

THE STAR

EPIPHANY ISSUE 2012

THE CHURCH OF THE EPIPHANY

THE CHURCH OF THE EPIPHANY
EPISCOPAL
5450 Churchwood Drive
Oak Park, CA 91377
818-991-4797
www.tcote.org

STAFF

The Very Rev. Melissa McCarthy	<i>Vicar</i>
Dr. Brian Driscoll	<i>Director of Music</i>
Alice Rucker	<i>Music Associate</i>
Karen James	<i>Children's Ministry</i>
Barry and Laurie Burns	<i>Youth Ministry</i>
Cynthia Gould	<i>Church Administrator</i>
Dave Burrows	<i>Admin. Assistant</i>
Michelle Ponticelli	<i>Bookkeeper</i>
Maria Aguilar	<i>Sexton</i>
Bob Schneider	<i>Website</i>

THE BISHOP'S COMMITTEE

Bishop's Warden – Vince Caimano
People's Warden – Jamie Pawlak
Treasurer Steve Hively
Clerk – Susan Halligan

Diane Clarridge '11	Terry Jones '11
Steve Stephens '11	Steve Seebach '12
Jamie Pawlak '12	Kim Seegan '12
Nancy Goodman '13	Gabriel Rueda '13
Guy Walker '13	

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 Very Rev. Melissa McCarthy

Peace on earth and goodwill to all are sentiments characteristic of the season of Christmas and find their origin in Luke's gospel. From the mouths of angels this blessing of peace and goodness is given to the shepherds, the first to hear of the birth of Jesus. 2000 years later we continue this blessing of peace and goodwill in our Christmas greetings, in Christmas cards, and in our worship during this short, 12-day season. What happens after Christmas ends? Have we found the peace others have wished for us, and the peace we have wished for others?



I woke up Christmas morning and read in the news of the bombing of two churches in Nigeria, which killed 18 at last count. It is easy to believe this sentiment of peace on earth to be only empty words when other Christians, others who offer the same blessing of peace, are attacked and killed on the day of the Lord's nativity. On the other hand, as Christians we take seriously the blessings and promises of God. We know the peace of God, which passes understanding, is a real possibility in the world today.

During Bishop Bruno's address at our annual diocesan convention this past December, he spoke of the interfaith service at LA's City Hall commemorating the 10th anniversary of 9/11. He showed us a few short segments of that service, including a piece featuring Dr. Maher Hathout, chairman of the Islamic Shura Council of Southern California. In addressing the issue of violence from religious fundamentalism, Dr. Hathout said, "God does not belong to one religion. All religions belong to God."

This elegant statement is about as orthodox as we can get if we claim a God through whom all the world was created. We cannot lay claim to that God as our God and exclude others. We cannot claim that we have the only way to God. When we limit our understanding of God as belonging to one religion, one people, we have ended any hope for peace on earth. We have ended any goodwill toward others. Any religion that sees itself as the one and only way to God dismisses the integrity and dignity of others and ultimately leaves room for the kind of violence that killed 18 Christians on Christmas day in Nigeria.

In John 14.6 Jesus says, "I am the way, the truth and the life." For so long we Christians have used this verse to claim our way as the only way. This interpretation comes from our fearful and limited human understanding. In it we miss the truth of God's love, which transcends any limits we may want to place on it. Another way of looking at this passage is all inclusive and focuses not on who is right or wrong but rather how we, as followers of Jesus, live out our call as Christians.

Jesus is the Way: Jesus is the path for us, the one whom we follow.

Jesus is the truth: the truth we experience through our relationship with God. Richard Rohr, a Roman Catholic Franciscan Priest says that the truth of Jesus is for us and through us, which ultimately leads to life.

Jesus is the life: the life we say yes to and the life we offer to others in the name of God.

Being a Christian is not about being right, but about following the Way of Jesus, which is the Way of peace, the Way of compassion, the Way of love. It is a Way that seeks and serves Christ in all persons and respects the dignity of every human being.

