



THE GUIDING LIGHT

The Newsletter of the Episcopal Church of the Epiphany October &
November 2011

OUR MISSION:
TO SHARE THE LOVE OF CHRIST WITH ALL PEOPLE THROUGH PRAYER,
WORSHIP AND BIBLE STUDY; BY CARING FOR THOSE AMONG US AND
BY SERVING THE WIDER COMMUNITY

Bishop Taylor's Reflection

I write this as the LAN flight takes me from Quito to Miami. I am returning from the House of Bishop's meeting in Ecuador. People have asked me, "Why Ecuador?" and the truth is, before I got there, I didn't know. Yes, Ecuador is part of the Episcopal Church (as is Puerto Rico, Honduras, Haiti, the Virgin Islands, The American Churches in Europe, and Taiwan), but still it's a long way away and it's a mile higher than Denver. Why go there?

It's because we are part of One Body who worships One Lord, proclaims One Faith and is saved by One Baptism. One is one. We went because the Diocese of Ecuador Central is in a mess. When part of the Body of Christ was suffering, how many choices do you have? It's the phone call in the middle of the night. It's the voice in your head that pushes you outside the door because you know it's the right thing to do.

A little history. A few years ago the Diocese of Ecuador Central petitioned the House of Bishops to elect a bishop for them because they could not agree on anyone (this was a sign). We interviewed four candidates. I remember personally asking the current bishop, The Rt. Rev. Luis Ruiz if his being Columbian would make any difference, and he said "No, because Ecuador and Columbia used to be connected," but what he didn't say was there's a reason they aren't connected anymore. The Ecuadorians don't want a Columbian as their bishop. At his consecration demonstrators interrupted the service, and it's gone downhill. The House of Bishops went as a living reminder that The Church supports her people and takes our ministry of reconciliation seriously. No person is an island.

After much hard work, Bishop Ruiz announced on Tuesday that he and all the Standing Committee will resign. Bishop Victor Scantlebury from Chicago will step in as the Interim Bishop and seek to begin the healing process in the diocese. The bishops met with the people of this diocese; visited their churches; learned about their struggles and the issues they confront, and simply showed up. The Presiding Bishop called for the diocese to "recover a sense of Christian duty to work with one another" and promised that the Church would help them do that.

I didn't know any of this when I left. I thought I was going to yet another meeting in yet another hotel. However, being there reminded me that in our baptism we commit to a common mission to be ministers of reconciliation. How far are we willing to go to do that— not just in miles but in our hearts? And how willing are we to see the brokenness all around us? Why is it that I knew so little about what was going on in part of our Church? How important must we think we are to block our awareness?

The House of Bishops also wrote a pastoral teaching on care for the environment which I hope will be an impetus for our diocese to embrace our calling to be intentional stewards of God's creation.

The biggest surprise was a report by Bishop Stacy Sauls from The Budgeting Funding Task Force. He announced an initiative to reform the function and funding of The Episcopal Church. If enacted, this would radically change our Church structure, make us much clearer about mission, and possibly lower the asking from every diocese from the current 20% to as low as 13%. The changes called could require a Special General Convention between 2012 and 2015. This kind of convention has only happened twice in our history. I will brief the clergy on this at our Clergy Day on September 29 and follow with more details to the wider diocese as information is available.

I think the Holy Spirit is on the move again. She is blowing a new wind into the Diocese of Ecuador Central and The Episcopal Church and all God's children. She is calling us to step out in faith; to pay attention to the hurts and joys of our brothers and sisters wherever they are; and most of all, to trust the Holy One's goodness, grace, and never ending mercy.

+Porter

News & Events

World Community Day

The annual World Community Day ecumenical worship service will be held at Highland United Methodist Church, located at 1020 12th St. Pl. NE in Hickory, on Friday, November 4th, at 7:00 pm. This year the theme will be "Living Our Faith, Unlocking Action". This requires first admitting our shortcomings while at the same time inspiring others to join in creating a better world for tomorrow. This event is sponsored by more than 12 area churches, among them (the name of your church). Child care will be provided. Refreshments will be served after the service. Questions? Call Carole Marmorato at 828-256-8956.

Catawba County Community Chorus

Save the date! The Catawba County Community Chorus will be performing at Epiphany on Friday, December 9th at 7:30 pm. There is no charge for the performance, but a love offering will be collected. There will be refreshments in the Parish Hall following the concert. For more information, contact Ann Lowery.

Small Church Day

...will be held on Saturday, October 29th from 10am-2pm, at Church of the Holy Family located at 419 Turnpike Rd. in Mills River, just 6 miles beyond the Asheville Airport off Highway 280. Our Keynoter will be the Rev. Gordon Brewer, head of the Appalachian Ministries, who will be speaking and leading us through their ministries, how we can connect as small churches and share resources.

