



Parish Guide

Newsletter of The Church of the Epiphany
Washington, DC

May 2008

Rector's Journal

By Randolph Charles

The Campaign for Epiphany. Campaign – I've been thinking a lot about that word lately. We see it every time we enter our church building. We see it every time we gather for worship. The Campaign for Epiphany. Of course, the initial reason for placing our Campaign banners inside and outside the church was to raise awareness about our efforts to fund the renovation of our buildings. And those efforts will continue for months to come, as we take the Campaign beyond parishioners to friends, corporations, foundations, and other sources of community support.

A campaign is "an organized course of action for a particular purpose"; it is a movement with a mission. The more I hold our Campaign in my prayers, the more I realize that, for me, the purpose of the action and the mission of the movement are much more than money, and much more than renovating buildings. Buildings are critical. They are the sacred and structural containers of our parish ministries, so their beauty needs to lift our hearts towards God, their design needs to provide safety and security for all within, and their functionality needs to support the varied activities of a community of faith.

The Campaign for Epiphany is clearly about funding the renovation of our buildings, but the Campaign is also about our parish moving more deeply into God's mission for us. The phrase in our Parish Mission Statement that we talk the least about is "to reveal the presence of Christ in the world." I wonder if one of the purposes of The Campaign for Epiphany is to move our parish into a greater commitment to public witness, testimony, and proclamation.

Several years ago, Bp. Chane encouraged us to tell our story, to share with others how we try to live the faith at Epiphany. I wonder if one ministry dimension of the Campaign is a purposeful encounter with the general public of Washington, DC about our core mission: building an inclusive and diverse Christian community, focusing on ministry with the poor and ministry with the downtown workforce. I am not talking about changing who we are; I am talking about boldly going public with who we are. Being more public about our parish faith journey would require a very clear understanding among

Continued on page 6

News from Epiphany's Welcome Table

By Susan Weinbeck, leader of the Welcome Table Ministry Team

Welcome Table volunteers are needed to help carry out the outreach mission of The Church of the Epiphany. Each week 200 working poor and homeless people are served a nourishing breakfast in an atmosphere of care and respect. At least fifteen volunteers are required each Sunday to help with this ministry. These volunteers cook, serve, set up, pour coffee, sign in, greet and clear up. If there is one of these tasks that you could help with once a month, we would be glad to have you join a team. As Randolph often says in the prayer with volunteers, "*we share in this time of hospitality where we both give and receive the love of Christ, where we both nourish and are nourished through the ministry of The Welcome Table.*" If you would like to know more about The Welcome Table or volunteering, call Susan Weinbeck (703-522-2862), Horace Kirby (Welcome Table Coordinator), or Randolph. Come to The Welcome Table to see for yourself. Serving begins at 8:45 following 8 o'clock Eucharist.

Have you wanted to wear one of those distinctive navy T-shirts with the Welcome Table logo? A new shipment has been received for those who volunteer monthly. Sign up to volunteer, and we will make sure you receive a shirt. Quantities are limited, so don't delay!

Health Screenings Becoming Part of the Welcome Table Ministry

Health screenings are an aspect of meeting the basic needs of the Welcome Table participants. April 20, 2008 was the first of many, we hope, health screenings for basic glucose levels and blood pressure. Firemen from the Franklin Street Station spent more than

Continued on page 6

Note: The deadline for submitting articles to the June *Parish Guide* Newsletter is Wednesday, May 21

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.”

June Young was selected by Prince George’s Volunteer Center as the 2008 Volunteer of the Year for her work with Hospice of the Chesapeake.

Elliott Wolf, son of Emily Van Loon and Thom Wolf, graduates from Duke University on May 9 with a B.S. degree in Math and History.

Annie Wright graduates from the University of Maryland, College Park on May 17 with a B.A. in Computer Information Technology and a minor in Computer Studies.

D’Oneice Dillard graduates magna cum lauda on May 18 from Trinity University’s School of Professional Studies with a M.A. in Communications.

We remember those who have died

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

John Francis Dowdall, Christian Clough’s grandfather who died April 14, 2008.

We remember these persons in our prayers

For the members and family members of Epiphany who serve in troubled areas of the world, especially Jim Dobson, Keith Scoon, and Floyd Tappin;

For all who seek healing, especially: Ed Adams, Margaret Barge, Theresa Davies, Marcia Doerr, Floyd Godfrey, Anita Lakari, Rosalie Oakes, William Person, Norwyn Rowe, and Buck Shinkman;

For John Patrick Barker, Winston Blackman, Robert Blaine, Wanda Brewer, Barbie White Butts, Tim Callard, Naomi Canty, Marian Cover, Elena Curris, Brian Dillard, Genevieve Duvall, Joy Eades, Andrew Ferrill, J.D. Fosdick, Rick Gallagher, Peggy Garner, Fay Gray, Fred Gustafson, Carolyn Hall, Ruth Hall, Kathryn Hardie, Cris Hernandez, Edmund Hilliman, Lucille Hilliman, Alan Holder, Millicent and Bill Hutt, Larry Kerns, Rick Knettel, George Kurtz, Lisa Liebel, David Lyman, Fay Marks, Frank Marlowe, Ginny Mast, Claudia McClannahan, Sabine Mehnert, Jeanette Michael, Ron Miller, Joe Mindell, Jeanne Moore, Bonnie Murphy, Gloria and Morris Pasqual, Barbara Prignano, Victoria Prignano, Israel Rafalovich, Jesus Ramirez, Phil Richard, Ann Riggs, Allene Robinson, Ronald Ross, Wanda Rucker, Rita Sabagh, Pete and Evelyn Scrimger, Juanita Simpson, Irene and Edward Skocik, Ed Somers, Grace Stein, Pauline Stumpf, Kate Thaxton, Amy Warder, Maureen Waters, Dee Wertlein, Vera Willis, Thelma, Evie, Kevin, Beth, Anne, and Bob.

