

# The Beacon

January 2010

A monthly newsletter from  
Epiphany Episcopal Church  
Dulaney Valley, Maryland  
410-252-4465

~A progressive and inclusive community of disciples

committed to the ministry of Christ through our

## In this issue:

Clergy Musings  
Pg 2

Adult Christian Ed  
Pg 2

Why bring kids to  
Sunday school  
Pg 3

Newcomers dinner  
Pg 3

Partnering with God  
Pg 4

Give first, manage  
later  
Pg 4

Petal Pushers  
Page 5

N2N and Jack  
Page 5

Annual Report  
Page 5

Daycare update  
Pg 6

Celebrations and  
Prayers of the  
People  
Pg 6

Calendar  
Pg 7

## EPIPHANY'S 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

By the Anniversary  
committee



The Epiphany 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary committee met with the vestry during its November meeting. The purpose of this meeting was for the committee to inform and seek support and approval of its plans for Epiphany's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. As explained to the vestry, and previously reported in the Beacon, the committee is planning a commemorative service, a celebratory event (luncheon) and a memorial publication. After our presentation, the vestry voted to unanimously approve the committee's plans.

The commemorative service and luncheon will be held on Sunday April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2010. The committee has selected the Crowne Plaza in Timonium for the luncheon. Place mark your calendars and plan to attend both events.

If you are in contact with former Epiphany members, please let them know of our plans and encourage them to attend. We will need their names and current addresses for a "SAVE THE DATE" mailing in January and a subsequent written invitation. Please furnish this information to Wallace (Wally) Dann, phone (410) 252-3354 or [walledann@verizon.net](mailto:walledann@verizon.net).

The committee is pleased that senior warden Steve Orr has volunteered to prepare a video presentation that will be shown during the luncheon. If you have photos of Epiphany people and events, please place them in the Golden Anniversary container in the Narthex.

Stay tuned for further developments!

## REGIONAL YOUTH RETREAT AT CLAGGETT

By Kristofer Lindh-Payne

Is there a "right way" to pray?  
Where do you encounter God in your life?  
Need new ways to make space for God?  
Ever feel pulled in too many directions?

Join us for **Which Way?**

a discussion of spiritual practices and tools  
for your life at the annual youth retreat  
**January 29-31, 2010**

at the Bishop Claggett Center

ALL YOUTH in grades 6 through 12 are invited.

Registration is \$135 per person and due on  
**January 3.**

Scholarship assistance is available on request.  
Want to register or get an answer to a question?  
Contact Rev. Kristofer Lindh-Payne at 410-252-  
4465 or [revklp@qis.net](mailto:revklp@qis.net).

## FEAST DAY/SPAGHETTI DINNER

By Kate McAllister

Wow! What a  
celebration! January 6<sup>th</sup>  
is our Feast Day,  
Kristofer's ordination  
and a Spaghetti Supper



Fundraiser for Middle and High School Youth  
(where Kristofer happens to be a co-leader).  
Supper starts at 5:30 and all we ask is for a  
donation. The money earned will go toward  
subsidizing Claggett youth retreat fees for our  
youth that are participating. There is a sign up  
sheet in the Narthex. We need a count by  
Sunday, January 3<sup>rd</sup> so that no one will go  
hungry!

I might add that anyone interested in helping  
us with set-up, cooking, and clean-up (many  
hands make light work) should contact Kate  
McAllister at [n2n@qis.net](mailto:n2n@qis.net) or the office.  
Thank you!



## Clergy Musings

By Rev. Dr. Kathryn Wajda

The church recognizes Christmas as a season, twelve days long (“on the twelfth day of Christmas, my true love gave to me . . .”) The twelfth day is Epiphany, January 6<sup>th</sup>, our Feast Day. The season opens with celebrating the Incarnation, or becoming flesh, or God being with us in the birth of Jesus, and closes with celebrating us, humanity, getting the picture, or understanding that Jesus is God and his mission is for all of us. When the decorations are coming down in the stores and Christmas feels like a worn out event, we are hearing about wise men from the East, following a star, looking for a baby. A child is born, we hear, at the same time as death dealing power rules somewhere on our planet. My niece, Kerin, had her first baby in the same week that we have been holding in our hands and hearts some of our Epiphany family who are seriously ill. We are a people of hope, and we know that just like those wise men, we will journey through uncharted territory, even change ourselves mentally and psychologically seeking wisdom, changing and searching.

This year on our Feast Day, Epiphany, Kristofer Lindh-Payne will be ordained to the priesthood, a celebration of the gifts Kristofer offers and years of journeying and searching, following that star, listening for the voice that calls to him.

