

December 2019 - January 2020

In Defense of a Long Christmas



As is the case for many families, Christmas while I was growing up really started around Thanksgiving. To be exact, we started the day after Thanksgiving, when we would put on our boots (or our skis if there was snow on the ground) and go find a Christmas tree in the woods behind our house. My parents' old Christmas records (and eventually new cds) would go on the stereo in our living room while we decorated that tree, and stay on until Dec. 26, Boxing Day.

When I became an Anglican, I learned that technically speaking, we were doing it all wrong. Advent comes before Christmas, and then Christmas continues for 12 days, all the way from Dec. 25 to Epiphany on January 6.

Well, I have a confession to make. When it comes to keeping Christmas, I am kind of a lousy Anglican. Yes. I keep the 12 days of Christmas now, but I probably start listening to Christmas (not Advent) music sometime in the middle of November. To add insult to injury, we never make it much past the first week of December before we get a Christmas tree. Now, that said, we also light the Advent candles every night and do family devotions together. But there is no getting around the fact I rush the calendar a bit.

There are good reasons not to do that (Mtr. Pamela actually writes about that very thing in this issue of the Star. You should read her column). But at the same time, there is something wonderful about stretching out instead of reigning in our celebration of Jesus' birth. We live in a world that often can feel like (to steal from C.S. Lewis' Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe) "*It is always winter and never Christmas.*" It is a good thing, I think, for us to turn the tables for a few weeks every year, to make Christmas and our celebration of the hope it brings long and luxurious.

Friends, however and whenever we celebrate this season, let's make it long. Let's take time to savor the good news of our salvation, "*For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord*" (Luke 2.11).

Merry Christmas (Yes, I said it!),

Thanksgiving for God's provision



It's that time of year again where it is hard to be Anglican and have traditional leanings when it comes to the celebration of the seasons.

Consumer realities are pressing Christmas more and more into our *Autumn* Season. It is not winter yet for another month but you wouldn't know that, based on Christmas decorations popping up all over the place. But my main point of frustration is not from the Christmas decorations per se. Rather, it comes from the nostalgia I have for **celebrating a beautiful Thanksgiving** without Christmas secular trappings. Thanksgiving, at this time of year (Canada celebrates in October) is a North American holiday that should not be eclipsed by the next season.

Why would an Anglican priest care so much about a holiday that only has a minor place on our religious calendar? See, Thanksgiving is more than a food or family event. Christmas celebrations share that feature. Thanksgiving stands out because it encourages us to recall, recount and rejoice in the things we should be thankful for.

First and foremost, we give thanks for the gracious provision of God.

We recognize that God is gracious to us whether we deserve it or not.

We remember that, although it is true that our paycheck made the food sitting on the table possible, ultimately we are grateful to the God who provides. Thanksgiving is a time we offer thanks, in a deeper way, for life itself and all the things we need for life: food being one of them. We are deeper and more grateful people because we recognize His sovereign goodness to his people. At Thanksgiving we also stop and reflect on God's provision of things that are not material, but nonetheless necessary for life.

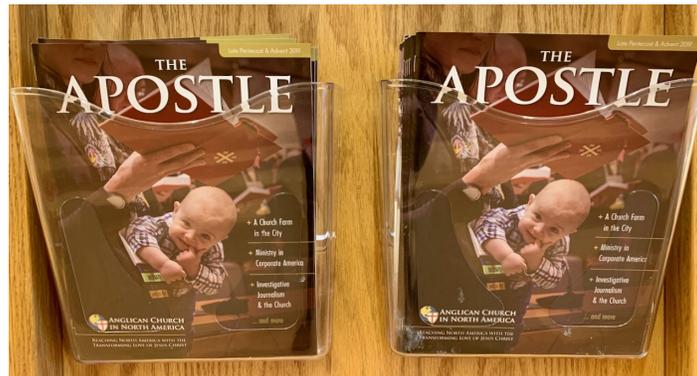


One of the things that I think of is the gift of friendships in community. We cannot follow Christ apart from the family of God, His church. Folks who try to forge a faithful life of discipleship alone will invariably get tired and fall away. We were *made for relationships* with God and with each other. This is one reason that faithful and regular worship as well as Home Groups are so important. Paul says in Philippians; "I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now," 1:3-5. The beauty of Thanksgiving is that we remember the tangible, physical things that make life rich, and the deeper relationships we need as well. Both are necessary. And I give thanks for relationships at Epiphany!

