

# THE WEEKLY WORD

EPIPHANY PARISH OF SEATTLE . NOVEMBER 19, 2012

## **Guest Stewardship Reflection**

*by David Jones*

The dictionary defines a steward as one who manages another's property. I can remember as a little boy growing up that everything seemed to be someone's property. This belonged to my Father, that to my Mother, and something else to my Sister. As I grew older I began to realize that while this was true in a little boy's sense, it was narrow and focused only on things visible and at hand. Growing up in my family Presbyterian church, in Sunday School and church services, I began to hear words about the Kingdom of God or the Kingdom of Heaven.

Finishing school, getting married, taking a job and raising a family did not leave much time for thinking about the Kingdom of Heaven. Beginning a career and family, and being active in our local Church required solutions of that day's stack of problems, knowing that the next day would bring yet another stack. Not much time to reflect on the Kingdom of Heaven—or so I thought. The Kingdom was something “out there” and I had trouble seeing what that had to do with the hustle and bustle of daily life.

Some years ago, during a series of Bible studies on the four Gospels, we were studying the words of Jesus in the ways He described the Kingdom of Heaven. It dawned on me that Jesus was describing a set of specifications for the Kingdom—almost like a construction engineer. Further, these specifications were Jesus' way of outlining the framework for our lives, how we should live our lives—and it had everything to do with the hustle and bustle of daily life. Too soon old and too late smart.

In several of Jesus' parables, He speaks of property. The parable of the talents, and the parable of the sower are stories of stewardship, ie, the care and managing of property. Jesus stresses putting to work the material at hand, and improving and expanding it. In Jesus' view the good steward is one who increases value and output. Jesus roundly castigates and condemns those who simply preserve value.

*continued...*

Over the years I have asked myself how I can be a good steward. What can I do to further the Kingdom of Heaven? In my own case, I believe that I have arrived at this time and place in my life's journey only by the will and grace of God. All that I have and possess is by the will and grace of God. In Scripture, Jesus tells me that I am required to be a steward of the gifts which God has bestowed on me.

The ongoing work at Epiphany Parish is to build upon and expand the Kingdom of Heaven. As stewards of the Kingdom, it is incumbent upon each of us to contribute our gifts to further this work. But Jesus' teachings challenge us to increase and expand the work, and not just maintain the status quo.

*-David Jones*

### ***DIFFERENT WAYS PEOPLE CALCULATE THEIR PLEDGE***

For some it equals the amount  
they spend at a school fundraiser.

For others they offer 5% of their net income to the church  
and donate 5% of their net income to philanthropy.

For some it is equivalent to the amount  
they spend yearly on insurance

For others it compares to the amount  
they spend on season tickets

# SUPPORT YWCA FAMILIES



There are TWO options at Epiphany for giving to the families at the YWCA this year!

- Adopt a YWCA FAMILY, bringing wrapped presents for one of 25 families!
- Fill the YWCA TOY SHOP with one of 70 specific gifts!

Please adopt a family or take some gift tags for the Toy Shop and help give families in need a brighter holiday.

Follow the directions on the gift tags.

Deliver the presents **to church no later than Sunday, December 9.**

Questions? Sherilyn Peterson, [speterson@perkinscoie.com](mailto:speterson@perkinscoie.com), (206) 979-1786

## ***The Music Corner – for inquiring minds at Epiphany***

### **News of our section leader/soloists...**

**Mezzo-soprano Kathea Yarnell**, also director of our children's choir program, is active in the local concert scene. As a member of *The Esoterics*, Seattle-based "creative community of virtuosic voices", she recently appeared as soloist in their *Mystikos* series of four performances. Epiphany choir members Janna Giles, Tom Hitt, Dan Luethy, Jamie and Anthony Balducci and Steve Shelton are former members of this elite group of musicians. *The Esoterics* specializes in contemporary choral music; they regularly commission new works from composers around the world. (For more information, visit their website at [www.TheEsoterics.org](http://www.TheEsoterics.org).)

**Justin Ferris**, our new tenor section leader/soloist, sings in several choral groups in the area, including the famed *Tudor Choir*. Justin has just been accepted into *Pro Musica*, one of the areas most prestigious choral groups, which rehearses at Epiphany. Justin is a graduate of Pacific Lutheran University with a major in Philosophy and minor in music. He has also enjoyed an active background in musical theater.

