

# The Guiding Light

## The Newsletter of The Episcopal Church of the Epiphany

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November 2009



### Highlights from the Rector

Dear and Generous Epiphany Church,

Yes, it is time to talk about Stewardship again. And our stewardship in 2009 was phenomenal. With the national economy in recession, we have (three quarters of the way) managed to tow the line with our budget and stay well within our means with some money to spare. Well done, good and faithful servants. Let us finish this year with that spirit of faith, and look to 2010 with the same knowledge that God is with us every step of our way.

We will be keeping to a similar budget again, and letters will go to each member this first week of November letting you know what that budget will be. Pledges will be received with a special prayer of ingathering on Sunday, November 22. After seeing where we are as a church with our pledges and budget, the vestry will present (hopefully) a balanced budget to the church at our Annual Meeting which is scheduled for Sunday, December 13 in the church immediately following the worship service. A covered-dish luncheon will follow.

We hope that every member will consider making a pledge this year, even if you have never pledged before. Pledging helps the vestry and finance committee make its best possible planning based on what is coming in, especially if your pledge is based on a realistic hope and thankfulness for what God has done for you. If your circumstances change, all you need to do is to let our Treasurer know in confidentiality. God always helps the church to recover in times of loss. As you have read in the first paragraph, we have managed to make our way through 2009. Such situations were part of this year. Our dear Lord

has seen these struggles through for everyone. Others have been able to help with their generosity, and others have come our way thanks to the blessing of God's good providence. Our church family continues to be a happy place to find friends in the faith, people who pray for you and care about you in your walk of life with Christ.

The generosity I see most of all in this small church is your generosity of heart. I have been so happy to see the laughter, the fun, bubbling up here and there, and everywhere. Joy is never far away when Epiphany people get together. And when a new person comes our way, there is always a spot for them to fit in. Those who find their "niche" with us seem to have been part of us much longer than the calendar shows. There is an "eternal" piece to their relationship with us. Like a light brightening in our midst, that blends in perfectly with the rest, yet makes ours shine much more brightly. Much like an epiphany!

May we each take our giving to the church seriously this year. We are to give God our first fruits, not our leftovers. We are not to approach stewardship in the church with a consumerist mentality: that is, "What is in this for me? What do I get for the money?" Rather, our giving is a response to many questions: *"Did God create me and does God love me?" "Does God care how I live my life?" "Does God love and care for all people—the poor, the rich, the free, the oppressed, the sick, the well, those in power and those who are powerless?" and finally "Do I believe that Jesus of Nazareth is the Christ, the Son of God, who lived and died among us to show us what love and life are and mean?" and finally "Do I believe that God expects us to respond in thankful and loving service?"*

The Biblical mandate for giving is a tithe, which is 10% of one's income. Just think of how much wonderful ministry we could do for the Lord in this place if we all were able to work toward a tithe! The belief behind a tithe is that everything we have comes from God. It is not OURS. Nothing is ultimately OURS. Therefore in remembrance and acknowledgement of that fact we give back to God our first fruits, never forgetting who made us or from whom our blessings ultimately come.

It feels good to tithe. There is great freedom in it. Such giving allows God to set the priority for the rest of your life. And when you tithe, the miracle is that you end up having a gracious more leftover than you ever realized you would have. Prosperity often comes with the freedom found in tithing.

You are invited to contemplate what that would be like for you. Perhaps your pledge will not be quite 10% of your income, but will be 2% plus hours of your valuable time. Perhaps another person's will be 5% of their income. If your income is very low, that number will be much lower than someone whose income is very high. Yet what God sees is not the total of what you give, but the portion of what you have given from your income. Just like the parable of the widow's coins. So if you drop in coins, or even a couple of thousand, and have an absolutely huge bank account, God sees that proportion as well.

You are invited to give thanks to God with whatever pledge you make, for that is what your pledge is. Your pledge is your statement of thanksgiving to God for all that God has given to you. Your pledge is your gift back to your Creator in response to all that you have, which comes ultimately from God.

Some people say "give until it hurts." I disagree. Let us give until it feels good.

Bless you in your faithful commitments,

*mother Beth+*

(Questions taken from Forward Movement "Stewardship: A Response to Love" by John C. Rettew)

## **NEWS / UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Vestry Meeting/Retreat** - Will be held Wednesday, November 4<sup>st</sup>, from 7:00 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall.

