

The Guiding Light

The Newsletter of The Episcopal Church of the Epiphany

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Highlights from the Rector

Summertime should be a time that calls out to us with gladness. This summer I am not jumping up and down. I am too aware of the catastrophic proportions of suffering across our globe in China, in Burma, and I am still aware of the continued war in Iraq and the Middle East.

Gas prices are soaring. People are losing their homes. Jobs are getting cut across the board in many industries and corporations. Everyone is feeling at least a pinch, if not a major shove or stomp from our lagging economy.

There is a global food crisis on top of the energy crisis and world economy crisis. And our earth still needs cleaning up air, water, and land. We need to start, well, yesterday.

Furthermore, I am aware of health issues for many of our beloved church family. I am also aware of certain family issues. These health and family situations are major issues. Even the minor issues mixed in cause deep concern for all. The effect is long term. Nothing is getting easy.

So when it comes to a look ahead to the summertime, let's just put it this way: the sun may be shining more, but it's much harder to smile about it.

(How depressing, Mthr. Beth. Thanks for the lift. Why did I even pick up this newsletter? Hold on, beloved people of God, just a tiny bit more! The Good News is always here)

In contrast to my dreary malaise about the state of the world and the human condition, the Epiphany Star shines. I just cannot help thinking about Christmas in the summertime. Following the star that leads to Jesus, the Savior of the world, is a good way to get our bearings no matter whether we are in Advent heading for Christmastide, or whether we are in a seafood restaurant on vacation in North Myrtle Beach waiting for a the waitress to bring us our order of fried shrimp. That distant star shining over a stable in Bethlehem can always show us the way we need to follow. Our eyes are called to look up. Our vision is encouraged to aim heavenward. God assures us that the troubles of this world do not ever separate us from the grace and love that abound to us from our Creator.

Each week we begin our Eucharistic prayer with "Lift up your hearts" "We lift them to the Lord" I just love those words. I love to say "lift" and "hearts". I can feel a change in the room every time. The whole church full of our hearts gets lighter, and our spirits lift up to our Lord.

May you journey to lovely places this summer. May you touch base here with us on Sundays as often as you can. We miss you when you are not here. We want to know how you are doing.

May you remember that just as we hold our many hands together with one another during The Lord's Prayer, you are each held in the palm of God's hand. You are precious to God.

So with joy and gladness, in the light of the guiding star, give thanks. Smile. Pray each day for your family, your church, this nation, and the world. Watch some kids laugh and play in the water. Grill a burger or some garden veggies on your grill. Grab some home made ice cream. Drink a tall glass of lemonade or iced tea. Enjoy the gift of summertime. God is with us, in the still small voice of a warm summer night at the end of a long day. God is watching over us, and God sits on the front porch with us as we contemplate that day giving way to the night. God will give us the wisdom to know what we are to do, each moment of our journeys.

Be Blessed!

Mother Beth