



EPIPHANY STAR

Church of the Epiphany January 2019

The Little White Church on the Corner

1530 Lafayette Blvd, Norfolk, VA 23509 * www.epiphanynorfolk.org
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Clergy Clatter

I've debated for the past few years whether or not to put up my Christmas Tree. When you live alone, it's easy to set that sort of thing aside as "too much trouble." I'm one of those strange people who assigns personalities to inanimate objects. And each year at this time, I think about the ornaments packed away in the lonely dark attic. And I think about how happy they would be to again see light and hang proudly on a tree. But then other stuff derails my thinking, and I'm off in another direction.

This year I had a new thought. My office window at Norfolk Urban Outreach Ministry is a large store-front window that goes from floor to ceiling. And it faces right onto a busy street. Maybe it would be fun to decorate my tree at the NUOM office where people come and go, and where traffic would see it. After a day or two of pondering, I headed off in search of a new prelighted artificial tree that would better fit my office space. Then it was up to the attic at home to bring down my ornaments and take them to the office. I caught myself talking to them excitedly as I dragged the boxes down my disappearing stairway. I told them how beautiful they were going to look in the big window at the office.

Over the next couple of days, I hung ornaments when I got a break from busy work. I have a lot of ornaments from a lot of places. I

have my mother's ornaments, most of which have to be well over 100 years old. I have ornaments that I purchased as mementos of trips. I have many that were given to me as gifts, sometimes referencing a sermon, or a wedding, or some special event. I have some that I made, and some that I bought for pure whimsy. And I know the story behind every one of them. As I unwrapped each ornament, I found myself mentally talking to it, telling each one its history, and remembering the wonderful people in my life who had given me so many of them.

I don't consider myself to be a very sentimental guy. But decorating my tree this year turned into a real journey of memories. And it was nice. It made this Christmas something special for me as I celebrated my memories through those ornaments. There are five little oil cloth animals that were given to me on my 1st birthday, but hung on the tree for fear I would eat them. There's not much left of them, but they are on the tree again, and I am so happy for them.

My younger sister stopped by the office to see the tree and bring me a few more ornaments with a few more memories. We shared stories of many past Christmases, as she, too, had her memories. Sentimental, but nice. Maybe that's part of the mystery and beauty of Christmas – remembering.

Richard





Vestry Highlights

2018 VESTRY

- ◆ Reported that pledge cards have come in well.
- ◆ Reported that outreach gifts have been disbursed and seminary support sent to Sewanee and Seabury Berkeley.
- ◆ Discussed plans to resolve water drainage on the grounds.
- ◆ Reported that new office direction signs have been placed on the grounds.
- ◆ Reported that Bishop Magness, our new Bishop Pro Tem will be with us on January 6th for our 11AM service. We will have confirmation and reception followed by a luncheon. This will serve as our name day service.

2019 VESTRY

- ◆ Elected: Co-Wardens: Mike Scott
and Joyce Williams
Register: Monique Matuskowitz
Treasurer: John Childers
- ◆ Set Vestry meeting days and times as second Thursday of each month at 7:00.

Vestry Thank you:...

As the calendar year draws to a close, we say good bye to a few vestry persons who are rotating off, and a welcome to new vestry persons who will take their seats on January 1st.

First, a big welcome to Jim Fisher, Joyce Williams and Tom Gilleland who are beginning their three year terms on the Vestry.

Now, we say good-bye to Bob Everett, Ariel Fernandez and Jackie Rochelle. **Bob Everett** says he is going to really miss attending Vestry meetings. That's a good sign, because I can promise him he will be back after his mandatory "year of rest." But Bob will continue tending to Accounts Payable and writing our checks as well as posting your pledge payments and contributions. Many thanks, Bob, for your years of service.

Ariel Fernandez - This was Ariel's second three year time on the Vestry. Ariel gives us a younger voice that is of so much value. She keeps us from getting set in our ways. And it's great to have someone who has grown up in the Parish. Many thanks, Ariel, for your special gifts to our meetings.