**Our Countertenor (alto) José Luis Muñoz** was recently chosen to play a leading role in a recent controversial opera production. He has been invited to perform excerpts from the opera in Los Angeles; his photograph from this production recently appeared in the *Los Angeles Times*. José Luis will be performing as soloist for the forthcoming performance of Handel's *Messiah* with the Federal Way Symphony on November 18th. José is studying at the Cornish College of the Arts, one of the top visual and performing arts colleges in the nation. He maintains a teaching studio for voice and piano at Epiphany. (Read more at [joseluismunoz.com](http://joseluismunoz.com).)

**Catherine Webster**, a new soprano section leader/soloist in Epiphany Choir, was spotlighted in the *Weekly Word* earlier in the fall. Catherine has appeared as soloist throughout the US and Canada, as well as performances in Europe. She and her husband, professional singer Matthew White, are in Seattle with their two daughters and as a family have associated with Epiphany. Matthew is on the management staff of *Pacific Musicworks* in Seattle. On October 20, Catherine and Matt performed at St. James' Cathedral in a group of nine professional singers and supporting instruments from across the country in a monumental presentation of Monteverdi's *Vespers of*

# Advent Lessons & Carols

Sunday, December 9

5 pm — Church

6 pm — Wassail Party in  
the Great Hall



On the second Sunday in Advent, Epiphany will enjoy an Anglican tradition, in a magical service of Advent Lessons and Carols. Readings and music alternate in this liturgical form, this time presenting the familiar stories and themes of the Advent season as we prepare for Christmas. Music includes both congregational hymns and anthems by the Epiphany Choir and Choristers. Followed by a Wassail Party Reception in the Great Hall given by the St. Nicholas Guild and Friends

*Childcare provided from 5:00—7:00 pm.*

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*(continued from p. 4) 1610.* The concert was co-sponsored by the Cathedral and *Pacific Musicworks*, established in 2008 by Stephen Stubbs, world-renowned early music authority and conductor. The concert was repeated in a sell-out performance the next evening at Trinity Cathedral, Portland. Catherine next appears in San Francisco in December singing a solo concert with *Magnificat*, a professional baroque ensemble with whom she has performed often. She solos at Epiphany throughout the season, and at Christmas Eve.

[www.pacificmusicworks.org](http://www.pacificmusicworks.org)

## **YWCA Apartment Beautification Reflection**

*Guest reflection by Eileen Riley*

It happened again today. It happens every time, to one degree or another. You'd think I would be accustomed to it by now, but I suppose the character of miracles is that they are unexpected.

9:00 on Saturday morning, we arrive at the YWCA transitional housing apartment we've been assigned to prepare for new tenants. It's anybody's guess what we'll find. The sinking feeling when first walking through the door is familiar. I think to myself 'this is the one, this is the time we won't be able to fix it, or make it remotely habitable.'

These are well-worn apartments, with cracked vinyl floors, bad lighting, baseboard heaters with missing paint, the occasional cockroach, and usually gray/beige walls. Sometimes the tenants leave them quite clean. Others, not so much. Sometimes there is furniture to work with, other times the apartments are bare, except that there are always at least a couple of mattresses. We have a routine – Holly Boone is the Master of the stove and oven clean up, other volunteers tackle the walls, windows and floors with broom, mop and bleach. We scrub toilets and tubs, kitchen sinks and windowsills, light fixtures, refrigerators, counter tops, cupboard doors, shelves, drawers and closets.

When the apartment is scrubbed, the transformation begins. Ann Beck counts the furniture we have, the sizes of the mattresses, and treks back to Christie House to gather sheets, blankets, pillows, lamps, wash cloths, towels, kitchen utensils, plates, bowls, mugs, glasses, pots and pans, potholders, dish towels, and decorative items – pictures and mirrors for the walls, rugs, throw pillows, and of course, tchotchkes. We have recently begun to leave 2-3 days of food in the cupboards, as most families move in on Sunday, and the YWCA food bank does not open until Wednesday.

It is hard to convey, but with the beds made, the table set, towels in the bathrooms, food in the cupboard, a picture here, a mirror there, a decorative doo-dad, in a matter of hours, the apartment has become a place where a family can find shelter, and comfort.

Homelessness is such a huge problem, it is difficult to grasp, and it's easy to tell yourself 'It's too much, I can't possibly fix it', and you'd be absolutely right, no one person can fix it. Preparing an apart-

ment for a family moving out of homelessness doesn't fix it either, but it is a very real, concrete gift to a family we will never meet.

We usually leave a card for the family moving in, welcoming them to their new apartment. I have often thought that we should include a thank you for letting us do this for them.

