

THE WEEKLY WORD

EPIPHANY PARISH OF SEATTLE . MAY 20, 2013

Newton, Franklin, and Einstein all believed in God --take that E.O. Wilson and Richard Dawkins

*A Reflection from the CS Lewis Minyan facilitator,
Jonathan Roberts*

Hello Fellow Lewis Minyanites!

I want to expand a bit on the discussion we were having about Chapter 4 [of *Mere Christianity*], which is entitled “What Lies Behind the Law.” Lewis asserts that there is “a Something which is directing the universe, and which appears in me as a law urging me to do right and making me feel responsible and uncomfortable when I do wrong.” We drifted a little into Social Biology, a discipline defined and popularized by E.O. Wilson from Harvard in the ‘70s and expanded on by Richard Dawkins with his book “The Selfish Gene” and more recently “The God Delusion.” Wilson and Dawkins, and their less credentialed acolytes, explain how all human behavior, including the universal sense that there is a supreme being, in purely evolutionary terms. This body of thought has been picked up by atheistic pit bulls like the late Christopher Hitchens, and the result is that there is a general perception that the truly intellectual position is that of an atheist. Hollywood frequently perpetuates this view. I was stunned but not surprised when belief in God was mocked by the Host during the Academy Awards. Belief in God as a punch line. How funny.... Anyway, this view causes real harm because it prevents people from actually thinking because they know that smart people hold this view they are therefore relieved of the need to have to think for themselves. Heck, they may actually even read one of these books and feel doubly justified in ignoring their own feelings, observations, and the entire historical record of humanity. So, this begs the question, is the atheist position really the one most widely held by “true intellectuals and scientists?”

As is my habit, I reached for my bookshelf to help answer this. It turns out, Isaac Newton, Benjamin Franklin, and Albert Einstein would all agree with Lewis’ observation that there is some sort of Mind, Guide, or Director present in the Universe. So, if you are play-

continued...

ing a game of intellectual poker with an atheist just know that you have Newton and Einstein in your hand and your opponent has Wilson and Dawkins along with a bunch of occasionally witty and often morally bankrupt cranks in their hand.

Below are some quotations I hope you find interesting. I've always had great fun pulling quotes like these out when debating these intellectual types. People seldom challenge them on intellectual terms and so more often than not they get quite flustered, change the topic, and resolve themselves never to talk to me or my ilk again. Chesterton's quote "Religious liberty might be supposed to mean that everybody is free to discuss religion. In practice it means that hardly anybody is allowed to mention it" comes to mind.

Newton

Newton wrote a great deal about his religious convictions, and how they worked alongside his natural philosophical aims and ideas.

"This Being governs all things, not as the soul of the world, but as Lord over all: And on account of his dominion he is wont to be called *Lord God παντοκράτωρ* or *Universal Ruler*."

Extract from 'General Scholium' from the *Mathematical Principles of Natural Philosophy* (1729)

AUTHOR: Isaac Newton

Full text is at <http://www.enlighteningscience.sussex.ac.uk/view/extract/normalized/NATP00056/start=par3&end=par4>

Franklin

"And now I speak of thanking God, I desire with all Humility to acknowledge, that I owe the mention'd Happiness of my past Life to his kind Providence, which led me to the Means I us'd and gave them Success." *Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin*

Einstein

Walter Isaacson's biography is really, really good. Below are some great Einstein quotations.

"Subtle is the Lord, but malicious he is not."

"Quantum mechanics is certainly imposing, but an inner voice tells me that it is not yet the real thing. This theory says a lot, but it does not really bring us any closer to the secrets of the Old One. I, at any

rate, am convinced that He does not play dice.”

In 1930 he composed a credo entitled, “What I Believe.” It contains this statement.

“The most beautiful emotion we can experience is the mysterious. It is the fundamental emotion that stands at the cradle of all true art and science. He to whom this emotion is a stranger, who can no longer wonder and stand rapt in awe, is as good as dead, a snuffed-out candle. To sense that behind anything that can be experienced there is something that our minds cannot grasp, whose beauty and sublimity reaches us only indirectly: this is religiousness. In this sense, and in this sense only, I am a devoutly religious man.”

In response to a question asked by a child about his view of God, he said the following.

“Every one who is seriously involved in the pursuit of science becomes convinced that a spirit is manifest in the laws of the Universe—a spirit vastly superior to that of man, and one in the face of which we with our modest powers must feel humble. In this way the pursuit of science leads to a religious feeling of a special sort, which is indeed quite different from the religiosity of someone more naïve.”

