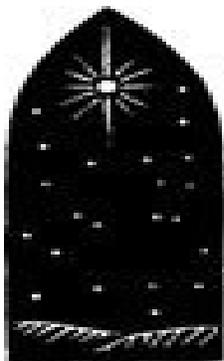


THE CHURCH OF THE EPIPHANY

THE STAR

December 2012



THE VIEW FROM MY WINDOW...

As the year draws to a close, we have much to reflect upon. We have welcomed new members, baptized babies, married adults, buried our dead, wept with some, rejoiced with others. All this is what we expect as part of our lives together as a community of faith. But there were some blessed surprises, gifts from the Lord in many shapes and forms. Just a few: the presence of Harrison Higgins among us as he prepares to be ordained to the vocational diaconate; the possibility of comfortable kneeling at the altar rail (no, it's not a sin to be comfortable when in the presence of the Lord) with the ordering of kneeler cushions, courtesy of the Martins; new teachers in Sunday School and in Adult Forum (and there may be more to come there – watch this space); the beautiful new playground equipment and play area constructed by Garrett Russell and his team as his Eagle Scout project; explored the wilds of Wyoming (PA, that is) on our youth mission trip; saw new levels of generosity in terms of our pledges and special gifts; and deepened our relationship with Christ in some interesting ways.

We tend to review our year in terms of measurable things, and we have had plenty of those, but the gift I see blossoming in this place that is both gift to us and gift to the One whose birth we await is not necessarily measurable. It is the sense that this is a community that wants, more and more, to do the good work that Christ challenges us to do. It is the sense that this is a community that thinks deeply and theologically about our role as a church in the midst of a community. It is the sense that there is a mission for us – what the scholars call the *missiones ecclesiae*- and we are on the path to discern what that is.

We began a conversation at the congregation meeting last month about figuring out what God is calling us to do at this time and place. We are not meant to stand still – we are meant to ask what God has in mind for us on a continual, or at least regular, basis. And that is also a gift that we give ourselves and give God. We can figure out who we are and what we are intended to do. If that means changes, so be it. God is not finished with us – we are still the clay which the master potter molds – and we will spend the coming year reveling in the discovery of what shape he will mold us into in the future.

This will mean more conversation, more brainstorming, more sharing of interesting possibilities. It may also mean changing some of the things we currently do. Not to worry – nothing will be done precipitously – we will take our time, and God's time, to figure out what's next.

All these things are gifts, both gifts to us and gifts to God...and in this season of gifts, isn't it nice to have gifts that don't have to come from the mall, and that won't show up in our credit card statements?

Blessings in this holy season,

Mary+

WHO WE ARE:

The Church of the Epiphany is one of 181 parishes of the Episcopal Diocese of Virginia, which is one of 110 dioceses in The Episcopal Church (USA), one of 44 member churches in the worldwide Anglican Communion.

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Vestry Highlights

The Vestry met on November 13, 2012 at 6:30 pm. Items of note:

The pledge campaign has gone well thus far. At the time of the vestry meeting, not all of the pledges were in yet, but the average pledge had increased substantially. Vestry members will contact those members who have pledged in the past but have not yet returned their cards. The proposed budget for 2013 will be adjusted as necessary to meet the actual anticipated revenue.

In terms of the Treasurer's Report, Marty reported that we are in good shape financially. Pledges were down slightly in October due to Shrine Mont, but overall, we continue to perform ahead of budget projections, for which we are grateful.

The playground project is completed, and we will have a ceremony dedicating it to God, perhaps when Bishop Goff comes in January for our annual episcopal visit.

The annual meeting went well, and Joyce Melton, Sam Craver, and Kristin Carver were elected. We are grateful for their willingness to serve, and are also grateful for Gray Corbett, Kathy Jimerson, Patty White, and Tad Blackburn, who served for the past three years with distinction.

LAST THOUGHTS

As I look back over the past two years as your Senior Warden, I want to let you know I have thoroughly enjoyed working with Mary, our Vestry, and all of the members of the congregation as we have achieved so many great things.

I have learned so much about the “behind the scenes” activities which keep Epiphany vibrant and moving forward. Things I would not have probably known about just sitting in the pews each Sunday. I encourage all of you to consider becoming a member of the Vestry in the coming years. If Vestry is not your cup of tea, consider serving on one of the many committees which keep the church's mission alive.

