

Enjoying the New Year



It's a new year, and I suspect like many of us, I can't help thinking about what will happen in the next 12 months. Andrea and I have been talking about when and where the family vacation will be. Here at Epiphany, I'm thinking about our upcoming pilgrimage to Israel in February, the work the Joshua Committee is doing to explore our options for relocating to a new and better facility (see a report on their progress on page 4), and of course, the bishop's visit this coming weekend. These are all good things to think about.

But in the midst of all of that, I'm reading a book that I got as a Christmas present by an Anglican priest named Thomas Traherne. I don't know much about Thomas' life in ministry (he lived in the 17th century), but I suspect it wasn't any less complex than mine.

And here is what I have appreciated about Thomas. He is reminding me of the glory and mystery not so much of all the tasks that my life is filled with, but if simply being a creature created in the image of God and given the earth to enjoy. He writes:

"The end [purpose] for which you were created, is that by priz[ing] all that God hath done, you may enjoy yourself and Him in Blessedness" (Centuries of Meditations, p. 8).

And also *"Your enjoyment of the World is never right, till you so esteem it, that everything in it, is more your treasure than a Kings' treasury full of gold and silver"* (p. 17).

And finally *"Can you take too much joy in your Father's works? Some things are little on the outside, and rough and common, but I remember the time when the dust of the streets were as precious as gold to my infant eyes, and now they are more precious to the eye of reason"* (p. 18).

Friends, it is a new year. For my part the only resolution I am making is to open my eyes to enjoy the world God created with a greater purposefulness than I sometimes have. Doing that (and not our endless activities) is really what we are made for. Will you join me in it?

God bless,

“Ask Me Anything” - Starting January 17

We’ve all got questions. Some of those questions are about God. One of the things we hope happens at Epiphany is that questions about God get answered.

To that end, Fr. Peter is working with members of Epiphany’s young adult small group to launch what he hopes will be a regular activity at Epiphany. They are calling it “Ask Me Anything.” It will meet for the first time at 8pm on Tuesday, January 17 at the Mellow Mushroom in Herndon (1030 Elden St, Herndon, VA 20170).

All you need to participate is a question or two about anything at all connected to God, the church, or why Christians do what they do. We’ll eat together, share the questions we have, and talk about them.

While we aren’t going to check your ID, our goal is for “Ask Me Anything” to be a fun and meaningful get-together for Epiphany members and their friends who are under 40.



The Lord's Face

*The Lord bless you and keep you;
The Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;
The Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.*



We Anglicans are familiar with this blessing from Numbers 6 and familiarity can easily turn into disregard because we have heard it so much. Have you ever thought about the words? I have to admit that I too have not spent much time contemplating them. For one, the deeply meaningful word of “bless” has lost its powerful punch these days. We say, “Bless you,” when we sneeze and send a blessing someone’s way when they have acted graciously towards us but the language of blessing is largely lacking in our imagination. But even as we move on to the next phrase, what could it possibly mean for the Lord to “keep you.” Doesn’t the Lord always keep people? Actually, I think that is the point here: that the Lord will always keep me but I need to be reminded of that fact. Too often we make decisions or face fearful life situations as if the Lord were not there at all, much less protecting and keeping us.

As we move on to the rest of the blessing, when we consider God’s face turned toward us, what expression do we see on his face? Perhaps, it is hard to imagine God’s face shining on you, and if that is so what do you suppose could be the reason? Are we trying to hide something from that face which would cause us shame? I think the word has gotten out that living with unforgiveness eats away at our insides, but I wonder if we realize the destructive nature of shame. Shame likes to stay hidden, secretly motivating us to hide away our sins even from our own subconscious, but influencing our actions nonetheless. I would recommend another way of living life and that would be one where we know that the face of the Lord is always looking on our life, both the interior and exterior part of our lives.

How does the fact that God sees and loves you, despite knowing your actions, affect your response towards him? Do we suppose that God’s gracious countenance is only available when we are behaving ourselves? I would hope that you would come to the deep realization that despite our best efforts to hide in shame, God always sees and always knows. Then, get this, even though we may not be the mature person we hope to be, the Lord’s face turning towards us actually gives us the peace that we are seeking.

It is my conviction that the only way to live this balanced life in full abandonment towards the Lord is with the daily practice of deliberately putting ourselves before his countenance. Perhaps you are like me where it is easy to read Scripture because it is an intellectually stimulating process but the harder discipline is in prayer. I have made growth in prayer and meditation on Scripture my own top priority this year and I am excited that our own bishop is helping us to start off the new year with a prayer conference Jan 6 & 7th. Not only that, our young children will have the opportunity to grow in prayer as well on Saturday. So even as I challenge myself, let me challenge you: Imagine God’s face shining on you and let that transform you this year.

