

# **The Guiding Light**

**The Newsletter of**

**The Episcopal Church of the Epiphany**

**Location: 750 West 13<sup>th</sup> Street in Newton, North Carolina**

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**January 2009**



## **Highlights from the Rector**

New Year Blessings to you, dear Epiphany Church people! I hope that this newsletter finds you and all those dear to you blessed from a Christmas well spent together, looking forward to the new year ahead.

Many of us assess our past year, and make resolutions about the coming year. We think of changes we want to make for the better. We resolve that we are going to kick a particular bad habit. That long-awaited home project moves closer to the top of our "to-really-get-it-done" list. And we tell God that-- well-- God will be hearing from us much more often than God has heard from us this past year, too.

The good news is that the only person in our way is ourselves. We spread ourselves way too thin. Or we lose our confidence. Or something. There is usually a list of "umpteen" reasons why our resolutions fall by the wayside.

The one about getting closer to God in prayer is important, though. It needs to stay at the top of our list. It costs nothing but our focus and commitment. Funny, it helps to get us going on the other things on our list of resolutions, too!

One of my favorite pieces of scripture comes in handy with New Year's resolutions. It even gives a boost to improving one's prayer life.

*"I can do everything through him (Christ) who gives me strength."*  
Philippians 4:13 (NIV)

May God bless you in all of your efforts to improve your own life, family and work this coming year, and in your closer walk of faithfulness with Jesus Christ Our Lord, and with your fellow pilgrims on their way.

In Peace,

Mthr. Beth+

## **NEWS / UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Vestry Meeting** - Will be held Wednesday, January 7<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 p.m., in the home of Mthr. Beth. Please speak with Mthr. Beth if you have any agenda items for the vestry to discuss, or speak with your Vestry representative for any issues, suggestions, and/or concerns.

**Vestry Person of the Week** - JoAnn Harrington for the week of January 4<sup>th</sup>; Connie Keisler for the week of January 11<sup>th</sup>; Tom Lowery for the week of January 18<sup>th</sup>; Billy Richards for the week of January 25<sup>th</sup>; Catherine Tucker for the week of February 1<sup>st</sup>; Luther Barringer for the week of February 8<sup>th</sup>; and Eric Ben-Davies for the week of February 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Adult Forum** - Will meet each Sunday morning at 9:15 a.m., followed by Meet and Greet at 10:00 a.m. .

**Children's Christian Education** - Will meet each Sunday morning at 9:15 a.m., followed by Meet and Greet at 10:00 a.m.

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

**Choir Rehearsal** - Will be held the first and third Wednesday evenings 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, January 10<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. in the church library. Please speak to Ann Adams if you have any questions.

**Mthr. Beth's Discretionary Fund** - Please remember the third Sunday of each month, January 18<sup>th</sup>, this month, the loose plate offering goes to her discretionary fund. Please give prayerful consideration to this ministry so as to allow Mthr. Beth to help those from the community that reach out to her for financial assistance.

**Men's Night Out** - Will meet on Sunday, January 18<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00 p.m. at Bennett's Bar-B-Cue in Hickory, on Fairgrove Church Road and Hwy. 70.

**Sunday January 4 - TODAY** will be the Epiphany Sunday celebration with Lessons and Carols. The Rev. Deacon Pat Jones will our special guest to assist Mthr. Beth.

**Youth Room Workday** - Will be held on Saturday, January 17<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 9:00 a.m. We need help clearing, cleaning and painting. It will take most of the day.

**The Next Outreach Meeting** - Will be held on Wednesday, January 28<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 p.m.

**The Rev. Jim Pritchett, Canon to the Ordinary** - Will be visiting with us during the Adult Forum time and for the worship service.

**SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY** - February 1<sup>st</sup> the Lilly's will host a First Half Super Bowl Party to combine outreach, with fellowship, sports and fun. Those who are interested in football can enjoy through the half time show of the game (hey, it's a school night), and those who could not care less can find another place in the house to enjoy visiting with each other. Come and enjoy the excuse for a party and for an outreach project. That morning we will be joining with the rest of the United States by collecting an offering for the "SOUPER BOWL OF CARING" that will be donated to our local soup kitchen and food pantry. That night at the party everyone is asked to donate a pack of hotdogs or burgers to donate to the Corner Table. Maybe we can collect a freezer full for them. It will be a party with a purpose.

**The Next Newsletter Deadline** - For the February newsletter will be Tuesday, January 26<sup>th</sup>, in order to have them in the mailboxes by February 1<sup>st</sup>. 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.

