

Sabbath – After the Storm



As I write this, we are a couple of days into the cleanup after our historic snowstorm Jan. 22-23. Snow is piled up to my office window (and a bit beyond). Schools are closed, and will probably remain closed for several days. Many of us are starting to see snow-clearing equipment make it into our neighborhoods for the first time.



Even though it will take some time for things to get back to normal, we have a lot to be grateful for here in Northern Virginia. First, and foremost, I am grateful that God sent light, powdery snow, instead of the heavy wet variety we usually get. I am also grateful that the wind that came with the storm wasn't as powerful as predicted. Together, these facts meant that for the vast majority of us, our power and heat stayed on through the storm. Thank you, God!

God also gave us something else through this storm. Something I think we are starving for, but most of the time, don't realize we need. He gave Northern Virginia a Sabbath. There were no cars rushing by on Highway 50 just to the south of our house. We could run no errands. We couldn't go to work. All we could do was rest, worship as a family on Sunday morning, and be together.

I know that in our house, these last several days have been very good for us. They have brought us together as a family. They have created an enforced space for rest, in the middle of our scheduled lives.

I hope you have experienced something similar. It can be hard to choose to rest, particularly if you are a doer, like I am (though it seems obvious in hindsight, it was a very difficult choice for me to cancel church services on Sunday, Jan. 24). Rest is not a bad thing. In fact, regular times of rest are commanded by God. *"Remember the Sabbath Day, to keep it holy"* (Exodus 20.8). While

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Relocation Fund Growing: \$113,865.45 Set Aside So Far "Joshua Committee" Exploring Options for Future

As Epiphany approaches the beginning of our fourth year at our current location, it is time to begin to discern together what God has for us when our initial lease concludes in October of 2017 (Epiphany has two one-year lease extensions beyond that date). To that end, Epiphany's finance committee is setting aside money to cover costs connected to a potential move in a "Relocation Fund" and the vestry has reactivated the "Joshua Committee" under the leadership of Tom Will, who served as Epiphany's Senior Warden for 2013-14.

"I have charged the Joshua Committee with three tasks: identify what we need in a church facility, look at location possibilities, and explore what meeting these needs will cost. If a move is what God has for it, our goal is to make it a move that enables us to minister more effectively and gives us a permanent location for years to come. I expect the Joshua Committee will report back to us at our annual meeting this coming November," said the Rev. Peter Frank, Epiphany's rector.

Other Joshua Committee members are Jan Welch and Catherine Zimmerman. Beth Monroe has been elected by the vestry to be their liaison to the Joshua Committee.

While costs of a potential move are unknown and will likely require special giving by the congregation to support, the finance committee is committed to setting aside money given now as we are able in a "Relocation Fund." Through very generous giving by the congregation this fall and winter, that fund already has a balance of \$113,865.45.

"God has walked with Epiphany on every stage of our journey. I am confident we are off to a good start in discerning what he has next for us," said Fr. Peter.



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Christians moved the Sabbath from Saturday to Sunday, it has never been done away with. We do good for ourselves, and we honor God when we keep it.

Even when we keep it because the front door is snowed shut.

God bless,

Out of Gas: Shared Suffering



Some of you know that I love strategy board games, specifically the ones where people need to cooperate. One of my favorites, Settlers of Catan requires the players to trade resource cards so they can build roads, settlements and cities. Now, there is a point in the game where someone can effectively shut down the production of a resource belonging to one person. I groan when I play the game with others who are more cut-throat and are willing to blight productivity. I have played the game when a resource is blighted and it is not fun. That particular player is not the only one who is affected; we all are.

I was reminded of this again when I heard one of the reasons that the snow-plow was not going to show up in our neighborhood. Lack of gas! The weather people had told us to stock up on gas before the big storm so we all heeded that warning without realizing the outcome. Our cars with full gas tanks remained stuck in 2 and half feet of snow but the equipment could not work because they were lacking a necessary resource. I am reminded that “if one member suffers, all suffer together” from 1 Corinthians 12:26. Being self-sufficient is held in such high regard in our culture that we can go about much of every day life without realizing our mutual interdependence of one another.