Lunch is \$10/ person. Please register with Alice Keenan at the Diocesan Office. Registration deadline is **October 10th**.

All Saints' Sunday

All Saints' Sunday is Sunday, November 6th. There is a list of members and friends of this parish who have died during the past year, to be read aloud during the service, and located in the Narthex. Please check the list and add any names of loved ones that you wish to be remembered during the Eucharist on All Saints' Sunday.

Valle Crucis Conference Center

Secluded in an area of spectacular beauty, the Valle Crucis Conference Center overlooks a peaceful, rural valley in the Blue Ridge Mountains. They offer their ministry of hospitality to a diverse range of church and non-profit groups from around the Southeast.

Upcoming Programs:

The Quest for the Holy Grail

Friday, October 28, 2011

10 AM - 3 PM - \$35, includes lunch

Facilitator: The Rt. Rev. G. Porter Taylor

For more information, go to the Valle Crucis Conference Center website or contact Tom Eshelman: phone: 828-963-4453 or email: vccc@highsouth.com

Dates to Remember

- » **Men's Night Out:** October 16th & November 20th, 6:00 pm
- » **Handbell Choir Rehearsals:** October 9th & 23rd, November 6th & 20th. 4:30 pm
- » **Work Days:** October 14th & 15th, 9:30 am - ?
- » **Safe Harbor Fall Banquet:** November 17th, 6:30 pm
- » **Community Thanksgiving Service:** November 23rd, Time and place TBA (no Healing Service at Epiphany)
- » **Diocesan Convention:** November 10th - 12th
- » **All Saints' Sunday:** November 6th
- » **First Sunday in Advent:** November 27th
- » **Corner Table Christmas Fundraiser Dinner:** December 3rd, 6:00 pm



The Corner Table, Inc.
Christmas Fundraiser Dinner
December 3, 2011, 6:00 pm

Ticket Price: \$30.00

Dinner Menu

Fresh Mixed Green Salad
Fat-free Raspberry Vinaigrette Dressing
Creamy Ranch Dressing

Slow Roasted Seasoned Beef Prime Rib
Au-Jus & Creamy Horseradish Sauce

Red Bliss Potatoes
Butter & Parsley

Fresh Baked Yeast Rolls

Red Velvet Cake

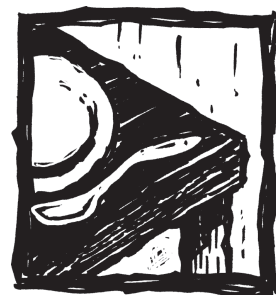
Coffee, Tea & Water

"Santa Claus" will have a donation box available for attendees to give toward the purchase of Christmas gifts (items of necessity for adults and children and toys for children) for the Corner Table Guests.

Location:

First United Methodist Church
Connor Family Life Center
410 First Avenue (North Highway 16),
Conover, NC

Information: 828.464.0355



**THE
CORNER
TABLE**

Nourish Your Soul.

News & Events (continued)



Epiphany Office Supply Shower

Supplies are needed to continue the work of our church office. Plan ahead by purchasing supplies for our shower event, with date and time to be announced!

Church Office Supply Wish List

- 8 ½ x 11 copy paper
- 8 ½ x 14 copy paper for bulletins
- 11 x 17 high quality (not recycled) copy paper for newsletter
- Stamps ~ regular and postcard
- Paper clips
- Colored cardstock for postcard mailings
- Colored copy paper for inserts
- Address labels
- Pens
- Tape
- Staples
- #10 Window Envelopes
- Epson Black Ink Cartridge # 69



