

Church of the Epiphany ♦ Rumford, Rhode Island

The Herald

Pentecost 2011

From the Rector

We will follow Jesus in ways that set our hearts on fire and empower us to love God and our neighbor. This is our first goal as a parish community this year. As we prepare to celebrate the feast of Pentecost, I realize that this goal is a statement of our faith in the power of the Holy Spirit to work in our community and to transform our lives and ministry. On Pentecost, the final day of our Eastertide celebrations we will remember the fiftieth day after the resurrection of Jesus Christ, when the apostles were visited and filled with the Holy Spirit.

As told in the Book of the Acts of the Apostles, it is a fantastically dramatic scene. The apostles are gathered and they experience a sound, like the rush of a violent wind filling the house. Fire-like tongues appear among them, and they begin to speak in languages of many nations. This was a new ability and experience for those apostles. They were filled with power and it must have been quite a scene. Those who witnessed the apostles' behavior, which was both amazing and perplexing, either wondered or scoffed. Some even thought they were drunk! This new ability to speak in the once foreign languages of others was not the result of cocktails or

*As with those first
Apostles, presence
together in loving
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fulfill God's mission.*

intensive study, but rather the miraculous work of the Spirit. Jesus had, on more than one occasion, promised that the Holy Spirit would come to them and be with them and in them. Yet, when it happened, it was perplexing and exhilarating...both for them and for those who witnessed their changed lives and community.

When we say that we will follow Jesus in ways that "set our hearts on fire," we are inviting the Holy Spirit to come and cause some rustling and rearranging of our lives and our life as a church. This is no small invitation! Remember it was a violent wind, not a gentle breeze.

Are we witnessing the power of the Holy Spirit blowing through the community here at Epiphany? Have you experienced any hearts on fire? Does that person next to you in the pew, or garden, or food pantry, or at the table seem to be acting a little tipsy in their passion for loving God and neighbor? I hope you can answer "yes" to at least one of these questions. I can.

The Giving Water, Giving Life campaign will officially kick off this Sunday, June 5, and those who are serving as the leaders of the "Global Mission Team" are on fire *continued on page 4*

Church of the Epiphany

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www.epiphanyep.org

We are in the Episcopal
Diocese of Rhode Island,
numbering over 9,000
members.

Bishop:

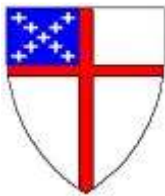
The Rt. Rev'd Gerahyn Wolf



We are part of the
Episcopal Church in the
USA, numbering over 2.5
million people.

Presiding Bishop:

*The Most Rev'd Katharine
Jefferts Schori*



We are part of the Anglican
Communion, a global
community of 78 million
people.

Archbishop of Canterbury:

*The Most Rev'd Rowan
Williams*



OUR MISSION

*We welcome all for Christian
worship, fellowship, and service,
trusting God to transform our lives
and the world.*

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HERALD DEADLINE

Summer Herald
deadline is July 3.

STAFF

The Reverend Jennifer L. Pedrick
Rector

The Reverend Edmund Harris
Assistant to the Rector

Nathaniel Taylor
Music Director

Beth Dench
Parish Administrator

Jim Hibbert
Sexton

*You can reach staff by email by using
firstname@epiphanyep.org*

VESTRY

Steve McGrath, *Senior Warden*

Janice Johnson, *Junior Warden*

Scott Haggerty, *Treasurer*

Michelle Callahan, *Clerk*

Bill Chase '12

Judy Lockard '12

Gracelynn Rizzolo '12

Emily Dench '13

Kathy Ivey '13

Bruce Lambert '13

Dennis Burton '14

Patricia Jeffrey '14

Virginia Rocha '14

COMMISSION SYSTEM

Building & Grounds

Richard Messier, *Chair*
rmessier@cox.net

Finance

Scott Haggerty, *Chair*
sthaggerty2002@cox.net

Education

Suellen Franze, *Chair*
sfranze@gmail.com

Hospitality

Judy Lockard, *Co-chair*
travelbyjudy@cox.net

Virginia Rocha, *Co-chair*
Ginny_may95@yahoo.com

Outreach

Maurice Holmes, *Chair*
Mholmesjr@aol.com

Pastoral Care

Gracelynn Rizzolo, *Chair*
ailuros11@verizon.net

Stewardship

Pat Dumas, *Chair*
patdumas@comcast.net

Worship

Susan Murphy, *Chair*
ssmurphy212@cox.net

**Vestry meets on the third
Wednesday of each month at 7p.m.**
All are welcome to attend.

Continued from cover

with joy, creativity and passion. Their enthusiasm is contagious. Their plans are big. It seems to me their hearts are on fire, in large part because they offered them to God, first to be broken. They learned how God's children are suffering in extreme poverty, and then they reflected on God's Word in the midst of our community. Now they are inspired to lead us to action as a community. Please open yourselves to their witness and consider offering your heart as well. This is how the fire will spread.