Pamela +

Free Copies of the ACNA “Apostle” Magazine Available

Pick up a free copy of our national church’s “Apostle” magazine from the publications rack in the fellowship hall at Church. Published by the Anglican Church in North America (ACNA), of which Epiphany is a part, the magazine offers a good perspective into the events and life of our church beyond our congregation.



Help Wanted – Sunday Open and Close

After seven years of service, Tim Stromberg is stepping down as our open/close staff member at the end of 2019. We are very grateful for Tim’s service to Epiphany since 2012. At the same time, we are looking for someone to follow him in this role at Epiphany. The work involves arriving at Epiphany by 7:00 on Sunday morning to open the church, making coffee, and then completing some light cleaning tasks and locking the church after the 10:15 service. There is a small salary that comes with this task. If you are interested (or know someone who is), please contact Fr. Peter at pfrank@epiphanyanglican.net.





Christmas Eve Drama and Worship at 5pm on Dec. 24 Late service at 9pm.

As you begin to think about your Christmas plans for this year, there will be one schedule change at Epiphany.

With the support of the vestry, the late Christmas Eve service this year will begin at 9pm, instead of 11pm as it has in past years.

Our hope is this change will make it possible for more people to get a good night's sleep, particularly those who have a part in the music or liturgy at the late service. We also hope it will make the later service, which tends to be quiet and contemplative, an option for more people who simply are unable to stay up to the wee hours of the morning.

We will continue to have our Christmas Eve family service at 5pm. This year, Mtr. Pamela will be introducing a new Christmas Eve children's drama. The choir will also be present to help us make a joyful noise as we sing favorite Christmas hymns together.

As we have done in years past, we will be making a gift as a congregation from the Christmas Eve offering at both services. Watch for more details about this year's "Epiphany Gift" in the weeks ahead.





Anglican 101 Class Dec. 8 and 15

Have you been attending Epiphany but are new to Anglican Christianity? Are you interested in formally being received into the Anglican Church when Bishop John visits on January 5?

If so, Fr. Peter will be offering a brief introduction to the Anglican Church, its history, theology and organization on Sunday Dec. 8 and 15 from 9:15 to 10:05 in the Library. There is a sign-up in the fellowship area. Those that take this class will be ready (but not required of course) to be received by Bishop John when he visits Epiphany on January 5.

Bishop John Guernsey Visiting January 5 Confirmation, Reception, Reaffirmation of Faith



Our diocesan bishop, the Rt. Rev. John Guernsey will be worshipping and preaching at Epiphany on Sunday January 5 at both services. January 5 is Epiphany Sunday this year, and we are glad to be able to welcome our bishop on our church's name day.

When Bishop John visits us on January 5, it is customary for him to confirm new Christians, receive individuals into the Anglican church, and assist people in reaffirming their faith. If you have already been confirmed, but are interested in being received into the Anglican church, or want to reaffirm your faith, please contact Fr. Peter (pfrank@epiphanyanglican.net). If you or a member of your family is ready for confirmation, please contact Mtr. Pamela (pmeeks@epiphanyanglican.net).