If we are truly following Jesus, then we will know that the great blessing of the angels of peace on earth and goodwill to all begins first with peace in our hearts and with generous and loving action toward others. It is our work as Christians to love God with all that we have in us, to love our neighbor's as ourselves, and to love each other as Christ loved us. It is our work as Christians to be the peace and goodwill that has come to us with the birth of Christ.

In this season of Epiphany, when we experience the grace and power of God who has come to dwell among us, let us be participants in this grace by becoming the angels' blessing of peace and goodwill for all.

Annual Meeting

Epiphany's annual meeting will be **January 22, 2012 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 will also elect new Bishop's Committee members and our representatives to the Diocesan Convention. We look forward to seeing you there. Lunch will be served in the Bishop's Hall following the meeting

'Be the light, be the peace,' Bruno tells convention.'

L.A. diocese reflects on 'One Light, One Peace, One World' partnering, sharing and interfaith relationships

Bishop Jon Bruno recalled the diocese's rich legacy of transformational leadership in tough times and challenged delegates and visitors to continue to "be the light, be the peace" during his Dec. 3 address to the 116th annual convention meeting of the Diocese of Los Angeles at the Riverside Convention Center. "Today I am calling us as a diocese to look in new ways in which we might partner to become that 'One Light' in our region, in our local communities, in the wider Episcopal Church, as well as the interfaith community and the world as a whole," he said.



Standing with Bishop Bruno, are Steve Seebach, Marcus Baukol, Melissa McCarthy, Vinia Pavlath, Celeste Thiel, and Andrea Fleetham.



MUSIC GUILD

upcoming events

Sunday, January 8, 2012, 5:00 p.m.

Solemn Choral Evensong for the Feast of the Epiphany, presented by the Epiphany Schola.



Karen Benjamin, soprano, and **Vicki Kirsch**, piano, will present *Chick Songs: Classical Art Songs by Women Composers*, with music of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Included will be works by British composers Liza Lehmann and Maude Valerie White, Americans Amy Beach and Libby Larsen, and African-Americans Margaret Bonds and Undine Smith Moore..



**Jazz Vespers,
Sunday, January 29, 2012, 7:30 p.m.**

Arrive early and gather at 6:45 p.m. in the Bishop's Hall for a glass of wine and a brief presentation by director of music Brian Driscoll about what you're going to experience in the service.



Jazz Vespers emerges as a synthesis of traditions, a blending of an age-old liturgy with the unique musical language we call jazz. With a freshness that is open to God's Spirit, this musical tradition sounds the hopes, dreams, joys, frustrations and pain that expresses human experience, while exploring a musical vocabulary that transcends the limits of the written or spoken word.

The Rev. Norm Freeman, the Rector of St. George's Episcopal Church, Laguna Hills, together with the other musicians in his quartet (**Theo Saunders, Putter Smith, and Kendall Kay**) will offer musical prayer, praise, and meditation in this one-of-a-kind liturgical experience.



Concert: An Evening of Flamenco

Sunday, February 19, 2012, 5:00 p.m.

Come be a part of this vital and traditional Spanish expression of life, with singing, dancing, and acclaimed flamenco guitarist **Walter Molina**. Reception follows.

Admission for Music Guild Members is free.

Suggested donations for other guests: \$35 per family; \$15 per adult; \$5 per child/student/senior.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Tel: Church: 818-991-4797 ex 25 Home: 805-498-4640 kjames@tcote.org

Karen is at the church office all day Tuesday and Thursday afternoons.

Dates for the Diary

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|--|-------------------|
| • Sunday January 1 st | Mixed age Sunday school | Atrium 1 10a.m. |
| • Sunday January 8 th | EPIPHANY PAGEANT | Bishop's Hall 9am |
| • Tuesday January 10 th | Level II Catechesis of the Good Shepherd | Atrium 1 3.30pm |
| • Sunday January 22 nd | ANNUAL MEETING CRAFT CLUB | All ages |
| • Sunday January 29 th | Children's Ministry Volunteers Meeting | Rm. 6 after 10am |
| • Sunday February 26 th | VBS Planning Meeting | Rm. 6 after 10am |



EPIPHANY PAGEANT JANUARY 8th

Join us to celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany with the Epiphany Pageant. All children age 3 and over are welcome to be part of this ancient tradition. Please be in the Bishop's Hall by 9am for costumes and a quick run through!