Last week my own heart was set on fire as I witnessed a signer, here to "speak" American Sign Language, to a fellow

Christian in worship. This is a language that is foreign to me, and it was a new experience to

watch, for the first time, a brother in Christ "sing" a hymn using his hands. During the Gospel Alleluia, many sitting near the signers began to sing the Alleluias with their voices and their hands. It was a profound witness to God's power using the language of love that went far beyond words.

There are many other hearts on fire to be witnessed here at Epiphany among our members who are following Jesus. As we live through the coming months of Summer, the days and weeks following Pentecost, please come to worship, enjoy fellowship and serve others as much as

you are able. As with those first Apostles, presence together in loving community enables us to fulfill God's mission. When we are together, miraculous things happen. We will be given power to change the world! We will go forth from this place rejoicing in the power of the Spirit! See you at church. *Jennifer*

**Baptism
Pentecost
June 12, 2011**



*Please pray for Benjamin
& Brianna Chartier and
their families as they
prepare for Baptism.*

Parish Goals for 2011

First goal: Discipleship

We will follow Jesus in ways that set our hearts on fire and empower us to love God and our neighbor.

Second Goal: Capital Plan and Campaign

Develop and execute a plan to maintain and improve the property entrusted to us, so that we may use our gifts of land and buildings to inspire and to invite others to experience God's presence in this place.

Third Goal: Communications

Develop and execute a plan to improve internal and external communications to invite and encourage members and guests to share in our common life.



Summertime Education Programs

Christian Education Continues (even in the summer!)

To Serve and Guard the Earth:

God's Creation Story and Our Environmental Concern

Sunday mornings at 9:15 from June 26 until July 23

What is the relationship between our Christian faith and the environment? How should our commitment to God inform the way we live in light of the many environmental crises our planet now faces? What can we do as individuals and a community to respond?

Summer is the perfect time to delve into these and other questions as a community, and we hope you'll join in this important conversation.

Weekday Bible Study (Lectio Divina)

All Ages, Mondays at 7 p.m.

Location: The home of Bo and Kathy Ivey

A Note from the Stewardship Commission:

Online Banking for Your Pledge

Technology is transforming every aspect of our lives, including our spiritual lives. Did you know your pledge can be paid by your bank's online bill paying service? This eliminates the need for envelopes (go green!), and many may find it easier and more reliable, especially during the summer months. Your pledge will be at church even if you are on vacation! Set it up just like any other bill you pay online. It literally takes just minutes! If you already have envelopes, just use your envelope number as your account number. If you need a number, contact Kristen Chase, and she will assign you one. Thank you in advance!

The Collection Plate Counters Need Your Help!

For those who place envelopes in the collection plate, you can save time and confusion for the counters by writing "Cash" or "Check" on your envelope and the amount. They don't even need you to put your name on it! This will make for quicker counting.

From the Assistant

If you haven't noticed already, Easter is the season of Baptism! As I write, we're sandwiched in between the Great Vigil of Easter, when we baptized six people into the Body of Christ, and Pentecost, when we'll baptize two more.

In the Episcopal Church, we usually baptize people when they're still infants. Unlike churches in which people choose baptism for themselves, we baptize people when they're still too young to consent to being baptized. In order for baptism done in this way to have integrity, parents and Godparents make baptismal promises on behalf of a baby. God-willing, one day she'll be able to grow into these promises herself, and to "confirm" her own faith as an adult in the eyes of the church at her Confirmation.