I wish the new Vestry members (Sam Craver, Joyce Melton and Kristin Carver) and those still serving out their terms, much success in planning and executing next year's goals and objectives. They can't achieve those goals and objectives without the congregation's assistance and encouragement.

Best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Gray Corbett, retiring Senior Warden

December 2012

Monthly Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																				
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2 8:15 AM H.E. & Men & Boy's Corporate Communion & Breakfast 10:15 AM Sun. School 10:30 AM H.E. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM Lamb's Basket Open House	3 7:00 PM JRRingers <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; text-align: center;">No Book Club</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; text-align: center;">Mary out of office - Dmin Class</div>	4	5 7:00 PM AI-Anon <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; text-align: center;">No Noon Service</div>	6 9:30 AM Lamb's Basket Volunteers (Clients) 6:15 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM Handbell Rehearsal	7	8 9:00 AM Leaf Raking 1:00 PM Scottish Dancers 6:00 PM Ch. 4 Christmas Party @ Vivien Mitchell's																																																																																				
9 8:15 AM H.E. 9:30 AM Adult Forum 10:15 AM Sun. School 10:30 AM H.E. <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; text-align: center;">Brunch Group going to Red Lobster</div>	10 11:00 AM Book Club 7:00 PM JRRingers	11 11:00 AM Chapter 1 12:00 PM Men's Bible Class & lunch 6:30 PM Vestry Meeting	12 12:00 PM H.E. with Healing Prayers	13 6:15 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM Handbell Rehearsal	14	15 10:00 AM Altar Guild Workshop 10:30 AM St. Giles Gate Program																																																																																				
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Open House

Come Celebrate With Us as We Settle Into Our New Location!

December 2nd 2 PM—4 PM

LAMB's Basket Food Pantry

8419 Oakview Avenue

Henrico, VA 23228

WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Lamb's Basket

We have been given a print "Maymont in the Spring" by well-known local artist, W. Baxter Perkinson, Jr. to use for our annual fundraiser. It is a framed, matted and signed print highlighting the lovely gazebo. The tickets will be available throughout October and November, with the drawing on December 4, 2012. They may be obtained any Sunday from Tillie Freeze or Chuck Strabley.

Also, we are moving to a new location, moving into the new location at the end of November. And opening the first week in December. We can access the building now for renovations, and will do as many as possible jobs with volunteers. Some of the work will have to be contracted, also. If you would like to help with the packing, actual move, or donate items such as paint or tile, please let Tillie or Chuck know.

Our new location will be 8419 Oakview Ave. It will be more accessible for those with disabilities (1 small step upon entry), and will have more available parking for volunteers (fenced area in back) and clients will have closer street parking areas. There will be a larger waiting room area, so clients do not have to endure unfavorable weather. We all excited about the upcoming new facility!

As always, we appreciate all donations of food, monetary assistance and volunteers in carrying out our mission.

SR. HIGH YOUTH GROUP NEWS

The Sr. High Youth have made 60 jars of cookie mix, brownie mix and bread mix to sell during the month of December. The jars will be selling for \$8.00 a piece beginning Sunday, December 2nd until we are sold out. On December 2nd we will have several of the mixes made up and ready to sample. Be sure to get your favorites early.

We will also have a Christmas party in December. Please watch the youth group bulletin board for dates.

Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



CALLING ALL ANGELS AND SHEPHERDS!

Epiphany's Children's Christmas Pageant will be held during the 10:30 AM service on Sunday, December 16th.

We will be presenting "Mary Remembers," a narration of the Christmas story told through the eyes of Jesus' mother Mary.

Practice and costume fittings will take place during Sunday School on December 2 and December 9. Rehearsal in the church will be held after the 10:30 AM service on December 9th.

A Soup & Bread lunch will be held for all after the Pageant!



St. Giles Gate Program

Our Christian Ed and worship program for children with special needs will meet on Saturday, December 1st and December 15th at 10:30 AM. We are in need of a few new teachers. The curriculum is a very simple one, all scripted for you, with visual aids that help the children understand the story and learning how to teach this way is not difficult. We could also use some "shepherds" (teacher's aides) to help as well. Please let Mary+ or Kristin Carver know if you are interested and would like to know more.

It's A Wonderful Life
Stage Play
Based on the Frank Capra Classic

Presented by Glen Allen High School Jaguar Drama

Glen Allen High School
Thursday, December 6, 2012 at 7pm
Friday, December 7, 2012 at 7pm
Saturday December 8, 2012 at 7pm

Tickets \$5.00 in Advance
\$7.00 at the Door

For More Information
Contact Harvey Stone
804-339-4281
804-501-3300
jhstone@henrico.k12.va.us

Soup & Bread Luncheon!

