



Parish Guide

Newsletter of The Church of the Epiphany
Washington, DC

January 2007
Vol. CXXXXXIII, No. 21

Rector's Journal

By the Rev. Randolph Charles

The Feast of the Epiphany. January 7

is when we will celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany. January 6 is the actual calendar date, but we observe the Epiphany on nearest Sunday, because it is our parish name-day festival and we want to celebrate it when the largest number of parishioners can attend. We will welcome new parishioners, commission parish leadership, and recommit ourselves to the Christian ministry to which we are called.

At the center of the Feast of the Epiphany is the story of the Magi, the Wise Men from the East that came to see the Christ child and then returned to their homes with new information about God. The Epiphany is centered in the Nativity. In fact, in some cultures, January 6 is the primary celebration of the birth of Jesus. The Epiphany also points beyond the Bethlehem manger, to all points of the world, with a clear emphasis on the call to all believers to share the Christian faith with others, to be evangelists, to invite all seekers to come and see who Jesus is.

In the spirit of Epiphany evangelism, I invite you to invite others to come to The Church of the Epiphany on the Feast of the Epiphany. Invite people that you know well or those you've just met. Invite friends that you know are searching for more meaning in their lives or friends who just want to attend a wonderful celebration.

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Note: The deadline for submitting articles to the February *Parish Guide* Newsletter is Wednesday, January 17



Spirituality @ Work

A Series for Downtown Workers and Others Seeking to Make Connections Between God and Work

By Susan Walker, Program Associate

"Bidden or not bidden, God is present."
(Quotation hung over doorway to Carl Jung's home)

How would you describe your workplace? Busy, pressured, noisy, competitive? What about "spiritual"? Most people probably would not use that adjective because we don't naturally make the connection between "being spiritual" and being at work. And yet, we do long to integrate our faith values into our work life.

Gregory Pierce, author of *Spirituality @ Work, 10 Ways to Balance Your Life On-the-Job*, wants us to re-think how we understand spirituality and work. He writes, "*Authentic spirituality ... is as much about making hard choices in our daily lives, about working with others to make the world a better place, and about loving our neighbor and even our enemy, as it is about worship and prayer.*" Pierce uses common language and real stories from everyday life that show us ways to practice disciplines to help access the presence of God in the midst of the hustle and bustle of our day.

Beginning in January, Epiphany's **Faith Connections** program will offer a 5-week series for those who work downtown, as well as anyone who can take a break in their day to come and explore this topic. **We will meet in the church at 12:30, right after the noon Eucharist, for a 45-minute presentation and discussion based on chapters from the book *Spirituality @ Work*.**

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Parishioner News

We welcome these persons into the life of our parish:

“All praise and thanks to you, most merciful Father, for adopting us as your children, for incorporating us into your holy Church, and for making us worthy to share in the inheritance of the saints in light.”

Stella Ruth, daughter born on January 1, 2007 to Joe Hensley and Sarah White
Ben and Laura Nussbaum
Doris Gibson
Beverly Mitchell
Brad Carpenter
Pat Jefferson

We remember those who have died

“Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servants.”
Minnie Vasallo, mother of Karina Vassallo, who died November 29, 2006
Marelyn Tank who died December 12, 2006
Aubrey Chandler, Nancy Chandler’s father who died December 21, 2006
Jan Pakas, Sarah Papazoglakis’ grandmother

We remember these persons in our prayers

For the members and family members of Epiphany who serve in troubled areas of the world, especially
Robert Curris and Keith Scoon;

For all who seek healing, especially: Ed Adams, Margaret Barge, Phil Converse, Theresa Davies, Floyd Godfrey, Bertha Harrison, Willie Hobgood, Linda Horrigan, Cornell Jackson, Jessie Kindley, William Person, Norwyn Rowe, Eric Steele, and Sara Ellen Swatt,

