



Parish Guide

Newsletter of the Church of the Epiphany
Washington, DC

May 2009

CELEBRATE PENTECOST - MAY 31



REMEMBER

The coming of the Holy Spirit
The rush of wind and tongues of fire
The birthday of the church

WORSHIP

FESTIVAL HOLY EUCHARIST

CELEBRATE

PICNIC IN THE GARDEN

Wear something **RED** to church



Bring a dish to share that reflects your regional, national, or ethnic background: Side Dishes, Main Dish, Desserts or Salad
We'll supply hamburgers, hotdogs, and drinks!

May 17 is Rogation Sunday!

Rogation Days appear in the Church's liturgical calendar on the four days before Ascension Day (May 21). Dating back to the fifth century, they were originally days of fasting and prayer meant to ward off natural disasters, such as earthquakes. In England, they became associated with the blessing of the fields at planting time. Today, the tradition celebrates the agriculture and fishing industries, and often includes the blessing of farm equipment, animals, seeds, boats and bait. You might be asking, "How does a rural-oriented Rogation Day have a place in an urban parish setting?"

Although Epiphany may not be located in the midst of fields or a fishing village, we are a community with a passionate Environmental Stewardship Ministry Team (James Rogers, Rachel Barham, Charles Burg, and Joanne

Charles) which, in the spring of 2006, initiated a parish house roof-top garden of flowers and vegetables! (See pictures)



This May 17, the environmental stewards of Epiphany invite you to join them for a blessing of seedlings during the 11 o'clock liturgy, and then a trek to the roof-top garden for a planting event. All ages are welcome to bring spades and dig in the dirt, water the little plants...and wait for the growth to come!

The word "rogation" is from the Latin, *rogare*, which means *to ask*. A Rogation Day offers us an occasion to visibly express our need for God's blessing on all that we do, including what we grow in our gardens. On this Rogation Sunday, we will remember that God is the ground of our being and the source of all life. And, we give thanks to God for all the blessings of life.

Note: The deadline for submitting articles to the June *Parish Guide* newsletter is Wednesday, May 20. Send them to swalker@epiphanydc.org.

Parishoner News

We celebrate these new beginnings and accomplishments:

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

Diana Butler Bass’s new book,
A People’s History of Christianity: The Other Side of the Story,
published by Harper Books

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.”

Meryl Glidewell, Mike Danhoffer, Jarroda Kelsaw, Jeff Matheny, Franci Otero,
Peter McFarren, Weiwen Ng, Ryan Imhoff, and Nneka Ukegbu

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 and Jim McCarthy;

For all who seek healing, especially Iris Ashley, Theresa Davies, Floyd Godfrey, Olivia Gray,
Mason Liddell, William Person, and Sean Venable;

For Winston Blackman, Wanda Brewer, Mike Brown, Marian Cover, Elena Curris, Brian Dillard, Genevieve Duvall, Joy Eades, J.D. Fosdick, Rick Gallagher, Peggy Garner, Susan Gibson, Cathie Gleaves, Fred Gustafson, Ruth Hall, Kathryn Hardie, Edmund Hilliman, Lucille Hilliman, Alan Holder, Millicent and Bill Hutt, Fred Johnson, Junior Jones, Larry Kerns, Rick Knettel, George Kurtz, Mary Larkin, Lisa Liebel, David Lyman, Ginny Mast, Claudia McClannahan, Sabine Mehnert, Jeanette Michael, Ron Miller, Jeanne Moore, Bonnie Murphy, Tom Papazoglakis, Gloria and Morris Pasqual, Jessica Pettrey, John Pugh, Marcia Rachy, Israel Rafalovich, Jesus Ramirez, Phil Richard, Ann Riggs, Adam Riker, Allene Robinson, Ronald Ross, Wanda Rucker, Gene Rudolph, Rita Sabagh, Pete and Evelyn Scrimger, Edward Skocik, Ed Somers, Grace Stein, Pauline Stumpf, Elizabeth Swinney, Josefa Tadiar, Alexandra Terninko, Kate Thaxton, Greg Volgas, Maureen Waters, Dee Wertlein, Thelma, Evie, Kevin, Beth, Anne, Bob, and Brad, and for those who suffer in these hard economic times.

