



St. Bartholomew's
Anglican Church
Parish Newsletter

Epiphany Edition – January 6, 2006

*Arise, shine; for thy Light is come,
and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee... Is.
60:1*

Parish Leadership Retreat On Saturday, January 14th, the Vestry of St. Bartholomew's will meet at the Church for a Day Retreat. The purpose of this retreat is to worship God and fellowship together, as well as to entertain ideas about the direction about our parish over the next five to ten years. Although we have done a very good job in responding to challenges that have faced our parish recently, it is always good to have a long term plan in place. Some topics under consideration will be the "Building & Grounds", "Church Programs" and "Outreach". Although the vestry and clergy are the primary participants in this retreat, anyone else from the parish (especially other lay leaders, or would-be leaders) who would like to attend, are most welcome. The day will begin with Matins at 10:00, and will consist of several workshop/sessions & lunch, concluding with Evensong at 3:00.



Parish Calendar for Epiphany Season

Friday, January 6, The Epiphany

8:30 Matins

10:00 Holy Communion

5:30 Evensong

Sunday, January 8, Epiphany I

8:30 Matins

9:00 Bible Study

10:00 Holy Communion

5:30 Evensong

Saturday, January 14, Parish Leadership Retreat

10:00 Matins

10:30 Session on Outreach & Church Programs

12:00 Lunch

1:00 Session on Building & Grounds

2:00 Vestry Meeting

3:00 Evensong

Sunday, January 15, Epiphany II

8:30 Matins

9:00 Bible Study

10:00 Holy Communion

5:30 Evensong

Sunday, January 22, Epiphany III

8:30 Matins

9:00 Bible Study

10:00 Holy Communion

5:30 Evensong

Wednesday, January 25, Conversion of St. Paul

10:00 Matins & Holy Communion

5:30 Evensong

6:00 Supper

Sunday, January 29, Epiphany IV

8:30 Matins

9:00 Bible Study

10:00 Holy Communion, *Annual Parish Meeting*

5:30 Evensong

Tuesday, February 2, Purification of the Virgin Mary (Candlemas)

10:00 Matins & Holy Communion

5:30 Evensong

6:00 Supper

Sunday, February 5, Epiphany V

8:30 Matins

9:00 Bible Study

10:00 Holy Communion

5:30 Evensong

*A Prayer of
King Henry VI
(1422-1471)*

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O Lord Jesus Christ, who hast created and redeemed me, and hast brought me unto that which now I am : thou knowest what thou wouldest do with me : do with me according to thy will, for thy tender mercy's sake. Amen.

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Henry VI was grandfather of Henry VIII and founder of King's College, Cambridge. He endowed the famous Choir School of King's College, which exists to provide a professional choir of men & boys to sing the daily services of the Chapel, according to his original vision.

This prayer of Henry VI's is read or sung frequently at Evensong in the King's College Chapel, and is also read in many other Anglican Cathedrals and Parish Churches throughout the world.



Parish Notes

• **Our Parish Website** is appropriately located at www.st-bartholomews.org Our senior warden, Bill Swan, was the architect of the site and he continues to update it frequently with news, information, links and photographs of our parish. This site is our interface with a potentially world-wide audience, and in fact has generated some feedback from as far away as Great Britain! Another site of interest for our internet-savvy parishioners might be the location of Bill Swan's blog site on the world wide web: www.continuinghome.blogspot.com • **The Prayer Book & Hymnal Club** has several

distinguished members, to whom we are greatly indebted. D.J. & Sylvia Synnott, Charlotte Fulton, Derek & Joanne Wood, have so far made it possible for us to purchase seven brand-new copies of *The Hymnal* and eight new copies of *The Book of Common Prayer*. As we receive the books from the publishers and dedicate them, they will begin to appear in the book racks throughout the Church. You can join the Club too, by filling out the form on the back page of this newsletter. Help us replace our battered, worn-out service books with new ones. Thank You! • **The Rector in print...** Fr. Daniel will write a series of six articles for publication in the bi-monthly journal of the American Prayer Book Society, *The Mandate*, beginning with the January/February 2006 issue. This series will feature a subject of interest to traditionally-minded Anglicans: *The Hymnal, 1940*. This hymnal was an unrivaled achievement for the Episcopal Church in the 20th century, and has yet to be improved upon, despite a plethora of other musical companions to the Anglican liturgy of a lesser quality that have been published since. Our parish is fortunate to continue using this timeless classic in our worship services. If you are interested in subscribing to *The Mandate*, contact the Prayer Book Society via www.episcopalian.org/1928pbs **The Annual Parish Meeting** and potluck luncheon will take place, God willing, on January 29th in the Parish Hall, following the 10:00 a. m. Service for Holy Communion. Please mark your calendars and plan to be present for this important annual event. **Are you interested in working on your craft projects at the Church in the company of others, one evening each month?** Anyone interested in reconvening the monthly ladies arts & crafts social

gathering in the Parish Hall, please speak to Fr. McGrath or Debra Scharer!

An introduction to Epiphany Season

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The Season of Epiphany is a relatively short season of the Church Year, tucked in between Christmas and Lent. It generally does not receive as much attention as Advent or Lent, yet it is very important to our understanding of who Jesus Christ is.

