

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE EPIPHANY



A NEW QUARTERLY PUBLICATION FROM THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE EPIPHANY

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The Rector's Corner

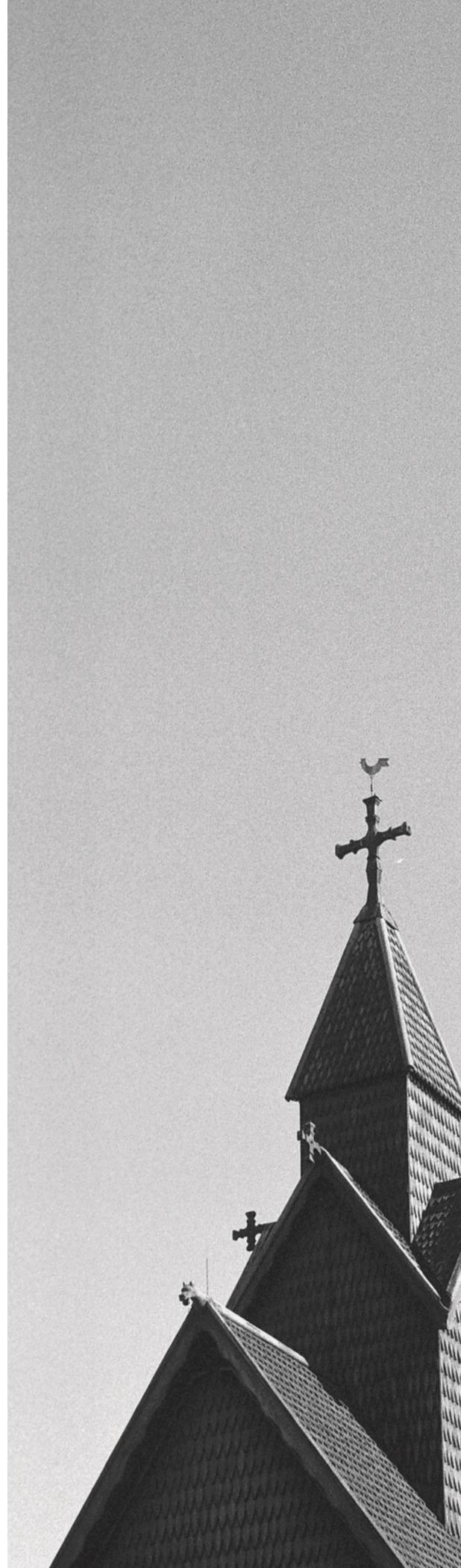
THE REV. MARIANNA GRONEK

Welcome to the new Epiphany periodical. You'll notice that the format of what we used to call our newsletter, has changed! The issues moving forward will be produced quarterly, focusing exclusively on human interest stories. Vestry member Celisa Manly will interview new members and share their stories. We'll learn more about what's happening in the ministries of our wonderful clergy: Scott, Janetta, Lynn and Roger. Ryan will share powerful moments from the Flagstaff Youth Cooperative and the dinner church group for thirty-somethings called Mosaic. And there will be much more!

Our prayer for this new channel of communication is that it will build relationships. Especially during a time of isolation and pandemic, it is more important than ever that we continue to connect, to see the ways that even now, God is filling new wineskins of a changed world with the Spirit of renewed hope.

I want to thank Ryan for getting this new periodical up and running, for being open to realizing our creativity and ideas. Thank you to the members of Epiphany who will write up the 'human interest' stories of their ministries, for the purpose of strengthening all our faith. Thanks to you for taking time to read this new thing God is doing in our midst. May you see the Holy Spirit at work in all our efforts, pouring fresh, new wine into wineskins that are seasoned and strong, yet soft enough to still hold the Spirit.

In the renewing Spirit of Christ,
Marianna+





Well, Hello There!

SHERMAN STEPHENS

"Well, HELLO there!! Welcome to Epiphany!"

Have you ever said that to someone who was a new person to you? If not, you should. To look a person in the eye, with a smile on your face, and 'happy-to-see-you' tone in your voice, while you say "Welcome to Epiphany", gets the most positive reaction from people. Not only people that are new to you, but even people you know like to be looked at, acknowledged, and feel accepted. I know that I do.