One of the most important questions asked of parents and Godparents at a baptism is this: *Will you be responsible for seeing that the child you present is brought up in the Christian faith and life?* This question, and the promise that they make when they answer it, reminds us that baptism isn't merely an event when a priest splashes some water on a baby: it's the beginning of a whole new way of life, and a whole lifetime of growing in Christ. Baptism is something that demands every moment of our lives if we are to truly grow into it. When we answer this question on behalf of a child, we take responsibility for the initial years of this young person's formation as a Christian. This is a huge question, and there's a reason that we respond, "we will, *with God's help.*"

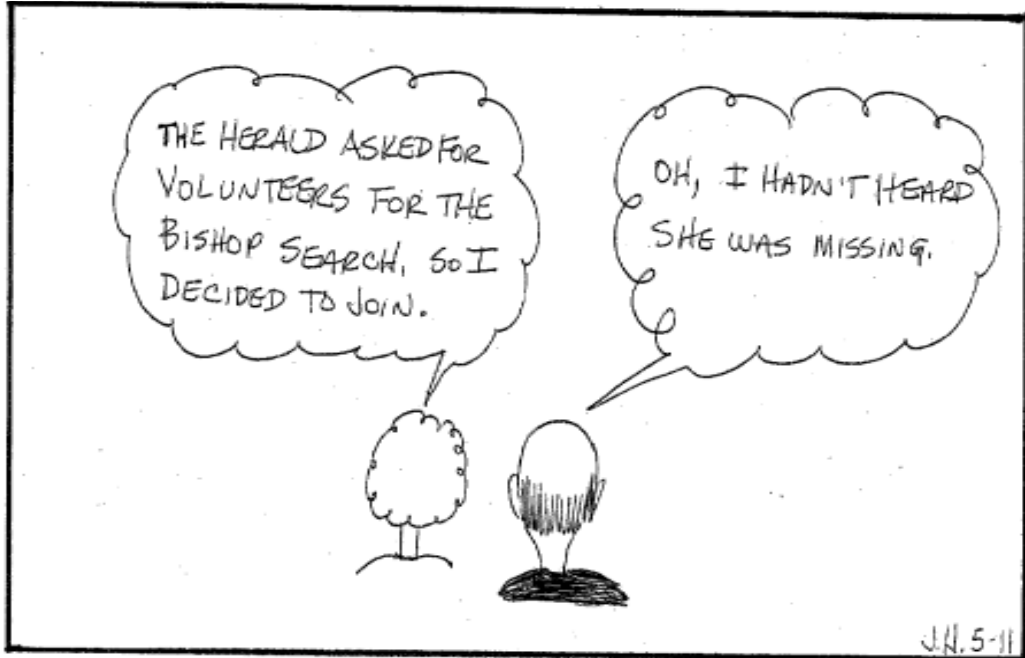
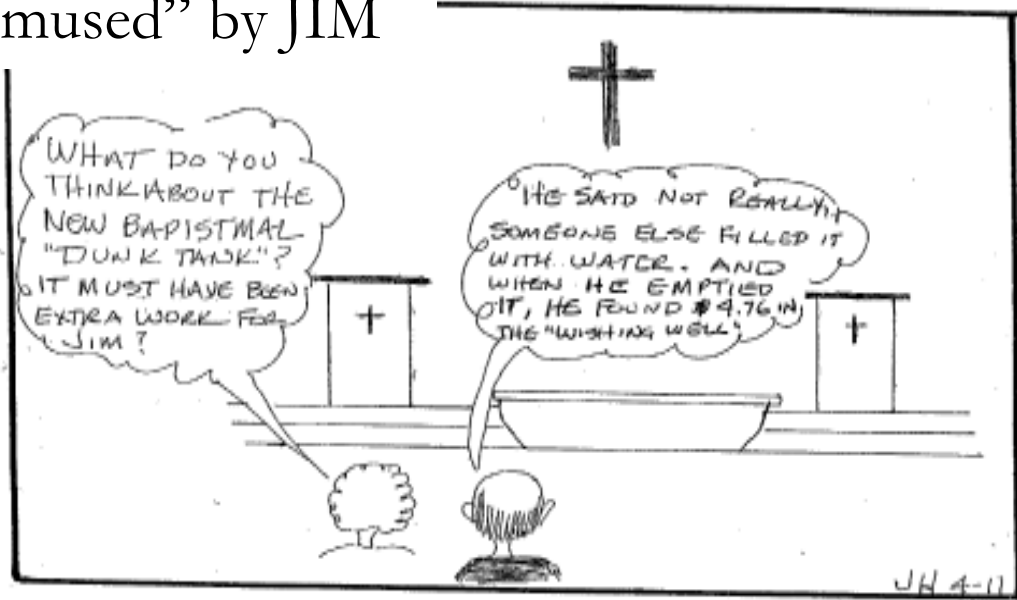
The season of Easter provides us with the opportunity to take stock of how're we're fulfilling the baptismal promises in our children's lives, to ask: "How're we doing as Christian parents and Godparents?"