For Aaron, Anne Alexander, Jim Argodale, Beverly Bachemin, Adam Beattie, Winston Blackman, Robert Blaine, Wanda Brewer, Helen Burg, James Capen, Marian Cover, Elena Curris, Mary Dail, Brian Dillard, Mary Eager, Ken Ferber, Andrew Ferrill, Fred Gustafson, Denise Hammes, Kathryn Hardie, Elizabeth Henderson, Mike Henderson, Ed Henderson, Millicent, Bill and Willard Hutt, Jacqueline Jenson, Rick Knettel, George Kurtz, Marilyn Leseur, Luis Lopez, David Lyman, Mike Magee, Annie Maly, Frank Marlowe, Claudia McClannahan, MeShaun, Jeanette Michael, Adilia Moran, Bonnie Murphy, Hubert Nedd, John Prignano, Israel Rafalovich, Jesus Ramirez, Allene Robinson, Wanda Rucker, Todd Shaw, Leslie Smith, Jr., Walter Stumpf, Crystal Taylor, Raul Tovares, Ofelia Vitek, Maureen Waters, Dee Wertlein, Carmen Williams, Regina Williams, Tina Wu, Thelma, Evie, Erica, Chris, and Ainsley.

We celebrate these January Birthdays

Bernice Sawyer, Jane Schmidt, Michele Hutt, J Devry Boughner, Jamie Nelson, Mercedes Bautista, Laura Doster, Peter Tatchell, Jill Bezek, Carol Bove, Joan Bishop, Anita Lakari, Katy Chinworth, Ed Riley, Susie Lewis, Henry Allison, Matthew Rusten.

The monthly “Parishioner News” acknowledges the transitions in life, accomplishments of our members, and the times of celebration. Please tell us of your news by phoning the parish office or emailing us at info@epiphanydc.org.

Urban Missioner Log Share the Story

By the Rev. Anne-Marie Jeffery



A few weeks ago, I was at my cousin's wedding in New Orleans. My cousin and his bride are both New York, so this was a destination wedding of sorts. The good thing about that was that my relatives were all staying at the same hotel and had several chances to see each other instead of just at the reception. One morning, (I believe the morning that I had flown in), I sat down to breakfast, especially hungry after only having the small packet of pretzels that is served on planes these days. Already at the table were some aunts, uncles, and assorted cousins who said to me, "*Anne-Marie, that was an excellent article about the work your church is doing in the park. My Episcopal friend saw your picture and gave it to me.*" My Uncle Frank who lives right here in DC, looked up in surprise, "*How come you never told me about that?*" Aunt Sandra then said, "I wanted to give you a contribution, but I lent the article to Uncle Willie, and he lost it." Uncle Frank then chimed in, "*I would have sent you a contribution too, if you had told me.*"

I promised to send Aunt Sandra the information as well as Uncle Frank, but the question of why I had not told them began to haunt me. I guess one reason is that I felt that I might be seen as boasting – 'look at all the great work I am doing.' Also, I don't like asking my family for money. Some have a lot of money and are asked all the time by other family members. Others have very little money. So, I have some good reasons. But, then I got back to remembering that my family wanted to hear about what I was doing, and they wanted to give, without me even asking. Maybe I was letting my fears get in the way.

Do I think Street Church is important to do? Yes. Do I think Street Church touches the lives of volunteers and participants alike? Yes. Do I think other people need to hear the story? Yes, and not just the people I encounter while I am wearing my collar. So, this year when I send out my annual letter during the season of Epiphany (doing this gives you a whole extra 6 weeks for that holiday letter), I am going to share the story of what happens at Epiphany with my family and friends. I am going to tell them about the amazing experience of Street Church and all the other great ministries that we do at Epiphany.

Our stories at Epiphany are powerful and worth sharing – whether we ask for money or not, to not share them is to deprive our loved ones of hearing about something that might change their lives. It might connect them with something they are yearning for. Just tell the story. If they feel called to respond they will. That article about Street Church that came out in *Episcopal Life*, the national church's monthly paper, really touched a lot of the people who read it. I know because of all the notes I got telling me just that, and all the contributions. So, if you like what you do, see, and hear at The Church of the Epiphany, tell someone. If you found a great restaurant or a new store with the coolest clothes, wouldn't you share that? You wouldn't want friends and family to miss out. So, share the story – the story of the Epiphany community.