GIVE THE GIFT OF LEARNING ...ONE CHILD AT A TIME!

Throughout the year in Children's Ministry we have been learning about Jesus and the time and place in which he lived here on earth. We now have the chance to link what we know to helping Christians who live in the West Bank town of Zebabdeh. Here a Christian community struggles to keep their land, give their children hope and education, and pass on the tradition of being a Christian in the place where Jesus was born and raised. As part of our Outreach efforts for 2012 at Epiphany, we would like to be able to sponsor a child at the Latin Patriarch School in Palestine. The school is supported by St Matthew's Episcopal Church in Zebabdeh and by Educate for Hope, through the Diocese of Los Angeles. The school teaches in English and Hebrew and the cost of one child's education for a year is **\$700**. To start the process of raising the funds to sponsor a child, there will be a special collection on the day of the Epiphany Pageant. Please consider making a contribution and encouraging your child to give of their Christmas money or their savings, so that others can have the gift of education. Every donation, however small will make a difference. Let us celebrate our community at Epiphany with a gift to our sisters and brothers in Christ.



WEEK DAY CGS!

There will be a new weekly session of CGS for Level II age children (7-9+) beginning **Tuesday January 10th at 3.30pm**. All those in Level II are welcome, as are those in the older Sunday school class who wish to be involved. Contact Karen for more information.

ANNUAL MEETING CRAFT CLUB

So the adults can be fully engaged in the Annual Meeting, there will be children's craft activities for all ages, overseen by our great team of Teen Counselors.



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY VOLUNTEERS MEETING

Sunday January 29th following the 10a.m service, there will be a short meeting for all children's Ministry volunteers, both adults and teen counselors. Please try to attend!

VBS WILL SOON BE UPON US!

It is not until June, but VBS needs to be planned!!! If you would like to be involved this year then please come to a short meeting after the 10 am service on February 26th in Room 6. See you there!

Epiphany Youth Group (EYG)

Barry and Laurie Burns, Youth Group Directors

EYG TRANSFORMS

IT'S A WHOLE NEW YEAR, WELCOME, 2012!

We had a great Fall 2011. We held a movie night where we shared pizza and popcorn and watched a movie entitled "August Rush" about a young orphan who heard music in the rush of the city and the wind of the fields; "all you have to do is listen." It was a touching film with a beautiful Christian message of opening our hearts and listening to what God has to say.

We closed the year with a wonderful and meaningful Christmas Party. We not only decorated tons of Christmas cookies for the Outreach Cookie Exchange, (see photos), but we were moved by our visit by Mou Riiny. Mou was one of the Lost Boys of Sudan, who lived in a refugee camp for six years-from the age of 7 to 13. He shared his amazing story with us and presented his project of building a school for children in the same village in which he was born. He has raised more than \$70,000 for the solar panels which he helped design as an engineering major at UC San Diego. We hope as a group to raise awareness and money for Mou's school in the coming year.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

January 8: EYG becomes EPH! Epiphany Pageant Helpers. Come to church at 9:00 a.m. and help Mrs. James with the pageant. Be mentors to those who will be part of the pageant.

January 15: Bishop's Hall: 9:00 a.m. NEW TIME! NEW ADVENTURE!

After the 10:00 service we will have a field trip to the MUSEUM OF TOLERANCE. Please let Barry & Laurie know if you plan to attend and/or bring a friend. Driver's wanted: Parents, if you can drive, we would love to hear from you.

February 12: FIELD TRIP: CALIFORNIA LUTHERAN UNIVERSITY
COMPUTER LAB: Our own Barry Burns will teach a lesson in PhotoShop special effects. (After the 10:00 a.m. service)

February 25 & 26 30-Hour Famine

We have e-mailed the weekly schedule. If you have not received it, please let us know and we will be happy to forward the schedule to you.