We celebrate these May birthdays

Meghan Iams, May 1; Leslie Thornton, May 2; Courtney Tardd-Wright, May 4; Brad Carpenter, Theresa Davies, and D’O Dillard, May 8; Yuetmei Chin and Priscilla Rowe, May 9; Carole Bledsoe, May 11; Maria Hunter, Gillian Shinkman, and Duncan Stevens, May 16; Evelyn Morris, Barbara Syphus, and Theo Wylie, May 17; Willa Downes, Eric Jenson, and Philip Taylor, May 18; Chris Shinkman, May 19; Olivia Gray and Bob Weinbeck, May 20; Jim Dobson, May 25; Charles Burg and Dorothy Sisk, May 28; and Grace Matuszeski, May 29.

The monthly “Parishoner 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.

Let's Give Handel a Hand

Christian M. Clough, Director of Music Ministries

Perhaps it was because it fell on Tuesday of Easter Week and I was out of town, but it seemed to me that the two hundred fiftieth anniversary of the death of Georg Fredrick Handel on 14 April 1759 received very little attention, considering his fame and popularity. I think that Mr. Handel deserves a tip of the hat, since the next major celebratory year for him won't arrive until 2035.



In 1985, the world celebrated the three hundredth anniversaries of the births of two titans of Baroque music: Johann Sebastian Bach (21 March 1685) and George Fredrick Handel (23 February 1685). In retrospect, however, I don't recall hearing anything about the Handel anniversary. I was a high-school-age organ student at the time, and perhaps it was my organ teacher's preference for the music of Bach that left me unaware of the near-coincidence of these two birthdays.

Handel and Bach were exact contemporaries, but their contributions to the world of music were very different. While both men wrote both sacred and secular music, Handel's life was much more cosmopolitan, and his work was aimed much more toward aristocratic and popular audiences. Bach never traveled beyond Germany, and though he also composed for royal court and civic audiences, he was heavily involved in sacred music, often working for the church. He never wrote an opera, perhaps the most popular genre of the day, and his music was largely forgotten shortly after his death. We credit Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy (whose two hundredth birthday was in February of this year) with reviving the music of Bach.

Handel never fell into obscurity. Though he, too, was born in Germany, Handel traveled to and composed in Italy, and truly rose to great fame in England. He was celebrated in England in his lifetime and was buried in Westminster Abbey. Handel wrote sacred music in Latin, English, Italian, and German, but his contributions to concert and ceremonial music were much more important. And then there were the operas and oratorios. Handel's great triumph came from his dramatic works, including his many operas, which were staged and secular, and his many oratorios, which, although sacred in subject matter, were never intended to be "church music"; they were dramatic concert pieces on biblical themes fitting the public piety of the time. Only later did works like Messiah find their way into the church. Messiah is, without a doubt, his best-known work, but his output was vast and of very high quality. His organ concertos, Italian operas, chamber music, choral anthems, and other works, are worth exploring.

If you haven't listened to Messiah recently, or to any number of other masterpieces he left for the enjoyment and inspiration of all, now would be a great time to do so. Hallelujah!

Music Events at Epiphany in May

On **Saturday 16 May at 7:30 PM**, The **Washington Girls Chorus** returns to Epiphany for a concert entitled "Sing, When the Spirit Says Sing!". For more information, visit their website: <http://washingtongirlschorus.org/concerts.html>

On **Sunday 17 May at 4:00 PM**, the **Armenian Cultural & Educational Society** presents a concert. For more information about the organization, visit their website: <http://www.hamazkayin.com/>

On **Sunday 31 May at 3:00 PM**, the **Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic** returns to Epiphany for a special concert featuring nature-focused works by Ottorino Respighi, Jaromir Weinberger, Jennifer Higdon, and Jean Pascal Beintus (with narration and solo by Tia Wortham). Fifty percent of net proceeds from concert donations benefit Trees for the Future. For more information, visit the Philharmonic's website: <http://www.wmpmusic.org/>

