



Parish Guide

Newsletter of The Church of the Epiphany
Washington, DC

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Rector's Journal

By the Rev. Randolph Charles



Called to Grow? Maybe. I

Addressed the issue of church growth in my sermon on January 7 at The Feast of the Epiphany liturgies. If you weren't in church to hear it, I hope that you will read it. I also hope that you will talk and pray about the possibility of church growth at Epiphany. What does it mean to you? What is God's dream for us? With whom are we called to minister and how many ministries are we called to offer? The parish leadership has spent a lot of time considering the issue of church growth. The vestry will be focusing on it at our monthly meetings throughout the year of 2007, and we want to know how you feel and what you believe about church growth at Epiphany.

What I Believe. I believe that numerical growth and spiritual growth are always linked. I believe that the Gospel and church growth are always linked. I believe that God provides the growth and that we believers are called to do the planting and watering, to be the hands and heart of Christ in this world, to be the instruments of God's peace. I believe that discerning a call to grow requires that we analyze the nature and number of physical resources, that we listen to the needs of the people, and that we share with God through prayer our hopes and fears. I also believe that discerning a call to grow involves an individual internal passion, a shared sense of support and vision within the congregation, and a deep trust that God will guide and love us every step of the way. I believe that church growth includes ministry, membership, and money.

Transforming Congregational Culture. Sunday, February 4, 10:00am and 11:00am. *Transforming Congregational Culture* is the name of one of Anthony Robinson's books about faith communities. We studied it in the fall of 2005. Tony will be in Washington to lead a training day about urban ministry on February 3. He will be here at Epiphany

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Note: The deadline for submitting articles to the March Parish Guide Newsletter is Wednesday, February 21

Happy Anniversary Parish Guide! 130 Years of Sharing Epiphany's Story

By Tripp Jones Parish Archivist

"This little monthly publication will help the rector in engaging the interest of his people in their own Parish work and Parish life." With these words in February 1877, Epiphany's fifth rector, William Paret, began the publication of a parish newsletter which he named the *Parish Guide*. It began as a monthly news bulletin. Typically it was 8-10 pages in length and was mailed to all members for no charge. Voluntary subscriptions of \$1 per year were welcomed.

Paret began the *Guide* only four months after his arrival here as rector. He was known for his administrative talents and he saw in the *Guide* a personal medium to communicate with a growing parish and inform members of the many activities at Epiphany and the Episcopal Church in general. Paret would eventually leave Epiphany to become Bishop of Maryland, a post he held for the rest of his life.

Within ten years of its founding, 800 copies of the *Parish Guide* were being sent out to parishioners at an annual cost to the church of \$55. A decade later in 1895, the number of copies had soared to 1225. About this time, outside advertising first appeared and filled 2-3 pages at the back of the *Guide*. Mrs. M.J. Hunt's Fine Millinery Shop on F Street advertised a "choice line of the very latest importations of bonnets and hats from leading Paris and London houses." Frederick Gheen's Brighton Market on Pennsylvania Ave. sold "oysters, game in season."

In 1904, seventh rector Randolph McKim made his associate, John D. LaMothe, editor of the *Parish Guide* and the bulletin lost the rector's personal touch of previous years. When James Freeman became rector in 1921, he made more use of the *Parish Guide* as a medium of personal communication. The format was smaller and advertising was discontinued. Eventually the *Guide* became a weekly bulletin and pew sheet as opposed to a monthly newsletter. Upon his arrival in 1954, rector Charles Kean separated the *Parish Guide* from its dual character and made it a small weekly parish paper. It contained news about parish activities and the rector's sermon of the preceding Sunday.

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Parishioner News

We celebrate these new beginnings and accomplishments:

“Let us give thanks to God for all God’s gifts so freely bestowed upon us.”

Don Lokerson’s retirement from Goddard Space Flight Center, Greenbelt NASA where he served from June, 1962 until January 3, 2007 (45 years) as an Aerospace Systems Engineer.

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.”

Cyndy Reece, Ann Gordon, John Gaskins, Richard Kress, Kitty Ganier, Karen Rowe, Olivia Gray, Barbara Ford-Foster, Mildred Millien-Guadalupe, Rick Guadalupe, Andrew Marshall and Ann Smith Marshall

We remember those who have died

“Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servants.”

Willie Hobgood, who died January 12, 2007

We remember these persons in our prayers

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

All who seek healing, especially: Ed Adams, Margaret Barge, Phil Converse, Theresa Davies, Floyd Godfrey, Bertha Harrison, Linda Horrigan, Cornell Jackson, William Person, Norwyn Rowe, Sara Ellen Swatt, and Jerry White;