We celebrate these May birthdays

Meghan Iams, Leslie Thornton, Tijuana Fridy, Courtney Tardd-Wright, Brad Carpenter, Theresa Davies, D’O Dillard, Jane Kean, Yuetmei Chin, Priscilla Rowe, Carole Bledsoe, Maria Hunter, Gillian Shinkman, Duncan Stevens, Evelyn Morris, Barbara Syphus, Theo Wylie, Willa Downes, Eric Jenson, Philip Taylor, Chris Shinkman, Olivia Gray, Bob Weinbeck, Michael Milligan, Jim Dobson, Charles Burg, Dorothy Sisk, and Grace Matuszeski.

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 swalker@epiphanydc.org.

A Mug of Music Brimming this May

By Christian M. Clough, Director of Music Ministries

There are lots of exciting musical events going on at Epiphany and elsewhere in May, and I have decided to draw your attention to some of the highlights. I'll start local, and early.

The Welcome Table Choir, which began its music ministry at the weekly Welcome Table Eucharist in the fall of 2006, is composed of a dedicated team of volunteer singers. The members' enthusiasm continues to grow, and attendance has been up of late. One of our regulars suggested that the Welcome Table and Epiphany Choirs switch places one week, so that each group can experience the worship and community of the other. We have decided to make the switch on Sunday 4 May. The Epiphany Choir will bring their choral music to our eight'o'clock congregation – and will join the Welcome Table for breakfast – and the Welcome Table choir will sing at the eleven'o'clock liturgy, and stay for Coffee Hour. This is an opportunity for Epiphany's members and guests to see more of the diversity of our community; we hope that you will enjoy the experience.

The Welcome Table Choir has been invited to sing at Samaritan Ministry of Greater Washington's Next Step Breakfast at the National Press Club on Thursday 8 May. Because of a death in my family, I was away the day that the Choir discussed this invitation, but the buzz on the street upon my return suggests that the singers have decided to participate. Exciting!

Marguerite Toscano, Alto Section Leader of the Epiphany Choir, asked me two years ago to consider performing the alto aria from Johann Sebastian Bach's Pentecost cantata 34, "O ewiges Feuer". She mentioned it again recently, which prompted me to look at the whole cantata. The Epiphany Choir sang Bach's Cantata 4, "Christ lag in Todes Banden" on Easter Day, demonstrating that it is possible to perform at least some of Bach's cantatas in a modern liturgy. And so, we are looking forward to performing "O ewiges Feuer", with chamber orchestra, at the 11 AM Eucharist on Pentecost. This cantata is AMAZING! Soprano Section Leader Rachel Barham says that this is her favorite Bach cantata. I had never heard it before last month, and now I know what an empty life I had led. Come, worship, listen and enjoy. Your life will be more joyful just because of this discovery!

The Epiphany Choir will wrap up their regular season on 18 May, Trinity Sunday, singing Herbert Howells's Te Deum and Jubilate (Collegium Regale), settings of the morning canticles he composed for the Choir of King's College, Cambridge, in the 1940s. Many people consider this pair of gems to be among the best of Howells's music, and they are favorites in the English choral repertoire. The Te Deum, a fourth-century Greek hymn of praise, is

especially appropriate for Trinity Sunday. The Jubilate is a setting of Psalm 100. For centuries, these two canticles have been sung in English services of Choral Matins.

The next two events I'd like to draw your attention are both "outside" concerts. Spring is here, the weather is still not oppressively hot and humid, and the trees and flowers are in bloom. Why not go "outside" to enjoy two choral masterpieces that are all-too-rarely heard? First, on Sunday 11 May at 3:00 PM, the Washington Bach Consort (who perform on Epiphany's Tuesday Concert Series several times each year) will present Bach's monumental choral masterpiece, St. Matthew Passion, at the Music Center at Strathmore (easily accessible from Metrorail's Red Line). When I was in my first year at Yale's Institute of Sacred Music, I first attended a performance of this piece. I had heard people at ISM talking about it, but knew nothing about it. There was a lot of hype, and I was curious enough to spend three hours to give it a try. Hey, I thought, it's free... and I can always leave early if I'm bored. I didn't leave. And what I encountered was nothing short of the greatest musical (listening) experience of my life. Bach's "great" passion (He composed at least four passions, though only the St. John Passion and this piece have survived intact.) is one of the greatest musical compositions ever written. It is dramatic; it is beautiful. Bach's music illuminates the text perfectly. And, as the Passion approaches its conclusion, the Bass aria "Mache dich, mein Herze, rein" may bring tears to your eyes. GO! (For ticket information, visit the Washington Bach Consort website: www.bachconsort.org, or call them at 202.429.2121).