To begin, the word “Epiphany” comes from a Koine Greek word meaning “manifestation” or “showing forth”. (Thanks to Microsoft Windows’ technology, I can put in some Greek minuscules for you here: *ἐπιφάνη*) Having just celebrated the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ on Christmas Day, and his circumcision on January 1st, we now embark on a series of holy days in which our Lord is presented, or “manifested” to the world. The Feast of Epiphany, followed by five Sundays after Epiphany, will altogether feature six gospel lessons that show forth something about our Lord. Each lesson will be a vignette or “epiphany” with which to better our understanding of the Lord.

On January 6th, the feast of Epiphany begins with a wonderful Old Testament lesson at Matins from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah, Chapter 60: “Arise, shine; for thy Light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.” The “Light” referred to here is the Light of Christ, which dawned upon a world long darkened by sin and separated from God. The world was a veritable “land of shadow”. With Christ’s birth, God reached out to man, reconciling us to himself and preparing to defeat the last enemy of man, which is death.

Jesus Christ is more than just a worldly Messiah who would create a kingdom for the Jews - Christ had been foretold to be a Saviour for the Nations, or the “Gentiles”, as well. For this reason it is appropriate that the first Epiphany is the showing forth of our Lord to the Magi, the ‘Wisemen from the East’.

On the First Sunday after the Epiphany (Epiphany 1), the Gospel lesson of the day shows how our Lord was manifested in the Jerusalem Temple. Although he was only a twelve-year-old boy, he astounded the doctors, lawyers and other leaders with his knowledge, wisdom and insight. This is the occasion when he remained behind in Jerusalem for three days, while Mary & Joseph journeyed toward home, unaware that he was not with the travelers. When his worried mother eventually located him, he asked her,

wist ye not that I must be about my Father’s business? Although he was evidently already aware of his divinity and of his purpose in the world, this did not prevent him from going back to Nazareth with Mary & Joseph and being the obedient son to them. And, he “increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man”.

On Epiphany 2, our Lord is manifested in his baptism in the Jordan River. On this occasion he was not only endorsed by the most important prophetic figure of the time, John the Baptist, but he was also manifested forth by the Holy Ghost descending upon him. As he came up out of the water, the Holy Ghost descended upon him as a dove, a voice from heaven saying, “Thou art my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased”.

On Epiphany 3, our Lord is manifested by the working of his first recorded miracle: the changing of water into wine at the marriage in Cana. The marriage feast had run out of wine, and Jesus’ mother, perhaps feeling a little impatient with the pace of the unfolding of her son’s career, spurred him to action, saying, “they have no wine”. We all know the rest of the story, how he caused water to be brought to the master of ceremonies, and how it was then changed into the best wine of the feast. This “beginning of miracles” led to many other miracles that would show the world his divine power.

On Epiphany 4, our Lord continues his ministry of healing, as he is not only manifested to a leper, but also to a Roman Centurion, whose servant he heals. His interaction with a Roman soldier would portend his concern for the Gentiles, and the opening of his ministry to include people of non-Jewish ethnicity.

On Epiphany 5, the last Sunday of Epiphany for 2006, our Lord tells a parable of the wheat and the tares. When he comes again at the end of time, he foretells that he will be manifested forth as Judge of the world, and that he will then separate the wheat from the tares, the good from the bad, once and for all.

The course of the Church Year revolves around the events of the life of our Lord, but there are also many other feast days woven in and around the primary ones that pertain to him. So, during Epiphany Season, there are two other important feast days that take place. On January 25, the Church celebrates the Conversion of St. Paul, a man who was spectacularly converted from being a persecutor of Christians to being the most influential of the Apostles of our Lord. On February 2, The Purification of the Virgin Mary, we celebrate Mary’s fulfillment of a Jewish rite in which a new mother is restored to full society, after 40 days of healing and rest. This feast day is also sometimes called “Candlemas”, because it is traditional for the

worshippers to bear candles in honor of the Virgin Mary.

Have a wonderful Epiphany Season!
- Fr. Daniel McGrath +

St. Bartholomew's Anglican Church

Telephone: (425) 885-1290

Mailing: P. O. Box 2517
Redmond, WA 98073-2517

Worship: 14821 Avondale Road NE
Woodinville, WA 98072

email: stbartholomews@gmail.com

online at: www.st-bartholomews.org

The Rev'd Dr. Daniel J. McGrath, *Rector*
The Rev'd Dr. Edward H. Miller, *Deacon*

St. Bartholomew's Church
14821 Avondale Road, NE
Woodinville, WA 98072

Worship Schedule

The Daily Office

Matins 8:30, Evensong 5:30

The Litany

Wednesday & Friday after Matins

Holy Communion

Sunday, and other Feast Days, 10:00

Parish Prayer Book Club

Help St. Bart's replace our aging Service Books.

Name _____

I would like to provide our parish with

_____ copies of The Book of Common Prayer @ \$20 each

_____ copies of The Hymnal @ \$25 each.

*Each book will be inscribed on the inside of the front cover
with your name and a message of dedication.*