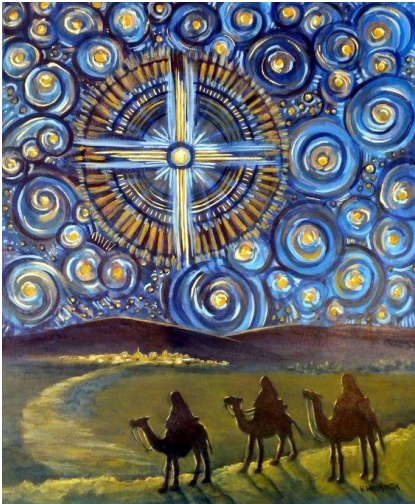




CHRIST AND THE EPIPHANY

VOLUME 28

January 2024



What should we do with Epiphany?

St. Peter's Episcopal Church.
Port Royal, VA

The English word "Epiphany" comes from the Greek word *epiphaneia*, which means "appearing" or "revealing." Epiphany focuses on God's self-revelation in Christ. The Epiphany celebration remembers the three miracles that manifest the divinity of Christ. The celebration originated in the Eastern Church in AD 361, beginning as a commemoration of the birth of Christ. Later, additional meanings were added - the visit of the three Magi, Christ's baptism in the Jordan River with the voice from heaven that identifies Jesus as God's son, and his first miracle at the wedding in Cana. These three events are central to the definition of Epiphany, and its meaning is drawn from these occurrences.

In either case, the emphasis is upon God making himself known to the world through Jesus, the divine Son. During Epiphany, the divine words at Jesus' baptism—"You are my child, my Beloved"—are spoken to every child of God. The theological essence of Epiphany is found in 2 Timothy 1:10: "And now he has made all of this plain to us by the appearing of Christ Jesus, our Savior. He broke the power of death and illuminated the way to life and immortality through the Good News." If you were reading this verse in Greek, you'd find the word *epiphaneia* where we have "appearing." God has made "all of this" plain to us through the epiphany of Christ.

1. Epiphany is the season of the Church year from January 6 to the beginning of Lent (February 14, 2024) when we experience the unfolding of the identity of Jesus as the Son of God through scripture and song.
2. Epiphany is the season of wonder. Epiphany invites us to take the long view of her or his vocation and God's ministry in the world. The season of Epiphany joins, like Christmas, mysticism, and mission in revealing God's vision for all creation and humankind.
3. Epiphany is about the unexpected: unexpected joys and synchronicities and

Worship Services

Every Sunday, 9:00 a.m.,
in-person and via Zoom

Bishop Laura Aherns visit,
Sunday, February 11, 9:00
a.m., with the reception of
Melanie Miller and Mary Claire
Peach-Keyes, and the
confirmation of Paul Miller

*(Zoom connection information
at the end of newsletter.)*

Events

Annual Parish Meeting,
January 28, following the 9:00
a.m. worship service

unexpected challenges and tragedies. Epiphany is filled with unexpected revelations that change our minds and ways.

Some examples - In Epiphany, the magi take another road home; Peter discovers that God's grace is wider than he ever imagined; and the disciples experience Jesus as transfigured, like Moses, on the mountaintop and then, to their chagrin, realize that beyond the transfiguration stands a cross on the horizon. Let's take the magi. The magi left the land they knew, following a light to a place of uncertainty, and discovered the savior of the world, and it changed, literally, the direction of their lives. As Matthew puts it, "They returned home by another

way." The old way of traveling would no longer work. They needed to follow a different path.

At a critical moment in their journey, they realized what the lyrics of that song say: "Today is where your book begins. The rest is still unwritten." Changing direction.

Eventually, all of us take routes that we had never expected to travel, whether these involve changes in employment, health, relational, or economic status. When life forces us from the familiar highway onto an uncharted path, we are challenged to experience holiness as we travel on another road. The path is seldom easy, but within the real limitations of life, we may discover unexpected possibilities for vocation, mission, and transformation.

4. But, a spirituality of Epiphany reminds us that God is a fellow adventurer on every road we travel. Awakened to divine companionship, every path can become a holy adventure with surprises and epiphanies around every corner.

