



# Epiphany Star



January 2017

**Articles for the Star are due by the 15th of each month.** You may place articles into the folder on the office door or e-mail them to: [newsletter@epiphanystar.net](mailto:newsletter@epiphanystar.net)

Editor: Linda Dean

## STAFF

**THE REV. BETH W. HIXON, RECTOR**  
**PAUL EXLEY, PARISH ADMINISTRATOR**  
**DODI HACKL-KEARNS, MUSIC**  
**ROBIN SMITH, ORGANIST**

## EPIPHANY VESTRY

<b>Paul Atlee</b>	<i>Rector's Warden</i>
<b>Marie Kearns</b>	<i>Acctg. Warden</i>
<b>Kathy Cobbs</b>	<i>Secretary</i>
<b>Bill Wilson</b>	<i>Property</i>
<b>Ben Millet</b>	<i>Parish Life</i>
<b>Sherri Quinlan</b>	<i>Affiliates/ Community Groups</i>
<b>Julie Datillo</b>	<i>Stewardship</i>

## A NEW YEAR, A NEW REALITY, A NEW US!

The seasons of Christmas and Epiphany call us to Newness...every single year. So I've been praying about and contemplating what might be worthy Newness for Us, The Church of the Epiphany Family. To embark on a new adventure, of course, means to embrace change. As innumerable failed New Year's resolutions illustrate, embracing Newness is usually more about the FANTASY of a result than about doing what it takes for a Reality to be born, grow and be fully manifest. Tilling the field in the Spring just doesn't seem to hold the fascination that the Fall harvest does. The hope of the imagined harvest may keep shoulder to plow...or it may not...if we're not hungry enough.

The spiritual life is no different. Fantasizing about the birth of Jesus during Advent is often much sweeter than coming to terms with how well our purposes align with God's purposes in the furrows of life...and the closer we get to Lent, Passion Sunday, and Good Friday, the tougher it gets.

So what sustains us when our primary reality is a patch of earth? Does the level of our spiritual "hunger" keep us on track toward the realization of a spiritual harvest? You may ask, "What spiritual harvest?" Well that's a great question! I too wonder about what the characteristics of the harvest might be. This is definitely worth ongoing conversation. For now, we may just need to discover what sustains our energy and our focus as we plow and prepare the earth of our common spiritual life as Church of the Epiphany, the Valley Forge Deanery, and the Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania.

Here we are...A New Year, a New Bishop, a New Rector, New Parishioners...how are we being called to become a New Faith Community? Bishop Gutierrez has a suggestion for all of us. He is inviting the whole diocese to read the Bible together every day over the course of the next year. Perhaps the commitment to engage Holy Scripture in a new way is the plow, the soil, the water and the food we need to keep going while the harvest gradually emerges. "The Holy Scripture of the Old and New Testaments is the Word of God and contain all things necessary to salvation" (BCP, p.526). And believe me, there's a whole lot more in the Hebrew and Christian Testaments than we read in our three-year lectionary cycle. If we take the Bible Challenge TOGETHER, we will probably be more likely to land in the same furrow of earth and be better able to discern God's particular call for us as a diocese and a parish.

If you can imagine an abundant harvest for God and want to join with me in taking this challenge, here are some ways to participate:

✠ Starting on January 1st, read the appointed scripture passages daily. The list will be available at Epiphany, on our new website as soon as we go live, and in an email in your inbox, OR download the Bible Challenge app from the iTunes or Google Play store. Follow along with each day's readings, either through reading text or by listening to audio. Then, read the daily reflection written by clergy and lay leaders in the Diocese of Pennsylvania.

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Beth's article continued from first page....

- ✚ Join the DIOPA Bishops Bible Challenge [Facebook Group](#) for reflection and discussion on the readings.
- ✚ Register online at: <https://diopa.wufoo.com/forms/bishops-bible-challenge/>
- ✚ Post your thoughts to social media by using the hashtags #diopabbc and #wordon
- ✚ Follow the bible reading plan with a friend or small group. (Let Beth know if you're interested in doing this.)
- ✚ Download a PDF copy of the reading schedule for yourself, or make a copy to give to a friend.

