



THE THREE CROWNS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE PARISH OF THE EPIPHANY

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My Puzzle



"Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, and the word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him. The LORD called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, 'Here I am, for you called me.' Then Eli perceived that the LORD was calling the boy. Therefore Eli said to Samuel, 'Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, 'Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.' So Samuel went and lay down in his place. Now the LORD came and stood there, calling as before, 'Samuel! Samuel!' And Samuel said, 'Speak, for your servant is listening.'" 1 Samuel 3:7-10 (NRSV)

The word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time, saying, 'Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you.' So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD." Jonah 3:1-3 (NRSV)

As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, 'Follow me and I will make you fish for people.' And immediately they left their nets and followed him. Mark 1:16-18 (NRSV)



My sister gave me a puzzle for Christmas this year. A 1500 piece jigsaw puzzle. Daunting. I haven't done a puzzle in years. I haven't had the time and besides, 1000 piece puzzles are my limit. When I was a little girl, I loved doing puzzles. For two weeks each summer my family would rent a cottage on a lake in Maine and we would flop around all day swimming, rowing, reading and on a rainy day, make a pilgrimage to L.L. Bean. I would always work on a puzzle in between all of these activities. My family knew it was my thing and I had a certain place in the cottage to spread out the pieces where I would spend hours during the day and even late into the night work on it. I so enjoyed seeing it come together and fixated on completing it. I am wondering if any of you enjoy doing puzzles, also. There are many ways to go about working on a puzzle. Some people are more organized doing a puzzle than others. I myself am a haphazard, unsystematic puzzle person. I begin a new puzzle looking at the pieces all jumbled and messy and spend hours sifting through the box of pieces, becoming familiar with them, pulling out the interesting ones and edge pieces. My

strategy is to find and connect all of the outer pieces first and then work on the rest as it slowly goes together. Most of my puzzles consist of a large amount blue sky and if you have ever worked on a puzzle, at the beginning, all of these blue pieces seem the same. But after spending time staring at these pieces, I begin to notice subtle nuances between the blues. At some point it becomes easily apparent how the pieces fit together into blocks. I love thinking about where blocks of pieces might go, and am often surprised when they end up in a totally different part of the puzzle from what's expected.

When I was a girl, I would give into the flow of how the puzzle was fitting together, sifting and connecting, and at some point, my mind would wander and wonder. I thought about people and relationships in my own life at the time, especially people with whom I wasn't connecting very well, as time with my puzzle went by, I started to understand why these relationships weren't working. Slowly, it would become apparent as to what I could do to heal them. I would take stock in the things that I was doing that were and weren't life giving for me and make note to let go or focus in new directions. As the puzzle connected, I made connections in my own life. When I finally finished and placed the last piece into the puzzle, I felt re-centered and reconnected, refreshed with new hope to go back into the world with clarity about who I was, where I fit in and what I was meant to be doing. Looking back, I realize now that this puzzle meditation quieted me so that the "word of the Lord was revealed to me," God was calling me, and doing a puzzle helped me be still enough to hear the call. This past week, I have spent time on my puzzle, rediscovering this meditation that gave me so much joy years ago. My girls stop by to help find a piece or two before getting bored; I pray they find their own ways of quieting themselves. As I finish writing this article, the border of my puzzle is complete and I am grappling with the blue sky. There is much wandering and wondering to go. I am grateful that God will call for me not just two times or four times but 100 times if needed, because 1500 piece puzzles take a long time and I will probably miss the call a few times. I thank my sister for reminding me of the joy of doing a puzzle.

May you each find your own way of quieting yourselves so that the word of the Lord will be revealed to you.

And may you be ready to answer God's call with, "Here I am, for your servant is listening."

Love,

Carolyn



MISSION
&
OUTREACH

Join the Annual MLK Day of Action

Monday, 15 January at St. Stephen's in Boston



Parish of the Epiphany has a decades long partnership with [St. Stephen's Church and Youth Programs](#) in Boston and an almost decade long partnership with the Blackstone School Library. Epiphany folks volunteer on a regular basis in both programs and we'd love to show you what we are doing.

On January 15th, you are invited to the 8th Annual MLK Day of Action- a hallmark of St. Stephen's Youth Programs' (SSYP) partnership with the Blackstone Innovation School. In the morning, volunteers work on service projects to improve the learning space in the school and, in the afternoon, volunteers reflect on MLK's legacy and take action! Last year, over 300 people of all ages and abilities came to the Blackstone over the course of the day, 25 service projects were completed, and City Councilors Ayanna Pressley and Tito Jackson spoke to volunteers.

This year, SSYP is excited to partner with a new school, in addition to the Blackstone, on MLK Day. Service projects will also be worked on at the Josiah Quincy Upper School in neighboring Chinatown. The MLK Day of Action is a great opportunity for individuals, groups, churches, and families to connect with SSYP and its surrounding community. Partner Churches have been critical supporters since the first MLK Day of Action in 2010!!

Please consider spending MLK Day with our urban neighbors. There's no better way to start the new year than by honoring Dr. King's legacy. To learn more or to sign up to join the Epiphany crew (we will carpool from Epiphany), please contact [Susan Haskell](#) or [Betsy Walsh](#).