### **PARISH DIRECTORY**

*It is customary for Epiphany to mail an updated parish membership list to the Diocese each year. We will be updating our directory in early January of 2009. Please help us keep an accurate listing of our parish records by letting us know if you have any changes in your mailing address, home phone or cell phone number, and also any changes in your e-mail address. You can call the office at 464-1876 or 466-0360 on Tuesday or Thursday morning between 8:00 .a.m. and 12 noon. You may also leave a message on the answering machine or e-mail Terri, our secretary, at [secretary@epiphanynewton.org](mailto:secretary@epiphanynewton.org). A sign up sheet will be posted on the bulletin board in the parish hall after the Advent Season. You are asked to sign up if you wish to have a copy of our updated directory.*

**THANKS!**

### **VESTRY HIGHLIGHTS** **November 12, 2008**

- o Youth Christmas Party at Mthr. Beth's home, Sunday, December 28<sup>th</sup>, at 5:30 p.m.
- o Greening of the Church, Saturday, December 13<sup>th</sup>, at 9:00 a.m.
- o Epiphany will host a luncheon for Newcomers, Saturday, December 13<sup>th</sup>, at 1:00 p.m. Hotdogs, baked beans, and coleslaw will be served. Following the luncheon will be the movie: Enlightened Gift to be viewed.
- o Children's Christmas tree will be decorated following the December 21<sup>st</sup> Sunday service.
- o Wednesday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, we will need at least eight people to assist at the Corner Table.
- o Kathy Hardin will be our new board representative for the Corner Table.
- o Vestry approved Tom Lowery and Billy Richards as nominees for the Vestry.
- o Susan Brandon was nominated for Vestry Clerk by Vestry approval.
- o Nominating committee will make recommendations for convention delegates and the Wardens will be the alternates.
- o Approved redistribution of "Special Funds" to the general operating fund for server/lector robes; prayer books and hymnals, gift cards for staff, altar guild, and the remainder towards the 2009 budget.
- o Approved financial advisory committee to streamline the financial profile to get best return on investments.
- o Approved 2009 budget as proposed.
- o Annual meeting will be held on Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup>.

**OUTREACH**  
**November 24, 2008**

*In attendance: Raeanne Kummer, Joyce and Wayne Trammell, Harold and Jo Anne Craddock, and Mthr. Beth.*

*Several projects were given thought for Christmas giving this year.*

*There is a Bake Sale at The Corner Table on Friday, December 12<sup>th</sup>, pick up Candy Tin Order forms available (put in boxes at Church) due December 1<sup>st</sup>, \$16.00 each. Come by or call and can pay when picked up.*

*Balance in Outreach Fund si \$475.75 approximately.*

*Thompson Child and Family Focus will be recipient of this Sunday loose offering, November 30, rather than Any Soldier.*

*Two bags of goodies will go to The Corner Table for bingo game prizes.*

*Let Zoe Robertson of Mike Jupin know about helping on December 10<sup>th</sup> with meal.*

*Remainder of AnySoldier balance to go back in Outreach Fund.*

*Cell phones on 10-14-08 sent sixty-two (62) more. See Carol Clise.*

*Mthr. Beth has \$100 worth of gas card vouchers from Butch's service station thanks to Harold. Will use Rector's discretionary fund for this expense. This plus grocery cards. Approved by committee that the expense will come for Rector's Discretionary Fund rather than Outreach budget.*

*Durgapur, India Diocese needs money for children's school uniforms and clothes. The "elephant bank".*

*The Outreach Committee voted to donate the money to the following causes for 2008:*

*(Motion made by JoAnne Craddock, seconded by Joyce Trammell) Unanimous vote*

*\$100 to Elephant Bank for Diocese of Durgapur.*

*\$100 to Kids in Need here in the county (Raeanne has address)*

*\$200 for NC transplant foundation*

*Leave the balance in the budget for reimbursement of any remaining expense for chocolate chips for the candy donated to The Corner Table or other expenses needed.*

## **ALTAR GUILD**

*As we close out 2008, I thought the congregation might be interested in what has been purchased or donated to the Altar Guild during this past year.*

*The Toni Turner Memorial Fund has been a blessing to our church, and through it we have added the following items for our worship services:*

*An eight (8) foot banner stand and base  
Two (2) purple Bible Markers and one (1) purple Gospel Pulpit hanging  
Two (2) altar chairs  
In process - altar railing cushions*

*We should remember that last year the red altar vestments, and a blue chasuble were also gotten from the Toni Turner Memorial Fund.*

*A silver chalice and paten were given by Tom and Mother Beth Lilly in honor of their son Thomas's confirmation.*

*A home communion kit was given by Tom and Anita Bell in honor of their children, Jonathan's and Jenny's, confirmation.*

*Six (6) home communion kits were made up from donations from Mother Beth, Norma Ridenhour and Zoe Robertson.*

