

## God's Will in Action



One of the most straightforward ways to see God in concrete action in our world is simple: Do what God asks us to do.

So, what do I mean by that? I mean listen for God's direction in your life, and then act on it. We had a good example of what this actually looks like in church last Sunday when one of the Bible passages we heard was from Acts 8.

Acts 8, 26-40 introduces us to the first non-Jewish follower of Jesus that we know about, a eunuch (which in this context means a high-government official) from the court of the queen of Ethiopia. You may remember this passage. This man is reading from the prophet Isaiah in his chariot as he is traveling back home. It's at exactly this moment, when he is reading Isaiah 53, verses 7-8, that he "just happens" to run into one of Jesus' disciples, Philip. Philip asks him if he understands what he is reading (he doesn't) and then tells him that Isaiah 53 is actually about Jesus and shares the Gospel with him. They come along some water; the Ethiopian asks to be baptized. The rest is history. Not only that, but to this day one of the oldest continuing Christian communities in the world is the church in Ethiopia who, traditionally at least, traces their founding back to this encounter in Acts 8.

None of this would have happened without one simple fact. Philip was obedient. Acts 8, verse 26 says "*Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip 'rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.'*" The angel didn't tell him what would happen. He didn't even tell him why he needed to go to this road. He just told him to go, and Philip went. From that point on everything was easy. The Eunuch was there. He was reading exactly the right part of the Old Testament to lead into a conversation about Jesus.

So, what about us? While an angel may not have brought the message, I am confident we all have experienced nudges from God from time to time, to go to a place, to talk to a person, or in some other way act because it seems that is what God wants. How have we responded? My experience is this. When we are obedient, and it really is God who is directing us, it becomes clear very quickly that we are just one small piece in a bigger thing that God is doing,

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and not only that, but the part we are to play isn't a hard one. Once Philip got himself on the road to Gaza and met the Ethiopian Eunuch, he didn't have to force things or be a hero. He just had to do what came naturally and see God use it for His Kingdom. The same can be true of us when we pay attention to God's nudges in our lives.

God bless,

*Pat*



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.



## Epiphany at the Museum



Epiphany will be taking a "field trip" to the Museum of the Bible on Friday, May 25. This will be an all-day outing. Please sign-up soon in the fellowship hall. We need to finalize our group so that we can get tickets and make transportation arrangements. There will be a cost for participating in order to cover ticketing and travel expenses.

## Outside of Your own Little World



A joy of ministry is hearing about others who are just starting out in ministry doing cool and unusual things. I am a ministry coach for a friend who allows her life to be changed because of the people she meets. This friend had settled in Metro DC, around people of power, influence, and wealth. As a child she had spent time overseas, so she understands culture and how to bridge cultural gaps. When the Lord called her and her husband to leave the power centers of DC and relocate to the Hampton Roads area, it was not an easy change. Even as Greg and

Maura had visions of church planting in their new address, it seems that other doors were also opening up to a very different kind of ministry. After spending five years volunteering at the local school, Maura began to truly see the needs in her new community. Eventually it led to an invitation from the school to provide tutors in a safe place. The children come from tough relational and economic situations with usually one parent who works multiple jobs just to make ends meet. These are children who could benefit from the attention of an adult to their academic progress. Maura saw this opportunity just outside her own little world and realized that maybe she could make a difference in these young lives.

It has been a year since she set up a non-profit that besides tutoring, provides furniture for those who need to set up a home. They have rented an apartment and provide pancakes on Saturdays along with fun, games, and crafts. She has the goal of ***“engaging hearts and minds in a safe place.”*** Her ministry partners are Christian students at Christopher Newport University who are training to be teachers and social workers. Their lives are being changed even as they make an impact on a young child’s heart. My friend Maura found her passion for children by looking outside her own little world, catching a glimpse that she could make a lasting impact in this one neighborhood. For my own part, I am so filled with joy that our God is so gracious to her as she demonstrates her love of God in service. But sometimes it is like that: God takes us outside our own little world and shows us how to put love in action. A number of you have done this on a practical level in your own life, even being stretched to do things that are out of your comfort zone. Sure, it can often feel overwhelming to be aware of the pressing needs of the world. Our temptation is to retreat out of fear or personal exhaustion. But what would it look like, if we were to live our lives peeking out beyond our own little world? What would it look like if we realized we can make a difference after all?