Haiti Mission Fundraiser

The main fundraiser *To Leogane With Love* will be held on Saturday, 20 January from 6:00 - 9:00pm with a snow date of Sunday, 21 January. There are really exciting auction items and food from around the world. Please join us Tickets are \$40/per person available online at mobilemissionhaiti.org or at the door.



Evensong

Save the date for Sunday, 11 February at 5:00pm for a service of music with the Parish Choir and prayer. More details will be coming.



Prayer Ministries

The Parish of the Epiphany Ministries offers an Intercessory Prayer Ministry.

Those desiring the prayers of our community are lovingly companioned to God in prayer and also offered the assistance of our other Pastoral Care Ministries. We maintain an active Prayer List that is updated and prayed on a daily basis and on Tuesday nights in a short, contemplative service. We also have an on-line Prayer Chain specifically for urgent needs. Any questions about intercessory prayer ministries, please contact prayer@3crowns.org. You are invited to join us at any Tuesday at 6:00pm in the Chapel.



FAITH
FORMATION

Epiphany Minicourses

Adult Formation Minicourses for the season of Epiphany.

Classes meet for four weeks and you are invited to attend a different class each week or select a topic of interest to you and stay with it for the session. More detailed descriptions of each class will follow in the coming weeks.

Class dates are:

Sundays at 11:15am; 14 January, 21 January, 4 February, and 11 February

Classes are

1. *The Disciples Knew the Lord Jesus*, facilitated by Gabrielle Stott

Discover what the Bible and tradition tell us about the men who broke bread with Christ. What were the personalities and motivations of the men who took up the cross and followed Him?

2. *From the Back Bay to the Suburbs: A Christ-centered Spirituality for Right Now*, facilitated by Thomas Brown

This survey course will review the history of American Anglicanism that led to what is known as Broad Church spirituality. We will look briefly at its English roots, and delve deeply into the writings of its American successors, including Theodore Parker Ferris and John Suter (first rector of the Parish of the Epiphany). Each session will incorporate interactive exercises designed to give participants practical tools to equip them for their daily life with Christ.

3. *Salem 1692: Challenges for Discipleship*, facilitated by Michael Chesson

The tiny community of Salem Village long struggled with problems unusual for a Puritan community, most of which were bound in a sacred covenant. It was fertile

ground for evil, which challenged the Village's first four ministers, each of whom failed to achieve unity and love. This mini-course will focus on the Salem witchcraft crisis and what it might teach us about the perils of leadership, the pain of Christian witness, and the promise of salvation.

4. *Abraham and a Life of Faith* , facilitated by John Jenke

This minicourse will test our understanding of faith by evaluating three episodes in the life of the Biblical patriarch Abraham, acclaimed by Judaism, Christianity, and Islam as the father of monotheism. Beginning with a look at God's "Call" to Abraham, the course will proceed to consider Abraham's haggling with God over the fate of Sodom and Gomorrah and then assess the implications of Abraham's binding of his son Isaac (the Akedah). How do these three events inform our views of faith today?

Readings from Genesis 11 – 22 as well as chapters from Bruce Feiler's short book *Abraham: A Journey to the Heart of Three Faiths* will inform in-class discussion. Copies of Feiler's book will be available at the beginning of the first class.

5. *Bringing God Home, Simple spiritual Practices for Families* facilitated by Thea Keith-Lucas

How can your family spend more time with God? In this course designed for kids and adults to attend together, we'll explore who God is, what the Bible means, how to pray for other people, and how to live a Christian life. Each week will introduce an accessible, engaging activity that is easy to do at home.



Confirmation Class 2018

Preparation for Confirmation: Informational Meeting



Any tenth grader and older who is interested in being confirmed is invited to an informational meeting on Sunday, 4 February at 12:00pm in the Upper Parish Hall. Parents are invited to attend as well. The class will be led by the Reverend Thomas James Brown and Carolyn Hughes, Director of Faith formation.

Confirmation preparation classes meet weekly through June, typically on Sunday mornings and last for 45 minutes.

The Rite of Confirmation will be celebrated on Saturday, 23 June at 10:30am at the Parish of the Epiphany

Contact the [Parish Office](#) or call 781 729-1922 if you are interested in preparing for confirmation.



2018 Youth Mission to El Hogar

Youth El Hogar Service Program: Informational Meeting



Any youth currently in grades 9 - 12 interested in being part of this team of youth are invited to attend and informational meeting on Sunday, 11 February at 5:00pm in Hadley Hall. Parents are invited to attend as well.

This meeting will provide an overview of our service learning program at Epiphany that culminates with traveling to visit El Hogar in Tegucigalpa, Honduras. The trip is planned for 21-28 July 2018. The mission of El Hogar is to transform and empower abandoned and hopelessly poor children in Honduras by providing a loving home and education. Our youth experience life at the elementary school, visit the homes of some of the children who attend, and begin to learn how to serve in the world.

The application process to be a part of the team will also be discussed.