Your Epiphany Radical Welcome committee works to facilitate the warmth and welcome feeling by of our congregation through various means in hopes of encouraging people to come and see what The Episcopal Church of the Epiphany is all about.

Epiphany can be that turning point where newcomers and visitors can be enticed and attracted to a discovery, insight, or simply a revealing moment, where Christ is present.

It seems like forever ago we were doing this. But someday soon, behind our masks, with a twinkle in our eye, we'll be saying "Welcome to Epiphany!" So, remember good friends you have a role in helping people to feel welcome in a space where Christ is present.

Start practicing!! Continue saying:
"Well, HELLO there!! Welcome to Epiphany!"



**GOOD
NEWS
IS COMING**

Mission and Outreach

MARTHA TAYLOR

Our committee had planned to have a big social gathering dinner on April 26, not only as a fundraiser for Mission and Outreach activities, but also as a fun get-together to eat good southern food and sing old gospel hymns. Our Put Some South in your Mouth event was postponed due to the Coronavirus Pandemic but hopefully can happen in the fall. We did have representatives speak at Epiphany in February for Camp Genesis, which provides a special camp experience for children with parents in prison. We raised \$250 that weekend to send to that project.

In March, April and May we gathered 16 boxes of food on our back porch for the Flagstaff Family Food Center to help them meet the crucial need for extra food during the Pandemic. Epiphany came together to very generously provide food for our community.



The Deacons' Corner

THE REV. DEACON JANETTA BEAUMONT

We are certainly living in strange times right now. It is hard not having the face-to-face conversations we are used to as well as the hugs and sharing of peace with fellow congregants. Things are not going to improve in the near future, so we just have to live with the ways our lives have changed due to CoVid-19.

Something good that has come out of this for me is that I now have time to take my favorite walks in the forest across Highway 180 from us. The Four Forest Restoration Initiative has been working in part of the area of my walk, so I find myself walking along a road created for crews working to thin trees in the area that used to be just a beautiful, quiet forest trail. Most of it is still a pleasant forest trail that I enjoy, however, especially since the forests have been closed the last two summers, and it has been a while since I have been able to walk my trail.

Do you have something good that has come out of the CoVid-19 restrictions? To keep your outlook positive, look on the good things that have occurred instead of dwelling on the things that we can no longer do. When we think of having more time with family, more time to create wonderful things in the kitchen (perhaps with children), more time to garden and be outdoors, more time to read those books we have not had time to pick up before now, we understand that good things are still happening in our lives!



From The Chancel

MARYANNE BRUNER

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises. - Ps. 98:4

How can musicians be creative in this time of isolation? How can we contribute to worship, or to the well-being of our community?

