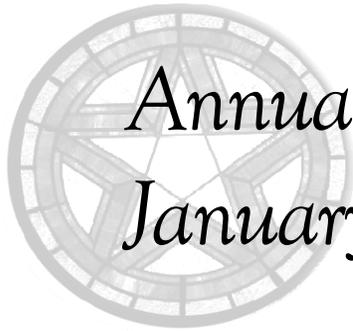


# THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE EPIPHANY

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## *Annual Parish Meeting* *January 21, 2018*

### I. Opening Prayer

Grant, O Lord, that your Holy Spirit may preside over us now in all our concerns and deliberations for the welfare of this Parish. We thank you for all the blessings of the past year, and pray that we may go together from strength to strength in the year before us. Help us all to dedicate ourselves to you, and to be ready to make sacrifices of time, talent, and treasure for the extension of your kingdom. All this we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

### II. Appointment of the Secretary

### III. Appointment of the Tellers

### IV. Election of Vestry Members

### V. Introductions of Vestry and Staff

### VI. Senior Warden's Report

### VII. Financial Report

### VIII. Senior Associate's Report

### IX. Capital Campaign Report

### X. Rector's Report

### XI. Salutations & Benedictions

# THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE EPIPHANY

## *Annual Report*

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### Rector

*And when this cup you give is filled to brimming  
with bitter suffering, hard to understand,  
we take it thankfully and without trembling,  
out of so good, and so beloved, a hand.*

~ Dietrich Bonhoeffer

In the fall of 2016, in the advent of this past year of 2017, we sang that hymn after the presidential election. I stood here in the aisle of an impromptu Eucharist and said that we have drawn a line. That we would not let the tide of fascism raise any further.

What does the church do in a time of crisis?

I was at a clergy conference O so many years ago in a diocese far, far away where we had two women clergy in the midst of the sea of men. One of them, the newest, stood up and invited people to share her story, to be open to listening, conversation, seeing God at work. She sat down. Bravery echoed around the room.

An old guy, one of the many white old guys, a man of distinction and wealth and honor and glory who always said what he thought, stood up and said 'I don't want to hear your story, I don't believe in your orders, I don't want to commune with you'. He sat down. Hate and violence fell to the ground.

What does the church do in a time of crisis?

Follow the game plan? Trust your training?  
Improvise? Think outside the box? Light your hair  
on fire? Start over? Dig in? Jump?

We jump in. Plunge in. The word for baptism in Greek means to plunge. We hold hands, take a deep breath, find someone else standing on the bridge next to us, wait for encouragement, count to three, let go and jump.

It's scary and I will admit in the last year I have been afraid. It's exhilarating and I've felt some of that too. It can be painful depending on your experience in jumping, the distance you have to travel before touchdown, the nature of your body, your mind, your spirit all affect how you land. The temperature outside, and inside and of the water all make a difference if you're jumping into water. Most recently I was jumping into the frozen sort.

What we do around here in a crisis is we jump in. Sharon, though she would argue this has jumped in homiletically and what has felt to me like critical moments over the course of this year, all informed by her passion as a southern white woman to take on her own particular issues around race and justice and equality and finding a voice, her own voice which she has so nobly shared with the church with us. She has jumped in.

What we do around here in a crisis is jump in. Shirley Banks and her blue hair has jumped in as an iconic figure organizing, staying connected to the larger community of protest of raising the standard of human dignity and inviting others to lock arms and march.

What we do around here in a crisis is jump in. The leadership of this parish, vestry and committees and pledgers and the people that populate our pews week in and week out have committed to seeking and serving Christ here and in the world around us. Singing, laboring, working at choir, in Haiti, in the refugee neighborhoods of Atlanta, in our own turf right here on this block behind the altar, in the classroom and in our kitchen. We jump in, we have jumped in.

It is an honor to be in this place. I want to honor this place by holding up this decisive and resolute community of people who jump in.

I chose the hymn on that day over a year ago because in the midst of the most monumental crisis of his life

Dietrich Bonhoeffer could write, resolutely that the cup he took, the bitter cup of woe and crisis and grief and struggle, that cup that he was about to plunge into, that life came from such a 'good and beloved hand...'

It is God's hand we wait for, the hand we take as we count one, two, three and jump...

*The Rev. Benno D. Pattison, Rector*

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## Senior Associate Rector

My great joy is to be with you through the ups and downs of this life. 2017 brought a year of deepening relationships, sharing highs and lows, the best of our common life around the eucharistic table each week, a trip to Africa, a sabbatical, and a constant yearning and responding to God's call to us all.

Ann Fowler and I started Lent with an Ash Wednesday service at 7 a.m. in a Cathedral in Kumasi, Ghana. It was a powerful way to begin that holy season. The pilgrimage of racial reconciliation in Ghana was life-changing, and has called me into a deeper understanding of my work as a priest and a Christian to strive each day to help us in this community and in the world as we dismantle racism. We simply must be about this work every single day. One of the great honors for me is to chair the Bishop's Advisory Board of the Absalom Jones Center for Racial Healing. I share this work with fellow Epiphanyites Shereetha Jackson and Ken Holley, who both sit on the board.

Easter brought all the joy of resurrection! Our staff had a meaningful experience as we gathered for a retreat to reflect and plan. And then you—and the amazing staff of Epiphany—gave me space to take my first sabbatical. I spare you the recap of my summer adventures, but I want to tell you again how powerful it was to get to week 10 of 12 and yearn to return to our community. The staff met one Tuesday afternoon and we went

bowling...when I got home I wept with joy for a place to exercise ministry with such a beautiful community of travelers.

The remainder of Ordinary Time, the Fall of 2017 held some of the most beautiful worship experiences and one of the best Kanuga Parish Weekends! From St. Francis to Hildegard, we came together in our beautiful nave to celebrate all of life. The experimentation of how we use our worship space was a highlight for me. And I cannot say enough about the amazing parish weekend committee and how that weekend unfolded. Community life at her finest! Yes, it rained and yes it was cold and yes we all agreed it was wonderful. Thank you to Ann Williamson who chaired the committee and all those who worked so hard to make it the sacred space that it was for us all.

Advent continues to be my favorite liturgical season. It really feels like a time to quiet down, to listen to the way God is moving about us, to reflect on what is really important in this life, these days. The hymns are my favorite, and Julie's talents with the organ and the choirs are breathtaking, and Laraine telling the Godly Play story of Advent IV was a true highlight. Oh, and then there was Christmas Eve. What joy! What celebration! It's hard to believe we have come full circle again to a new year.