Aaron, Jim Argodale, Beverly Bachemin, Adam Beattie, Winston Blackman, Robert Blaine, Oswald Bowen, Wanda Brewer, Helen Burg, James Capen, Marian Cover, Elena Curriss, Mary Dail, Brian Dillard, Genevieve Duvall, Mary Eager, Ken Ferber, Andrew Ferrill, Alan Greene, Fred Gustafson, Kathryn Hardie, Elizabeth Henderson, Mike Henderson, Ed Henderson, Millicent and Bill Hutt, Jacqueline Jenson, Rick Knettel, Joy Kraus, George Kurtz, Marilyn Leseur, David Lyman, Annie Maly, Frank Marlowe, Claudia McClannahan, MeShaun, Adilia Moran, Bonnie Murphy, Hubert Nedd, John Prignano, Israel Rafalovich, Jesus Ramirez, Allene Robinson, Wanda Rucker, Leslie Smith, Jr., Walter Stumpf, Magdolna Szuprics, Crystal Taylor, Kate Thaxton, Ofelia Vitek, Maureen Waters, Dee Wertlein, Regina Williams, Emma Wojcuilewicz, Tina Wu, Thelma, Evie, Erica, Chris, Ainsley, and those on the Narthex Prayer List.

We celebrate these February Birthdays

Ron Shafer, February 1; Dan Schoeps, February 2; Renee Brathwaite, February 4; Gracie Smoot, February 5; Beatrice Moulton and Lee Murphy, February 8; Jeffrey Howard, February 11; Marsha Shinkman, February 13; Thelma Smith and Richard Warren, February 15; Randolph Charles, February 17; Diana Butler-Bass, February 19; Scott Jones, February 21; Jennifer McCarthy, February 24; Dante Brathwaite, February 25; Mano Govindaraj and Richard Kress, February 26; Ed McGovern and Deb Price, February 27; Christina Raia, February 29.

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.

Celebrate Buxtehude

By Christian M. Clough, Director of Music Ministries

At church on 14 January, I played Dieterich Buxtehude's fantasia on the chorale *Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern* (a.k.a. "How bright appears the Morning Star") for the prelude and postlude. For many years, I had wanted to play this piece for church, because it is wonderful music, and because it is based on a very familiar hymn tune, but it is really too long for a postlude, and even, perhaps, for a prelude (if one wants people to hear it in its entirety). This year, my stubbornness finally paid off, and I discovered that I could divide the piece into two sections, thus framing the liturgy with the two halves. After the 11 AM service that morning, several people commented favorably on the organ music, and one individual asked for more offerings of music by Buxtehude.



On 19 January, the *New York Times* ran an article about Buxtehude: "Organ Fanfare for Buxtehude. Who?", suggesting that he, one of the most influential composers in the history of music for church and organ, is not at all well known. This is a shame, since Buxtehude is important, not simply as a source of inspiration for the young genius Bach, but because his own compositions are so fresh, lively, expressive and charming. Dieterich Buxtehude's date and place of birth are both unknown. The best scholarship suggests that he was probably born in 1637 in Helsingborg, in what is now Sweden (then, it was in the Kingdom of Denmark). His father, Johannes, was an organist of German heritage, and his mother may have been Danish. As a young child, he moved with his family to Helsingør in Denmark. Little is known of his years of apprenticeship, but in 1657 or 1658, around the age of 20, Dieterich assumed the position of organist at St. Mary's Church in Helsingborg, where his father had worked some years before. He followed this position with an appointment, in 1660, to St. Mary's, Helsingør, his boyhood hometown. In 1668, he became organist of St. Mary's in Lübeck, one of the great Hanseatic city-states. He held this post until his death on 9 May 1707.

Buxtehude's keyboard music represents the full flowering the North German style, but also reveals Danish, French and even Italian influences. (It may be surprising that, in days when long-distance travel was so slow and arduous, musical styles would have traveled so far, but musicians then were as curious as they are today about innovations and musical 'exotica'; new ideas would have been carried across Europe in much the same way that people exchange music in our time.) His 'free works' for organ, including the preludes and fugues, were the most influential part of his repertoire, and Bach and others would have studied and copied these works to learn Buxtehude's compositional techniques. His chorale preludes, of which there are about three dozen, were the first mature expression of this genre, and were, likewise, trendsetters. Buxtehude's choral and vocal music, including more than one hundred works, are much less well-known today. The remainder of his compositional output includes various works for organ and other keyboard instruments, and sonatas for small ensembles.

This year, when commemorations of the three-hundredth anniversary of Buxtehude's death happen too quietly in comparison to anniversaries for the likes of Bach and Mozart, I plan to program a respectful helping of his music. In 1705, a twenty-year-old Johann Sebastian Bach walked about 280 miles to Lübeck from Arnstadt to hear the old master. He stayed away for four months (much longer than his employers had agreed to!), suggesting that there was much to learn from the aging Dieterich. It is a joy to be able to enjoy Herr Buxtehude's music on its own, and not just as an appetizer for Bach's masterworks. I hope that you, too, will take pleasure from this homage.

post-script – If you happen to be in New York City on any of the following Saturdays, you might consider attending one of Organist John Scott's Buxtehude recitals at St. Thomas Church, Fifth Avenue at 53rd Street: Feb. 3, 10, 17 and 24; March 31; April 28; and May 12, 19 and 26. All programs begin at 4 PM. The especially curious might refer to: Kerala J. Snyder's biography, *Dieterich Buxtehude: Organist in Lübeck*, published in 1987 by Schirmer Books (and available through D.C.'s *MLK Public Library*).

the following day, February 4, to lead a discussion about congregational transformation at the 10:00 Forum in the Willard Room, and he will preach at the 11:00 Eucharist.

