



THE THREE CROWNS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE PARISH OF THE EPIPHANY

February 5, 2018

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Worship is What Grounds Us



I recently read a wonderful article in the Royal School of Church Music quarterly magazine entitled “Singing with one Voice - The Choir as Embodied Theology.” In it, author Victoria Johnson says, “Singing is very much at the heart of a living faith and presents an opportunity for participation in Christian community through the imagination (when listening), or through the voice and body (when singing), and is therefore central to the worship experience. In the context of worship, song can literally unify the people of God, helping them become the body of Christ and the community of the resurrection.”

I couldn't agree more. Planning music for worship is one of my favorite parts of this job. Believe it or not, it doesn't involve picking my favorite hymns and music. I start by taking a considerable amount of time reading through the appointed scriptures for a service, thinking about the themes and ideas in them, and then looking for hymns and anthems that illustrate these themes. I think about texts in the music, the mood that the music conveys, how long it will take the choir to learn an anthem, all while trying to vary styles from week to week so that we have some variety. On a good Sunday, I hope that the music reflects what we hear as the lectors read, what we pray in our prayers, and what is proclaimed from the pulpit. If the music moves you, makes you think, or pops into your head after you leave worship, I have achieved my goal.

Sunday mornings are really the focus of what we do here at Epiphany. They are certainly not all that we do, but worship is what grounds us, inspires us, and makes us want to go out the doors and into the world to make a difference. Worship is where we learn about our faith and are challenged to be more Christ like in our daily lives. It is where we all gather as a family. For this reason, I purposely focus most of our resources on Sunday mornings.

Epiphany also has a wonderful tradition of sung services like Evensong and Lessons and Carols. I love these services as I believe music has a unique way of letting us experience the Holy. Sung services allow us to worship and be inspired in new ways.

You may have noticed that we have not been having Evensong services monthly as has been the tradition in the past few years. I want you to know that this a conscious decision on my part. Rest assured, Evensong will not be going away! It will however be occurring a little less frequently as it demands a great deal of the choir's rehearsal time. I want to be sure that we have time to make Sunday mornings the best that they can be. In light of that, we will be having three Evensong services during this half of the program year. Please plan to join us at 5:00pm on February 11th, April 29th, and June 3rd for this uniquely Anglican form of worship.

If you are inspired to be a leader in worship by singing in the choir for Sunday mornings, Evensong services or both, please know that you are very welcome. If you can't make a regular commitment, think about joining us for Lent through Easter Sunday, or plan to join us for a few weeks of rehearsals before an Evensong service. I can promise a welcoming community, wonderful music, and even an example of how we are supposed to live in Christian community. As Ms Johnson says in her article, "To successfully sing together as one requires each individual to be aware of their own voice and the voices of others around them. A truly beautiful voice sings not of itself but lifts the ear to God. There is a need for attentive listening and even a willingness sometimes to sacrifice individual virtuosity for the benefit of the whole. This is true in choir and Christian community."

Craig



WORSHIP
&
MUSIC

Evensong Service

This Sunday, 11 February at 5:00pm



The choir will sing George Dyson's *Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis in D* and Stanford's *Beati quorum via*.



Shrove Tuesday Parish Event

Tuesday, 13 February for 6:00-7:30pm in Hadley Hall



Everyone is invited for a pancake supper hosted by the Genesis middle school youth group. Also included in the evening is a pancake toss, games, and burying of the Alleluia's. An introduction to this year's family Lenten Discipline will also be presented.



Ash Wednesday Worship

Holy Eucharist with Disposition of Ashes
14 February at 7:30am and 7:00pm



The Parish Choir Welcomes You



The Parish Choir is made up of high school and adult singers who meet each Thursday evening from 7:30 - 9:30pm in Upper Parish Hall. In addition to singing for the 10:00 am service on Sundays, the choir also sings several Evensong services throughout the year. This winter and spring, Evensong will be sung on February 11th, April 29th, and June 3rd at 5:00pm. If you enjoy singing, you are invited to join us for Evensong, for Lent and Easter, or longer. Contact [Craig Benner](#), Director of

Music and Organist for more information.