Pastoral care and one-on-one time with members of our community continues to be a primary focus for my ministry. Preaching and celebrating the Eucharist with deep integrity all while pointing to our God remains a key focus as well. 2018 invites a deepening of both. I am grateful to Shirley Banks and Brennan Breed for their leadership in adult formation, and of course to Benno for his meaningful offerings in bible study and on Sunday mornings. I am feeling a deep call this year to help us have intimate conversations about hard things. If not the church, where? I am also excited that adult formation wants to invite the community into deeper experiences around our prayer life. A women's retreat is in the mix for 2018, as well as more intention around the all-night vigil from Maundy Thursday to Good Friday.

I will return to Ghana in May with more pilgrims from Atlanta as we strive to deepen our relationship with the Diocese of Cape Coast. Additionally, I am a deputy to General Convention in Austin, TX in July and I'm thrilled to witness the larger church at work.

I am grateful. To our God. For this year. This place. This staff. Benno Pattison as a colleague and friend. And YOU.

*The Rev. Dr. Sharon Hiers, Senior Associate Rector*

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## Senior Warden

A couple of years ago, my husband and I had to replace three major home appliances and our HVAC system within the span of a few months—a fun reminder of the responsibilities associated with adulthood and home ownership. I had a similar feeling at Epiphany in 2017, thanks in large part to downed trees, failing technology, mold at the yellow house that shall not be named, and of course the roof leak. I will not soon forget that Sunday morning Eucharist—already feeling somewhat anxious due to having a guest celebrant and preacher (Benno was on vacation, Sharon was on sabbatical)—and looking up to see a wall of water pouring into the Baptistry. **I am grateful** to all the heads, hearts, and hands that came together throughout the year to repair, replace, and rebuild.

Financially, we knew it would be a lean year due to the inordinate number of pledging members who died or moved away the previous year. Therefore, the vestry passed a deficit budget of (\$6,000). Despite many of the unforeseen B&G setbacks mentioned above, our proposed expenses were mostly accurate, but we did not receive all our pledged income and ended the year with a deficit of approximately (\$26,000). In the coming days, we will reach out to parishioners to request the fulfillment of those pledges, as well as to remind folks about submitting 2018 pledges. Please keep the vestry in prayer during our early

February retreat as we discern the best way to maintain fiscal responsibility. There will likely be some difficult conversations, and we are up to the task. On a positive monetary note, Epiphany received generous gifts from the estates of Wister Cook, Alice Cunningham, and Nancy Baer—all special women in their own rights who left lasting impacts on many people in this church. Additionally, **I am grateful** to Sy Burnett's tireless dedication to the role of treasurer for the past three years. Please take a moment to thank him and to welcome Randy Shearin and Elizabeth Roberts into that role.

After the whirlwind of the 2016 Capital Campaign, especially for those of us on the Steering Committee, it was both exhausting and exhilarating to consider what might come next. At first glance, the answer to that might seem to be *nothing*, so allow me to highlight the very real, albeit somewhat hidden, progress. We have money in the bank! Thanks to each of you who met the first year of your Capital Campaign pledge—please continue. If you are new to the parish, it's not too late to contribute to the three-year campaign. In addition, a separate committee met routinely with Breedlove Land Planning throughout 2017 to review the landscape architect firm's plans and recommendations for improvements to our parking areas and to the point. You will soon see the final draft of these plans as we begin to obtain contractor bids for the work that will take place in the coming months. In addition, you will hopefully drive down Ponce de Leon Ave one day soon and realize that something seems different about our church property because we will have said our final goodbyes to the Byrd House. Only a few minor logistical hiccups remain, and **I am grateful** to Katie Peterson for her loyalty to this project.

This past year was momentous for our staff. We supported a much-deserved sabbatical for Sharon. We celebrated Shea's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary as our loyal Parish Administrator. We said goodbye to Catherine (in title only) and welcomed Laraine as our Director of Children's Ministries. We breathed a sigh of relief when Benno and Shereetha returned safely from the youth pilgrimage to Navajoland. We prayed for Barbara

during her recovery. We asked for Susie's patience (and she ours) as she took over as our bookkeeper. We grew in knowledge and spirit with Brennan's weekly messages. We thanked Jean and Charlotte for caring for our little ones on Sunday mornings. We began a relationship with Alex as he settled into his role as our seminarian. We worshiped in the beauty of holiness created by Julie's musical offerings each week. Those who attended Tenebrae "in the round" during Holy Week truly understood the importance of *welcome* in the hearts and minds of our clergy and staff. **I am grateful** to each of them for giving so much of themselves to this place.

Finally, a word about your vestry. If you do not make a habit of attending vestry meetings (they are open to parishioners, by the way) or reading the vestry minutes, you likely think meetings are mostly about the dollars and cents of the church. While it's true that money matters and roof leaks and landscape plans are part of the conversation, we also had crucial conversations in 2017 about social and political matters. We cried and cursed. We talked about the importance of making space for ALL, not just those who voted the same as us. We discussed the merits of being a sanctuary church. We fellowshiped with one another during our annual and mid-year retreats. We pondered ways to be accountable to each other and the church. **I am grateful** for the mentorship offered by former Senior Wardens and to the special relationships with past and current vestry members. It has truly been an honor to serve as Senior Warden, and I am excited to see what the future holds for Epiphany.

*Amy Shipp, Senior Warden*

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## Acolytes

Throughout most of 2017 we had 17 Acolytes: seven for the 8:45 a.m. service; eight for the 11:15 a.m. service and two who are willing to serve at either service (thank you, Henry and Callie). We

lost four acolytes during 2017, but Henry Van Ness and Callie Finnegan joined in the fall and Ellie Sterne began training in December. Ian Cobb will begin training very soon.

In the coming days I will be actively talking with Epiphany families with age appropriate children to discuss the possibility of their child(ren) becoming part of this lay ministry. Also, on Sunday, May 13 (yes, I know it's Mother's Day) we will be having the First Annual Acolyte Recognition Sunday. This will be held at both services.

*Linda Ryder-Wolf, Acolyte Master*

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## Adult Formation

Adult Formation is vibrant at Epiphany. The spring term (January through May) rounded out three series offered on Sunday mornings: the Bible and Theology class learned about Christology, the Practical Theology group noticed and articulated the presence of God in daily life, and the Anglican Prayer group toured the Book of Common Prayer. During Lent, groups met jointly to explore the theme of Human Dignity.