What I Believe. I believe that Epiphany is an evolving faith community, and the more wisdom we collect about how congregations develop, the better equipped we will be to discern God's will for us. I encourage all of you, both long-time members and curious seekers, to come learn from Tony Robinson. For more information about Tony, check out his website:
<http://www.anthonbrobinson.com/>

Mardi Gras: Tuesday, February 20, 6:00-8:30pm.

Don't miss this year's Mardi Gras celebration at Epiphany. There will be great food, live music, dancing in the streets (really!), wild costumes and not-so-wild dress, and a king or queen of the night. Invite your co-workers, friends, and family. There is a charge of \$10 per adult and \$4 per child to cover expenses. Make your reservation by calling the parish office (202-347-2635) and letting us know how many will be in your party. Here is the schedule:

- 6:00 Music and Dancing
- 6:30 N'awlins Dinner
- 7:00 Royal Coronation
- 7:15 Street Procession
- 7:30 Ashes from Palms
- 7:45 More Dancing
- 8:30 Good Night!

What I Believe. I believe that a healthy parish has fun together. I believe that laughter is meant to be shared and that dancing is a good thing. I believe that there is something very special, even sacred, about sitting down at table with people that you love and people you just met, to share a great meal, to break bread and drink a glass of wine and be with others as friends.

Ash Wednesday: February 21. "I invite you to the observance of a holy Lent..." Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 21 with Holy Eucharist and Imposition of Ashes at 8:00am, 12:10pm, and 6:00pm here at Epiphany. I encourage all of you, wherever you are, to participate in corporate worship on this holy day. There will be choir and organ at the midday and evening liturgies.

What I Believe. I believe that we humans sin; everyday, we sin. And we have a deep need to confess our sins, to say to God and to those we have offended that we are sorry, and that we will try to change our ways. We also have a deep need to be forgiven, and to forgive. That's why the congregation on Ash Wednesday is one of the largest all year. Often, however, we just can't find the courage to move through the entire process of confession and forgiveness. We feel like a failure; it's so embarrassing; it's so messy. But Ash Wednesday is an

annual reminder to the church that, at the center of our relationship with God, and also with other humans, is our willingness to confess our sins and to ask for forgiveness.

Lenten GIG: Sunday, February 25, 10:00am. A GIG (God Is Good) is a time when parishioners of all ages, sizes, and types come together to celebrate or observe a certain seasonal event in the liturgical calendar. The Lenten GIG takes place in the Willard Room at 10:00am on the First Sunday in Lent. It will be a time for us to be intentional about our "observance of a holy Lent," a time for us to consider how we might best use this season to move deeper into our relationship with God.

What I Believe. I believe that one of the benefits of membership in a faith community is holding each other accountable in our spiritual journeys. I also believe that parish events that include the greatest mix of members tend to produce the most lasting results. I have really missed the wisdom of children and youth at our GIGs. I hope we can find a way at Epiphany to include children and youth in more of our activities.

Ministry Fair: Sunday, February 25, 12:15pm. At the recent Leadership Retreat, one of the primary commitments was to educate the parish about our ministries and to develop ministries that meet the needs of the members of the Epiphany Community. The vestry is planning a Ministry Fair to take place during Coffee Hour on February 25. Representatives from all the ministry teams will be in the parish hall to share with parishioners information about the ministries for which they are responsible.

What I Believe. I believe that all baptized Christians are called to do ministry, and participating in Christian ministry is one way of proclaiming our faith. I believe that most ministry takes place in the world beyond parish walls, but congregations can be effective training grounds for ministry in the world. The more we know about the possible ministries in which we could participate, the easier it is to discern which ministries God is calling us to join.

Community Course: March 11, 18, 25. For 3 consecutive Sundays in March, we will offer a Community Course, from 12:45 to 2:00pm, in the Willard Room. The purpose of the Community Course is to help build community at Epiphany by learning more about our parish, talking about our faith practices, and exploring the role of covenant. Everyone is invited to the Community Course. It would be good if you could attend all 3 classes, but if you can't, come to as many as possible.

What I Believe. I believe that one of the most important activities of a faith community is Christian formation. Here at Epiphany, we offer various formation events. In February, the vestry will be asking you what you most need and want in regard to formation and educational programs. Please let us know. Whether we are new to the faith or have been life-long believers, we all have a need to grow.

January Vestry Report

By the Rev. Randolph Charles

The vestry, ministry team leaders, and past wardens of Epiphany met on January 12-13 for a Leadership Retreat. We talked about church growth at Epiphany – its meaning, strengths and concerns. We discussed growth in ministry, membership, and money, and we decided to dedicate the current year to the consideration of significant growth at Epiphany. We want to determine which programs work, discover what people need, and discern what God is calling us to do. Listed below are the plans resulting from the Leadership Retreat; as each item is discussed at vestry meetings, it will be noted and the people responsible for taking action will be stated.