**Vestry Person of the Week** -Luther Barringer for the week of November 1<sup>st</sup>, JoAnn Harrington for the week of November 8<sup>th</sup>, and Connie Keisler for the week of November 15<sup>th</sup>, Tom Lowery for the week of November 22<sup>nd</sup>, Billy Richards for the week of November 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Adult Forum & Children's Christian Education** - Will be held each Sunday at 9:15 a.m.

**Kids Lunch Bunch Adventures** - Sundays November 8<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> from 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.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 meet November 11<sup>th</sup> and November 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 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, November 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Mthr. Beth's Discretionary Fund** - Please remember the third Sunday of each month is the loose plate offering for Mthr. Beth's Discretionary Fund. This month's date falls on November 15<sup>th</sup>. 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.

**The Outreach Committee** - The next meeting will be held Sunday, November 15<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 a.m. following the morning service. The months that have five Sundays have been designated as Outreach Offering Sunday, and that occurs next on Sunday, November 29<sup>th</sup>. Please be generous in supporting this ever-so important ministry.

**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 this month on November 15<sup>th</sup> at the Harbor Inn on Fairgrove Church Road in Hickory. All men are invited to attend.

**Newsletter Deadline** - The deadline for articles and announcements to appear in the December newsletter will be Wednesday, December 1<sup>st</sup>. 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 month. We ask all of you to pick these up by the second Sunday of every month. This helps us to save on postal expenses by not having to mail them out. The monthly newsletter is also posted on the church website at [www.epiphanynewton.org](http://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](mailto:kathy@compasspointwebdesign.com). You may also e-mail your articles to the church at [secretary@epiphanynewton.org](mailto:secretary@epiphanynewton.org). Thank you for your help!

## **THE HIGHLAND EPISCOPALIAN**

The November edition of The Highland Episcopalian has been posted online to save printing and mailing costs for the Diocese. This saves the Diocese \$3,000.00 per issue. For those of you who do not have access to the Internet, you will find a copy of the November edition on the table in the narthex. You can read or download this November edition at [www.diocesewnc.org](http://www.diocesewnc.org).

## **A REMINDER FROM THE ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY'S OFFICE**

Please make every effort to turn in announcements for the Sunday Bulletin each week on Tuesday mornings, and no later than Thursday morning by 10 am. This is most helpful for avoiding errors or omissions of important announcements that have to be posted in the bulletin or monthly newsletters. Proper communication is vital to helping the office run smoothly and in an organized manner.

**It is vital and most helpful that you always let the office know, even if you told Mthr. Beth!** (Many people tell Mthr. Beth many, many things. She appreciates knowing these things. However, if they pertain to church schedules, please take the responsibility to follow through in the proper way with the church office rather than leaving that to her. Thank you!

Any announcements such as upcoming meetings, any change in date or time of meetings, replacement of your ministries for the Sunday bulletin, a request to have someone added or removed from the prayer list on the back page of the bulletin or a deceased loved one we need to pray for are all important information that needs to be delegated to the parish office. To report your announcements, you can call the office during working hours at 474-1876 or e-mail your information to [secretary@epiphanynewton.org](mailto:secretary@epiphanynewton.org). Your cooperation with the above requests is greatly appreciated and will help to avoid errors in posting announcements.

### **CELL PHONES AND CALLING CARDS FOR SOLDIERS**

The Outreach Committee is continuing to collect used cellphones and chargers to send for recycling. The recycling company then furnishes free one-hour calling cards for our military in the United States and overseas. Cell phones can be placed in the baskets in the Narthax. If you have a relative or friend in the military who would like a calling card, please call Carol Clise.

### **FREE BOOKS!!**

There are many hard-cover and paperback books that were donated for the yard sale. They are in the Fellowship Hall in the bookcase area, so help yourselves – no charge. There are also videos, which are also for the taking.

### **A CASHIER'S VIEW OF CHURCH OF EPIPHANY'S**

#### **"ELEGANT AND FUN" YARD SALE**

By Nancy Shanks

On Saturday, October 17<sup>th</sup> I arrived at 6:00 a.m. at the church and immediately got in trouble. I got a cup of coffee and opened a donut box and got a donut. Anita Williams closed the box and put it away. I did not know until later the help was to pay. Honest, Anita, I paid later!! Sorry.