Two members attended the eFormation webinar from the Center for the Ministry of Teaching at Virginia Theological Seminary, which inspired Paul Hinson to record the Bible and Theology lectures to post on YouTube. The fall 2017 term bore fruit in the form of compelling discussion in both classes, with an academic tone in the Bible and Theology class, while the smaller class developed a discipline of hearing one another's stories in light of the Biblical story for that week.

The Bible and Theology class, led by Theologian-in-Residence Brennan Breed, chose the themes of Incarnation for the fall 2017 term, and Resurrection for spring 2018. The Epiphany staff compiled a booklet of reflections on the themes for each term.

To build on the strengths of the prayer and practical theology classes, and to compensate for the lower attendance and the loss of meeting space, we chose The Path as the second offering during the Adult Formation hour. The Path is a selection of Biblical

narratives, a discussion guide, and a coloring book, all published by Forward Movement. Sharon Hiers and Shirley Banks collected the coloring pages from the group discussing The Path, and the pages will be posted in Jones Hall as soon as wall space is made available.

The Adult Formation Committee has new ideas in the works for 2018. A diverse group of women are planning a women's retreat, with the intention of calling together Epiphany women from many walks and stages of life. Kelli Shadwell is coordinating a quilting project depicting books of the Bible. For the Maundy Thursday Chapel of Repose, we plan to serve as hosts for open, shared vigil with the reserved Body and Blood, in the soon-to-be reconfigured nave.

The Adult Formation Committee is open to new ideas for ways for adult Epiphanyites to learn the Scriptures and traditions of the faith. We are a small, vibrant committee, and we would love to talk with you about our work.

*Shirley Banks, Chair*

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## Altar Guild

The Altar Guild is made up of men and women, new and seasoned, who work in teams to prepare the church for weekly worship services, the celebration of the seasons of the church and feast days, and the care of the linens and vessels. We had the privilege of preparing the worship space for the baptisms, weddings, funeral services and Bishop's visit that took place this year.

We have kept the sacristy stocked with wine, wafers, candles and oil. We draped the Processional, Children's and Great Cross and icons for Lent, Palm Sunday and Good Friday, and managed the Maundy Thursday Foot Washing and the Stripping of the Altar. At Easter and Christmas, we cleaned and polished all the silver, brass and the Great Cross.

Floyd Parker continued his generous support of the Epiphany worship experience through his many gifts, including the Advent and Christmas candles, the Paschal and the Christ Candles. Ruth and Eric Olson funded the restoration of the 100-year old large alms basin. Rod MacLeod built a wooden box to carry the burial bags for funeral services.

Guild members continued to participate in the Rector's every-other-month liturgy meeting.

Our membership was stable this year but we would like to add new members to this critical and very satisfying ministry. Please join us in the sacristy after a Sunday service to ask questions and observe what is involved. Or talk to any of the Guild members listed below who will be glad to share their experiences with this ministry. They will tell you that working with the Guild is a way to deepen relationships with fellow Epiphanyites as well as increasing your knowledge about our worship rituals.

Finally, we want to recognize our faithful and indispensable members: Ruth Olson, Diane Mundy, John Bayne, David Sample, Martha Rummel, Keith Poole, Kevin McGoldrick, Evelyn Stewart, Katie Pedersen, Phoebe McNeely, Anne Warner, Laura Keys, Nancy McCord, Joy Boyden and Audrey Banfield, who washes, irons and mends the many linens that are used each week.

*Kathleen Rinehart & Annie Strahan, Co-Chairs*

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## Art Ministry

The Art Ministry continues to thrive with ever changing monthly exhibits that bring visual delight and inspiration to our space. The gallery showcased several first-time exhibitors this past year and brought back a favorite exhibitor. We celebrated millinery, painting, photography and drawing. Epiphany received 25% of all sales. Epiphany earned a profit of \$1,276.50 from total sales of \$5,106.00.

Highlights included a group of folk artists from Costa Rica (Carazones Valientes) with their vibrant colored paintings, a return exhibit by Angela Kang with her

beautiful “fascinators” and photography from Palestine and Israel by Katie Archibald-Woodward. During the summer, we suspended shows due to a history of minimal sales. First-time exhibitors included the Epiphany Youth Group’s photography from their Southwestern adventure which was well supported by the parish.

We would to thank the Parish for their generous support in purchasing the wonderful art. Not only do your purchases support our parish programs but they help launch emerging artists that have never had an exhibit as well as support established artists needing exhibition space. It is a huge and risky step for new artists to show their work to the public-so when the exhibit goes up we can easily read from their faces that it is both a thrilling and a scary experience for them. They are always so grateful for the positive feedback and exhibit opportunity.

As is our tradition, we annually consult with our rector about how to best use the profits from our sales. Funds from 2016 were distributed as follows:

1. \$300 toward new clergy vestments
2. \$250 to purchase frames for the Youth Photography Show

Please note our protocol for payment. We request buyers fill out the small payment envelopes in addition to signing up on the price list sheet. This is the best way for us to track sales. Kindly place payments in the office area on Shea’s desk. Payments are to be made by check to the artist, not Epiphany. All sold work is left in the office at the end of the month.

If you would like to join our ministry or nominate an artist for an exhibit, please contact Liefy Smith

*Liefy Smith, Chair*

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## Building and Grounds

2017 was eventful for BandG folks. God’s waters descended upon us in June when a small flood poured through the ceiling, over and under the Baptistry doors while a service was taking place during a heavy rainstorm. Our Choir sang “Wading in the Water” as this was taking place. The roof is only 8-9 years old-it shouldn’t have happened. Research revealed a flawed installation. An ingenious temporary fix by Epiphany volunteers kept water off the floor while we waited for a more permanent repair.

The Byrd House saw its last occupants when the Emmaus House volunteers we hosted for the summer departed. We emptied the house out, turned off the water, and we are awaiting demolition. A huge tree came down at the back of the Byrd House lot, taking out a section of a chain-link fence but, thankfully, with no damage to any other structures.

Our BandG committee is looking forward to exciting things starting to happen in 2018 as we get underway with Capital Campaign projects. Buildings and Grounds is always in need of willing and/or able hands if you have an interest in helping with projects around the parish.

*Bruce Maclachlan, Vestry Liaison*

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## Children’s Ministries

As I complete my first six months of service as the Director of Children’s Ministries I am humbled to reflect on what has been and what is to come for the children at Epiphany. I am fortunate that my predecessor continues to be a support to programming and to myself as I navigate the very sensitive and important work of Children’s formation. We are a family church; you can look all around Epiphany and see kids all around. To me that is the evidence of such a strong commitment by our clergy and Parish to make sacred faith traditions accessible to all. We are also very fortunate as a Children’s Ministry to be grounded in the good work of Godly Play. Early in August I was able to attend a Godly Play training in Jacksonville, FL to

gain the education necessary to teach, coordinate, and prepare lessons for our Children. Asking children to “wonder” gives such incredible space for unique and individual spiritual exploration and is tied into all aspects of Children’s Ministry.