1. Leadership: Coordination and accountability

- a. Planning calendar: Discussed at January meeting – Nancy, Randolph
- b. Leadership listserv: Discussed at January meeting – Randolph
- c. Regular reports from ministry teams: Discussed at January meeting – Ministry team leaders
- d. Monthly vestry meeting reports to parish: Discussed at January meeting – Jill, Teresa, Randolph
- e. Vestry meeting discussions in 2007 dedicated to growth in membership, ministry, and money
- f. Vestry committed to set milestones, evaluate progress, and change plans as needed
- g. Communication to parish of the vestry's commitment to growth

2. Membership: More members and more participation

- a. Vestry greeters at Coffee Hour: Discussed at January meeting – Vestry
- b. Ministries that attract and retain members

3. Ministry: Needs-based ministries with more lay leadership and participation

- a. Ministry article and survey to determine members' needs and the combination of ministries that would best respond to those needs: Discussed at January meeting – Tanya, Justin
- b. Ministry Fair: Discussed at January meeting – Vestry, ministry team leaders

- c. Ministries that encourage members to do things that move them closer to God

4. Money: Budget income of \$873,800

- a. Pledges
- b. Offerings, grants, sponsorships, fundraisers
- c. Public statement of financial needs and offerings to the community 501(c)(3)
- d. Part-time grants writer: Discussed at January meeting – Randolph
- e. Full-time resource developer

*Happy Anniversary Parish Guide
continued from page 1*

Today, Program Associate Susan Walker is the designated staff person who faithfully gathers *Guide* articles around the middle of each month for the following month's edition. Please note that Susan (swalker@epiphanydc.org) would love to hear from you if you have any suggestions for stories or how the *Guide* could be improved.

Accumulated articles are sent to an outside formatter, Sandi Crawford. With several trips back and forth via e-mail, the draft is reviewed by Susan and rector Randolph Charles. Parish Administrator Mary Dail then reproduces the finished copy and office volunteers put the newsletter together, attach address labels, and prepare it for mailing. A little over 250 copies of the *Guide* are sent out with first class postage to parishioners and newcomers and are hopefully in mailboxes before the first Sunday of the month. Approximately 300 copies of the *Guide* are sent bulk rate to weekday associates and Epiphany friends.

Though it has changed in appearance and frequency over the past 130 years, Epiphany's *Parish Guide* remains today the chief instrument of conveying details about the parish's life and work. As you read this copy of the *Guide*, I hope you pause to reflect and give thanks for all the hands that went in to making it happen. With this 130th Anniversary issue, we especially give thanks to William Paret, who back in 1877 gave us a means by which we can know the latest news from 1317 G Street and beyond.



Urban Missioner Log – The Downtown Services Center Closes

By The Rev. Anne-Marie Jeffery

If someone were to stop me and ask what issue with the downtown poor was I most concerned about at the moment, I would say the closing of the Downtown Services Center at 945 G Street NW. This center not only served meals, but was a place to find a case worker, get medical and legal help, do laundry, take a shower, and find out what other services were available. It was the place that the Epiphany staff and volunteers would send most people when they came looking for help during the week. The other purpose it served was that it was a place to go and keep warm, since it was open from 8 am until about 1:30 pm.

Some of the services that were at the center have found a new home. The Breakfast program and some of the associated support services are now at First Trinity Lutheran Church, on 4th and E Streets, NW. However, there is much less space for the program, and unless you have signed up for one of the services, you cannot remain when breakfast ends at 9:30 am. This leaves people out in the cold.

Now there are many programs for the homeless during the day, but the closing of the Downtown Center leaves a significant gap. There are several breakfast programs available, but they all end in the morning. For example, Miriam's kitchen opens at 6:30 am and you can stay after breakfast ends at 8 for case management services or the After-Breakfast Program (art, poetry, and creative writing) which ends at 9:45 am. After that you could head over to So Others Might Eat (SOME) at 71 O Street for lunch beginning at 11:30 am.

What do you do for 1 hour and 45 minutes between 9:45 and 11:30 am, especially if it is extremely cold? What do you do if you can't walk that far to get to SOME from your shelter? Libraries and other public spaces are an option, but not if you have a lot of bags, and most businesses will clear the homeless out of their public spaces. The homeless gather in the downtown area because there are people there and warm spots. The homeless are going to stay downtown whether the services are there or not. The closing of the Downtown Service center is leaving a big gap.

The Downtown Services Center is closing for a good reason. First Congregational Church, in which the center was located, will be going through a major renovation. The renovation includes better facilities for the Downtown Services Center, as well as added floors for Urban Ministry. However, it will take about two years to complete. The Downtown Business Improvement

District, that runs the Downtown Services Center, has been looking for alternate spaces for the programs for quite some time, and are continuing to try and find a solution. The problem is that the solution is taking some time, and it is cold. The homeless need somewhere to go now. We at Epiphany are looking at various solutions to help the downtown poor through this time, and I am hoping we can work with other churches and community members to find a temporary or permanent solution. The Center served 400 people every day. That is a lot of people wandering around looking for a place to go. I pray and hope that a solution is found very soon.

