



THE GUIDING LIGHT

The Newsletter of the Episcopal Church of the Epiphany

December 2011 &
January 2012

OUR MISSION:

TO SHARE THE LOVE OF CHRIST WITH ALL PEOPLE THROUGH PRAYER,
WORSHIP AND BIBLE STUDY; BY CARING FOR THOSE AMONG US AND
BY SERVING THE WIDER COMMUNITY

Bishop Taylor's Reflection

What an odd week. On Friday the US set a record for one day of shopping. As you know, the frenzy reached such a peak that the newest shopping accessory is now pepper spray. I picked up the newspaper Sunday and the ads were more than triple the news sections. This frenzy will only intensify.

I am a huge fan of Christmas. I like the presents, and the carols, and the tree, and the trimmings. However, we aren't in Christmas; we are in the season of Advent which isn't about things. It's about longing. Remember how we started on last Sunday? "O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear." In order to yearn for God to be born again in this world, we have to remember our deep need. If we think we can buy the kingdom at Best Buy, then we don't need the Savior of the world to make all things new.

Indeed, remembering our need is not hard. All we need to do is open our eyes and our hearts. Each Sunday, the New York Times runs a story about individuals finding themselves in the wilderness as part of their push for the "Neediest Cases Fund." This week was about Dionne Henry who lost her job as a receptionist for a record company two years ago. Since then she has sent out 2,000 inquiries. Even though she has ten years of clerical experience, she was turned down for jobs like being a cashier at Sears because she is "not qualified." In reality, it's because the job market is so bad.

When I sang "O come O come Emmanuel," Sunday I realized that it's people like Dionne Henry who remind me of the "lonely exile" that exists all around us. Of the 14 million unemployed, 4.5 million have been out of work for more than a year. I am guessing that they are less about the frenzy and more about yearning for their deepest longings.

Watch

Let us have the courage to enter Advent by recognizing people's longings and hopes and dreams. Let us embrace the brokenness of this world as it is and not as we paste over it with our holiday wrappings. And in faith, let us offer these to God and pray for God to make the world new.

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel and ransom this captive world.

+Porter

News & Events

Catawba County Community Chorus

Save the date! The Catawba County Community Chorus will be performing at Epiphany on Friday, December 9th at 7:30 pm. There is no charge for the performance, but a love offering will be collected. There will be refreshments in the Parish Hall following the concert. For more information, contact Ann Lowery.

ECW Christmas Luncheon

The ECW's annual Christmas luncheon will be held on Saturday, December 10th at 12:00 noon, at the home of JoAnn Harrington. Please bring a dish to share and a gift for the Secret Santa (value of not more than \$15).

Men's Night Out

The last scheduled Men's Night Out will be on Sunday, December 18th at 6:00 pm. In the future, the MNO dinners can still be planned, but no prior restaurant reservations will be made since there have been many occasions when tables were reserved and then no one attended. Please see Wayne Trammell if you have questions.

The Corner Table



The next spaghetti luncheon at The Corner Table will be served on Wednesday, December 14th. Volunteers should be there at 10:00 am. Please let Janice McPherson know if you can serve that day.

The Corner Table needs \$5.00 from local fast-food restaurants (McDonalds, Burger King, KFC, Hardees) to give to guests at Christmas. If preferred, money can be donated for the purchase of the cards. Please see Janice McPherson to donate or for more information.

The Greening of the Church

We will gather to decorate our Sanctuary and church on Saturday, December 17th, beginning at 1:00 pm. Everyone is welcome to join in the fun that afternoon -- we always have a joyous time!