Pamela +

## Pentecost at the Church this Year



For many years Epiphany has celebrated Pentecost at Frying Pan Park. This year, we're going to celebrate at our new church. We will have our normal 8:00 and 10:15am services on May 20.

Pentecost in the Park isn't going away forever. It's been a fun way to remind ourselves both that Church of the Epiphany is people, not just a building, and also to remind us of the Holy Spirit's work to send us out into the world with

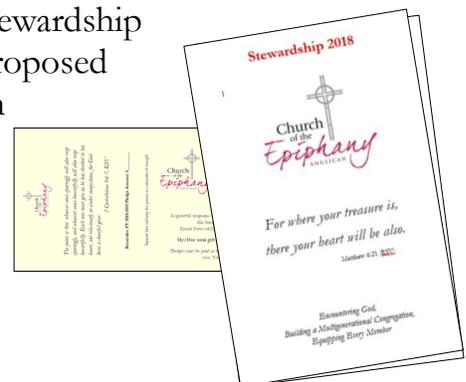
the good news of Jesus Christ. That said, after a very busy spring of moving into our new facility and celebrating our transition, I decided that we could do with a bit more in the way of "normal" Sundays this May.

God bless,



## Stewardship Campaign Continues

Epiphany's annual stewardship pledge ingathering continues. Pledge cards can be offered as part of the offering during Sundays in May. While pledges at Epiphany are anonymous, offering a pledge card helps our church budget responsibly for the year ahead. The ushers have extra pledge cards at church on Sundays. Complete stewardship packets, with information about Epiphany's ministry and proposed budget for the year ahead, as well as a complete explanation of how we practice stewardship at Epiphany is available at church in the fellowship hall on the sign-up tables.



## First Easter Celebration in Epiphany's New Home April 1, 2018



*Alleluia. Christ is risen.  
The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.*

# The First Baptism in Epiphany's New Home April 8, 2018



*Patrick, we receive you into the fellowship of the Church. Confess the Faith of Christ crucified, proclaim his resurrection, and share with us in the royal priesthood of all his people.*

## Consecration of Church of the Epiphany Anglican April 22, 2018



◀ The Rt. Rev. John Guernsey, Bishop of the Diocese of the Mid-Atlantic, visited on April 22 to consecrate our new facility as a place of worship. Here, Bishop Guernsey knocks on the door to the Sanctuary with his crozier.

▶ Members of the Altar Guild dress the newly consecrated altar.



◀ Bishop Guernsey blesses the altar..

▶ After the Service we all celebrated with a wonderful meal prepared by our 'resident' Chef, Zan Dial and the whole Hospitality Committee.



# Epiphany Youth Retreat

Epiphany youth had fun at spring retreat with two other local Anglican churches



Beautiful day in the woods with friends!



Three guys on platform try to keep it level while adding the entire team to it. Not an easy task to do while SILENT!



Gaga ball: a form of dodge ball in an arena. Our guys & gals are champs!

Adults had fun too!



Sometimes the youth leader has to flex her muscles to make students listen!



## Missions Update: Global Scholars

*The media is full of stories of university professors using their lecterns to attack opposing political, ideological, and religious views. Global Scholars tries a different approach—using the lectern to promote reconciliation—as discussed in a recent update:*

### Change the University and You Will Change the

**World.** Global Scholars exists so that every student worldwide will have a Christian professor who helps them learn to live and lead as Christ's followers in their nations. As students become leaders, our prayer is that they will find ways to bring the gospel and human flourishing to all corners of their nations (Jeremiah 29:7). Rebecca is an example of this vision becoming reality.



Global Scholar, Wendy, and Rebecca working on Thesis

Rebecca is from Maiduguri, Nigeria—the home of Boko Haram, which has killed tens of thousands and displaced over 2.3 million others since 2002. Rebecca experienced much violence herself growing up there. She grew up in a largely Muslim family, but came to faith in Christ and decided to study theology. One of her professors was Wendy, a Global Scholar. Wendy helped Rebecca research her doctoral thesis entitled *“An Ethical Analysis of the Plight of Women in Violent Conflicts in Northern Nigeria.”* She focused on the needs in and around Maiduguri. Wendy and Rebecca both understood how better understanding this issue could be used to bring shalom and the grace of the gospel to so many in northern Nigeria.

