

The Guiding Light

The Newsletter of The Episcopal Church of the Epiphany

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Highlights from the Rector

Dear Beloved of Epiphany,

Our Episcopal Church met at Convention in Anaheim, California and did the work of the larger church that it does every three years. Those of you who have computers can go to our diocesan website (www.diocesewnc.org) and link up to the sites that let you know what happened. I will be printing out some pertinent handouts also, for those of you who would like them. The August issue of the Highland Episcopalian will have things in it as well, which we will print copies of and place in the Narthex. We want to help keep you informed about the wider church. Please do not hesitate to call me with any questions.

When I write to you in August, I try to prepare your thoughts for September, because when you get your September newsletters things will already be getting really busy! Our church is beginning to grow in terms of interest in Christian Formation activities. I hope that this year we will grow in leadership as well.

Your vestry and I will be having a day retreat on Saturday, August 15th to look at our short term and long term goals for this church. Our intention is to build upon the positive growth and spirit that we have seen happening these past few years. We want Epiphany Church to continue to be a small church with a big heart, making a difference in the community and in our diocese. With everyone's participation, we know we can.

Our Sunday School program will begin again on Sunday, Sept. 13th (the Sunday after Labor Day). This year the adult class will begin with a series entitled "Faces on Faith". This is a DVD series featuring remarkable interviews of leading religious thinkers responding to age-old questions of belief and meaning, life after death, the problem of evil, and other religious questions. People such as Desmond Tutu, Frederick Beuchner, and Parker Palmer are featured. The adult class will also feature studies on the Parables of Jesus, the Miracles of Jesus, and the Prayers of Jesus. Please join us on Sunday mornings in the Library from 9:15 - 10 a.m. for our good fellowship and lively discussions.

This year our older youth (Middle School and High School youth) are invited to join with our adult class for the DVD series.

Younger youth and children will group together downstairs for their "One Room School House" style Sunday School. This year the downstairs has been re-done into a fresh, clean new space! Our Christian Formation Committee is asking parents to let us know your commitment for bringing your children to Sunday School this year, so that we can make our plans accordingly for teachers. Please call me, Zoe Robertson, or Catherine Tucker during this month of August, and help us make our best plans for your children. Thanks!

Sunday, August 23rd, I would like to invite all children and youth to bring their book bags to church with them. During the time of the "Prayers around the Cross" I want them to bring them forward for a special prayer of blessing for a good and fruitful year at school.

Finally, speaking of children, it is time for a "new crop" of acolytes to be trained. Be watching the upcoming bulletins for when that will happen. I will be talking to those young folk who I think are ready. There are older youth who are probably ready to be servers (not chalicebearers, but assistants at the altar) as well. This training will happen after everyone gets settled into school.

May God bless each of you as you enjoy the rest of your summer. I keep you always in my prayers.

Faithfully,

Mthr. Beth+

NEWS / UPCOMING EVENTS

Vestry Meeting - Will be held Wednesday, August 5th, at 7:00 p.m., in the church library. Please speak with Mthr. Beth if you have any agenda items for the vestry to discuss, or speak with your Vestry representative for any ideas, issues, suggestions, and/or concerns.

Vestry Person of the Week - Catherine Tucker for the week of August 2nd; Luther Barringer for the week of August 9th; JoAnne Harrington for the week of August 16th; Connie Keisler for the week of August 23rd; Tom Lowery for the week of August 30th; and Billy Richards for the week of September 6th.

Adult Forum - Will not meet during the summer months. We will resume after Labor Day, Sunday, September 13th.

Children's Christian Education - Will not meet during the summer months. We will resume after Labor Day, Sunday, September 13th.

Midweek Evening Prayer with Holy Eucharist and Prayers for Healing - Will be held each Wednesday evening at 5:30 p.m.

Choir Rehearsal - Will not be held during the summer months. We will resume after school begins. We will meet the first and third Wednesday evenings of the month beginning September 2, following the evening service, approximately 6:15 p.m. Anyone interested in joining our choir, please join us. There is always room for one more choir member.

Daughters of the King - Will meet Saturday, August 8th, 10:00 a.m. in the church library.