What is Samaritan Ministry?

Samaritan Ministry of Greater Washington brings together homeless people and others in need, with support and volunteers from over 45 Episcopal and other churches, in a joint effort to improve the lives of everybody involved. Epiphany has been a Partner Parish of Samaritan Ministry since 1995.

Samaritan Ministry's approach is called *Next Steps*, a unique self-help program that promotes change, dignity and self-reliance in people who are in need. Program participants meet with caseworkers to set personal goals, and then break them down so they can be pursued one step at a time. Goals usually involve employment, housing, family life and/or recovery from an illness or addiction. Additionally, Samaritan Ministry's *Next Step* Program also provides HIV/AIDS services.

With financial support from Partner Parishes, individual donations, grants, contracts, and special events, Samaritan Ministry helps over 300 homeless or otherwise disadvantaged people each month to improve their lives. On average, three of every four *Next Steps* are started and finished. In 2006, Samaritan Ministry's three office helped participants during 4,535 visits by over 1,000 participants. Each month, 15 to 20 people find jobs with the help of Samaritan Ministry. Epiphany generously pledges \$1,900 each year to Samaritan Ministry from our operating budget.

Volunteers are at the heart of Samaritan Ministry's program. Many serve on a regular basis as part-time staff members, usually one morning a week, as front office coordinators, resume writers, workshop leaders, and caseworkers. Others serve on committees or get involved with one-day work projects. We'll learn more about these possibilities next month.

For more information, contact our parish's Samaritan Ministry Representative Susan Weinbeck. You can also contact Samaritan Ministry directly at 202-722-2280 or by email at info@samaritanministry.org. Their website is www.samaritanministry.org.

Dreams and Journeys

Our lives are filled with dreams and journeys.

By the Rev. Randolph Charles

The Wise Men, the Magi, had dreams and made journeys. They were probably Zoroastrian priests who enjoyed significant power and societal respect. They were astrologers who were skilled at interpreting dreams. Their journey from Persia to Bethlehem was long and difficult. The distance was around 1200 miles and could have easily taken 12 months to travel.

And yet, without much more than a dream, a hunch, a notion, a vision, the Magi set out on a journey to cross the desert wilderness, to follow a star, to find God. And after having knelt down in the presence of the Christ child, they praised God with their gifts and went away.

Then, in a dream, a spirit told them to go home by another road, to avoid the evil Herod, to travel safely, to go with God. And they did.

We are visited with dreams all the time, both in our sleep and in our waking hours. The challenge is catching the dreams, choosing to receive the dreams into our consciousness. Carl Jung considered the analysis of dreams to be the key to understanding the fullness of a person; they are healing messages to oneself. John Sanford calls dreams “God’s forgotten language”; they are one way that God speaks to us.

We also take journeys all the time. Whether it be a trip to the grocery store, or the beginning of a new relationship, or making a career change, or seeking God in a new way, we participate in all types of journeys. The challenge is deciding to take the first step, determining the pace of the trip, selecting the best time and place to rest, and choosing which direction to take at a fork in the road.

I have a dream for this parish, my brothers and sisters in Christ! And it’s a big dream! Here’s my dream. In 3 years, by January 6, 2010, we will have grown from 350 to 500 parishioners. In 3 years, by January 6, 2010, we will have increased our operating budget from \$850,000 to \$1,000,000. In 5 years, by January 6, 2012, we will have raised \$5,000,000 and completed the renovation of our church building and parish house.

But here are the questions: is it our dream? is it God’s dream? and will we be so committed to and so inspired by the dream, that we are thrilled to step out on a journey that will take us to places that none of us here have ever experienced?

Let me explain. 165 years ago, The Church of the Epiphany was founded. On January 6, 1842, several people met in a nearby home to consider establishing an Episcopal church for all the people in this part of Washington. Epiphany’s founders were evangelists. They wanted to reach out to all types of people. They wanted to proclaim the light of Christ in downtown

Washington. Their first rector was called a city missionary.

Our new parish grew rapidly. Land was donated and a church was built. On July 7, 1844, the people of Epiphany began worshiping in this very structure. In 1857, there were so many worshipers that the church needed to be enlarged; transepts, balconies, and a chancel were added.

In 1865, a Sunday School building was constructed; it is now the parish hall. Many significant ministries were established, including the Lenthall Home for Widows, and the Epiphany Mission and Chapel at 12th and C, SW. By the turn of the century, Epiphany had more than 2,000 parishioners and was the second largest Episcopal church in the country. Only Trinity, Wall Street, in New York City was bigger.

That was the high point for numerical church growth at Epiphany, but for decades, Epiphany continued to play a primary role in both the Diocese and the Episcopal Church, in both the city of Washington and the nation. During the 20th century, Epiphany slowly shrank in size, but our parish was always a shining beacon of faith in the nation’s capital. With more and more citizens moving to the suburbs, throughout times of violence and unrest, Epiphany remained faithful to its call to minister in the city.

