



Epiphany Times



Holiday Edition 2011

The Episcopal Church of the Epiphany
105 Main Street
(973)676-8886
Orange, New Jersey, 07050

Service Hours:

Holy Eucharist 8:00 A.M.
Santa Eucaristía 9:15 A.M.
Holy Eucharist 10:00 A.M.
Christian Formation
All ages 9 A.M.
Adults 9:30-10:30 a.m.

Highlights:

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Merry Christmas! 2011

From our Priest...

A Christmas Letter...

Dear Church,

It is that wonderful time of the year again when we celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. With so much to do and the excitement of seeing family and friends, it is easy to forget why we celebrate Christmas. Let's encourage one another to never forget the wonder of what took place on that long ago night in Bethlehem.

"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on His shoulders. And He will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9:6)

God came to earth in the form of man so that each of us could know His peace, love, and salvation. Since that time there has never been a greater gift. Let's enjoy the Christmas programs, gift exchanges and special meals, but let's remember to keep Christ in our thoughts as well.

Let us take time to give to the Lord this Christmas season. We can do that by serving those who are less fortunate and by truly loving each other. In this way, we can give to the Lord. After all, He truly is the reason for the season.

This season presents itself as a new opportunity to plan and dream for a new year. The common new year's resolution usually includes a new diet or exercise routine. **As we consider what is best for our bodies, the temple of the Holy Spirit I also invite you to consider** what is best for your soul and spirit. May 2012 be a year in which we allow ourselves to be open and creative to the work of the Spirit. May 2012 be a year to be willing and ready to hear God's voice in our lives and in our church community.

2012 will come with joy, success and challenges, may we seek God's wisdom in all we do and say. There are always reasons to rejoice and give thanks.

I thank our Lord for a 2011 filled with wonders and His presence among us and thank Him in the assurance that 2012 will bring blessings, surprises and growth.

Merry Christmas to you my dear Church family.

Your Pastor,

The Rev. Miguelina Howell

"Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call Him Immanuel." Isaiah 7:14 (NIV)





Snapshots



Fun, fun fun! September 17, 2011 Card Party



Rev. Margarita, Mrs. Cathy Aureyanna and Mrs. Claudette at the Crop Hunger Walk 10-8-2011



LVA Awards 10-20-2011



Is this the Church Executive Committee at Hallwingo event? 10-28-2011.

From our Wardens.....

Epiphany continues to meet the challenge. During this season of Advent

The vestry is seeking 4 new members. Could it be You? Have you considered being on the vestry? Have you received the call of duty to do God's "Holy Work"? Do you want to be one of the spiritual leaders?

You will learn the skills to be an effective vestry person. There is no one "Type", we share information, discussion and make informed decisions.

Have you been a vestry member before? It's no longer business as usual, as the Vestry Papers state "It's about discerning the future and anticipating its requirements and opportunities", and listening to God's voice and the needs of the people.

Join us as we are the future of the church, each sharing either personally the good news stories of what God is doing in the Parish through Prayer and Eucharist.

As for me, I always knew that I wanted to serve in a special way but was not sure what it was. Have any of the sermons on sharing your talents moved you to become a decision maker for your brothers and sisters in Christ. As you can see the 3 B's include Buildings Budgets, Boilers and Boards. Bishop Mark calls it the Killer B's of Evangelism and Stewardship, Bishop Mark reminds us

How do we treat our Children?

As I attend Vestry University I realize that there is more to running a church than attending once a week on Sunday. All avenues need to be addressed. Stewardship being an important part of our survival.

You will not be alone; the other vestry members are there to give support.

I believe there is no action not appreciated. Make a difference.

The Vestry at Epiphany is not business as usual. The experience has been joyful for me and has impacted my faith. I prayed through Jesus Christ that God would give me the strength to learn and be humble as I experienced the undertaking which was before me. I responded to the call with action. We all feel the presence of the Lord in a different way and at different times in our lives. Some respond vigorously and others do not. Whichever approach is yours God's work gets done.

The Thanksgiving event once again proved our commitment to do God's work. Everyone came together and joined in.

Come and be present during this season. Give with a Joyful heart and You can do it

What is God calling us to do, don't fear change, take a risk, dream, there is a new reality, new way don't let nostalgia kill us.

Trust in the slow work of God! Look for God everyday. Ask ourselves where is God in this situation?

How do we treat our sick? How do we treat each other? Are we kind in word and deed understanding of other's faults. Are we part of the solution or part of the problem? Is everything a crisis?

Peace my Brothers and Sister's

Claudette Thomas
Senior Warden

Merry Christmas!