The last musical event to discuss offers an even rarer opportunity to hear another masterpiece, this one of our own time. John Adams's *El Niño* will be performed by The Choral Arts Society of Washington at the Kennedy Center Concert Hall at 7:30 PM on Sunday 18 May. John Adams (b. 1947) is the most widely-performed living American composer. Often (and unfortunately) lumped together with Steve Reich and Philip Glass as one of the American Minimalists, his music ranges far beyond that stereotype. *El Niño* is an oratorio, sometimes staged, inspired by Handel's *Messiah*. It is a retelling of the Christmas story, and is noteworthy for its choice of texts. Adams's libretto pieces together parts of the *King James Bible*, the *Wakefield Mystery Plays*, *Martin Luther*, the *New Testament Apocrypha*, and poems by Rosario Castellanos, Gabriela Mistral, Hildegard von Bingen, Son Juana Inés de la Cruz, Rubén Darío, Vicente Huidobro and "Early English anonymous". Adams grew up in Woodstock, Vermont, and draws on Charles Ives

Continued on page 4

(another New Englander) for inspiration, but much of his professional life has been spent in California, where his work has been influenced by Latino culture. Noted stage director Peter Sellars, who directed the first production of *El Niño*, described it as “like one of those multi-paneled altarpieces that you cannot possibly take in all at once. To open one wing is necessarily to conceal its verso from view, and the constant traveling and seeking of the eye is part of the experience.” (as paraphrased by Michael Steinberg in the liner notes of the Nonesuch CD recording). The oratorio, like Handel’s *Messiah* and Bach’s *St. Matthew Passion*, is dramatic and monumental, but its modernity should not scare you away. Like so much of Adams’s music, its sounds are often new and surprising, yet accessible. And that text! The apocryphal New Testament passages and Latin American poems, in particular, will surprise and delight you with many different views into the birth of Jesus, and the effects of that world-changing event on the people around him. This is a work for the ages – grand, entertaining, challenging and inspiring. Take advantage of this rare opportunity to hear (and see: there’s a film) the birth of Jesus in a new way. (For ticket information, visit: http://www.choralarts.org/concert_adams.html, or call 202.244.3669; seats are available for as little as \$15, or \$12 with a 20% senior-citizen discount.)

Where have all the flowers gone?

By Kathrine Ebert, Flower Guild

The lilies have lost their luster...the daffodils have drooped....and all the other splendors of the Easter greening and flowering have faded into memory. Don’t wait until Christmas to deck our hallowed halls with flowers and greenery again!! Send in a check for \$25 or more (actual cost per regular Sunday is \$50) to sponsor the church flowers for “any given Sunday” or your preferred Sunday. Let us know whom or what you would like to honor or memorialize. The Flower Guild will use their green thumbs to put your gift to work for all to enjoy. Please note, however, if there is no contribution sponsoring flowers, we won’t be able to have flowers in the church on that Sunday. Putting it another way, without your “green” there won’t be much green in the church. The Flower Guild will let the congregation know which Sundays need a sponsoring contribution.

Funding Ministries at Epiphany Sponsorships

The Welcome Table

(Total annual cost: \$130,000. Weekly food cost: \$500.)

I want to give \$ _____ to sponsor The Welcome Table.

Street Church

(Total annual cost: \$20,000. Weekly food cost: \$150.)

I want to give \$ _____ to sponsor Street Church.

Tuesday Concert Series

(Total annual cost: \$40,000)

I want to give \$ _____ to sponsor Tuesday Concert Series.

Sunday Flowers

(Total annual cost: \$3,000. Regular Sunday cost: \$50.)

I want to give \$ _____ to sponsor Sunday Flowers.

In memory of _____

In honor of _____

In thanksgiving for _____

Sponsor _____

Address _____

Please mail sponsorship form with check to parish office.

The Church of the Epiphany, 1317 G St, NW,
Washington, DC 20005
202-347-2635

info@epiphanydc.org

Online contributions: www.epiphanydc.org

Epiphany Remembers Bishop Ronald Haines

By Tripp Jones, Parish Archivist



Ronald Hayward Haines, seventh bishop of Washington, passed away on Good Friday, March 21, 2008. I'm sure by now you've read some of the obituaries that have run in the papers. For this article, I would like to relate some events from Epiphany's archives that connect Bishop Haines in a special way to our parish.

In 1986, Bishop John Walker called for an election for a suffragan (assisting) bishop of Washington. In addition to Haines, six other candidates were nominated. Two of them had Epiphany connections. The Rev. Christopher "Kit" Sherrill was serving at the time as an associate rector at Epiphany. The Rev. Mary Chotard Doll was the daughter of The Rt. Rev. Harry Doll, bishop of Maryland. Bishop Doll had begun his priestly career as an assistant rector at Epiphany in 1933. On a side note, in this election Ms. Doll came in a close second. Had she won, she would have become the first female bishop in the Episcopal Church. The Rt. Rev. Barbara Harris gained that honor with her election in 1988. Ronald Haines was elected on the sixth ballot and later consecrated at Washington Cathedral on October 29, 1986, with Epiphany's rector, Edgar Romig, serving as one of eight attending presbyters.