In the early 1990s, the parish realized that its financial situation was critical. There was even talk of merging with other congregations. But the faithful remnant of Epiphany stood strong. Significant cuts were made in staff and program, and the vestry committed itself to a balanced budget and to congregational health. We decided to live. We felt called by God to continue to minister courageously as an inclusive faith community in downtown Washington and to proclaim boldly the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Over the next 10 years, Epiphany increased its endowment from \$300,000 to over \$1,000,000, grew from 200 to 350 parishioners, created and developed ministries, expanded lay leadership and staff, reclaimed a strong sense of mission, and discerned its call to minister with downtown poor, downtown workers, and a diverse congregation. Over the past 2 years, our ministries have continued to expand, even though our numbers have not.

So when we talk about numerical growth now, our motivation is not out of some fear of financial collapse, and it’s not because of some suggestion that we might be failing. We could return to the rhythm of 2 years ago and be just fine. We would need to reduce staff and ministries a bit, but Epiphany would still be an amazingly vital urban congregation.

When we dream now about journeying towards numerical growth, we are talking about growth that flows from mission, ministry, and call; we are talking about faith; we are talking about evangelism; we are talking about the primary founding principle of our parish.

For us to dream about significant membership and financial growth now, when our parish is relatively healthy, when we are not worried about survival, we are doing something that hasn't been done at Epiphany for over a century. Imagine that. Envision that. No wonder it feels like new territory to us. We would have to go back 5 generations of parishioners just to hear the stories.

Since 1900, the people of Epiphany have faithfully ministered both prophetically and pastorally in extraordinary and countless ways. But, for lots of reasons, the degree of Gospel-based growth that took place in the late 1800's has not been repeated.

Maybe, now is the time for us to dream the dream of our founders. Maybe, now is the time for us to journey in their footsteps.

Epiphany – the word, the concept, the meaning, the biblical narrative – is all about God revealing the truth of God to us humans, and our sharing that God-truth with the world. We are called to journey together in faith and to reveal the presence of Christ in the world.

The people of Washington are yearning for epiphanies. They need epiphanies. They are looking for ways to make sense of a confusing and threatening world. They are seeking deeper connections to each other and to God. They are praying for peace and love and justice. They want to be reassured that God is here, with them.

Epiphany has a mission to the people of Washington; we have always had a sacred mission to the people of Washington. Here at Epiphany, we touch the pain of the world and celebrate the beauty of the human spirit. Here at Epiphany, residents of Franklin Shelter and upper NW can meet and build friendships. Here at Epiphany, we make both music and sandwiches as we respond to the various hungers of humanity. Here at Epiphany, we eat at God's table and we eat at The Welcome Table. Here at Epiphany, we can dream big dreams; we can let our spirits soar and open up our souls to the mystery and wonder of God. Here at Epiphany, we can walk the walk; we can journey in the way of Jesus; we can share the love of Christ with each other and our neighbors.

And the reason that we dream and journey in faith is to let the light of Christ shine in downtown Washington and in the world, to let the light of Christ shine through us, to proclaim to everyone God's love for us all.

Amen.

I feel like singing! Would you stand and join me in singing *This little Light of mine?*

Leadership Retreat: Learnings about Growth and Ministry at Epiphany

By Justin Navarro and Tanya Washington, Vestry Members

The weekend of January 12-13, the vestry and other ministry leaders gathered together to discuss, broadly, the future of Epiphany and more narrowly, what we wanted to do with this new year before us. A common theme, without anyone vocalizing it quite as such, was how do we make these "new years resolutions" stick better than the typical resolutions to diet, get organized, start a scrapbook, etc.

Throughout the follow-up meeting, vestry members came again and again to the theme of "what do we do" with respect to a number of issues that we continually grapple with on a regular basis. One of those issues is attendance to different events sponsored by the church. There are a myriad different opportunities (Envelope Please, Getting Ready, Fellowship & Light, to name a few) available to all of us and while many new programs start off strong, they often taper off after a few weeks to a small core group.

What we eventually started to realize after much spirited discussion is that perhaps instead of trying to create different educationally and spiritually enriching activities that will, as the saying goes, 'stick, after we fling them at the wall', perhaps we should turn to the parish and see what needs are not being met.

Therefore, in the coming weeks, you will be seeing a number of different venues in which you will get to express what you want – the types of events, the location of events, the format of events, everything possible – so that the vestry and the lay leadership can try to offer programs and activities that will meet the needs of as many parishioners as possible. So, keep your eyes open!

The mission statement of the Education Ministry

Team: "We are called to equip saints of all ages for worship and ministry by telling the story of our faith, by teaching Scripture and the tradition of the church, and by addressing the issues of our culture."

An opportunity to tell us what you want!

On February 11, we will celebrate Theological Education Sunday, an occasion to focus on how we are all called to be active participants in our search for knowledge of God. How can Epiphany meet your needs for spiritual growth and a deeper knowledge of the faith? What works for you?

Come to the Willard Room at 10am and tell us your ideas. Epiphany wants to offer programs that are relevant to your lives, structures that are manageable, and time frames that allow for more people to attend. Tell us what you want and we will do our best to provide that! See you on February 11!