Prepare

Dates to Remember

- » **Handbell Choir Rehearsals:** December 4th & 18th, January 8th & 22nd, 4:30 pm
- » **Catawba County Community Chorus:** December 9th, 7:30 pm
- » **ECW Christmas Luncheon:** Saturday, December 10th, 12:00 noon at the home of JoAnn Harrington
- » **Corner Table Spaghetti Luncheon:** December 14th, 10:00 am - 1:30 pm
- » **Greening of the Church:** Saturday, December 17th, 1:00 pm
- » **Lessons & Carols:** December 18th, 10:30 am service (with Holy Eucharist)
- » **Men's Night Out:** December 18th, 6:00 pm
- » **Christmas Eve Service:** December 24th, 8:00 p.m.
- » **Bishop's Annual Visit:** January 8th (Epiphany Sunday)
- » **Epiphany Annual Meeting:** January 15th after the morning service
- » The Church office will be closed from December 21st through December 28th.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>December 2011</h1>						
				1	2	3 The Corner Table Fundraiser Dinner First United Methodist Church 6:00 pm
4 HE 10:30 am C 11:30 am HB 4:30 pm Pledges Due	5	6	7 Compline 5:30 pm Choir 6:00 pm	8	9 Catawba Valley Community Chorus @ Epiphany 7:30 pm	10 DOK meeting 11:30 and ECW Christmas Luncheon 12:00 pm at the home of JoAnn Harrington
11 CF 9:30 am HE 10:30 am w/ Rev. Miles Smith C 11:30 am	12	13	14 The Corner Table Luncheon 10:00 am HS/HE 5:30 pm Vestry 7:00 pm	15	16	17 Greening of the Church 1:00 pm
18 Lessons & Carols & HE 10:30 am (CDF Offering) C 11:30 am HB 4:00 pm MNO 6:00 pm Donations for Christmas flowers due today	19	20	21 HS/HE 5:30 pm Choir 6:00 pm Office Closed	22 Office Closed	23	24 Christmas Eve Service 8:00 pm
25 HE 10:30 am (Home Communion)	26 Office Closed	27 Office Closed	28 Compline 5:30 pm Office Closed	29	30	31

Key for Calendar: C=Coffee Hour; CDF= Clergy Discretionary Fund; CF = Christian Formation for Youth
DOK = Daughters of the King; HB = Handbells; HE = Holy Eucharist; HS= Healing Service;
MNO = Men's Night Out

Office Hours are Monday-Thursday 8:30am-1:30pm unless otherwise noted on calendar, in bulletin, or on office door in emergency.

PARISH MINISTRIES - DECEMBER 2011

SAVE THIS LIST!

DATE	December 11	December 18	December 24	December 25	January 1
LESSONS YEAR "B"	The Third Sunday of Advent	The Fourth Sunday of Advent	Eve of the Nativity: Christmas Eve 8:00 PM	The Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ: Christmas Day	The Holy Name of our Lord Jesus Christ
LECTOR	C. Hartis	TBA	M. McRee	TBA	A. Lowery
CHALICE	H. Craddock	T. Lowery	T. Lowery	TBA	A. Campbell
USHER/GREETER	J/T Harrington	R. Hungerford R. Kummer	W. Robertson	TBA	R/V Leath
COFFEE	G. Batz B. Huggins	R/V Leath	N/A	N/A	TBA
FLOWERS	Advent Greenery	Advent Greenery	Christmas Flowers	Christmas Flowers	OPEN
ALTAR GUILD	P. Parsons F. MacDowell J. Trammell	C. Bivens K. Hardin A. Lowery T. Lowery	C. Bivens K. Hardin A. Lowery T. Lowery	C. Bivens K. Hardin A. Lowery T. Lowery	Janice McPherson Joy Cuomo Bob McPherson
ACOLYTE/CRUCIFER	C. Hartis	A. Cortney	All available Acolytes	TBA	W. Roper
BELL RINGER	C. Hartis	A. Cortney	L. Roper	TBA	W. Roper
VESTRY PERSON	V. Leath	T. Lowery	B. McPherson	B. McPherson	P. Parsons
NURSERY	As needed	As needed	As needed	As needed	As needed

***** IF YOU ARE SCHEDULED TO SERVE AND ARE UNABLE TO BE HERE, IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO FIND A REPLACEMENT AND TO NOTIFY STACEY IN THE PARISH OFFICE OF WHO WILL FILL IN FOR YOU. IF THE OFFICE IS CLOSED, PLEASE CALL THE VESTRY PERSON ON DUTY FOR THE WEEK. Thank You!**