Pamela +

Is this the Year? Joshua Committee Progress Report for January

The Joshua Committee is making real progress identifying specific facility options for us as our initial lease term concludes at the end of this coming October. Broadly stated, the three options we have to consider are:



1. Leasing and remodeling another commercial space that is the right cost, in the right location and is the right size to be our long term home.
2. Saving to purchase land and build a church building while renewing our lease and staying at our current location for several more years.
3. Renewing our lease and remaining in our current location while continuing to explore options as they occur.

While these options aren't new, what is new and exciting is the level of specific details the Joshua committee has been able to bring together about how we would be able to move forward in each case this year. The Joshua Committee's goal is to present detailed information about the costs, benefits and specific next steps for each of these options to the vestry this month. While we are not quite there yet, we do think we will be able to make that deadline. The vestry will then prayerfully consider the options, and work with the finance committee to make a prudent decision about whether or not this is the time to move forward. We will share more information with the congregation as we reach further milestones.

Please pray that the Joshua Committee is able to find the details we need, and have God's clear help and guidance as it does this important work.

Thank You Epiphany! Relocation Fund Grows

Through your generosity at the end of 2016, the finance committee was able to set aside a further \$45,000 into our Relocation Fund out of the congregation's unrestricted giving in December of 2016. This brings that fund's balance to \$142,856.67.

"I am deeply grateful for everyone's continued financial and practical support for our church. While the Joshua Committee is still in the process of researching and asking God if this year is the right time for a facility move to better serve our church's mission, building up the Relocation Fund is always encouraging," said the Rev. Peter Frank, Epiphany's Rector.



Cast and Crew of Epiphany's Christmas Pageant
December 24, 2016, at the 5:00 PM Service



Holy Baptism, January 1, 2017
We Welcome Harper Lord into the Body of Christ

The Barnabas Corner

Just Walk Across the Room



In Matthew 28: 16-20 Jesus commands, “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.” For most of us at Epiphany, we are grateful that Fr. Peter, Mtr. Pamela, and Dn. Dave are called to fulfill this command. But we think to ourselves, “Surely, we in the laity, called to this same standard. After all, we didn’t go to seminary.” But I say, in fact, we are called to obey, whether we are clergy or not. Although we do not feel equipped, we have an opportunity to know joy and an ever-growing closeness to God.

In Bill Hybel’s book *Just Walk Across the Room*, we are reminded that God gifted each one of us with special, unique gifts which we are to dedicate to serving Him as we connect to those around us. Our job is not to be someone else, to be perfect in our faith, or to be brilliant in theology. Our job is to have a loving heart, willing to follow the promptings of the Holy Spirit as we naturally connect with others. This is something all of us at Epiphany can do.

Hybels reminds us that God asks us to be willing to walk across the room to connect with those in the world around us. Our job is to connect by building friendships with others, showing compassion, and kindness, by listening to the issues and victories of those around us whoever they are. They could be our neighbor, our co-workers, or a stranger we just met. This is something all of us at Epiphany can do!

Building on evolving friendships, we are reminded to focus on the life stories of those around us. What was their childhood experience? How do they like their job? For that matter, do they feel valued at work? What significance did church play during their childhoods? Had they ever gone to church, had a traumatic experience at church, or once believed strongly? Who has been important in their lives and where are those relationships today? Asking questions is something all of us at Epiphany can do!

Lastly, we are reminded to be open to the promptings of the Holy Spirit as we engage in these friendships. If we allow ourselves to hear the promptings of the Holy Spirit, we will be guided to introduce the story of Christ’s life on earth. The Holy Spirit will prompt us to know what He wants us to say and do with our friend. If we learn to love others envisioning what each individual will become as they are transformed, our impact on others will be great. This is something that all of us at Epiphany can do!

In the months ahead Epiphany will focus on equipping one another to **share the love of Jesus** with others using the gifts that God has given us using the life transforming help of *Just Walk Across the Room*.

