

The Guiding Light

The Newsletter of The Episcopal Church of the Epiphany

Location: 750 West 13th Street in Newton, North Carolina

Mailing address: PO Box 270 Newton, NC 28658

Phone: 828-464-1876

Website: www.EpiphanyNewton.org

February & March, 2010



Highlights from the Rector

Dear Ones of Epiphany,

I cannot begin tell you how much your support has meant to me and to Tom and Thomas during the sudden turn of events with my parents. You were so helpful to me this past year as I found them a new home near my brother in the Raleigh area. You shared my mixed emotions of joy and sadness in their actual move from Newton to Apex in mid-December, as I shared how much we will miss them after 10 years, and also how very happy they were in their new condo, and what a wonderful Christmas they had near so many of my mother's family members. Then, on New Year's Eve, when my father suddenly found himself in the ICU at the VA in Durham, you were right there holding my heart, praying for him and for my whole family until his death on January 13th. His beautiful funeral service which some of you were able to attend in Burlington was such a blessing and healing time. So many cards and calls and flowers and so much love have come from you. Gifts to the music fund at that church, and here at Epiphany have been made in his memory. Thank you, and bless you, Epiphany church.

My father was a dear man, and is now with Our Lord. For all of your love I give thanks to the Lord God who cares for us far better than we can ever understand. We bear one another's burdens. We lift one another up in times of sorrow. How beautiful, indeed, is the family of Christ.

In the celebration of this beauty which is a gift God gives to the people of the Body of Christ, I now invite you to observe a Holy Lent. We begin with Ash Wednesday on February 17th, (two services: 12 noon and 7 pm) and end with Holy Week which is March 28th (Palm Sunday) through Easter which is April 5th.

Consider all that you have, and whom you have to be thankful for, here on earth, and in heaven. From your past, consider what you take into your future, and who has given you your future. It is a time to let go of things that may be getting in the way between you and God. God awaits. Christ always knocks upon the doors of our hearts. Let us be still, soften the noise of our lives, and listen, so that we may let in our Holy Guest.

In Peace,

Mother Beth+

NEWS & UPCOMING EVENTS:

Vestry Person of the Week - Tom Lowery for the week of February 7th, Wanda Williams for the week of February 14th, Bob McPherson for the week of February 14th, Kathy Hardin for the week of February 28th, Billy Richards for the week of March 7th, Joanne Harrington for the week of February 14th, Catherine Tucker for the week of February 21st, Tom Lowery for the week of February 28th.

Christian Formation - Each Sunday at 9:15 a.m. (There will be no Christian Formation on Palm Sunday, March 28th.)

Kids Lunch Bunch Adventures - Sunday, February 21st, Sunday, February 28th, Sunday, March 7th, and Sunday, March 21st from 12:00 until 2:00 p.m.

Midweek Evening Prayer with Holy Eucharist and Prayers for Healing - Each Wednesday evening at 5:30 p.m. *There will be no Evening Prayer service on Ash Wednesday (February 17th). Ash Wednesday services will be held that day at 12:00 noon and 7:00 p.m.*

Choir Rehearsal - December 2nd and December 16th at 6:30 pm. Anyone interested in joining our choir, please join us. There is always room for one more choir member.

Daughters of the King - Will meet in the Library at 10:00 a.m. Saturday, March 7th.

Mthr. Beth's Discretionary Fund - Please remember the third Sunday of each month is the loose plate offering for Mthr. Beth's Discretionary Fund. It will fall on February 21st and March 21st. Please give prayerful consideration to this important ministry so as to allow Mthr. Beth to help those from the community and within our own parish that may need financial assistance from time to time.

Men's Night Out - The men of our parish join in fellowship on the third Sunday of every month at a local restaurant for dinner at 6 pm. They are scheduled to meet on February 21st at Gepetto's on Springs Road in Hickory, and on March 21st at Bennett's Barbeque in Hickory. All men are invited to attend.