<p><u>BIRTHDAYS</u></p> <p>12/01 Eddie Johnston, Jr. 12/02 John Rouser 12/02 Josh Roper 12/04 Clay Bollinger 12/05 Penny Winstead 12/05 Jamie Davidson 12/05 Nicole (Call) Spencer (Joyce Trammell's granddaughter) 12/05 Amanda Barringer 12/08 Chayse Kurtich 12/09 Cora Strang 12/09 Norman A. Batz (Drew) 12/10 Kenzleigh Kurtich 12/11 Ian Cortney</p>	<p>12/11 Justin Grady Roper 12/18 Harold Craddock 12/20 Robert Jupin 12/20 Anna Ruth Robinson (Zoe & Walt's granddaughter) 12/21 Carrie Johnson 12/24 Crystal Munro 12/27 Edd Sigmon 12/29 Lena Gonzales 12/31 Tricia Ben-Davies 12/31 Jenny Bell</p> <p><u>MARRIAGES</u></p> <p>12/22 Tom & JoAnn Harrington</p>
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PARISH MINISTRIES - JANUARY 2012

SAVE THIS LIST!

DATE	January 8	January 15	January 22	January 29	February 5
LESSONS YEAR "B"	First Sunday after the Epiphany: The Baptism of Our Lord	Second Sunday after the Epiphany	Third Sunday after the Epiphany	Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany	Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany
LECTOR	G. Jupin	A. Williams	C. Tucker	Z. Robertson	N. Ridenhour
CHALICE	Z. Robertson	M. McRee	G. Jupin	D. Brandon	A. Williams
USHER/ GREETER	B/J McPherson	B/D Richards	B. Huggins N. Ridenhour	A. Roper M. Roper	J. Collins E. Sigmon
COFFEE	E. Godinho P. Parsons	Z. Robertson N. Shanks	J. Collins E. Sigmon	A. Roper M. Roper	J/W Trammell
FLOWERS	W/Z Robertson	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN
ALTAR GUILD	Janice McPherson Joy Cuomo Bob McPherson	JoAnne Craddock Wanda Williams Margaret Roper William Shook	JoAnne Craddock Wanda Williams Margaret Roper William Shook	Elaine Godinho Joyce Collins JoAnn Harrington	Elaine Godinho Joyce Collins JoAnn Harrington
ACOLYTE/ CRUCIFER	A. Cortney	C. Hartis	J. Byrd	W. Roper	A. Donovan D. Donovan
BELL RINGER	A. Cortney	C. Hartis	J. Byrd	W. Roper	A. Donovan
VESTRY PERSON	B. Richards	K. Hardin	G. Jupin	V. Leath	T. Lowery
NURSERY	As needed	As needed	As needed	As needed	As needed

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<u>BIRTHDAYS</u>		
01/01	Christine Bivens	01/16
01/01	Joey Jordan (son of Wanda Williams)	01/16
01/01	Allyson Donovan	01/16
01/02	Zoe Robertson	01/17
01/02	Tommy Sigmon	
01/02	Andy Roper	(great niece of Roberta Hungerford)
01/03	Wanda Williams	01/21
01/04	Michelle Jupin	01/24
01/06	Bill Donovan	01/24
01/08	Jaelin Byrd	
01/09	Billy Richards	<u>MARRIAGES</u>
01/10	Winter Roper	01/02
01/11	William P Ketelaar	01/17
01/13	Norma Ridenhour	01/19
		ANNIVERSARY OF EPIPHANY CHURCH