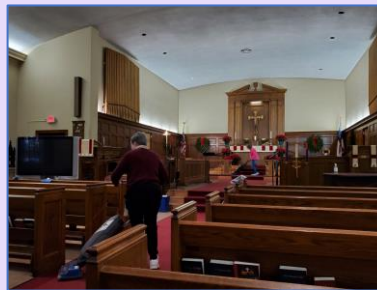
While Christian wisdom has affirmed that God is omnipresent, most of us have never fully explored what it means to assert that God is everywhere. At the very least, the doctrine of divine omnipresence means that God is present as our companion on every pathway—in certainty

Around the Church

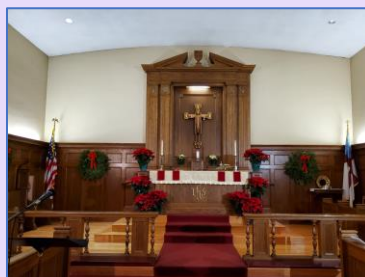
Christmas Fair
December 2



Altar guild members
preparing the church for
Christmas Services



Our Christmas Altar



that as we face the call of new horizons, whether by desire or necessity, often as pilgrims without a map, there is a divine wisdom moving through our lives, giving us insight, providing synchronous encounters, and awakening us to unexpected energies. It is about what happens to those who are searching, and who encounter Christ. It is, whether we realize it or not, about a kind of conversion; about finding another way of walking the journey of life, a way that has been transformed by a star. By a light. By Jesus Christ himself.

5. Fundamentally, the story of the Epiphany is about discovery—following a star to the source of salvation. The readings are overflowing with references to the light: "Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem," Isaiah cries out. "Your light has come. The glory of the Lord shines upon you."

There is a sense of redemption and relief, of deliverance and hope. Indeed, once the magi arrive in Bethlehem, they cannot contain themselves. As the gospel puts it: "They were overjoyed at seeing the star." They had arrived at the source of all their yearning, and all the searching. They had found what they were looking for.

People claim in our lives of "having an epiphany." In this case, an epiphany has come to mean a sudden insight into the truth or reality of an event or situation. Here, the word "epiphany" means seeing more than meets the eye; discovering the sacred embedded in ordinary events; and seeing our context as if for

the first time, bathed in God's presence. The reality of divine wisdom invites us to awaken to holiness in the quotidian.

6. Epiphany is the season of light and transfiguration. On Epiphany, the Church is drenched in light. It begins with a star guiding the magi and ends with dazzling light illuminating Jesus and his followers. For those who live in the spirit of Epiphany, all things dazzle with divine light. Even darkness reveals divinity in the hidden movements of growing things, whether in the womb or in the good earth.

December Vestry Summary

Next Meeting - The next Vestry meeting will be Sunday, January 21st after the 9:00 a.m. service in the library and via Zoom.

Senior Warden - Bishop Laura's visit has been moved to February 11.

Worship - There are currently no supply clergy available for the month of January 2024. *We are still looking for someone (does not have to be a Vestry person) to chair the Worship committee.*

Building & Grounds - Our current groundskeeping company (Jovani) has been doing a great job. They are a local company and really easy to work with. We are looking forward to seeing all the new bulbs planted this year come up in the Spring. We changed our boiler maintenance vendor to Viglione. They have also been great to work with and fixed for free a bad valve that

was causing some scary loud noises one night. Barbara P is working to submit a property improvement grant to the diocese.

It has been such a blessing having Ken and Kathy Dougherty around more since they have retired. They have been amazing stewards of our building - always finding new things to clean, fix, organize, etc.

47 Park Place - As of Dec 31, the building will be vacant. We are changing over the utilities to the church and will be putting on a timer for the lights. We have also let the Police know so they can keep an eye on it. We are still working on a potential new tenant as well as investigating what grant money might be available.

Feast & Festivities - The Fair was a resounding success this year. Thanks to everyone for all their hard work!

