



The Guiding Light

The Newsletter of the Episcopal Church of the Epiphany April & May, 2010

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.

Highlights from the Rector

Dear Epiphany Church Members and Friends,

*Alleluia! Alleluia!
The Lord is Risen indeed! Alleluia!*

Then let us ask ourselves: Why do we continue to look for the living among the dead? Dead-end activities we spend time on, wasteful days, dead material we fill our mind with, dead-headed people we surround ourselves with, dead-end jobs we stress ourselves out in. We eat unhealthy foods and have terrible habits that are slowly killing our bodies. The list goes on. So are we practicing our faith?

We who are followers of Jesus Christ are believers in a **resurrection** faith. We are to “**practice**” **resurrection**. We are to live as people who truly believe in hope, and truth, God’s justice (which is prodigal grace for all), and a new tomorrow. We believe that love always wins, and that victory happens through prayer and our own honest, caring, participating sacrifice.

Therefore, when we live our daily lives, people should come away from being with us feeling as though they have been awakened to hope! Perhaps even stirred up from a dead place within themselves. Be warned: not everyone likes resurrection. Some people prefer to be left in their tombs, complaining! Seriously, it is true. They would rather remain as the walking dead. These people may not like you very much. Your joy will

offend them. If so, consider yourselves in good company. The same kind of people did not like Jesus, or his apostles and followers either. They spent most of their time plotting against Jesus and his followers. Those people were practitioners of destructiveness and death. Or at least, sadly, “classic dead-heads.” (Not to be associated with any 70’s band-related folk, for you “grateful” folk who may be chuckling at this moment.)

Yet, the Body of Christ still thrives today. For the *winds of hell* will not prevail against it. EVER. Jesus promised that to Peter, his rock. Remember?

In our Easter Vigil service we begin with three loud knocks upon the back doors of the church, which are then opened to reveal the quick *flash of resurrection fire* from which we light the paschal candle and the two torches. During the procession all of our individual candles are lit. Softly the church begins to become aglow, as we have imagined ourselves entering the tomb of Our Dear Lord during this eve of the Third Day. We may be still mourning from Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. Yet what is revealed to us in that candlelight is not the desertion of the disciples from Maundy Thursday, or the gloomy black and wrenching pain from Friday. We see dawning quietly as a whisper, as the first breath of God breathed life into the first human beings, the beauty of the flowers set for Easter Day (a “sneak peak”). We hear readings from Holy Scripture recounting the story of God’s people delivered from exile in Egypt and faith renewed in readings on the Valley of the Dry Bones. We trace through the prophets again the reason God sent Jesus into this world, and why Jesus lived

among us, why he suffered so on the cross for us, and how the prophecies have been fulfilled in him, the Christ, the Messiah.

Like our brothers and sisters in the earliest centuries of the church who were baptized on the Eve of Easter, we too renew our baptismal vows. Then we come to the altar for our foretaste of the Festival Eucharist which awaits us in the morning, when the sun has risen and the world joins us in proclaiming that Jesus Christ is Risen indeed! Alleluia!

Christians are light bearers. We carry the light. The light is Christ within us. We make room for him to shine through us, for we are not able to be light without him. We shine the light out into the world.

We must worship the Lord Our God often, lifting up our hands in praise and adoration for all that we have been blessed with, offering thanksgiving, sharing at His holy table. We must pray for one another, and have fellowship with one another. We must study Holy Scripture, feeding upon it. *Each is a candle; together we are a blazing fire!*

We are the Body of Christ at Epiphany Church. Let us continue to *practice resurrection!*

Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia!

In Joy and Celebration,

Mother Beth +



News & Upcoming Events

KIDS LUNCH BUNCH WITH JOSH

April 18th: Lunch right after church at Subway, Newton, then go to the Donovans’ house in Newton for a hike/ hanging out with their farm animals.



(Bad weather? Inside: Movie/games)

Parent pick up will be at 3 pm. (Directions given that day).

April 25th, 12:00: Lunch and Bible study at church with Josh and Mthr Beth.

Please bring your favorite Bible from home, or we will provide You with one. We’re gonna teach you some cool ways to study the best Book you could ever have, for the rest of your life.

May programs: to be announced – stay tuned in your bulletins. We will probably tell you on April 25th. It will be one outing and a lunch/Bible study.

Then, we will make our SUMMER PLANS!!!!!!



MEN’S NIGHT OUT SCHEDULE

Sunday, April 18th:

Dos Amigos, Conover Blvd., Conover
6:00 pm

Sunday, May 16th:

China Buffet, Rt. 70, Hickory
6:00 pm

News & Upcoming Events (Cont.)

CONGRATULATIONS!!!