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>January 2012</h1>						
January 1 HE 10:30 am C 11:30 am	2 Office Closed	3	4 HS/HE 5:30 pm Choir 6:00 pm	5	6	7
8 Epiphany Sunday Bishop's Visit CF 9:30 am HE 10:30 am C 11:30 am HB 4:00 pm	9	10	11 Compline 5:30 pm Vestry 7:00 pm	12	13	14
15 HE 10:30 am (CDF Offering) C 11:30 am Epiphany Annual Meeting	16	17	18 HS/HE 5:30 pm Choir 6:00 pm	19	20	21
22 HE 10:30 am (Home Communion) C 11:30 am HB 4:00 pm	23	24	25 HS/HE 5:30 pm DOK 6:00 pm	26	27	28
29 HE 10:30 am (Outreach Offering) C 11:30 am	30	31				

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In our Prayers

We pray for healing and strength:

Lorraine-Baker Neal, Jane Biggerstaff, Kristen Black, The Rev. Gus Boone, Marilyn Bornemann, Carol Campbell, Jason Call, Zelma Clemmons, Barbara Cobb, Harold & JoAnne Craddock, Joy Crosby, Charlie & Pat Dalton, Cassie DeSha, Lucy Echerd, Peggy Ervin, Don & JoAnne Flick, Jessy Fupril, Bill Guy, David Hawkins, Roberta Hungerford, Rachel Hunt, Fred Keisler, Tom and Ann Lowery, Jacque Lowery & Family, Frank Lutz, Mac McRee, Stephen Ackley Ortiz, Sarah Palmer, John & Diane Paton, Margaret Alice Rader, Geraldine Reed, Cindy Reynolds, Barry Richardson, Gloria Rumore, Joseph Rumore, Jacob Schmidt, Vivian Scott, Nancy Shanks, Forest Shook, Lawrence Shook, Edd Sigmon, John Sigmon, Cozette Sinclair, Betty Storey, Dorothy Steele, Frances Tate, Catherine Tucker, Michael William

We pray for those who have died:

Hattie Spaulding

We pray for our military:

General John Allen , Stan & Alena Baker, Brelah Oxendine Braddy, David Brandon, Jr., John & Maura Clark, Zachary Elledge, Aaron Helms, Andrew Johnson, Matthew Keene, Jeffery Lynn, Corey Masters, Levi Moretz, Matt Reep, Jim Rudisill, Steve Sobus, Wayne Steppe, Chris Stokes, Ahren Weinrich, Matthew Weinrich, Sarah Weinrich, Eric Wines

We pray for our clergy:

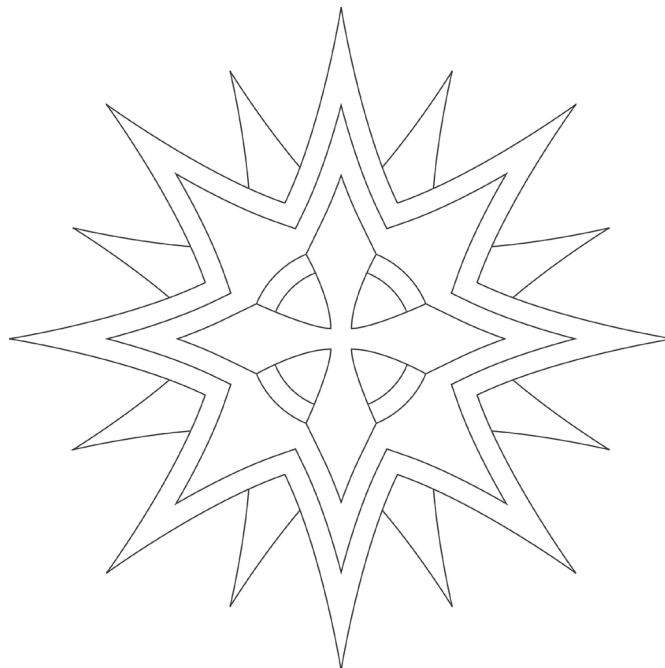
Katharine, our Presiding Bishop, Porter, our Bishop, Laura, our Interim Priest, all Priests and Deacons in our Diocese of Western North Carolina

We pray for the Catawba Episcopal Outreach Committee and Safe Harbor Rescue Mission.