The story of Jesus as the light of the world only begins at Christmas. We have to see the light. We have to follow the path that is illuminated for us. We have to see the star, follow it, and worship Jesus when we get there. That is why Epiphany is such an important season following Christmas. We are invited to remember and give thanks for our own Epiphanies, the times when we are looking into the eyes of God.

Just think, we belong to a church that is named for a church season that invites us to notice God’s footprints in our lives, that leads us to those moments when out of nowhere something is opened up for us in a wholly new way as if someone flipped the switch in our brain marked “Illuminate.” Then there are the holy “Ah-ha’s” when the method behind God’s “madness” is made manifest and when we unexpectedly grasp the

grace that was there all along, when we intuitively sense the sacred, see with awe-filled eyes, or are struck speechless by the holy in a simple human encounter, a star-filled sky, the birth of a baby.

Imagine that we are at Epiphany to encourage each other, old and new, strangers and guests, to notice and see God in our lives and spread that grace beyond to others. Epiphany. It is such an appropriate name for us, and an appropriate task for us, discovering the Divine and embracing the world.

Epiphany Blessings to You,  
Kathryn

### ADULT CHRISTIAN LEARNING

By Epiphany Staff

Daytime Adult Christian Learning will start again in January, meeting on Thursday mornings 9:30-11:00 AM, January 7-February 4, 2010. Volume 2 of *Companions in Christ*, Feeding on the Word, invites you to explore the depths of scripture, learn to listen to God through it, and allow your life to be shaped by the Word. This five-week experience covers these topics:

- Week 1 Why Do We Call the Bible God’s Word?
- Week 2 Studying Scripture As a Spiritual Discipline
- Week 3 Meditating on the Word
- Week 4 Directing Imagination
- Week 5 Group Meditation with Scripture

Look for more information in the Market Place after church starting in December. Please sign up so books can be ordered.

**Note: due to Kristofer’s ordination on January 6, we will start *Companions in Christ, Feeding on the Word* on Thursday, January 14 at 9:30 am.**

## A FEW REASONS TO BRING YOUR CHILD TO SUNDAY SCHOOL

By Kathryn Wajda

- It gives them an extended family experience with other caring adults who model Christian behavior.
- It's more important than any sports event. Later in life when your children face crises, remembering how many goals they scored will not be as important or as comforting as remembering lessons they learned about God's love for them.
- Children will value what their parent's value. There is a serious problem with priorities in today's culture. Attending to matters of faith and tending the souls of our children needs to be a top priority. Edited from Trinity Times

Tending Souls: Helping parents nurture spirituality in children.

Are you uncertain about how to guide your children in faith? Sandy Sasso suggests that you take your children's hands on a journey of faith and discover how they will open your souls and enrich your spiritual lives too.

1. Explore your spiritual life. If you are open to God's presence, to the sacred in your life, then you can also listen for it in the lives of your children. Teaching faith to children is less about what you say and more about how you live. How you react when you see a homeless person, or tend someone who is ill, or see a dead animal on the road will teach volumes about what you believe.
2. Engage in ritual and cherish symbols. Come to worship each Sunday. Religious rituals connect our families with community and history. They give concrete expression to the values we treasure. Create rituals for mealtime, bath time, and bedtime. Collect canned goods for a shelter. When your children receive new toys ask them to choose one of their old ones to give to others. Spend time in nature. Acknowledge the holy in the everyday and help your children structure time with hospitality, gratitude and compassion.
3. Read with your children. Children make sense of their lives through story. Research shows that when parents help children narrate the

experiences of their lives, children have stronger and more coherent memories and sense of self. Read Bible stories and invite them into the telling. Look for children's books that grapple with jealousy and anger, unfairness and loss, with characters who find a way through difficulty and tough times – all issues in the Bible. Tell stories of your family and let your children tell you stories of their lives.

4. Make time for prayer and silence. In quiet moments children have a chance to reflect and get in touch with their souls. Encourage children to pray from their hearts and let them hear you say a prayer from your heart. Bedtime is especially good for intentional quiet. It's a way of gently letting go of the day. Encourage your children to think about being grateful, or worried or afraid and talk about their disappointments and regrets, their joys and delights. Naming these experiences is a form of prayer.
5. Belong to a community. Children not only require soccer coaches, they need spiritual mentors for life. They need to see other people who live a life of generosity and grace, of courage and caring. It takes more than a parent or two to raise a good human being. It requires a community that models a just and compassionate way of life.

If you are willing to see the world through their wonder-filled eyes, you'll find that they open a door to the sacred that will deepen your life of faith.

### CALLING ALL NEWCOMERS!

By Elza Dunning

For those who are interested, the date has been set for the next Newcomers Dinner. It will be held on Saturday January 23 at Steve and Cathy Siperko's home with a snow date of January 30. Please contact the Siperko's if you would like to attend.