Bishop Haines made his first official visit to our parish on the First Sunday after the Epiphany, January 11, 1987. One of those confirmed on that day was my predecessor as parish archivist, Bill Savin. Leave it to Bill to recognize the historic significance of the day! Three months later, Bishop Haines returned to preach in Epiphany's weekday Lenten Preaching Series for two days during Holy Week. This became an annual ritual for the next several years, with Bishop Haines often being here on Maundy Thursday. In fact, on one such visit in 1990, Haines signed the register with the title "Bishop pro tem" – the latter two words being an abbreviation of the Latin, *pro tempore*, meaning "for a time." Haines had gained that designation the previous September with the untimely death of Bishop Walker.

Epiphany's rector, Edgar Romig, was a member of the nominating committee that came up with a slate of seven candidates, including Ronald Haines, to succeed Bishop Walker. During Lent 1990, all of these candidates preached during Epiphany's Preaching Series. Bishop Haines visited Epiphany on Easter V, May 13, 1990. On Saturday, June 28, 1990, a special convention of the Diocese of Washington met to elect the seventh bishop of Washington. The location – The Church of the Epiphany. The day began with a Eucharist at 9:15 am, with about 600 people in attendance. Organist-Choirmaster Jim Buonemani and the Epiphany Choir led the music, Deacon Elizabeth Carl read

the gospel, and Rector Edgar Romig gave the homily. Assistant Rector Kit Sherrill, who was one of the suffragan bishop candidates four years earlier, served as master of ceremonies. Ronald Haines was elected on the second ballot, with the announcement coming after Epiphany had served lunch to all 600 attendees! Bishop Haines' first visit to our parish as bishop of Washington came on the Feast of the Epiphany, 1991. Six days later, joy turned to sorrow as Bishop Haines returned to officiate at the burial Eucharist of The Rev. Warren Mace, who had served as associate rector at Epiphany for over 40 years.

On June 5, 1991, Bishop Haines was at Epiphany for one of the biggest challenges of his episcopacy. Elizabeth Carl, a deacon at Epiphany, was slated to be ordained a priest. The controversy arose from the fact that Ms. Carl was a lesbian, living in a committed relationship. This was not the first time that an openly gay person had been ordained, but this event came on the eve of General Convention, where the issue of gay clergy was to be discussed. Presiding Bishop Edmund Browning asked Bishop Haines to delay the ordination until after the church came to a clearer stance on the issue. Bishop Haines thought and prayed long and hard before deciding to proceed. At the ordination at Epiphany, several non-parishioners spoke out against the ordination. Bishop Haines asked the congregation, "Is it your will that Elizabeth be ordained a priest?" The response came back with a resounding, "It is!" The people of Epiphany and their bishop had spoken.

In May 1992, Bishop Haines made two visits to Epiphany. On a Sunday at the beginning of the month, he came to pay tribute to Edgar Romig, who was retiring after serving as Epiphany's rector for 28 years. At the end of the month, he came to officiate at a special convention of the Diocese of Washington, meeting to elect a new suffragan bishop. The result was the election of The Rt. Rev. Jane Holmes Dixon, the second female to become a bishop in the Episcopal Church. There's a wonderful picture taken in front of our church showing Haines and Dixon waving their clasped hands high in the air.

On Saturday, December 10, 1994, Bishop Haines officiated at a celebration of new ministry with the investiture of the fourteenth rector of Epiphany Parish, Randolph Cassells Charles. The next time you are in Randolph's office, look on the wall for the framed statement of investiture, complete with the bishop's seal, set in wax. Bishop Haines' last visit to Epiphany before his retirement was on the Sunday of the Epiphany, January 9, 2000. For fourteen years, Ronald Haines served as a good shepherd to his flock on G Street. To paraphrase the hymn, *Come, labor on*, with his passing, "a glad sound comes with the setting sun, servant, well done!"

of that faith journey and a willingness to acknowledge responses from the public about that faith journey. Being more public about our faith might not feel particularly safe, but it would certainly lead to significant growth for both us at Epiphany and the curious people of Metro Washington.

Funding Ministry through Sponsorships. The primary method of funding parish ministries is pledges. In addition to pledges, ministries can be funded on special occasions and for specific purposes through sponsorships. At Epiphany, parishioners have the opportunity to sponsor The Welcome Table, Street Church, Tuesday Concert Series, and Sunday flowers in church. If you would like to sponsor one these ministries, please use the enclosed form.

Ministers and Ministries. We have updated the form that helps parishioners decide and discern which parish ministries you would like to participate in. Please take a look at the enclosed "Ministers and Ministries" and bring it to church or mail it to the parish office. This is critical information for Susan and me as we try to match parishioners' gifts and offerings with parish needs.

Training for Ministry. Greeters at the front door welcome visitors to worship. Ushers distribute bulletins, assist with the offertory and communion, and respond to the needs of worshipers. Greeters at coffee hour help people meet each other and form community; vestry members participate in this ministry. New parishioner sponsors mentor parishioners during their first six months at Epiphany and assist them in settling in to their new church home. If you would like to be a church greeter or coffee hour greeter, or if you are just curious, please join me for **Greeter Training Session on Sunday, May 4, at 10:00am in the narthex.** If you would like to be a new parishioner sponsor, or if you are just curious, please join me for **New Parishioner Sponsor Training Session on Sunday, May 25, at 10:00am in the Willard Room.** If you would like to be an usher, or if you are just curious, please join me for **Usher Training Session on Sunday, June 22, at 10:00am in the narthex.**

