



THE STAR

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THE CHURCH OF THE EPIPHANY

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EPISCOPAL
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The Rev. Melissa McCarthy	<i>Vicar</i>
Dr. Brian Driscoll	<i>Director of Music</i>
Alice Rucker	<i>Music Associate</i>
Sachiko Okado	<i>Organ Apprentice</i>
Karen James	<i>Children's Ministry</i>
Barry and Laurie Burns	<i>Youth Ministry</i>
Cynthia Gould	<i>Church Administrator</i>
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MISSION STATEMENT

We, the members of the Episcopal Church of the Epiphany, strive to be an open and welcoming spiritual family, committed to sharing in God's goodness both within and beyond this community of faith. We will serve God through worship, stewardship, learning, involvement and the warmth of holy friendship, walking the way of Christ. All are welcome here.

The Season of Epiphany



The Rev. Melissa McCarthy

Dear Epiphany Friends,

Life's challenges never seem to end. No matter what we do, we will all encounter serious struggles in our lives, whether in our personal lives, in our family lives, or in our working lives. My family has just received some difficult news that will probably be the most significant challenge we have had to face together. On the day before Thanksgiving, my mother was diagnosed with stage IV lung cancer. We later learned it had spread to her lymph nodes, bones, and liver. As you can imagine, the prognosis is not good.

I accompanied her and my father to her first oncology appointment where the doctor, after taking my mom into another room for an exam, explained to us the reality of her situation. The doctor said there is no cure. Chemotherapy, which began on December 15, will only provide her more comfort and, in the best-case scenario, extend her life by some months. At this time we do not know what time frame we are looking at. I thank you in advance for your prayers for her and for my family as we make our way through this time.

Later the same evening, my mother asked me what the doctor had said while she was out of the room. I found myself in the position of being the one to tell my mother her illness is terminal. She already knew it, though. She asked me, "We are talking end of life here, aren't we?" I responded by saying, yes, that this is what the doctor told us, but that we also don't have to swallow it whole. Each person responds to

treatment in a unique way and only time will tell what this will mean for her. It was a conversation I had dreaded having with her, but her response, as follows, was an epiphany to me.

“It’s really ok. I have had a wonderful life. I have a great husband who loves me, three great kids, and I know what life I have left will be just as good.” She then said, “Besides, we are all living in the midst of dying. This is what I will be about. God is always working all things for the good, and I know good will come out of this as well. All we have is the present. All we have is God.” I was stunned by her response and asked her if I could share it with all of you. The peace, which passes all understanding that we speak of so often in our worship, came over both of us in that moment. I realized then that of all the things my mother has taught me throughout my life, she is now teaching me how to die.

This may have been for me the most poignant experience of God’s love showing forth, which is what we are all about in the season of Epiphany. Epiphany is the season we hear stories of how God’s light and love was shown forth in the life of Jesus, who ultimately teaches us how to live by teaching us first how to die. While we do not have the earthly presence of Jesus with us now, we do have the light of Christ inside us. We are all able to show forth the light and love of God as Jesus did. My mother is doing so as she prepares to die. I pray that we may all live in the midst of our dying, as bright beacons of God’s light and love for all of creation.

Save the Dates!

Dr. Jarvis Streeter, Professor of Religion at California Lutheran University, will be returning to Epiphany to teach and inspire us, as he always does. We will meet on **Wednesday evenings** during the season of Lent, beginning at 6:30 p.m. with Evening Prayer, followed by a light soup supper at 6:45 p.m. The lecture will begin at 7:30 p.m. Please join us whenever you are able. Our meeting times are the following Lenten Wednesdays: **February 24, March 3, 10, 17 and 24.**

Annual Meeting

Epiphany’s annual meeting will be **January 24, 2010 following the 10:00 a.m. service.** Come to hear about all the great things Epiphany has been doing this past year and to hear what’s coming up next. We look forward to seeing you there.

New Member’s Class - Living Questions, Living Faith

Wednesdays, February 3 and February 10, 2010, from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Are you new to the Church of the Epiphany and have questions about the Episcopal Church? Have you been at Epiphany for awhile and still have questions? Do you ever wonder what Episcopalians believe? What makes the Episcopal Church different than other denominations? Is it true that the Episcopal Church is really "Catholic-lite"? Where do I fit in here at Epiphany?