*Tenebrae service candles and holders were given by Mother Beth Lilly.*

*JoAnne Craddock purchases the wine for all services each year..*

*Edd Sigmon donates the Christmas greenery roping/garlands each year.*

*Harold Craddock donates the Christmas trees each year.*

*The altar guild has purchased a silver bread box for the reserved hosts, home communion linens, and altar use linens. It also paid for the re-plating of an altar paten.*

*Without the help of the congregation's donations of flower money both for Easter and Christ-mas, personal donations, and of course, the weekly flower donations for the altar, the altar guild would not be able to meet the demands of the church. Thank you to one and all.*

*Anita Williams, Altar Guild Director*

### ***Free Telephone Calling Cards for Soldiers***

*The Cell Phones for Soldiers Outreach project continues to collect used cell phones to obtain free calling cards for our troops overseas. This program has been very successful in giving our soldiers a chance to talk with their families and loved ones.*

*Cell phones and chargers can be placed in a bag marked for Carol Clise and placed at the end of one of the benches in the Church Narthex.*

*Free one-hour calling cards for soldiers overseas may be obtained by giving names and complete mailing addresses to Carol Clise. Contact Carol, if you need more information.*

### ***FOOD FOR THOUGHT*** *as shared by Ann Lowery*

*WHERE IS MY SUNDAY PAPER? Could this be me someday?*

*“WHERE is my SUNDAY paper?!” The irate customer calling the newspaper office loudly demanded, wanting to know where her Sunday edition was.*

*“Madam”, said the newspaper employee, “Today is Saturday. The Sunday paper is not delivered until tomorrow, on SUNDAY.”*

*There was quite a long pause on the other end of the phone, followed by a ray of recognition as she was heard to mutter, “Well, sh., so that’s why no one was at church today.”*

## *Poem from a Naval Officer*

*as shared by Ann Lowery*

The embers glowed softly, and in their dim light, I gazed round the room and I cherished the sight.  
My wife was asleep, her head on my chest, my daughter beside me, angelic in rest.  
Outside the snow fell, a blanket of white, transforming the yard to a winter delight.

The sparkling lights in the tree I believe, completed the magic that was Christmas Eve.  
My eyelids were heavy, my breathing was deep, secure and surrounded by love I would sleep.  
In perfect contentment, or so it would seem, so I slumbered, perhaps I started to dream.

The sound wasn't loud, and it wasn't too near, but I opened my eyes when it tickled my ear.  
Perhaps just a cough, I didn't quite know, then the sure sound of footsteps outside in the snow.  
My soul gave a tremble, I struggled to hear, and I crept to the door just to see who was near.

Standing out in the cold and the dark of the night, a lone figure stood, his face weary and tight.  
A soldier, I puzzled, some twenty years old, perhaps a Marine, huddled here in the cold.  
Alone in the dark, he looked up and smiled, standing watch over me, my wife and my child.

'What are you doing?' I asked without fear, 'Come in this moment, it's freezing out here!  
Put down your pack, brush the snow from your sleeve, you should be at home on a cold Christmas Eve.'  
For barely a moment I saw his eyes shift, away from the cold and the snow blown in drifts.

To the window that danced with a warm fire's light, then he sighed and he said 'It's really all right,  
I'm out here by choice. I'm here every night.'  
'It's my duty to stand at the front of the line, that separates you from the darkest of times.'

'No one had to ask or beg or implore me, I'm proud to stand here like my fathers before me.  
My Gramps died at 'Pearl on a day in December,' then he sighed,  
'That's a Christmas 'Gram always remembers.'  
My dad stood his watch in the jungles of 'Nam', and now it is my turn and so, here I am.'

'I've not seen my own son in more than a while, but my wife sends me pictures, he's sure got her smile.'  
Then he bent and he carefully pulled from his bag, the red, white and blue. ... An American flag.  
'I can live through the cold and the being alone, away from my family, my house and my home.'

'I can stand at my post through the rain and the sleet, I can sleep in a foxhole with little to eat.  
I can carry the weight of killing another, or lay down my life with my sister and brother.  
Who stand at the front against any and all, to ensure for all time this flag will not fall.'

'So go back inside,' he said, 'harbor no fright, your family is waiting and I'll be all right.'  
'But isn't there something I can do, at the least, give you money, or prepare you a feast?  
It seems all too little for all that you've done, for being away from your wife and your son.'

Then his eye welled a tear that held no regret, 'Just tell us you love us and never forget.  
To fight for our rights back at home while we're gone, to stand your own watch, no matter how long.  
For when we come home, either standing or dead, to know you remember we fought and we bled.  
Is payment enough, and with that we will trust, that we mattered to you as you mattered to us.'