Adult Faith Formation at Epiphany. **Epiphany Course** is our core adult faith formation offering. The purpose of Epiphany Course is to explore the

Christian faith as we experience it here at Epiphany. There are six sessions: faith community, study, prayer, stewardship, ministry, and rule of life. My hope is that every parishioner participates in Epiphany Course, so that we will all have a common language and context with which to reflect on the faith as we experience it at Epiphany. **Epiphany Course will next be offered on Friday, May 9, 6-9pm and Saturday, May 10, 9-3pm.** **Parish Forum** is a monthly opportunity for us explore questions of faith and talk about current parish issues. **The next Parish Forum is Sunday, May 25, 12:45-2:00pm, in the Willard Room. The topic is "How does Spirit transform community?"**

Pentecost Day is May 11! There's a lot planned for Pentecost Day: Festival Pentecost Eucharist, Sending forth of Seminarians, and Pentecost Picnic. The Eucharist focuses on the Pentecost event in Acts. **This is also a traditional date for baptisms.** If anyone is interested baptism, please contact me immediately, so that baptismal preparation can be scheduled. **Pentecost will be the last day for our seminarians.** We will send them forth to new ministries and new faith communities, and we will celebrate all that they have shared with us and given to us. Following the 11:00 liturgy, we will enjoy a **Pentecost Picnic in the garden.** Pot luck suggestions are listed in this newsletter.

Epiphany's Welcome Table, Continued from page 1

an hour screening participants. The timing for such an endeavor was a challenge! Firemen begin a 24 hour shift at 7am and so can't realistically arrive at Epiphany before 8am. Welcome Table guests can attend Bible Study or AA / NA meetings at 7am, and worship begins promptly at 8am. Taking a blood sugar reading requires a fasting-test. Breakfast is served beginning at 8:45. Well, you begin to see the challenges. Given all this, along with establishing issues of trust between participants and agencies, it was truly "amazing grace" that enabled 22 individuals to receive this level of personal health education in addition to the liturgy and breakfast. Also present on this morning were representatives of DC Rape Crisis, who were available for conversation with participants.

The Welcome Table is an action-packed 3 hour period. If you would like to be a part of any of these activities, please let Susan Weinbeck know.

Cathedral Connections

Coming in June!

Mark your calendars now!



You are cordially invited to join Tripp Jones, parish archivist, on two consecutive Sundays in June at Epiphany to celebrate the 100th anniversary year of Washington National Cathedral.

There will be programs in the Willard Room following the 11 am liturgy on June 22 and 29. Please make every effort to be present and explore the close historical connections between the Church of the Epiphany and the Cathedral Church of St. Peter and St. Paul.

A light lunch will be served.

Sunday, June 22, 2008

12:45 – 2:00 pm

- see related artifacts from the Epiphany archives
- watch some of the Epiphany tour of the cathedral given last September

Sunday, June 29, 2008

12:45 – 2:00 pm

- view “A Journey Back in Time – 1907”, the Cathedral-produced re-enactment of the foundation stone laying ceremony
- meet two of the drama’s actors!

Lay Associate Schedules a Fall Sabbatical

By Susan Walker, Lay Associate

“Sabbatical” has been defined as a break from the ordinary. The concept is rooted in the practice of ancient Israel to set aside a time for renewal of the land and restoration of justice and relationships. Today, it is typically observed as time away for church or academic professionals. I am very happy to tell you that Epiphany’s vestry has approved a twelve-week sabbatical for your Lay Associate, which will begin September 7, after Homecoming Sunday, and conclude on the first Sunday of Advent, November 30, 2008.

This sabbatical is *not* a break from the ordinary, since nothing about ministry with Epiphany is ordinary! However, my time away will be for renewal and restoration. I want to share my plans with you.

I expect this to be a significant time of rest for me – a deep rest that will leave me feeling refreshed, recharged, and inspired for what is next. This sabbatical will also be a time for growth. Two trips that I plan to make part of my sabbatical involve spiritual renewal and a mission trip.

Last year I studied Ignatian spirituality and made a couple of short, eight-day Ignatian retreats. These times of silence and prayer revealed my desire for a longer time apart, so I am applying to make the 30-day Ignatian Spiritual Exercises during the month of October. If I am accepted, I know I will be challenged and, I hope, changed in some way.

My other desire is to go on a mission trip. I have been in touch with a community of sisters who serve the poor in the rural Mississippi area known as the Delta. Here is how their website describes the Delta: “*This area along the Mississippi River has a sorry history of poverty and racism, though the land is the richest in the country. It’s the birthplace of the blues because slavery, and then*

Continued on page 8

Spring is Here! – Can Summer Be Far Behind? Epiphany’s Parish Weekend Takes the Plunge into Summer! Mark Your Calendars for August 1-3

Shrine Mont’s coming earlier this year! Rather than fall leaves, we’ll be experiencing the summer sun at our annual parish weekend retreat.

Join your fellow Epiphany members the weekend of August 1-3, at Shrine Mont Retreat Center, in Orkney Springs, Virginia. It will be a weekend of spiritual refocusing, relationship building, home-style cooking, and lots of fun!