FAITH
FORMATION

Plan Now for the Lenten Icon Workshop



Icons are "written" for use in prayer, but the writing of them is itself an exercise in prayer. Are you interested in writing your own icon? Parishioner Mary Street is leading a Lenten icon writing workshop at Epiphany from 19-23 March beginning at 9:00am and ending at 4:00pm each day. Participants will write an icon based on an early Russian image of the pieta in which Jesus is seen rising from the tomb in the arms of his mother, Mary.

A \$300 fee covers most materials for the workshop. For more information or to register, contact [Mary Street](#) 978-664-2695. The workshop is limited to six participants.



Adult Formation Class in Lent

Sundays at 11:15am in Hadley Hall



What would it take to make you a great disciple?

We invite you to take a Lenten journey exploring discipleship through the eyes of the first Christian disciples. For five weeks, we embark on a pastoral study of the book of the Acts of the Apostles. This series has a two-fold purpose. First, the course intends to expand your knowledge of this unique book of Holy Scripture written by the Evangelist Luke. Second, this Lenten series will invite you to reflect on how you can deepen your Christian walk heeding Christ's call to discipleship. The class meets on 18 and 25 February, 4,11, and 18 March.



Lenten Home Groups

These home groups meet over a simple supper and delve more deeply into the material offered on the Book of Acts that is discussed on Sunday mornings at the 11:15 Adult Formation class. Home groups meet on different nights starting at different times so there is sure to be a group that fits your schedule. See the sign-up sheet in Hadley Hall on Sundays and in the Parish Office during the week.



Online Lenten Group

As an integral part of our Parish's Lenten Series, Epiphany will offer its first Online Lenten Group. This offering is intended to be a supplement to the Sunday morning Adult Formation presentation, and an alternative to the Home Lenten Groups. A version of the information presented on Sunday morning (often with additional details, maps, links, etc.) will be available on the pages of the Online Lenten Group. There will be weekly questions, a forum for discussions, and an opportunity to provide feedback.

Everyone is welcome and invited to participate in this experimental Online Lenten Group. Information about how to register for the Group and participate will be emailed to you if you send your name and email address to the [Parish Office](#).



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 are invited to attend and informational meeting on Sunday, 11 February at 5:00pm in Hadley Hall. Parents are invited to attend as well.

The trip is planned for 21-28 July 2018.

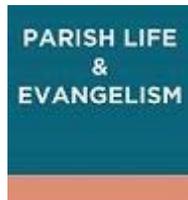


Sewing Bags for Haiti



Are you available to sew cloth bags for the upcoming 2018 Haiti Medical Mission trip? Fabric and sample sewing directions are available on the lower level, Higgins Formation Wing, in Room 4. The directions are provided as a guide, not as rigid instructions. If you enjoy sewing, now is the perfect time to stay inside and keep warm while participating in the mission. The bags are due by Sunday, 25 February.

For any questions, contact Jan Conrod at 617.489.1247.



Valentine's Fellowship and Card Making

Next Sunday, 11 February at 11:15 am in Hadley Hall



Stay after the 10:00am service to enjoy fellowship and lunch! Make a Valentine's card for those in our community who would love to know that we are thinking of them and that we love them.

Our El Hogar youth mission team will make soup and sandwiches for all to enjoy as a fundraiser to help raise funds for their summer mission trip.



Prayer Shawl Ministry



During the blessing of the Prayer Shawl Ministry in 2012, Thomas summed up this ministry saying, "The shawls are themselves symbols of God's embracing, unconditional love. Those who received these shawls have been uplifted and affirmed." Shawls have been given to those suffering grief, illness, or in times of joy. A shawl was once described as a "hug that goes around your shoulders," an Epiphany hug as it were.