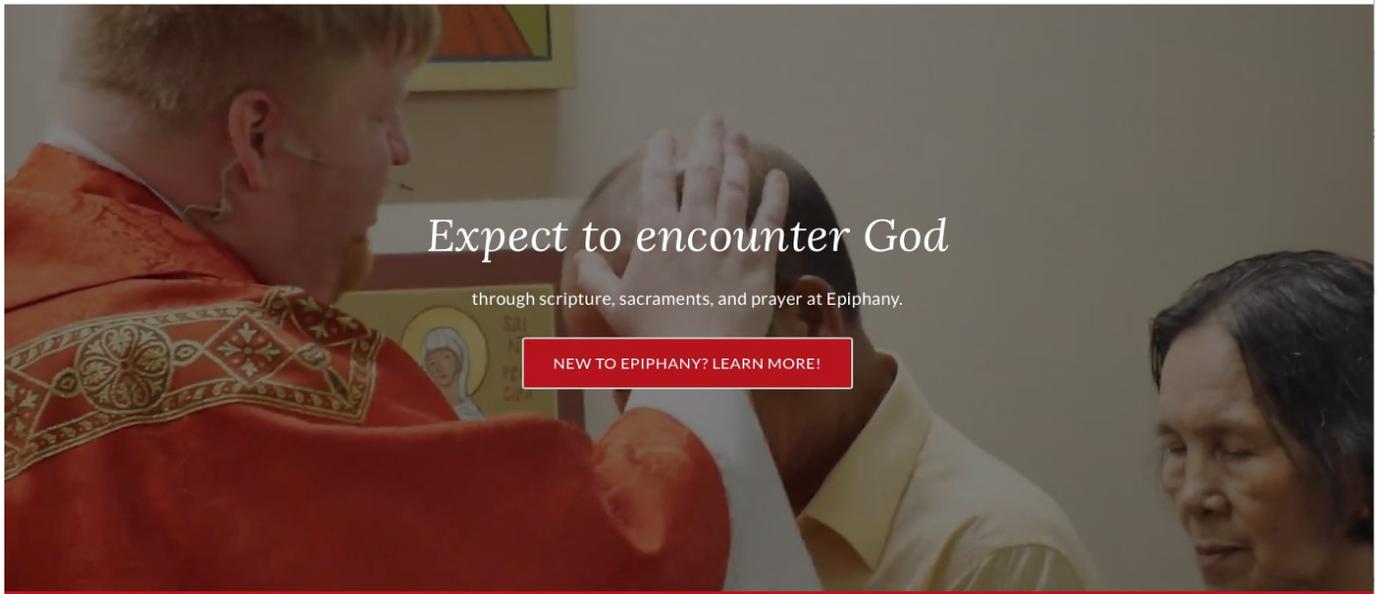
New Prayer Book Class January 4, 2020



Mark your calendars, Epiphany's Bishop, the Rt. Rev. John Guernsey, will be teaching an introductory class on the brand new 2019 Book of Common Prayer at 2pm on Saturday, January 4, at Epiphany.

Bishop John served on the Bishops Review Committee for our new prayer book. Through that work, he has been intimately involved in every step in the creation of this worship resource that will guide Anglican worship in North America for many years to come. At Epiphany, we use the 2019 Book of Common Prayer every Sunday for worship. Bring your questions, particularly where you have noticed changes in our worship over the years and wonder why those changes were made.

Purchasing a Book of Common Prayer for your own use is encouraged. However, the book is in high demand and is often sold out. For more information and current availability, see www.bcp2019.anglicanchurch.net.



Expect to encounter God

through scripture, sacraments, and prayer at Epiphany.

[NEW TO EPIPHANY? LEARN MORE!](#)

Sunday, 8:00 am (Traditional Worship)
Sunday, 10:15 am (Family Worship, Livestream Available)

Church of the Epiphany Anglican
3863 Centerview Drive Suite 100 Chantilly VA 20151

Epiphany's new website incorporates video, including our livestream on Sunday mornings and videos of past sermons.

Epiphany Gets a New Website

In late November, Epiphany launched a major update to the church website: www.epiphanyanglican.net. These days, our website is our internet "front porch." Other than a personal invitation to church from a member, it's the most common way that people find Epiphany and make a decision to visit our church. One of the changes we made in this update was more tightly incorporate video and our livestream into our website.

Now, if you visit www.epiphanyanglican.net on a Sunday morning, the site prominently announces that our worship service is "live" and gives people a single click to get to the video feed. That means that instead of needing to explain how to find our livestream, we can simply tell people to go to www.epiphanyanglican.net on Sunday during worship. The new home page also automatically pulls in video recordings of our most recent sermons and makes those easy to see and view.

Please take a moment to visit, and feel free to share our new website with your friends - particularly those who are looking for, or who need a church.

Loaves & Fishes Ministry

The Loaves and Fishes Ministry at the Church of the Epiphany began many years ago through the faithful work of Melanie Miller. She created a team and process to help ease the life circumstances of those who could use meals. Over time, there have been different coordinators, team members, and technology improvements. However, the gift of love and fellowship has been constant. As we read in 1 John 3:18 - Let us not love with words or speech, but with actions and in truth.

The current process begins with one of the Clergy, a Vestry member, or a Small Group Leader notifying coordinators of a need. Krystal Apelquist, lead and Carole Menzel, alternate, currently serve as coordinators. We contact the person who will be receiving the meals to learn more specifics about timeframe, dietary restrictions, etc. Sometimes meals are needed for a few days and other times it can be a week or more.