Newsletter Deadline - The deadline for articles and announcements to appear in the next newsletter will be Friday, March 26th. Please have all your articles in by this date to give ample time to our newsletter editor. Monthly newsletters are placed in everyone's mailboxes on the first Sunday of every other month. We ask all of you to pick these up by the second Sunday of the issue month. This helps us to save on postal expenses by not having to mail them out. The newsletter is also posted on the church website at www.epiphanynewton.org. All articles you have to be published should be turned in to Kathy Hardin, either in her mailbox in the parish hall or (even better) by email to kathy@compasspointwebdesign.com.

ECW Luncheon - The Episcopal Church Women's luncheon is scheduled for Valentine's day, February 14th, at 1:00 p.m. at Beef O'Brady's. We need to make a reservation, so please RSVP to Zoe Robertson (828-695-8228) or Nancy Shanks (828-310-0054). Beef O'Brady's is located in the Lowe's Foods shopping center at the corner of 29th Avenue NW and Sandy Ridge Road in Hickory.

Daughters of the King - There will be a DOK training session for new members beginning on Wednesday, March 2nd at 10:30 am (see the March calendar for future dates). All women of the parish are invited to consider membership in the Daughters of the King. If you would like to begin the training, or if you have questions, please contact Ann Adams.

NOTE: The February DOK meeting has been rescheduled from February 6th to Saturday, February 13th at 10:00 am in the Library.

Handbells - The startup meeting of our Handbell Choir will be held on February 14th at 4:00 pm. All who are interested in learning and performing are welcome to attend. Future rehearsals will be held on February 21st, March 7th, and March 21st at 4:00 pm.

The Lenten Season Begins on Ash Wednesday, February 17th. There will be two Ash Wednesday services – one at noon, and the second at 7:00 pm. **Consult the February and March calendars for the schedules for Lent and Holy Week**, including Wednesday night suppers and programs. Plan on joining us for the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper on Tuesday, February 16th at 5:30 pm in the Parish Hall.

The Corner Table Luncheon - The next spaghetti luncheon at The Corner Table is scheduled for Wednesday, March 10th. We are always in need of volunteers to serve our delicious spaghetti and meatballs. All volunteers are asked to be at The Corner Table by 10:00 a.m. There will be a sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall following the service on Sunday, March 7th, or you can contact Kathy Hardin.

Vestry Notes - The February Vestry meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 10th at 7:00 pm. There will be a mini-retreat for the Vestry on Sunday, March 7th from 2:00 until 5:00 pm.

Liturgy and Worship Training Event - On March 14th, there will be a training session for all members who are interested in participating in the worship service as lectors and/or chalice bearers. If you would like to participate in this ministry, plan to attend this meeting from 2:00 until 3:30 pm.

Outreach Committee - will meet on Sunday, February 21st immediately after the service.

EPIPHANY GROUPS

The Vestry cordially invites all the adults of the church to join in our year of fellowship. We will be dividing our church into four "Epiphany Groups". And we will do this three times. Our hope is that we will get to know each other better, and build up our Body of Christ here at Epiphany.

Epiphany Groups will try to:

Meet socially to have fun, have a little bit of devotional/Bible study together (provided for you to use at the start of a dinner), do a "fix up" project at the church, or do an outreach project together in the community. We trust that God and The Holy Spirit will direct the path of each group on what they choose to do together.

The main purpose is to get together and have fun getting to know one another better, and find out what brought you to Epiphany Church.

Groups will stay together March, April and May. Then we will switch up into another set of four groups for June, July and August. Our last switch-up for our third set of groups will be for September, October and November.

On Sunday evening, February 28th, we will have an Italian Night Dinner at 5:30 pm to begin our year. Please come to this event! We will miss out on many blessings if you are not with us. You will find out what group you are in (couples are together) for the next three months. We will break into the groups after dinner so everyone can begin making their plans, then come back together for dessert to share the ideas we've already had.