I'm looking forward to sharing the plow, the soil, the food and water of the Holy Scriptures with you!

In God's hope alive in US...  
Beth+

## **"SOUPER BOWL" Coffee Hour!!**

We will again hold our annual "Souper Bowl" Coffee Hour on Super Bowl Sunday, February 5th, 2017, following the 10:00 service. All are invited to attend this time of fun and fellowship!

There are several ways we can use your help. With your help, we will serve soup and bread as well as a light dessert, as the fare of the day, instead of the usual coffee hour fare. We ask anyone who wishes to contribute a pot of soup or one of the other items mentioned, to please sign up on the sheet provided in the undercroft.

We also ask EVERYONE to bring a can or more of canned soup to be donated to Project Outreach. Some of the cans will serve as our centerpieces for the tables!!

Everyone will be invited to dress in their team clothes, even if their team is not playing. (I'd like to say, "Go, Eagles!" but it would be a dream!) After a bit of soup and great fellowship, everyone can be off to their own Super Bowl event!

We are looking forward to a fun time, as it was last year! Any questions, please see Betsy Dell.

## **SCRIP:**

The January dates will be January 8 and 22, 2017, and then we will attempt to resume our customary order dates of the first and third Sundays of subsequent months.

Please contact me if you have questions or would like to help with the program.

Susan Garone  
610-415-9233  
[proutygarone@verizon.net](mailto:proutygarone@verizon.net)

## January Adult Fellowship Party!!

### January 21, 2017

All adults of the parish are invited to join us for our annual Epiphany party, to be held in the undercroft on January 21st at 6:30 pm. The party will be hosted by the Dells.

You are asked to bring a dessert or an hors d'oeuvres to share with the group. Sodas and coffee will be provided by the hosts. A sign up sheet will be available in mid-December for you to sign and list what you will bring.

Each person is asked to bring a wrapped, but not tagged, 'gift.' Your 'gift' should be a fun one, a gag 'gift,' or a recycled 'gift' you have received and never found a chance to use. We will exchange these 'gifts' in a unique manner. You might open a 'gift' you like, and moments later lose it to another person. We will explain more at the party.

This has been an evening of fun for many years. We hope you can join us and share in the fun!!

## FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY SERVICE

On Friday evening, January 6th beginning at 7:30 pm, we will host Valley Forge Deanery parishes for the second annual Eucharistic Celebration of the Feast of the Epiphany. Mark your calendar and plan to worship, meet and greet that evening as we celebrate our namesake feast day!! A simple reception of cookies, finger desserts, and coffee/tea will be held following the service, hosted by members of Parish Life. Please help us by bringing cookies or other finger-type desserts to serve at the reception. Look for a sign-up sheet in the Undercroft. Any questions regarding refreshments, setting up, or serving at the reception, please contact Ben ([Benjamin.millet@outlook.com](mailto:Benjamin.millet@outlook.com)) or Betsy ([charlesbetcha6@verizon.net](mailto:charlesbetcha6@verizon.net)).

## WRITE THIS DOWN!!

January 06, 2017:	The Feast of the Epiphany Holy Eucharist
January 21, 2017:	Epiphany Party
January 22, 2017:	Annual Meeting—one service at 9 a.m.
February 05, 2017:	"Souper" Bowl Sunday (details will be in January newsletter)

## FROM THE BOOKSHELF

January 2017

It is often said that all good things must come to an end. Which to the mind of this writer is no doubt true, but the corollary, therefore, would have to be that all good things must also have a beginning. And we of the book club know that this is quite true because for us it means that another year with a new list of works to read, new places, new friends, and some new and sometimes unusual situations to encounter. So here we are, we have placed our books on the bookshelf and are ready to commence our reading adventures for 2017. Fresh from the holidays, a new year to look forward to and hope it will not be quite as tumultuous as the last year was. Are you ready to go with us? You are? Wonderful! Come, let's all read together. We look forward to having you with us.