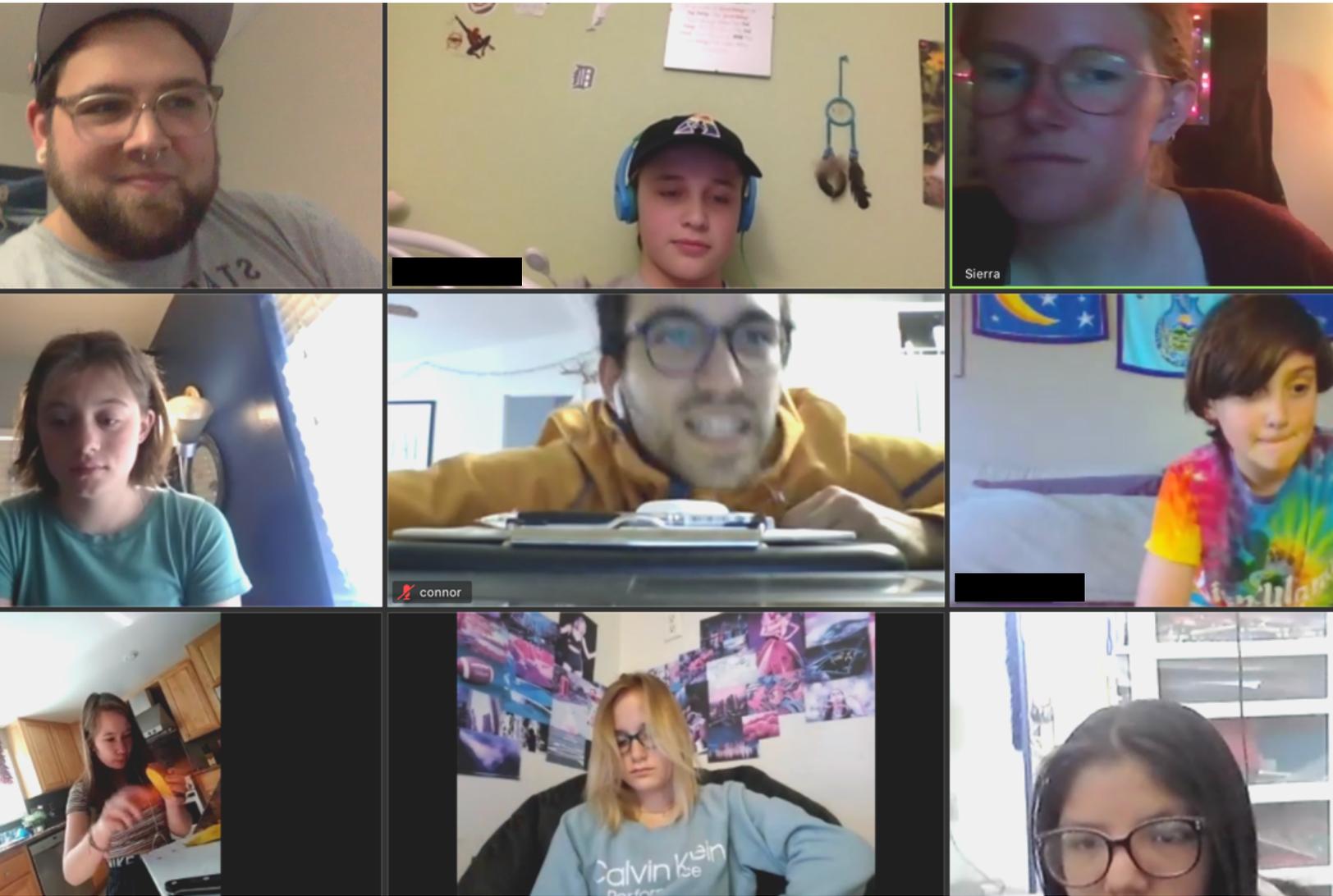
We were last together to worship with you, as a choir, on Lent 3, March 15. For many of us, that was the beginning of Spring Break. It was also the beginning of our Stay-at-Home statewide order from Gov. Ducey.

Charly, Jeannette Moore, and I put together some music for April's Taizé service. Now we're starting to consider other ways in which we can be creative and can show love to all of Epiphany (and beyond!) during this time of insecurity and unknowing.

Knowing that God's love is all we truly need, I covet your prayers and your ideas to make music more accessible to everyone, without creating an undue risk to our musicians or an overwhelming burden to our technology crew. Two ideas to get you started: * Keep doing the Taizé once a month until we're "back" * Wait until social distancing is lifted completely and we can all worship and sing.

Please use your creativity to respond, via Epiphany's Facebook page, via email (maryanne_bruner@msn.com), or just pick up the phone (928.853.0994 - talk or text).

Let's come together to make a joyful noise in this time of isolation!



Youth Ministry in the Digital Age

RYAN CAGLE

During the course of this pandemic the Flagstaff Youth Co-op, like all of our other ministries, has been fundamentally changed. The only main difference is that those involved in FYC probably know technology better than any of us ever will. Which also means they are subject to a level of screen exhaustion or *Zoom fatigue* that most of us will not experience.

This means that, now more than ever, we must be diligent in embodying the incarnation through fresh expressions of what it means to continue this work of cultivating a space for teenagers to become whole humans. Currently we are making an effort to show students that they are deeply loved by God and their community through small acts of kindness like pastoral visits, delivering care packages, sending post cards, and even surprise water balloon fights (all at a distance of course.)

Parish Voices

TERRI WILSON

“Do Not Fear For I am With You..”

The CoVid-19 pandemic has really caused us to reflect on our lives. I never realized how much of my daily life I took for granted or how much time I wasted worrying about things that really don't matter in the grand scheme of life.