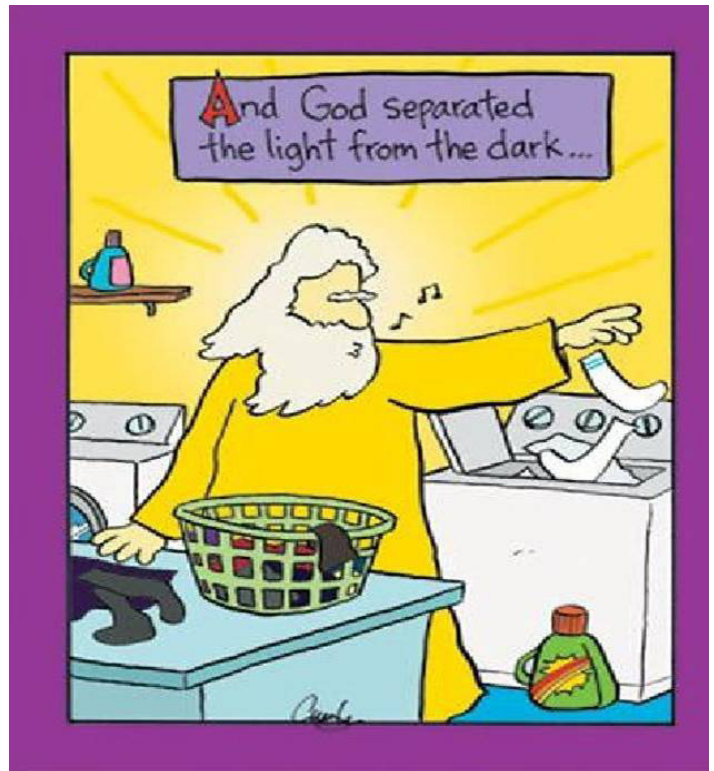
ReSource Warehouse & Gallery, located at 451 11th Street NW in Hickory, is a creative reuse facility centered around taking donations of what those in the community would otherwise throw away, and recreating useful and artistic items to sell. The warehouse is where such odd treasures can be purchased in order for customers to create unique items on their own, and the Artist Marketplace is a gallery in which original creative reuse art and products can be purchased. If you wish to explore the world of creative reuse, or are even interested in consigning your own "upcycle art," visit today!

HOURS:

Tuesday - Saturday 10:00am to 5:00pm
Sunday and Monday - closed
For more information: 828-256-2695

The Corner Table's Christmas Fundraiser Dinner

...will be held on Saturday, December 3rd at 6:00 pm, at First United Methodist Church in Conover. Those who attended last year can remember the elegant setting, EXTREMELY good food prepared by the Methodist Men, and the fellowship enjoyed by all. The menu this year features the slow-roasted prime rib that delighted everyone last year! Please plan on attending. To purchase tickets or for more information, see Janice McPherson.



In our Prayers

We pray for healing and strength:

Lorraine-Baker Neal, Jane Biggerstaff, Kristen Black, The Rev. Gus Boone, Marilyn Bornemann, Carol Campbell, Jason Call, Zelma Clemmons, Barbara Cobb, Harold & JoAnne Craddock, Joy Crosby, Charlie & Pat Dalton, Cassie DeSha, Lucy Echerd, Peggy Ervin, Don & JoAnne Flick, Jessy Fupril, Bill Guy, David Hawkins, Roberta Hungerford, Rachel Hunt, Fred Keisler, Tom and Ann Lowery, Jacque Lowery & Family, Frank Lutz, Mac McRee, Stephen Ackley Ortiz, Sarah Palmer, John & Diane Paton, Margaret Alice Rader, Geraldine Reed, Cindy Reynolds, Barry Richardson, Gloria Rumore, Joseph Rumore, Jacob Schmidt, Vivian Scott, Nancy Shanks, Forest Shook, Lawrence Shook, Edd Sigmon, John Sigmon, Cozette Sinclair, Betty Storey, Dorothy Steele, Frances Tate, Catherine Tucker, Michael William

We pray for those who have died:

Hattie Spaulding

We pray for our military:

General John Allen , Stan & Alena Baker, Brelah Oxendine Braddy, David Brandon, Jr., John & Maura Clark, Zachary Elledge, Aaron Helms, Andrew Johnson, Matthew Keene, Jeffery Lynn, Corey Masters, Levi Moretz, Matt Reep, Jim Rudisill, Steve Sobus, Wayne Steppe, Chris Stokes, Ahren Weinrich, Matthew Weinrich, Sarah Weinrich, Eric Wines

We pray for our clergy:

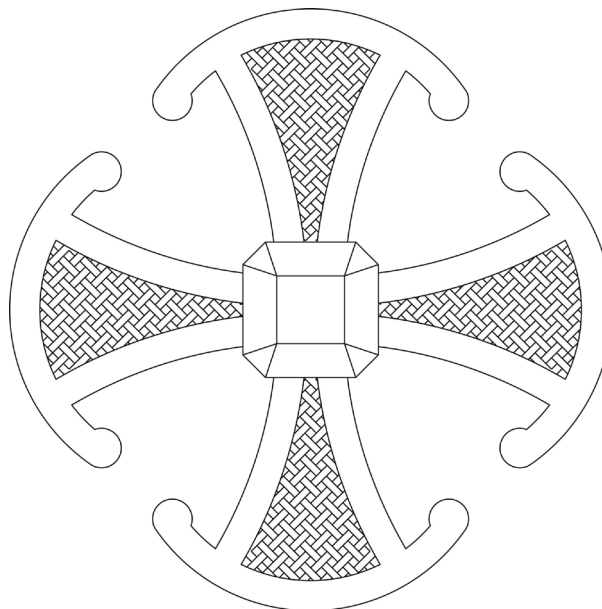
Katharine, our Presiding Bishop, Porter, our Bishop, Laura, our Interim Priest, all Priests and Deacons in our Diocese of Western North Carolina

We pray for the Catawba Episcopal Outreach Committee and Safe Harbor Rescue Mission.