If you have questions like these, or questions about what it means to be a member of the Church of the Epiphany, please join us for this two-week series, presented by the Rev. Melissa McCarthy. This is also a great opportunity to begin a spiritual practice in preparation for confirmation, reception into the Episcopal Church, or the renewal of baptismal vows. For more information, please contact the Rev. Melissa McCarthy or call the church office to sign up.

Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday services will be held at 12:30 and 7:30 p.m. on **Wednesday, February 17, 2010.** Don’t forget about Taco Tuesday on **Tuesday, February 16, 2010 at 5:00 p.m.**

Los Angeles Diocese Convention

Adrian Gould

Working at the forty-sixth annual Los Angeles Diocese Convention was a great privilege, as it is every year. Being a Youth Volunteer, I got to help run the convention behind the scenes.

A few of my many tasks were checking badges, collecting donations for the Episcopal Relief fund, and delivering messages, but the most important part was collecting and counting the ballots to see who were elected as the new bishops. After quite a bit of counting the different ballots, we finally decided our next bishops.

I found it pretty exciting to be such a big part of the whole process. The nicest part, and the thing I will remember most, is the diversity and the kindness of our whole church. It was a thrilling experience and I hope I can go next year.



Adrian Gould



Ken Perry, Jamie Pawlak, Tim Halligan, Karen James
and the Rev. Melissa McCarthy

The Los Angeles Diocesan Convention: December 3 – 4, 2009

Tim Halligan

The Convention this year was, in many ways, business as usual, but for the election of two Bishops Suffragan. Typically, the clergy and lay parish delegates vote on issues of budgets and by-laws, share in worship services, and together consider many of the issues and trends affecting our greater community.

This year, the elections of The Reverend Canon Diane Bruce and The Reverend Canon Mary Glasspool were historical and exciting. Each of these women will bring extraordinary talents, deep spirituality and impressive leadership to the service of our diocese. Your delegates, Ken Perry, Karen James, Tim Halligan, Jamie Pawlak and Rev. Melissa McCarthy will be happy to answer any questions you may have about this remarkable experience.

Epiphany OWLs

Len Loomis

We celebrated the Christmas season by consuming half the monthly sugar production of the state of Louisiana and singing along with Dr. Brian on a not-yet-rainy December 10th. Brian is a droll musical host and leader who kindly prepared song sheets for us and played his wrists off as we good Episcopalians demanded the singing of ALL the verses of some rather long carols. We sang everything pretty well except a 50's carol called "Nuttin for Christmas" that none of us knew because when it was written we were busy marrying and starting our families, or so I'm told. Merry Christmas, Brian, and thanks again! As usual there were twelve baskets full of left over goodies to take home or share with the parish family.

In January we begin a series of three meetings designed to help us learn about better managing the business of aging. The luncheon meeting on **Thursday, January 21st** will feature a speaker who will inform us about preventing identity theft and what to do should it happen to one of us. Although the chances of having our identity stolen are quite low for us as a group, the possibility engenders great concern in the elder third of the population. Reservations, a small donation and help with sides and salads will be much appreciated.

On my birthday, **February 18th**, we will host a team of speakers from Personal Parent Care, Inc. Since this firm is one of just a few sole source providers for all care and support needs, it has unique insights about the management of the aging process; eldercare management in other words. There are several target audiences for this presentation: first, those of us who need to feel we have some say in the control of our lives; second, those who may care for us; and third, ourselves if we are in the position of caring for someone else. The topic should have a broad appeal to the community, so I urge you to invite friends and family members, especially those younger than yourself, to this luncheon meeting. I'll bring a sinful cake in honor of the times my birthday party had to take place outside of Lent or not at all. Reservations, a small donation and help with sides and salads will again be appreciated.

The third Thursday in March falls late in Lent and we are likely to be very busy participating in the final preparations for the Easter celebration so there is no meeting scheduled. The televised Thousand Oaks Council on Aging meeting in February will center about a panel of medical professionals talking about women's heart health. The subject is so important I will obtain a copy of the tape so we can view it as a part of our **April 15th** meeting.

I've been spending time for the past several weeks discovering the intricacies of the best senior programs in county churches and giving advice to Thrivent concerning a program they are beginning at three sites across the United States, including Ascension Lutheran in Thousand Oaks. Please buttonhole me at church on Sundays or by phone or email so we can continue to develop our own trophy program.

Did you know that on her 80th birthday on the 13th of September, on the 13th hole, Susan Waters drained a hole in one? She is still playing golf several years after that happy event. You go, girl!



