

# THE WEEKLY WORD

EPIPHANY PARISH OF SEATTLE . SEPTEMBER 30, 2013

## Character Formation and Climbing Livingston Peak

Dear Epiphany,

On my Dad's 75<sup>th</sup> birthday we climbed Livingston Peak in Montana. For years, usually on our way into town after he'd picked me up from the Bozeman airport, he'd say, "One of these days we ought to climb Livingston Peak." This was the year. My older sister organized the expedition. I knew little about what to expect prior to the climb. I just packed what I was told to pack and wore the clothes I was told to wear. We left at 6:00 A.M.. The road to the trailhead was a ten-mile stretch of gravel that curved up through the undulating foothills. The wide-open fields were spotted with antelope, deer and cattle.

Livingston Peak stands 9000 feet above the town of Livingston. It was a 3000-foot ascent winding four and a half miles up through the Absaroka Beartooth Wilderness. The trail wandered through forests and meadows, and then followed a creek to an extraordinary pass. The pass was blanketed in beauty by wildflowers. From the pass there was a steep, unmarked trail to the summit, littered by a field of boulders we had to traverse like crabs. Finally, at the top, there was a 360-degree panoramic view of the Yellowstone wilderness, the Crazy Mountains, the Bridger Range, the Gallatin Range, the Absaroka Range and the Madison Range. It was truly a mountain top moment, which, as I came to understand wasn't the point of the climb. The point was character formation.

For some, this climb would be a warm up, for others an impossibility. For us it was an exercise in being present to one another and an opportunity to employ the gifts of patience and obedience. This wasn't the expedition's intent, of course. The expedition's billing wasn't character formation. It was understood as an adventure and a challenge, but as the day unfolded, it became an experience of patience, perseverance and love. That is how God works, taking our plans and organizing them for God's purpose.

In Paul's letter to the Ephesians 4:22-24, he says this: "Take on an entirely new way of life – a God-fashioned life, a life renewed from

*continued...*

the inside and working itself into your conduct as God accurately reproduces his character in you” (The Message). God’s ultimate goal for humanity is not comfort; it is character development. We were born into this marvelous world to fit into God’s purposes, and we best achieve this by paying attention to the lessons we learn from God along the way. It is in the difficult moments, after all, that we know the power and purpose of God working in us (Phil 2:13). The goal is God, and the point of life is to grow most fully into ourselves, that is, into our maturity as God’s children, so we can be best used by God in this world and in the world beyond.

Personal goals, bucket lists, self-mastery, must do’s... whatever phrase you use, God uses our ambition for the development of our character. Our challenge is to be witnesses for how God is working in us and with us toward our maturity. Character development is never known through the trophy received when a goal is achieved, but rather from the lessons that bubble up along the way.

On the way to the top of Livingston Peak, achievement gave way to obedience and pace gave way to patience. From the pass up the 1000 feet to the summit, our little group stopped every 30 steps to catch our breath. The climb lost its purpose of ascending, and become a celebration of our dad. It took four and a half hours to make our way to the top and another four hours to get back down. My feet hurt terribly, and for days my quads were stiff and sore. Dad, on the other hand, was up playing tennis the next morning.

Goals are good. Ambition is a blessing. Bucket lists give us an opportunity to dream, to imagine and to hope. But as we set, seek and strive in the world, keep in mind that God’s purpose and point for us are greater than what we set for ourselves. So along the way, be acutely aware of the secondary events and the unanticipated moments. Make note of them. Store them away. They will come back to serve you.

As for me, my reward was a fleeting moment that moved through my soul as I sat on top of Livingston Peak. The sun was strong and the wind was hot. I was out of sight from the group and sat to give thanks to God. Thoughts of Jesus and Moses and Elijah came to mind. They had been to the top of mountains after all. As I thought of their experiences, I felt a pillar of cool air move by me. It moved like a man, so much so that I opened my eyes to see. That’s all, and it was a greater gift than I could have ever asked for or imagined.

# **Not Just A Paperweight**

## *Letting the Bible Speak to You*



***Charissa Bradstreet, MDiv. facilitating***

## **Women of Epiphany | Annual Half Day Retreat**

**Saturday November 2, 2013**

8:30-9:00 am Registration and Childcare Check-in

**9 a.m. to Noon** in the Christie House Library

12:15 pm Tea with Potluck Salad Toppings -

*Greens provided.*



*Charissa Bradstreet is a member of Epiphany Parish who enjoys preaching, teaching, and serving as a mentor for Education for Ministry.*

*She received her M.Div. from the Seattle School of Theology and Psychology.*

Childcare provided with advance registration notice.

\$10 donation requested.

**Please RSVP, including childcare requirements,  
to the church office by Oct 29.**

Questions? Please contact Julia Putnam at [juliasp1@comcast.net](mailto:juliasp1@comcast.net)

## *Pastoral Care Potluck*

Come join in fellowship with Pastoral Care Ministries at Evening Prayer on **Wednesday, October 16**, and join us at our informational Potluck afterward in the Fireside Room. You can learn the who's and what's of Epiphany's Pastoral Care ministries -- Flowers, Card-writing, Meals, Prayer Shawls, a new Parish Nurse ministry, and Lay Eucharistic Visiting. It's a good time to ask questions, see how it works, and perhaps find something you want to do. There are even some training opportunities available. If you are planning to attend the potluck, please RSVP to Vicki Reed at [vreed616@gmail.com](mailto:vreed616@gmail.com).