We pray for all those who are searching for work.

We pray for those who are homeless or living in poverty.

We pray for The Corner Table and its mission to provide nutritious meals to people in need.



Just for Fun

The priest got up one Sunday and announced to his congregation: "I have good news and bad news. The good news is, we have enough money to pay for our new building program. The bad news is, it's still out there in your pockets."

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What REALLY Happened to the Dinosaurs:



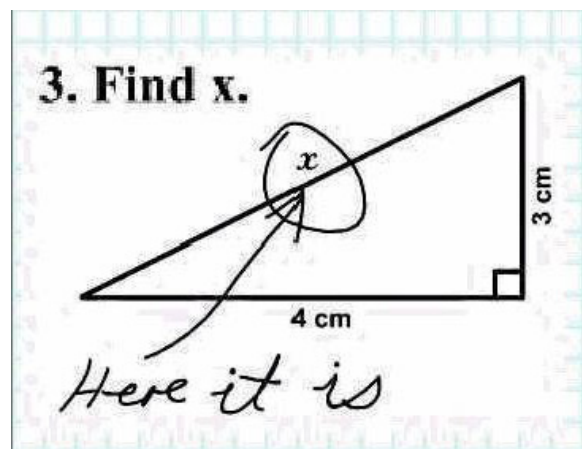
Why teachers drink...

Name one of the early Romans' greatest achievements.

Learning to speak Latin.

Name six animals which live specifically in the Arctic.

Two polar bears  
~~Three~~ Four Seals



~Thanks to Ann Lowery for all the fun contributions!

## ECW News

On August 7, 2011, there were 15 members and 3 guest present for our luncheon meeting at Rock Barn Country Club. Gloria Jupin delivered the blessing and Nancy Shanks welcomed the members and guests. We discussed other venues for future luncheons: Nagano, LongHorn Steak House, Panera Bread. We also discussed the 2011 Christmas Party to be held on December 10th, location to be announced. We will have naughty santa gift exchange ~ \$10-15 minimum. Dues are due in December.

The ECW unanimously voted to donate \$100 for school supplies earmarked for the Conover School; Zoe Robertson wrote a check and gave it to Valerie Leath. Our next meeting will be held on October 9th at Harbor Inn Seafood on Fairgrove Church Road.

~Respectfully Submitted by Ann Lowery, Secretary/Co-Treasurer.

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Foothills Homeless Veterans Stand Down

The first annual Foothills Homeless Veterans Stand Down will be held 8 a.m.-2 p.m. April 20, 2012 at the Hickory American Legion Fairgrounds, 1127 U.S. 70 W, Newton.

The event will bring homeless veterans from Alexander, Burke, Caldwell, Catawba, Cleveland, Iredell and Wilkes counties together provide access to resources including veterans' benefits information, breakfast and lunch, a hot shower, clothing, haircuts, eye care and medical and dental services.

The next meeting of the Foothills Stand Down Planning Committee will be at 11 a.m. Oct. 12 at the Statesville VFW, 139 Jordan Lane, Statesville.

Volunteers and donations of money and new or gently used clothing, new socks, new underwear, personal hygiene items for men and women are needed. The committee also seeks a secure warehouse space with a loading dock for storing donated items.

Donation checks should be payable to Foothills Stand Down and mailed to P.O. Box 1, Hickory, NC 28603.

For details contact Jim Starkey at 828-294-0184 or foothillsstanddown@gmail.com or Larry McMullen at 828-320-2842 or mcmullenlarry@hotmail.com .



Sunday, October 2nd was St. Francis Sunday, and the animals of Epiphany were treated to the Blessing of the Animals service following our regular service. The Rev. Laura Myhr blessed all the dogs who were present (no cats or iguanas!), as well as those not present whose names were announced by owners. It was an inspiring service, and a good time was had by all our sociable pets.

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## Epiphany Work Days

We will have two work days in October -- Friday the 14<sup>th</sup> and Saturday the 15<sup>th</sup>, from 9:30 am until we all wear out. There are lots of things that need to be done, both inside and outside. Please plan on being here to roll up your sleeves and repair/clean/paint/organize something!

If another day of the week works better with your schedule, let Bob McPherson know so that he can arrange to meet you at that time.

## Reminder

**Please use the Epiphany Post Office box for all mail and supply orders. The Postal Service does not deliver mail to our street address.**

**P.O. Box 270  
Newton, NC 28658**



**The Episcopal Church of the Epiphany**  
P. O. Box 270  
Newton, NC 28658