The most important way we fulfill these promises is in our family life, by finding ways to incorporate God into our everyday lives. Simply put, children must be exposed to God each day if they're to be adequately formed as Christians. One of the pitfalls of the institutional church is that it sometimes encourages people to "leave God to the professionals," to separate the "God bit" of our lives from the rest of our lives. The truth is, though, that forty minutes of church school followed by a sermon on Sunday morning simply isn't enough to ensure that our children (or ourselves!) are growing into their baptism.

Another way we fulfill the promises made at baptism is as a community, as Church of the Epiphany. One of the most important ways we do this is through our Christian education programs: Godly Play for our younger children, our new "Sojourner's" class for kids aged 9-11, and our Journey to Adulthood program for teenagers. These programs don't happen by themselves: they require the time and commitment of teachers and the support of parents if they are to thrive.

Recently, a group of us from the Education Commission sat down to carefully discern the names of members of the congregation whom we think have gifts that would find powerful expression in our Sunday school program. In the weeks to come, we'll be sending out letters of invitation to such people. Some of the people we will ask have taught Sunday school before. Some have never set foot in a classroom. Others might wonder why on earth we'd ask them, or think that they don't have enough time or knowledge to teach our kids about God. Wherever you might sit on this spectrum, it is our fervent prayer that the Holy Spirit will enable you to joyfully and prayerfully consider our invitation as an occasion for you to renew your baptismal promises, or the promises you made for the young people you love. *Edmund*

“Amused” by JIM



Transitions in Ministry

The first of June some members of our community are making changes in how they will offer ministry and leadership in our church. I wanted to highlight three ministers of Christ in particular, because these three have given so much to our parish over time. They have been significant examples of faithful, committed servants in helping the people of God worship in our Episcopal tradition.

After eight years of coordinating the Altar Guild, Susan Bergstrand has resigned from her role as the head of this ministry. Over these years she has offered leadership to the women and men of the altar guild by recruiting new members, teaching them how to set up and clean up for our sacred liturgies, and supporting them as they have served in worship. In addition to leading the people, Susan has offered her particular gift for creating beauty in our sanctuary. This is never more visible than Christmastide and Eastertide, when for years, she has designed, planned and created rich and colorful displays that help us to “worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.” As the rector I also know how she has tended to the very small, important details of preparing for worship, those details that maybe only a



priest might notice. She is one of the ministers of Christ who spends hours a week tending to her ministry, whether it is organizing people, flowers or details of an upcoming event. I have been blessed, we all have been blessed, by her service. The Altar Guild Coordinator hat will now be ably worn by Michelle Callahan, who has graciously agreed to lead this ministry in an interim period of at least a year.

Don and Nancy Leggat, who have sung in choirs for a combined period of over 150 years, have decided to hang up their robes. They have both been singing since they were young adults. They sang together for many years at St. Martin’s Church in Pawtucket and have been in our choir since they arrived at Epiphany in 2007. Over the years they have spent thousands of hours with their choirs, participating in worship, and behind the scenes, practicing and enjoying fellowship among their singing companions. In their “retirement” letter they said, “We feel blessed with the many friends we have made and the fellowship we have enjoyed as members of the choir. So, while this is an ‘ending’ of sorts it is also a beginning as we will celebrate the Lord by raising our voices from a different seat in the church.”

The Worship Commission and their ministry groups (Altar Guild and Choir) will be celebrating these transitions with Susan, Don and Nancy, but please find your own ways to thank them for their ministry. Each of them has made a difference in the lives of many Christians, and most likely in yours!

With gratitude, *Jennifer*

Outreach Offerings

Bread of Life Food Pantry requests for the Months of JUNE, JULY and AUGUST:
Peanut butter, crackers, cereal, tuna and soup.

Bread of Life Food Pantry-

Many thanks to all of you who gave food and monetary donations to the Bread of Life Food Pantry in March and April during the pantry's participation in the 14th Annual \$1 Million Giveaway to Fight Hunger. We received \$3,480 in cash donations and 4,123 food items from parishioners of the six churches that support the pantry and from food drives undertaken on our behalf by Myron J. Francis Elementary School and St. Margaret's School. Totals were up from last year when \$655 and 2,061 items were collected. The Alan Shawn Feinstein Foundation will award a grant to the Bread of Life Food Pantry in the next few months based on the amount of our collections.

