

Brothers and Sisters,

As I write this, I'm aware that the month of April will span a broad liturgical and spiritual spectrum. At the beginning of the month, we are well into the season of Lent. In a few weeks we will go deeper in our journey with Christ as we enter Holy Week. The triumph of The Sunday of the Passion, Palm Sunday, will lead us into the week that ends with Christ's crucifixion on Good Friday. Then, as we near the end of the month, we will celebrate the glory of Christ's Resurrection.

As we continue through the Lenten season of reflection, penitence, and fasting, I encourage you to be deliberate in your preparation for Holy Week and for the Paschal Feast. If you are observing a Lenten discipline, remind yourself of the reason you chose it, and the spiritual impact you hope it will have. If you haven't been practicing such a discipline, it isn't too late to begin.

One way to prepare for our observance of Christ's Passion, death and Resurrection is through the Rite of Reconciliation of a Penitent or Penance. While many people think of "confession" as a part of the Roman Catholic Church, it is also observed in the Anglican tradition. We confess our sins as a corporate body each week in the context of Holy Eucharist. Penance differs from corporate confession in that it is an individual confession of specific sins in the presence of a priest, who is given authority on behalf of the church to absolve the penitent of his or her sins. This sacramental rite is available to any and all people who desire it. The bond of confidentiality between penitent and confessor is absolute. The Book of Common Prayer says this: "*The content of a confession is not normally a matter of subsequent discussion. The secrecy of a confession is morally absolute for the confessor, and must under no circumstances be broken.*" (BCP, 446) Thus the priest will never discuss the content of the confession with the penitent or any other person.

For those who wish to consider making a confession during this season, or at any time, I recommend Martin Smith's book, *Reconciliation: Preparing for Confession in the Episcopal Church* (1985, Cowley Publications). I would be happy to talk with you about the Rite of Reconciliation, and to answer any questions you may have. Of course, this is only one way of preparing our hearts and minds during this season, and it is by no means obligatory. As the saying goes: All may, some will, none must. However, if this resonates with you as a means of observing this solemn season and preparing your heart and mind, please let me know.

I wish you grace and peace as you journey through Lent, and I look forward to joining you in the celebration of the Paschal Feast at the Great Vigil of Easter and on Easter Day.

Blessings,  
Mother Linda

Following is a list of the services and special observances during Lent and Easter at the Church of the Epiphany. Please make a note of these days, and plan to attend as many as possible:

- Wednesday - April 6, 13, 20 - 6:00 pm - Taize' Holy Eucharist
- Sunday - April 17 - PALM SUNDAY - Services at 8:30 and 11:00
- Thursday, April 21 - MAUNDY THURSDAY - 6:00 p.m. - light Agape meal  
Holy Eucharist with Washing of the Feet at 7:00 p.m.
- Friday, April 22 - GOOD FRIDAY - 12:00 noon - Good Friday Proper Liturgy with Communion from reserved Sacrament.  
5:30pm- Stations of the Cross – Church yard.
- Holy Saturday, April 23 - THE GREAT VIGIL OF EASTER - 8:00 p.m.

- Sunday, April 24 - EASTER DAY - Services at 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. (Festival Eucharist)  
Flowering of the Cross - 9:45 a.m. (No Sunday school)

### **A message from the Church of the Epiphany Endowment Committee**

“All that we are, all that we have, comes from God and will one day return to God.” Jesus often talked about our relationship to the “things” we possess. In Luke 12:13-21 Jesus is asked about dividing a family inheritance. He replies with a story. A rich man decides to build new barns to hold his bumper crop, then to “eat, drink, and be merry.” However, “God said to him, ‘Fool! This night your soul is required of you; and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?’ So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.”

We as stewards of God’s bounty. Caretakers. For a brief period we are given time, energy, and resources. What we do with these gifts ultimately defines the character of our life and the depth of our spiritual understanding. **Planned giving is one expression of the wise use of the personal resources God has entrusted to us.** Planned giving encompasses a variety of ways that gifts can be made to the church from accumulated resources. It usually involves financial or estate planning; however, it is not reserved for the wealthy. Planned giving is a means by which anyone concerned with the wise use of his or her personal resources makes a considered choice about their ultimate disposition.

