

INFRASTRUCTURE

Website Redesign

A key priority established by the vestry in 2008 was to redesign Epiphany's web presence. In this world of digital communications and instant news, our site became stale and in need of a fresh look, a more useful presence, and an ability to reach out to those in search of a church community. I am pleased to report that we are nearing the end of this journey. You will have a new website before the arrival of spring 2009.

Our new website will be energetic and warm with lots of photographs of people and the beauty of our parish. It will offer information about our programs, but it will also become the center of our church communications. Calendars of events, requests for project staffing, and special projects will be featured. A new section "Sermons on Line" will allow anyone with a computer and internet access to listen to recent sermons. I hope that we can start to save on postage for those who are willing to get their church information on line.

We intend for this site to provide a professional and warm "first look" for church shoppers. Research has shown that most visitors first look to the web for basic information about churches in their community. We want to stand out as the warm, welcoming, and inclusive parish that we are.

Steve Orr

The Beacon

The Beacon is Epiphany's monthly newsletter. It contains a variety of information and is mailed out to our parishioners 11 times a year, reaching roughly 250 homes. Each issue contains a sermon by Rev. Kathryn Wajda, a calendar of regular and special events for the month, a birthday list, a prayer list, an Epiphany Daycare update and a variety of brief articles relating to other topics of interest.

The deadline for the Beacon is the 15th of every month and the newsletter is then usually mailed out the following week. Articles may be submitted via email to gail.overcash@kci.com or placed in the mailbox outside the church office.

Gail Overcash

Technology

The Music and Main Office computers were upgraded with new hardware and security software this fall. Each of the Gateway PCs has had 2 GB of RAM (memory) added upgrading the total RAM for each PC to 3 GB. Additionally, the Office PC had a new dedicated video card added as an upgrade from the original onboard integrated video. These upgrades have breathed new life into these PCs and have boosted their performance such that they will remain useful for several more years. All the PCs (Music, Main Office, Finance, and Day Care) had Norton internet security software installed with a twelve month subscription. The Day Care was without network/internet service for about 10 days until the problem was found and repaired. A 2-hour wire tracking search and cable testing led to finding the culprit - a cut network cable in the main office. Plans for calendar year 2009 include upgrading the Music PC with a dedicated video card, and setting up an integrated back-up system on the Main Office PC.

Michael Wajda

INFRASTRUCTURE (continued)

E-piphanews

Epiphany's e-newsletter, the E-piphanews, continues to be a timely and popular communication link between the church and its parishioners. E-piphanews is sent each Thursday at 6:00 a.m. except when holidays cause a change in schedule. For weeks when no e-news will be sent advance notice is given. On occasion, extra editions are sent between issues to relay urgent concerns.

News items should relate to the parish and its activities only and be brief but clear since there is limited space. Reports of awards, community service recognition, etc. can be included. The Beacon remains the forum for more detailed information.

The deadline for e-news items is noon on Wednesday. Please send items via e-mail to spacht70@verizon.net, not to the church office. Anyone not currently receiving the E-piphanews is encouraged to join the distribution list by sending an e-mail to me at the same address.

Tom Spacht

Epiphany Gardens

The gardens of Epiphany are designed to enhance the attractiveness of our property and to offer a place for quiet retreat. This is especially true of the "Memorial Garden" which provides benches for relaxation and contemplation. Our aim has been to create a beautiful setting using low-maintenance plants.

Our thanks to TDH Nursery for preparing a new garden bed at the Pot Spring Road entrance. In the Fall we planted shrubs there and will complete the project in Spring 2009. We also plan to renovate plants in the Memorial garden Cross.

Sally Barker

Towson/Roland Park Region

The Diocese of Maryland is broken into several regions. Our (Epiphany's) region is Towson/Roland Park. The Towson/Roland Park region is made up of seven churches including Epiphany. The other six are: Trinity, Towson; Good Shepherd, Ruxton; Holy Comforter; Redeemer; St. David's, Roland Park; and St. John's, Mt Washington. It also includes St Mary's Outreach Center in Hampden. .

Each region has a council. The council is composed of the clergy from the respective churches and at least one lay delegate from each church. The lay representation is based on the size of the church. Our lay representative is Christina Harris. The Council meets 5-6 times a year, rotating locations within the region.

The delegates on the council are also the delegates to the Annual Diocesan Convention. The purpose of the region is to act as a liaison between the diocese and the churches of the region.

Regular reports are received from the Diocesan Council and Diocesan Program and Budgets. The information received is disseminated to the churches in the region.