

# The Guiding Light

## The Newsletter of The Episcopal Church of the Epiphany

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**February 2009**



### **Highlights from the Rector**

We are not sent primarily to be missionaries, pastors, teachers  
or any other kind of worker.

It isn't the office I hold that signifies my service,  
but the way in which my heavenly Father is glorified  
in the common things of my life.

There are little "nobodies" scattered around the world,  
whose lives radiate and glorify God,  
whose daily doings bring joy to the angels of heaven —  
and yet in the eyes of this world they are still nobodies.

**-John E. Hunter, *Knowing God's Secrets***

What we have seen in the last days of January as we watched our televisions or went to Washington DC in person was a gathering of millions of people making history of a kind that has not been made in this century. No matter how our vote was cast, our country has been awakened in such a way that we can not turn back now. We must participate. The eyes of the world are on us.

My job as a priest is not to be a politician, or to promote political causes. My job is to reflect with you upon your own Christian values. Each of us finds ourselves at different places along our life's road. Sometimes we are carrying placards at the head of the march. Sometimes we are spectators. Sometimes we are controlling the crowd. Or we may be taking call at the local emergency room, stitching up the wounded. Therefore as priest/reflector upon this very image, I remind each of us to stay reflective of our journeys, and where we happen to be in our journey at this time. Be mindful as well that others are where they are for a reason, just like you. Let them be. Young and old, white, Hispanic and black, Virginian and Californian, North Carolinian and Floridian, New Englander and West African, we all have our perspectives on life which add value to the mix. And if we are part of the Body of Christ, the Royal Priesthood of All Believers (I capitalize it because I find it to be of utmost importance) then we are indeed part of the grandest of groups which I believe has baptized into us the ability to respect one another's points of views, and assume the very best of one another's intentions. Jesus makes it as simple as finding the way to the Washington Monument from the Lincoln Memorial. Just look up. You can't miss it!

My prayer for us as a parish family is that we help this challenging world by beginning with ourselves. Start on your own set of knees. Thank God that you are alive, and free. You are blessed and you are loved. And you do belong to a church family who cares for you very much. Know that together in the Episcopal Church as a liturgical tradition we do pray for our nation and the world at all times. Our prayerbook is interconnected with prayers for all sorts of needs that relate to daily life from personal to national. And as a parish family we come together with our common interests shared, and find our ministry that God is calling us to do in this place and time.

May each one of us reflect upon the meaning of our calling to follow Our Lord Jesus Christ as his disciples. This calling is separate from nation or world. It is a much higher calling. Christians are in this world, and yet not "of it." May our reflections prepare us for the beginning of a Holy Lenten season, which will start on Ash Wednesday, February 25<sup>th</sup>. May God bless you in your prayers, in your reflections and the meaning you find in them. I would enjoy hearing about them from you. Share them with me if you wish, and also with each other.

In the Peace of Christ,

Mthr Beth+

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## **Thank you's from Mother Beth**

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***I would like to thank the parish and the Vestry of Epiphany for your generous gift to me on Epiphany Sunday of \$200 and the beautiful silk hanging depicting a tile from the floor of Washington National Cathedral of a Jerusalem Cross. You know how much I love the Cathedral as I am doing studies there. Thank you for your thoughtfulness and love. God bless you all.***

**Thank you** Peter Weinrich, Amy Campbell, Ann Lowery, and Choir members for the beautiful music you provide for us each week for our worship services.

**Thank you** lectors, servers, acolytes, and crucifers, for your faithful service week after week in leading us in worship as you read to us the Holy Scriptures, and assist us in beautiful worship which glorifies God in many ways. **Thank you**, Billy Richards, for being our sound technician each week. You are a blessing to me and to us for this ministry. Many would not HEAR our worship without you.

**Thank you** Amy Barringer, for teaching our children and youth. Thank you Elizabeth Richards for helping keep our little ones. Thank you Becky and Shawn for helping with the youth.

**Thank you** Coffee Hour servers, for providing hospitality each week for our fellowship hour. That time is as important as our worship time...maybe more important-a blessing- for some.

**Thank you** Altar Guild members for keeping our worship space in order, providing the elements for our Eucharist, marking the seasons of the church year for us, and keeping us mindful of the beauty and holiness of Christ's Table which is set for us.

**Thank you** Daughters of the King for continuing to pray for your parish and your priest on a daily basis, and for the spread of Christ's Kingdom throughout the world. Your ministry is a warmth and comfort among us, a blessing which has taken hold of many a heart and brought great strength.

**Thank you** Outreach Committee for leading this small parish into giant strides of caring in this community and diocese. We have stretched our heart muscles well for God, and it feels good.

**Thank you** Men of the Church for your re-ignited fellowship. You have sparked good friendship among yourselves, as well as brought projects to completion at the church. God bless you.

**Thank you** Terri Beauvais and Joan Coffey, our office staff, for keeping this church well organized and informed of what is going on. Thanks also to Zoe Robertson for our newsletter, and to Anita Bell and Kathy Hardin for our website upkeep.

**Thank you** Wanda Williams and the Hospitality Committee for coordinating the many events throughout this year, and changing the decorations in our parish hall to beautify our surroundings.

**Thank you** to outgoing Vestry Members Zoe Robertson and Wanda Williams for your faithful service. Well done, good and faithful servants.

**Thank you**, Gloria Jupin, for your faithful service these past few years as our Church Clerk.

**Thank you**, Reggie Leath, for your service on the Finance Committee and as our Church Treasurer during 2008.

**Thank you**, new incoming Vestry Members: Tom Lowery and Bill Richards.

**Thank you**, Susan Brandon, for coming on board as our new Church Clerk.

**Thank you**, Tom Bell, for coming on board as our Church Treasurer for 2009 and for continuing to Chair our Finance Committee. We are most grateful.

**Thank you** Luther Barringer, Eric Ben-Davies, JoAnn Harrington, Connie Keisler, and Catherine Tucker for your continued faithfulness in serving on our vestry this coming year.

**Thank you** Tom and Thomas for being a wonderful support here and at home. You're the best.

**Please note:**

**VESTRY HIGHLIGHTS FOR FEBRUARY  
WILL BE COMBINED WITH MARCH HIGHLIGHTS  
AND PUBLISHED IN THE MARCH ISSUE OF THE  
GUIDING LIGHT**