*-Eileen Riley*

## **REMEMBERING OUR DEPARTED LOVED ONES**

During the month of November, it is the custom at Epiphany to give members of our community the opportunity to remember and honor family members and friends who have died.

This year, we will be commemorating our departed loved ones with:

### **THE BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE**

The Book of Remembrance is in the back of the Church. You are invited to write the names of your departed loved ones in this book so that they may be prayed for by the Parish.

### **AN ALTAR OF REMEMBRANCE IN THE CHAPEL DURING THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER**

Beginning the evening of November 2nd, All Souls' Day, there will be an Altar of Remembrance in the Chapel through Sunday, November 25th.

The Chapel is open daily from 8 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

You are invited to bring a photo of your departed loved one for the altar. Make sure to put your name on the back so it can be returned.

## Confirmation and Reception in the Episcopal Church



While baptism is the initiation rite for becoming a Christian, **confirmation** is the rite of affiliation with the Episcopal Church. In the course of their Christian spiritual journey, those baptized at an early age are expected, when they are ready and have been duly prepared, to make a mature public affirmation of their faith and commitment to the responsibilities of their Baptism and to receive the laying on of hands by the bishop. All baptized adults are encouraged to participate in this rite.

For those who have been confirmed in other churches, such as the Roman Catholic Church, Eastern Orthodox Church, or the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), they may choose to be **received** into the Episcopal Church by the bishop.

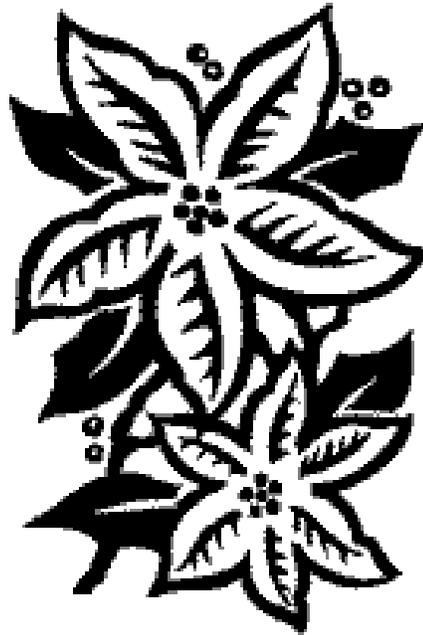
Bishop Greg Rickel will be coming to Epiphany for a Visitation on June 16, 2013. On that day, we will have baptisms, confirmations, and receptions.

The Rev. Doyt Conn will be teaching a 4-part course on the Catechism this winter. This will be a small class designed for adults wishing to be baptized or confirmed. If you are interested in baptism or confirmation please contact Doyt at: [dconn@epiphanyseattle.org](mailto:dconn@epiphanyseattle.org).

Also beginning in the New Year is a Confirmation course for teenagers. For more information, plan to attend an informational meeting on December 2, 4:00PM at St. Mark's Cathedral. Please contact Ben Linder, Director for Children, Youth, and Families ([blinder@epiphanyseattle.org](mailto:blinder@epiphanyseattle.org)) for the details.

# CHRISTMASTIDE FLOWER FUND

During our Christmastide services, we decorate our church with evergreens and poinsettias. You can remember a special person or event this Christmas by donating to the Epiphany Parish Flower Fund. Perhaps you would like to acknowledge the birth of a baby, a marriage or a loved one now departed, to be acknowledged in our Christmas service bulletins.



Contributions to the Flower Fund are also gratefully accepted and acknowledged throughout the year. Donations of any amount are welcome.

*Thank you for your consideration of the Epiphany Parish Flower Fund.*

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PLEASE COMPLETE THIS FORM AND RETURN TO THE CHURCH OFFICE BY **WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 19.**

Name of Donor \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

My check is enclosed for purchase of a poinsettia.  
(Make payable to *Epiphany Parish* with *Xmas Flowers* on the memo line in the lower left hand corner of your check.)

I wish to be acknowledged in the Christmas bulletins,  
 in memory of            *or*             in thanksgiving for:

\_\_\_\_\_

For another special Sunday during the church year: \_\_\_\_\_

Bulletin message: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Diocesan Convention Wrap-up**

*By Rich Coyle*

This past weekend, a large delegation from Epiphany attended the 102nd convention of the Diocese of Olympia held at the Hilton Hotel and Conference Center near Sea-Tac Airport. The Convention ran from early afternoon Friday to just after 4 P.M. on Saturday and featured a business meeting, workshops and break-out groups, and a Eucharist service and other shorter liturgies. The highlight, for me anyway, was hearing the presentations and reports of different groups on what they have been accomplishing and plan to accomplish. The theme of the convention was “Living Our Baptism” and the program was filled with encouragement to do just that, and illustrative ways to make it happen.