Jackie Rochelle - What can we say about Jackie? As our communications person, photographer and co-warden, Jackie is everywhere. Just don't give her coffee. She starts spinning in circles if you do. We thank Jackie for her love of the Parish and her attention to details. And she doesn't mind setting the priest straight, either.

Feast of the Epiphany

from Fr. Bridgford

Our Name Day celebration will be special this year. Rather than holding a night service, we will celebrate the Epiphany at our 11:00AM service. The Rt. Rev. James (Jay) Magness will be with us for Confirmation and Reception. Bishop Magness is the recently retired Bishop of the Armed Forces and Federal Ministries. He was elected from our Diocese by the House of Bishops to that special ministry. He has returned home and will be serving as our "Bishop Diocesan Pro Tempore" until our Diocese elects a new bishop. As of this writing, we have seven members planning to be confirmed or received.

We will follow the service with a reception/ luncheon. There is a sign up board in the Parish Hall for the reception.

Since Epiphany falls on a Sunday this year, I plan to be at church for a simple 8:00AM service (no homily) if anyone wants it. But I strongly encourage our whole worshipping community to attend the 11:00AM service and get to know your new Bishop, give him a chance to know you, and celebrate with our new communicants.





7th Brian Pritchard
Sarah Ann Chacon
10th Jaylah Newsome
Ray Steckman
11th Joe Turner
12th Amy Fernandez
20th Jim Fisher
21st Mike Scott
27th Sheila Brinck

Epiphany Prayer List

Mike Pipis *Kevin LaPointe*
Linda Armstrong *Sheila Brinck*
Jerry Cronin *Roger Bolen*
Patty Poore



Black-eyed Peas & Hog Jowls

Sunday, December 30, we will enjoy our annual black-eyed peas and hog jowls from cans opened by Fr. Richard. Plan to eat a pea or two to assure a new year of prosperity and peace.



A Special Christmas Thank You ...

for your generous purses. It is truly a joy to be with you all during every season of the year, BUT this type of \$joy\$ is a special treat and greatly appreciated!

Richard+ and Julia+

Praying for unity

Every January, the Christian church worldwide marks the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. This ecumenical "octave," or eight-day observance, lasts from January 18 (the Feast of St. Peter) to January 25 (the Feast of St. Paul).

The week is based on Jesus' prayer to his heavenly Father in John 17:21 that his followers "may all be one ... so that the world may believe that you have sent me" (ESV). Jesus knew that if Christians were fiercely divided, people outside the faith wouldn't want to learn more about him.

The theme for the 2019 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is from Deuteronomy 16:20 (NRSV): "Justice, and only justice, you shall pursue."

Happy New Year *Happy New Year* *Happy New Year*



Pledges

Bob Everett will take any remaining pledges for 2019 by telephone. You may reach him at 620-3853.





The Epiphany Star

The monthly newsletter of
Church of the Epiphany,
1530 Lafayette Blvd, Norfolk, VA 23509
Priest in Charge: The Rev. Richard Bridgford
Assisting Priest: The Rev. Julia Ashby
epiphany.norfolk@earthlink.net
www.epiphanynorfolk.org or (757) 622-7672

January 2019



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat																																																	
		1 <i>Office closed</i> 	2 <i>Office open 9-3</i> Choir 7:00	3	4 <i>Al-anon noon- 1 PM</i>	5																																																	
6 <i>Holy Eucharist 8 and 11 am</i> <i>Epiphany Name Day Celebration & Potluck 11 AM</i>	7	8 <i>Office open 9-noon</i> <i>Rowing Club 6 PM</i>	9 <i>Office open 9-3</i> Choir 7:00	10 Vestry 6:30 PM	11 <i>Al-anon noon- 1 PM</i>	12																																																	
13 <i>Holy Eucharist 8 and 11 am</i>	14	15 <i>Office open 9-noon</i> <i>Civic League 6:30PM</i>	16 <i>Office open 9-3</i> Choir 7:00	17	18 <i>Al-anon noon- 1 PM</i>	19																																																	
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