We look forward to a great New Year with our amazing, enlightened, energetic, curious, faithful stewards of EYG!



Outreach at Epiphany

Epiphany Outreach will have another busy year in 2012. Outreach, along with Children's ministry, will raise money for *Educate for Hope* which funds education for Children in Palestine.

Become a part of Outreach by attending one of our fundraisers or our monthly meetings! **Our first meeting for 2012 will Sunday January 15th after the 10:00 service.** Outreach meetings are held the third Sunday of every month after the 10:00 a.m. in the Founders room. Everyone is welcome.

We will have our annual **Taco Tuesday on February 21, 2012.** Come enjoy our version of Mexican fare and fellowship. Funds raised by Outreach support a variety of Episcopal organizations at the local, national and international level. Epiphany Outreach may also support other programs or charities on a case by case basis. Make a difference and join Outreach!



We are happy to report that Epiphany helped give Christmas to 25 families, which included 70 children through “**Adopt-a-family**” a program of Lutheran Social Services which Epiphany supports. Thank you to everyone who contributed!



Also, the Annual **Cookie Exchange** raised \$700 for the Joplin, MO project. And, the cookies were yummy, too!

Epiphany Participates in Diocese's NetsforLife Campaign

We here in Southern California rarely encounter mosquitoes. When we do, the most that usually happens is the annoyance of some insect bites. Other parts of the world are not so lucky: malaria is a deadly, infectious disease transmitted by mosquito bite. Each year, there are 250 million cases of malaria infection. 90% of malaria deaths occur in sub-Saharan Africa. Just one life-saving, long lasting insecticide treated net can save three lives from suffering and death.

Since 2008, NetsforLife has distributed more than 2 million nets across 17 countries in Africa. By partnering with churches and faith-based groups like Episcopal Relief & Development, it fights malaria by training community agents to deliver nets, educate communities about proper use and maintenance and provide ongoing monitoring and support. The Inspiration Fund will help NetsforLife fulfill its promise to supply 7 million nets over the next three years.

Epiphany will participate in the Diocese of Los Angeles' Lenten Campaign in support of NetsforLife. The Diocese hopes to raise funds to supply 40,000 nets, thus inspiring the slogan: “40 Days and 40,000 Nets.” In the upcoming months, you will hear more from the Outreach Committee about this important and live-saving effort. For information, please contact Steve Seebach.

We continue to support **MANNA: The C. V. Food Bank.** They need non-perishable super market items: food, toiletries, diapers, paper towels. Your generous support is always appreciated by MANNA's recipients. You can drop it by on Sundays or in the church office

The **Conejo Valley Free Meal program** that Epiphany caters the second Tuesday of the month at Calvary Community Church through Lutheran Social Services, has seen a surge of families needing this program. Over a hundred people line up to be served. Through the generosity of Epiphany volunteers, we have been able to provide meals to very grateful people. We encourage you to be a part of this wonderful program by bringing food ready to be served and you can stay to help serve, or not. The food should be delivered to Calvary between 6 and 6:15 p.m. The entrance is just to the left of the main entrance. Someone is outside to take your deliveries. Please call Elizabeth Bryant at (805)498-4499 or evb@speakeasy.net if you have any questions, or want to contribute. Thank you!!

OWLs (Older,Wiser,Laity)

If you enjoyed our Christmas luncheon, then call the church now to RSVP for **our next event at noon on Thursday, January 12, 2012**. We will once again enjoy lunch and some social time together followed by a very special one-woman presentation by Martha Miller.

Martha resides in Westlake Village and retired in 2005 from a successful career as a communications manager of global companies including Hewlett-Packard, to devote her energies to her church and the community. Since then, a second career as a professional writer blossomed.

Martha will be performing her show entitled *Anne Morrow Lindbergh: A Gentle Woman of Quiet Strength*. This presentation focuses on the wife of aviator Charles Lindbergh who balanced, with grace and sensitivity (and not without challenge), three worlds: home and family, aviation, and a gifted literary career. Listen to Anne's story, through her own words. You will be fascinated, but even more: you will want to apply her wisdom to your own life.