We pray for all those who are searching for work.

We pray for those who are homeless or living in poverty.

We pray for The Corner Table and its mission to provide nutritious meals to people in need.



Ministry Opportunity

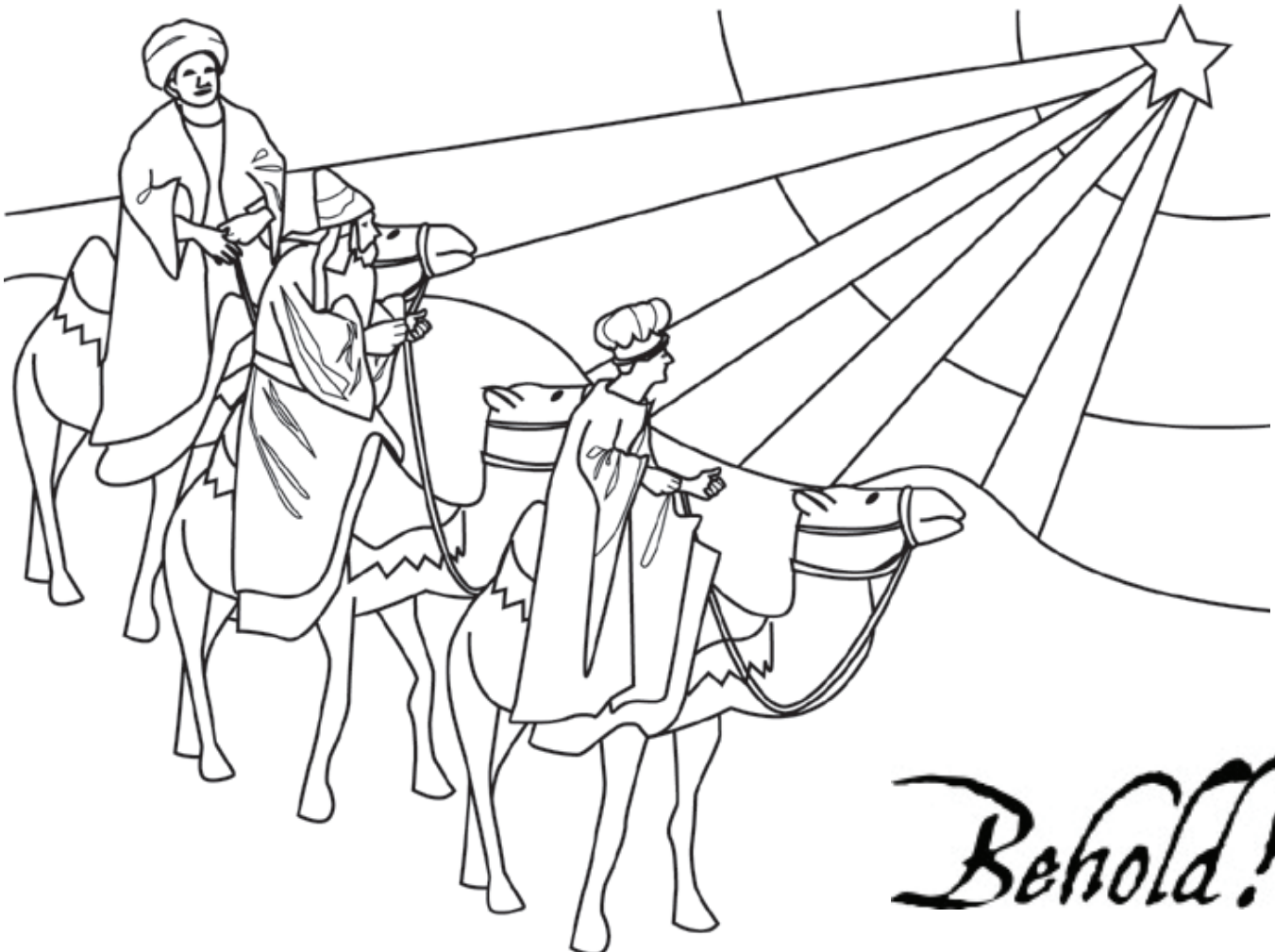
SAFE HARBOR DAY PROGRAM

Epiphany ladies have been preparing and serving lunch for the ladies at the Safe Harbor Day Program for nearly a year now. They bring lunch the second and fourth Thursday of the month. Following lunch they visit with the ladies, play bingo and sing songs of praise to our Lord.