It's Our Time In History

By Tripp Jones, Leader, Renovation Ministry Team

Renovation Ministry Team Members: Jill Bezek, Randolph Charles, Mary Dail, David Downes, David Hamill, Tripp Jones, Pat Pickering, Ed Riley, and Gloria Said

January 6, 2007 will mark the 165th anniversary of the founding of this church. And you're wondering whether this is an article about history or about renovation. The answer is both. Shortly after their initial organizing meeting back in 1842, our forefathers and mothers in faith began the quest to acquire land and to build a church. It would be the mark of their legitimacy as a congregation. It would be a place where they could come to worship, to be educated, and to be nurtured, so in turn they could go out and spread the good news of Jesus Christ to the people of our little corner of Washington City. They went about their task with amazing fervor and swiftness, opening this house of worship within a year and a half of that initial meeting. Part of the task was accelerated by Louisa Harrison's generous gift of two lots on G Street. Despite the severe financial times (the effects of the Financial Panic of 1837 were still alive and well), the original trustees of The Church of the Epiphany risked it all. By signing their names to those founding documents, our church founders, just like the founders of our nation, pledged "their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor."

Regarding our present day renovation project, I've heard comments that people just aren't excited about it. People are worrying about how we can afford to renovate when we can't even meet our annual budget. Some people are concerned that, with this change or that one, Epiphany won't be the church that they once knew and loved. Looking at the big picture, however, I believe that the decision to renovate our buildings is not an option. It is indeed our turn to step up to the plate. It is our time in history to ensure that our physical facilities are safe, well maintained, and useful for our ministries.

If we learn anything from those that have gone before us in this place, it's that sometimes we just have to take a leap of faith and put our trust in God. Yes, we need to be fiscally responsible. But we also need to remember that we are descendents of thousands of faithful people who risked it all for

the church buildings we have today. We need to bring our buildings up to code. We need to make them accessible to all. We need to breathe new life into them. It is our obligation and also our privilege so that we and future generations will have a place to share the good news of God in Christ to downtown Washington.

The Renovation Ministry Team has submitted its final comments to our architects. Now we wait for the architects to come up with a final plan for the worship space and parish house. Once the Renovation Ministry Team and the Vestry have agreed on the master plan, we look forward to sharing it with the parish and the community. Perhaps we won't be able to do everything planned right away, but at least we will have a master plan that can guide us in the future. I hope that you will share our excitement in this venture of faith, as we begin yet another chapter in the history of this house of faith on G Street.

You Can Show Love (And It Won't Cost You a Thing)

By Eric Sheptock, Epiphany member

[This article is reprinted with the permission of its author. It originally appeared in the December 2006 issue of Street Sense, Washington's monthly newspaper that "aims to serve as a vehicle for elevating voices and public debate on issues relating to poverty while also creating economic opportunities for people who are experiencing homelessness in our community."]

It's that most wonderful time of the year. Christmas is coming. I hate to be the bearer of bad tidings, but for some, it's the most depressing time of the year. It can be a time during which they're reminded of what they don't have—whether it is money to buy lavish gifts or family to which to give them. Statistically, this is the time of year when most suicides occur.

However, there is good news. I personally can attest to the fact that there are many caring people out there.

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News from Eric Plutz at Princeton University

Greetings from Princeton University! I am thoroughly enjoying my time here – playing for the various services at the University Chapel, and running the two concert series. I was hopeful when I moved up here that eventually I would be able to help out at my alma mater – Westminster Choir College of Rider University (situated just four blocks away). Little did I know it would take just a few months! Starting in August of '05, I've been accompanying two of the top choirs at Westminster Choir College – the Westminster Choir (the elite choir of 32 voices) and the Westminster Symphonic Choir (the 200-voice chorus that sings with the New York Philharmonic and other orchestras). In addition I accompany the Masterwork Chorus, a large amateur chorus in northern New Jersey . I'm writing this in early December, and it's a busy time for me (and most church musicians!) – two of the choruses I accompany are preparing Handel's entire oratorio *Messiah* (one for NY Philharmonic performances at The Riverside Church, and the other for performances at Carnegie Hall). In addition, I will be playing the work at two sing-alongs: one at the University Chapel and one at Avery Fisher Hall in New York City (the building next to the Metropolitan Opera, and where the NY Philharmonic has its home.)