## BECOMING PARTNERS IN GOD'S WORK

*My child, I've often heard your question: This message is my answer.*

- *You're concerned about the hungry in the world, millions who are starving . . . and you ask, "What can I do?"* **FEED ONE**
- *You're haunted by the homeless poor who wander city streets . . . and you ask: "What can I do?"* **SHELTER ONE**
- *You feel compassion for those who suffer pain, sorrow, and despair . . . and you ask: "What can I do?"* **COMFORT ONE**
- *Your heart goes out to the lonely, the abused and the imprisoned . . . and you ask: "What can I do?"* **LOVE ONE**

*Remember this, My Child . . . two thousand years ago the world was filled with those in need, just as it is today, and when the helpless and the hopeless called out to me for mercy, I sent a Savior.*

**HOPE BEGAN WITH ONLY ONE!**

### GOD'S WORLD

The principle behind stewardship is that every material thing, though you may call it yours . . . actually belongs to God. God owns it all: your land, your property, your income, your life. This is God's world. When you give a truly significant portion of your money, you are only setting apart for God's use a portion of the money that has been entrusted to you by God. The person who gives sacrificially does so because he or she knows whose world this is!

### GIVE FIRST – MANAGE THE REST

If God comes first in our lives, then giving to God should also come first. The person who says, "After I pay all my bills I can't afford to give," may be telling the truth. But these people have made a grave error. They have put the cart before the horse! None of us could afford to give with what is left. Putting first things first means giving first and then managing the rest of our income in a way by which we will still pay all our bills. And this is easier than we may think.

## PETAL PUSHER NOTES

By Sue Elinsky

As the Beacon goes to press we are busy preparing for Christmas. We look forward to the “Greening of the Church” on Dec. 20th and are very grateful to all who with their time, their donations of greens, and their generous monetary contributions help to make our church so beautiful for Christmas.

A gentle reminder: the new 2010 Altar Flower chart will soon appear on the Narthex bulletin board. We hope people will continue to fill the chart with requests for Sunday flowers. Our average cost is \$35. A check to Epiphany with Flower Fund on the memo line, is expected in the church office before or on the date requested. A lovely live ornamental plant will take the place of flowers when there is no request. We do not have flowers on the altar during Lent, nor during Advent. FYI: This past year there were 22 slots on the chart; 14 slots were filled (flower requests) and 10 checks were received. If, looking through your records, you find that you may have forgotten to pay for your request, funds are happily accepted with no interest added!!

The Petal Pushers group loves what they do, so let’s keep them busy! They’re also happy to welcome new recruits. If you think you might be interested, please speak to Sue Elinsky or anyone in the church office. Thank you.

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## ANNUAL REPORTS

By Richard Fawcett

Each year the leaders and doers at Epiphany write annual reports that are compiled and presented at the Annual Church Meeting. This will be on February 7th.

I shall send out emails to all the usual suspects around the turn of the year to remind them, so consider this as an early warning. If you think you have something to report and don’t get asked, then please don’t be shy, just send it to me by 1/24

Richard Fawcett (Registrar)

## WHAT NEIGHBOR TO NEIGHBOR IS ALL ABOUT

By Kate McAllister

Kristofer asked me to write something about being an organizing intern with the Neighbor-to-Neighbor Initiative. A difficult task to accomplish as I sit next to my dying, canine companion of three years. Jack is in renal failure, a four-legged candidate for a kidney transplant. My sadness is immeasurable. You might ask, “What does this have to do with N2N”? I would reply by saying that love and loss are part of being human. Our ability to emote compassion, empathy, generosity and friendship is what makes life worth living, and what makes Neighbor-to-Neighbor a very special enterprise.

I am privileged to be meeting such a wide array of interesting people, many of them sharing their stories with me. Neighbors and their friends, volunteers from a variety of faiths, religious leaders, community leaders, financial experts, social service advocates and more, have been teaching me to listen. In this age of negative media bombardment, I am heartened to discover that there are a lot of people who want to work for the betterment of their neighbors. We may not all be on the same page, but we are in the same book.

N2N may have had its inception because of eviction problems, but it is about more than a simple rent check. We Epiphanyites know what it’s like to share; we’ve been doing it for years. We share our problems, our joys, our disappointments and our journeys. We share our faith, our talents and our bounty. Daily, I am made aware of the struggles, the dreams, and the goals that are common to all of us. This is what Neighbor-to-Neighbor is about. It is walking through our “servants’ entrance” into a world that desperately needs what we have, the human touch. I am blessed to be working with so many amazing people, and I look forward to sharing more about my experiences with you in next month’s Beacon.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kate McAllister



Epiphany Daycare continues its busy schedule even with the major holidays behind us. We

are glad to say so many of our little one's enjoyed the celebrations both here and at home, and hopefully gained appreciation of what it means to help those in need. We would like to thank those who contributed in the Assistance Center of Towson food drive in November and the Christmas Giving Tree for December. Many of our children are beginning to grasp the real meaning of Christmas and understanding that it truly is better to give than to receive.

