

Epiphany Season, Epiphany Experience

Dear People of St. Philip's,

Epiphany, the season of the church in which we celebrate the manifestation of our Lord Jesus Christ as a Light to the World, is a rather short season this year. It is one of those church calendar seasons which varies, starting on Epiphany Day, January 6, and going until Ash Wednesday. It can be long or short depending on when Easter falls... and Easter is determined by the phase of the moon: Easter falls on the first Sunday after the first full moon following the Spring Equinox. This year Easter is early (March 27), therefore Ash Wednesday is early, and Epiphany is short.

The interesting thing for me about seeking Christ's manifestation of light to the world this year, is the apparent pull I feel under the weight of the recent decision of the primates of the Anglican Communion to sanction The Episcopal Church of the U.S.A. for three years due to our theological difference with many (not all) in the Anglican Communion regarding marriage equality.

This is a very complex topic, one which I want to study carefully, and which is fraught with pain and misunderstanding. I truly feel Christ's light of love needs to have time to manifest itself more fully for me, and many in the Anglican Communion/Episcopal Church, before we will feel back in balance and truly in a communion of prayer. I welcome input from our broader St. Philip's membership for conversations which will allow us to be in prayerful, active community with one another, as we always have, with differing opinions.

As our Presiding Bishop Michael Curry has stated:

"We are the Episcopal Church, and we are part of the Jesus Movement, and that Movement goes on, and our work goes on. And the truth is, it may be part of our vocation to help the Communion and to help many others to grow in a direction where we can realize and live the love that God has for all of us, and we can one day be a Church and a Communion where all of God's children are fully welcomed, where this is truly a house of prayer for all people. And maybe it's a part of our vocation to help that to happen. And so we must claim that high calling; claim the high calling of love and faith; love even for those with whom we disagree, and then continue, and that we will do, and we will do it together. We are part of the Jesus Movement, and the cause of God's love in this world can never stop and will never be defeated." <http://www.episcopalchurch.org/posts/publicaffairs/episcopal-church-presiding-bishop-and-primate-michael-curry-actions-anglican>

In Christ's immense love,

Pastor Mary

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Thoughts on Epiphany from Sally Sutter:

For the longest time I felt that my personal preferences (music/food/books/people/activities) were simply a function of my personality. And to a certain extent, that is true. But something I read in a book ([Kitchen Table Wisdom: Stories That Heal](#), Rachel Naomi Remen) helped me develop a fuller understanding. When I only consult my own preferences, which are by definition in my comfort zone, known and predictable, I'm more likely to miss the voice of the Spirit, to miss learning something about myself, others, life. Remen writes,

“To the degree that we can relinquish personal preference, we free ourselves from win/lose thinking and the fear that feeds on it...Decisions made from this perspective are life-affirming and not fear driven. It is a grace.”

Perhaps that is why in Scripture we're so often advised to “fear not”. In trusting God each day we just might discover the “abundant life” Jesus promised. What an epiphany!

This Week: Jan. 24—30

Tue., 6 pm, **Vestry**, Sanctuary

Wed, 10:30, **Theology Book Group**, Sanctuary

Wed, 6:30, **H.S. Youth: God Talk**, Youth Room

Thu, 5pm, **Food Pantry**, Foyer

Fri, 10:30, **Meditation**, Sanctuary

Sat., 5 pm, **Overnight Guests**, Parish Hall



Winter Retreat

Feb. 5-7

Sign up Deadline is TODAY!

Here are 2 Ways to Sign Up:

1. Fill out a form on the table in the foyer & put it in the designated envelope on the bulletin board in the office. Remember to include your payment in full!
2. Put your info on the sign up sheet on

the foyer bulletin board. Make sure Sue Morris gets

Full payment must be received by January 24th to reserve your spot.

Scholarships available. No one is turned away for lack of funds.

Rates: Rooms: \$195 for the whole weekend.

God
Talk

High School Youth Group:

Wednesdays, 6:30-8:30

a simple meal, fellowship, homework,
and discussion:

WHO IS GOD, ANYWAY?!

College student, Nikki Olivas, along with Pastor
Mary, invites all interested senior highs!

Hope all High School Youth can make it — invite any
high school friends — We're doing homework—Please
let us know via email or text by Tuesday,

Jan. 26 if you can come (just so we know approximately
how much food to make). *Nikki & Pastor Mary*

SAVE THE DATE

Jan. 31: Annual Meeting - A *Not-to-be-Missed Event!* 11:30-1:00, following the 10
am service. Join us for lunch and a lively discussion about where we, as a family of
Christ, would like to go this coming year.

Jan. 26, Vestry Meeting, Sanctuary

Jan. 30, Overnighters dinner prep: Fran & John Soulé

Feb. 5-7: Winter retreat *see announcement opposite* <—

Lent is coming in just 2 weeks!

Feb. 9, Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, 5:30-7 pm

Feb. 10, Disposition of Ashes, 12 noon & 7 pm

Feb. 17-Mar. 16, Lenten Soup Suppers



Clean Egg Cartons Needed!

The Food Pantry ever & always needs egg
cartons. We get the eggs in bulk from Sec-
ond Harvest and put them in 6- or 12- egg
cartons for the pantry customers. Clean
ones only, please.



***There's so much hunger in the world.
What can one person do?***

Make a meal for our Overnights. That's what one person can do. Please take a moment after services to consider when you—maybe with friends or family—would like to prepare a meal for our guests in the coming year.

It's a Good Thing!

LISTEN TO CHANGE

Sacred Conversations for Racial Justice

Webcast Conference
St. Jude's Church, Cupertino
January 28-30

Sacred Conversations for Racial Justice

All Welcome!

Suggested donation \$10

Don't miss PB Curry, Michele Norris, Nicholas Kristof, Emilie Townes, V.Rios, K. Brown Douglas, A. Deavere Smith, and an exciting panel discussion and brain storm.

Full schedule & speakers at saintjudes.org/trinity-institute-listen-change

2016 DWT Scholarship Fund Sets \$30K Goal

This year organizers Sarah Nordwick and Katie Reeves (seen below with special asst.

Willow) are working to get as many churches involved as possible.

In addition to raising \$30,000 to fund 700 scholarships, they want to engage the youth of ECR to bridge the overseas connection. If you know any interested youth please contact us at

info@realepiscopal.org.



Scholarship Fund Opportunities



Diocese of Western Tanganyika

To Donate:

Go to realepiscopal.org/donate/
or mail your check to
The Episcopal Diocese of El Camino Real