

THE CHURCH OF THE EPIPHANY

THE STAR

January 2013

THE VIEW FROM MY WINDOW...

Well, there was no Mayan apocalypse last month. For the record, the Mayans never said that the end of that particular calendar meant the end of the world. A gentleman of Mayan extraction at Tulum told me, when I asked about the calendar, "It's just like your calendars. At the end of the year, you throw them out and get a new one." I don't know if any Mayans are constructing a new calendar, but in the future their lawyers might tell them to include a disclaimer that no apocalypse is predicted at the end of the dates within.

This shouldn't have been a surprise – we have had predictions of the end of it all before. California preacher Harold Camping was sure he had calculated the exact date and time of the End of Time. Six times, actually. He was wrong on every count. So was Martin of Tours (he predicted it would end in before 400). So was Pope Sylvester, who predicted that the end would come at the turn of the first millennium. Emmanuel Swedenborg said the date would be 1757. Jim Jones, the founder of the People's Temple and the cause of the Jonestown massacre, claimed the date was 1967. Pat Robertson claimed the end would come in October or November of 1982...

...and people took all those predictions seriously. Camping's followers sold all their goods. Jones' followers drank the poisoned juice drink. Others took less drastic, but potentially harmful measures.

I was in the beauty parlor the other day, immediately after the horrific shootings in Newtown, and a lady was saying, "It's all in the Bible. All these bad things are happening, they're all predicted. We have to get right with God, because the End is near."

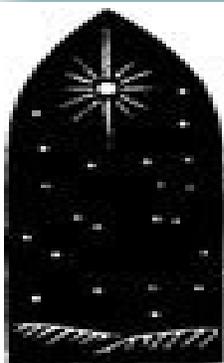
We are fascinated with when Jesus' Second Coming will be, and (arrogant humans that we are) we want to know exactly when it will be, so we can plan accordingly. And yet the Bible tells us that this is precisely the wrong thing to do: "But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father" (Matt 24:36) and "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority." (Acts 1:7).

Even Harold Camping finally confessed that he was wrong to try and predict the Second Coming. So if it is wrong to think about it, to worry about it, what are we supposed to do? We are supposed to live. St. Paul cautioned the Christians in Thessaloniki, who apparently were just sitting around waiting for the Big Event, "For we hear that some of you are living in idleness, mere busybodies, not doing any work. Now such persons we command and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living." (2Thess 3:11-12)

What is the likelihood that the Second Coming will happen while we inhabit the earth? I'm not a good odds-maker, so I won't begin to guess. What is the likelihood that there is work for us to do as the Body of Christ, to spread the Word, to do good for our neighbors in need? That's a no-brainer. Of course there is work to do. Let's spend our energies figuring out what God calls us to do, rather than simply worrying about predictions. Then we will be truly ready *whenever* Jesus returns.

Happy New Year!

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

We met on December 11th at 6:30 pm. We began, as always, with a Bible Study and a “check in” and reviewed and approved the November minutes as amended. We also reviewed our financial situation. We are actually in good shape: in November we nearly broke even, with a \$513 deficit, and our overall deficit for the year will be well below what we had anticipated. The amount of pledges per pledging unit increased significantly, although the number of pledge units has decreased slightly. We have exceeded last year’s pledge dollar totals both in pledges to operating funds and to the building fund.

The Treasurer will revise the proposed budget based upon the latest pledge numbers and deliver the budget to the Vestry for approval at the Vestry retreat in January.

We reviewed the draft personnel policy handbook and job description for Lucy and will forward any comments to Brian White, head of the Personnel Committee. This, too, will be reviewed at the Vestry retreat.

We are wrapping up work on the Photo Directory: Gray and Stacy will take photos of those who did not get their pictures taken by LifeTouch. Once that is complete, we will forward a listing of all contact info. After that, it will take between 45 and 60 days for Lifetouch to complete the directories.

We look forward to Bishop Susan Goff’s visit on January 6th. At that time, in addition to two confirmations, one reception and three reaffirmations of faith, Bishop Susan will bless the new playground and our new kneelers.

We offered our deep appreciation for the faithful work of the outgoing Vestry members: Gray Corbett, Kathy Jimerson, Tad Blackburn, and Patty White. New Senior and Junior Wardens will be elected at the January Vetsyr Retreat, which will be held on Saturday, January 19th at the church.

We closed at 7:50 p.m. with prayer.

Faithfully, Patricia Ann Henderson, Register

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

January Parish Calendar

January 2013

Monthly Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																
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<p>6</p> <p>8:15 AM H.E.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 5px;">3:00 PM H.E. & Confirmation with Bishop Susan Goff</div>	<p>7</p> <p>No Book Club</p>	<p>8</p> <p>11:00 AM Chapter 1 Mtg.</p>	<p>9</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;">No Noon Service</div>	<p>10</p> <p>9:30 AM Lamb's Basket Volunteers (Clients)</p> <p>10:00 AM DAC Mtg. & Lunch</p> <p>6:15 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>7:30 PM Handbell Rehearsal</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p>																																																
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Don't forget that on Sunday, January 6th, we will have NO 10:30 am service. Come to Confirmation at 3 p.m. and meet our new Suffragan Bishop Susan Goff!