Our weeks are filled with on-going activities and events that engage the children in full sensory learning. They were extremely excited to see snow and are desperate for more. While we do enjoy the white stuff, it does make for chilly hands and red noses! In the meantime while we wait for more snow, our learning continues and our little ones are always eager to learn. We invite you to inquire about our program and/or tell a friend about the exciting things going on at the Daycare.



## BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES IN JANUARY

Betty Murkey	4
Grace Vernarelli	4
Rosa Mangels	6
Joyce Redman	9
Rebecca McAllister	15
Martin Moore	18
Chet Duke	21
Gail Elizabeth Meloy	21
Josephine Christenson	23
Jennifer Kinnear	24
Justin Lee	25
Michael Dunning	26
Arch Fort	28
Margaret Blades	29
Sydney Audin	30
Thomas Spacht	30
Linda Tracy	31

Anniversaries:  
Art & Martha Gilbert 21

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE IN NOVEMBER

Phyllis Babcock	Carol Higgins
Lisa Beckwith	Helen Jordahl
Jim Biggs	Jesse Jacobs
Jean Breiner	Carol Kelly
Bruce Bryant	Kathryn Kuwabara
Pamela Butler	Shaun Lavin
William Canepa	Heather Manson
Chris Carroll	Kathy Mays
David Carroll	Lucy Middleton
Tim Cherry	Barbara Murphy
Mary Ann Clark	Laurie Oleynick
Tina Cork	Kay Partridge
David Doyle	Rich Persinger
Robert Duffy	Mike Radcliffe
Dot Duke	Christina Rubie
Jeanette Eatherly	Brianna Schmidt
Betty Fort	Irene Schumacher
Nicholas Fuller	Robert Selby
Carla Fultz	John Snyder
Eva Gilbert	Kori Sparr
Bill Graham	Sam Thompson
Lois Harker	Vivian Toney
Lena Herald	Lois Turner
	Joanne Wegner-Wolf

# Calendar of on-going events for Epiphany

## Sunday Service Schedule

Holy Eucharist

8:00am and 10:00am

unless otherwise noted

## JANUARY 2010

**1**

OFFICE CLOSED

New Years Day

Friday

**3, 17, 24**

YOUTH GROUP MEETINGS

Sundays

Middle school 4:30-5:30pm

Dinner 5:30-6:00pm

High School 6:00-7:00pm

**6, 13, 20**

STAFF MEETING

Wednesdays 11:00am

**6, 13, 20**

TREBLE CHOIR

Wednesdays 4:30-5:15PM

**6**

SPAGHETTI DINNER

Wednesday 5:30pm

**6**

KRISTOFER LINDH-PAYNE ORDINATION

Wednesday 7:00pm

**7, 14, 21, 28**

PARISH CHOIR REHEARSAL

Thursdays 7:30pm

**8-9**

YOUTH GROUP JR-HIGH RETREAT

Friday-Saturday Quake

Thursday 3:00pm

**12, 19**

ARDEN COURT

Tuesdays at 1:30pm

**14, 21, 28**

BIBLE STUDY

Thursdays 9:30-11:00am

**15**

CASSEROLES DUE

Friday 9:00am

**15**

BEACON ARTICLES DUE

Friday

**16**

EPIPHANY PARTY AT WAJDA'S

Saturday

**19, 26**

LUNCH BUNCH

Tuesday at Noon

**23**

NEWCOMERS DINNER

Saturday 6:00pm at Siperko's home

**25**

VESTRY MEETING

Monday 7:00-9:00pm

**29-31**

CLAGGET YOUTH RETREAT

Friday-Sunday

# The Beacon

Epiphany Episcopal Church  
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## PASTORAL STAFF

Rector: Reverend Dr. Kathryn Wajda  
Associate Rector: Reverend Kristofer Lindh-Payne  
Deacon: Reverend Dean Pugh  
Vergers: Jon McAllister  
Director of Music: Mary Hamlin Spencer  
Parish Secretary: Doris Rapp  
Financial Secretary: Liz Witty  
Daycare Center Director: Elaine Kraus

## CONTACT INFORMATION

Parish Office: 410-252-4465  
Hours M,T,W,F - 9am-4pm  
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Email: [epiphany@qis.net](mailto:epiphany@qis.net)  
Web: [www.epiphanydulaneyvalley.com](http://www.epiphanydulaneyvalley.com)  
Daycare Office: 410-252-4468