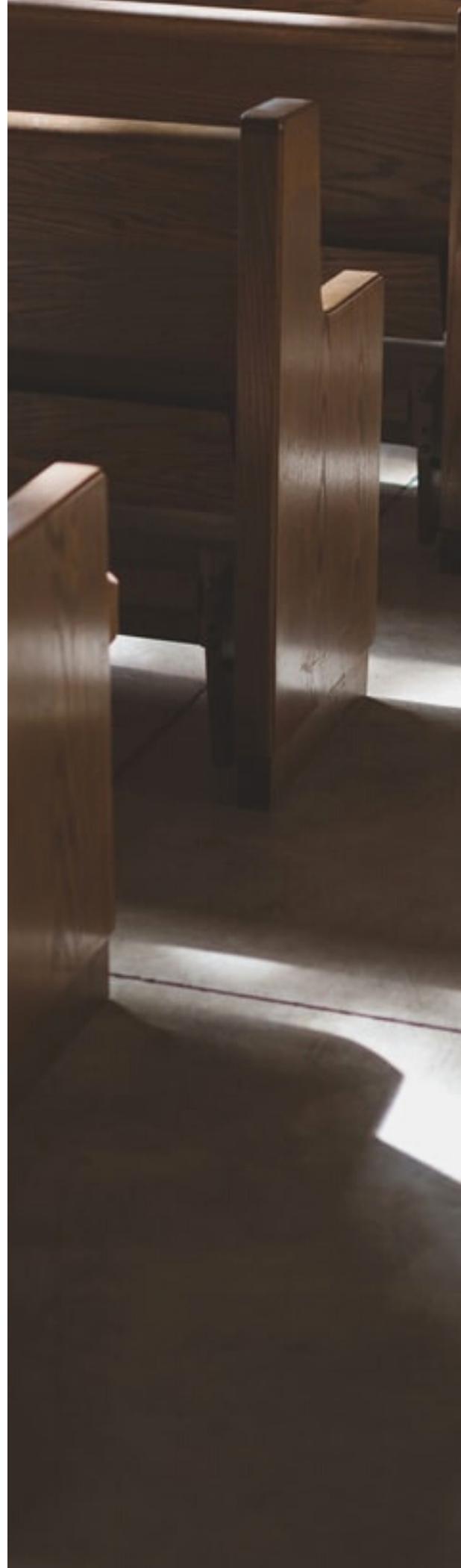
I am thankful for clarity of thought and this opportunity to reexamine and pray about my priorities. I spend a lot of time in prayer, and I enjoy being a member of the phone tree outreach. I have found that I am more people-oriented and less task-oriented since the “shutdown.” I talk less and listen more. I am a much better listener than I used to be. When I make telephone calls, I don't have an agenda, I just listen and pray. I have found that sometimes people want to talk and sometimes they just need to breathe, remain quiet and know someone cares.

My husband and I are in the CoVid-19 high-risk population, so I do not know when we will be able to gather with others. We are thankful for the online church services, music and prayers from our church community. We are remembering you in our prayers.

Here is one of our favorite verses:

So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. -Isaiah 41:10

People ask me “How long do you think this pandemic will last?” I say, “I don't know but I see light at the end of the tunnel so I pray and take one day at a time with God's help.





What's Going to Happen to Art in Action?

SUE NORRIS

That was one of the topics the Open Doors: Art in Action committee grappled with at our recent Zoom retreat, held May 15. Regretful that our lovely exhibit on the Colorado Plateau and its programming were abruptly ended with the onset of the city shutdown, we tried to look forward into an uncertain future. Attending were Sue Norris, Priest Marianna, Kathy and Scott Deasy, Mary Ross, Terri Craig, Dan Dooley and Vincent Caranchini. Priest Lynn facilitated the discussion.

We agreed that the project has met many of our goals, including providing high quality art and programming that integrates Epiphany into the community and provides a “radical welcome” to First Friday attendees and others. Then we looked at how to improve.

The first thing we tackled was a restructuring that would guarantee sustainability of the project. Dan Dooley agreed to take on the administration of the program and act as committee chair for the next two years. His job will be to provide overall guidance and leadership, with a focus on planning, finances, and meeting management, while working closely with the exhibit leaders.

We agreed that a committee of nine busy people is hardly sufficient to share the workload, and Priest Marianna will lead the active recruiting of new members to bring more vision and talent to this superb Epiphany ministry



Education for Ministry: A four-year journey

THE REV. LYNN PERKINS

Four years – from September to May – 2 ½ hours once a week (with a few holidays thrown in)—reading the Old and New Testaments plus some of the Apocrypha – reading three textbooks plus 16 other smaller books – sharing spiritual autobiographies every year-- finding the connection between our everyday lives and everything else through theological reflections – worshiping -- sharing our lives. Whew!! That’s Education for Ministry!