The Epiphany delegation included all of our priests, Doyt, Kate and Peter, as well as Delegates Aubin Barthold, Liz Larson, Vicki Reed, Barb Rhyter, Dorothy Strong, Tom Taylor, Marshall Corson and me. Tieran Sweeney, who was part of the “diocesan youth presence” sat with us as did Robin Mondares. Steve Faust, although not part of our delegation, was there to accept a well-deserved “Standing O” as his retirement as diocesan treasurer was announced. Ben Linder was also there, and Diane Carlisle participated in the all-diocesan Holy Eucharist service.

For early arrivals on Friday, there were a number of workshops on a wide-range of topics. The one I chose—Convention Orientation—was light on the inspiration but provided a useful preview of what to expect at this my first convention. The plenary session began with a song and prayer, some perfunctory votes, and then the introduction of our theme. Following this was a report on the “Bricks for Haiti” project to raise money to rebuild the cathedral, and Episcopal Church structure generally, in Haiti following the devastating earthquake there. The drive is up to 90% of the diocesan \$100,000 goal and we added a bit more at the Eucharist offering on Friday. I didn’t realize this but Haiti is actually part of the Episcopal Church in the United States and is the largest diocese in the church with over 85,000 members.

The remainder of the Friday session was the Eucharist service, presided over by Bishop Rickel. The service was tailored around the

“Living our Baptism” theme, I thought very successfully, and Bishop Rickel gave an inspiring sermon on this point. Just before the convention, a change was made to the plan to devote the entire offertory collection to Bricks for Haiti; instead, it was split between that and victims of Sandy.

Saturday was a busy day of reports and voting. We had machine-scannable ballots for the various positions to be filled although there were only a handful of contested elections and most were not close. The more contentious voting was around two of the resolutions, which were ultimately decided by holding up green or red cards. One resolution “call[ed] upon all of [the Diocese’s] constituent committees, commissions, institutions, and congregations, to include as part of every meeting in calendar year 2013, no matter what the purpose, the following agenda item: ‘How will what we are doing here affect or involve people living in poverty?’” The Epiphany “caucus” had discussed this beforehand and generally felt that the sentiment was noble but as written the resolution was unenforceable and liable to have unintended consequences. At the convention, it became apparent from the discussion that some others felt that way as well but, in the end, the resolution passed pretty easily.

The other resolution that inspired some debate had to do with turning some 20-year old loans that weren’t going to be repaid into grants. That doesn’t sound that controversial but there was a disconnect between what the resolution said and what the proponents explained was the purpose. Again, there was some discussion (which left everyone confused) and it too passed easily.

While I tease a bit about some of the parliamentary goings-on, in fact I found the proceeding on the whole inspiring. One of our speakers, reporting on the 2012 General Convention, made the joke about that meeting that “if you’re looking for inspiration, you’re in the wrong place,” but in fact I did not feel that way at all about this convention. Maybe it’s my background. Most of the get-togethers like this I go to seem to have the singular theme of “improving profitability.” A day and a half where that was NOT the topic, and among people who view their mission as giving rather than getting, was time well spent.

*+TEC - THIS SUNDAY, NOV 25*

**ADVENT WORKSHOP**

*Preparing for Christmas*

**Facilitator:** Nicola Davies  
**Date:** Sunday, November 25  
**Time:** 9:15 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.  
**Location:** Great Hall



Stop by to make an Advent wreath, an Advent calendar, or a decorative plate. These are fun projects for everyone and make a great family activity. Suggested donation: \$10 per craft or \$25 for all three.

*+TEC - NEXT SUNDAY, DEC 2*

**DOROTHY DAY**

**Presenter:** Mike Evans  
**Location:** Great Hall

## *+TEC - THIS SUNDAY, NOV 25*

### **1st PETER—Part 1 of 3**

*Early Christians: Living Stones or Menace to Society*

**Presenter:** Charissa Jones

**Dates:** Sundays, November 25, December 2 and 9

**Time:** 9:15 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.

**Location:** Christie House Library

The letter of 1<sup>st</sup> Peter was written to Christians in Roman-ruled Asia Minor. These Gentile converts were at the center of a significant culture war, viewed as a threat to the social order. In three sessions, we'll study and discuss this letter and the uncomfortable comforts it offered to a suffering people.

Week One: Christian identity as "living stones."