Communications - The Vestry approved a motion to become listed on gaychurch.org, a resource for people looking for LGBTQ+ affirming churches. (No cost involved)

Annual Meeting

George Coulombe
On January 28th, the parish will meet after the 9:00 a.m. service to conduct its annual business of electing officers and Vestry, reviewing the status of the parish after 2023 and what looks ahead for 2024. This is a very important meeting and we hope that everyone will attend. Since we are such a small parish

family, everyone's thoughts are important. Save the date!

Worship Committee Opening

George Coulombe

I have been honored to serve as Chair of the Worship Committee for these past few years. Since we are such a small parish, I am not alone in wearing several hats (Senior Warden, Bookkeeper, Worship Committee Chair). However, I find that I have to scale back my responsibilities. So, I am retiring as the Worship Committee Chair as of the Annual Meeting on January 28th.

The responsibilities of the Chair are to assist the Priest-in-Charge (when we have one) and to oversee the duties of the Committee. The Committee's responsibilities include scheduling the Lay Participants for the services, and when we do not have a P-I-C, also includes scheduling Supply Priests and planning services. Current members of the Committee are Barbara Coulombe (Music Minister), Carol Link-Ude (Altar Director), George Coulombe (continuing as a member), Susan Shultz (Technology) and Barbara Parsons. These members are very helpful for the expertise they provide. Barbara C. will continue to handle all music related to the services. Carol will continue to handle all altar responsibilities. George will continue to handle the scheduling of Lay Ministers (if the Chair so chooses). Susan will continue to handle all the Zoom responsibilities and

selecting the YouTube sermons (if the Chair so chooses). The responsibility for finding and scheduling Supply Priests is being given to the Parish Administrator to handle. So, the primary responsibility of the Chair is to see that everyone else is doing their job and now, when we do not have a P-I-C, to plan services with the help of the other Committee members.

Since we are such a small parish family, it is important that everyone do whatever they can to help Christ and The Epiphany be what God wants us to be here and now. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 203-467-4229 or bgcoulombe@gmail.com.



Hospitality Volunteers Needed - Coffee Hour

Carol Link-Ude and Barbara Parsons

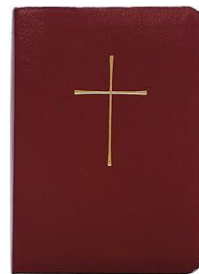
As Carol and Barbara hosted coffee hour every week for the last year, we are seeking volunteers to take over that responsibility beginning in January. Procedures and sign-up sheets are posted on the Church bulletin board in the upper hall. Carol and/or Barbara will make coffee prior to the 9:00 a.m. service each week. If we don't have a volunteer to bring "and" (which may be purchased or homemade) and a volunteer to cleanup, then there will only

be coffee, tea, or hot chocolate.



Episcopal Church in Connecticut (ECCT) - Save the Date

January 14, 2024, 3:00-4:30 p.m., 175th Anniversary of the Abolition of Slavery in Connecticut at Christ Church Cathedral, Hartford. See www.episcopalct.org for details.



The Book of Common Prayer - An In-depth Look

Diane Villano

This fall, it was my pleasure to take a seven-week online course from the Church Divinity School of the Pacific (CDSP) in Berkeley, California, part of their Center for Anglican Learning and Leadership (CALL) program. The Introduction to the Book of Common Prayer course included a weekly video presentation by the instructor, Rev. Dr. Melissa Hartley, assigned readings from three books, and virtual discussions with classmates and instructor. A final paper was required to earn Continuing Education Credits.

While we focused on the current 1979 BCP, we researched earlier versions beginning with the 1549 Reformation original. Some of the material we covered was familiar, but there were also surprises, such as the date of the Nicene Creed we profess

every Eucharist Service - the original was first adopted in 325!

The course was intense and challenging and gave me a great appreciation of the richness and history of the Book of Common Prayer. For those interested in a basic introduction, I recommend *Welcome to the Book of Common Prayer* by Vicki K. Black.