Five people have completed the EfM program at Epiphany this year. Congratulations to Cecile Dechambre, Dave Duncan, Betsy Suter, Audrey Tamosiunas, and Art Wilson!! Normally, we would be celebrating with them at one of our Sunday worship services, and all of the EfM graduates present would also come forward to congratulate them. But that celebration will have to wait until it is safe for us to gather together once again.

In the meantime, several of the new graduates have shared some of their thoughts about their time in EfM.

Here are some excerpts from their comments:

"The four years of EfM have been very meaningful for me. The three of us graduating from the Wednesday night group have become a close group. We do not all hold the same beliefs, but we have continued to listen and respect the other's beliefs. The first two years for me were very enlightening. The history of the Old and New Testaments is amazing. The biggest thing was learning that one needs the context to understand why many things happened as they were documented. And Margie White, whose extensive knowledge through education, and continued study, furnished this very important feature. The Wednesday night discussion group was most important to my well-being, including the opportunity to use one's mind for discussion and the friendship of the group."

-Dave Duncan

"These past 4 years in EfM have been a good education for me to better understand and appreciate the Episcopal service and a better understanding of other Churches, religions, their practices and beliefs and changes that have happened. It has been many years since I have had to read and learn at such a high level of understanding. I found myself relating what has happened in the Bible and in the other readings to what is happening in our present society and our government. History is repeating itself in so many ways. I definitely have a more open mind and a more questioning one. I am not so set in my ways and am more accepting of others."

-Betsy Suter

"The first year I found the answer I was looking for... what does the Lord require of me? In Micah: to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with my God. In the second year I learned the Bible was written by men whose perceptions of who Jesus Christ was and his message to us varied. This taught me to listen with caution to those who quote the Bible. The third year I came to understand how Christianity got to where it is today, the good the bad and the ugly. The fourth year I learned there is nothing black and white about ethics and to live an ethical life takes critical thinking and always evaluating the nature of your God. Hopefully I've become more aware of the balance between justice and compassion, more conscious of my interdependence with others and the natural world. This has been an awesome experience for which I will be forever grateful."

-Cecile Dechambre



As Dying, Yet Look- We Live!

RYAN CAGLE

"as dying, yet look-we live"

-Saint Paul

These words from Saint Paul in his second letter to the church in Corinth always seem to bring me hope, especially in difficult times and seasons of life like the one we have all found ourselves quite unexpectedly in.

This pandemic has fundamentally changed all of our lives and not only in this present moment but our future lives as well. Over and over again I have asked myself, and the Spirit, what does this all mean going forward? How can we host a dinner church community when we won't be able to safely share meals together for what is looking like 12-18 months?

How do we cultivate community when it feels like all of our attempts to do so are now dead in the water?

I don't have an answer but I am finding myself coming back to the heart of my vision for this small fledgeling community of 20-30 somethings as being one that is made up of *"experiments in the Kin-dom of God."*

I am hesitant to do silver-linings when so much death abounds but I do think that in this unprecedented time the Spirit is inviting us to be like a fox who, as Wendell Berry has said, *"makes more tracks than necessary, some in the wrong direction"* because this willingness to experiment and take wrong turns is, as Berry continues, what it means to *"Practice resurrection."*



Why “A Weekly ‘Date’ With God”?

THE REV. LYNN PERKINS

“All the while we have been making our way across space and time, outwardly focusing on the details of life, the other journey we have been taking is on an inward path, toward the doors of Eternity . . . that lies at the deepest point within ourselves.”

Both journeys are important, but the outer one gets most of our attention while the inward journey is often neglected, if not almost entirely forgotten. It is this inward journey (and the progress we make along it) which will have the most far-reaching effects, not only in this world, but beyond it into the next.”

–From “Twin Journeys” by Lynn Bauman

From the disappointment of the canceling of our Lenten Quiet Day came the idea of a virtual weekly “Date” with God – where we could learn about different ways of drawing closer to God and share our own experiences, supporting one another on our “inward journeys.”

