

# THE WEEKLY WORD

EPIPHANY PARISH OF SEATTLE . JANUARY 6, 2014

## **Baptismal Font in the Church**

Dear Epiphany,

Okay, truth be told, sometimes I miss the obvious... which is what friends are for. I was in the church a few weeks back. It was Saturday and one of our faithful Sacristans, Steve Clemons, was there setting up for Sunday. He asked, "Where is the new font going to go?" What?! New font? Of course... how did I miss that?

Baptism is core to the Christian identity. It is the service that marks us as Christ's own forever, and holds us out to a community that promises to help raise, form and support us in the Christian lifestyle. Four times a year at Epiphany (in keeping with the liturgical calendar) we celebrate baptisms. It is our public declaration that we are serious about being followers of Jesus and are thrilled to invite others to join us in this way of life. So on the Sundays of The Baptism of Jesus (January), Pentecost (Spring) and All Saint's (November), as well as at the Easter Vigil (March or April), we have baptisms. Since I have been at Epiphany we have baptized 105 children and adults, and more are in the pipeline.

There are three primary symbols that make a liturgical church a liturgical church. You will find them in any Orthodox or Catholic or Lutheran or Episcopal church. They are a baptismal font, an altar and an ambo (known as a pulpit to many of us). The ambo elevates words read from scripture, prayers and sermons, with the goal of feeding minds and moving hearts. The altar feeds the soul and reminds us that we are members of the body of Christ. And the baptismal font marks our membership in the body of Christ, and symbolizes the waters of chaos we are able to move through as trusting and trusted followers of Jesus.

Traditionally the baptismal font is placed in the back of the church to remind us as we come in and go out that we are Christians. Given the architecture of the main church, to put a font by the back door may be a mess, given the number of people who can wedge into that space on any given Sunday morning. In addition, it would be an inconvenient place from which to perform and witness baptisms.

Our current church font is cemented to the wall in the nave on the right hand side as you face the altar. When I was visiting Epiphany prior to being called as Rector, there was a baptism. The congregation was sparse that day, save twenty or so people who came for the baptism itself. They all left their pews in the front and gathered around the font. I could see nothing and hear only a bit, and I felt excluded from the entire proceeding, which is exactly not the point.

When I arrived as Rector, we began using the font from the chapel for baptisms in the church, and we continue to do so. But in doing so, we make the chapel a little less the fullness of the space it was created to be. Each worship space deserves its own font.

And so, back to my oversight... "Where are you going to put the font?" Steve asked, and my mind began to dance. Up in the chancel? Maybe, as that is where we currently do baptisms. But we also house *The Saint John's Bible* there at present. How about near the back, removing a pew or two from the back rows? That works theologically, but practically, that is the sound sinkhole of the church, and everyone would have to turn around to try to witness a baptism--not practical. Maybe create a pass through going down the center aisle by reducing the size of a few pews on either side of the font? I've seen that in other churches. The choir can gracefully pass by. It is a good option. Another option is to set the font closer to the foot of the chancel. We could reduce the size of pews in the front two rows (which wouldn't be too much of a problem given Episcopalians' propensity to sit near the back), creating a space to flow by the font and up into the chancel (see drawing on next page). So far, I think I like this idea best of all. It gives us more room at the foot of the chancel. Children could more easily gather around it during baptisms. It makes more space for the piano and the communion station where I generally serve. Since conversations are continuing, we have not set the placement of the font in stone just yet. The only stone set is that this is the time to give our primary sanctuary its own baptismal font.