There’s tennis, swimming, horseshoes, croquet, hiking along wooded mountain paths, and an outdoor campfire. Shrine Mont’s website has lots of pictures that tell the story. Go to: <http://www.shrinemont.com/index.html>. And, look for more details about our weekend in the next Parish Guide.

sharecropping, were so very life-draining for so many people.” These Sisters of the Holy Names welcome volunteers to live with them and share their work at their Family Center for Education and Wellness in Jonestown. I view my time with the people who live in the Delta as an opportunity to learn more about poverty in our country and deepen my relations with the poor here in Washington.

Both experiences will benefit my ministry at Epiphany. Working with the rural poor will broaden my perspective from which I minister to the urban poor in downtown. And spending a month in silence and solitude will bring renewed energy for all the ways I interact with parishioners, weekday associates, and Welcome Table guests. I hope my capacity to serve as a spiritual director will be deepened as my own prayer life is enriched.

Members of Epiphany have generously stepped forward to take on the ministries that I have regularly carried out. In fact, recruitment was almost effortless as members stepped up to help. What a gift to me, and the congregation! Staff members will also share in the assignment of duties. One exciting aspect of the sabbatical will be a lay preaching series. In discussions with Randolph, we envisioned this will build on Epiphany’s long tradition of Stewardship preaching and the more recent offerings of faith stories that were part of liturgies for several years. The series will be an opportunity for the laity to “proclaim by word...the Good News of God in Christ”- the baptismal promise that all laity share.

Please keep me in your prayers as the details of the sabbatical are worked out.

Remember the Renovation?

By Tripp Jones

Leader, Renovation Ministry Team

Member, Capital Campaign Ministry Team

Every time I enter our church facility, I am reminded of the pressing need for renovation. The deteriorating chancel floor has become a patchwork quilt of repair jobs. Our HVAC service people say the air conditioning system may not last through the summer. The black mold is climbing the stairwell wall leading up to the archives office on the third floor. The cracks in the wall and the peeling paint are an eyesore. My purpose though is not to plead the case for renovation, but rather to give you an update on its progress.

Let me assure you that even though you haven’t seen or heard much lately, the renovation wheels are in motion! First of all, I think we can all take great satisfaction in our successful internal capital campaign. As of this writing, the amount pledged is close to \$1million and the amount we already have on hand is close to \$408,000. For those who have made a pledge, please continue your contribution. The renovation pledge covers a three-year period, which makes the due date at the end of 2010. For those who are newcomers or never got around to making a renovation pledge, there is still time! You can make your payments by check or online (www.epiphanydc.org). Your contribution matters.

The work of the Capital Campaign Ministry Team is now focusing its energy on the external campaign. This will include seeking funds from sources outside the parish, including friends, such as weekday associates, people with past connections to Epiphany, and people whose ancestors were associated with our parish. We will also be soliciting local businesses who might identify with our mission and/or whose employees might participate in the services/programs we offer. We also will be seeking grants from foundations that might support aspects of our renovation, such as historic preservation, handicap accessibility, and green technology, just to name a few.

Randolph and I recently made a trip to New York City to meet with some of the staff of St. Bartholomew’s Church. It’s a large Episcopal church in the heart of the city that shares a similar mission to ours, and it is in the midst of a capital campaign. St. Bartholomew’s has been only somewhat successful in getting funds through corporate neighbors. It will not come as a surprise to any of you that the downturn in the economy has made funds hard to come by. We know that obtaining outside money will not be easy, but we will attempt to secure financial support for our renovation plans from all possible sources.

We are committed to staying within our three-year time frame for the capital campaign. The Renovation Ministry Team will soon begin talking with our architects about how we might prioritize our plan, realizing we might not be able to do everything we want. We are hoping there is one piece of the project we could go ahead and accomplish using some of the money we have on hand. When anyone sees work being done, it will surely generate more enthusiasm for the project.

What can you do to help?

- keep the renovation project and the people working on it in your prayers
- make a renovation pledge and pay it
- tell the Capital Campaign Ministry Team about any individuals, businesses, or foundations you know that might be supportive of our endeavors.

Epiphany's renovation project is alive and well. There are many challenges ahead, but with God's help, we will renovate our buildings in the best way that we can,

MAY IS A SWINGING MONTH FOR SENIORS

By Larry Ellis, Pastoral Care Ministry Team

Hello church! The month of May is a wild, crazy time for seniors and other parishioners. I am excited about the events taking place, and felt I must share this excitement with you.

May 4 is Episcopal Senior Ministries Sunday. The Church of the Epiphany is planning some special events to celebrate this large portion of our congregation. The Rev. Canon Mike Hamilton will be our preacher at the 11 am liturgy, and coffee hour refreshments will be provided by members of OPALS (Older Persons with Active Life Styles). This would be a grand day to bring a friend to church and celebrate our being with God and each other.

Senior Celebrations, sponsored by Episcopal Senior Ministries and supported by the diocese, will be held at St Paul's, Piney Parish, on Tuesday, May 13, and St Paul's, Rock Creek on Thursday, May 15. These events are from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. A lovely meal and guest speaker, as well as meeting old friends are the high points for those in attendance. Mark your calendars and make reservations for these events.