Generosity Abounds in the Holiday Season

We asked and you gave... and gave, and gave. It started many months ago, when faithful knitters and crocheters started the make hats and scarves and mittens and such for our annual "Warm Fuzzy Tree" which provides a little bit of home-made warmth for those who are in need of such items in the wintertime. It continued at Thanksgiving, when we delivered 27 baskets of Thanksgiving meals to Interfaith Services of Henrico. It expanded with the socks that you donated to Deacon Christine Garcia's Socks project for Tiffanie's Place, a homeless shelter right by the diocesan headquarters in downtown Richmond. It kept on going—the embodiment of Amazing Grace—with the gifts provided for three foster children in this county. On the day that Karen Holden, Diana Stone and I brought the kids' gifts to the Henrico Department of Human Services, the social worker was astounded at our generosity. But that's who we are. We aren't the richest parish in Richmond or the one with the most members, but we are most definitely folks with most generous hearts. God bless those whom we helped, and God bless us and remind us to always serve with such grace!

Lamb's Basket

We have moved to a new location, at the end of November. And opened the first week in December.

Our new location is 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!

We are always in need of these food items: Jelly, peanut butter, tuna and/or canned meats, canned pasta (spaghetti O's, Mac & Cheese), snacks for kids' bags, crackers, soups, etc.

Other items they can us are personal care items, anything you would use in your home can always be used.

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 made 60 jars of cookie mix, brownie mix and bread mix to sell during the month of December for their mission trip. The jars sold for \$8.00 a piece and they sold out fairly soon. Thank you to all of you who helped support this important mission of our Sr. High Youth group.

Please watch the youth group bulletin board for dates.

Have a very Happy New Year!



Two Dates to Put on Your Calendar

*Harrison Higgins' Ordination to the Vocational Diaconate: Saturday, February 23, 2013 10 am
at All Saints', Richmond
8787 River Road
Richmond, VA*

Women's Retreat: Friday evening and Saturday, March 1 and 2. Place to be determined.

Our theme will be "A Rule of Life for Real Life".

Let Mary+ know ASAP if you are interested in joining us!



St. Giles Gate Program

Our Christian Ed and worship program for children with special needs will meet on Saturday, January 5th 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.

Prayers for Ian

As many of you know, our son Ian was born with Fragile X Syndrome which greatly affects his learning and social interactions. I rarely bring him to church or Sunday School because it is simply overwhelming for him. St. Giles' Gate has literally been an answer to my prayers, and he is doing so well with that program!

Starting in early February, Ian will be participating in another answer to my prayers. A drug has been developed to help children with Fragile X Syndrome deal with their social withdrawal, and he will be participating in a clinical trial for that drug at Duke University in Durham, North Carolina. This will involve 6 visits to Duke between February and May, and I will be writing about this process on my blog, *The Reluctant Adventurer* on blogspot.com. Please feel free to follow the blog and to ask me any questions you may have. I feel that this is a perfect opportunity to raise awareness about Fragile X and for Ian's church family to understand more about him. We would also appreciate all the prayers you can provide as this will not always be an easy or pleasant time, though we are confident that it will ultimately be a rewarding one.

Thank you for your love and support,

Kristin Carver

Sit N Stitch Gathering!

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

Birthday Covered Dish Celebration!!

Friday, January 25th @ 6:30 PM, we will have our Epiphany All-Parishioner Birthday Celebration. This great potluck event will be a chance for everyone to share their special day all together. Bring your favorite dish to share — cake and ice cream will be provided. All ages are welcome, and we promise not to ask what year you were born!

Adult Forum for January

No Adult Forum on January 6th or January 13th.

On January 20th, we will begin a series on the art of discernment. How does discernment differ from making a decision? How does our faith play into the process. AS we commit to a year of discernment about our ministries and mission in God's church, we will begin by simply understanding what this word, so often used in faith communities, really means.

We meet in the parlor at 9:30 AM — do join us!

The Monday Book Group

We meet again on Monday January 28th @ 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 4th Tuesday, January 22nd. Bring a bag lunch and convene in the parish hall at noon.