Several ladies have supported the program. Ann Lowery, Roberta Hungerford and Anita Williams were the first ladies from Epiphany to serve in this ministry. Gloria Jupin, Zoe Robertson, and Janice McPherson have joined them. JoAnne Craddock, JoAnn Harrington, Amy Campbell, and Joyce Trammell have supported the program by preparing food and making donations.

We would like to expand this ministry and serve lunch more often. Please consider this ministry as a way to serve our Lord in our community.

Thanks to all for your help in making this ministry to the homeless successful and supporting the CEOC.



Behold!

Letter to the Church of the Epiphany

2 To the church of God which is at Newton, to those who have been sanctified in Christ Jesus, saints by calling, with all who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, their Lord and ours: 3 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. 4 I thank my God always concerning you for the grace of God which was given you in Christ Jesus,
~1 Corinthians 1:2-4 (paraphrased)

I always love the way Paul opens his letters and I could think of no better way in which to open a letter to you the congregation of Church of the Epiphany. One of the definitions given by Dictionary.Com for the word epiphany is: "A sudden, intuitive perception or insight..."

It was at the Church of the Epiphany that I had many of these sudden insights that God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ truly loved me and had a plan for me. Most of these epiphanies came from the love you showed to me and my family.

This Sunday, November 13th, I am preaching a sermon about choice based on the parable of talents from the gospel of Matthew. For many years, God has given me the choice on how to use my talents to serve him. This past January he made his choice known to me and called me to be a Vocational Deacon. For the past ten months I have worked through the discernment process to make sure that this truly is God's intentions for me. This past Tuesday, November 8th I met with my bishop, and based on the recommendation from the Commission on Ministry of the Diocese of East Tennessee, I am now a Postulant to the Diaconate. I will have several years of studying and testing before I am ordained, and I ask that you keep me and my family in your prayers.

I am not sure when Gerry and I will get over so that I may thank you in person, so this letter will have to suffice in the meantime. I will conclude with one of my favorite blessings:

Glory to God whose power working in us can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to God from generation to generation in the Church and In Christ Jesus for ever and ever. AMEN

Yours in Christ,

John R. Rouser
Postulant
(John Rouser is the son-in-law of Ann Adams.)

You say: 'It's impossible' God says: All things are possible (Luke 18:27)
You say: 'I'm too tired' God says: I will give you rest (Matthew 11:28-30)
You say: 'Nobody really loves me' God says: I love you (John 3:1 6 & John 3:34)
You say: 'I can't go on' God says: My grace is sufficient (II Corinthians 12:9 & Psalm 91:15)
You say: 'I can't figure things out' God says: I will direct your steps (Proverbs 3:5- 6)
You say: 'I can't do it' God says: You can do all things (Philippians 4:13)
You say: 'I'm not able' God says: I am able (II Corinthians 9:8)
You say: 'It's not worth it' God says: It will be worth it (Roman 8:28)
You say: 'I can't forgive myself' God says: I Forgive you (I John 1:9 & Romans 8:1)
You say: 'I can't manage' God says: I will supply all your needs (Philippians 4:19)
You say: 'I'm afraid' God says: I have not given you a spirit of fear (II Timothy 1:7)
You say: 'I'm always worried and frustrated' God says: Cast all your cares on ME (I Peter 5:7)
You say: 'I'm not smart enough' God says: I give you wisdom (I Corinthians 1:30)
You say: 'I feel all alone' God says: I will never leave you or forsake you (Hebrews 13:5)

~Thanks to Ann Lowery

Just for Fun



Moved by the church service, the richest man in town stood up and addressed the congregation. "I remember the day I earned my first dollar," he said. "That night, I went to a church meeting, and the speaker told us about his missionary work. I had only that single dollar bill, and I had to make a decision: give it to this worthy cause or keep it. So I gave him all the money I had. I believe that God blessed that decision, and that is why I am a millionaire today."