Einstein’s belief in this spirit was informed and inspired by science. “The cosmic religious feeling,” he said, “is the strongest and noblest motive for scientific research.”

I’ve already gone on way to long and I want to thank those of you who have read all of this. I guess I am just tired and annoyed by atheists who take the intellectual high ground. Do they really think they’re smarter than Einstein? I grant you, Einstein obviously did not agree with the rest of Lewis’ argument and his ultimate conclusion about a personal Christ. But, Lewis is building a logical proof and in order to believe the outcome of the proof you have to believe in the validity of each part of it. In my view, the smartest folks who have ever lived would agree with his assertion that there is a Supreme Being at play in the Universe.

Best Regards,

Jonathan

The CS Lewis Minyan will resume this Fall and is open to all who are interested. Contact Jonathan Roberts at jonro@ignitionpartners.com



Join Us!

**Epiphany Parish Embarks on a Journey Together
9:15 am on June 2nd in the Great Hall**

*“Wherever you are in your spiritual journey,
you have a place at Epiphany.”*

Epiphany Parish has been living into this calling for over a hundred years and, God willing, will continue to do so for generations to come. As stewards of Epiphany, what can we do to help Epiphany be the best possible foundation for our journey both today and tomorrow?

Gather with members of the clergy, vestry, ministry leaders and the parish on Sunday, June 2nd at 9:15 am to learn more about The Next 100 Years Building Campaign.

Epiphany: A Place. A Home. A Sanctuary.
Inspiring our spiritual journey.
For the next 100 years.

Spring Newcomer Event

Date: Sunday, June 2

Time: 6:00-7:30 pm

Location: Conn Residence, 2025 East Newton St, 98112

All newcomers to Epiphany are invited to attend a wine and cheese reception. Please RSVP to the Parish Office epiphanyparish@epiphanyseattle.org *or* 206.324.2573 by Thursday, May 30 if you plan to attend.

The Retelling of the Pilgrimage

The Pilgrims Report

Date: Sunday, June 9

Time: 9:15-10:15 am

Location: Great Hall



(photo by John Draper)

I want to invite all of you to join us for the "Retelling" of our pilgrimage adventure. On Sunday, June 9th from 9:15-10:15AM in the Great Hall we will gather to share our experiences and answer questions about our trip. I hope you can join us. *Doyt+*

Piano Dedication—June 9

Epiphany Parish is the recipient of a gift of a fine piano, acknowledged recently in the Weekly Word. The donors of the piano are Marj and Jim Baker, and the instrument will be dedicated at the 10:30 am service on June 9. The instrument is a 6'8" grand piano made by Kawai; it was Jim's personal piano for many years, and it finds its home happily in the choir rehearsal room.

Following the service on June 9, all are invited to a reception in the choir room honoring the Bakers. Glenda Williams will play and light refreshments will be available. Come and help us thank the Bakers for this generous gift.

-Tom Foster

Susanna Valleau Organ Recital—June 2



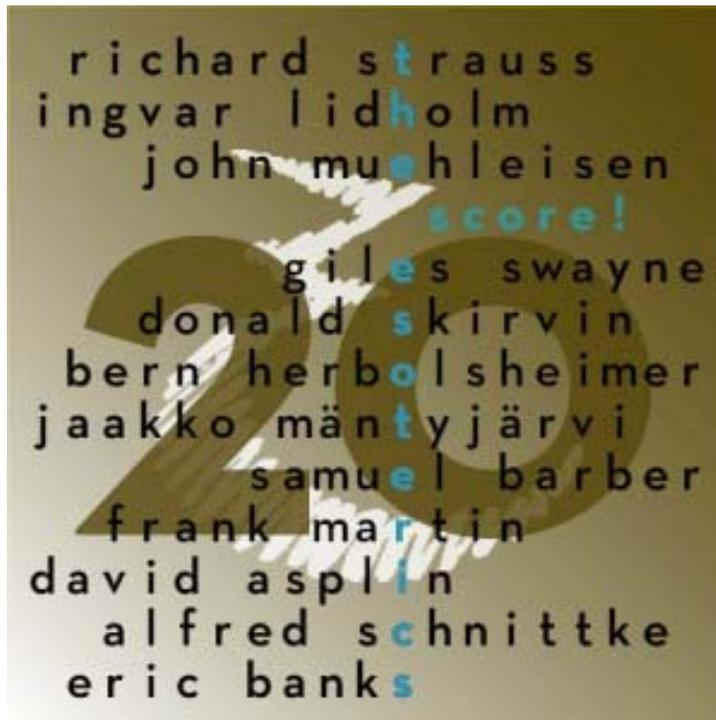
Susanna Valleau, graduate student of Carole Terry at UW, is playing a recital in her home parish of Christ Church, Andover, MA on June 15. The recital is in celebration of a new organ at Christ Church, built by the internationally noted firm of C. B. Fisk, Inc, of Gloucester, MA, builder of the organ at Benaroya Hall in Seattle, and chosen builder of a new organ for Plymouth Congregational Church, Seattle.