I have found Epiphany to be a loving community but does that mean we can't grow in this area? How wide is our concept of community? Do we suffer with the sufferings of our literal neighbors, or even our wider body of Christ around the world? As we grow in discipleship, God gives us an ever-increasing capacity to love others further, wider, and more culturally different. My prayer is that we appropriate more of God's heart, being willing to suffer with the others who are suffering.

Enrich Your Marriage

Join us for this year's Marriage Enrichment Day on **Saturday, February 6**, from 8:30 am to 3:30 pm at the church. The theme is “The Power of Prayer in Marriage”, based on the movie *War Room*. We will also be showing the movie *War Room* at the church on **Friday evening, February 5** at 7:30 pm.

Prayer is a powerful weapon. Through video sessions, small group discussions, and couple time, we will explore the power prayer can have in your marriage.

Continental breakfast and lunch will be served on Saturday. Child care will be provided for ages 12 and under both Friday evening and Saturday.

For more information, contact Keith and Carole Menzel: 703-709-7612.

Alpha Program at Epiphany

March 29 – June 14

Alpha is coming, Alpha is coming!

Mark your calendars. Epiphany will host the wildly popular and worldwide sensation Alpha beginning the Tuesday after Easter (March 29) and most every Tuesday thereafter through June 14th.

What is “Alpha,” you ask?

When I first heard about this Program the name “Alpha” confused and puzzled me. Alpha. First letter in Greek alphabet. The first. A beginning. Hmmm. So?

Well, forget about the name for a moment. What I can say is that the Program is great. It is educational, entertaining, illuminating, and, best of all, it’s free!

Silly me. Seriously, Alpha is about Christianity and it’s a top-notch, quality product.

Back to the question “What is Alpha?”

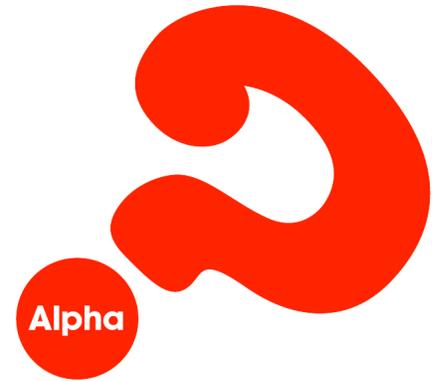
Alpha is a series of interactive DVD sessions designed to look at and discuss various aspects of the Christian faith in an informal, fun, and friendly environment. Maybe one of our clergy will provide a talk on a topic instead of playing and listening to a DVD. Examples of some of the DVD/talks are:

- Is there more to life than this?
- Who is Jesus?
- Why did Jesus die?
- How does God guide us?

We will conduct these sessions every Tuesday night beginning March 29, at 6:00 p.m. at the Church. We will serve food, get to know each other better, and have a great time listening to and discussing the DVD topic that night.

One especially interesting component of Alpha is its “Holy Spirit” weekend. While we won’t do an entire weekend, we will conduct a “Day Away” event with the Holy Spirit tentatively scheduled for Saturday, May 14th. Stay tuned for the precise time, but the event will be basically a whole day.

Some folks say Alpha is for “baby Christians.” I think that sells the Program short. Certainly, this Program could be more impactful to people who do not know much about Christianity



and would like to understand more about how Christians think and feel about it. Plus, the more 'new folks' we invite (hint, hint!), the more powerful this Program will be.

But Alpha is good for Christians at all stages of their faith. At least, that's my story and I'm sticking to it.

Our Small Group will take a break from our weekly sessions and attend Alpha instead. I suspect other Groups may do the same. As a result, we should be blessed with a great turnout.