In our very loving community we are truly lucky to have such committed volunteers. At the start of this Sunday School year we added 5 new Sunday School teachers/helpers. They were educated about Godly Play through a brief introduction session. They along with the tried and true returning teachers (10) demonstrate such passion to serve the littlest of our community.

There is so much more to do. I am grateful for the space to explore ways to integrate Children’s formation into already existing programming and to see the Sunday opportunities expand as well. Here are some of the highlights from this past year:

### **Weekly and Regular Programs**

Children’s Chapel, a program during the 8:45 a.m. service, is led by myself, Beth Kelhoffer (our dedicated music leader), and a few other talented parents. Children’s Chapel follows a developmentally appropriate format to mirror a church service. We spend time in song, pray in community, stories, and an interactive response. The group size varies but is ranging from 12-20 children. Parents are also a very supportive part of this program, as we generally have 5-8 adults join us for this worship experience. As changing and aging is natural for a community, we have a varying group of ages. Most recently our oldest children attending Children’s Chapel (2<sup>nd</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> grade) have become leaders. They are called on to lead in song, prayer, and even as readers. Weekly the children follow the cross to join in community and reflect The Word; it is humbling to hear their genuine insights as they walk along their journey.

Our Sunday School hour hosts four classes, all of which are held upstairs. Our 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders

are engaged in “4/5 Club.” This age range is unique in its learning and connecting skills. Our three teachers for this class continue to work hard to facilitate a group that allows for deeper questioning and exploration of faith, specifically around The Gospels, The Church Year, and Sacraments. It is our hope that this class will help transition these children to Middle School Youth smoothly. Our other three classes (ages breakdown 3.5-PreK, K-1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup>) continue to follow the evidence-based model of Godly Play. This year we have 67 children enrolled for Godly Play; on average upstairs we are leading 30-40 children.

In addition to our regularly planned Sunday School classes we have added into the year several times where we present a “Social Justice” based lesson to a whole. All of the children come together for a story, a demonstration, or an introduction to an activity that brings them an awareness of social issues. This project has been steered by Gretchen Cobb with a focus on dismantling racism. We have used developmentally appropriate activities to engage conversations with the Children about “respect and dignity for all people.” These lessons in particular have induced beautiful insight and genuine curiosity for our kids. We look forward to continuing this particular type of learning sporadically in the Sunday School year.

This fall we hosted one parent Sunday School hour for parents to learn about Godly Play. I look forward to more ways to engage parents in the process of their own children’s religious education. Our Parish Retreat at Kanuga was another highlight of this fall, with 31 children in attendance. That weekend gave opportunity for children to explore and commune together, with no attention paid to any rain or cold weather.

Ending this reflection, it is clear that as a first-timer to this role there are so many wonderful things we are doing for Children. It is my desire to sustain the good and grow where there is room. As we look forward to the coming seasons and year, I will continue to assess the needs of this community and how to enhance the experience of Children and families in our parish.

*Laraine Fraijo-Paul, Director of Children’s Ministries*

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## Daughters of the King

Daughters of the King (DOK) is currently a small but devoted group of members whose mission is Prayer, Service and Evangelism. Each of the Daughters is committed to pray daily for the clergy of our Parish. We offer prayers upon request for healing. We pray for the church. We pray for specific people who have requested prayers for themselves and family members and friends. We pray for our country, especially at this time of turmoil. We pray for all the peoples of the world, and we pray for all chapters of DOK.

Anyone who is interested is invited to contact us, to verbalize your prayer requests, and to come and be a part of our meetings.

We meet on the fourth Thursday of the month at 10:30 a.m. at the home of the Banfield's in Stone Mountain. Audrey is a gracious hostess. After the meeting, we have lunch and fellowship at a local restaurant.

If you would like to know more about the Order of the Daughters of the King, or to request our prayers, please speak to one of our members. We all wear the small silver modified Greek Fleury cross as a pin near our heart, or on a chain around our necks.

*Shirley Sugden, President*

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## Earth Guild

The Earth Guild, a former winner of the Georgia Interfaith Power & Light's GIPPY Award, continues to practice a reverent stewardship of the earth's resources. Our mission statement calls us to do this through faith (worship and action), foundation (study and action), food (local food and communion with the Epiphany community), and fun.

We welcome anyone to join the Earth Guild, and we're always looking for new ideas to encourage

environmental stewardship. Currently, we are looking for new leadership.

In 2017 we held two successful electronics events—one in the spring and one in the fall, resulting in truckloads of monitors, computers, and you name it. We also had a highly successful fabrics recycling drive for the non-profit company, re:loom, and we continue to have ongoing battery and cork recycling. We estimate that we collected 120 to 150 pounds of batteries in 2017, and that we took probably more than 20 gallons of corks to Whole Foods. We're planning more recycling events this year for fabrics and electronics. Epiphany recycles plastics, paper, etc. through DeKalb County.

We also donated money to four charities last year—GIPL, the South River Watershed Alliance, re:loom, and Food Not Bombs. And, we replenished the plastic glasses in the kitchen.

After hearing members of Project Drawdown speak in August, the Earth Guild decided we wanted to have an event in the fall with at least one of those speakers. That developed into the Stewardship campaign, which we named Replenish. It was not only about financial and spiritual replenishment but also environmental, and our logo was a drawing of Mother Earth by Kelli Shadwell. Members of our six-member committee shared stories about stewardship with the congregation on four Sundays in September and October, and Replenish culminated in the Stewardship supper catered by Zoe's Kitchen. Our wonderful speaker was John Lanier, who is on Project Drawdown's board of directors.

Other events during the year included Earth Sunday in April in which Chris Moser led a discussion in Practical Theology on what we can do to lessen our environmental footprint. We had a couple of weekend outings, and Epiphany always celebrates St. Hildegard's feast day in September with Evensong liturgy and music.

*Brenda Lloyd & Sandy Land, Co-Chairs*

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## The Endowment Fund

THE LEGACY FOUNDATION/ MAGI FOUNDATION

The Endowment Fund of Epiphany was founded in 2001 to enhance and supplement the mission of the parish apart from general operations.

There is a 30-day window to request grant funds starting on the day of the annual parish meeting.

The guidelines for receiving funds are:

1. Capital improvements, debt reduction, or the building fund of Epiphany;
2. Outreach in the Community;
3. Scholarships for members of Epiphany;
4. Projects of the Episcopal Church at home and abroad.