The Loaves and Fishes team members are ready to provide meals to those in our congregation experiencing a need, such as:

- 1) arrival of a child (or children)!
- 2) death in the family
- 3) injury, surgery or after a hospitalization
- 4) other times of need.



The schedule is then prepared using the online program "[Take Them a Meal](#)". The user-friendly website is full of information about recipes, cooking ideas, special diets, etc. Team members receive an automated e-mail from the "Take Them a Meal" website and then log on to select a day to provide a meal and indicate what meal they will bring. Usually, only a few team members need to sign up to fill each meal schedule. Many Loaves and Fishes team members usually provide the same dinner they serve in their homes so they are actually sharing a virtual meal with a church family member!

Adjustments can be made to the schedule at any time - extending the number of days, starting and stopping a schedule, changing the meal or team member. It's all very flexible. For example, if the recipient only wants the meal request to be sent to his or her Small Group or certain people, that's possible too!

Such a simple act of kindness can be a real blessing in someone's life. This ministry has been a blessing to our church family for many years - to both those who serve and those who receive! If you ever have a need for meals, please contact one of the Clergy, a Vestry Member, your Small Group Leader.

To join our team or learn more about the ministry, please contact Krystal Apelquist (kapelquist@aol.com or call 703-648-0923) or Carole Menzel (carole.menzel@verizon.net or call 703-709-7612). You can be extra hands by providing items, baked good, fresh fruits, prepared meals, etc. without even having to cook!

Women's Fellowship Winter Season's Gathering

Speaker: Ruth Senyonyi, Ph.D. (Psychology & Counseling)

When: Saturday, January 25, 2020

Where: Church of the Epiphany at 10:00am

RSVP: Watch for the Evite or Sign up at church



Ruth is the wife of Dr. Rev. John Senyonyi, Vice Chancellor (President) of Uganda Christian University. She has visited our Church several times as her husband has preached at Epiphany over the years. We are delighted that Dr. Senyonyi will once more be preaching at Epiphany on February 2nd, 2020.

Ruth is a pioneer in the sense in that she was the first professional counselor in her country. As she taught in high schools, Ruth knew firsthand the need for such help. When her husband was sent to the USA to seminary, by a miracle Ruth was able to work on her master's degree during that time.

When she returned to Uganda as John was finished in Seminary, she found people did not understand the term or what a counselor does. She was a great encourager and teacher to others to pursue counseling. Ruth created the Ugandan Counseling Association. She worked with seniors in high schools to help them understand risky behaviors that would get in the way of having a healthy, productive life. She worked in Rape crisis centers and trained others to be equipped to counsel victims.

Ruth realized she needed more training and by another miracle was able to go to graduate school, mostly on line and receive her Ph.D in Counselor Education from Regent University. Doing it online worked well with her responsibilities as mother and helpmate to her husband.

Ruth is the Provincial Mother's Union President, Church of the Province of Uganda. Mother's Union is a very important, large ministry supporting women in their roles as wife and mother. Through Mother's Union and in her various roles she speaks in different places in her country and was appointed to the GAFCON Task Force on Women. Ruth is Assistant Director/Counselling & Welfare, working with the employees and their families in the Bank of Uganda. She loves being wife, mother and now grandmother.

Ruth is a humble, faithful servant of the Lord and her country, Uganda. It will be a privilege to hear her story and share what the Lord leads her to talk about.



Christmas Flowers

Each year, the Altar Guild decorates the Church for Christmas. Flowers are traditionally donated by members of the congregation and dedicated to the memory of or in thanksgiving for a loved one or an event or occasion for which one is particularly thankful.

Please sign up in the gathering place - look for the binder with this picture. Complete the form (legibly please) and place it and your check in the envelope provided.

The cost of the flowers is \$25.00. The Christmas Worship Booklet will have a list acknowledging the donation and the memory or thanksgiving.



But hurry. While this offer does not expire as quickly as the 'Black Friday' or 'Cyber Monday' deals we have all been bombarded with, there is a deadline: Sunday, December 22nd, by 12 Noon.



New Vestry Members, New Deacon

On Nov. 10, we elected three people to three-year terms on Epiphany's vestry at our annual meeting. The vestry is Epiphany's governing body and has oversight over the church's budget, staff and strategic direction in cooperation with me as the Rector. The newly elected vestry members are Jim Boggs and Bill Hoover. They begin their service on January 1, when Douglas Greenwood and Debby Morris complete their vestry terms. Lisa Baehr, who has been serving a one-year term in place of a former vestry member who moved out of the area, was re-elected to a three-year term as well.