*Please, would you do me the kind favor of sending this to as many people as you can? Christmas will be coming soon and some credit is due to our U.S. service men and women for our being able to celebrate these festivities. Let's try in this small way to pay a tiny bit of what we owe. Make people stop and think of our heroes, living and dead, who sacrificed themselves for us.*

*LCDR Jeff Giles, SC, USN  
30<sup>th</sup> Naval Construction Regiment  
OIC, Logistics Cell One  
Al Taqqadum, Iraq*

## **JOKES THAT CAN BE TOLD IN CHURCH - JUST FOR LAUGHS**

*As shared by Ann Lowery*

*Attending a wedding for the first time, a little girl whispered to her mother, "Why is the bride dressed in white?" The mother replied, "Because white is the color for happiness, and today is the happiest day of her life." The child thought about this for a moment then said, "So why is the groom wearing black?"*

*A little girl, dressed in her Sunday best, was running as fast as she could, trying not to be late for Bible class. As she ran she prayed, "Dear Lord, please don't let me be late! Dear Lord, please don't let me be late!" While she was running and praying, she tripped on a curb and fell, getting her clothes dirty and tearing her dress. She got up, brushed herself off, and started running again! As she ran she once again began to pray, "Dear Lord, please don't let me be late..but please don't shove me either!"*

*Three boys are in the school yard bragging about their fathers. The first boy says, "My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a poem, they give him \$50." The second boy says, "That's nothing. My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a song, they give him \$100." The third boy says, "I got you both beat. My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a sermon, and it takes eight people to collect all the money."*

*An elderly women died last month. Having never married, she requested no male pallbearers. In her handwritten instructions for her memorial service, she wrote, "They wouldn't take me out while I was alive, I don't want them to take me out when I'm dead."*

*A Sunday school teacher asked her class why Joseph and Mary took Jesus with them to Jerusalem. A small child replied, "They couldn't get a baby-sitter."*

*A Sunday school teacher was discussing the Ten Commandments with her five and six year olds. After explaining the commandment to "Honor thy father and thy mother," she asked, "Is there a commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters?" Without missing a beat, one little boy answered, "Thou shall not kill?"*

*Two boys were walking home from Sunday school after hearing a strong preaching on the devil. One said to the other, "What do you think about all this Satan stuff?" The other boy replied, "Well, you know how Santa Claus turned out. It's probably just your Dad."*

*A police recruit was asked during the exam, "What would you do if you had to arrest your own mother?" He answered, "Call for backup."*

*You don't stop laughing because you grow old. You grow old because you stop laughing! Take heed and pass these along to people who need a laugh.*

## **CHURCH BULLETIN BLOOPERS**

1. *The scouts are saving aluminum cans, bottles and other items to be recycled. Proceeds will be used to cripple children.*
2. *Ladies Bible Study will be held Thursday morning at 10:00 a.m. All ladies are invited to lunch in the Fellowship Hall after the B.S. is done.*
3. *The pastor would appreciate it if the ladies of the congregation would lend him their electric girdles for the pancake breakfast next Sunday morning.*
4. *Low Self Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7:00 p.m. Please use the back door.*
5. *The pastor will preach his farewell message, after which the choir will sing, "Break Forth Into Joy."*
6. *A songfest was hell at the Methodist church Wednesday.*
7. *Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our church and community.*
8. *The eighth graders will be presenting Shakespeare's Hamlet in the Church basement Friday at 7:00 p.m. The congregation is invited to attend this tragedy.*
9. *Thursday night Potluck Supper. Prayer and medication to follow.*
10. *The rosebud on the alter this morning is to announce the birth of David, the son of Rev. and Mrs. Adams.*
11. *Tuesday, at 4:00 p.m. there will be an ice cream social. All ladies giving milk will please come early.*
12. *A bean supper will be held on Tuesday evening in the church hall. Music will follow.*

A Special Day  
Sunday February 1<sup>st</sup>

The Rev. Canon Jim Pritchett  
(Bishop Porter Taylor's Canon to the Ordinary)  
will be joining us for  
Adult Education Hour  
9 a.m - 10 a.m.  
(A light breakfast will be served.)  
He will then join Mthr. Beth and us for  
Holy Eucharist  
10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.  
as our preacher and celebrant of the day.

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February 1<sup>st</sup> is  
"Souper Bowl of Caring"  
Sponsored by the Outreach Committee  
and the Youth of our Parish  
for The Corner Table.  
We will be taking up a special offering  
in soup pots at the end of the service.

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At the Lillys' home  
join us for a Super Bowl Party  
from 5 pm until half time.  
Bring a package of hot dogs or ground beef  
to collect for The Corner Table's freezer.