Donors may contribute directly to the endowment fund through cash gifts, bequests in wills, trust, charitable gifts, annuities and assignment of life insurance policies. Epiphany's Endowment consists of a variable cash balance held in parish accounts and invested monies are allocated in the Episcopal Church Fund.

The Endowment Board received eleven applications in 2017 for grants totaling \$65,311. The Board, with the Vestry's approval, was able to award \$11,311. The following represents the total amounts awarded:

- Scholarships awarded - \$6,350. One applicant received a grant to help with college education, one to go on a mission trip to Swaziland, and one for a project for the Epiphany youth.
- Capital Improvements awarded - \$796. Music program received grants to purchase handbell choir table coverings.
- Parish Outreach awarded - \$3,600. A grant was awarded to the Emmaus House Freedom School.

Ken Holley, Terri Lawrence, Randy Shearin, Jacqueline Tate, Doug Teague, Katie Pederson (Vestry Liaison), Sharon Hiers (Staff Liaison)

*Jackie Tate, Chair*

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## The Episcopal Churchwomen

The ECW are a small but busy group. In addition to making sandwiches every month for the Poverty Rights Center at Emmaus House, we have programs and business meetings on the second Tuesdays throughout the academic year. At those meetings, we have had speakers from Holy Comforter, Emmaus House, and Global Village; performed a service project for DEAM; discussed the book *Help, Thanks, Wow* by Anne Lamott; hosted the senior group from Emmaus House for a luncheon; and dispersed funds from our own fund-raising efforts and from the Harvey Fund to help individuals and organizations ranging from a local family to the J2A Pilgrimage to the ministries in Navajoland. We also manage the collection of the United Thank Offering and once again sorted, priced, arranged, and staffed the Jumble Sale.

We received a bequest from Nancy Baer this year to add to the Catherine D. Harvey Legacy Fund. Those monies are invested with the Episcopal Church Foundation and we receive an annual check from the Fund from the interest accrued. According to the stipulations of the Fund, those grants go to individuals and organizations to help them reach their full potential. Restrictions on the Fund preclude college scholarships, but there are lots of other needs to fill. At this time, we are exploring ways to form an on-going partnership with Emmaus House and/or a local elementary school to support literacy and computer skills, while continuing to make individual grants. We are honored to be the conduit for Nancy and Catherine's legacy.

*Laura Keys, President*

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## Eucharistic Ministers & Readers

First of all I would like to acknowledge and thank all of the people in the parish who give of their time to serve as Eucharistic ministers and readers. And again I would also like to thank Shea for handling the scheduling and making the job so easy.

I would also like to express appreciation to those who volunteer as EMs and readers for the special services. Thanks for going above and beyond your duties.

I am glad to report that we have some new people joining us as EMs. Thank you to our new recruits. We continue to have sufficient readers to meet our needs. We will continue to seek to recruit more people for Eucharistic ministers.

We welcome any parishioners interested in joining this ministry. Training sessions for new EMs will be scheduled as needed, dates to be determined. Please feel free to contact me if you are interested.

Thanks to the staff who were able to find some funds in the budget, we were able to order some new vestments this year. I hope that all the EMs are now able to find a vestment that fits them comfortably. Please let me know if there are any concerns about vestments.

I look forward to another great year working with all of the wonderful people involved in Eucharistic ministry and reading.

*Martha Rummel, Chair*

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## Finance

The Finance Committee's mission is to provide sound financial guidance, advice, counsel, and perspective to the Vestry and Rector so the Parish can live out its mission with financial integrity. Its members for 2017 included Philip Anderson

(Chair), Sy Burnett (Treasurer), Amy Shipp (Senior Warden), Benno Pattison (Rector), Randy Shearin (Former Treasurer), Bonnie Kissler (Vestry—Finance), Andrew King (Member-at-Large), and Susie Boyko (Bookkeeper). Mike Kotzan joined the Committee in late 2017 as a Member-at-Large. Going into 2018, Elizabeth Roberts and Randy Shearin will serve as Co-Treasurers and the new Senior Warden will also become a member.

During the year, the Finance Committee, meeting monthly, advised the Vestry during the budgeting process, monitored income and spending throughout the year, and tracked over-budget items. We were assisted in this by the robust reports and participation of our Bookkeeper, Susie Boyko.

In 2017, Sy Burnett as Treasurer, working with our Bookkeeper as well as with input from the Rector, Senior Warden and other Vestry members, generated our projected budget. This is a huge task, part art, part science, and part alchemy. Our projected expenses can usually be fairly precisely arrived at, in large part because many of them are relatively fixed expenses—salaries, utilities, mortgage interest and principal paid, Diocesan pledge. Revenue projections are somewhat less susceptible of accurate predictions. They are subject to the differences of the amounts pledged and actually paid, the uncertainties of the amounts which will be paid by non-pledgers, unpredictable facilities rental income, the amount of monies placed in the collection plates and the unpredictability of who might move away, die, or not be in a position to make or honor a pledge.

The Vestry passed a 2017 budget that projected revenues of \$701,594 and expenses of \$708,910, yielding a projected deficit of \$6,868.

Unfortunately, at the end of 2017, our revenues were only \$682,121 which was \$19,473 short of projections. Projected expenses were 708,462 which were only \$448 over projections. Taken together, this meant that our projected deficit of \$6,868 became a year ending actual deficit of \$26,790. Of that amount, \$24,621 is attributable to 2017 pledges made but not paid.

A budget is simply a best estimate. Sometimes we miss the mark. The books are closed for 2017 (with a deficit), which means that the shortfall has come out of our cash on hand, leaving fewer funds available to meet our ongoing obligations.

However, any 2018 payments toward outstanding 2017 pledges will help replenish our cash position and strengthen our ability to fund our in-reach and out-reach programs at the levels they deserve. Please prayerfully review your pledge commitments and payments. It is not too late to do so.

Epiphany continues its yearly full financial audit, using Burge and Associates, in accordance with Diocesan requirements for a church at our income level. This process began in 2013. We are awaiting the final 2017 audit results which focused on the year 2016. Preliminary indications are that we have a “clean” set of financial records and practices. Previous audits identified no major issues and made recommendations concerning minor improvements in documentation and closer attention to controls. As in the past we will seek to implement any recommendations of the audit team.