January 8 - Cynthia Rutt
January 25 - Judy Herzman

Encouraging Words for the Season of Epiphany

Audrey Sundwall

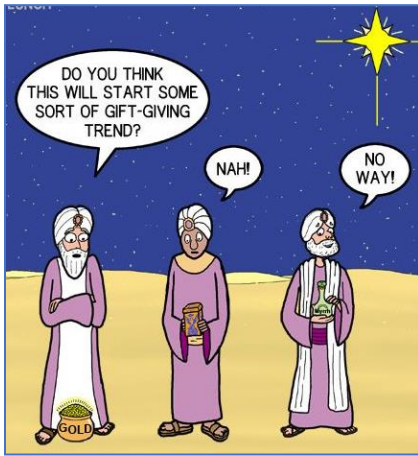
Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.
Isaiah 60:1

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."
Matthew 2:1-2

In his days may the righteous flourish, and peace abound, till the moon be no more! May he have dominion from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth!
Psalms 72:7-8

Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus had also been baptized and was praying, the heavens were opened, and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form, like a dove; and a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."

Luke 3:21-22



And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshipped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offer him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.

Matthew 2:11

Keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you.

Matthew 7:7

All Are Welcome

Diane Villano

As mentioned in the December Vestry Summary, I'm pleased to report that Christ and The Epiphany is now listed on gaychurch.org as an open and affirming church. This statement was recently added to our website (ChristandTheEpiphany.org):

Christ and The Epiphany Church affirms that God's love extends to all people. We strive to reflect the diversity of the kingdom of God, welcoming people whatever their race, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, health status, physical ability, marital status, spiritual or religious background. Christ and The Epiphany is certified by gaychurch.org as an open and affirming church.

Intercessory Prayers

Aiden & the Guida Family, Alexis, Alfred, Andrew, Barbuschak Family, Bohdan and Family in Ukraine, Brandon, Carol Ude, Charlie & Kris Langlan, David & Irene, Diana, Diane Link, Doreen St. Germaine, Ed, Eileen F., Elaine, Faith, Fran Zella, Francesca, Geneva O'Donnell, Jack Uberti & Holly Chickos, Jack and Jan McDonald, James Chapman, Jay Medlyn, Jay W., Jim R. & Family, Joan Shaffner, Joyce Aurelius, Kris, Lauren, Leah S., Linda P., Lucas Sundwall, Matt R., Maureen McPherson, Mike, Michael M., Minogue Family, Nicole C., Pat Walters, Pete F., Phyllis Marston, Rachael, Ray Sundwall, Sr., Rebecca & unborn baby, Jeff, Rosa E., Sam W., Stanley Rogalski, Susan Diaz, Thomas Brown, Tim, Tish, Tricia Clearwater, Turiano Family, Wayne

To submit names for the Intercessory Prayers list please call or email the church office. Names will be kept on the list for three months unless longer time is requested.

A Prayer for Transition and Guidance

O Lord, you are with us in every transition and change. With your deep compassion, presence and abounding love ease our anxiety. We pray for our parish family, that we may be genuine in our self-reflection, tireless in our commitment, patient in our discernment, loving in our communion, open in our search, and daring in our faith. We thank you for the gifts, talents, and skills with which you have blessed us. We thank you for the experiences that have brought us to this moment. Help us accept change as a gift of your direction for our journey in this transition. Instill in us a vision of the church's family; that, guided by your Holy Spirit, we will be united in love and joyfully accomplish this mission, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



Episcopal Church in Connecticut (ECCT) Prayer Cycle

New this year, we are including the Prayer Cycle from the Episcopal Church in Connecticut in each monthly newsletter. Connecticut parishes (Christ and The Epiphany Church is coming up in February!) and wider ministries are listed with the

Anglican Cycle of Prayer. Please consider adding these communities to your prayer intentions. Sharp eyes will spot the many ministries serving at C&E such as altar guild members, church musicians, vestry members, wardens, treasures, clerks, diocesan delegates, lay readers, etc. The complete Cycle is located on ECCT's website at <https://www.episcopalct.org/communications>, or contact the newsletter editors.