A Lenten Journey Guided by our *Inner Compass*

By Susan Walker, Program Associate

The season of Lent is marked by forty days during which we journey with Jesus Christ, through Holy Week to the Day of the Resurrection. Traditionally, Lent is also time to travel spiritually into our own *deeper selves* and into our *deepening relationship with God through prayer and reflection on our lives*.

This Lent, we will commence our travel with the help of the book *Inner Compass, An Invitation to Ignatian Spirituality* by Margaret Silf. What is Ignatian spirituality and why is it important to us today?

Ignatius of Loyola, a 16th century Basque founded the Society of Jesus (Jesuits). He was a man whose cultural and social world differed from our own, yet his basic teachings of spirituality cross over the centuries and are very relevant to our lives today. Some of the characteristics of his teachings are:

- It is an active spirituality designed for busy people
- It is a world affirming spirituality. It encourages us to “find God in all things.”
- It offers us ways to understand the complexities of our world by pointing us to our feelings, imaginations, and desires as places of prayer.
- It is a very “earthly” spirituality!

As a trained Ignatian spiritual director and author of numerous books on prayer and spirituality, Margaret Silf repeatedly makes the connections between prayer and our ordinary, daily routines. Each chapter in her book contains experiences from her own life that help us understand the particular ways Ignatian prayer practices can draw us closer to God and to God’s will for our lives.

As part of the overall programming for the season of Lent, this series will also tie into our March 23-24 retreat at the Cathedral College, when we will explore Ignatian prayer with a guest retreat leader.

Our series begins Wednesday evening, February 28 at 6:30 pm. At each session we will study a chapter on some practice of Ignatian prayer, and then follow the suggestions for trying it out. We will talk about how we experienced the prayer practice. In this way, we can help one another in what actually goes on in prayer, and so, grow in our understanding of what prayer is. God is always inviting us to spend time with God, but in different ways, according to our individual personalities and lives. Come to this series and find out how God is inviting you. **We will meet for 5 Wednesdays from 6:30 -8:00pm, February 28, March 7, 14, 21, and 28.** [There will not be supper or prayer service for this series.]

We need to know how many people will be attending the series so enough books can be ordered. **Please use the sign up sheet on the Education Bulletin board, located between the parish office and the Willard Room if you will be participating in the series.**

Selected chapters we will study include:

Letting God be God

Why Don't You Answer My Prayer?

The Deepest Desire

Tracking Our Moods

Making Our Way in the Dark

Recognizing Our Attachments

Please consider attending this Lenten series. If you have questions, you can speak to Susan Walker, Program Associate.

TOUGH CHOICES

RMT Begins to Prioritize

by Tripp Jones, Leader, Renovation Ministry Team

RMT Members: Jill Bezek, Randolph Charles, Mary Dail, David Downes, David Hamill, Tripp Jones, and Pat Pickering

The discussion we have had so far with regard to renovation has been full of ideas about how just about every nook and cranny could be changed and/or improved. This has been well and good and we'll call it our "dreaming phase." Indeed, we have shared some of the best of these ideas with our architects to include in an overall renovation master plan. Reality tells us that we will not be able to afford everything in that plan, at least right away. Renovation will need to happen in phases. So, our architects have asked us to begin to prioritize for them the things that we might like to get accomplished in phase one. The Renovation Ministry Team has had some long discussions about prioritization, and I want to share with you what we have passed on to the architects.

The first group of things we want to make sure get included initially are the "critical life safety issues" the architects identified for us in their Report of Findings (September 2006) after studying our buildings. These were issues the architects suggested should be addressed immediately. They include the following. Quotes are from the Report of Findings.

- 1) Hazardous Materials – "All hazardous materials (i.e. asbestos, lead paint, etc) need to be removed from the site or encapsulated prior to the General Contractor beginning work."
- 2) Roof Scuppers (drains) - "The flat roof areas do not have adequate drainage capacity with the current system. Additional scuppers and downspouts should be added to all low slope roof areas as a backup to the existing system."
- 3) Bell Tower Parapet (small wall above roof at top of tower) - "Remove all loose stucco from the bell tower parapet. Verify the structural soundness of the backup masonry wall."

Another group of items we want to be included in the first phase would upgrade/improve the exterior of the building.

- 1) Storm Windows – "The windows on the parish house are not energy efficient. The windows should be replaced with new energy efficient metal clad wood windows."
- 2) Stucco – "Cracks in the stucco are a potential source of water infiltration into the walls of the existing building...repair the existing exterior stucco wall surfaces."
- 3) Tuck-pointing (finishing the mortar joints between bricks or stones) – "The exposed existing brick should be tuck-pointed. The exposed stone foundation walls where mortar washout has taken place should also be re-pointed."