OPALS (Older Persons with Active Life Styles) is sponsoring a museum tour at the Reynolds Center on G Street between 7th and 9th Streets on Sunday, May 18 at 1:00 p.m. after coffee hour. I have contacted the Smithsonian Museum of American Art for a docent-led tour of the **Color as Field: American Painting, 1950-1975** exhibit. As a volunteer at the Center, I can heartily recommend

the exhibit and it should be outstanding with a docent leading our group. Please contact me at 703-567-0971 or my E-mail, Ellislale@aol.com, or contact Mary Dail or Susan Walker at the parish office of your intent in joining what I know will be a fun group and afternoon. Certainly the tour is not for OPALS only, but any parishioners interested in viewing great art with an informative docent.

Isn't it great that we have all these wonderful opportunities available to us in the Washington area. Get in the spirit and sign up for one or all of these events. See you there!

Addendum

Let us not forget that **June 5, 2008, is the ESM Gala.** We will be honoring Bill Novelli, CEO, AARP, and Elizabeth Fox, former director of IONA Senior Services, founder of CCGH, and founder of Experience Corps. The event will be held at the Fannie Mae Building on Wisconsin Blvd. from 6:30 to 9:00 pm. A fantastic list of live auction items will be presented including Joe Resch and Alex Lichtenstein's villa at Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, several ocean view vacation cottages on the Eastern Seaboard, a week at Chautauqua Institute, will housing, gate tickets, and select meals provided as a package. Also a board member will be giving a day sailing on the Chesapeake, another Board member will be offering a services of a White House chef as part of a food or wine basket. Another Development Committee member will be offering her husband/author at a luncheon to talk about his book on Abraham Lincoln. What fantastic array of goodies to select from. In addition there will be a huge variety of items to be offered at the silent auction tables. Please contact Maria Holperin, ESM Director of Development at mholperin@esm.org or 202-414-6313 regarding tickets to the event

United Thank Offering Ingathering May 18, 2008

Envelopes for offerings are in this newsletter and will be available at church on the 18th. See the April Parish Guide Newsletter for more information on the United Thank Offering. Pennies, nickels, as well as checks and bills, are welcome signs of gratitude for our lives in Christ.

Wardens Corner

By Teresa Hobgood, Senior Warden and Tanya Washington, Junior Warden

In this edition and future editions of the *Parish Guide*, you will find articles periodically related to the Wardens and the Vestry. These articles may include the text of documents approved by the Vestry, ideas emerging from Vestry meetings and other events, and a short summary of Vestry meetings. Our aim is to keep parishioners and other readers informed of our activities. Please feel free to come and observe the proceedings of the Vestry. Our meetings are generally scheduled on the fourth Monday of every month, but check the Parish calendar for confirmation. Our next meeting monthly meeting is May 12th at 6:00 pm.

If there are matters you would like to bring to our attention, feel free to do so. Our e-mail address is: wardens@epiphanydc.org. We welcome your ideas and suggestions in a spirit of love, faith and unity.

Below is a brief summary of the discussions at the Vestry Meeting on February 25. The minutes of this meeting were approved at the March 31 Vestry Meeting.

Summary of February 25 Vestry Meeting

A brief status report on the activities of the Capital Campaign Ministry Team was presented. The ministry team is in the process of interviewing candidates to lead the external phase of the campaign.

The Come and See Ministry Team hosted about one-hundred members of the Penn Quarter Association in the church. Penn Quarter spans from 15th St. to 3rd St. NW and is comprised of one-third residential space. The Association meets once a month. Epiphany pamphlets related to our downtown ministry, Street Church, The Welcome Table, and the Tuesday Concert Series were distributed at the meeting.

The Rector gave a brief report on the trip he took with the Parish Archivist to Saint Bartholomew's Church in New York City on March 10 to discuss its renovation efforts. Similar to Epiphany, St. Bart's is an historic church working to fulfill its mission of assisting people in crisis and downtown workers. It is also faced with myriad challenges, including achieving its ambitious capital campaign goal on the order of \$30 million. St. Bart's annual budget is \$8 million.

The Rector reported that the Lenten discussions of *The Last Week: A Day-by-Day Account of Jesus's Final Week in Jerusalem* by Marcus Borg and John Crossan were going well. Vestry members were encouraged to participate in Holy Week services and in the Epiphany Course offering on Rev. Anthony B. Robinson's "*Called to Be Church: The Book of Acts for a New Day*."

The Vestry reviewed the Parochial Report for 2007. This is a document submitted annually to the Episcopal Diocese of Washington. It provides information on the number of pledges; revenue and expenses and statistical data on Epiphany's membership, attendance and services. The Income and Expenditure Statement for the period ended February 29, 2008 was approved.

The Vestry took positive action on the Lay Associate's proposal to participate in a sabbatical in the fall of 2008.