My partner in this adventure, Cheryl Austin, expresses our intention and experiences beautifully:

“Why a date with God to explore contemplative practices together? Ah...a date! A chance to get to know someone. A chance to be intentional about nurturing this relationship. To deepen it and to confront, if we are gutsy enough, ‘who am I in the midst of this discovery process with another?’ Imagine doing that with a Presence that is unfailingly loving, forgiving, and won’t give up on you, ever. You are entering the Presence of pure compassion. What an invitation! . . .

By teaming with Priest Lynn, I can wander through the range of research opportunities.

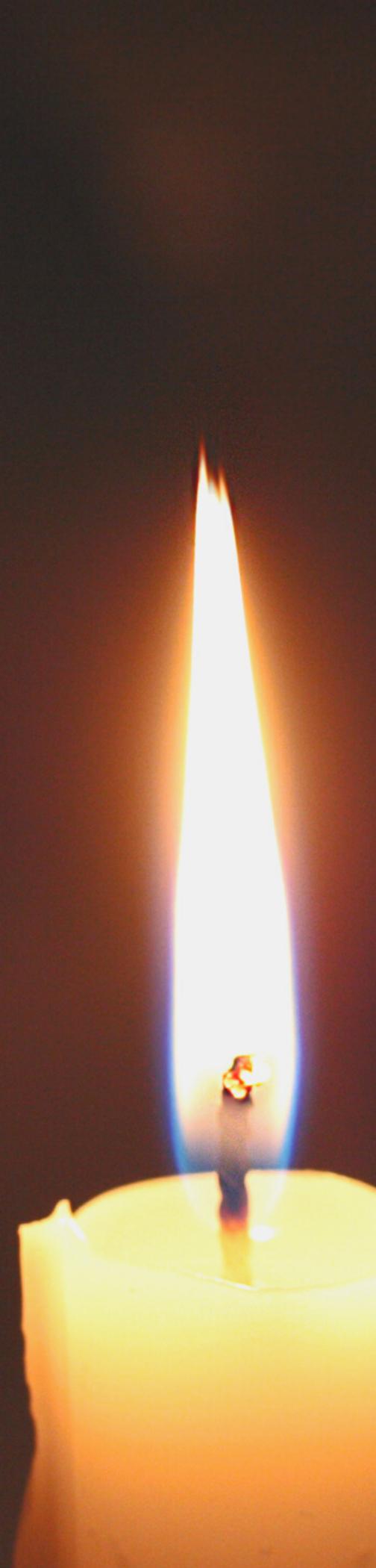
I dive deep into practices, trying out new ones and sharing the practices I have relied upon over time to sustain me, as I vigorously (and sometimes frantically), paddle through rough waters.

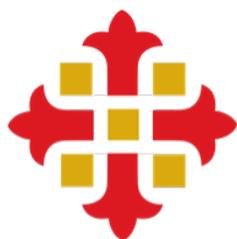
I appreciate Fr. Carl Arico's description of the impact of contemplative practices. He says that we try to fit the God of the ocean, into the swimming pool of our intellect. To use his metaphor of the swimming pool, I enjoy the relief as well as the intrigue of letting go of previously held notions, questions, or familiar ruts in how I do things. I actually do welcome and appreciate learning about different contemplative practices, as well as hearing the conversation of those who join us, because it's a doorway for me to "enter the ocean of God's love." What makes this process special is there is no one practice that is better or preferred. No right or wrong. By listening to others, I get a tiny glimpse into the majesty of our Creator. I get to watch, in action, this amazing Grace that blesses us all. Wow!"

"Wow" indeed! Others of our journey mates have had this to say: *"This weekly time of learning about different methods to deepen my spiritual life . . . [has] been such an incredible spiritual and emotional support to me! I am so grateful, and I am so grateful that they are available on the internet! I have tried all the methods suggested and definitely have my favorites, but I will continue to try [them all]. The amazing thing is that many of the methods continually come to mind as I work my way through the day with its challenges and joys, and I find myself using them frequently."* -Gretchen Wilce And, *"Thursday's "Date with God" as been a time of discovery and fellowship and intimate sharing based around various practices that help us to grow in the Spirit. We have found that the events of our lives intersect with the practices and discussion in such a way that we recognize that God is indeed present with us."*

-Sue Norris

Everyone is welcome to join us on our "dates"! For more information, contact me at jonesmlynn@aol.com or 505-264-8241 (call or text).





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