After the Children's Pageant on Sunday, December 16th we will have our annual 'Soup & Bread Luncheon'.

Touch base with **Beth Lassiter** 756-1540 if you are willing to make a pot of soup or can bring some bread.

Hope to see ya'll here!

Special Services in Advent

BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE



For the past two years, we have offered a service of comfort and remembrance for those who are grieving during this season. It may be difficult to hear jolly Christmas tunes and “happy talk” when we are sad. Our Blue Christmas service is intended to be a quiet and thoughtful place where we can recognize that the Lord walks with us at all times, even when we are feeling low, and that the message of Christmas is not one of unalloyed joy, but of hope for a better future. Please join us on **Tuesday, December 18th at 6:30 p.m.** as we have a quiet time of prayer, gentle music, and candlelight and feel God’s loving embrace surround us.

Christmas Eve Services

There will be two services of Holy Eucharist on Christmas Eve, a special night when the sanctuary is decorated to welcome the newborn Christ Child.

The first will be at 4 p.m. and will be family-friendly, with a puppet show telling the story of the Nativity, fun music, and a chance for even the littlest angels to gather around the Lord’s Table.

The second service will be at 10:30 pm, with candlelight, beautiful music of the season, and the traditional liturgy that makes it natural for us to praise and thank God for the gift of Jesus.

All are welcome....and bring a friend or neighbor who has no church to go to on this wonderful night!

Adult Forum for December

We are discussing “Embracing an Adult Faith,” a series of conversations with the noted theologian Marcus Borg. We will talk about Salvation on December 9th, Community on December 16th, and Practice on December 23rd. There will be no Adult Forums on December 2nd because of the Men’s and Boys’ Corporate Communion and Breakfast, or on December 30th.

If you have ideas for topics you’d like us to explore in Adult Forum, please let Mary+ know.

The Monday Book Group

We will meet on Mondays December 10th and December 17th @ 11:00 AM in the parlor. We are reading “*Sabbath in the Suburbs*”, a thoughtful and fun book about finding Sabbath in our busy lives.

Men’s Bible Study

Men’s Bible Class will meet with Mary+ on the 2nd Tuesday, December 11th. Bring a bag lunch and convene in the parish hall at noon.

Worship Leaders for December

10:30 Ushers: Chuck Strabley, Kim Ruder, Lee Poates, Randy Holden

Counters: Wayne & Lucy Whitlock

December 2 — Advent 1

Altar Guild:	Dottie Strabley, Lucy Whitlock, Connie Neal
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8:15—Holy Eucharist—Men & Boy's Corporate Communion & Breakfast

Usher: Chuck Strabley

Reader: Harrison Higgins

Chalice: Herb Williams

10:30—Holy Eucharist

Lessons: Sarah Fore, Randy Holden

Prayers: Gray Corbett

Chalice: Sarah Fore, Harrison Higgins

Acolytes: Stark Gallagher, Zack Nixon,
Bailey Nixon, Madison White

Greeters: Carole Noe, Brian White

Nursery: Sandy Ruder, Mary Kenyi

December 9 — Advent 2

Altar Guild:	Jean Riddick, Charlotte Lovelace
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8:15—Holy Eucharist

Usher: Tad Blackburn

Reader: Lauryn Boyd

Chalice: Harrison Higgins

10:30—Holy Eucharist

Lessons: Sarah Fore

Prayers:

Chalice: Sarah Fore, Harrison Higgins

Acolytes: Megan Tignor, Caroline Couturier,
Lucas Couturier, Stephanie Holden

Greeters: Aggie Gallagher, Ann Henderson

Nursery: Scott Blackwell, Dwight Ludwig

December 16— Advent 3

Altar Guild:
Kathy Jimerson,
Melba Shumaker,
Pam Pegram

8:15—Holy Eucharist

Usher: Walter Reid/Tad
Blackburn

Reader: Harrison

Chalice: Harrison

10:30—Pageant & Holy Eucharist

Lessons:
Pageant

Prayers:

Chalice:
Herb Williams,
Harrison Higgins

Acolytes:
Melissa Durrer,
Sara Lassiter

Greeters:
Patty White,
Christine Couturier

Nursery:
Jennifer Axelle,
Melissa Durrer

December 23 — Advent 4

Altar Guild:	Betty Fore, Marietta Spring, Susan Josenhans
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8:15 AM—Holy Eucharist