The next group of items we want to be included in phase one are things that would begin to bring our buildings up to code

and improve our systems. These include:

- 1) Domestic Cold Water System – "The existing water line should be removed, and a new, larger line should be installed with a backflow preventer."
- 2) Domestic Hot Water System – "The contractor indicates that the domestic water heater is corroded on the inside of the tank, and this should be replaced."
- 3) Plumbing Fixtures – "Many of the existing plumbing fixtures need to be replaced."
- 4) Heating System – "First, there is only one boiler, so if it fails, the building will likely freeze during a cold stretch of weather. Considering the fact that the boiler and pump are less than 10 years old, the preferred solution to providing additional heating capacity would be to install a second boiler."
- 5) Cooling System – "It is anticipated that the increase in required cooling capacity will require the chiller to be replaced."
- 6) Air Handling Units – "The existing air-handling units should be replaced. These units are well beyond their useful life and do not provide the code-required outside air requirements."
- 7) Temperature Control System – "The existing pneumatic system should be replaced with a DDC system."
- 8) Electrical – "Replace wiring for all branch circuits that are older than 30-35 years."
- 9) Lighting – "Replace/refurbish lighting fixtures with new wiring and more energy efficient lighting sources."
- 10) Accessibility – "The south entry (G Street door) is inaccessible to those confined to a wheel chair. An entry ramp should be considered for this location or the existing ramp on the west side should be reconstructed to meet ADA requirements."

For the Parish House, we would like the first phase to include the following:

- 1) Expand first floor men's restroom
- 2) Expand the footprint and the appearance of the Parish Hall
- 3) Create accessible, welcoming entrance lobby at office entrance
- 4) Elevator

And for the Worship Space:

- 1) Plaster & Paint
- 2) Improved Lighting
- 3) New Sound System
- 4) New platform at crossing with improved ramps to Parish Hall
- 5) Columbarium

Even with this bare bone, no-frill list, the task seems daunting. After the findings of the capital campaign preliminary study, we might find the need to go back and reprioritize. On one thing we can be sure. It is our time to step up to the plate and begin the renovation process. We cannot shirk this responsibility. This is what we owe to all those who have gone before us in this place and to the future generations who will succeed us.

February 2007 Calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 12:00 SLAA 12:10 Holy Eucharist 12:30 Spirituality @ Work 7:15 Choir Rehearsal	2 The Presentation of Our Lord Jesus Christ in the Temple 12:00 AA 12:10 Holy Eucharist 1:15 Islamic Prayer Service	3
4 5th Sunday After the Epiphany 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/ 10:00 Congregational Forum with guest, Tony Robinson 10:45 Liturgical Leaders Meeting 11:00 Holy Eucharist/Godly Play 12:15 Coffee Hour	5 12:00 AA 12:10 Holy Eucharist 12:30 Contemplative Prayer 5:30 Downtown Prayer Group	6 12:00 Al-Anon 12:10 Tuesday Concert Series 12:30 Weekday Ministry Team 6:00 Urban Ministry	7 10:00-3:00 Labyrinth 12:00 AA 12:00 Al-Anon 12:10 Holy Eucharist	8 12:00 SLAA 12:10 Holy Eucharist 12:30 Spirituality @ Work 7:15 Choir Rehearsal	9 12:00 AA 12:10 Holy Eucharist 1:15 Islamic Prayer Service	10
11 The 6th Sunday After the Epiphany Theological Education Sunday 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/ Theological Education Forum 10:45 Liturgical Leaders Meeting 11:00 Holy Eucharist/Godly Play 12:15 Coffee Hour	12 12:00 AA 12:10 Holy Eucharist 12:30 Contemplative Prayer 5:30 Downtown Prayer Group 5:30 Community Funding Ministry Team	13 12:00 Al-Anon 12:10 Tuesday Concert Series 6:30 Group Spiritual Direction	14 10:00-3:00 Labyrinth 12:00 AA 12:00 Al-Anon 12:10 Holy Eucharist	15 12:00 SLAA 12:10 Holy Eucharist 12:30 Spirituality @ Work 7:15 Choir Rehearsal	16 12:00 AA 12:10 Holy Eucharist 1:15 Islamic Prayer Service	17
18 The Last Sunday After the Epiphany 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	19 Church and Parish Office closed in observance of Presidents' Day	20 Shrove Tuesday 12:00 Al-Anon 12:10 Tuesday Concert Series 6:00 Mardi Gras!	21 Ash Wednesday 8:00 Holy Eucharist and Imposition of Ashes 12:00 AA 12:00 Al-Anon 12:10 Holy Eucharist and Imposition of Ashes 6:00 Holy Eucharist and Imposition of Ashes	22 12:00 SLAA 12:10 Holy Eucharist 7:15 Choir Rehearsal	23 10:30 Memorial Eucharist and Reception, Marellyn Tank 12:00 AA 12:10 Holy Eucharist 1:15 Islamic Prayer Service	24 St. Matthias the Apostle 8:00 Gay Men's Chorus Concert
25 The 1st Sunday in Lent 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/Lenten GIG 10:45 Liturgical Leaders Meeting 11:00 Holy Eucharist/Godly Play 12:15 Coffee Hour and Ministry Fair	26 12:00 AA 12:10 Holy Eucharist 12:30 Contemplative Prayer 6:00 Vestry	27 12:00 Al-Anon 12:10 Tuesday Concert Series	28 10:00-3:00 Labyrinth 12:00 AA 12:00 Al-Anon 12:10 Holy Eucharist 6:30 Fellowship and Light			

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