I'm grateful for our new vestry members and returning member, as well as those who are retiring at the end of the year, and ask that you join me in praying for them as they join in the leadership of our church.

I am also glad to announce that with Bishop John's permission, Deacon Sally Hoover will be ministering as a parish deacon at Epiphany alongside Dcn. Dave Welch. Dcn. Sally and her husband, Bill, have been worshipping at Epiphany for a bit more than a year now. Initially, you will see Dcn. Sally assisting at Sunday worship from time to time, and continue in her current role of leading worship at Arbor Terrace on occasion. Please welcome Dcn. Sally as she takes on this new role at our church.



God Bless,



Lessons and Carols is Dec. 22



This year, we will be celebrating the Christmas Season at Epiphany beginning on Sunday, Dec. 22 with Lessons and Carols. This is a great service to invite friends and family to attend.

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. 22.

Missions Update: Global Scholars

Epiphany is glad to support Global Scholars, whose head, Stan Wallace, preached to us in June. Here is a short summary of Global Scholars' annual report, along with a link to the full report:

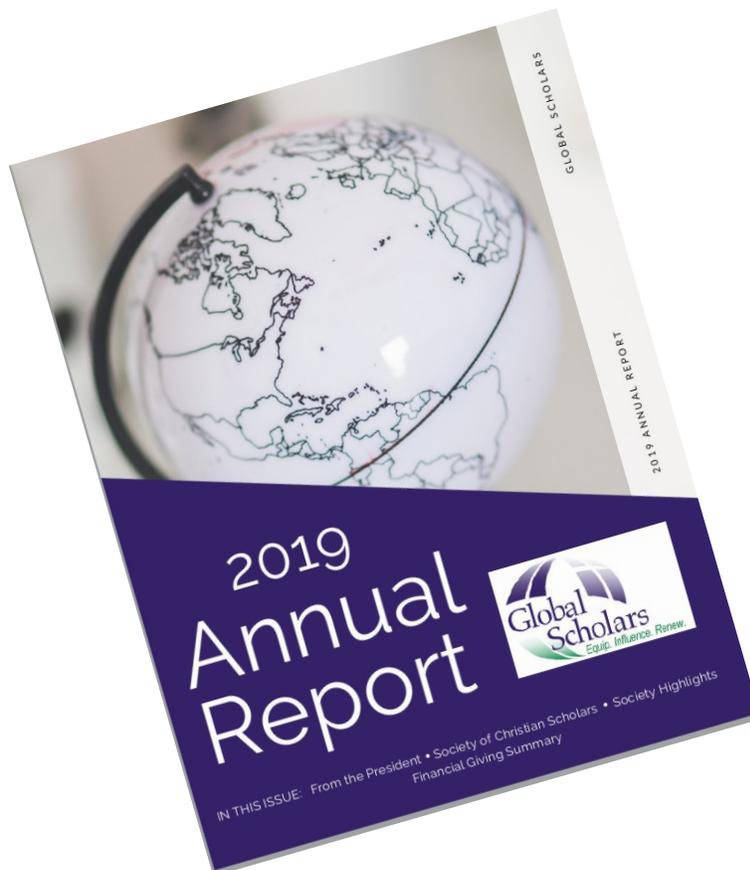
Dear friends,

I am happy to report that the 2018-19 academic year was one of the most significant and productive years in our thirty-year history!

Global Scholars continues to carry out its mission to equip Christian professors to have a redemptive influence in higher education. Our traditional program, which sends expatriate professors across borders to teach in open-enrollment universities, experienced continued growth. We also initiated a new program—the Society of Christian Scholars—to equip exponentially more Christian professors worldwide.