#### **In general planned gifts are made through:**

- *A Bequest in a Will*
- *A Life Income Gift such as a pooled income fund, a charitable gift annuity, or a charitable remainder trust.*
- *Gifts of Special Assets (real estate, closely held stock, life insurance, retirement accounts)*

Planned giving establishes a way for a donor to provide for family members while remembering the church as well. It often enables the donor to provide more for his or her heirs and to make a larger gift than thought possible. It often reduces taxes as well. Planned gifts can be designated for an organization’s general funds or its endowment. Planned gifts are either outright gifts (i.e., gifts of appreciated securities, real property, personal property, etc.) or deferred gifts (i.e. bequests, charitable gift annuities, charitable trust).

#### **Calling all gardeners, landscapers and organizers**

Calling all gardeners, landscapers and organizers, please mark Saturday, April 9th on your calendars. Epiphany will be having a Spring Clean-up Day on that Saturday with work to be done outside and inside. Bring your garden tools and gardening gloves and be prepared to spruce up Epiphany's landscaping. If you prefer inside work, we have a closet and the attic that need organizing. There will be refreshments! Early risers may come around 8:00 but feel free to come whenever you can. Hopefully we can finish by lunchtime or early afternoon. Remember that "many hands make light work." Let's work together to make our beautiful Epiphany sparkle!

#### **Room in the Inn**

Thanks to all that participated in any way to help with R.I.T.I. Our last night at the Inn was March 31. Your contributions were much appreciated.

#### **Cooperative Christian Ministry (CCM)**

#### **Rockingham Co. Food/Blood Drive Day of Service 2011**

On Saturday April 9<sup>th</sup> at 9 a.m. there will be a kickoff at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints on Rt. 14 , ½ miles S. of Eden. All are welcome. Representatives from all participating area churches will be able to pick up plastic grocery bags if needed. On April 10<sup>th</sup> we are asking all members of the church to distribute 5 or more bags to family , friends and neighbors.. By April 23<sup>rd</sup> you will then pick up the bags you have distributed and bring them to your church or the Eden drop off site located in the basement of Leaksville Moravian Church

between the hours of 9am and 3pm . Please use the back church entrance. Someone will be available to help carry them in for you. All food collected from the Eden area churches will benefit the CCM food pantry. A blood drive to benefit the Red Cross is being held on April 23<sup>rd</sup> from 10am to 2:30 pm at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints located at 4751 Rt. 14 S. Let's make this county wide food and blood drive a huge success.

Please take a look at the Outreach Bulletin Board located across from the kitchen in Moncure Hall. Many of Epiphany's outreach opportunities are listed there. For more information, see Vicky Petty, our outreach liaison. Please look for ways you can get involved in helping others in our community and around the world.

Remember that we do not have flowers on the altar during the season of Lent. If you would like to memorialize or honor someone during this season, consider providing the Aumbry candle, which hangs over the altar. Call Betty in the church office 623-9410 if you are interested.

### **Lector & Layreaders Schedule**

Apr.3: Gene Burns  
Mack & M.J. McKinney  
Apr.10: Charlotte Maness  
Charlotte Maness\* & Mike Redman  
Apr. 17: Ginny Sharrow  
Ginny Sharrow & Babby Dineen\*  
Apr. 20: Ted Fix  
Ben Tucker\* & Rob Martin  
Apr. 21: Susan Stone  
Mack & M.J. McKinney  
Apr. 24: Mike Redman  
Mike Redman & Charlotte Maness\*

### **Acolytes**

Apr.3 : Team 2  
Apr.10: Team 3  
Apr.17: Team 1  
Apr.24: All Teams2

### **Wish List**

We need to replace some shrubbery around our church. If you would be interested in contributing to our landscaping needs (any amount would be appreciated), just write a check to Epiphany and specify "landscaping." Of course cash is also accepted!

**“Save the date...Saturday May 14<sup>th</sup>. Ministry Fair at Epiphany”**

### **CARING FOR CREATION: Take the 10-Mile Pledge to Save Gasoline and the Earth!**

Want to lose 500 pounds in a year?

We're talking carbon dioxide, of course. While nontoxic and good for plant life, humans simply make too much of it. Carbon dioxide is a prime greenhouse gas, and scientists say it's connected to climate change — more popularly known as global warming.

You're producing carbon dioxide right now. Not just through your breathing, but through the energy you consume every day. It's a byproduct of nonrenewable power generation. Virtually all human activity — from food production to heavy industry — produces some amount of carbon dioxide. And despite plenty of public

attention to the issue, human-made carbon dioxide production is increasing.

One of the biggest producers is automobiles. Nobody is expecting you to turn over the keys to the family car, but every mile we save in transportation is money in the bank, and less carbon dioxide (and even more noxious pollutants) in the atmosphere.

Ready for a fairly painless way to start making a difference? Take the 10-Mile Pledge.