Mthr. Beth's Discretionary Fund - Please remember the third Sunday of each month (August 16th, this month), the loose plate offering goes to her discretionary fund. Please give prayerful consideration to this important ministry so as to allow Mthr. Beth to help those from the community that reach out to her and us for financial assistance.

The Outreach Committee Offering - The months that have five Sundays have been designated as Outreach Offering Sunday, and that occurs next in August, Sunday, August 30th. Please give prayerful consideration to this ever-so important ministry.

Re-engineer Your Career with Randy Siegel - Saturday, August 15th, Church of the Ascension, Hickory. Life as we have known it is changing. The plummeting stock market, failing housing prices, declining job security, rising national debt, corporate and political greed, environmental problems, war, the list drones on. It's enough to make even the strongest of us feel powerless. If you recently lost your job -or fear losing your job - no one knows better than you. Despite these sinister circumstances and hurricane force winds of change, there is opportunity - an opportunity to bring power, passion and purpose to your life and career. Click on to the Diocesan Website for registration information.

Crawdads' Game Time Again - We are scheduled to go again on Friday, August 21st. Please check with Wayne Trammell for your tickets. They are \$5.00 each.

Cruisin' Fundraiser - The Corner Table is serving hamburgers, BBQ, and hot dogs for lunch on Sunday, August 16th. Old cars will be on display throughout downtown Newton. Stop by and support our local Soup Kitchen.

The Next Men's Night Out - Sunday, August 16th, at 6:00 p.m., at The Olive Garden, Hickory.

87th WNC ECW Annual Gathering/Meeting - September 25th -26th, at Lutheridge Conference Center, Arden. This year's theme is "Grow in Grace" to keep with this year's Triennial Theme. The Rev. Dee Ann de Montmollin will be our keynote speaker. Programs will include Women of Vision workshops my Marcie Cherau, National ECW Province IV Representative and Women' Correctional Facility at Swannanoa Chaplaincy. Program by Diane Oxford,. Special recognition will be give to our 2009 Honored Women of the Year - Lucy Gunn.

Upcoming Youth Events:

EYC Splash - Saturday, August 29th, at Camp Arrowhead, Hendersonville, N.C. Deadline to register is August 14. Please call or email how many people from your parish will be attending. Checks should be made out to Diocesan Office: 900-B CentrePark Drive, Asheville, N.C. 28805 or you may pay at event. See Link to Flyer on Diocesan Website.

Beginning in the Middle (MidBEGINNINGdle) - September 18th -20th, at Valle Crucis Conference Center. Cost for the weekend is \$90.00 per person (\$100 if mailed) after 9/1/09. Deadline to register is Monday, September 7. Payment can be made online at the Diocesan Website via Paypal or checks can be written to the Diocesan Office, Attn: MidBEGINNINGdle, 900-B CentrePark Drive, Asheville, 28805.

Acolyte Festival - What? Acolyte Festival followed by All Souls' Fundraiser 5K run. Who? All parish acolytes. When? Saturday, September 26th. Where? Christ School, Arden. What Time? 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. (Registration will be from 9:00 am to 10:00 am. The 5K Run is immediately afterwards.

Cost? \$15.00 per person (includes lunch). What Do I Bring? Acolyte vestments, Church banner, torches, crucifer or gospel cross, and running clothes and shoes (if you choose to participate in the 5K run). How do I sign up? Please contact Osondu McPeters at the Diocesan Office (828) 225-6656 or youth@diocesewnc.org by September 11 to give an estimate of how many youth and adults are planning to come from your parish.

The Next Newsletter Deadline - For the September newsletter will be Tuesday, August 25th, in order to have them in the mailboxes by Sunday, August 30th. Please mark your calendars. The newsletter is still, by far, the most effective means of communication any church has. Please be in touch with the Parish Secretary for weekly bulletin information on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 9:00 a.m. until noon; and your newsletter editor for monthly newsletter information for any and all pertinent data you wish included.

DAUGHTERS OF THE KING

St. Theresa Of Avila DOC Chapter

The duty of a chapter besides daily praying, is to follow the Daughter of the King's Rule of Service by regularly taking part in the worship, study, and work of the church, and render at all times aid to the clergy as deemed necessary for the spiritual up-building of the parish. We do so by giving service to those within our church community, the community we live in, and to those outside our community when needed. For the past six months the chapter has been busy doing just that. They have accomplished this by:

Giving out five prayer shawls to parishioners in the hospital.