Environmental Stewardship at Epiphany

Environmental Tip of the Month

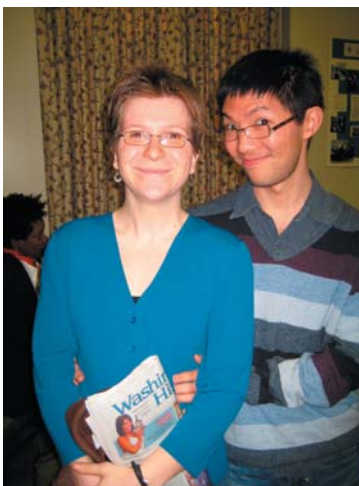
The internet age promised a paper-free workplace. However, most of us see the opposite: wasteful printing of multiple drafts of material that is only used once. Here are a few tips from the responsible consumer organization New American Dream (<http://www.newdream.org/work/office.php>).

- * Digitize. Create hard copies only when necessary. Having one printed version of a document on file will often suffice. If possible, default your printers to duplex (double-sided printing).
- * Whenever appropriate, re-use one-sided documents from a scrap paper bin in the same area as your printer or copier.
- * Purchase unbleached paper with a post-consumer waste (PCW) content of 30% or more. "Recycled" paper is often made with scraps generated in the paper-making process. It's the post-consumer content that actually matters.
- * Encourage your business to learn more about environmentally preferable paper through the [Responsible Purchasing Network](#) or find the goods yourself through the paper section of the [Conscious Consumer Marketplace](#).
- * Recycle your toner cartridges and buy remanufactured toner cartridges for printers, copiers and fax machines.

Epiphany Welcomes These New Members



Tate Chambers



Ryan Imhoff &
Weiwen Ng



Jaynie Lilley



Sid Stucki



Rebecca Showunmi



Karen Thompson



Jarroda Kelsaw



Francy Otero &
Jeff Matheny

Warden's Corner

Tanya Washington, Senior Warden

As winter is finally receding and spring flowers and sunny skies are arising, we are entering the time of year when nature renews itself. This time of renewal applies to Epiphany as well. 2009 is a significant year for the Epiphany community.



Like many parishes, Epiphany is challenged by the economic downturn affecting our ability to raise the financial resources we need to support our important ministries. We also have an aging facility that needs major improvements. Even with these challenges, we continue to have hope and faith that God will lead us to new possibilities for supporting our ministries and maintaining this wonderful building that has been passed down to us from the 19th century.

Signs of renewal at Epiphany are all around us. As I am writing at the end of April, Epiphany already has gained over 30 new members this year. Clearly, visitors who come to worship with us are finding a faith community where they can plant roots and be nourished by God's Spirit alive in our ministries and our hospitality towards each other. Membership development at Epiphany is a major priority this year, one supported fully by the vestry. Less than five months into the year, we have made a great start. Membership development, however, isn't something that's only for parish staff or ministry team leaders. Every member's gifts nourish us all, so it is *all of us* who have the responsibility to support membership growth. This can be done in several ways. Inviting loved ones and friends to worship or to special events is one obvious example. We also need sponsors who can help new members get to know Epiphany better and be companions for others in their spiritual journey. Talking to new people at Coffee Hour is also very important for each of us to do. In these ways, we live out Jesus' call to practice radical hospitality.

In addition to membership development, other major activities are in the works this year:

- The Campaign for Epiphany is shifting gears to focus on raising capital funds from

- external sources to support the renovation. We still need all who have made renovation pledges to continue their support this year.
- We are freshening up Epiphany's website to make it more appealing and user-friendly.
- We will continue to host special events and other activities to raise funds to support our ministries and widen the larger community's awareness of Epiphany.

In the two years I have been a member of the vestry and warden, I have seen firsthand the challenges we face. At the same time, my faith in God's support for this community has not wavered. I ask that all of you have this faith as well and do what you can to support the vestry and our community to live out God's call to us.

Justice Ministry Team – Breaking Bread for Justice

Caroline Klam

The Justice Ministry Team is excited that we have more than 18 people signed up for Breaking Bread for Justice. This is our first team project where we will begin to honor both the Old Testament and Gospel call to seek justice for all of God's people, especially the poor. With this project, we hope to build relationships with the downtown poor served by Epiphany, as a foundation for identifying opportunities for advocacy. With all this interest, we need to break into three smaller sections in order to provide genuine opportunities for sharing during the meals.