Week Two: The ethics of suffering and blessing.

Week Three: Freedom from the tyranny of what we want.

## *+TEC - NEXT SUNDAY, DEC 2*

### **1st PETER—Part 2 of 3**

**Presenter:** Charissa Jones

**Location:** Christie House Library

## ***EPIPHANY NEIGHBORHOOD***

**SHOP at Glassybaby and help SUPPORT the  
YWCA Central Area Food Bank!**

Shop at Glassybaby in Madrona  
between Friday 11/23 though Wednesday 11/28  
in store or online (with the code- foodbank) and have  
10% go to the YWCA Central Area Food Bank!

There will also be barrels throughout Madrona to  
collect non -perishable items for the food bank as  
well. So whether you get some early Christmas shop-  
ping done, or just drop off a can of food in a barrel,  
know it's making a double impact and is appreciated  
by all!

Any questions- please email  
[nhilton@ywcaworks.org](mailto:nhilton@ywcaworks.org) THANKS!!!



### **SUNDAY LECTIONARY CORNER**

*November 25*

2 Samuel 23:1-7 or Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14  
Psalm 132:1-13, (14-19) or Psalm 93  
Revelation 1:4b-8  
John 18:33-37

[http://www.lectionarypage.net/YearB\\_RCL/Pentecost/  
BProp29\\_RCL.html](http://www.lectionarypage.net/YearB_RCL/Pentecost/BProp29_RCL.html)

# ***PARISH PRAYER LIST***

**WE PRAY FOR THOSE WHOSE BIRTHDAYS FALL BETWEEN November 18-November 24:** Inessa Zerngast, Caroline Normann, Patience Probst, Tim Carver, Gabriel Martin, Mark Masterson, Ned Sander, Amy King, Tina Eide, Mark Hutcheson Jr, and Susan Bisyak.

**WE PRAY FOR THOSE ON OUR CYCLE OF PRAYER:** Britt Neff; Tina & Karl, Riley, Allison, and Katherine Neiders; Hylton Neill; Jackie & Eleanor Nelson; and John & Laurel Nesholm. We pray for St. Paul (Bellingham); St. David (Friday Harbor); and Emmanuel (Eastsound).

**YOUR PRAYERS ARE ASKED FOR CONTINUED HEALING AND STRENGTH FOR THOSE IN OUR PARISH WHO ARE ILL OR GRIEVING:** Paul, Bette Sprague, Beth Briggs, Coralie Swanson, Connie Gaines, Barbara Ward, Barbara Himmelman, Kay Schack, Veronica, Ashle, Bob Bergman, Piper Simmons, Lou, Helen Wisdom, Sid Malbon, Gregg Waddell, P.J., Tom Pelphrey, Jamie, Kathy, Yamy Xolocotzi, Dougald MacMillan, Anne, Bruce, Adrian, Cyril Urwyler, Tim Murray, Alice, Laura, Anthony, Cassie, Cindy, LaVerne Green, Erik Grafe, Hannah Moderow, Ryan Michael Eaton, John Baker, Lou Lorton, Tritia Ryhter, Lisa Close, David & Diane Libbey, Jack Roberts, Mary Cecile, Eitan Benjamin Sayir, Carl Putnam, Nikki, Ellen Gimbel, Edwina, Eileen Riley, Peg Sherwood, Bonnie, Bill Bultmann, the Alviar family, Bill Williamson, Baby La John Gonzalez, Colleen Terry, Liza, Roy Enriquez, Charlotte Hutton, Andrea & family, Mark Jensen & family, James Bryant, Helen Arnold, Peter, Jean, Shannon Ries, Jerre, Greg Eckman, Jessica, Will Gluck, the Torrance Family, Ruth, Rebecca, Marjorie, Bruce, Johnny Gene and Beverly Saulsbury, Joey Johnson, Mark, the Jolley family, the Ousley family, the Barnes family, Jeanne Edwards, Richard Sandstrom, the Robinson family, Jolene, David, the Hawkes family, Jean, Ginger, the Drummond family, all those still affected by Hurricane Sandy, George Fisher, Joseph Cospito, and Edna Heatherington.

**WE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED:** Marian Dawson Foster.

*Dear Epiphany,*

*Occasionally we review and cull the prayer list. If we have removed someone in error or you would like to have someone removed or added please contact Emily in the Parish Office. The same invitation applies for birthdays.*

*206-324-2573 or [epiphanyparish@epiphanyseattle.org](mailto:epiphanyparish@epiphanyseattle.org)*