As he sat down, a woman shouted, "I dare you to do it again!!"

~~~~~

Mitch was losing his shirt at the racetrack when he noticed a priest bless the forehead of a long-shot lining up for the fourth race. Lo and behold, the horse won. Just before the fifth race, the priest did the same to another horse. So Mitch placed a small bet on it and won.

That day, Mitch raked in serious money following the priest's lead.

Before the last race, he saw the priest bless the forehead – as well as the eyes, ears, and hooves – of one of the horses. Mitch bet every cent he had, then watched the horse come in last. Dumbfounded, he hollered at the priest, "What happened? All day long, you blessed horses, and they won. The last race, you blessed a horse, and he lost!"

"That's the problem with you Protestants," said the priest. "You can't tell the difference between a simple blessing and the last rites."

*~Thanks to the Reader's Digest*

# Holy Conversation at Epiphany

On Sunday, November 20th, The Church of the Epiphany held its Holy Conversation as part of the discernment process for selecting a new priest. The Rev. Canon James Pritchett was on hand to facilitate the conversation. The eighteen participants who attended were asked to respond to questions in groups, with the groups reorganizing (musical chairs) for each round of questions.

Following are the questions and the responses (with some duplication removed due to space considerations):

**Round 1.** What was the most positive or meaningful experience you've had at Epiphany during the past year (or so)? Who or what was responsible for making it happen?

- » A Christmas Eve service several years ago when the entire congregation was involved
- » This year's All Saints service with the children participating (Laura Myhr made this happen)
- » The Liturgy in general and the power of corporate worship
- » Outreach projects (Mother Beth and Deacon Anita inspired this)
- » The Greening of the Church with the entire congregation
- » The music program (thanks to Peter, Ann, and Amy)
- » The fellowship of coffee hour
- » Andrew Weisner
- » Healing services (thanks to Jim Hunter)
- » Lenten soup/supper meetings
- » Parish days and events that bring us together (Bob and Beth)
- » Daughters of the King (Joan Vella and Mother Beth)
- » Home communion
- » Communication - call lists, newsletter, bulletins

**Round 2.** What are we good at that we can do better? Is there anything we need to let go of to make that happen? What needs the attention of the vestry and rector now?

We're good at:

- » Being there for members in times of need (more members could be involved)
- » Doing what needs to be done, but efforts should be more inclusive
- » We are good at making people feel welcome with introductions and the bread ministry.
- » Outreach
- » Coordinating events and communication

Improvements needing attention:

- » Nursery
- » Communications - utilize opportunities to be more visible via print and advertising media, not just the internet; we need to be recognized in the community for the things that we do. We also need to improve our physical visibility from the street and Rt. 321.
- » We need to be careful not to overwhelm visitors with our welcome
- » We need to pay attention to the timing and frequency of group events.
- » We need more servers so that those we have don't need to serve so often, especially more youth.
- » We need more members in the choir, and a coordinated Christian Education program for everyone.
- » We need a coordinated strategy for onboarding of new members.

**Round 3.** What do you think is God's dream for Epiphany in the next 3-5 years? Be concrete and specific. What concrete, specific steps can you take to make that happen?

- » Growth! (At least 30-40 more members or 10-12 new families)
- » Evangelism - spread His word; Witness (by actions, not words)
- » More outreach
- » Larger budget through increased membership - needed to allow a part-time weekly priest
- » Pastoral leadership
- » Youthful church

Steps to make it happen:

- » Invite a friend to church
- » Utilize the media to give Epiphany a voice in the community
- » Pray, pray, pray, and pray again



**The Episcopal Church of the Epiphany**  
P. O. Box 270  
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