Giving one flower arrangement for the a home recovery.

Purchased twenty cups and saucers to complete the church's pantry white china set.

Hosted a Valentine Tea for the ECW and their new officers.

Assisted the ECW with the receiving reception for the Shanks' family after the funeral of Jack Shanks.

Hosted the family meal for the Shanks' family after the reception.

Assisted the Altar Guild members on their Sanctuary "Spruce Up Day" before Easter.

Attended a St. Alban's Celtic Tea at Pat Rice's home, with other DOK chapters, which included a Holy Eucharist celebrated by Mthr. Beth.

Attended a Spring Retreat Day at the Church of the Ascension in Hickory.

Sent a representative to St. Peter's by the Lake, Denver, quiet day.

We assisted at the Corner Table when it was Epiphany's turn to do a meal.

Money was sent to the National DOK Self-Denial Fund, which is used for the missionary field.

We are studying and meditating on Bishop Taylor's book "From Anger to Zion", which are essays that were first sermons he preached at St. Gregory's Episcopal Church in Athens, Georgia.

Kathy Hardin is going through the twelve course training study to become a new member into our Chapter in the fall.

Our motto for each daughter is: For His Sake: I am but one, but I am one. I cannot do everything, but I can do something. What I can do I ought to do, what I ought to do, by the grace of God I will do. Lord what will you have me do? What Can we do for you?

The next meeting will be held on Saturday, August 8^h, at 10:00 a.m. in the Church Library.

Blessings, Ann Adams, DOK President

MEN'S NIGHT OUT SCHEDULE FOR 2009

Sunday, July 19 - Bennett's Barbecue, Fairgrove Church Rd., Hickory

Sunday, August 16 - Olive Garden, Hickory

Sunday, September 20 - Nagano's Japanese Steak House, Conover

THANK YOU

Dear Rev. Beth:

Thank you so much for allowing me to share time with your church on July 19th. You have a beautiful church filled with beautiful members. Thank you again. I look forward to seeing you and your members in the future. Sarah Willis, Volunteer Coordinator, Palliative Care/Hospice of Catawba County.

THANK YOU

Epiphany Episcopal Church:

Thank you for once again sharing your time, energy, and resources to prepare and serve a meal at The Corner Table. We appreciate your help so much, especially during these challenging economic times when we see first hand the hardships others are enduring. You provide not just a meal, but encouragement and hope to those who need it. Thank you for all your church does to support us and to reach out to this community.

The Corner Table

THANK YOU

Dear Friends:

Thank you all for your prayers, cards, food, calls and all the wonderful things you have done for me. I ask that you continue your prayers, as I go forward in this journey.

Love, Roberta

A Journey of Love

Nancy Shanks had told Jack she would drive him to Oklahoma to see their granddaughter Kasey Herman show at her last National Junior Polled Hereford Show in Tulsa, Oklahoma. She was going to be aging out as a Junior. Jack had so looked forward to being there!

After Jack passed away, Nancy decided to drive the 1,036 miles each way by herself to represent them both.

Without a doubt, Nancy says Jack was there in spirit. Kasey ended up with an "Outstanding Junior National". She had:

Seven Class Winners

Seven Champion Division Winners

Reserve Grand Champion Breed and Owned Heifer

Reserve Grand Champion Owned Heifer

Grand Champion Bull

*Nancy would like to thank everyone for their prayers for her safe travels. **"Between you and I KNOW JACK, I had a safe and good trip! You're wonderful"** - - Love, Nancy*

THE HIGHLAND EPISCOPALIAN

*April edition of the Highland Episcopalian has been printed online to save the printing costs, because of budget shortfalls. Therefore October and December will also not be distributed in the customary newspaper form but online. It saves the Diocese \$3,000.00 per issue by not mailing it out and just posting it online. Let's all help our diocese save this money if we are able. For those of you who do not have access to the Internet, you will find a copy of the April edition in your mailboxes. If you have an **e-mail** address listed in the parish directory, this is one reason why you need to notify the office and keep us updated on your **e-mail** address. You can read or download this June edition at www.diocesewnc.org.*