Sanctuary in the City

Sanctuary In The City is a group of Parishioners who work in the Boston/Cambridge area who get together the first Wednesday of each month for lunch, prayer, and fellowship. For those who work in the city and are interested in this "sanctuary in the city" and want to learn more, please contact [James Wagner](#) or [Solomon Owayda](#). The group's next meeting is this Wednesday, 10 January.



Thank You to All for the 2017 Christmas Fair



At its December meeting, your vestry heard a report from Leslie Aiken, co-chair with Sara Post of the Christmas Fair, on the results of the December 2 event. As those who attended will attest, Epiphany's 2017 Christmas Fair was a fellowship and financial success! Funds are still dribbling in at this writing, but the organizers expect that the final net revenue figure will be close to, or perhaps just over \$11,000. Great thanks go to Sara and Leslie for their leadership — and to their enthusiastic table chairs; the many creative souls who came up with baskets for the auction; and all who made jams, ornaments, mittens, pickles, chocolate sauce, and a wondrous variety of baked goods. Thank you, too, to all who made 70 Church Street their prime shopping destination that day and to those who gathered for a neighborly lunch.

Unless you are an avid follower of the vestry minutes, you may not know the full story behind this year's fair. A year ago, vestry was struggling with how to balance the budget in a way that accommodated all the things we as a Parish community were called to do in 2017. Faced with a gap between budgeted revenue and expenses of \$15,000, we agreed to a proposal to fill at last part of it with a fundraising event — the specifics of which might become clear later in the year, when, we hoped, a group would come forward to offer the creativity, time, and energy to make it happen. And so they did. Thanks be to God!

And yet another reason for gratitude: Leslie and Sara have agreed to build on this year's experience and chair a 2018 fair, as well. Maybe you'd like to join the 2018 crew. Stay tuned.



Have You Heard

Yesterday we welcomed five new members to our Church through the celebration of Holy Baptism. Annabelle Evelyn Davies, daughter of Warwick and Nicole; Aurelia Lily Dolan, daughter of Christopher and Angelina; Isla Rose Hermance, daughter of Christopher and Gillian; Lincoln Maddox Hunt, son of Ian and Nicole; and Josephine

Kate Maganzini, daughter of Brett and Anne, were baptized.

Congratulations to Kendall Sullivan who graduated with honors from UMass Amherst with a degree in astrophysics. Her next step is moving to Flagstaff, AZ to work at Lowell Observatory doing astronomy research until I head to graduate school in the fall.



Cluster Accompaniment Training

Wednesday, 10 January from 7:00-9:00pm at First Parish Church in Concord

As you may remember, Epiphany decided to become a Level 2 Sanctuary church earlier this year, supporting St. Mary's, a Level 1 Sanctuary Church in Dorchester. A group from Epiphany has been attending meetings at St. Mary's with other Level 2 churches over the past months. At the most recent meeting, we were informed that a critical need for immigrants and refugees is for expanded accompaniment.

As it does not seem likely that someone will be entering sanctuary in St. Mary's in the immediate future, we want to also become part of the Burlington cluster team. The Burlington cluster provides accompaniment for immigrants to the Burlington ICE Field Office check-ins as well as for ISAP (Intensive Supervision Appearance Program) BI Inc. check-ins. BI Inc. is the for-profit company contracted by ICE to monitor immigrants through electronic ankle shackles. The Burlington cluster teams also mobilize people for vigils at the ICE field office in Burlington. Those who wish to be a member of the cluster will sign up, specifying days that he/she is available. The Burlington cluster leaders will communicate a request to the volunteer team members when accompaniment is needed.

There will also be opportunities to write letters, to raise funds, and to attend vigils at the prisons in Boston.

An accompaniment training for the Burlington cluster is planned for Wednesday, 10 January from 7:00 – 9:00pm at First Parish in Concord, 20 Lexington Road. If you are interested in attending this or just have questions, please contact [Roz Nazzaro](mailto:Roz.Nazzaro@epiphany.org) (781.439.4667) or [Susan Haskell](mailto:Susan.Haskell@epiphany.org) (781.729.6327). We plan to carpool to the training.



This Week at Epiphany

Monday, 8 January	
6:00pm & 7:30pm	AA
Tuesday, 9 January	
7:15am	Men's Group
1:00pm	Epiphany Visitors
6:00pm	Pray the Parish Prayer List
7:00pm	Prayer Team Meeting
7:30pm	Property Committee
Wednesday, 10 January	
7:30am	Holy Eucharist
Thursday, 11 January	
9:00am	Contemplative Prayer
9:30am	Thursday with the Gospels Bible Study
5:30pm	Youth Choir Rehearsal
7:30pm	Parish Choir Rehearsal
Friday, 12 January	
9:30am	Parent/Child Playgroup
Sunday, 14 January	
8:00am	Holy Eucharist
9:00am	The Word Today Lectionary Study Group
10:00am	Holy Eucharist
10:00am	Children's Worship
11:15am	Adult Formation Minicourses
11:30am	Genesis Middle School Youth Group
6:00pm	YPF High School Youth Group

For more information