

The Guiding Light

The Newsletter of The Episcopal Church of the Epiphany

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Highlights from the Rector

My Dear People of Epiphany,

September brings to us the beginning of school for children and the start of a new program year for the church. For a small church, we do try to keep lively activities going for the life of our parish so that people of all ages may have the opportunity to join in learning and fellowship alongside worship throughout the year. In Sunday School, our younger children will be enjoying “Veggie Tales” as their curriculum this fall along with a breakfast snack. Our adults will go through a video discussion series with famous people of faith, as well as study the Parables of Jesus and the Miracles of Jesus. The older youth will join with the adult class.

Adult Bible Study will also take place during the week. A series may possibly begin in late September or early October. The study will meet from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. and will be a lunch study. Stay tuned for more information on the topic and details. Let me know if you are interested.

Youth and their clergy from our neighboring churches will be joining together with us on a service project in October. We hope to put together a Sunday evening meal for the folks who usually eat at The Corner Table, and serve it at First Presbyterian, Newton. From this Outreach experience, we hope to

generate a gathering throughout the school year of this ecumenical group of youth from our Newton area churches. More energy comes from more youth! Again, stay tuned for the details on this.

In the area of Music, Peter Weinrich, the vestry and I are exploring ways to begin getting our handbell choir up and going. We are talking with folks at Lenoir Rhyne University as well as some of our friends at New Jerusalem Lutheran Church and the Queen City Ringers for their assistance. Things are looking positive.

The vestry will be taking extra time for their September meeting by doing it “mini-retreat” style on Sunday afternoon, the 27th. Tom and JoAnn Harrington have graciously offered to host the meeting. We will be doing some short-term and long-term planning, and a little bit of “dreaming” for Epiphany. If you would like to share some of your thoughts and dreams for the church with your vestry members before then, please feel free to do so.

May God bless each and every one of you wherever you are in your walk of faith today as you read this newsletter. Perhaps you are feeling strong. Possibly you are healing from a great wound. Always you are fully aware that together as Christians we are One Body, serving One Lord, with One Faith and One Baptism. He is our dear and precious Savior Jesus Christ. We are saved by Grace alone. Not by works alone. Not by faith alone. By the sheer Grace of God. (Read James)

Thanks be to God for the Grace that has saved us from falling, the Grace that heals us from all wounds, the Grace that fills our cups with joy that bubbles over like a fountain, the Grace that makes our bones strong.

For His Sake,

Mother Beth+

NEWS / UPCOMING EVENTS

Vestry Meeting - Will be held Sunday, September 27th, from 3pm to 7 pm at the home of Tom and JoAnn Harrington. The meeting is in the form of a retreat. The Vestry will be looking short-term and long-term goals for the church. Please speak with Mthr. Beth or your vestry members if you have any ideas or suggestions.

Vestry Person of the Week - Tom Lowery for the week of August 30th; and Billy Richards for the week of September 6th; Catherine Tucker for the week of September 13th; Luther Barringer for the week of September 20th; JoAnn Harrington for the week of September 27th; Connie Keisler for the week of October 4th; and Tom Lowery for the week of October 11th;

“Welcome Back Sunday” Adult Forum & Children’s Christian Education - will be held on Sunday, September 13th, at 9:15 a.m. A light breakfast will be served, followed by a brief overview of our curriculums for the fall. We will then go to our classes. Please join us! After church, during coffee hour, we will have “make our own ice cream sundaes” to further celebrate our “Welcome Back Sunday”.

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

Choir Rehearsal -. We will resume after school begins. We will meet the first and third Wednesday evenings of the month beginning September 9th 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 be going on a day retreat this month to Road’s End Retreat Center in Alexander County. The program will be provided by the retreat center, and will include our tour of the frescoes in West Jefferson. We will meet at Epiphany at 8 a.m. and return at about 8 p.m.

Our Corner Table Lunch - Epiphany members will be serving our famous spaghetti and meatballs luncheon and all the trimmings on Wednesday, September 9th; from 9:30 a.m. till about 1:30 p.m. Please mark your calendars and speak to either Mike Jupin or Kathy Hardin about helping to cook or serve. We need 8 to 10 people. There is a sign up sheet in the Parish Hall if you are willing to help.