If you enjoy knitting, laughter, and conversation join us. We gather every 4th Friday of every month at 10:00am in the Sproat Room.



Rector' s Annual Address

A printed copy of Thomas Brown's address given on the occasion of the Parish's Annual Meeting can be found [here](#). To hear the address [click here](#).

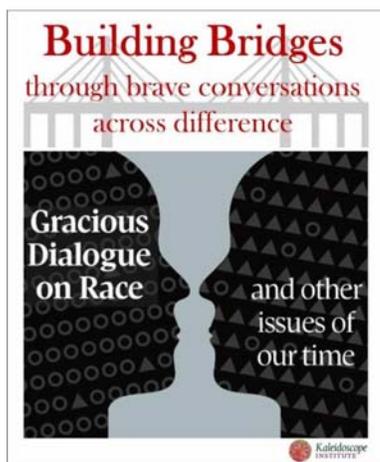
Pictures from Annual Meeting

Jason Kinchen was honored for his dedication to Epiphany with Thomas presenting him the Icon of the Magi. Ted Kellogg read a proclamation to Rick Marks thanking him for his years of service. The YPF youth group made lunch for the group of well over 100 attendees.





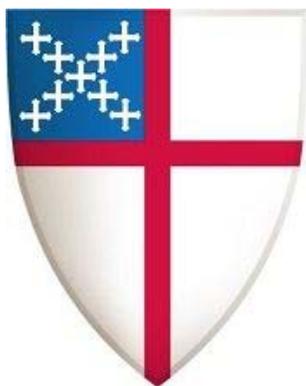
Diocese Spring Learning Event



Get a team together for *Brave Conversations*, this year's diocesan Spring Learning Event on Saturday, 3 March at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul in Boston. The diocesan community is invited to come together with others to acquire and share techniques and inspiration for establishing the church as a gracious place for dialogue on challenging topics and expanding the possibilities for reconciliation and transformation. [Register here](#). Questions may be directed to the [Rev. Karen Montagno](#) at 617.482.4826, ext. 413.



Call to Repent Sexual Exploitation



The Executive Council of the Episcopal Church, the governing body of our denomination between General Conventions, issues a report from their most recent meeting, including the presiding officers' call for repentance from sexual exploitation and abuse: [read more](#).



This Week at Epiphany

Monday, 5 February	
9:30am	Parent/Child Playgroup
6:00pm & 7:30pm	AA
Tuesday, 6 February	
7:15am	Men's Group
6:00pm	Pray the Parish Prayer List
7:00pm	Prayer Team Meeting
7:30pm	Property Committee
Wednesday, 7 February	
7:30am	Holy Eucharist
12:30pm	Women's Spirituality Group
Thursday, 8 February	
9:00am	Contemplative Prayer
9:30am	Thursday with the Gospels Bible Study
5:30pm	Junior Choir Rehearsal
7:30pm	Parish Choir Rehearsal
Friday, 9 February	
9:30am	Parent/Child Playgroup
Saturday, 10 February	
9:00am	Choir Rehearsal
9:00am	Youth Prepare Soup
Sunday, 11 February	
8:00am	Holy Eucharist
9:00am	The Word Today: Lectionary Discussion
9:00am	Communion Enrichment
9:45am	Children's Formation Classes
10:00am	Holy Eucharist
10:00am	Children's Worship
11:15am	Fellowship and Valentine's Card Making
11:15am	Adult Formation Minicourses

11:30am	Soup Luncheon to Support El Hogar Youth Team
5:00pm	El Hogar Youth Team Meeting
5:00pm	Evensong
6:00pm	YPF High School Youth Group

For more information

Our website can be [found here](#)

Information on our [Worship Services](#) can be found here

If you are [new to Epiphany](#), click here

Our complete [Parish calendar](#) can be found here

Sign-up for [on line pledge payments](#) here

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[Unsubscribe](#)