It is because the Lord Jesus is always with me and He will never leave me. I have shared my faith with my friends and they have come to the same conclusion as me. So, we have started to follow the Lord Jesus Christ and recently we celebrated Easter together. I kindly request you to send me a complete Bible because I only have a small portion of it. Please send it as it will strengthen our hearts and increase our faith."

**Man from Afghanistan:** I am writing to let us know that I enjoy all of the new SAT-7 PARS programs. I'm particularly impressed with the series on the History of Christianity in Central Eurasia. I found many of the segments to be wonderful. How can I buy a copy of that series for my own?"



**VESTRY  
ELECTIONS**

At the Annual Meeting, on November 8th, the following new members were elected. They will begin their three year terms in January.

Congratulations to:

- David Bassert
- Beth Monroe
- Bryan Saddler
- Dave Schreiner

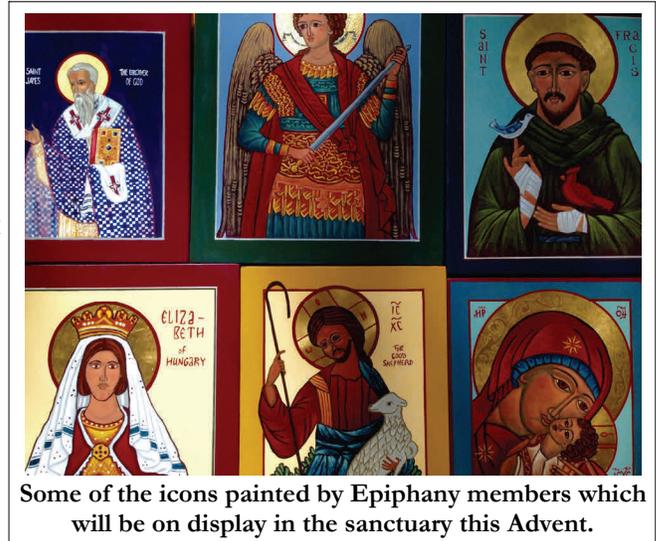


## Painting the Saints

### Icons painted by Epiphany members on display during Advent

For years, Epiphany members have been quietly painting a particularly type of religious image, called an icon, under the direction of Elizabeth Hudgins, who attends the 8am service. This Advent season, approximately a dozen examples of their work will be displayed in the sanctuary at Epiphany.

“Christians don’t worship icons, but these pictures, painted in a style that has changed little for more than 1,000 years, serve both to tell us Gospel stories, and to remind us of the lives of followers of God who have gone before us.” said the Rev. Peter Frank. Epiphany’s rector.



Some of the icons painted by Epiphany members which will be on display in the sanctuary this Advent.

The word “icon” comes directly from the Greek. It means “image,” Eastern Orthodox churches employed the word to describe paintings of the Christian saints and Jesus done in a particular style. Icons are meant to preach the biblical truths and are considered by the Orthodox to be equal to a priest's preaching the Word, except in colors. Iconography has specific rules, dictated by biblical truth. So, for example, the light is not external: it comes from within the Saint. The colors start with the shadows and are revealed as holy by the addition of light and more light...to make a saint.

Icons do not look realistic in terms of our world because once Christ has come into the world, everything is made new...so rocks, animals, plants, and people do not look like the everyday things we see with our earthly eyes. For example, saints are much taller than the proportions we are used to seeing, and they are serene (except at a death of someone) because they have the peace that passes understanding and, thus, are not tossed to and fro by the earthly occurrences around them. In addition, perspective is reversed so that we become the vanishing point because God is within the Saint, looking at us. So saints are windows through which we can learn of God.

If you would like to know more about icons and the reasons for the specific details of pose and layout, please feel free to take one of the DVD sets available in the library. In two separate lectures with a number of photos of icons, you will learn how to “read” an icon. You will also see why they are trans-temporal, why borders are often pierced, why no icon is shown as happening inside a building, why various saints are pictured as they are, and how to always recognize Jesus in an icon. The DVDs are free, and if you wish to keep one or get another to pass on, please do. If, however, you are finished and would like to return it, we would appreciate that. In addition, you may contact Elizabeth Hudgins with any further questions or insights. She is listed in the directory. You also might want to talk to any of the students whose works are shown here.

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



### BIRTHDAYS

1	Fay Cochran	6	Mason Sutton	21	Lydia Bryson
2	Janice Monaghan	7	Katie Miller		Michaela Turner
3	Chris Johnson	13	John Murphy	22	Andy Baehr
	Dan Johnson	19	Michael Ellis	23	Jan Coffee
	Will Schreiner	20	Larry Davis	26	Joel Monroe
5	Maria Murphy	21	Hannah Bryson	31	Marshall Cottingham

### WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

2	Lisa & Andy Baehr	27	Rebecca & Tim Bixler
14	Krystal & Fred Apelquist	28	Kathleen & Daniel Simonds
18	Darlene & Jerry Earley	29	Margaret & Frank Donivan
20	Diane & Bob Driscoll		



## Help Wanted: Video Operators



The AV ministry is in need of a few people that are willing to learn how to operate the equipment and stream our 10am service. With enough people, your commitment would be no more than once or twice a month.

The video Live Streaming of our services has been a huge blessing for many parishioners as well as members of our armed forces who want to worship with us while deployed. It gives each one of us the opportunity to experience fellowship with our friends and family if we are home sick or away on vacation.

Would you please prayerfully consider helping with this important ministry? Training will be provided and you will fly solo only when you are ready. Please contact Ross Cummings at 703-967-9836 or [ross@rcdrafting.com](mailto:ross@rcdrafting.com)

## Resources

Epiphany Staff	Email	Extension
The Rev. Peter Frank, Rector	pfrank@epiphanyanglican.net	104
The Rev. Pamela Meeks, Interim Associate Minister	pmEEKS@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

### 2015 Vestry

Jan Coffee  
 Ann Guest  
 George Hamlin  
 Chris Johnson  
 Dan Johnson  
 Barbara Noble  
 Andy Plummer  
 Merle Stromberg  
 Carol Williams  
 Catherine Zimmerman

### Vestry Officers

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

### 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 at 703-591-6645 or email her at [mizfiz34@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://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**

December		
2	7:00 PM	The Rev. Canon Andrew White
6	7:00 PM	Youth Connections
19	5:00 PM	Youth Connections
20	10:00 AM	Lessons & Carols Service
24	5:00 PM	Christmas Eve Service
24	11:00 PM	Christmas Eve Service
28		Office Closed
January 2016		
9,10		Bishop's Visitation
February		
6	8:00 AM	Marriage Enrichment

Watch this space for updates and future events.  
 The Church master calendar is available at: [www.epiphanyanglican.net](http://www.epiphanyanglican.net).  
 Select Calendar in the main menu.

***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