The first group will share three meals together on Sundays June 7, 14, and 21. The next group will meet on July 12, 19, and 26; and the last group (in this series) will meet on August 9, 16, and 23. When you see a diverse group of people with delicious food gathering in the Willard Room on those days, you will know what is going on.

The goals of our time together are:

- To feed the hungry
- To build a diverse and inclusive community
- To worship as one
- To give and receive the love of Christ
- To become advocates of justice for the downtown poor

We will be sharing with you each month what we are learning and our future plans. Stay tuned!

Faith Stories Return to the 11am Sunday Liturgy

Susan Walker, Lay Associate

How do you know God, the unknowable? Is it through conversations with other people, in an unexpected beauty of a moonlit night, or through the voices of a choral cantata that make you aware of an encounter with the Holy? Or, is it through silence?

Most of us can probably relate a time when we have sensed God's presence in our lives. Can we tell others about that experience? Relating our faith stories to one another can free our old ways of thinking about God, and spark our imaginations to recognize the Risen Christ in our midst. Stories of faith help deepen our knowledge of how God *really does* interact with us, every day of our lives. They can remind us how God *really does* love us in ways that astonish and delight us.

At Epiphany, we are renewing a practice of telling a faith story on one Sunday a month. Begun in 2001, this custom of sharing our faith in the liturgy enabled us to hear seventy different stories about God's active and infinitely varied presence in members' lives. The stories have recounted unexpected and sometimes dramatic ways of experiencing God's presence, but also simple and seemingly ordinary occurrences that speak of God's company in our daily routines. As we hear one another's faith stories, we grow in our capacity to know each another as members of the Body of Christ, which, in turn, helps us build the kingdom of God here in downtown Washington.

Faith stories help us live into our baptismal covenant which asks, "*Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?*" We answer, "*We will, with God's help*" when we share our faith stories.

As we renew this practice in our Sunday liturgies, please consider how you may be called to tell a faith story. I welcome the opportunity to talk to you about your story, so call me at church or catch me at coffee hour on Sunday.

We Say Farewell to Karina Vassallo

Last month Epiphany's nursery staff person, Karina Vassallo, retired after five years as our children's caregiver. Karina has been a professionally caring and loving presence to our children, and a vital part of Epiphany's Christian formation ministry. We are all grateful to Karina for her skill and generous spirit she shared with us and especially with the many babies and toddlers she grew to know and love. We will miss Karina, and we wish her well.

As the Education Ministry Team searches for a new caregiver, please keep our efforts in your thoughts and prayers. And, if you know of anyone who might be a good match for Epiphany's Sunday nursery, please let Day Dodson or Susan Walker know.



Karina Vassallo and nursery children



Senior Celebrations 2009

You are invited to join
the Episcopal Diocese of Washington
and Episcopal Senior Ministries
as we honor the contributions of older adults to Church and
Community and celebrate positive aging.

Thursday, May 7, 2009 at 1:30pm
Washington National Cathedral's Bethlehem Chapel

Eucharist celebrated by
The Right Rev. John Bryson Chane, Bishop of Washington

Speaker: Dr. Gene Cohen on "Resilient Aging"
Author & Director of the Center on Aging, Health, & Humanities at
George Washington University

Presentation of Awards

Refreshments following the Program

Complimentary Parking at the Cathedral's Parking Garage (gates
lifted at the close of the event)

All are welcome!

*For further information contact Annie Shaw, Director of Parish
Volunteer Services at Episcopal Senior Ministries
202-414-6314 or ashaw@esm.org*



Episcopal Senior Ministries

Pulitzer Comes to Life

Tripp Jones, Parish Archivist

As I write this article in mid-April, the 2009 Pulitzer Prizes have just been announced. Receiving “a Pulitzer” is certainly the apex of any journalist’s career. Since 1917, the annual awards have been given in the fields of journalism, letters, drama, and education. Over the years, music, poetry, and photography have been added as well, bringing the total to 21 awards that are currently made annually.



