

Epiphany Star

January 2012

Happy New Year!

Even though the Church began our new year in Advent, the rest of the world is catching up with us now. As with any new beginning, we wonder what the year will bring, what will be exciting or different.

The possibilities for a hopeful and wonderful year are all around us at Epiphany. There are ministry opportunities within our walls, outside our doors, and around the world. And there are no limits on what we can achieve in Christ's name as a parish made up of faithful Christians.

We have the opportunity to continue many ministries which have been important to us in the past. Room in the Inn has begun, and we will need overnight hosts and cooks to help feed and shelter our homeless neighbors. The Lord's Pantry and Cooperative Christian Ministries need volunteers and donations now more than ever. We haven't quite reached our goal of at least one mosquito net for each person in our parish in the Nets For Life program...and the deadline is this month!

In addition to the ministries that feed our souls even as we feed, shelter and protect others, there are still many needs in our community and beyond. Some of them are evident as we drive around town, or even down our own street. Our neighbors are living in poverty, some in unsafe conditions, and without many of the things we take for granted, such as a supportive family or a warm home. Other needs may be harder to identify. People in our community, our country, and throughout the world struggle with issues which take a physical, emotional and spiritual toll on them.

As we hang up our calendars for a new year, I invite you to join me in seeking out those who need our help, individually and as a congregation. Learn more about the programs in the community which offer help for a variety of needs. Think of a population or organization that touches your heart, and take a leadership role in helping Epiphany minister to them. Are you passionate about children? Senior adults? People with AIDS, or those who can't read, or those who are unemployed or underemployed? Do you love animals or are you especially concerned about the environment? Each of us has a particular passion, and all of us can help in some way to bring those things about which we are passionate to the attention of our congregation.

Of course, we can't cure every disease or heal every broken heart, but that's no reason not to heal and help and provide hope where we can. The possibilities are endless. If all we offer is a friendly word to a harried bank teller, or a story read to a child, that's a step in the right direction. If we simply bring a need before our parish and offer a way to meet that need, even a little bit, that's progress toward building God's kingdom on earth as it is in heaven.

Let's be intentional about looking for the Christ in everyone we meet, and the opportunity to be Christlike in every situation this year. Let's make 2012 the year that we offer our time, our talents and our hearts to make our community and our world a place where Christ's light shines through us.

I'm anxious to hear your ideas, your hopes and dreams, and the ways you intend to build God's kingdom right here and right now.

Blessings and peace,

Mother Linda

Stewardship reminder: We are stewards, not owners. We merely are managing what a gracious and benevolent God has provided.

Epiphany's Wish List

Small bookcases (to fit under windows in library)

Sturdy 10 ft. ladder

Bathroom tissue

Paper towels

Liquid hand soap

Dish detergent

Dishwasher detergent

Coffee, creamer, sugar, and sugar alternatives for coffee

We can always use donations of paper products such as napkins, cups, etc.; however, we try to avoid using styrofoam products due to the negative impact on the environment.

Room In The Inn

Our night to help with Room-in-the-Inn (the homeless shelter) is January 12th. If you can help with food and/or spending the night, please contact Rachel Wright at 623-2881. RITI is a wonderful way to spread God's love to people in need in our community.

Dear Fellow Parishioners,

I wanted to let you know about an amazing opportunity I have coming up. A group of youth and adults are going to Costa Rica on a Mission Trip in April. This trip is more about building relationships than building structures. We will be working with children of all ages in the Episcopal school there. We plan to do some arts and crafts with the younger children and possibly work closely with the older youth helping them to find community within themselves.

In Costa Rica you are not required to stay in school after the age of 13. There is a high percentage of teen pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases in the area due to the lack of education. Statistics shows that youth who stay in church are likely to stay in school. When they find a positive community to bond with, they continue these bonds and are more successful citizens.

As most of you are aware, the Diocese in Costa Rica is our sister diocese. We will be staying in the Diocesan House. We will have fellowship with our brother and sister Episcopalians and others in the most awesome ways possible. I am so looking forward to this great opportunity. Of course, these opportunities do not come cheap. This is a very expensive trip. I am asking you to help me raise the funds needed to go on this remarkable journey. I am willing to do odd jobs to help raise the money. If you have anything that needs to be done around your house, babysitting, dog walking, car washing, or just about anything I am your girl.

Thank you all so much for the support you have always given the youth at our church and in advance for your consideration of helping me raise the funds needed for this trip to Costa Rica.