*We'd love to see you.—Pastoral Care Team*



### **YOUTH SINGING AT EPIPHANY**

*Have your child sing with us at Epiphany!*

We are off to a GREAT start! Choristers are preparing to sing for this Sunday - Blessing of the Animals, St. Francis Sunday!

If your family is interested in joining the Choristers, we would LOVE to have you beginning 10/13. If you have a young or novice youth for our Trainers program, join us now!

**CHORISTERS (3<sup>rd</sup> & up) rehearse**  
**Sundays from 9:00am to 10:05am.**

**Training Choir (K-4) rehearse**  
**Wednesdays from 3:30 to 4:30pm.**

Here is a link to the Young Children's Division of Rice University's Shepherd School of Music regarding the importance of children singing: <http://music.rice.edu/ycd/res001.shtml>

Contact Kathea Yarnell to sign up!  
Or just join us for the appropriate rehearsal – see you there!

*-Kathea*  
425.272.5972

## *+TEC— This Sunday*

### **Epiphany, the Next 100 Years: Chapel Renovation: Design and Construction of the New Pipe Organ**

**Presenter:** Martin Pasi, Master Organ Builder  
**Date:** Sunday, October 6  
**Time:** 9:15 am - 10:15 am  
**Location:** Great Hall

Martin Pasi received his first formal experience in organ building during a four year apprenticeship with the Rieger Company in his native Austria. He immigrated to the United States in 1981 and worked with several organ builders until he opened his own shop. Pasi Organ Builders in Roy, Washington specializes in restoration of historic instruments and in building fine mechanical action organs. Since opening his shop in 1990, 23 instruments have been completed, ranging in size from a 3 stop continuo to a large 4 manual organ. Currently Martin is building an organ for a church in Houston, TX. He calls it his Opus 24. Epiphany's new Chapel organ will be his Opus 25. Come meet Martin and hear what he has in mind for this newest organ at Epiphany.



***Blessing  
of Your  
Animals  
Sunday, October 6  
10:30 am Service***

## *DID YOU KNOW?*



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

**Have You Seen It?** As in all things at Epiphany, the ongoing Epiphany Next 100 Years campaign is shaped by the creative gifts of our community. We are indeed blessed to have a handcrafted and beautiful means of demonstrating the progress of our campaign, thanks to the hard work of talented parishioners Will Hyde and Tim Schmuckal. Please be sure to visit the display in the Great Hall to learn more.

*Please contact parishioner and campaign coordinator, Linda Maxson, at [campaign@epiphanyseattle.org](mailto:campaign@epiphanyseattle.org) or 206.300.1636.*

***Did You Know?** is a Weekly Word series  
from The Next 100 Years Building Campaign.*

### *Sunday Lectionary Corner*

**October 6, 2013**

Genesis 2:4b-25, Psalm 37:1-10, 2 Timothy 1:1-14, Luke 17:5-10

***Epiphany has an approved revised Lectionary for  
A Year with The Saint John's Bible***

# **PARISH PRAYER LIST**

**WE PRAY FOR THOSE WHOSE BIRTHDAYS FALL BETWEEN September 29-October 5:** Jessica Minnitti, Jack Morbeck, Julia Putnam, Lisa Robertson, Gary Larson, Joan Marsh, Linda Maxson, Charles Cobb, Ava Johnson, Evelyn Sander, Ros Bond, Elyse Roberts, Mark Williamson, Kathleen Maurel, and Ginny Kitchell.

**WE PRAY FOR THOSE ON OUR CYCLE OF PRAYER:**

Lisa Bliss Darling; Scott & Nicola and Kaiden Davies;  
Kevin & Terresa, Zane, Wile, and Grace Davis; LuJean Day;  
and Steve & Kim and Casey Day.

We pray for the churches of St. Peter (Seaview), St. David of Wales/  
San David (Shelton), and St. Christopher (Westport).

**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, Naraine Baker, Ginger, Kay Schack, Piper Simmons, Yamy Xolocotzi, Adrian, Ellen Gimbel, Eileen Riley, Bonnie, Roy Enriquez, Will Gluck, Ruth, the Hawkes family, Bob Shupe, Richard & Dolores Maxson, the Zehm family: Shelly, Atticus, Coco, & Bijou, Silas, TJ Johnson & family, Bill, Ben Smith, Grace, Susan, Debbie, Megan, Carl Putnam, Holden Shaw, Jeane Edwards, George Fisher, Rosalie, Dan Miller, Scott Gehring, Barbara & Mike Evans, Suzi, Gracia Conn, Gladys, Malina, Matt, Nancy, Isla Jude and family, David Weatherford, Alice, and Mimi Pierce.

**WE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED:**

Peyton Tooke Norwood and Jackie Morn.

*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 the Parish Office. The same invitation applies for birthdays.*