Tom Harrington was giving me cash for cash box and JoAnn came by and I asked about furniture and was told it was Mthr. Beth's, so I purchased the couch and chair! Much later Tom, Luther, Harold and Todd said they would deliver it and bring back my couch and chair to sell (unfortunately too late to sell). Harold Craddock took my key and showed the crew to my house. Well they had to move my antique bar and unload it, and take items from under the furniture out of the way so needless to say, Harold is going to hold this over my head forever. I am sure I'm going to pay! But as they all left my house Harold told them to each grab a bottle of wine! They didn't but I wish they would have done so, I am so very grateful for their help that day!

Mthr. Beth donated so much to the sale – not only "my" new furniture, but many designer clothes. Everyone grabbed them up as soon as they arrived. I'm really upset: NONE FIT ME!! So for the next twelve months until our next yard sale, I'm bringing her desserts, fast food items, lots of bread weekly and maybe they'll all fit. I'm dieting already.

Catherine Tucker spent most of her time in the designer clothes room. She came out wearing a long brown coat. I was sure it came from that room and kept looking for the sale tag. She insisted it was hers, and bought an arm full of clothes saying they were ½ price!! She wore that coat all day.

She was a huge help advising a friend to buy \$50.00 worth of items at full price. Roberta Hungerford kept calling me to see if Catherine was behaving and you know I said "absolutely not – she never behaves."

Tom Lowery kept coming by and reminded me he was serving communion next week and hoped I'd be there!! I guess he felt I need confession badly.

Bob McPherson was like Prince Valiant and loaned me his coat after he saw me in front of an open door cashiering and saw coins sticking to my fingers. No one could understand what the total they owed was since my teeth were frozen together. Thanks Bob!

Janice McPherson reminded me of the "Road Runner" cartoon character. She was faster than the speed of a bullet and helping all over. She was fantastic.

Kathy Hardin helped me and bagged everyone's purchase. Believe me, she'd make a fantastic bagger at any store. She was great!

Wayne Trammell would purchase a small candle and go to eat and drink; later purchase another small candle and go eat and drink. He then bought a large candle and went for lunch.

Speaking of lunch, Joyce Collins told Mac she and I wanted 2 burned hot dogs. One hour later we still had no burned hot dogs. Next time Mac, put directly on coals and maybe you can burn them! We nearly starved waiting for a miracle from Mac!! "He kept warm trying!!"

Kathy relieved me at the cashier's table so I could use the bathroom. I got locked in and pounded on the door many times before I got out!! Joyce Collins and others were laughing –it was scary, girls!!

Zoe came by on occasion to tell us how warm it was outside, but we saw her looking like an Eskimo. What a sport!

By the way, Todd Lewis worked the whole day carrying furniture and boxes, etc. with a broken thumb. He received no sympathy, so please give him some at the "Peace." Harold Craddock left his hat with chin strap and several wanted to buy it. He said "NO", denying the church from that money! Harold, consider donating that hideous hat next year!

Luther Barringer did everything asked of him. He could not say no to a group of women – they scared him. He was always smiling and helping.

Edd Sigmon donated so much but when he checked out it was a lot, so we wondered how much of his own stuff he bought back! Edd I bought an item of mine I donated and did not recognize it until Monday. I love it now!

I was there from 6:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and never saw JoAnn and Tom Harrington slow down. They were amazing and working so hard. They were leaving on a much deserved vacation the next day – wait, is the money turned in?? HA HA HA. They were fantastic. Many thanks to them both. They were great!

The Church members that worked hard for many days lugging, moving items and pricing, my hat's off to you. It was lots of work and I, for one, thank you all, but PLEASE (*Edited version-see Nancy in person for her more expressive and colorful version.*) PLEASE save something next year for me to buy! OK, OK so you spent a lot and made money for the church, but next year I'm showing up first day and using my cane to hit you over the head if I want that item you have. BEWARE.

I have enjoyed kidding with you all in this article, but honestly it was the first time since Jack passed away that I laughed lots and enjoyed all of you the whole day – no sadness, thanks for that. Love you all.