Mthr. Beth’s Discretionary Fund - Please remember the third Sunday of each month, (September 20th this month) the loose plate offering goes to her discretionary fund. 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 Offering - The months that have five Sundays have been designated as Outreach Offering Sunday, and that occurs next on Sunday, November 29th. Please give prayerful consideration to this ever-so important ministry.

The Next Men’s Night Out - Sunday, September 20th, at 6:00 p.m., at Nagano’s in Conover,

87th WNC ECW Annual Gathering/Meeting - September 25th -26th, at Lutheridge Conference Center, Arden.

This year's theme is "Grow in Grace" to keep with this year's Triennial Theme. The Rev. Dee Ann de Montmollin will be our keynote speaker. Programs will include Women of Vision workshops my Marcie Cherau, National ECW Province IV Representative and Women' Correctional Facility at Swannanoa Chaplaincy. Program by Diane Oxford,. Special recognition will be give to our 2009 Honored Women of the Year - Lucy Gunn.

YARD SALE - *The Vestry has chosen Friday, October 16th and Saturday, October 17th for a yard sale fundraiser to sponsor mission and outreach. JoAnn Harrington and Catherine Tucker are heading this committee which will need lots of helping hands! Please stay tuned for information on planning meeting and details to follow.*

The Next Newsletter Deadline - *For the October newsletter will be Tuesday, September 29th, in order to have them in the mailboxes by Sunday, October 4th. Please mark your calendars. The newsletter is posted on our website for your convenience as well. We count on our newsletter as a major source of communication for our parish and friends. Please help us keep our information current. Help us save on postage by picking up your copy of the newsletter from your church mailbox within the first two weeks it is printed. Please turn information in to Zoe Robertson either in her church mailbox or by emailing her at zrobertson@sipresorchardhome.org. You may also email your articles to the church at secretary@epiphanynewton.org. Thank you for your help!*

Weekly Bulletin Announcements and Prayer Requests - *Terri Beauvais, our Parish Administrator/Secretary greatly appreciates your help in communication. Weekly bulletin information should be turned in on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 9:00 a.m. until noon which are her office hours. You may also email Terri at secretary@epiphanynewton.org. (FYI: Announcements turned in later than 10 am on Thursday will not make it into the bulletin for that Sunday because this is when it "goes to press"!) Prayer cards are available in the narthex and also on the table at the back of the church for your use in requesting prayer for more than one Sunday. Names written on the sheet as people come in are not guaranteed to be correctly transferred to our permanent weekly prayer list. It helps the office greatly if you also fill out a prayer card for those you wish to add for continued prayer. Thank you so much!*

DONATED ORTHOPEDIC ITEMS

Donated Orthopedic items are available for those in need or a roller walker, crutches, and other orthopedic supplies that are in excellent condition. If you are interested in these items, please call Mr. James Jones at 828-855-0783. If no answer, you may leave a message on his answering machine with your phone number and he will contact you. Mr. Jones has been a past member of Epiphany and has moved back to our area.

THE HIGHLAND EPISCOPALIAN

The September 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 September edition on the table in the narthex. You can read or download this September edition at www.diocesewnc.org. Find the heading "news" and click on "Highland Episcopalian". All past issues of this diocesan newsletter can be viewed there. (Please call Mthr. Beth, Terri, or Kathy Hardin if you need assistance).

THANK YOU

Thank you for your prayers, cards, and flowers after my step-father passed away.

Luther Barringer

A Parting Shot

Taken from the September, 2009 issue of The American Legion Magazine

“An optimist is someone who believes the housefly is desperately looking for a way out.”

The stalled car sat dead at the intersection as the lights went to red, to green, to yellow, to red, to green, to yellow and back to red. Finally a police officer came up and said, “Pardon me, sir, but don’t we have any colors you like?”

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Shared by Ann Lowery

“Painting the Church”

There was a Scottish painter named Wayne who was very interested in making a penny where he could, so he often thinned down his paint to make it go a wee bit further.