I was organist at Christ Church during my graduate school days at New England Conservatory in Boston and Carol and I still have many friends there. Susanna practices regularly at Epiphany, and I have invited her to present this recital program **at Epiphany** on June 2 at **5 pm**. All are invited, and there is no charge.

As a tall, musically inclined middle school student, Susanna Valleau first had the idea to take organ lessons when told that her legs were long enough to reach the pedals. However, it wasn't until age seventeen, upon hearing Widor's famous Toccata for the first time, that the organ captured her imagination. She began taking organ lessons with Barbara Bruns, and went on to earn her Bachelor of Music in organ performance at Lawrence University with Katherine Handford in 2010, and her Masters of Music at the University of Washington with Carole Terry in 2012.

In 2011, Susanna won both the Chapter and Regional levels of the American Guild of Organists (AGO) Regional Competition for Young Organists (Region VIII). The following year, she performed as a "Rising Star" at the AGO National Convention in Nashville, Tennessee, a performance that The American Organist said was "marked by strong, self-assured playing."

Susanna has served as music director of St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Renton, WA since 2010. She also maintains an active piano studio, and collaborates regularly as an accompanist and in chamber music settings on piano, harpsichord, and organ.



The Esoterics present: SCORE!
Celebrating 20 years with The Esoterics.

I have had the privilege of being a chorus member and soloist with The Esoterics since 2003 under the direction of Eric Banks. We are currently preparing our 20th Anniversary concert series - SCORE! On June 15th & 16th we will present two different concerts - secular & sacred - featuring our most favored and admired works from the last 20 years *as chosen by the entire membership of The Esoterics*. Composers' featured in SCORE! include Strauss, Schnittke, Barber, Lidholm, Muehleisen, Swayne, Skirvin, Herbolsheimer, Mantyarvi, Martin, Asplin and Banks.

Join me for one, or both, performances for a truly awe inspiring, beautiful experience! See www.theesoterics.org for full concert information and tickets. I hope you can join us!

Blessings,

Kathea Yarnell



*Epiphany Announces
Our 2013 Summer Concert Series
Line-up*

FRIDAY
NIGHTS
IN
JULY



2013 COURTYARD CONCERT SERIES, 6-8PM
EPIPHANY†PARISH
—of Seattle—

7/5: BRASS BAND NW 7/19: WORLD JAZZ TRIO
7/12: JOVINO SANTOS NETO 7/26: CARELESS LOVERS

1805 38TH AVE SEATTLE, WA 98122
BRING A PICNIC, BLANKET, LAWN CHAIR, YOUR KIDS & FRIENDS!

2013 Epiphany Family Camping Trip

Dates: Saturday, July 13—Sunday, July 14

Locations: South Whidbey Island

Rain and cloudy weather got ya down? Well don't fret, because summer is on its way! And with summer comes the Epiphany Family Camping Trip to South Whidbey Island. The trip is reserved and scheduled for Saturday, July 13 and Sunday July 14. There are only 12 spots left for the trip so sign your family up today by contacting Ben via email at blinder@epiphanyseattle.org.

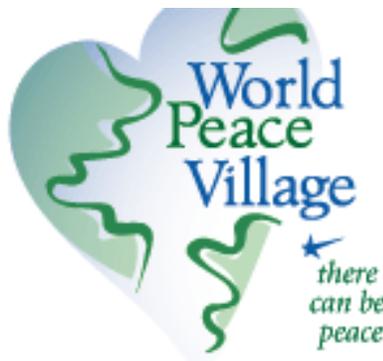


2013 Epiphany Summer Sunday School

Dates: Sunday, May 26—Sunday, September 2

Time: 10 am

Beginning Sunday, May 26, we will move to our Summer Sunday Schedule. Activities for children will begin at 10:00 a.m. each Sunday (Nursery and Meeting Place) and Summer Sunday School starts at 10:30 a.m. May 26-June 16 will be outdoor or gym games and activities, with our Summer Sunday School curriculum "The World Peace Village" beginning on Sunday, June 23. For more information, please contact Ben Linder at blinder@epiphanyseattle.org.