### **What is the 10-Mile Pledge?**

This is a pretty simple exercise. Put down, in writing, how you can save 10 miles of driving each week. Just 10 miles. Then do it.

If you live within three miles of where you buy groceries, an errand or two a week should do the trick. Consistency is the key. We strongly believe that steady, incremental change is the best way for most people to incorporate sustainability in their lives.

If you can make the 10-Mile Pledge stick, your reduced driving will cut approximately 500 pounds of carbon dioxide emissions each year. More importantly, it will get you thinking about your driving. So where do you find your 10 miles? Here's a start:

**Combine trips.** You've heard this for years. Maybe it's easier to do now with gasoline at record price levels almost everywhere. Making a weekly grocery list helps. So does keeping a driving log for a month or two to see if you can locate any wasteful patterns. Think about where you usually shop. Would someplace closer do just as well?

**Share a ride with another Pledger.** Just like dieting, exercise, or quitting smoking, a habit is easier to keep if you have a buddy. Share the 10-Mile Pledge with your friends. Then take turns sharing a ride twice a week. That should do it.

**Run weekend errands on bike or on foot.** You needn't pull out your bicycle to do every weekend errand (though that's not a bad idea). Just walk or ride on or two little tasks a weekend. A trip to rent Saturday night movies could give you 10 miles in a single hour. Bonus points if you return them the same way. Walk to visit a friend; it's good for your health and for the environment.

**Investigate public transportation.** Not everyone has access to useful public transportation. However, RCATS is available to everyone – not only the elderly and disabled. Rides are usually \$4 to \$6 per round trip. You may need to schedule your trip a few days in advance.

**Declare one car-free day every month.** Ever hit the office Monday more tired than when you left? Maybe that weekend was a little too full. Go car-free on Saturday or even on a weekday and stay close to home. Make yourself slow down, catch up on your reading and unwind. Relaxation is a habit most of us could learn to love.  
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## **Help Needed**

The Lord's Pantry needs drivers to pick up donations on Tuesday and / or Thursday mornings and Friday afternoons. Tuesday and Thursday is driving to Madison and Eden Food Lions to pick up donations. Friday is driving to Winston to Second Harvest Food Bank to pick up donations. If you can volunteer your time it will be greatly appreciated! Contact Vicky Petty or go to Lord's Pantry (behind Family Video on Bridge St) and ask for Ms. Ruby.

### **Garden Update**

The garden beds for the garden will be prepared by the time you read this. Planting will begin the Saturday after Easter and again 2 weeks after that. Please plan on coming out for a while each day at around 9 a.m. The garden will be at First Christian church located on Oakland Avenue. There are 2 gardens - one shaped as a cross and another one that is 16' x 4'. Any and all help is welcome or just go out and watch.

### **Cost at Epiphany**

Congratulations, by turning the thermostats down when leaving the church our Piedmont Natural Gas bill was down \$260.00 in just one month! Thanks for being a team player and for helping with the expenses at Epiphany.

## Youth Mission Trip

Anyone interested in going on the Mission Trip with the Youth this year please let Teresa Martin, Vicky Petty or Mother Linda know by April 20th. We are planning a trip to Greenwood, Mississippi. We will work with St. Thomas in Reidsville, St. David's in Cheraw, Sc and a church in Greenwood, Mississippi. We worked with all these churches last year in SC. We have been invited to go to Mississippi this year and work with The Fuller Center there. Next year the plan would be to work in NC.

**The dates are July 9th through July 17th (maybe 18th).**

**Give this trip some prayerful thought. We need a commitment by April 20th so we can confirm traveling plans. Looking forward to hearing from you!**

### **Recycling aluminum cans for our youth**

We are still taking your aluminum cans and recycling for the environment and our youth! Bring all you aluminum cans to Epiphany and Bryant Lemons takes them to recycle and collects the money for our youth mission trip that is scheduled for July. This is a win-win for everyone!

### **Epiphany 2011 Pledges**

**2011 Goal: \$165,103.00**

January 12, 2010 (37 Pledges \$130,496.00)

We are still short: \$34,607.00

Actual Income vs. Expenses:

YTD: 1-31-2011 we were under: \$3,504.00

YTD: 2-28-2011 we are over: \$5,760.00

Be sure to look for the chart that shows this information in the church and also on the bulletin board in McGenniss Hall.

Many thanks to Mother Linda, Pug & Tommy Webster, Rob Martin, Mary Jane McKinney, Vicky Petty and Ginny Sharrow for submitting articles or schedules for this issue of Epiphany Star.