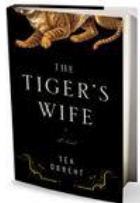
Please feel free to invite friends or neighbors who might be interested in Martha's presentation. **Lunch will be catered (for \$10 per person), so please call Dave Burrows in the church office to RSVP before Monday, January 9th**. Happy New Year, and we look forward to seeing you!

**Christmas Luncheon Hospitality provided by Michelle Ponticelli, Rachel Chittick, and Susan Lamb.
Entertainment was provided by Peace Montessori.**

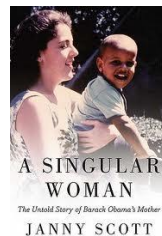


Page Turners Book Club

The Page Turner had a good time at the November/December meeting on December 8th. There were delicious holiday treats provided by Katherine Schiefele and SuzanneCarroll, and the discussion was quite lively with twelve voices chiming in. The reviews of *Major Pettigrew's Last Stand* were very positive, it is definitely one to recommend. *The Visit from the Goon Squad* was determined to be interesting with a very creative approach but not for everyone.



Our next session will be on **Thursday, January 26th at 10:00 a.m.** Gail Braatelen will bring treats, and we will review *The Tiger's Wife* by Tea Obrecht. The books for the rest of the year include: *A Singular Woman* by Janny Scott, *Reckless Endangerment* by Gretchen Morgenson and Joshua Rosner, and *Midwives* by Chris Bojalian. We meet at 10:00 am in Room 1 on the 4th Thursday so mark your calendars and plan to join the discussion. Questions? Check with Suzanne Carroll at the 10:00am service or Gail Braatelen or Yvonne Lux at the 8:00am service.



Save the date!
Epiphany Party
the evening of
February 1st

The DBSA Conejo Valley Depression and Bipolar Support Group

(Federal Tax ID (EIN) 90-0583142)

Since 2004

A chapter of the Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance

www.dbsalliance.org/conejovalley

Meets Mondays 7 p.m. at The Church of the Epiphany, Mitchel Hall, Room 6

5450 Churchwood Drive, Oak Park, CA 91377

Vincent F. Caimano, Ph.D., Founder and President

vcaimano@depressionrecoverygroups.com

(818) 292-8551

Dr. Luisa Johnson, Advisor and Board Member

5655 Lindero Canyon Road, Suite 621

Westlake Village, CA 91361

(818) 707-6973

Communication



In our quest to be better stewards of our world,
we have been moving to E-Mail Communications of our upcoming Church Events.

If you have not received our E-mail Communications
please contact the church office with your current e-mail.

If you would prefer to have information sent out to you via regular mail
and haven't yet let us know, please do.

Calendar of Events

Mondays	Depression Support Group, 7:00 p.m.
Tuesdays	Centering Prayer Group, 7:30 p.m.
Monday, Jan. 2	Office closed.
Sunday, Jan. 8	Epiphany Children's Pageant, 10:00 a.m.
	Evensong & recital, 5:00 p.m.
Monday, Jan. 9	PFLAG, 7:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 10	C.V. Free Meal Program, Calvary, 6:15 p.m.
Thursday, Jan. 12	OWLs Program, noon
	Alzheimers Support Group, 6:00 p.m.
Sunday, Jan. 15	Outreach meeting after 10:00 a.m. service
	EYG Museum of Tolerance Trip
Monday, Jan. 16	Office closed (MLK Day)
Sunday, Jan. 22	Annual Meeting
Thursday, Jan. 26	Book Club, 10:00 a.m.
	Alzheimers Support Group, 6:00 p.m.
Sunday, Jan. 29	Jazz Vespers, 5:00 p.m.
Thursday, Feb. 9	OWLs, noon
	Alzheimers support group, 6:00 p.m.
Saturday, Feb. 11	Epiphany Party

The Star
The Church of the Epiphany
Episcopal
5450 Churchwood Drive
Oak Park, CA, 91377.

Return Service Requested