Columbarium

Everyone loved the rain, especially our gardens. Soon the roses in the Columbarium will be cut back, a symbolic gesture of rebirth soon after we celebrate the birth of Christ. Spring will grace our Columbarium once again. We're reminding you that this handsome facility is available to you if you need it. Please call Margot Kerby at (805) 496-4423 for information.

St. Patrick's Episcopal Day School

St. Patrick's Episcopal Day School in Thousand Oaks offers a well-rounded, high quality elementary school experience for students in kindergarten through sixth grade. Outstanding specialist classes and a thoughtful approach to spiritual and moral development enhance a strong core curriculum. St. Patrick's graduates are well prepared for the challenging academic programs at area secondary schools as well as for excelling in extracurricular activities. Though a good number of St. Patrick's families live in Thousand Oaks and Westlake Village, residential areas like Camarillo, Newbury Park, the Santa Rosa Valley, Oak Park, Agoura and Agoura Hills, Simi Valley, Wood Ranch are represented in the school's population as well.

The school is now accepting applications for September 2010 and offers small group tours of the school while classes are in session. Those tours begin at 9:15 a.m., take about an hour in time, and are scheduled on the following dates: Thursday, January 24; Thursday, February 7th; Thursday, February 21st; Thursday, February 28th; and Thursday, March 6th. Arrangements for visits at other times can also be made individually with Eileen Doyle, the Head of School.

For more detailed information about St. Patrick's Episcopal Day School or for application forms, please telephone the school office at (805) 497-1416 or consult the school's website: www.stpatricksdayschool.org.

Save the Date!

for

Epiphany's Annual Fellowship and Fundraising Event

Laissez les bon temps rouler!

Let the good times roll at this year's dinner-auction on

Saturday, February 6.

We also welcome your donations! Got talent? Join us in planning! We need help with invitations, dinner, décor, and auction coordination and set up.

Please contact Pam Brunson at 818-735-0039 or pambrunson@sbcglobal.net if you would like to be involved in planning this fun event!

Outreach at Church of the Epiphany

Thanks to the many parishioners who participated in our winter activities: the Any Solider packing party, the annual cookie exchange and Adopt-a-Family. The coming season brings two fun-filled activities for you to participate in:

- ◆ **Taco Tuesday:** Stop by church as you make your way home from school or work to enjoy Taco Tuesday on **February 16th at 5:00 p.m.** This casual event gives us a way to gather as a community before we begin the Lenten season. Help us use up items in our pantry by enjoying tacos with all the traditional toppings, drinks and desserts. We will look forward to seeing you.
- ◆ **Potato Bar:** Stuff a spud after the 10:00 a.m. service on **Sunday, March 14th**. Enjoy a variety of spuds and toppings while getting to know your fellow parishioners.

Details on both events will be provided in upcoming church bulletins and email blasts. If you would like further information on either event or would like to learn more about the Outreach committee, please contact Elizabeth Olson at (805) 494-6461.

Let the Light of Epiphany Shine for Manna

MANNA, the Conejo Valley Food Bank, needs our support more than ever in this post-holiday period. Holiday giving fades as the Christmas season ends. We can share the Epiphany light with the world with our continuing gifts. All non-perishable food and household items are needed. Peanut butter, cooking oil, biscuit/pancake mix, tuna and lunch box items are particularly appreciated.

2009 Adopt a Family Christmas Program

Karen James and Mary Lehr

The Church of the Epiphany, in partnership with Lutheran Social Services, is pleased to announce another huge success for the fifth annual "Adopt a Family" program. We were able to provide a Christmas for twenty-three families, plus so many more with the generous donations of over \$2,000 in gift cards!

Warm thanks to everyone who participated in this amazing program!

Conejo Valley Free Meal and Shelter Program

The Church of the Epiphany participated in the Conejo Valley Free Meal and Shelter Program on December 8th by serving a delicious meal to about 95 area individuals and families.

A very special thanks to: The MacLean Family, Fran Gleim, Judith Walker, Katherine Katherine Scheifle, Karen James, Alice James, Joanne Brunson, Sylvia Musgrove, Cynthia O'Malley, Theresa Robertson, Patricia Anderson, Ginger Goldman, Terri Ajir, Pam Montagnino, Vinia Pavlath, Jamie Pawlak, and the amazing **Sea Casa!**

Our next meal is Tuesday, January 12th. Please contact Mary Lehr at (818) 707-6944 if you can help by bringing food, serving food or both.