As it happened, he got away with this for some time, but eventually the Baptist Church decided to do a big restoration job on the outside of one of their biggest buildings.

Wayne put in a bid, and, because his price was so low, he got the job.

So he set about erecting the scaffolding and setting up the planks, and buying the paint, and, yes I am sorry to say, thinning it down with turpentine.

Well, Wayne was up on the scaffolding, painting away, the job nearly completed, when suddenly there was a horrendous clap of thunder, the sky opened up, and the rain poured down washing the thinned paint from all over the church and knocking Wayne cleared off the scaffold to land on the lawn among the gravestones, surrounded by telltale puddles of the thinned and useless paint.

Wayne was no fool. He knew this was a judgment from the Almighty, so he got down on his knees and cried: “Oh God, forgive me; what should I do?”

And from the thunder, a mighty voice spoke ...”**Repaint! Repaint! And thin no more!**”

A Sweet Story
shared by Ann Lowery

An eye witness account from New York City, on a cold day in December, some years ago: A little boy, about ten years old, was standing before a shoe store on the roadway, barefooted, peering through the window, and shivering with cold.

A lady approached the young boy and said, “My, but you’re in such deep thought staring in the window.”

“I was asking God to give me a pair of shoes”, was the boy’s reply.

The lady took him by the hand, went into the store, and asked the clerk to get half a dozen pairs of socks for the boy. She then asked if he could give her a basin of water and a towel. He quickly brought them to her.

She took the little fellow to the back part of the store and, removing her gloves, knelt down, washed his little feet, and dried them with the towel. By this time, the clerk had returned with the socks. Placing a pair upon the boy’s feet, she purchased him a pair of shoes. She tied up the remaining pairs of socks, and gave them to him. She patted him on the head and said, “No doubt, you will be more comfortable now.”

As she turned to go, the astonished kid caught her by the hand, and looking up into her face, with tears in his eyes, asked her: “**Are you God’s wife?**”

Will NBC Be Surprised???

Here’s your change to let the media know where the people stand on our faith in God, as a nation. NBC is presently taking a poll to see if Americans want the words “In God We Trust” to be removed from the American currency.

Please send this to every Christian you know so they can vote on this important subject. Please do it right away, before NBC takes this off their web page. Poll is still open so you can vote: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/10103521/>
I’ll bet this is going to be a surprise to NBC!!!

A Hearty Welcome to our Newest Members
Bob and Janice McPherson (Pronounced McFurson)

Bob McPherson was born in Birmingham, Alabama and in 1962 began his career with Southern Bell Telephone Company. In 1969, he transferred to Charlotte, N.C. and held various positions throughout the state and retired in 1991. Janice was born in Lenoir, N.C. and retired in 2008, after thirty one years of employment with Bernhardt Furniture Company as a purchasing agent.

Bob’s hobby is working with our grandson, Patrick, on their model railroad table. He has become quite adapt in building model houses and businesses and Patrick is always trying to challenge him with more complex projects. He volunteers at Palliative Care and Hospice of Catawba Valley and serves on their Planning Board.

Janice enjoys working with her flowers and maintaining their yard. She volunteers at Palliative Care and Hospice of Catawba Valley and The Corner Table. She is quite often drafted for detail work on the train table in her spare time.

Bob and Janice have two children: Robert McPherson, III, who lives in Monroe, N. C.; and Laura McPherson who lives outside Newton, N. C. With her husband Michale Revis and their children Patrick and Tayler.

Robin Williams on 10 Reasons to be an Episcopalian

Shared by Ann Lowery

- 10. No snake handling.**
 - 9. You can believe in dinosaurs.**
 - 8. Male and female, God created them; male and female, we ordain them.**
 - 7. You don't have to check your brains at the door.**
 - 6. Pew aerobics.**
 - 5. Church year is color coded.**
 - 4. Free wine on Sunday.**
 - 3. All of the pageantry, none of the guilt.**
 - 2. You don't have to know how to swim to be baptized.**
- And the number one reason for being an Episcopalian:**
- 1. No matter what you believe, there's bound to be at least one other Episcopalian who agrees with you.**