*nancy shanks*

## **OUTREACH COMMITTEE MEETING HIGHLIGHTS**

**Corner Table:** Our next spaghetti lunch is Wednesday, December 9<sup>th</sup>. See Kathy Hardin to volunteer.

**Soldier Support:** We have sent 421 one-hour free calling cards to our soldiers. We still have 39 cards and 9 international cards left. If you know of a soldier who has a need, please see Joyce Trammel or Carol Clise. Sixteen envelopes of coupons have been sent to bases in 18 countries. Carol Clise needs volunteers to help cut coupons, if anyone is interested.

**Holiday Hams for The Corner Table and ECCCM:** "Head Ham" Harold Craddock is in charge of collecting canned hams for distribution at both of these ministries. We hope to collect 100 or more hams again this year. Bring them to the Narthex starting on November 8<sup>th</sup>.

**At our next meeting on November 15<sup>th</sup>:** We will be deciding where our Thanksgiving and Christmas outreach funds will be allocated. We will also take a look at programs such as Meals on Wheels, Stop Hunger Now, USO support, and our support for our companion diocese, the Diocese of Durgapur, India.

## **KIDS LUNCH BUNCH ADVENTURES**

**Sundays: November 8<sup>th</sup> and November 22<sup>nd</sup> 12 noon - 3 pm**

*Join up with Josh, Mthr Beth, and your church buddies to go for lunch and an early afternoon adventure!*

### **Sunday November 8: Bowling at Pin Station and Chicken Noodle Soup Collection**

On November 8<sup>th</sup> bring a grocery bag of as many cans of Chicken Noodle Soup as you are able to donate.

We are going to try to collect as many cans as possible from our group to see if we can give Debbie Leatherman, Manager of The Corner Table, enough to make a meal. (She feeds almost 200 people some days, and lots of the people eat seconds!!!) We will take our cans by to The Corner Table and drop them off before we go bowling.

Then we will eat lunch and bowl at Pin Station in Newton. We may have time for a video game or two.

Bring \$10 to cover your own lunch and one game of bowling. (The church will treat for shoe rental.) After one game we will play other games.

### **Sunday November 22<sup>nd</sup>: Grill Out with Scavenger Hunt and Contest**

Mystery Location (TBA) We will either be at the church or at someone's home. We will grill out for lunch, then have an AWESOME scavenger hunt with an extra special contest for teams to test their skills. Come with your minds sharp and ready to solve the toughest of riddles! Bring a friend! See you then!

## **DAUGHTERS WELCOMES NEW MEMBER KATHY HARDIN**

The St. Teresa of Avila Chapter of The Order of The Daughters of the King of the Episcopal Church, Diocese of Western North Carolina installs its newest member, Mrs. Kathy Hardin of Hickory on Sunday November 8<sup>th</sup> during our morning worship service. Diocesan DOK President Lola Hallman will be with us to conduct the Installation along with Mthr. Beth who also serves at the Diocesan DOK Chaplain during Lola's term as President. Kathy completed her twelve chapter study with Epiphany Chapter President Ann Adams and former president Anita Williams. The study includes exploration of one's personal faith journey as well as a look at what it means to live a Christian life, and make the decision to dedicate and focus extra time in prayer and service by joining this Order which is set aside for such a purpose.

The Daughters of the King was established in the 1890's to strengthen the ministry of the Episcopal Church and spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ Our King and Lord to all through the ministry of prayer and service. Any parish which has a Chapter of the DOK finds that all of its ministries will be strengthened. Daughters who are living their vows help the love of Christ to be spread everywhere, quietly with a loving sisterhood, praying for one another always, serving their brothers and sisters in times of need both in the parish and beyond in the world, whoever the Lord sends their way. Daughters remain through their vows in constant awareness that we are all members of The Body of Christ. Daughters know that no matter what time of day or night, no matter what the need for prayer, they can call another Daughter. That is why we wear our crosses every day. When we see the cross on someone else, we know that she shares our ministry of prayer in this world. Daughters offer this of themselves to anyone else, any other person, anywhere. Any Daughter will stop and pray with anyone who needs a prayer, if that is what the Lord makes happen. We never force it. We just serve if needed. We care, we celebrate, we are there for whoever needs us to lift their hearts to the Lord. That is what we do. That is how we serve the Lord. We pray.

May God bless Kathy, who is now the 11<sup>th</sup> member of our Chapter. We look forward to your special presence among us. You have many wonderful gifts that have blessed this church already. God is truly putting them to good use. We are glad you found your way to Daughters of the King.