So come join in the fun! Our church will truly be blessed by you, and you will make a new friend or two, and find out something you have never known about the people you have known for years and years. See you on the 28th. God Bless you.

Mthr Beth+ and JoAnne Harrington

INTERSESSIONS

FOR THOSE WHO ARE RECOVERING FROM ILLNESS OR SURGERY:

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*

Norman Batz	Charles & Pat Dalton	Rachel Hunt
Jane Birken	Babbie Dedman	Stephen Kummer
Marilyn & Richard Bornemann	Lucy Echerd	Dot MacDowell
	Hawley Heglar	Mac McRee
David Brandon	Stacey Hartis	Nancy Shanks
Hazel Campbell	Roberta Hungerford	Richard Shook
JoAnne & Harold Craddock		

FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED:

Father of all, we pray to you for those we love, but see no longer: Grant them your peace; let light perpetual shine upon them; and, in your loving wisdom and almighty power, work in them the good purpose of your perfect will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Don Alexander	Dr. James Cobb	Betty McCorkle
Dr. Al Bandy Sr.	Norman Cook	Dean Patterson
Larry Boston	Mary Curtis	Angelica Thao

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Christopher Hartis	02/01
David Brandon, Sr.	02/02
Sharon Gleason	02/04
David Johnston	02/04
Landa Gonzales-Roper	02/04
Thomas Lilly	02/06
Holly Wright	02/06
Alan Roper	02/07
Melissa Campbell	02/08
Maureen Swanson	02/08
Joyce Collins	02/11
Jacob Christopher	02/12
Travis Gibbs	02/14
Sam Tucker	02/16
Matthew Weinrich	02/17
Emylin Wright	02/18
Marilyn Bornemann	02/18
Kathy Hardin	02/19
Margaret Roper	02/26
Andrew Barringer	02/26

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

Richard & Marilyn Bornemann	02/12
Skeet & Stacey Hartis	02/28

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Marion MacDowell	03/01
Steve Godinho	03/03
Gerry Rouser	03/05
Bob Williams	03/09
Wayne Trammell	03/11
Grace Courtney	03/11
Peter Weinrich	03/15
Kenneth Cuomo	03/16
Todd Reynolds	03/17
Chad Parsons	03/18
Alice Cobb	03/20
Elizabeth Jarman	03/20
Justin Weinrich	03/21
James Guerrant	03/23
Ann Lowery	03/25
Ahren Weinrich	03/25
Crystal Cuomo	03/28
Dona Richards	03/28
Ted Campbell	03/29

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

Sam & Catherine Tucker	03/08
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WELCOME THE REV. ANITA WARE, DEACON

Deacon Anita was ordained into the Diaconate on Saturday, January 23rd at All Souls Cathedral in Asheville.

During her year with us she will assist Mthr. Beth in the proper ministries of a deacon, and in as many aspects of the ministries of the church as another clergy as she wishes to participate in. She will read the gospel, prepare the table for Eucharist, assist at the table, and probably preach on a monthly basis. She has a wonderful gift for preaching. She will assist in teaching as well. Her favorite area of emphasis is in Outreach and Mission Ministry. She will work with the Outreach Committee—with Raeanne, and with all members of the parish.

Her job is to strengthen the members of the church in their serving gifts and ministries on behalf of Jesus out in the world. Catherine Tucker, who is our Vestry Liaison for the Outreach Committee, will be our special assistant for Deacon Anita in whatever she does within our church for Outreach and Mission ministries. Catherine will help Mthr. Beth with any related programs that Deacon Anita leads this year.

We are so fortunate to have the opportunity to have a Deacon of the church in our midst. A Deacon's ministry is not vocational. Deacons serve the church in a different order from priests, bishop, or lay people, and they do not earn a salary. There is a call to serve as clergy along with their own vocation in the world. Anita's full time paid vocation is serving as the principal of a charter high school in Shelby. God has called her to serve in a ministry which is indeed a servant's ministry.