Additionally, this last summer I was able to accomplish a long-standing career goal of mine: I recorded my first commercially available CD. Entitled "Musique Héroïque," it highlights works that contain the words "Héroïque" or "Eroica" in their titles. Members of the Washington Symphonic Brass made the trip to the University Chapel to record one piece, and Phil Snedecor plays trumpet solo on two short tracks. This is the first SACD (Super Audio Compact Disc) that features the University Chapel organ. While it plays in all conventional CD players, when played in an SACD system, the sound is even more full of life and vitality.

The CD booklet contains thorough program notes (by Cathedral Choral Society Program Annotator

Margaret Shannon) and the specifications of the instrument. The recording is 74' 31" long and contains 6 works:

- March Héroïque by Sir Alfred Herbert Brewer
- March Héroïque de Jeanne d'Arc by Théodore Dubois
- Poème Héroïque by Marcel Dupré (with Members of the Washington Symphonic Brass)
- Sonata No 2, Op. 151, "Eroica" by Sir Charles Villiers Stanford
- Two movements from Musique Héroïque by Georg Philip Telemann (Phil Snedecor, trumpet; Alistair MacRae, cello; Eric Plutz, continuo organ)
- Sonata Eroica by Joseph Jongen

It is possible to purchase a copy of the CD through the web site of the recording label (Pro Organo). (The web site for the parent company of Pro Organo is www.zarex.com.) However, the structure of the contract dictated that I purchase a number of the CDs (at cost) and then sell them as I wish. So, it's better for me, financially, if interested purchasers buy them through me. Princeton University did assist me by partly funding the project, and I've made arrangements to sell the CDs through the University. Even though the checks are made out to the University, have no fear – I'm making the appropriate profit.

To purchase a CD, send a check for \$15 (made out to PRINCETON UNIVERSITY) to:

Eric Plutz, University Organist
The Chapel
Princeton University
Princeton, NJ 08544

Also, just so you know, the CDs are being sold for \$18.98 elsewhere!

I continue to miss everyone at Epiphany and send my well wishes. I would love to hear from you, and, if you have any questions, please contact me at eplutz@princeton.edu.

These topics will be addressed over the five weeks:

- 18 January** Why do you work?
Do you expect to find God at your work?
- 25 January** Living with imperfections *and* assuring quality
- 1 February** Solidarity and community at work
- 8 February** What is enough?
- 15 February** Balancing responsibilities
Social justice in the workplace

Come and join us for one or all five sessions. Find out if the topics speak to your work life. Although you do not have to read the book to attend, a limited number of copies of *Spirituality @ Work* will be available for \$10 each.

Rector's Journal Continued from Page 1

Invitational evangelism is simply about the inviting to come and see. What happens after the invitation is between God and the invitee. I look forward to a great parish celebration on January 7! See you then.

Fellowship and Light.

The parish staff is planning ministry for the new year and we want to be good stewards of time, effort, and energy. We want to make sure that the programs that we are planning are the ones that you want and need. Consequently, we will be checking with you to see if there is a committed core of at least 12 people who want to participate in a particular program before we complete our preparations. For example, the next **Fellowship and Light** is scheduled for **January 17 - February 14**; that's 5 sessions. If you would like to join us, please let us know.

Here's the schedule:

- 6:30 Light Supper
7:00 Evening Worship
7:30 Program
8:30 Home

We also would appreciate your input in regard to the topic. Here are three possibilities:

- A Short Study of the Gospel according to Luke
- Church Growth at Epiphany
- Spirituality@Work

Which one of these topics excites you the most? Let us know.