While attending all 12 sessions would be highly enjoyable and fulfilling, I recognize people's schedules are full. That's OK. The way Alpha is designed, each event is self-standing. Each topic is understandable on its own. Of course, the more sessions you attend, the more enjoyable will be your experience. I don't know of anyone who will be able to attend every event. I know I can't. But, attend however many (or few) you can. You won't regret it.

Please don't forgot to invite friends and neighbors even if they are not Christians, or especially because they are not Christians. Perhaps they would like to know something about Christianity. Tell them it will be educational and there is no pressure to say or do anything – just listen and learn. If they like, they can participate in the informal table discussions, too.

Food, fun, fellowship, and focus on the Christian message. Sounds like a good deal to me.



Vestry Officers for 2016 Elected

On Jan. 12, the Epiphany vestry elected officers for 2016.

Under Epiphany's bylaws, the rector appoints the Senior Warden. Fr. Peter has asked **Merle Stromberg** to continue in this role for another year. Merle has accepted this call.

New vestry officers, committee chairs and committee members that have been elected and/or confirmed by the vestry are as follows.

Andy Plummer is Epiphany's new Junior Warden.

Ann Guest was re-elected to serve as Epiphany's registrar.

David Schreiner will lead the Benevolence Committee.

Jan Coffee and **David Bassert** will serve on that committee as well.

Beth Monroe was elected to be the vestry's liaison with the Joshua Committee.

Another vestry member is discerning whether or not he may be called to lead Epiphany's small group ministry.

Interested in Missions: An Opportunity to Go to New Wineskins Conference



Looking to broaden your mission? Looking for an excuse to travel to the mountains of North Carolina? Here is a twofer. On April 7-10, 2016, the New Wineskins Missionary Network is having its triennial conference. Anglican leaders from around the world and missionaries from many agencies are coming to New Wineskins 2016 to inspire and equip clergy, lay leaders, youth ministers, mission mobilizers, potential missionaries, and entire congregations to fulfill our Lord's Great Commission to make disciples of all nations.

The conference is taking place at the Ridgecrest Conference Center, 15 miles east of Asheville. Epiphany clergy and Missions Committee members will be attending, but we are encouraging others who would like to experience a spiritually-broadening weekend to come as well. The cost is \$235, plus lodging and meals. Epiphany can provide financial assistance for those who would like to attend but are short of the funds needed to do so.

For more information about the conference, please click on this link: <http://www.newwineskins.org/>. If you are interested, please contact Gordon Coffee. His email address is gordonacoffee@gmail.com.



Associate Search Update: Candidate visiting Feb. 20-21

Epiphany's search for our next associate rector continues. The Personnel committee joined me in reviewing a number of candidates and holding initial interviews via Skype with a half-dozen promising individuals. We have narrowed our search down to four finalists. Among those, we have two that we are moving forward with initially, and then two more we will consider if we do not discern a call for either of the first two.

Our first candidate and family will be visiting Epiphany the weekend of February 20-21. We will be releasing more information as we approach that visit.

My sense is that all our candidates for this position are not so much in competition with each other as it is that we are engaged in mutual discernment of God's call. Please continue to pray that all of us will hear God clearly in this process. My expectation continues to be that we will have a permanent Associate Rector serving at Epiphany by sometime this summer. In the meantime, I remain very grateful for Mtr. Pamela's work as our interim.

God bless,

Tabitha's Threads



is a knitting and crocheting ministry which meets on the second Friday of each month at Church of the Epiphany. Our purpose is to make and provide knitted or crocheted items for dear ones close to our church family in extended times of trial, and baby blankets for our infants at their baptisms. Our busy hands have also provided premie hats for the NICU at Reston Hospital, and other similar projects are part of our ongoing work. The time we spend together in our monthly gathering includes prayer and sweet fellowship in the tasks, and many of us have learned new patterns. It is amazing what gifts can emerge from two hands equipped only with a ball of yarn and two sticks or one hook. We delight in introducing beginners to the joy of this artistic expression of Christ's love. We delight in helping one another to master the stitches and become comfortable working the yarn into a finished gift. Whether you are new to the craft or experienced in yarn work, we welcome you to the monthly meetings of Tabitha's Threads. Join us on the second Friday of each month, at Church of the Epiphany, Anglican at 10:00 AM-Noon. For more information, e-mail: Stillwaters71@comcast.net.