Journalist extraordinaire Joseph Pulitzer (1847-1911) established the prizes in his will as an incentive for excellence. As you may know, Pulitzer has ties to Epiphany. Several years ago, a gentleman by the name of James (Jamie) McGrath Morris contacted me as parish archivist, seeking information on Pulitzer’s connections to our church. Jamie was in the midst of writing a Pulitzer biography. After a lot of back and forth between Jamie and myself over the years, I have learned some new Epiphany history, plus I have gained an appreciation of the exhaustive research that goes into writing a book, especially a biography.

With one aspect of the research, I provided Jamie with the date that Joseph Pulitzer and Kate Davis were married at Epiphany. Once that fact was established, I met Jamie one day at church and we just walked around. I did my best to describe how the space would have looked in 1878. We went up to the south balcony to get a close-up look of the Epiphany window on the back wall. At the time of the wedding, this window would have been at the other end of the church, above the altar. Jamie seemed intrigued with my description of the Feast of the Epiphany, the event when Jews and Gentiles both paid tribute to the Christ child, acknowledging him as the Lord. How appropriate, Jamie thought, that beneath this window Pulitzer, with his Jewish ancestry, was uniting in marriage with Davis, a Gentile.

The update to this story that I wanted to share with you is that Jamie recently contacted me with the good news that his manuscript is done and is being edited. His biography, *PULITZER: A Life in Politics, Print, and Power* will be published by Harper Collins in early 2010. I was honored that he asked to include my name as Epiphany Parish Archivist in the credits.

From Jamie’s website (www.jamesmcgrathmorris.com) he promotes his book as follows:

In the nineteenth century, when America became an industrial giant and Carnegie provided the steel, Rockefeller the oil, Morgan the money, and Vanderbilt the railroads, Joseph Pulitzer gave us the modern mass media. Ted Turner-like in his innovative abilities, Teddy Roosevelt-like in his history-transforming power, and Howard Hughes-like in his reclusive second half of his life as a blind man tormented by sound, Pulitzer’s tale provides all the elements of a life story that is important, timely, and compelling.