Leadership Workshop. On **January 12-13**, parish leaders will gather for the annual Leadership Workshop. On Friday night, the new vestry will focus on team building and the 2007 budget. Saturday morning, ministry team leaders and past wardens will join the vestry as we talk about church growth at Epiphany: what growth means to us, what excites us, reasons for growth, methods of growth, what we want to do, what we are called to do. We welcome input from you, the people of Epiphany. Please let us know your ideas and feelings about grow at Epiphany. **Here are the names of the 2007 Vestry: Jill Bezek (Senior Warden), Teresa Hobgood (Junior Warden), Nancy Augustine, Carolyn Bledsoe, Sandi Ingram, Tom Lawler, Jennifer McCarthy, Brenda Morris, Beatrice Moulton, Justin Navarro, Sara Papazoglakis, James Rogers, Duncan Stevens, Tanya Washington, Freeman Jelks (Treasurer), Randolph Charles (Rector).**

Diocesan Convention. **Diana Butler Bass** will deliver the keynote address at the 112th Diocesan Convention, which will be held at the Washington National Cathedral **January 26-27**. Of course, Diana is one of our own, an Epiphany parishioner, and we are included in several of her books. To read more in the *Washington Window* about Diana, the Diocesan Convention and the diocesan Committee on Urban Ministry, which I chair, go the following website: <http://www.edow.org/news/window/index.html> . Anyone may attend Diocesan Convention as a visitor.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	<p>1</p> <p>Church and Parish Office closed in observance of New Year's Day</p> <p>The Holy Name of Our Lord Jesus Christ</p>	<p>2</p> <p>12:00 Al-Anon 12:10 Tuesday Concert Series</p>	<p>3</p> <p>10:00-3:00 Labyrinth 10:00 Staff Meeting 12:00 AA 12:00 Al-Anon 12:10 Holy Eucharist</p>	<p>4</p> <p>12:00 SLAA 12:10 Holy Eucharist 7:15 Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>5</p> <p>12:00 AA 12:10 Holy Eucharist 1:15 Islamic Prayer Service</p>	<p>6</p>
<p>7 1st Sunday After the Epiphany: The Baptism of Our Lord Jesus Christ</p> <p>7:00 NA/AA 7:15 Welcome Table Bible Study 7:30 Welcome Table Choir Rehearsal 8:00 Welcome Table Eucharist 8:45 The Welcome Table 10:00 Epiphany GIG/Choir Rehearsal 10:45 Liturgical Leaders Meeting 11:00 Festival Eucharist/Godly Play 12:15 Epiphany Feast</p>	<p>8</p> <p>12:00 AA 12:10 Holy Eucharist 12:30 Contemplative Prayer</p>	<p>9</p> <p>12:00 Al-Anon 12:10 Tuesday Concert Series</p>	<p>10</p> <p>10:00-3:00 Labyrinth 10:00 Staff Meeting 12:00 AA 12:00 Al-Anon 12:10 Holy Eucharist</p>	<p>11</p> <p>12:00 SLAA 12:10 Holy Eucharist 7:15 Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>12</p> <p>12:00 AA 12:10 Holy Eucharist 1:15 Islamic Prayer Service 5:00-9:00 Vestry Leadership Retreat</p>	<p>13</p> <p>9:00 - 3:00 Vestry Leadership Retreat</p>
<p>14 The 2nd Sunday After the Epiphany</p> <p>7:00 NA/AA 7:15 Welcome Table Bible Study 7:30 Welcome Table Choir Rehearsal 8:00 Welcome Table Eucharist 8:45 The Welcome Table 10:00 Choir Rehearsal/Envelope Please 10:45 Liturgical Leaders Meeting 11:00 Holy Eucharist/Godly Play 12:15 Coffee Hour</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Church and Parish Office closed in observance of the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday</p>	<p>16</p> <p>12:00 Al-Anon 12:10 Tuesday Concert Series</p>	<p>17</p> <p>10:00-3:00 Labyrinth 10:00 Staff Meeting 12:00 AA 12:00 Al-Anon 12:10 Holy Eucharist</p>	<p>18 The Confession of St. Peter the Apostle</p> <p>12:00 SLAA 12:10 Holy Eucharist 12:30 Spirituality @ Work 7:15 Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Retreat to Wernersville, PA</p> <p>12:00 AA 12:10 Holy Eucharist 1:15 Islamic Prayer Service</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Retreat to Wernersville, PA</p>
<p>21 The 3rd Sunday After the Epiphany</p> <p>Retreat to Wernersville, PA</p> <p>7:00 NA/AA 7:15 Welcome Table Bible Study 7:30 Welcome Table Choir Rehearsal 8:00 Welcome Table Eucharist 8:45 The Welcome Table 10:00 Choir Rehearsal/Getting Ready 10:45 Liturgical Leaders Meeting 11:00 Holy Eucharist/Godly Play 12:15 Coffee Hour 12:30 OPALS Pot Luck Lunch</p>	<p>22</p> <p>12:00 AA 12:10 Holy Eucharist 12:30 Contemplative Prayer 6:00 Vestry Meeting</p>	<p>23</p> <p>12:00 Al-Anon 12:10 Tuesday Concert Series</p>	<p>24</p> <p>10:00-3:00 Labyrinth 10:00 Staff Meeting 12:00 AA 12:00 Al-Anon 12:10 Holy Eucharist</p>	<p>25</p> <p>All Day The Conversion of St. Paul the Apostle</p> <p>12:00 SLAA 12:10 Holy Eucharist 12:30 Spirituality @ Work 7:15 Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>26</p> <p>12:00 AA 12:10 Holy Eucharist 1:15 Islamic Prayer Service</p>	<p>27</p>
<p>28 The 4th Sunday After the Epiphany</p> <p>7:00 NA/AA 7:15 Welcome Table Bible Study 7:30 Welcome Table Choir Rehearsal 8:00 Welcome Table Eucharist 8:45 The Welcome Table 10:00 Choir Rehearsal/Getting Ready 10:45 Liturgical Leaders Meeting 11:00 Holy Eucharist/Godly Play 12:15 Coffee Hour</p>	<p>29</p> <p>12:00 AA 12:10 Holy Eucharist 12:30 Contemplative Prayer</p>	<p>30</p> <p>12:00 Al-Anon 12:10 Tuesday Concert Series</p>	<p>31</p> <p>10:00-3:00 Labyrinth 10:00 Staff Meeting 12:00 AA 12:00 Al-Anon 12:10 Holy Eucharist</p>			