EYG **EYG Looks Forward....To 2010!**

Barry and Laurie Burns

We cannot believe how fast this year has gone by! In the last couple of months we have held our annual Costume Party, attended a beautiful Evensong and recital, participated in the Conejo Valley Free Meal Program and have been engaged in meaningful study and dialogue on our Christian life. December has been filled with amazing Advent services and concerts, including Lessons and Carols and our Annual Christmas Party.

The members of Rite 13 shared all the obstacles to prayer and built a cross out of their prayers written on little note cards. We talked about life's challenges, and learned about different types of prayer. We looked for the best way to speak to God in prayer and meditation. Rite 13 members also served the homeless and are very excited about the 30 Hour Famine.

The members of J2A shared time discussing what it means to be The Body of Christ, and learned about healing prayer and visual imagery.

On December 13th, members of Young Adults in the Church (YAC) visited our two groups and got us all psyched about the 30 Hour Famine, in which we will be participating in February, 2010. You'll be hearing a lot more about the 30 Hour Famine in January.

We look forward to another wonderful year with you all.

YAC

What's Coming in February, 2010

Dakota Jones and Melissa McCarthy

In February, the Epiphany YAC (Young Adults in the Church) will be hosting the *30 Hour Famine* for Rite 13 and J2A. The Famine is a way to raise money for food to feed children in developing countries and a way to raise awareness about the very real issues of hunger and poverty throughout the world. All proceeds will go directly to the World Vision Group.

Over the course of the next month youth leaders from YAC will be available at a table set up during the 10:00 a.m. coffee hour to answer any questions and receive your donations of any size. Receipts will be provided. Every donation makes a difference. Please support Epiphany's youth in the important work they are doing in the name of Christ. For any further comments or concerns the group can be emailed at YAC@tcote.org.



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Tel: Church: 818-991-4797 ex. 25 Home: 805-498-4640

kjames@tcote.org

Karen is available at the church office Tuesdays and Thursdays

Dates for the Diary

- Sunday December 27th Sunday after Christmas Day - NO CLASSES
- Sunday January 10th EPIPHANY PAGEANT 9:15 am curtain call
- Wednesday January 13th Child Protection Training 7:00 p.m. Bishop's Hall



EPIPHANY PAGEANT

Sunday January 10th, children of all ages may participate in our re-enactment of the Nativity at the 10:00 a.m. service. Mary, Joseph, angels, kings, pages, shepherds and even animals are all required, so please join us to really celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany! We need everyone who wants to be included to be in the Bishop's Hall at 9:15 a.m. so you can dress in your costumes. We will then have a short "run through" in church. Please be on time.



THE NURSERY IS MOVING TO ROOM 1

From January 3rd on the youngest children will be cared for during the 10:00 a.m. service in room 1 of Mitchel Hall. This will mean access to the en-suite toilet and changing facilities, and all the children will be in one part of the campus. We are also adding a worship element to their play time, with members of the congregation sharing the care.

If you would like to volunteer to help with this ministry, please contact me. Do you have a small child and as yet do not use our nursery? We would like to hear your ideas and thoughts as to how we can best serve you and make

attending church the best possible experience for your family.



CHILDREN'S SUNDAY LIBRARY

Starting January 3rd, the Children's Library can be found in the newly freed up space that was the child-care room in the Bishop's Hall. Children may use the space during coffee hour to read or listen to music as well as borrow books and CD sets. We now have a selection of books for slightly older children too. So check it out!



GIVING ENVELOPES

In January the children will be able to take home a set of envelopes for their weekly offering. So, even if they miss Sunday school, they can still contribute their offerings. It is a good habit to get into! Please pick up a set!

WHY I'M A TEEN COUNSELOR by Alice James

I have been a Teen Counselor (TC) since I joined Epiphany in 2005. The role is an important one in the Children's Ministry, and something that I love to do. Unlike the Catechist or teacher who reads, explains and teaches to a large group of children, the role of the TC is to look out for the child who's having a hard time; whether it be encouraging them to actually join us in Sunday School, (even though that means leaving mom's leg), or

listening to stories about the weekend that don't quite make sense, while smiling and laughing as though you were listening to a story from your best friend.