Usher: Herb Williams

Reader: Harrison Higgins

Chalice: Harrison Higgins

10:30 AM —Holy Eucharist

Lessons: Gray Corbett, Stacy Mitchell

Prayers: Sandy Ruder

Chalice: Stacy Mitchell, Harrison Higgins

Acolytes: Hunter Mitchell, Hana Elionai,
Camille Wood, Sarah Elionai

Greeters: Sandy Ruder, Tad Blackburn

Nursery: Joy Baynes, Peggy Wilson

December 30 — Christmas 1

Altar Guild:	Joyce Melton, Karen Holden
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8:15—Holy Eucharist

Usher: George Baynes

Reader: Gray Corbett

Chalice: Harrison Higgins

10:30—Holy Eucharist

Lessons: Sarah Fore

Prayers:

Chalice: Sarah Fore, Harrison Higgins

Acolyte: Garrett Russell, Alex White,
Ava Whittlesey, Megan Tignor

Greeters: Gray Corbett, Kathy Jimerson

Nursery: Carol Campus, Caroline Couturier

Fellowship Activities

Want to go to Brunch in December?

Sunday, December 9th, after the 10:30 service,
the 'lunch brunch group' will be going to
lunch at **Red Lobster**, Broad Street.

If you are interested please contact **Jean Riddick, 264-0935**,
or call Lucy in the office, 266-2503

Sit N Stitch gathering

will not meet in December.

Join us on the 4th Tuesday, January 22nd @ 7:00 PM in the parlor.

Congratulations!

Sam Craver, Joyce Melton and Kristin Carver
who were elected to the Vestry for the next three
years.

ISH Thanksgiving Baskets

A Big *THANK YOU* to all who participated.

The Church of the Epiphany was able to provide 27 Thanksgiv-
ing Baskets for those families that are in need of help.

Thank you again for your generosity!

ISH (Interfaith Services of Henrico) Foster Child Christmas Gifts

ISH is helping foster kids (who often do not receive gifts at Christmas from their foster parents) by asking churches to “adopt” them, much like the Christmas Angel program.

Epiphany is adopting three of these children this year:

a 4 year old boy, a 13 year old boy and a 20 year old girl.

The lists of things they have requested are on the Outreach & Mission bulletin board in the hallway. Please sign up to bring something for these kids who have so little. If something is more than you can spend, perhaps a couple of you could share the cost of one of the larger items.

Thank you for your generosity!

Christmas Eve Lay Readers Schedule

4:00 PM

Lessons: *Randy Holden*

Prayers :

Chalice: *Herb Williams*

10:30 PM

Sarah Fore

Randy Holden

Sandy Ruder

Gray Corbett,

Harrison Higgins

Days of Blessing in December

Happy Birthday

Dec. 1	Sandy Ruder Cora Ann Whitlock
Dec. 3	Ava Whittlesey Tad Blackburn
Dec. 6	Hunter Mitchell
Dec. 7	Betty Fore
Dec. 8	Rachel Young Eli Nicholas Back
Dec. 10	Chris Tignor Grace Gabriella Schulte
Dec. 12	Tim Shephard Scovia Eluzai Vivien Mitchell
Dec. 16	Kella Kiden Soro
Dec. 18	Sarah Jenkins
Dec. 19	Diana Stone Linda Whitlock
Dec. 20	Emma Blackburn
Dec. 23	Hope Marie Schulte

Dec. 24	Pat Dunn
Dec. 25	Nancy Sonne
Dec. 28	Christine Williams
Dec. 30	Hana Elionai Noel Elionai

Happy Anniversary

Dec. 6	Marty & Vivien Mitchell
Dec. 9	Ron & Paula Fitts
Dec. 19	Randy & Nancy Tucker
Dec. 27	Ray & Charlotte Lovelace Cory & Jessica Isemann
Dec. 30	Chris & Sandy Tignor Gray & Frosine Corbett

Standing in the Need of Prayer

Those who are ill or have special needs:

In Our Parish Family: Carol Burley, Carl Burley, Ray Hampton, Peggy Adleman, Dottie Strabley, Dot Hudson, Marietta Spring, Walter Reid, Gene Knoop, Penny Johnson, Chuck Strabley, Karen Holden

Those in Care Facilities or Homebound especially:

Pat Dunn, Mary Ruder, Roseanne Stockwell, Ruth Williams and Juliet Wynne

Those Serving in the Armed Forces especially:

Matt Guyer, Amanda Hoffert, David Hoffert, Daniel Keefe, Patrick Lineberry, Caitlin Mitchell, Bryan Murphy, Billy Tucker, Andrew Smith, Ryan Casey, and Chris Tuck

Prayers for those preparing for the birth of a child: Cary & Jill Baynes, Bryan & Catherine Tuck Turner

Prayers for family & friends:

Prayers for Healing, Wholeness, Comfort, Guidance, and Safe Travel: Kathryn Cook—friend of Connie Neal, Mary Stockdell—daughter-in-law of Susan Josenhans, Heather—friend of Melissa Durrer, Stuart & Jean Swink—sister & brother-in-law of Irene Morris, Kent Jenkins—brother of Sarah Jenkins, Becky Smith—friend of Melba Shumaker, Jeff Eppes—brother of Jim Eppes, Gayla Jones—Karen Holden's sister, Conrad Lawrence—Aggie Gallagher's brother, Anne Stockdell-Giesler—Susan Josenhans daughter, Gary Peper—Lucy Whitlock's brother-in-law, Ellen & Spalding Garlinghouse—Kristin Carver's aunt & uncle, Brenda Dawkins—Bertha Morgan's daughter, Rob Lockridge—friend of Carole Noe, Bev & Bob Thornbloom—friends of Doug Thorpe, Brandon Leach—Diana Stone's step-brother, Patty Sue—niece of Ann Schaefer, Dave Latham—friend of Shirley Hughson, Peggy Turner—friend of Megan Nixon, Steve Farmer—neighbor of Betty Van Valkenburg, Debbie Williams—Herb Williams sister-in-law, Rev. Jon Dephouse—friend of Mary+, Ray Hodge—friend of Carole Noe, Christi Byrd—co-worker & friend of Diane Durrer, Freda Buch—friend of Susie Wasiluk.

Prayers for the departed:

The Gift of Pastoral Care

One of the things that we do well at Epiphany is take care of each other. The moment we know someone is in need, we offer to help, whether with a meal, a ride to the doctor's, or a dog walked. Much of the time, this informal offer of help works beautifully. But occasionally, especially if the person in need is new, or doesn't come to the 10:30 service, or is quiet about the need, we don't quite do as well.

We hope to address this by creating a pastoral care team, to coordinate help for those who might need a hand. Lauryn Boyd will be helping to put this together. We envision three tracks of care: providing meals (and we know how much Epiphany prides itself on feeding folks beautifully!), providing services like rides and errands and such, and providing pastoral care, either through Lay Eucharistic Visitors who bring communion, or compassionate friends who simply come and visit. Our intention is to get enough volunteers so that you have the ability to say "no" when helping doesn't work with your schedule and "yes" when it does. Interested? Please let Lauryn know at lboyd224@verizon.net.

Leaf Raking—Reserve the Date!

Even though we've not seen much cool weather, we know the leaves are starting to turn.

This signals one of the great fall traditions at Epiphany—leaf raking day!

Plan to help out Saturday, December 8th from 9:00 AM to noon.

With lots of hands, we'll make short work of our fall clean-up.



Just the Facts:
Leadership and Contact Information at
Church of the Epiphany

Office address: 8000 Hermitage Rd, Richmond, VA 23228 Phone: 804-266-2503 inquiry@epiphanyepiscopal.com

The Very Rev. Mary Brennan Thorpe,, Rector Cell phone: 804-221-3421 mary@epiphanyepiscopal.com

Lucy Whitlock, Office Administrator lucy.whitlock@epiphanyepiscopal.com

Vestry

Gray Corbett, Senior Warden Patty White, Junior Warden

Marty Shephard, Treasurer

Ann Henderson, Register

Tad Blackburn (2012) Gray Corbett (2012)

Kathy Jimerson (2012) Patty White (2012)

Carole Noe (2013) Sandy Ruder (2013)

Brian White (2013)

Christine Couturier (2014) Aggie Gallagher (2014)

Ann Henderson (2014)

Office Hours :

Lucy is in the office Monday through Thursday from 9 am to 2 pm. Mary is usually in the office Monday through Thursday, unless she is out visiting parishioners or attending meetings. She can always be reached on her cell phone (221-3421).

*May the light of God's blessing, like the Epiphany star, always guide
you on the path toward Him.*