Pat Meyer, Member of the Barnabas Team

Goal Met for this Year's Epiphany Gift! Meet Abraham, one of the Students we are Helping

Editor's Note: *This year, Church of the Epiphany is designating a portion of our Christmas Eve offering to support 11 students who needed help with tuition for the Spring Semester at Uganda Christian University. Thanks to Epiphany's generosity on Christmas Eve, we easily met our goal of \$5,000 for this project. Below is the story of one of the 11 students we are helping through this year's Epiphany Gift.*

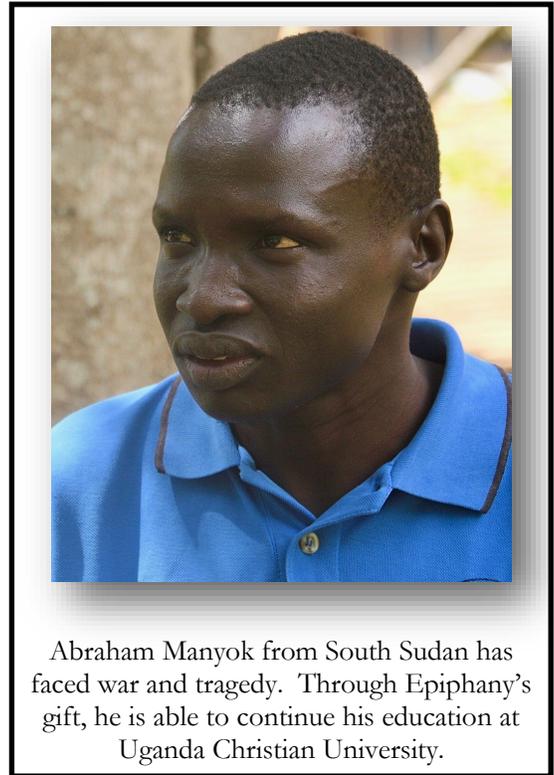
Abraham Manyok was born in 1986 in Jonglei State, South Sudan as one of five children. Hailing from a family of cattle keepers, he was used to a life of shepherding. When Abraham's older brother joined the South Sudanese army and subsequently left home, his travels outside of his village exposed him to a bigger new world. When his brother left the army and came back to Jonglei, he had a different mindset. He wanted his siblings to get an education. His hopes were thwarted when South Sudan was plunged into civil war. The family's livestock were looted and they were left penniless.

Abraham's brother and a cousin then started a business locally exchanging currencies to make ends meet. The business was soon doing very well. With a thriving business, Abraham's brother was able to send Abraham to academically sound secondary schools in Uganda, far away from the din of guns and chaos in South Sudan.

After completing high school, Abraham was admitted to Uganda Christian University for a bachelor's degree in Economics and Management in 2014. He sailed through his first two years at the university without a glitch.

His fortune changed in October 2016. Abraham's older brother and cousin were attacked in an ambush in South Sudan. They lost all their money. His cousin was shot dead during the attack. The breadwinner of the family lost everything. Abraham had just started the first semester of his final year at university. His tuition had not been paid and his rent arrears were piling up.

As the deadline for registration of the semester approached, Abraham worried incessantly. Phone calls to his already distraught brother only worsened the situation. He lost hope. It is then that friends advised him to contact the Financial Aid Office for help. He reached out to Walter Washika, the Financial Aid Officer. The scholarship commitment from Church of the Epiphany is allowing him to complete the September 2016 semester. This boost has allayed his fears. He has many strikes against him and yet he remains cheerful. He tells me that his faith in God is what keeps him going. For many students, having tuition is assured. For Abraham, the scholarship has resuscitated his broken dreams. He is deeply grateful.



Abraham Manyok from South Sudan has faced war and tragedy. Through Epiphany's gift, he is able to continue his education at Uganda Christian University.

Missions Update: Chad Young

We had the privilege of hearing the inspiring words of Chad Young, one of the missionaries we support, at Pentecost. Chad's principal vineyards are college campuses in Georgia and South Carolina, but he also writes and travels to spread the faith, as discussed in excerpts from his most recent reports:

To Whom it May Concern,

My name is Carl [an inmate in an Arkansas prison]. A friend bought me the book, Wrestling with Faith, Love, and Gators by Chad Young, to read. I'm currently incarcerated and renewing my faith in Christ, and this book is really helping me to be intimate with God.

I struggle with studying my Bible, though, which Chad says is essential. What I was hoping is if you could send me Chad Young's devotionals that he talks about to help me to study. Right now I'm reading the book of John.

Thank you for publishing such an awesome book. Please help me if you can.