- Mother Teresa
- Desmond Tutu
- Martin Luther King, Jr.
- Roger Williams
- Albert Schweitzer
- Mahatma Gandhi
- Harriet Tubman
- Susan B. Anthony
- Abraham Lincoln
- Bill Gates
- Bishop John Higgins

And you.

You don't have to be famous to make a difference in the world. All you need is a caring heart.



THE EPISCOPAL CHARITIES FUND OF RHODE ISLAND

Donation envelopes for Episcopal Charities may be found on the table in the Parish Hall board. If you have any questions about Episcopal Charities please contact Rhoda Bucci directly at 401-536-8744.

If you send your own check directly to Episcopal Charities, please be sure to mention that you are from Church of the Epiphany (#80) so that we are credited for your donation.



The Church of the Epiphany’s **Giving Water, Giving Life Campaign** will be kicking off on June 5. We are partnering with World Vision, a Christian humanitarian organization, to assist a village in Ethiopia, initially with a deep-water well. World Vision is dedicated to working with children, families and their communities worldwide to reach their full potential by tackling the causes of poverty and injustice.

An initial goal has been set to raise \$13,700 to provide a deep-water well for a village in Ethiopia. With this well, the community will benefit from better health, food production, economic opportunities, development, and lives of their most vulnerable members—children. Safe drinking water, improved sanitation, good hygiene, and good water resource management can lead to a reduction in child mortality, cut transmission of malaria, improve public health, and reduce extreme poverty.

On June 5 we will welcome a guest speaker from World Vision. David Mitchell, who has visited Ethiopia and witnessed the successful results of clean water projects, will speak at both services. He will also give a slide presentation and answer questions at the Adult Forum at 9:15 a.m. All are encouraged to attend and hear his inspiring message.

We invite you to join us on this journey to make a difference! A letter will be coming to you soon, offering you the chance to pledge a donation to this exciting project. There will also be many opportunities over the coming months for all members of our community to help organize and take part in fund raisers. We encourage you to prayerfully consider the ways in which you might become involved. Be on the lookout for more information!

“Sometimes I would like to ask God why He allows poverty, suffering, and injustice when He could do something about it.”

“Well, why don’t you ask Him?”

“Because I’m afraid He would ask me the same question.”

- Anonymous

Tuesday, June 7, 7:15 p.m.

The Building & Grounds Commission meeting will be held in the livingroom.

Wednesday, June 8, 2- 9:30 p.m.

Final **Parish Directory** portrait sittings.

Thursday, June 9, 7 p.m.

Education Commission meeting in the Parish Hall.

Tuesday, June 14, 5 p.m.

Bread of Life Food Pantry is open this evening at Newman Church.

Monday, June 20, 7 p.m.

Vestry meeting in the Parish Hall. All members are welcome to attend.

Thursday, June 23, 7 p.m.

Outreach Commission meeting in the Livingroom.

Wednesday, June 29, 7 p.m.

Pastoral Care Commission meeting in the Livingroom.

Thursday, July 7, 6-7:30 p.m.

Resolve of New England (general infertility discussion group facilitated by a volunteer peer leader) will meet in the Living room on the first Thursday of every month. Please register in advance by emailing: dmin@resolveofthebaystate.org.

Sunday, July 10

Welcome Sunday

Thursday, July 14, 7 p.m.

Education Commission meeting in the Parish Hall.

Sunday Service Schedule

8:00a.m. Holy Eucharist, no music
9:15a.m. Christian Education
10:30a.m. Holy Eucharist, w/music

REGULAR EVENTS @ Epiphany

Sunday

5:30p.m. Overeaters Anonymous

Tuesday

9-11:30 a.m. Thrift Shop

6:00 p.m. Gentle Yoga

7:30p.m. Gamblers Anonymous

Thursday

7:30p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous

Saturday

9-11:30 a.m. Thrift Shop

Check out our online calendar on our website: www.epiphanyep.org.

Coming Events

Sunday, June 5— *Epiphany's Parish Picnic* will be held at Noon on the grounds of the church. Bring a dish, if you want, and chairs or blankets and share in the fellowship!

Sunday, July 10— *Welcome Sunday*. Join us in welcoming new members to Church of the Epiphany.

church of the epiphany

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