Being a TC means being a good friend to the child who's had a bad week or a difficult morning, being there to give them a hug, or sitting with them till they feel comfortable to try things out by themselves. My favorite part about being a teen counselor is that I have the opportunity to hear great stories about soccer games, pets and birthday parties, but when someone is crying because they lost their picture, or they did not succeed at something, I can give them the right support to "make it all better." And although it may not be obvious, the Teen Counselor is always there; listening, helping, comforting and smiling, all the time building up a relationship with the younger children in our church and being a good role model.

Being a Teen Counselor is more than just showing up to get community service hours.

It's working with a child and seeing how after a couple of weeks they "get it," or when a kind word is all that's needed to fix a crisis. Yes, it is bathroom trips, listening to small children tell you their silly stories and at times having to be firm, but it is also really being involved in our church community, and it's lots of fun.

Mackenzie Hively, one of the very newest Teen Counselors had this to say;

"I like it because I like seeing kids smile and helping them understand the Word of God."

If you are not already involved in being a TC, check in with Mrs. James to see if it is something you might like to do.

CHILD PROTECTION TRAINING

- Wednesday Jan 13th 7:00 p.m.
- Open to all
- Mandatory for those who work with our children or youth programs



EYG ROCKS!

Calendar of Upcoming Events

<p>Mondays & Thursdays Wednesdays Sunday, January 10</p> <p>Monday, January 11 Tuesday, January 12 Wednesday, January 13 Sunday, January 17</p> <p>Thursday, January 21 Sunday, January 24</p> <p>Thursday, January 28 Sunday, January 31 Wednesdays, February 3 & 10 Saturday, February 6 Sunday, February 7 Monday, February 8 Tuesday, February 9 Sunday, February 14 Tuesday, February 16 Wednesday, February 17 Thursday, February 18 Friday & Saturday, Feb. 19 & 20 Sunday, February 21 Wednesdays, February 24, March 3, 10, 17 & 24 Sunday, February 21 Thursday, February 25 Friday & Saturday, Feb. 26 & 27 Sunday, February 28</p> <p>Sunday, March 14 Sunday, March 21 Sunday, March 28 Thursday, April 1</p> <p>Friday, April 2 Saturday, April 3 Sunday, April 4 Thursday, April 15</p>	<p>Depression Support Group, 7:00 p.m. Centering Prayer Group, 7:30 p.m. Epiphany Children's Pageant at 10:00 a.m. service; Evensong at 5:00 p.m., followed by piano recital and reception. PFLAG, 7:30 p.m. C.V. Free Meal Program at Calvary, 6:30 p.m. Child Protection Training, 7:00 p.m. Outreach Meeting after church; EYG (Rite 13, J2A & Y.A.C.), 6:00 p.m. OWLs Luncheon, 12:00 p.m. Epiphany Annual Meeting after 10:00 a.m. service; EYG, (Rite 13 & J2A), 6:00 p.m. "Page Turners" book club, 10:00 a.m. Concert (Denali Quartet) and reception, 5:00 p.m. Living Questions, Living Faith class, 7:00 p.m. Epiphany Mardi Gras Party EYG (Rite 13 & J2A), 6:00 p.m. PFLAG, 7:30 p.m. C.V. Free Meal Program at Calvary, 6:30 p.m. EYG (Rite 13, J2A & Y.A.C.), 6:00 p.m. Taco Tuesday, 5:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday services, 12:30 and 7:30 p.m. OWLs Luncheon, 12:00 p.m. Bishop's Committee Retreat EYG (Rite 13 & J2A), 6:00 p.m.</p> <p>Lenten Pilgrimage w/ Dr. Jarvis Streeter, 6:30 p.m. Outreach meeting after church. "Page Turners" book club, 10:00 a.m. "30 Hour Famine" – YAC Compline Service, 7:30 p.m.; EYG (Rite 13, J2A & Y.A.C.), 6:00 p.m. Potato Bar after church. Outreach Meeting after church Palm Sunday, Children's play in Sunday School Maundy Thursday Service, 7:30 p.m.</p> <p>Good Friday Services, 12:00 & 7:30 p.m. Easter Vigil, 8:00 p.m. Easter Sunday Services, 9:00 & 11:00 a.m. OWLs, Luncheon, 12:00 p.m.</p>
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The Vicar has moved!

**Melissa McCarthy's new mailing address
is:
5699 Kanan Road, #500
Agoura Hills, CA 91301**

The deadline for the next issue of The Star is January 20, 2010. Please send all submissions to Kelly Honig at khonigs@earthlink.net.

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Return Service Requested