A discussion began on the design of a Rector-Vestry Mutual Ministry Agreement that would include goals and objectives related to what we agreed constituted Epiphany's priorities for 2008: Sunday morning, pastoral care, new parishioners, new leadership, the capital campaign and the budget. It was agreed that the discussion would continue at the next Vestry meeting on March 31.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Church of the Epiphany May 2008 Calendar				1 Ascension Day 12:00 SLAA 12:10 Holy Eucharist 2:00 YSOP group 2:00 Street Sense Vendors 6:00 Street Sense New Volunteer Orientation 6:15 Westlink EMT Training 7:15 Choir	2 St. Phillip & St. James, Apostles 12:00 AA 12:10 Holy Eucharist 1:15 Islamic Prayer Service	3 7:30 Peabody Renaissance Ensemble concert
4 The Seventh Sunday of Easter 7:00 NA/AA 7:15 Welcome Table Bible Study 7:30 Welcome Table Choir 8:00 Holy Eucharist 8:45 The Welcome Table 9:10 Welcome Table Choir 10:00 Choir/Greeter Training 10:45 Liturgical Leaders 11:00 Holy Eucharist/Godly Play 12:15 Coffee Hour 12:45 Worship Ministry Team	5 12:00 AA 12:10 Contemplative Eucharist	6 12:00 Al-Anon 12:10 Tuesday Concert 1:00 Street Church 2:00 Street Sense Vendors 6:00 Urban Ministry Committee 6:15 Westlink EMT Training	7 10:00 Labyrinth/Staff 12:00 AA/ Al-Anon 12:10 Healing Eucharist 2:30 Street Sense Writers	8 12:00 SLAA 12:10 Holy Eucharist 2:00 Street Sense Vendors 6:15 Westlink EMT Training 7:15 Choir	9 12:00 AA 12:10 Holy Eucharist 1:15 Islamic Prayer Service 6:00 Epiphany Course	10 9:00 Epiphany Course
11 Pentecost Day 7:00 NA/AA 7:15 Welcome Table Bible Study 7:30 Welcome Table Choir 8:00 Holy Eucharist 8:45 The Welcome Table 9:10 Welcome Table Choir 10:00 Choir 10:45 Liturgical Leaders 11:00 Festival Pentecost Eucharist/Godly Play 12:15 Pentecost Picnic	12 12:00 AA 12:10 Contemplative Eucharist 6:00 Vestry	13 12:00 Al-Anon 12:10 Tuesday Concert 1:00 Street Church 2:00 Street Sense Vendors 6:15 Westlink EMT Training	14 10:00 Labyrinth/Staff 12:00 AA/Al-Anon 12:10 Healing Eucharist 2:30 Street Sense Writers 2:30 Street Sense Editorial Board	15 12:00 SLAA 12:10 Holy Eucharist 2:00 Street Sense Vendors 6:15 Westlink EMT Training 7:15 Choir	16 12:00 AA 12:10 Holy Eucharist 1:15 Islamic Prayer Service	17 Randolph Charles and Joanne Bishop wedding
18 Trinity Sunday – UTO Ingathering 7:00 NA/AA 7:15 Welcome Table Bible Study 7:30 Welcome Table Choir 8:00 Holy Eucharist 8:45 The Welcome Table 9:10 Welcome Table Choir 10:45 Liturgical Leaders 11:00 Holy Eucharist/Godly Play 12:15 Coffee Hour 12:45 <i>A Hidden Wholeness</i> planning group 1:00 OPALS art exhibit docent-led tour	19 12:00 Committee of 100 12:00 AA 12:10 Contemplative Eucharist	20 12:00 Al-Anon 12:10 Tuesday Concert 1:00 Street Church 2:00 Street Sense Vendors 6:15 Westlink EMT Training 6:30 Downtown Cluster of Congregations 6:30 Group Spiritual Direction	21 10:00 Labyrinth/Staff 12:00 AA/Al-Anon 12:10 Healing Eucharist 2:30 Street Sense Writers	22 12:00 SLAA 12:10 Holy Eucharist 2:00 Street Sense Vendors 6:15 Westlink EMT Training	23 12:00 AA 12:10 Holy Eucharist 1:15 Islamic Prayer Service	24
25 Second Sunday after Pentecost 7:00 NA/AA 7:15 Welcome Table Bible Study 7:30 Welcome Table Choir 8:00 Holy Eucharist 8:45 The Welcome Table 9:10 Welcome Table Choir 10:00 New Parishioner Sponsors 10:45 Liturgical Leaders 11:00 Holy Eucharist/Godly Play 12:15 Coffee Hour 12:45 Parish Forum: How Does Spirit Transform Community?	26 Church and Parish Office Closed in Observance of Memorial Day 2:00 YSOP Group Reflection	27 12:00 Al-Anon 12:10 Tuesday Concert 1:00 Street Church 2:00 Street Sense Vendors 2:00 YSOP Dinner 6:15 Westlink EMT Training	28 10:00 Labyrinth/Staff 12:00 AA 12:00 Al-Anon 12:10 Healing Eucharist 2:00 YSOP Reflection 2:30 Street Sense Writers	29 12:00 SLAA 12:10 Holy Eucharist 2:00 Street Sense Vendors 2:00 YSOP Reflection 6:15 Westlink EMT Training	30 12:00 AA 12:10 Holy Eucharist 1:15 Islamic Prayer Service	31 The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary 8:00 Suede in Concert

MAY 11, 2008

CELEBRATE PENTECOST AT EPIPHANY

Pentecost is the day we remember the coming of the Holy Spirit
and the birthday of the church!

**JOIN THE CELEBRATION AND
RING OUT THE LAST ALLELUIA OF EASTER!!!**

- **Wear something RED to church.**
- **Bring a dish to share at the Pentecost Picnic after church in the garden.**
We'll provide the charbroiled burgers and hot dogs.
- **If your last name begins with these letters, please bring:**
 - **A-D** **Salads**
 - **E-M** **Desserts**
 - **N-Z** **Vegetables or Side Dishes**

See you at church on Pentecost Sunday, May 11

The Rev. Randolph Charles, Rector

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THE CHURCH OF THE EPIPHANY