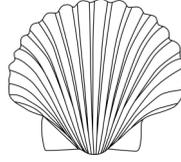
STAR Deadline Changed



Since forever, it seems, the deadline for submitting articles to the STAR has been the 15th of the month. That was a pie-in-the-sky deadline in order to give the (volunteer) editor time to get it all together. It has proven to be an unrealistic deadline, and was rarely met!

Henceforth, the deadline for submission to the STAR will be the **21st of the month** for the following month's publication. This should give the editor time to get it together, yet give you all more time to get your articles submitted. Going forward, this will be a **HARD** deadline and new articles will not be accepted after that. Minor editorial changes to already submitted articles will be accepted. Articles should be submitted to the e-mail address designated to avoid them getting lost among personal emails. The address is: star@epiphanyanglican.net.

Holy Baptism with Reception & Reaffirmation January 10, 2016



Baptized
Josiah Bryson

Received
Erik Ventura, Duncan Sutton, Jodi Sutton

Reaffirmed
Paula & Bryan Saddler





Welcoming New Epiphany Kids

Congratulations to CJ and Rae Easton on the birth of their daughter Annabelle Marie on December 28, 2015, to Jon and Stephanie Merrill on the birth of their daughter Teagan Elizabeth on January 4, 2016, and to Zan and Ann Dial on the birth of Elizabeth (Ellie) Marie on January 19, 2016.



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: 21st of the month
Bulletin: Monday, 8 AM
Candle: Wednesday, 8 AM

BIRTHDAYS

1	Julie Kesterson	9	Bethany Hait	16	Cynthia Aungst
2	Doug Greenwood		Larry Pantzer	17	Nancy Knight
	Timothy Stromberg		Laurie Rash	22	Jim Wolfe
3	Brody Hanger	10	Thomas Cummings	23	Gary Hall
4	Diana Pino		Patricia Meyer	24	Pat Schreiner
6	Victoria Monroe	11	Jeffrey Rhoads		Samuel Phillips
7	James Derrick	14	Alyssa Noble	27	Molly Carey Frost
	Barbara Noble		Faith Turner		Jonathan Meeks
8	Thabie Melvin		Joy Vaughan		Helen Norton

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

5	Norma & Larry Davis	18	Beth & Charlie Monroe
14	Maggie & Ran Cottingham	18	Debby & Ralph Morriss
14	Molly Carey & Christopher Frost		



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

2016 Vestry

David Bassert
 Jan Coffee
 Ann Guest
 George Hamlin
 Beth Monroe,
 Barbara Noble
 Andy Plummer
 Bryan Saddler,
 Dave Schreiner
 Merle Stromberg
 Carol Williams

Vestry Officers

Senior Warden..... Merle Stromberg
 Junior Warden Andy Plummer
 Registrar..... Ann Guest
 Finance Committee Chairman.....Dennis McNeely
 Treasurer Tom Miller
 Assistant TreasurerCharlie Monroe
 ChancellorDavid Reed

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

February		
5-6	8:00 AM	Marriage Enrichment
6, 20	5:00 PM	Youth Connection
10	12:00 PM, 7:30 PM	Ash Wednesday Services
21	8:00 AM, 10:00 AM	Associate Candidate Visit
March		
20	8: 00 AM, 10:00 AM	Palm Sunday Services
24	7:30 PM	Maundy Thursday Service
25	12:00 PM, 7:30 PM	Good Friday Services
26	7:00 PM	The Great Vigil of Easter
27	8:00 AM, 10:00 AM	Easter Services
29	6:00 PM	Alpha
April		
1-3		Youth Retreat: Watermarks Camp
5, 12, 19, 26	6:00 PM	Alpha
15, 16		Women's Retreat

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