I will need to turn in the money no later than March 16th. All checks can be made to Church of the Epiphany with me – Caysey Petty – Costa Rica on the Memo line. Please contact me at 336-432-0002 or my mom at 336-432-7426 if you have any jobs for me or any questions. Thank you all again for your continued support.

Peace and Love,

Caysey Petty

Caring for Creation: Five Green New Year's Resolutions

There are lots of countdowns this time of year...the top 10 celebrity moments, the top 100 songs, the top news stories. Here's a Top Five List of New Year's Resolutions to remind us all of the impact we have on our earth, reprinted from an website which is referenced at the end of this article.

#5 Swap clothes. Clothes swaps are a great way to recycle and reuse unwanted items and acquire a whole new wardrobe without spending a dime. What better way to start off the new year than by cleaning out your wardrobe and organizing a clothes swap. Feel good about not contributing to the manufacture of new clothing and donate anything that's leftover to charity. It's a win-win-win.

#4 Save Paper. The average American uses approximately one 100-foot-tall Douglas fir tree in paper products per year. Here's how to slash that statistic. Peruse ebooks over tree books, read newspapers online, opt out of unwanted catalogues and junk mail, request electronic bank and utility statements, limit paper towel usage and if you must buy paper products, choose those with recycled content.

#3 Go Vegetarian. [No, this wasn't Mother Linda's idea...it was really in the article.] Do good for the planet and for your health by limiting your intake of meat and fish. When we eat fish, we are not only depleting the ocean of fish, we're ingesting a ton of mercury at the same time. Same goes for meat: Over consumption is not only bad for our health but factory farming is resource intensive and can be detrimental to the environment.

#2 Ditch Plastic. It pollutes the land and fouls the sea—it's the modern day affliction that sticks around long, long time—plastic. Resolve to simply say no to plastic. Stop buying plastic bottles and carry a reusable bottle instead, use a canvas bag instead of a plastic one and shop at farmers markets rather than supermarket for fruit and vegetables free of plastic film.

#1 Take Action. In at number one, don't just think green, act green. Acting upon your convictions can make the world a better place. Volunteer with an organization that specializes in environmental protection, educate yourself with workshops and seminars, donate to charities that are helping to better the planet or vote to ensure your elected officials are held accountable to your community and the planet.

Source: <http://www.treehugger.com/corporate-responsibility/planet-100-5-basic-green-resolutions-for-a-new-year-video.html>

If you have an idea for a future Caring for Creation article, please send it to the church: epiphanyeden.org. We welcome your articles about ways we can take care of "this fragile earth, our island home" (BCP 370, Eucharistic Prayer C).

Congratulations to:

- Briana Byrd and Hunter Fulp who were married at Epiphany on December 17th
- Rachel Wright on the birth of her granddaughter on December 26th
- Jimmy Ivie on his retirement in December

Your offering envelopes for 2012 are in the narthex. If you would like envelopes and did not receive a box, let Ted Fix know.

Jesus Calling

Refresh yourself in the Peace of My Presence. This Peace can be your portion at all times and in all circumstances. Learn to hide in the secret of My Presence, even as you carry out your duties in the world. I am both with you and within you. I go before you to open up the way, and I also walk alongside you. There could never be another companion as devoted as I am.

Because I am your constant Companion, there should be a lightness to your step that is observable to others. Do not be weighed down with problems and unresolved issues, for I am your burden-bearer. In the world you have trials and distress, but don't let them get you down. *I have conquered the world and deprived it of power to harm you.* In Me you may have confident Peace.

Psalm 31:19-20 (NASB) ; John 16:33 (AMP)

Taken from "Devotions for Every Day of the Year" by Sarah Young. They are written as if Jesus himself were speaking directly to you.

Memorials

Made in honor of Ann Frenette Carlton and in memory of Jeff Calton, with our love and sympathy
By Mary Tulloch, Joanna & Cara.

In memory of Rosemary Miller by Joyce Fair Johnson.

Lector & Layreaders Schedules:

Jan 8: Wayne Seymour

Ginny Sharrow & Babby Dineen

Jan.15: Susan Stone

Mack & M.J. McKinney*

Jan. 22: Mike Redman

Mike Redman & Charlotte Maness*

Jan. 29: Ginny Sharrow

Ginny Sharrow & Babby Dineen*

Acolytes:

(Team 1: Nash Tetterton, Breanna & Drake Watson, Steven Dallas)

(Team 2: Caysey & Josh Petty, Hannah Kallam, Jacob Southern)

Jan. 8: Team 2

Jan. 15: Team 1

Jan. 22: Team 2

Jan. 29: Team 1

Punch in the Parish Hall

We have enjoyed the fellowship following the 11 o'clock service. Being together as a church family warms the soul. To continue in the "punch on the lawn" tradition a calendar will be posted outside the kitchen. Please sign up for one or two Sundays during our church year. Think about the slot or slots you take and keep that spot every year. If you have plans out of town on the Sunday chosen, have your refreshments at the church, and someone will be glad to put the goodies out for you. Just let someone know that you won't be here. Phone calls will be made in January to fill those Sundays not taken.