I can’t wait to read it! I told Jamie I wanted an autographed copy to put in our archives. Maybe we can get him here for a book signing.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Church of the Epiphany May 2009 Calendar					1 Saint Philip and Saint James, Apostles 12:00 AA 12:10 Holy Eucharist 1:15 Islamic Prayer Serv. 4:00 YSOP	2 2:30 YSOP
3 The 4th Sunday of Easter 7:00 NA/AA 7:15 Welcome Table Bible Study 7:30 Welcome Table Choir 8:00 Welcome Table Holy Eucharist 8:45 The Welcome Table 9:10 Welcome Table Choir 10:00 Community Bible Study 10:45 Liturgical Leaders 11:00 Holy Eucharist/Godly Play 12:15 Coffee Hour	4 12:00 AA 12:10 Contemplative Eucharist 1:15 Muslim Prayers 6:00 Franciscan Spirituality Group	5 12:00 Al-Anon 12:10 Tuesday Concert 1:00 Street Church 1:15 Muslim Prayers 2:00 Street Sense Vendors 6:00 Urban Ministry	6 10:00 Labyrinth 10:00 Staff 12:00 AA/ Al-Anon 12:10 Healing Eucharist 1:15 Muslim Prayers 2:30 Street Sense Writers	7 12:00 SLAA 12:10 Holy Eucharist 1:15 Muslim Prayers 2:00 Street Sense Vendors 2:00 Street Sense Volunteers 7:15 Choir	8 12:00 AA 12:10 Holy Eucharist 1:15 Islamic Prayer Service	9
10 5th Sunday of Easter, Mother's Day 7:00 NA/AA 7:15 Welcome Table Bible Study 7:30 Welcome Table Choir 8:00 Welcome Table Holy Eucharist 8:45 The Welcome Table 9:10 Welcome Table Choir 10:00 Community Bible Study 10:45 Liturgical Leaders 11:00 Holy Eucharist/Godly Play 12:15 Coffee Hour	11 9:00 Gallaudet students and labyrinth 12:00 AA 12:10 Contemplative Eucharist 1:15 Muslim Prayers 3:30 Washington Girls Chorus	12 9:30 Committee of 100 12:00 Al-Anon 12:10 Tuesday Concert 1:00 Street Church 1:15 Muslim Prayers 2:00 Street Sense Vendors 6:30 Wash. Girls Chorus	13 10:00 Labyrinth 10:00 Staff 12:00 AA/ Al-Anon 12:10 Healing Eucharist 1:15 Muslim Prayers 2:30 Street Sense Writers 3:30 Wash. Girls Chorus 6:00 Street Sense Editorial	14 12:00 SLAA 12:10 Holy Eucharist 1:15 Muslim Prayers 2:00 Street Sense Vendors 6:00 YSOP Grand Street 7:15 Choir	15 7:30 YSOP 12:00 AA 12:10 Holy Eucharist 1:15 Islamic Prayer Service 2:30 YSOP Reflection and Dinner 2:30 SS Writers 3:30 Wash. Girls Chorus	16 7:30 Washington Girls Chorus Concert
17 The 6th Sunday of Easter Rogation Sunday 7:00 NA/AA 7:15 Welcome Table Bible Study 7:30 Welcome Table Choir 8:00 Welcome Table Holy Eucharist 8:45 The Welcome Table 9:10 Welcome Table Choir 10:00 Community Bible Study 10:45 Liturgical Leaders 11:00 Holy Eucharist/Godly Play 12:15 Coffee Hour 12:45 Planting Roof Garden 4:00 Armenian Culture & Edu Society Concert	18 7:00 YSOP Orientation 12:00 AA 12:10 Contemplative Eucharist 1:15 Muslim Prayers 2:00 YSOP Lincoln School 6:00 Vestry	19 7:30 YSOP Lincoln School 12:00 Al-Anon 12:10 Tuesday Concert 1:00 Street Church 1:15 Muslim Prayers 2:00 Street Sense Vendors 2:30 YSOP dinner	20 10:00 Labyrinth /Staff 12:00 AA/Al-Anon 12:10 Eucharist 1:15 Muslim Prayers 2:00 YSOP dinner 2:30 Street Sense Writers	21 Ascension Day 12:00 SLAA 12:10 Holy Eucharist 12:30 Facing Fear in a Time of Change 1:15 Muslim Prayers 2:00 Street Sense Vendors 2:30 YSOP Lincoln School 7:15 Choir	22 12:00 AA 12:10 Holy Eucharist 1:15 Islamic Prayer Service 3:00 YSOP Lincoln Sch.	23
24 The 7th Sunday of Easter 7:00 NA/AA 7:15 Welcome Table Bible Study 7:30 Welcome Table Choir 8:00 Welcome Table Holy Eucharist 8:45 The Welcome Table 9:10 Welcome Table Choir 10:00 Community Bible Study 10:45 Liturgical Leaders 11:00 Holy Eucharist/Godly Play 12:15 Coffee Hour	25 Church and Parish Office Closed for Memorial Day	26 12:00 Al-Anon 12:10 Tuesday Concert 1:00 Street Church 1:15 Muslim Prayers 2:00 Street Sense Vendors	27 10:00 Staff Meeting 12:00 AA 12:00 Al-Anon 12:10 Healing Eucharist 1:15 Muslim Prayers 2:30 Street Sense Writers	28 12:00 Committee of 100 12:00 SLAA 12:10 Holy Eucharist 1:15 Muslim Prayers 2:00 Street Sense Vendors 4:00 Street Sense Board	29 12:00 AA 12:10 Holy Eucharist 1:15 Islamic Prayer Service	30
31 The Day of Pentecost 7:00 NA/AA 7:15 Welcome Table Bible Study 7:30 Welcome Table Choir 8:00 Welcome Table Holy Eucharist 8:45 The Welcome Table 9:10 Welcome Table Choir 10:45 Liturgical Leaders 11:00 Festival Holy Eucharist/Godly Play 12:15 Pentecost Picnic 3:00 Wash Metropolitan Philharmonic Concert						

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