As Rebecca graduated she used her research to make a difference in her country.



Rebecca holding a "blood baby"

She established a ministry to women who were affected by violence in northern Nigeria. Her focus was widows and orphans affected by Boko Haram activity, especially after the abduction of the Chibok girls in 2013. She was heavily involved in ministering to the families of the Chibok girls, often at considerable risk. At one point the ministry's office was barraged with automatic weapon fire. Rebecca survived the bullets whizzing everywhere, but a number of her co-workers died in the attack. Through this grief, she has continued her important ministry.

The communities in northern Nigeria are finding it very difficult to re-integrate the Chibok girls, and they reject the girls' babies (many of the girls were raped while in captivity—and their babies are known as “blood babies”). Rebecca and her ministry are playing an important, redemptive role in bringing reconciliation and God's peace to all those affected--the babies, the Chibok girls, the families and the towns in the region.

Her ministry of redemption and reconciliation has been so important that she won the 2017



**BIRTHDAYS**

1	Jan Reiter	9	Gabrielle McKenica	18	Virginia Murphy
2	Dave Welch	12	Peter Frank	22	Jim Murphy
3	Andy Plummer		Christopher Menzel		Jacqueline Plummer
4	Debbie Hanger	15	David Meeks	24	Alexis Tucker
5	Murray Black	16	Bobbie Fetzer	27	Leslie Johnson
8	Annette Rhoads		Gregory Harrison	30	Ginger Black
9	Bob Beckley	18	Olivia Baumgartner		

**WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES**

5	Barbara & Tom Noble	22	Penny & Robin Rauh
13	Janice & Don Monaghan	24	Catherine & Jeff Zimmerman
14	Angela & Brett Bender	27	Bea & Andrew Long
14	Melanie & Tom Miller	27	Laurie & Randolph Rash
16	Tracy & Andy Plummer		



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Humanitarian Award from the Sergio Vieira de Mello Foundation at the United Nations. It was awarded to her for “doing something special and unique to reconcile people and parties in conflict” and praised her for her “negotiation skills and reconciliation efforts [which] played an important role in [the Chibok girls] successful re-integration.”

We thank God for Rebecca's influence for Christ among her people, due to her research with Wendy that led to the establishment of her ministry.



Rebecca holding the 2017 United Nations Humanitarian Award

*And thank you for your partnership in supporting the work of Global Scholars professors like Wendy, who influence thousands of students like Rebecca each year*

**Worship Schedule**

**Sundays**

8:00 and 10:15 AM  
Eucharist and Healing

At the 10:15 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





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Visit our website at [www.epiphanyanglican.net](http://www.epiphanyanglican.net)

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

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

May		
6, 13, 20, 27	8: 00 AM and 10:15 AM	Holy Eucharist
6, 13, 20, 27	9:15 AM	Adult Education
6, 20	6 PM	Youth Connections
4	10 AM	Journaling at Melanie Miller's Home
9	7 PM	Ladies Dining Out
11	10 AM	Tabitha's Threads
12	10 AM	Band of Brothers - Arbor Terrace
15	7 PM	Vestry Meeting
25	9 AM	Trip to Museum of the Buble
28		Memorial Day - Office Closed
June		
3, 10, 17, 24	8: 00 AM and 10:15 AM	Holy Eucharist
3, 10, 17, 24	9:15 AM	Adult Education
3	6 PM	Youth Connections
5	12 Noon	Diocesan Clergy Lunch
6	7 PM	Ladies Dining Out
8	10 AM	Tabitha's Threads
9	10 AM	Band of Brothers - Arbor Terrace
12	7 PM	Vestry Meeting

**Contact Jimmy Crawford**  
**[jcrawford@epiphanyanglican.net](mailto:jcrawford@epiphanyanglican.net)**  
**To add your activity**  
**to the Church calendar**