You Can Show Love, Continued from page 4

Last year, I received so many gifts that I began to tell people if it wasn't money, then I didn't want it—money is small, and I only had a limited amount of storage space. This, however, is indicative of just how generous people can be.

I know I shouldn't complain about what people do for me (which means I'm about to!), but I received enough personal hygienic care kits (things like shampoo, soap and toothbrushes) to last me two years—no exaggeration. I ate so much that, if I could gain weight, I would've gained about 50 lbs. These are the two most redundant types of gifts. Those who've been giving these things should continue to do so (lest we end up with the opposite problem of not having enough food or personal care kits). However, we don't need any additional people doing the same things.

There are plenty of other things homeless people need. Just think in terms of getting them to work: They can use work boots, public transportation tickets, hard hats, lunch boxes and much, much more. Then there are the simple, inexpensive gifts that we forget about all too often like a hug, a kiss and a word of love and encouragement. So, if you are just getting by, and can't afford to buy a gift for someone less fortunate than yourself, you can show love (and it won't cost you a thing—except a few seconds of your time).

So, this holiday season let's give plenty of good cheer. Let's put away hatred (not just for the holidays). Most of all, let's not forget about those inexpensive but priceless gifts of love and encouragement.

Eric Sheptock lives at the Franklin School Shelter in downtown D.C. He serves as a spokesperson for the Committee to Save Franklin Shelter, and he is a member of The Church of the Epiphany.

The Rev. Randolph Charles, Rector

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