As is our tradition, we always close the year by preparing for the new year. In other words, we select the books we will be reading during the upcoming year. We do it by voting from a list of approximately twenty nominations submitted by the membership during the Fall. To be selected for the reading list, a work must receive a majority vote. We also select one classic literary work to be read during the year as well. From that, a list of eight to ten books is compiled; and from that list, one is selected for the reading list, while eight are selected from the list of twenty. This in turn produces a list of nine books to be considered during the year. We arrive at the figure nine because we do not meet for two months of the year (July and August), and of course in December we give our time for making the list selections and having a Christmas social. And that is how we arrive at what we will be reading for the year,

*Love, Anthony* by Lisa Genova will be our first reading for 2017. Anthony is an autistic boy who is present throughout the story but does not actually appear. The real story is about the relationship of Anthony's mother Olivia, who has moved to Nantucket after her marriage break-up, where her path crosses with Beth who has had a chance meeting with Anthony. And as the story progresses, we are told how these two paths crossed and how they connected at a very deep level through Anthony, who is not well understood. Do read it and come attend our discussion with your contribution.

The following is our new reading list for 2017:

January	<b><i>Love, Anthony</i></b> by Lisa Genova
February	<b><i>The Ginger Man</i></b> by J. P. Donleavy & Jay McInerney
March	<b><i>The Wright Brothers</i></b> by David McCullough
April	<b><i>Flight Behavior</i></b> by Barbara Kingsolver
May	<b><i>Citizens of London: The Americans Who Stood by Britain in its Darkest, Hour</i></b> by Lynne Olsen
June	<b><i>A Far Off Place</i></b> by Laurens Van Der Post
July/August	No meeting. Read September selection
September	<b><i>The Sea Hunters</i></b> by Clive Cussler
October	<b><i>The Rule of Four</i></b> by Ian Caldwell and Dustin Thomason
November	<b><i>Jane and the Twelve Days of Christmas</i></b> by Stephanie Brown
December	Regular meeting to select readings for 2018 and the Christmas Social

# CELEBRATE!

## Happy Birthday

### January

2 - Jake & Justin Atlee  
 5 - Jack Cobbs  
 13 - Marge Kabak, Valencia Marrella  
 29 - Frank Borst, Abigail Leary



### January

21- Mike & April Smokowicz

# Volunteer Schedules

### Eucharistic Ministers

**8:00 a.m.                      10:00 a.m.**

01 - Paul Atlee	Marie Kearns
08 - Volunteer	Paul Exley
15 - Volunteer	Bill Hummer
22 - Volunteer	Paul Atlee
29—Volunteer	Marti Wilson

### Greeters

01—Cindy Lind  
 08—Cathy Bailey  
 15—Bill Wilson  
 22—Betty Murphy  
 29—Gwen Thompson

### Lectors

01 - 8:00 am	Marsha Hill
10:00 am	Paul Atlee/Joanne Arnold
08 - 8:00 am	Ed Hill
10:00 am	Jack Cobbs/Kathy Cobbs
15 - 8:00 am	Marsha Hill
10:00 am	Helen Warner/Larry Way
22 - 8:00 am	Volunterer
10:00 am	Karen Kreider/K. DiBattista
29 - 8:00 am	Volunteer
10:00 am	Marie Kearns/Dodi Kearns

### Counters

01—Bailey/Borst  
 08 - Garone  
 15 - Wilson  
 22 - Dell/Voluneer  
 29—Bailey/Borst



### Crucifer/Server

01—Marie Kearns  
 08—Paul Exley  
 15— TBD  
 22—Bill Humer  
 29— TBD

### Ushers

Borst/DiBattista

## MUSIC NOTES JANUARY 2017

Hello again, Church Family! Happy New Year!

However, as I write this article the Christmas Season is underway.

Robin is offering beautiful Preludes and Postludes on the organ and the Adult Choir and Handbell Choir are still participating in rehearsals, as well as preparing for Lent and Easter. They have just finished offering a Cantata for the Advent Season, as well as singing and ringing for the Ordination of Lori Exley to the Priesthood.

As we begin a new year, I ask that we pray for one another and pray for the Music Program. Our music groups are growing and thriving, there is always room for one more!

Please prayerfully consider joining either the Handbell or Adult Choirs. You and your church will be glad you did!

Until next time...

Yours in Christ,  
Dodi