Monthly and year-to-date financial reports have been redesigned to help in the oversight and budgeting processes. Vestry and the Finance Committee have worked together to streamline various accounts and reduce or eliminate certain designated accounts to make sure that ear-marked monies are used in a way that honors the donor’s intent yet remains consistent with the needs of Epiphany as a whole. A special effort was made to identify and address situations where Epiphany was the pass-through conduit for funds and not the end recipient as this affects the amount of our diocesan pledge which is 10 percent of our operating income averaged over the prior 3 year period.

In 2017 Epiphany began the periodic process of refinancing its mortgage loan with BB&T. Until

the loan is paid, we are required to renegotiate the terms every three years. An on-going concern of the Finance Committee has been the amount of mortgage debt we are still carrying from our renovation and expansion over a decade ago as well as from the acquisition of the Byrd property. This mortgage expense has limited our ability to fully fund our programs at the level they deserve. The Finance Committee whole-heartedly supported the Capital Campaign with the hope that sufficient funds to eliminate or substantially reduce our mortgage debt(s) by the end of the Capital Campaign 2019/2020 would result. Currently, our annual mortgage expense is over \$50,000 yearly. We would like to see those funds freed up to support our programs, both in-reach and outreach.

The 2018 Budget is still being finalized; the expense side is fairly well nailed down, but the income side is dependent on the receipt of pledge commitments from the parish. Until the income projections can be more accurately estimated, a balanced or nearly balanced budget cannot be established. The timing of this year’s parish meeting requires a provisional budget. A final budget will likely be determined at the upcoming Vestry Retreat. It is likely that current uncertainties can be eliminated or substantially reduced within a matter of weeks and a full 2018 final budget can be published and reported to the parish.

*Phil Anderson, Chair*

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## Flower Guild

We hope that you have enjoyed another year of beautiful flowers at our Epiphany worship services. This guild is one of only a handful at Epiphany that is solely funded by personal donations made to honor loved ones and/or special services. It is amazing to see the abundance of charity given to this aspect of our worship. Equally amazing is our group of dedicated, inspired, and creative volunteers who give of their time and talents each week and season to beautify our holy space. For all this, we thank our bountiful benefactors and members of the Flower Guild for their generosity,

faithfulness and service. Beyond the weekly services, this group of volunteers provides arrangements for weddings, funerals, and other occasions as requested.

While each year the starkness of Lent is overcome by the abundance of Easter flowers, this year we have dedicated our hearts to finding new and sacramental ways to honor each service. From unusual and exotic textures and colors, to a more traditional approach to Christmas using amaryllis and red roses, surrounded by southern greenery and cotton, we hope to inspire our fellow church members to visualize the glorification of God in the way we adorn the space in which we worship Him.

Through flowers, our parishioners have the opportunity of expressing our honor, remembrance, thankfulness, and love. Working on the Flower Guild provides one the chance to actively participate in the development of these expressions. We welcome all who wish to join us. To be a member does not require the talents of an artistic florist, only the desire to make our space of worship more beautiful. As they are learning, newer members are paired with more experienced ones to enhance the dissemination of knowledge throughout the team and to give new members more confidence. Below are some of the reasons why people serve on the Flower Guild; maybe you have another reason and we welcome all who wish to serve with us.

- To serve God and have fellowship with other Christians.
- To glorify God by adorning the space where we worship Him.
- To serve the parish and express emotional support for parishioners during times of need and times of joy.
- To work with one's hands, creativity, and passion for the beauty that God has created with flowers and plants.

- To meet people within the parish and interact with people of different generations.

Anyone interested in serving on the Flower Guild, should contact Leah Felcher at [leah\\_felcher@bellsouth.net](mailto:leah_felcher@bellsouth.net) (678.565.7502) or Nadine Howarth at [nadine.howarth@comcast.net](mailto:nadine.howarth@comcast.net) (404.840.1149).

*Leah Felcher & Nadine Howarth, Co-Chairs*

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## Membership

The Membership Committee welcomes all who are interested in our church life and shepherds them through the process of our worship and fellowship. Newcomers is an important part of Epiphany as it is paramount to our future growth and aligns with our mission of welcoming all. We met three times in 2017 at the rector's residence for Newcomers' Dessert to greet new parishioners and spend time with longer-term Epiphanyites. Newcomers' adult education meetings were held in the fall at 10 a.m. by the organ; those meetings were led by our rector with discussions regarding various aspects of Epiphany's mission of welcome, worship, and work. We welcomed many new members this year during these meetings. For the first time ever, we also had a presence at the Candler Park Fall Festival. It was a great experience and we are looking forward to participating in various festivals in the community along with continuing our many membership events this year!

*Bonnie Kissler, Vestry Liaison*

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## Memorial Garden Guild

The Memorial Garden Guild continued its routine tasks during 2017, i.e., maintenance of the Garden and funeral assistance, as needed. Sadly, we assisted in the interment of several parishioners or former parishioners during 2017.

There are no plans for major changes to the Garden in 2018. We do hope to extend the brick borders that separate the beds from the lawn on the parking lot side to the other beds in the garden.

The Guild enjoyed the continued participation of the Properties committee and volunteer parishioners during this year. New members are always welcome.

Contributions to the designated Memorial Garden Fund are also always welcome.

*Bill Graves, Acting Chair*

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## Music Department

Since last January our choirs and ensembles have made music each Sunday and during the week in liturgies, in rehearsals, and on retreat. We've made music within our walls and in the community and diocese and have celebrated feasts that are sometimes overlooked in our liturgical year. Our children's and youth choirs have grown again in membership with 30 children representing ages 4-7, and 16 singers in Junior Choir (grades 3-7) who have led liturgies and rung handbells. We welcomed 2 new players to the Epiphany Ringers and rehearsed and performed on new table covers thanks to an endowment grant (we had been using bed sheets). The Hildegard Ensemble sang again for the Easter Vigil as well as the Feast of St. Hildegard (a liturgy that used the entire space of our Nave) and on Christmas Eve. Besides our regular Sunday liturgies, the Epiphany Choir sang for the Feast of the Presentation and the Feast of the Ascension and participated in a Red Cross benefit for tornado victims early in 2017. The Epiphany Choir encircled the congregation at Tenebrae during Holy Week and the congregation became part of the choir during this very special service. We were the choir for the ordination of 6 Transitional Deacons at the Cathedral of St. Philip on December 16, and we were honored to sing for the wedding of choir member Cliff Edge and Les Howell in February.

*Julie Ryder, Organist & Choirmaster*

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## Outreach

**Mission Statement:** Our radical values lead us to reach out to the people of Epiphany and inspire them to works of reconciliation so that the world knows it is beloved.