For more about "The World Peace Village" see:
<http://www.worldpeacevillage.org/>

Dallas Willard

September 4, 1935 – May 8, 2013

Influential Christian philosopher taught at USC for 47 years

Dallas Willard, 77, an influential Christian philosopher who taught at USC for 47 years and chaired the philosophy department in the early 1980s, died Wednesday in Woodland Hills, the university said. He had cancer.



In "The Great Omission," "Renovation of the Heart," "The Divine Conspiracy" and other books, Willard wrote about spiritual formation and Christian discipleship for the general reader, often giving practical advice for living a Christian life in a secular world. His academic works included translations of 20th century philosopher Edmund Husserl from German into English and "Logic and the Objectivity of Knowledge" (1984). Dallas Albert Willard was born Sept. 4, 1935, in Buffalo, Mo. He received a bachelor's degree in psychology from Tennessee Temple College and another in philosophy and religion from Baylor University before earning his doctorate in philosophy from the University of Wisconsin in 1964. He began his teaching career at Wisconsin before arriving at USC in 1965. He was chairman of USC's philosophy department from 1982 to 1985 and retired in 2012.

In 1955, Willard married Jane Lakes and she became a marriage and family therapist; they had two children. For a time Willard and his wife lived with undergraduates in student housing as part of USC's Faculty in Residence program designed to foster intellectual stimulation and socialization. In 1976 he received the outstanding faculty member award for contributions to student life.

(From the LA Times, May 13, 2013)

Note from Holly Boone: Maybe Charley was part of his welcoming committee.

PARISH PRAYER LIST

WE PRAY FOR THOSE WHOSE BIRTHDAYS FALL BETWEEN

May 19—May 25: Bob Barnes, Caroline Probst, Roxanne Wiley, Barbara Evans, Peter Cleworth, Glen Youell, Karen Forbes, Hunter Wessells, and Mary Jane Anderson.

WE PRAY FOR THOSE ON OUR CYCLE OF PRAYER: Danielle & Edward, Ashley, Benjamin, and Hunter Ackerley; Ginger Ackerley; Robin Adair; Susan Adams; and Laurie & Paul Ahern. We pray for St. Andrew (Tacoma), and St. Joseph-St. John (Lakewood).

YOUR PRAYERS ARE ASKED FOR CONTINUED HEALING AND STRENGTH FOR THOSE IN OUR PARISH WHO ARE ILL OR

GRIEVING: Paul, Bette Sprague, Coralie Swanson, Connie Gaines, Barbara Ward, Barbara Himmelman, Ginger, Kay Schack, Veronica, Ashle, Bob Bergman, Piper Simmons, Sid Malbon, Gregg Waddell, P.J., Tom Pelphrey, Jamie, Kathy, Yamy Xolocotzi, Dougald MacMillan, Anne, Adrian, Cyril Urwyler, Tim Murray, Alice, Laura, Anthony, Cassie, Cindy, LaVerne Green, Erik Grafe, Hannah Moderow, John Baker, David & Diane Libbey, Jack Roberts, Mary Cecile, Carl Putnam, Nikki, Ellen Gimbel, Edwina, Eileen Riley, Peg Sherwood, Bonnie, 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, Jessica, Will Gluck, Ruth, Marjorie, Johnny Gene and Beverly Saulsbury, Joey Johnson, Mark, Jeanne Edwards, the Robinson family, Jolene, David, the Hawkes family, Jean, George Fisher, Edna Heatherington, Marie Claiborne, Ruth Dalton, Linda, Rain, Alan Fowler, Scott Gehring, Donta Rogers, JoAnne, George Harrington, Nina, Carolyn du Pen, Bill, Marilyn, Bob Shupe, Ashley Hays & family, Elizabeth Lemke, Gloria Allen, John, Diana Bender, Robert, Hendrik Simons, Richard & Dolores Maxson, Henry and family, Vicki Todd, Billy, Matt, Kristofor Zehm and family, Jane, Steve, Svenja Fleischer, Barbara Lynn, Paul Alpers, Carol Christ & family, and Barbara & family.

WE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED: Dallas Willard and Paul Schwartz.

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