. . . To Kasey Herman, granddaughter of Jack and Nancy Shanks! Kasey was Valedictorian of her high school class, and has graduated one year early from Oklahoma State University. She has a new position as Director of Faith Activities and Special Events with the American Maine-Anjou Association. She can be emailed at: k.herman1987@hotmail.com, or congratulations may be sent to:

Kasey Herman
PO Box 1352
Platte City, MO 64079

. . . To Amanda Barringer on her graduation from high school as a home schooler. Amanda is already hard at work in her college classes.

. . . to LaShon Harris on his graduation from Hood Theological Seminary in Salisbury, NC with a Master of Divinity. LaShon will Graduate May 15th. He has been doing an internship this past semester with St. Matthews Episcopal Church in Salisbury and with the Episcopal Mission Church in Cullowhee, NC. God bless you, LaShon, in your future endeavors, and keep us informed of where God leads you in ministry!

QUEEN CITY RINGERS

The Queen City Ringers will perform at Epiphany on Sunday April 25th at 4:00 pm. There will be a love offering to benefit our own handbell program. Come and enjoy!

IN OUR PRAYERS THIS MONTH FOR HEALING AND STRENGTH:

Almighty God, comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation, in your name we pray.
Amen

For healing and strength: Jane Birken, Kristen Black, David Brandon, Norman Cook, Harold & JoAnne Craddock, Joy Crosby, Pat & Charlie Dalton, Angena Duhan, Lucy Echerd, Peggy Ervin, Jackie Hardee, Roberta Hungerford, Rachel Hunt, Reba Lowrance, Sarah Palmer, Joe Powell, Nancy Shanks, Shirley Sudderth, Frances Tate, Sara Underdown, Michael William.

FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED:

Almighty God, look with pity upon the sorrows of your servant for whom we pray. Remember her, Lord, in mercy; nourish her with patience; comfort her with a sense of your goodness; lift up your countenance upon her; and give her peace; through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Vestry News

May Meeting: The May meeting is scheduled for May 12th at 7:00 pm in the Library.

On Sunday evening, May 16th, we will be completing our **Safeguarding God's Children** training at the Lillys' - we'll have a porch party, with dinner included as a reward! ALL members who are active in DOK, ECW, Choir, committees, Christian Formation, Men's Fellowship - anyone who is interested in this important certification - are welcome. More details about our plans to follow in the bulletin.

ECW News

The last ECW meeting was held on February 14th at Beef O'Brady's. The decision was made that the ECW add \$100 to the funds collected by the youth during Lent, to benefit the Episcopal Relief and Development Fund for relief in Haiti.

The Diocesan ECW meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 22nd at 9:30 a.m. at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Morganton. If you are interested in attending, see Nancy Shanks or Zoe Roberson for details.

The next ECW Meeting: Sunday, April 18th, 1:00 p.m. at Beef O'Brady's in the Lowe's Grocery shopping center on 29th Avenue in Hickory. All women of Epiphany are welcome.

Deacon's Corner

At Cleveland Early College High School we have entered our final nine week grading period of the academic year. Our school days are filled with a sense of urgency as teachers and students try to squeeze in as much as possible as we prepare for our End of Course Exams. This sense of urgency is created because time is running out and will still have so much left to accomplish. As a school principal I find myself saying and doing things to create that sense of urgency, while at the same time making teachers and students feel safe and supported as they navigate the busy and stressful end of a school year. Quite similarly as a deacon I have that same responsibility here at Epiphany. A responsibility to say and do things to create a sense of urgency in our parish that motivates us to go out and be the hands and feet of Jesus in our community. The people of Epiphany are already involved in a variety of outreach ministries in this community. If you're not involved in ministry already, please ask me to help you find a way to contribute your gifts and talents. Christ is counting on you!

Upcoming Outreach Ministries Opportunities:

On Saturday, April 24th at 9:00am please come and help us plant our church garden. Our harvest will benefit The Corner Table Ministry. If you have any

questions please contact Deacon Anita via email @ principalware@clevelandechs.org, or by phone at 704/747-8681.

The Sipe's Orchard Home in Conover will open the Houston Transitional Living Center for homeless 16 to 21 year olds in the next sixty days. This educational, career development, work/life readiness, residential program will provide the resources these young adults need to gain a firm footing towards sustainable independent living. To help them get ready for their residents we will be collecting household and pantry items the entire month of May. Please contribute what you are able to this valuable ministry. You can place items in the designated collection boxes inside the church Narthex. If you have questions please contact:

Zoe Robertson

Email: zrobertson@sipesorchardhome.org

Phone: 828.228-8619,

Deacon Anita

Email: principalware@clevelandechs.org

Phone: 704/747-8681.

Next Outreach Committee Meeting will be on Sunday, April 11th following the worship service. Contact Harold Craddock for more information.



The morning shift of Epiphany volunteers participating in the Stop Hunger Now event on March 27th, where 250,000 meals were packaged and shipped to provide emergency relief in Haiti