ECCT 2023-2024 Prayer Cycle	
Jan. 7	Parishes: St. Peter's, Cheshire; Holy Advent, Clinton; Trinity Church, Collinsville Additionally: For all immigrants, refugees and the ministries that serve them Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Scottish Episcopal Church
Jan. 14	Parishes: St. James', Danbury; Saint Luke's, Darien; St. Paul's, Darien; Immanuel St. James, Derby Additionally: For those who have been affected by and who have died from COVID-19/Coronavirus, their families, friends, healthcare workers, and frontline workers Anglican Cycle of Prayer: Church of the Province of South East Asia
Jan. 21	Parishes and Additionally: All ecumenical and interfaith endeavors involving our congregations and people; for peace and peacemakers Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Church of South India (United)
Jan. 28	Parishes: Epiphany, Durham; St. Gabriel's, East Berlin; St. Stephen's, East Haddam; All Saint's, East Harford Additionally: Ministries to, with, and for the deaf Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Anglican Church of Southern Africa

Next Issue The deadline for the February issue is January 23rd. Submissions can be sent to newsletter.christandtheepiphany@gmail.com. For an update to the Intercessory Prayers, Birthday or Anniversary lists, please call the church office at 203-467-2310 or email christandtheepiphany@gmail.com.

Treasurer Report				
Susan Shultz				
	NOV	(UNDER)/OVER BUDGET	YTD	(UNDER)/OVER YTD BUDGET
INCOME	\$6,543.23	(\$143.27)	\$98,040.14	\$12,576.34
EXPENSES	\$9,327.30	\$2,679.39	\$89,912.09	(\$12,992.42)
NET	(\$2,784.07)	\$2,822.66	\$8,128.05	(\$25,568.76)

Notes: While it looks like there was a spike in expenses it was really a timing issue (see last month's almost \$2k under budget). Overall for the year we are still on track to end with a surplus instead of the almost \$10k budgeted deficit.

Worship Schedule 9:00 a.m. (unless otherwise noted)

	January 7	January 14	January 21	January 28 Annual Parish Meeting
Service	Morning Prayer	Morning Prayer	Morning Prayer	Morning Prayer
Presider/ Officiant	Judy Herzman	Wendy Bellmore	Barbara Parsons	Audrey Sundwall
Crucifer				
Acolyte				
Lay Reader	Audrey Sundwall	Gail Beck	Judy Herzman	Wendy Bellmore
Usher	George Coulombe	Audrey Sundwall	Diane Villano	Barbara Parsons
Zoom Tech	Susan Shultz	Susan Shultz	Susan Shultz	Susan Shultz
Lead Counter	Pat Walters	Astrid Swanson	George Coulombe	Susan Shultz
Ass't Counter	Melanie Miller	Fred Bowden	Barbara Coulombe	George Coulombe

Clergy, Vestry and Staff

Priest-in-charge	Open
Senior Warden	George Coulombe
Junior Warden	Barbara Parsons (& Outreach)
Treasurer	Susan Shultz (& Technology)
Clerk	Gail Beck
Vestry Member	Ray Clearwater
Vestry Member	Carol Link-Ude (& Altar Guild; Hospitality & Fund Raising)
Vestry Member	Audrey Sundwall (& Communications)
Vestry Member	Astrid Swanson
Vestry Member	Diane Villano (& Newsletter)
Music Director	Barbara Coulombe
Parish Administrator	Diane Rowley

ECCT continues to experience a shortage of supply clergy for Sunday services. If you know of anyone who might be interested in serving at C & E, please contact George Coulombe at bgcoulombe@gmail.com.

To connect by computer, enter: <https://tinyurl.com/3kbvnb4>, or click on the link on our webpage: www.ChristandTheEpiphany.org

To join by phone call: 929-436-2866, Meeting ID = 763 909 4733, Password = 39

Weekly bulletins are emailed out on Fridays. Zoom is opened around 8:45 a.m. on Sunday.

If you are not receiving the email bulletin, please contact Diane Rowley in the office at 203-467-2310 or christandtheepiphany@gmail.com.

If you want or need any help getting connected on Zoom please reach out any time to Susan Shultz at 203-589-1142 or sbshultz@gmail.com.

Christ and The Epiphany Church

39 Park Place
East Haven, CT 06512

Phone: 203-467-2310

Email: christandtheepiphany@gmail.com

Website: www.christandtheepiphany.org

Worship Schedule

Sunday 9:00 a.m. In-Person & Online Zoom Worship
In-person with social distancing and optional masking