**Core Ministries:** There are a group of core ministries that we support with time, talent, and treasure. These are the places our Outreach money goes on a regular basis: Decatur Cooperative Ministry (DCM) and Decatur-Area Emergency Assistance Ministry (DEAM), both serving the homeless and the hungry in our immediate community; Emmaus House, which serves the poverty-stricken area of Peoplestown; and Holy Comforter, which serves the mentally challenged in East Atlanta. Our Feeding Ministry has provided monthly meals to the homeless population of Peachtree Pine Men's Shelter for many years until its recent closing and will continue to serve Atlanta's hungry in 2018 and beyond. Our growing Refugee Program helps immigrant families assimilate to a new life in Atlanta. Every other year we work with an Interfaith Build through Habitat for Humanity to provide housing for first-time homeowners. We use the funds that Epiphany pledges to the Millennium Development Goals (.7% of our annual budget) to help the Business and Technical Institute (BTI) in Les Cayes, Haiti, with whom Epiphany has a partnership. BTI, a post-secondary institute founded in 2005, is having remarkable success in helping Haitian students acquire skills to help their families and their country.

What did our work look like with these core agencies? Our volunteers, led by Anne Warner, cooked and served dinners for Hagar's House (DCM's night shelter for homeless women and children) for a week each quarter. Kathy Ryan coordinated bi-annual food drives for DEAM. Epiphanyites volunteered at DEAM offices and on the DEAM Board. Through our Dot Romo Food Pantry we supplied provisions for the monthly meals at Peachtree Pine, the Holy Comforter Community Suppers, and the Saturday program at Emmaus House. Jeanette Hanson and Lisa Daily coordinated breakfast and lunch at the Freedom

School. Many Epiphanyites read to children during Parent Power while their parents learned how to help with homework. Jeanette Hanson organized a food drive at Thanksgiving, helping Epiphany provide Thanksgiving meals to Emmaus House for residents of Peoplestown. Epiphany volunteers worked at the children's art program at Emmaus House on Saturdays, served on the board, and supported the ministry's annual fund raiser. Again this year, as part of Emmaus House Children's Ministries, Jeanette Hanson collected gifts to help Peoplestown children have Christmas and we were able to support two new Emmaus House Programs by providing laptops for students in the Saturday morning STEM program, and meals for the participants in the Pipeline to College program.

Under Jeanette Hanson's leadership, we cooked and served dinner for 80 people at Holy Comforter twice this year. We also have members who are active with Holy Comforter's Friendship Center, helping with meals, art classes or gardening. Brandon Laird led the Epiphany's feeding ministry at the Peachtree Pine Men's Shelter through its closing in November. Many, many Epiphanyites supported this effort by helping cook, serve and transport on the 3rd Thursday and Friday of each month and nearly two dozen parishioners fed 80 people at Central Presbyterian for Christmas. Brandon is actively working with a group of volunteers to continue Epiphany's legacy of feeding the hungry.

Beverly Lorenzo has expanded The Refugee Outreach Program from sponsorship of one family each year to include 16 families in 2017. These families are from Afghanistan and worked in various capacities for the U. S. Army. Life here is very hard for them but they are so glad to be in a democracy and safe from wars. Most of the men are very talented in their field but have to take jobs paying \$7 to \$10 an hour so they are very grateful for the items we are able to supply and they are very happy to have friendly American

visitors. Anne Warner, Maggie Ewing, Margo Timberlake and Bev Lorenzo were able to tutor some of the families in English as a second language. We also helped several women register for Mommies and Me which is a class that teaches both Moms and their children English. They were also taught how to ride the bus to get to the classes on their own, a big step for some of these women who have never been on their own before. Two of the men had major operations in 2017. Bev took both men to the hospital and stayed with them during their operations. Other parishioners took their wives to the market, transported the men to the doctors, went to the pharmacy and generally provided them with moral support. We have one new mom who delivered in October and one that is due in February. In addition to rides to doctor appointments, we supplied them with baby clothes, cribs, toys, and diapers. When the weather began to change, a coat, hat, glove and blanket drive was organized. We provided 25 adult coats and 35 children's coats, hats and gloves and blankets. With the help of Holly Slater, Peter Schneider and Jim Rabb we delivered several washer/dryers to the families. Several of the Afghani men also helped me move furniture and the washer/dryers. It is good to see them give back to their community. Another wonderful example of this is Muhammad Ismail Kalakani who received a 2004 Chevy from one of Erin Braden's neighbors. This was a wonderful gift for his family and Kalakani then turned around and supplied rides for all his neighbors taking them to market, driver's test, doctors, etc. Erin Braden spearheaded a Scholarship Fund for Refugee children. We collected over \$1000 for this fund. She also mentored Zelalem Desta in his senior year of high school. He won several scholarships and just completed his first six months at Jacksonville University where he intends to become a pilot. We gave a small monetary gift to two organizations this year. The first is "Just Bakery" which is a non-profit that tries to hire refugees and pay them a living wage. This organization will be selling their baked goods at our church next year. They used the money we gave them to purchase butcher block counter tops for their kitchen. The second

organization we supported is the Refugee Café. They help refugees obtain jobs that are more than minimum wage. These organizations have helped several of the men and women we have been working with.

To leave a more lasting impact on Haitian BTI Students, several Epiphanyites founded Making Your Business Les Cayes (MYB), a 501©3 with the goal of educating and funding BTI graduates who want to start a business. In September of 2017, 13 Haitian students were selected to participate in the MYB program. The selected students receive a business plan curriculum that we purchased from Babson College. The curriculum has been used by other organizations to educate African entrepreneurs in similar socio-economic circumstances. In addition to curriculum, students are assigned an American mentor that periodically reviews the work of their student. From September 2017 until May 2018, students create a business plan based on what they know and the curriculum we provide. In May 2018, representatives from Epiphany will travel to Les Cayes to listen to the MYB students present their business plan. Feasible business plans will be awarded funding based on what they expect their start-up costs to be. Beyond having a rock-solid business plan, conditions for funding include hiring BTI students and creating a business that positively impacts Haitian society. It is the goal of MYB to leave a lasting impact in the community of Les Cayes through entrepreneurship and inspiration. We will continue offering and improving the MYB program each year.

**Other Opportunities for Ministry:** We continue to highlight our work of reconciliation and to find more and varied opportunities for people to explore reconciliation within their lives. An updated Outreach component is on the Epiphany website and includes an annual Outreach calendar. We continue to respond to world disasters and needs through ERD. Our St. Nicholas' Shoe Collection led by Erin Democko

in December provided shoes for the homeless through the Church of the Common Ground. Thanks to Mary Ann Schneider, we also continued to support the Foot Ministry of the Church of the Common Ground, a worshipping community of our Diocese which provides support for the spiritual, social, emotional, and physical needs of Atlanta's unhoused men and women. We provided weekly lunches for the homeless members of the Common Ground leadership team and helped with the weekly cleaning of the towels and utensils from the foot ministry.