God bless you, Deacon Anita. We are so happy to have you among us. We will all be learning, and blessings will abound!

ECW NEWS

As we start a new year, we are looking forward to increasing our membership, and possibly scheduling monthly meetings at local restaurants.

Thanks to Mother Beth for hosting our Christmas luncheon!! This year Pat Dalton was our gift exchange Grinch, and lots of fun was had by all.

We have a fantastic group, and we want to get to know one another better, so we would like to hear from all the church women about your ideas and preferences. Please fill out the form below and return it to either me or to Zoe Robertson (you can place forms in our mailboxes in the Parish Hall).

Nancy Shanks, ECW President

Name: _____ Phone: _____ Cell: _____

Would you like to have a lunch or dinner out each month?

Please share some ideas for fun/fellowship events:

What do you feel that the ECW should accomplish this year?

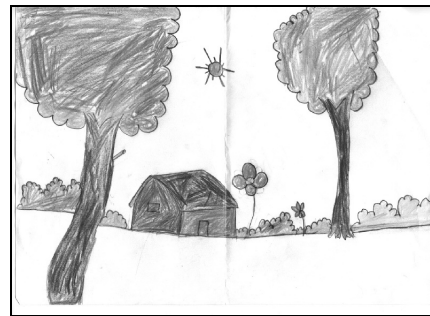
What projects would interest you?

Would you like to host this year's Christmas party?

MORE NEWS & UPCOMING EVENTS:

Holy Week begins on Palm Sunday, March 28th. We will join the two other churches on our street for the Blessing of the Palms at 10:00 am. The Maundy Thursday service (Eucharist and tenebrae with footwashing) begins at 7:00 pm on April 1st. On Good Friday (April 2nd), there will be a community service at noon (more information later), and we will observe the Stations of the Cross with Holy Communion from Reserved Sacrament at 7:00 pm.

Diocese of Durgapur - The ECW and the DOK are jointly sponsoring a young girl through the Godparent Child Sponsorship program. The child that we are sponsoring is Neha Kumari Thakur, who is eight years old and attends primary school. Neha and her family live in a mud house with a tiled roof. Neha loves to dance, and has sent us an original drawing that displays her artistic talent. Anyone who is interested in contributing to this program should contact a DOK or ECW member, because contributions should be sent through our Diocese.



Neha Kumari Thakur and her Drawing

KIDS LUNCH BUNCH ADVENTURES

Kids Lunch Bunch Schedule:

Sunday, February 21st, 12:00 - 2:00 pm

Sunday, February 28th, 12:00 - 2:00 pm

Sunday, March 7th, 12:00 - 2:00 pm

Sunday, March 21st, 12:00 - 2:00 pm

There will be no Lunch Bunch during the school spring break.

Watch the weekly bulletins for details about our plans!

WINTER BLOND

As a trucker stops for a red light, a blonde catches up. She jumps out of her car, runs up to his truck, and knocks on the door.

The trucker lowers the window, and she says "Hi, my name is Heather and you are losing some of your load."

The trucker ignores her and proceeds down the street.

When the truck stops for another red light, the girl catches up again. She jumps out of her car, runs up and knocks on the door.

Again, the trucker lowers the window. As if they've never spoken, the blonde says brightly, "Hi my name is Heather, and you are losing some of your load!"

Shaking his head, the trucker ignores her again and continues down the street.

At the third red light, the same thing happens again.

All out of breath, the blonde gets out of her car, runs up, knocks on the truck door. The trucker rolls down the window. Again she says "Hi, my name is Heather, and you are losing some of your load!"

When the light turns green the trucker revs up and races to the next light.

When he stops this time, he hurriedly gets out of the truck, and runs back to the blonde.

He knocks on her window, and after she lowers it, he says...

"Hi, my name is Kevin, it's winter in Michigan, and I'm driving the SALT TRUCK!"

(Contributed by Ann Lowery)