Snapshots



*Interfaith Food Pantry of the
Oranges Thanksgiving Drive 11-
23-2011*



Thanksgiving Drive



The Holly Tea 12-4-2011



*The Jackson Academy Choir
at our Annual Holy Tea 12-4-
2011*

Events



The Harry Smith & Joyce Wellington Thanksgiving Dinner and Coat Drive 2011

Submitted by Hilda Goldston

The Food Pantry was blessed again to receive several winter coats for our Thanksgiving Dinner Coat Drive. In addition The Burlington Coat Factory generously supplied us with approximately four coats for our community children, men and women. So many needs were met and smiles of appreciation were noted on the recipient's faces as they tried on their coats. Winter coats are still needed and the Food Pantry would gladly accept them from our congregation

Holly Tea Event

The Holly Tea was held on Sunday, December 4, 2011. It was a huge success. Thanks to the members of the Episcopal Church Women lead by President Sharonda Bailey for their fantastic work. The music program included a violin selection by Alison Josephine Cottingham, guitar selections by Kerin Benjamin, and choir selections by the Jackson Academy choir. The traditional Holly Tea this year went through many changes with new ideas. The Epiphany performers presented a choral reading, "What Will You Tell Us of Christmas?" The Episcopal Church Women {ECW} presentation was performed in the past however this year it took on a new twist. The pageant of the Nativity scene took on a new meaning in the sanctuary of the church. The reader's voices were in sync and heard throughout the sanctuary. The event was held in the church this year and provided a new experience for everyone. The beautiful Christmas tree was a highlight for the celebration. The program took on a new dimension as the Jackson Academy Choir and the Epiphany performers all joined in for the closing song lead by Kerin Benjamin on the guitar. The refreshments were held also in the church and there was a wonderful intimacy as the guest mingled with each other to enjoy delicious cakes and cookies.



How to give with a joyful heart? Begin by counting your blessings...

Alison Thomas-Cottingham, Interim Stewardship Chair

When asked to write a piece about stewardship, I decided to begin by reflecting on my understanding of stewardship. When I hear the word, "stewardship," the first thing that comes to mind is pledging or making decisions about our family's weekly monetary donation. But that seems like such a limited view of such a wide-reaching concept. I referred to the resources from The Episcopal Church on stewardship. According to the website of The Episcopal Church, "Christian stewardship is grateful and responsible use of God's gifts in the light of God's purpose as revealed in Jesus Christ. Christian stewards, empowered by the Holy Spirit, commit themselves to conscious, purposeful decisions"

http://www.ecusa.anglican.org/documents/Hope_In_Hard_Times_booklet1.pdf.

As I grow in my understanding of stewardship, I'm going to ponder with the importance of gratitude. By gratitude I mean being appreciative of the many gifts that God has provided for us. These gifts take many forms and often the most basic and essential are the ones that we overlook. According to Matthew 6: 25-27,

"Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life (New International Version)

My interpretation of this passage is that God will provide, don't worry. Living a worry-free life is truly a blessing, but rather than appreciate the blessings of simple needs, many of us don't stop to appreciate, but rather focus on what we don't have.

During this holiday season, I hope you will take some time to practice gratitude; appreciate the simple blessings: our families and friends, our homes, the changes of the seasons and there are many, many more. We must appreciate these simple gifts that come from God before we can responsibly use them for the betterment of His Kingdom.

COMBINED SERVICE DATES

Christmas Eve Service: 12.24. 2011 8 p.m.
Christmas Day Service: 12.25. 2011 9 a.m.
Epiphany Day & Baptism of the Lord: 01. 08.2012 9 a.m.
Annual Meeting: Jan. 22, 2012 9 a.m.

**Happy Holidays
Epiphany!!!**



*Beautiful people of Epiphany
at the UBE Clara Horsley
Awards Breakfast 9-24-2011*

Congratulations to
Ms. A. Lorraine Jones
for her nomination of the
Clara Horsley Award.
Blessings in your ministry
with the Union of Black
Episcopalians!



LVA awarded at Orange Library

At the LVA Annual Awards Ceremony on Thursday, October 21st, 2011 LVA students and tutors gathered at the East Orange Public Library to be recognized for literacy and personal goal achievements. The theme for the Annual Awards Ceremony was "A New Beginning."

The Episcopal Church of the Epiphany

Knicks & Knacks

Gift Shop

Store Hours

8am & Spanish services
1st & 3rd Sundays 9-10 am
10 am service
11:30 - 1pm
Fridays 5-7pm

The store will be closed Christmas, New Year's Day and all other major holidays.

Please drop in and see the many items we have for sale. In order to be a success, we need your support.

We are still accepting donations. We ask that all items are cleaned and sizes noted on clothing.

We need workers for all the services and Fridays. Please contact Cathy Isaac or Mary Cole

Submitted by Mary Cole

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Epiphany Day Celebration 01/08/2012
Black History Month Celebration 02/19/2012
Palm Sunday 04/01/2012
Holy Week 04/02-07/ 2012
Lent Prayer Breakfast 03/24/2012
Easter Sunday 04/08/2012
Spring Gala 06/09/2012

We're on the Web!

Visit us at:
www.churchoftheepiphany.org

and on Facebook at

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Episcopal-Church-of-the-Epiphany/121551727915230>

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