We are thankful for the love of others and spirit of caring that resonates with the people of Epiphany, for the people who lead and for those who work quietly behind the scenes, for the people who reach out in action and for the people who sit and listen, for the people who constantly find Christ in others and in themselves. Together we are making a difference in our own lives and in the lives of those whom we are lucky enough to serve.

*Kim Finnegan, Chair & Bill Gary, Vestry Liaison*

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## Parish Life

This committee continued its dedicated work of providing the parish with good food and fun throughout the year. Thank you to all the committee members: Mary McCall Cash, Sara Dangel, David Draper, Stephanie Everett, Joel Fowler, Sabra Hanson, Sybil McCullar, Charlie Slater, David Thierry, Pam Tipton, and Sally Walker, our newest member. We also had the blessing of two Vestry Liaisons this year, Holly Slater and Annie Strahan. With their guidance, we were able to consistently plan and host this year's events through their strong support and backup. We are also grateful to all the other parishioners and even some visitors who helped by bringing food, and helping with setup and cleanup of the events. It takes many hands to have a successful event and those extra hands are most appreciated, especially with the dishwashing. Please consider being a member of our committee and help us with the work of planning and coordinating the parish activities.

The list of events managed by Parish Life this past year included: Helping with the Epiphany Pageant Dinner, Assisted with the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner, Agape Supper, Easter Vigil, Easter Breakfast, Parish Picnic, Summer Breakfasts, Kanuga Parish Retreat, and the Nativities exhibit with Wine and Cheese Reception. Most of these events can change from year to year and we are guided by the growth of the parish and suggestions from the staff.

Parish Life seeks to serve the parish by providing gatherings that all can enjoy and share in the love of our church. If you have suggestions or ideas, big or small, please pass those on to any committee member.

*Polly Nodine, Chair*

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## Pastoral Care

The pastoral care committee seeks to support our parishioners and clergy through our prayers, presence, and service. This committee consists of a series of subgroups that are involved in:

- delivery of food and meals,
- hospital visitation,
- home communion,
- Guild of the Christ Child (newborns),
- and other aspects of caring for our church community.

We are grateful for each and every parishioner who helps extend a helping hand or offers a kind word. Please let us know if you have questions about this ministry, or have an interest in serving on one of the subgroups.

*Brian Gross, Chair*

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## Ushers

This past year Epiphany's ushers continued to be the smiling faces everyone met as they entered the church. Every Sunday our friendly and helpful

ushers hand out bulletins, assist in finding empty pew space, collect the offering and direct parishioners to the communion table. To find out more about the ushers, look for our informational brochure found in the Tract Rack just to the left of the main doors or contact either of the co-chairs if you have questions or are interested in joining us. The duties are simple (only eight steps) and infrequent (once every five weeks). You'll be the first to meet and greet the great group of people who worship at Epiphany.

Our usher teams have a wealth of experience but we welcome new ushers. Maggie Ewing was the only usher added this year, and the teams at 11:15 a.m. are all full! Four of our five teams at 8:45 a.m. could each use one additional usher to fill them out; if you are interested, please contact Margo Timberlake. We can always use alternates at both services if you are not able to commit to a regular schedule.

*Margo Timberlake (8:45) & John Keys (11:15), Co-Chairs*

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## Vergers

At the present time the verger corps has 7 regular members and one reserve member. The vergers are responsible for making sure that all posts are filled for each service and seeing that things run smoothly.

*Diane Mundy, Head Verger*

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## Youth Ministry

When I reflect on Youth Ministry at Epiphany, I am reminded of the Lau-Tzu adage, "A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step." We took that step together by revamping our Youth Ministry Program. Our journey began as a single all-encompassing group, where we carved out a space for play and for prayer, while also setting the following goals: Increase attendance, create a more fluent means of communication with both parents and youth, and to foster authentic relationships with other youth programs in the Diocese of Atlanta. Here's how we've hit the mark so far.

**Attendance:**

Over the past year the Epiphany Youth Community has continued to grow. We've stretched our inclusive model into two definitive groups—both Junior High and Senior High. We keep a steady attendance of about 12 or more youth at each week's youth group. A significant part of our growth is due to our amazing volunteers. Doug Kertscher and Paige Howell continue to actively engage our Junior High Sunday School crowd through exciting retreats and by utilizing the Diocese of Atlanta's Youth Curriculum to maintain an average weekly attendance of 5 students. Kristin Lennon is another one of our wonderful volunteers. She serves both our Junior and Senior High groups; however, Kristin made a major impact with our youth community as a volunteer for our Navajo Land Pilgrimage—where 9 of our youth spent a week seeking the Holy and Divine while learning about the Navajo origin story. Because of the dedication of our volunteers we can anticipate having a group of 13 youth participants for this year's upcoming pilgrimage to Chicago.

**Communication:**

Social media isn't going away anytime soon, so we implemented some of those tools into our program communications. Our newsletter Epiphany Now which has helped us build community with parents and parishioners who like to keep up with program happenings. We've maintained nearly 40% readership and our youth continue to generate topics for each edition. Another platform that has helped our community flourish is our use of Instagram. We keep our posts up to date and it gives us a safe, yet direct way to interact with our youth and other youth communities within the national church. Parents and parishioners are encouraged to follow!

**Fostering Relationships:**

As mentioned above, we've developed an online presence for our youth community which has also

been a space for youth to connect with the Diocese of Atlanta's Episcopal Youth Community. Our youth are always encouraged to participate in diocesan events. Recently, four of our Senior High youth attended DYC at camp Mikell. We've built relationships within our Convocation, as well, by establishing a friendly youth group kickball tournament between fellow churches. Also, this past summer two of our youth served as ambassadors for the Diocese of Atlanta at the Lift Every Voice conference held in North Carolina. (LEV is a 3-year ministry launched by Bishop Curry and Beth Crow in the Diocese of North Carolina that tackles the history and the impact of Apartheid and the Civil Rights movement.)

Though our quantity has slightly grown over the past year, it is the quality of our programming and our volunteers, as well as, the dedication of our youth and their parents that has gotten us to this point. I think it's fair to say that as group we've taken several steps forward on this journey and undoubtedly, we'll continue that trend as we navigate through what's ahead.

*Shereetha Jackson, Youth Ministry Coordinator*