Heifer International

Dear Friends:

Thank you so much for your generous gift to Heifer International, where it has already been put to work toward igniting transformation in families and projects all over the world.

Your gift is for Heifer International's work to help hungry people feed themselves. Gifts are used as designated until a project's needs are met. Additional gifts are then used where most needed. Dated received 12/22/2011, Amount: \$880.00, Purpose: General Fund (for Animals Chicks \$20.00, Goat \$120.00, Heifer \$500.00, Pig \$240.00). Your generosity and continued support help so many. Thank you.

Steve and I are so thankful for the very generous housewarming gift! We'll have so much fun shopping at Lowe's for things for our new house. We are just overwhelmed by your generosity, and are so grateful to you for your kindness. We look forward to the day we'll all be together in Eden! Again, our heartfelt thanks for this generous gift and for all the ways you love and support us.

Blessings,
Mother Linda

Altar Flowers for January 2012

Jan 8: OPEN

Jan 15: OPEN

Jan 22: OPEN

Jan 29: OPEN

Note: The amount for altar flowers is \$59.50 if purchased through the church.

If you would like to memorialize or honor someone consider providing the Aumbry candle, which hangs over the altar. Call or email Betty in the church office 623-9410 if you are interested.

Please remember in prayer: Theda Rudd, Sarah Devereux, Eldred Cherry, Dolly Hopkins, Hamer Pender, Thomas Garner, Buena Martin, Charlotte Tulloch, Victoria, Jennie, Alice Morelli, Ann & Bobby, Jim Garner, , Zane, Penny Horsley, William, Jerry Garner, Joanne, Allison, Anne, Cora, Donny, Laurel, Allison, Carolyn. All the men and women of our armed forces at home and abroad (especially your servants Ed Wilson, Lloyd Payne, Eddie Sullivan, Charlie Fosbroke, Michael Sumner, Frank Caparulo, Jr., Rob Bunnell) (Names will remain on the prayer list for 4 weeks, if they need to remain longer please call Betty in the office 623-9410 or email her to let her know.)

Also remember our homebound:

Charlotte Tulloch (home)

Prayer Chain

For Prayer Chain information, or to put someone's name on the prayer chain, call Zane Mizell at 623-6631 or the church office: 623-9410 Thank you!

Altar Guild for January:

Lyn Seymour

Next Vestry Meeting is scheduled for
Monday, Jan. 9, 2012, Vestry Retreat: Jan. 14.

Meals on Wheels:

Epiphany is scheduled for Jan. 23 & 24.

Each Sunday

Coffee & snacks are being served in Moncure Hall following the 11 am service. Please join us!

Please sign up for refreshments after the 11 am service and Punch on the Lawn.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Rick Stone	January 4
Joan & Steve Sherwood	January 4
Brad Tucker	January 7
Nicholas Barbour:	January 10
Jim McKinney:	January 14
Fred Reynolds:	January 15
Margaret Bunnell:	January 15
Becky Minichello:	January 16
Hannah Margensey:	January 16
Nancy Garner:	January 18
Naomi Moore:	January 18
Sarah Stone:	January 18
Vicky Petty:	January 19
Ada Reynolds	January 19
Christopher Cox:	January 22
Otis Hutcherson	January 25
Tatum Maness:	January 27
Nicholas Maness:	January 27
Bob Enders:	January 31

If you don't see your name listed for the birthday / anniversary month or listed incorrectly, please call Betty in the church office (623-9410) so we can correct our information.

The first and third Fridays of each month, meet at the Lord's Pantry on Bridge St., to unload a food truck. This is one easy way to help in our community. We meet at 4pm. Please help out!

The non-designated offering on the first Sunday of each month is given to the Rector's Discretionary Fund to help those in need in our community.

Epiphany is a sponsor of CCM. Please remember to bring non-perishable items to place in the red wagon for our food bank. Thank you for your contributions.

The Episcopal Church Men meet the first Friday in each month at Whistle Jacket, 11:30am.

Happy New Year!

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the gift certificate for Linda's house warming. We were able to get her a gift card (the second week in December) to Lowe's for just over \$525!