Worship Leaders for January

10:30 Ushers: Beth Lassiter, Aggie Gallagher, Shirley Hughson, Diana Stone

Counters: Wayne & Lucy Whitlock

January 6 — The Epiphany

Altar Guild:	Dottie Strabley, Lucy Whitlock, Connie Neal, Lauryn Boyd
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8:15—Holy Eucharist

Usher: Chuck Strabley

Reader: Harrison Higgins

Chalice: Harrison Higgins

3:00 PM —Holy Eucharist & Confirmation

Lessons: Sarah Fore, Randy Holden

Prayers: Gray Corbett

Chalice: Herb Williams, Harrison Higgins

Acolytes: All Acolytes

Greeters: Brian White, Christine Couturier

Nursery: Karen Holden, Stephanie Holden

January 20 — Epiphany 2

Altar Guild:	Kathy Jimerson, Melba Shumaker, Pam Pegram
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8:15 AM—Holy Eucharist

Usher: Herb Williams

Reader: Harrison Higgins

Chalice: Harrison Higgins

10:30 AM —Holy Eucharist

Lessons: Sarah Fore, Gray Corbett

Prayers: Herb Williams

Chalice: Sarah Fore, Harrison Higgins

Acolytes:

Greeters: Sandy Ruder, Ann Henderson

Nursery:

January 13— Epiphany 1

Altar Guild:	Jean Riddick, Charlotte Lovelace
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8:15—Morning Prayer

Usher: Herb Williams

Reader: Harrison Higgins

Psalm: Harrison Higgins

10:30—Morning Prayer

Lessons: Gray Corbett, Randy Holden

Psalm: Randy Holden

Acolytes:

Greeters: Aggie Gallagher, Carole Noe

Nursery:

January 27— Epiphany 3

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

Usher: George Baynes

Reader: Gray Corbett

Chalice: Harrison Higgins

10:30—Holy Eucharist

Lessons: Randy Holden, David Tuck

Prayers:

Chalice: David Tuck, Harrison Higgins

Acolyte:

Greeters: Brian White, Aggie Gallagher

Nursery:

Fellowship Activities

Want to go to Brunch in January?

Sunday, January 20th, after the 10:30 service,
the 'lunch brunch group' will be going to
lunch at **Yen Ching**, 9033 W. Broad Street.

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

A Fond Farewell!

As many of you already know, I will be going to Josie's church after the first of the year. After Josie's surgery last May and her slow recovery, I decided it was time for us to go to the same church together. So, I will be spending most Sundays at the First Unitarian Church. However, I won't be gone completely. I will continue to be a part of the Handbell Choir, so I will be at Epiphany on those Sundays that the Handbell Choir plays. This way I get to spend time on Sundays with Josie and I still maintain my connection with the people of Epiphany. Besides, after 20 years I just can't walk away from you! Oh, and there is Shrine Mont as well. I am not about to give that up! So, as I will miss seeing your smiling faces on most Sundays, I will still see you from time to time. Blessings to you all!

Paul Dolci

Note: Paul & Josie are also moving—so after January 3rd they are moving into a new condo.

New Address: 1010 Westwood Village Way Unit 203

Midlothian, VA 23114

Congratulations!

Pam Pegram who won the raffle drawing from Lamb's Basket—a print "Maymont in the Spring" by well-known local artist, W. Baxter Perkinson, Jr.

ISH (Interfaith Services of Henrico) Foster Child Christmas Gifts Project

Many, many thanks for your generosity.

**We got everything for the three
adopted foster children's wish list
and we know they will have a
very merry Christmas this year!**

Thank you again for your generosity!

Have you taken Control of your Health Today?

Life Line Screening will be at Lakeside United Methodist Church on Wednesday, January 30, 2013 offering safe, painless, non-invasive preventive health screenings that are typically not a part of a routine physical. To be more proactive about your health and to live longer for yourself, your family and your community, please register for these potentially life-saving tests today. Please refer to the flyer on the bulletin board in the hall to get more info about how you can sign up while receiving \$10 off any package priced above \$129—you can learn your risk of having a stroke or vascular disease.

There is no time like the present to take action!

Days of Blessing in January

Happy Birthday

January 1	Clement Wani Joseph Elionai Alice Elionai	January 26	Scott Blackwell Jason Ludwig
January 4	Wilder Thomas Prevatt	January 27	Bailey Nixon Gray Corbett Raymond Grigsby Ezra James Axselle
January 7	Melanie Skinner	January 28	Jason Williams
January 8	Rachel Johnson	January 30	Aggie Gallagher
January 9	Marion Magruder	January 31	Rosa Elionai
January 10	Ian Carver		
January 11	Carl Burley		
January 12	Hudson Anthony Williams		
January 14	Garrett Russell		
January 15	Ray Lovelace Carlos Cadavid		
January 19	William Soule Prevatt		
January 21	James Mitchell		
January 23	Dottie Strabley		
January 24	Sue Rasmussen Michelle Hampton		

January Anniversaries

January 1	Milton & Martha Jenkins
January 31	Jeff & Carol Campus

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, Penny Johnson, Chuck Strabley, Karen Holden, Connie Neal;

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 Bush—friend of Susie Wasiluk, Joseph Elionai as he travels to Mundri, Shirley Jamyson—friend of Lydia Callaway.

Prayers for the departed:

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

Senior Warden

Junior Warden

Marty Shephard, Treasurer

Ann Henderson, Register

Carole Noe (2013)

Sandy Ruder (2013)

Brian White (2013)

Christine Couturier (2014)

Aggie Gallagher (2014)

Ann Henderson (2014)

Kristen Carver (2015)

Sam Craver (2015)

Joyce Melton (2015)

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.*