Written by Mother Beth, a DOK for 15 yrs

Ann Adams      Pat Dalton      Anita Williams      Dollie Ben-Davies      Gloria Jupin      Ann Lowery  
Wanda Williams      Joyce Trammell      Joyce Collins      Anita Bell (in Denver, Colorado)

### **WELCOME JOSH SCHMIDT**

Please join me in welcoming Josh Schmidt to our Epiphany Church staff.

Josh is our new Youth and Children's Ministry Coordinator.

Josh will be with us two Sundays a month and other times, helping Mother Beth with programs for the younger members of our church. Some of the young folks have already gotten to know Josh if they came to the Pumpkinfest program that he helped with during the Roper family's dinner and gathering last Sunday October 25<sup>th</sup>. All the kids interested came downstairs after a delicious lunch to our new youth room and painted small pumpkins in many different designs. They looked great! Then we watched Charlie Brown and The Great Pumpkin, and ate some yummy cupcakes that Winter Roper made. Thomas Lilly and Whitney Roper helped the younger kids with their paints, and helped Josh with getting to know the kids from our church. Chris Hartis and Jaelin Byrd were there too. We all enjoyed spending time with our new friend Josh.

Josh is from Hickory. He comes from a big family. All of them still live in this area. Josh is 24 years old and has a twin sister, and the two of them are the youngest out of six children! He has two nieces ages 14 and 6. He has seven nephews ages 12, 11, 9, 9, 6, 5, and 3. (Josh has LOTS of experience working with children!! He has been "Uncle Josh" for 14 years!!) His home church is Mountain View Baptist Church and that is where he lives, in Mt. View, with his dog Goober. He is a student at CVCC majoring in Business Administration, and will graduate in May.

Josh has been an employee at Catawba Country Club for nine years. He now assists his brother-in-law, Manager Steven Busic. with whatever Mr. Busic needs him to do. He serves on the wait staff; he tends bar, and he manages the swimming pool in the summertime. In his spare time, Josh likes to play golf, spend time with his family, or hang out with his friends. Each year Josh enjoys participating in the Carolina Panthers Annual Spring Flag Football Charity Event.

We are extremely happy to have such a motivated and friendly addition to our Epiphany Church family. The young people and their families will look forward to spending time with Josh this year. We will have lots of fun as we do our ministry together.

*Mother Beth*

### FROM THE ECW

December 12, at 11:00 a.m. in the home of Mthr. Beth, we will have our annual Christmas Luncheon and our "Dirty Santa", especially if Nancy and Mthr. Beth will be there. Ladies, I don't know I may have to put my money on Nancy this year!!! (Just kidding ladies, but we do have a great time!) Please note the time change from what was discussed at the last meeting. Mthr. Beth wants us to meet at 11:00 play our games (Dirty Santa) and eat about 12:00 noon. We would like to thank Mthr. Beth for offering her home for our luncheon. Please bring a covered dish to share, and bring a wrapped gift of no more than \$15.00 value. If you are new, please know that you are invited. If you attend Epiphany and are a woman than you are one of us. The ECW means Episcopal Churchwomen - Dah! You are an automatic member of the ECW. We have decided to sponsor a family for both Thanksgiving and Christmas, but this will come out of the Treasury. Membership into the ECW (if you were not at the last luncheon meeting) is \$12.00 and due at any time now. Please help us do what we do for the ministry of Epiphany and the Western NC Diocese.

Zoe Robertson/Nancy Shanks

### TOUCH BASE MINISTRY

There will be a meeting of the Touch Base Ministry Committee on Sunday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, immediately following the coffee hour in the Library. This is a behind-the-scenes ministry that will be explained to you at the meeting. This is basically a telephone ministry to touch base with our members for comfort, condolence, congratulations or any occasion that requires a kind word. A voice is so much better than an E-mail! Don't get me wrong, technology is a wonderful thing, but there nothing better than a kind word over the phone, but even more so, in person. If you are new to the parish and feel called to do this please come to our kickoff meeting. I have a packet to give to you. It is a very important ministry that only requires some phone time to let our people know that you and we care!

Zoe Robertson, Coordinator

### HOLIDAY HAMS

Once again, it's holiday ham time! We are collecting one-pound canned hams to be given to ECCCM and The Corner Table for Christmas. In the past our parish has collected over 100 hams per year – let's do it again! For more information, contact Harold Craddock.

### COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING SERVICE

Wednesday, November 25<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm

Every year the Newton Community gathers at a local church on the evening before Thanksgiving to worship together with our various traditions gathered under one roof, to give thanks to Almighty God for all of the blessings given to us. Pastors organizing the service are from churches including Beth Eden Lutheran Church, First Presbyterian Church, First United Methodist, Grace Reformed United Church of Christ, Trinity Baptist Church, New Vision Presbyterian Church, St. Paul United Methodist Church, St. Paul Lutheran Church, and many others. All people, regardless of what church affiliation they have, are invited to this service of worship!

This year Epiphany is honored to be the host church for the service. Several area clergy will share the leadership of the service. The offering will go to The Corner Table and to ECCCM, equally. Please join us for an evening of giving thanks to God and

Our Lord Jesus Christ, and giving a special offering to these important ministries in our community which are both feeling the strain of our tough economic times because they are serving the highest numbers of our brothers and sister in need they have ever seen.

### **SYMBOLISM OF EPISCOPAL CHURCH EMBLEM**

The emblem in use now was adopted by the General Convention of the Episcopal Church in 1940.

The center red cross of St. George, patron saint of England, symbolizes our connection with the Church of England and is one of the oldest symbols of Christianity. In the upper left corner, the St. Andrew's cross in outline on the azure field recognized our debt to the Scottish Church for consecrating our first bishop, Samuel Seabury of Connecticut, at Aberdeen, England in 1784.

The nine small crosses that make up the St. Andrew's cross represent the nine original dioceses comprising the 1798 Convention in Philadelphia when the Constitution of the American Episcopal Church was adopted. The American Book of Common Prayer was approved at the same convention.

(A bit of church history from Carol Clise)

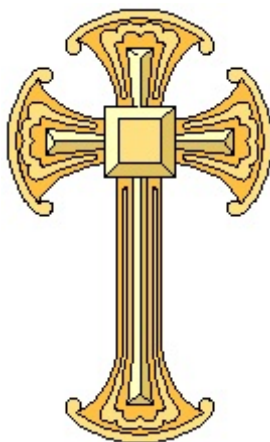
### **ALTAR GUILD NEWS: ADVENT**

November is upon us, and our thanks are for the extra hour of sleep we got as our clocks were turned back. Now we plan for the bit turkey day. Whom do we invite for the feast, and for some, whose house will hold all the relatives and friends? And, of course, as we eat the pumpkin pie, the topic will be: Who is going shopping the next day, and how many days until Christmas?

In all the hustle and bustle of the season, remember to mark your calendars for the Advent “WORK” season of the church. There will be the cleaning of the church, the greening of the church, and, naturally, the flowering of the church for the celebration of Christ’s birth. Dates for these special days will be announced in your weekly bulletins, so watch for them. All guild members, and also other members of the congregation, are needed to make things go smoothly. Again, remember that many hands make light work. Plus, the homemade treats that are brought in is an extra bonus.

Blessings to all,

Anita Williams, Director



## ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

“The aging process could be slowed if it had to work its way through Congress.”

“By the time a man realizes that his father was right, he has a son of his own who thinks he’s wrong.”

A minister announced that admission to a church social event would be \$6 per person. “However, if you’re over 65,” he said the price will be only \$5.50. From the back of the congregation, a woman’s voice rang out: “Do you really think I’d give you that information for only 50 cents?”

(Submitted by Zoe Robertson)

One day, a man went to visit a church. He got there early, parked his car, and and got out. Another car pulled up nearby. The driver got out and said, “I always park there! Your took my place!” The visitor went inside for Sunday School, found an empty seat, and sat down. A young lady from the church approached him and stated, “That’s my seat! You took my place!” The visitor was somewhat distressed by this rude welcome, but said nothing.

After Sunday School, the visitor went into the sanctuary and sat down. Another member walked up to him and said, “That’s where I always sit! You took my place!” The visitor was even more troubled by this treatment, but still he said nothing. Later, as the congregation was praying for Christ to dwell among them, the visitor stood up, and his appearance began to change. Horrible scars became visible on his hands and on his sandaled feet. Someone from the congregation noticed him and called out, “What happened to you?” The visitor replied, as his hat became a crown of thorns and a tear fell from his eye, “I took your place.”

(Submitted by Ann Lowery)