I'm attaching the full 2018-19 Annual Report to share more of how we saw God work in higher education this past academic year. Enjoy, and thanks for the vital role you played in equipping Christian professors to have a redemptive influence in universities worldwide!

https://gallery.mailchimp.com/dd412451c60e345b2a270a8c5/files/2bde88bf-7547-48cb-8351-6ecc9c521861/2019_Global_Scholars_Annual_Report_Final.pdf



Epiphany's Christmas Gift - Biblical Trauma Healing



The Rev. Jay Baylor

Trauma is part of the human experience in our broken world. We know all too well that trauma disrupts lives, destroys hope, perpetuates itself in cycles of violence, and perhaps worst of all, trauma isolates people from self, others, and from God. But there is good news: The Rev. Jay Baylor, an Anglican priest is teaming up with Maryland Bible Society, Somebody Cares Baltimore, and the American Bible Society to bring *Biblical Trauma Healing* (BTH) to Baltimore. He will receive the training and then train more facilitators and establish a community of care for ongoing support. The program has been adapted to serve the brokenhearted of America's towns and cities. And it works!! It works

to decrease trauma symptoms and increase connection to God. It engages the hurting with God's Word, and connects them to the local church. It helps answer the deepest cry of a wounded heart... "If God loves me, why am I suffering?" In a safe supportive group BTH helps people find healing that comes from forgiveness and connection with God. The initial cost to implement the training is \$25,000, which is just the seed money to complete the first year of training. At present, they have raised \$15,000 to begin this transformative healing program. Our goal is to devote the offering taken at Christmas Eve at both services to fund this much needed ministry in Baltimore.



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.



2019

2020

- 1 Fay Cochran
Brianna Meeks
- 2 Janice Monaghan
- 3 Chris Johnson
Dan Johnson
Will Schreiner
- 5 Maria Murphy
Charlotte Camak
- 7 Katie Miller
- 13 John Murphy
- 19 Michael Ellis
- 21 Michaela Turner
- 22 Andy Baehr
- 23 Jan Coffee
- 26 Joel Monroe
- 28 Annabelle Easton
- 31 Ran Cottingham

- 1 Bethany McKenica
- 2 Maria Luisa Torabi
- 4 Teagan Merrill
- 6 Linda Boggs
- 10 Frances Miller
- 11 James Boggs
Care Murphy
Jessica Francis
- 16 Daniel Baehr
- 17 Ryan Ellis
Pamela Meeks
- 19 Ellie Dial
- 22 Sandy Stoddard
- 23 Christopher Frost
- 24 Nolan Hanger
- 28 Wyndy Fredrick
- 30 Maggie McNeely

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

December

- 2 Lisa & Andy Baehr
- 14 Krystal & Fred Apelquist
- 29 Margaret & Frank Donovan



January



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

Resources

Epiphany Staff	Email
The Rev. Peter Frank, Rector	pfrank@epiphanyanglican.net
The Rev. Pamela Meeks, Associate Rector	pmeeks@epiphanyanglican.net
The Rev. David Welch, Parish Deacon	dwelch@epiphanyanglican.net
The Rev. Sally Hoover, Parish Deacon	shoover@epiphanyanglican.net
Jimmy Crawford, Music Director	jcrawford@epiphanyanglican.net
Janice Monaghan, Financial Director	jmonaghan@epiphanyanglican.net

2019 Vestry

Lisa Baehr
 Jim Boggs**
 Amie Boncher
 Kelly Derrick
 Doug Greenwood*
 Bill Hoover**
 Sally McNeely
 Carole Menzel
 Pat Meyer
 Debby Morris*
 Mark Oliphant
 Margaret Stromberg
 * Retiring **Newly Elected

Vestry Officers

Senior Warden.....Mark Oliphant
 Junior Warden Lisa Baehr
 Registrar..... Amie Boncher
 Finance Committee Chairman Dennis McNeely
 TreasurerTom 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

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 by email at mizfiz34@gmail.com.

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



3863 Centerview Drive, Suite 100
 Chantilly, Virginia 20151
 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

December		
1, 8, 15, 29	8: 00 AM and 10:15 AM	Holy Eucharist
1, 8, 15, 22	11:30 AM	Children's Drama Practice
4	7:00 PM	Ladies Dining Out at Piero's Corner
8, 22	6:00 PM	Youth Connections
8, 22	2:00 PM	Worship at Arbor Terrace
10	7:00 PM	Vestry Meeting
14	10:00 AM	Band of Brothers at Arbor Terrace
22	10:15 AM	Lessons & Carols
24	5:00 PM	Christmas Eve Family Service
24	9:00 PM	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
January		
5, 12, 19, 26	8: 00 AM and 10:15 AM	Holy Eucharist
4	2:00 PM	Br. Guernsey Teaching on New Prayer Book
5, 22	6:00 PM	Youth Connections
8	7:00 PM	Ladies Dining Out at Piero's Corner
12, 26	2:00 PM	Worship at Arbor Terrace
14	7:00 PM	Vestry Meeting

