



THE THREE CROWNS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE PARISH OF THE EPIPHANY

January 15, 2018

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Will We be a Beam of Light Today?



On this national holiday when we remember and honor Martin Luther King, Jr., I am reminded once again how much we yearn for light.

When we're children we wake our parents in the night to say, "I had a bad dream," and they respond, lovingly, "go back to sleep, it was just a dream." My parents would leave the hallway light on, and for some reason that little crack of light underneath the door gave me sufficient assurance to fall back asleep. That might be a great technique for children, but I'm not sure it works for adolescents or adults.

In fact, there's a psychic and social cost to going back to sleep because when we avoid grappling with darkness our moral conscience doesn't get strengthened, and before long, our ethics devolve into rules instead of cultivated wisdom and compassion.

Today Dr. King's "I have a dream speech" will reverberate in our ears. I love that speech, and like many of you, I can quote entire lines. Yet, I must confess that I've relegated it to a precious shelf on the archives of my heart and mind, unintentionally giving it due reverence without incorporating it. I feel a renewed call to make those words and the sentiment with which Dr. King said them, the inspiration I need to change the way I think, act, and feel. I yearn for the light, and I yearn to be the light.

On Christmas Eve afternoon I was walking from church to home and was joined by Nina Cronan, a twenty-something Parishioner who lives in Boston (and who grew up across the street from Epiphany). Nina is the principal of a school in East Boston, where more than 70% of her students are people of color. While most of her students are American citizens, most of the student body's parents are not. From my comfortable perch of privilege it's hard to imagine what life at home is like for these families, and, when I asked about that Nina said, "it's really hard to learn when you're constantly afraid."

But there was a beam of light in Nina's story. A really, really big beam of light. In addition to a large Spanish speaking community who find safety and solace at school, a growing number of Moroccans, most of whom are Muslim, do too. Guess what part of the school building the Muslim kids use to say their prayers? The principal's office! Just before Christmas Nina received lovely notes from the Moroccan community thanking

her for opening her office to be a place of prayer. In my mind's eye I can see Nina and her students singing today, "this little light of mine."

Maybe the invitation for today is to ask God to use us, so that something of Dr. King's witness and words will so fill our minds and hearts that we will be a beam of light. Here's a prayer for today:

Almighty God, by the hand of Moses your servant you led your people out of slavery, and made them free at last: Grant that your Church, following the example of your prophet Martin Luther King, may resist oppression in the name of your love, and may secure for all your children the blessed liberty of the Gospel of Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Faithfully in Christ,



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, at church, or at the door.



PARISH LIFE
&
EVANGELISM

Parish Annual Meeting



THE PARISH OF THE
EPIPHANY

A welcoming Episcopal community

Following our 10:00am worship on Sunday, 29 January, the Parish will gather in Hadley Hall to hear a brief review of 2017 and look ahead to 2018. The budget and new Vestry members will also be presented. The Rector's annual address will be part of the service.

Lunch will be offered by our youth to raise funds for their mission to El Hogar. Childcare is available.



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.

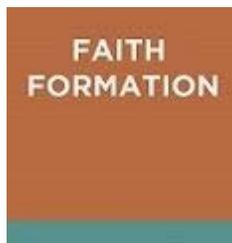
This meeting will provide an overview of our service learning program at Epiphany that culminates with traveling to visit El Hogar in Tegucigalpa, Honduras. The trip is planned for 21-28 July 2018. The mission of El Hogar is to transform and empower abandoned and hopelessly poor children in Honduras 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.



Have You Heard

Tim Sullivan has accepted the position of Executive Director at the University of California Press (in Oakland). He will be moving to California to begin work in February. The rest of the family will be moving in June/July to join him. The family is excited about this new opportunity, even as they are sad to leave their Epiphany family. Wendy will remain on the Vestry until she moves in the spring.



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.



Epiphany Minicourses Continue

Adult Formation Minicourses for the season of Epiphany.

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.

Class dates are:

Sundays at 11:15am; 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.



Communion Enrichment Program

Begins Sunday, 4 February



The class is led by the Reverend Thomas Brown and Carolyn Hughes, Director of Faith Formation. Any child 2nd grade and above is welcome to participate in our Communion Enrichment program with a parent. Classes will be held Sundays from 9:00-9:45am on 4, 11, 25 February and 4 March.

This is a memorable experience for both you and your child to explore the sacraments of Communion, Baptism, and Reconciliation.

The program concludes with the Children’s Retreat/Family Luncheon on Saturday, 10 March from 9:00am to 1:30pm. Followed by Communion Enrichment Sunday on 11 March at the 10:00am service. Contact [Carolyn Hughes](#) for more information.



This Week at Epiphany

Monday, 15 January		<i>Parish Office Closed</i>
	6:00pm & 7:30pm	AA
Tuesday, 16 January		
	7:15am	Men's Group
	6:00pm	Pray the Parish Prayer List
Wednesday, 17 January		
	7:30am	Holy Eucharist
	7:30pm	Vestry
Thursday, 18 January		
	9:00am	Contemplative Prayer
	9:30am	Thursday with the Gospels Bible Study
	5:30pm	Junior Choir Rehearsal
	7:30pm	Parish Choir Rehearsal
Friday, 19 January		
	9:30am	Parent/Child Playgroup
Sunday, 21 January		
	8:00am	Holy Eucharist
	9:00am	The Word Today: Lectionary Discussion
	9:45am	Children's Formation Classes
	10:00am	Holy Eucharist
	10:00am	Children's Chapel
	11:15am	Adult Formation Minicourses
	11:30am	Genesis Middle School Youth Group
	12:00pm	LEV Meeting
	12:15pm	Epiphany Elders Meeting
	6:00pm	YPF High School Youth Group