Sincerely,

Carl

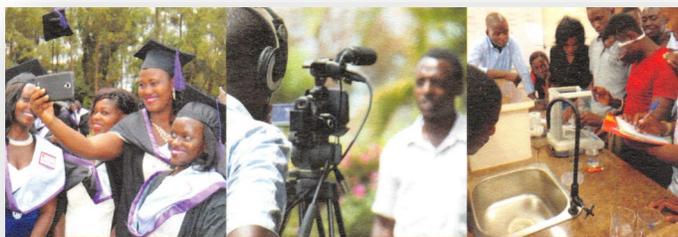
Please pray for Carl and also that God will use this book to reach others



“We are so blessed with extraordinary resources in the United States, not only financial resources but also spiritual resources. God has blessed us so that the world can be blessed through us. That was one of our key takeaways from our trip last week to the Dominican Republic. Last week, Wyatt, Clark and I joined a group from our church on a mission trip to the DR, where we partnered with FCA (the Fellowship of Christian Athletes). Basically, my daily schedule consisted of: devotionals and breakfast in the morning, 2 1/2 hours of labor (pouring concrete and painting at a Dominican FCA staff family's house), lunch, 3 hours more of labor in the afternoon under a hot sun, dinner, and then 2 1/2 hours of leading development time for 11 Dominican FCA staff members. We also got to share our faith in the community!

We were deeply impacted by the poverty-stricken environment in the DR. It made us more thankful and compassionate. It was hard work but an incredibly meaningful time for Wyatt, Clark and me!

/s/ Chad Young”



You are invited!
Uganda Partners Dinner at Church of the Epiphany, Herndon
6:30 PM, February 3, 2017
— Guest Speaker —
Dr. John Senyonyi, President of Uganda Christian University



*You
are
invited!*



Join us in celebrating Uganda Christian University!
Learn how you can support the work of UCU--
training leaders who are transforming East Africa and beyond.

Speaker:
The Rev. Dr. John Senyonyi,
UCU Vice Chancellor/President

Friday, 3rd February 2017 at 6:30 p.m.
Church of the Epiphany (Herndon, VA)
Dinner included (Church attire is appropriate)

Please RSVP if you can join us by January 15th to:
Murray Black, 703-378-5480
or Mark Bartels, 334-424-0964;
m.t.bartels@ugandapartners.org

*February 3, 2017
6:30 PM
Church of the
Epiphany*

RSVP

Murray Black: 703-378-5480

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	Bethany McKenica	13	Patricia Stachew	22	Sandy Stoddard
2	Maria Luisa Torabi	14	Abigail Sutton	23	Christopher Frost
4	Teagan Merrill	15	Ian Gross		Samuel Gross
6	Linda Boggs	16	Daniel Baehr	24	Nolan Hanger
10	Abigail Gross	17	Ryan Ellis	25	Nancy Vander Voort
	Frances Miller		Pamela Meeks	26	James Todd
11	James Boggs	18	Joanne Harp	27	Susan Daugherty
	Care Murphy	19	Ellie Dial	28	Wyndy Fredrick
	Duncan Sutton		Brittney Marcum	30	Maggie McNeely

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

2	Jan & Gordon Coffee	18	Shahmala & Ragu Rangunath
3	Barbara & Mark Oliphant	20	Linda & James Boggs
4	Andrea & Peter Frank	24	Debbie & Ted Hanger

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

9:00 AM

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday

12:15 PM

Wednesdays: Holy Communion

Resources

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

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>2017 Vestry</u></p> <p>David Bassert Doug Greenwood George Hamlin Beth Monroe Debby Morris Andy Plummer Bryan Saddler Dave Schreiner Duncan Sutton Carol Williams</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Vestry Officers</u></p> <p>Senior Warden..... Andy Plummer Junior Warden TBD Registrar..... TBD Finance Committee Chairman.....Dennis McNeely Treasurer Tom Miller Assistant TreasurerCharlie Monroe ChancellorDavid 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

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

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

January		
2	All Day	Office Closed
6-8	All Day	Bishop John Visitation
8, 22	6:00 PM	Junior Connections
8, 22	6:45 PM	Youth Connections
10	7:00 PM	Vestry Meeting
17	8:00 PM	Ask Me Anything!
21	All Day	Prayer Corner Annual Meeting
22	11:30AM	Israel Trip Final Document Meeting
28	10:00 AM	LEM / Altar Guild Training
29	11:30 AM	Newcomer Lunch
February		
5, 19	6:00 PM	Junior Connections
5, 19	6:45 PM	Youth Connections
14	7:00 PM	Vestry Meeting
2-4	All Day	UCU Event
3	6:30 PM	UCU Dinner (RSVP)
13-22	All Day	Holy Land Pilgrimage
26	5:00 PM	Chili cook-off and concert
March		
5, 19	6:00 PM	Junior Connections
5, 19	6:45 PM	Youth Connections
14	7:00 PM	Vestry Meeting
22	6:30 PM	Epiphany Pilgrimage Report
31-April 2	All Day	Youth Retreat at Watermarks