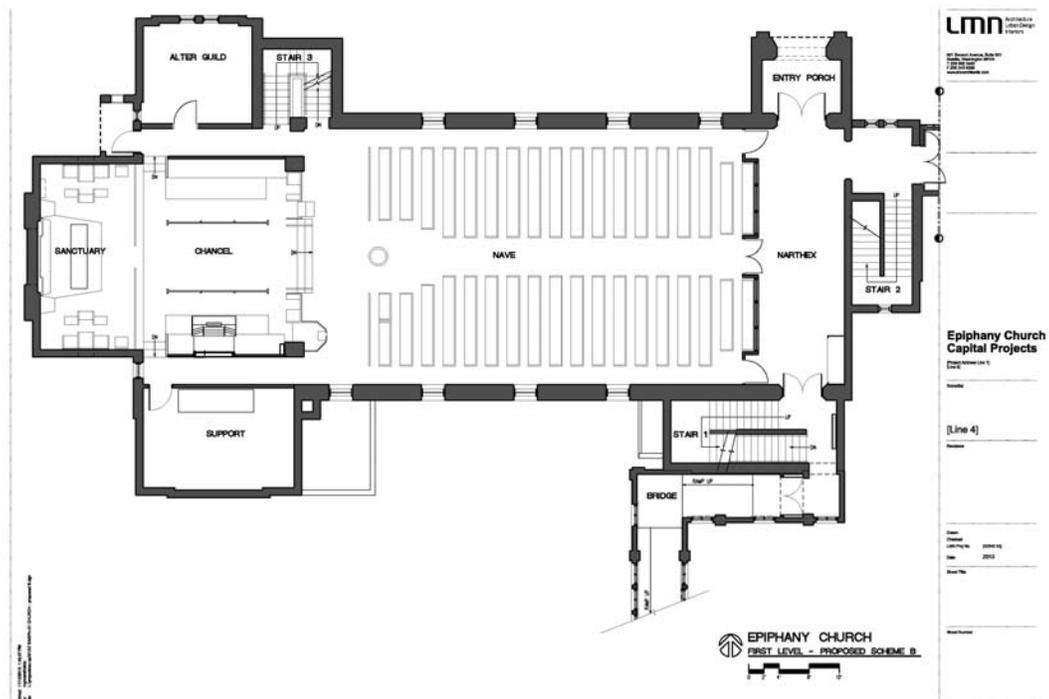
Another conversation is continuing around what the font itself will look like. Well, it won't be big enough for full adult immersion... (sorry, former Baptists). It may or may not be big enough to dunk a child in. Whatever it is, it will be designed beautifully to match the space. Some have suggested we remove the font cemented to the wall and reset it at the foot of the chancel steps. I love that idea, but we will need to see if it is practical or even possible.

And so, this 100 Year Building restoration and remodel will not be known for the time when leadership (that is the Rector) forgot the point, the place and key purpose of the font... thanks to a theologically attuned congregation and Sacristan.

*Doyt+*

P.S. Below are some local churches that have wonderful fonts. They might be worth visiting or checking out on line.

- St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Queen Anne, Seattle*
- Queen Anne Lutheran Church (ELCA) 2400 8<sup>th</sup> Ave W, Seattle*
- St. Mark's Cathedral, Seattle*
- St. James Cathedral, Seattle*
- St. Ignatius Chapel, Seattle University*
- St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 99 Wells Street, Renton*





***Saturday, January 11, 2014***  
***5 pm—Festival Eucharist in the Church***

*Come join us  
to be part of passing on our enthusiasm  
for another 100 years in the life of this parish.  
As a gift, or maybe a surprise, to future Epiphany Parish  
parishioners, we will be filling a  
50-year time capsule  
with our prayers for their life on this campus  
where this time capsule will be placed.*

*In addition, at this Festival Eucharist, we will be  
commissioning all ministries of this parish. If you  
participate in any ministry  
(see the ministry list on the next page)  
at Epiphany we look forward to you being  
a part of this commissioning.*

# ***Epiphany Ministries***

Acolytes  
All Threads Together  
Altar Guild  
Apartment Beautification  
Archivist  
Buildings and Grounds Committee  
Bulletin Stuffers  
Choir Members  
Choristers  
+Table Hosts and Participants  
Diocesan Delegates and Alternates  
EfM  
Eucharistic Ministers  
Finance Committee  
Flower Guild  
Friday Night Operation Nightwatch  
Hospitality for Coffee Hour and Parish Events  
Lay Officiants  
Lay Preachers  
Lay Weeders  
Lectors  
Library Committee  
Meditation Leaders and Participants  
Men's Retreats  
Minyan and Bible Study Participants  
Money Counters  
100 Year Building Committee  
100 Year Capital Campaign Committee  
Pastoral Care  
Proofreaders  
Sacristans  
Small Group Leaders and Participants  
Social Action  
Stewardship  
Sunday School Convener and Teachers  
Leaders and Teachers of +TEC  
TeenFeed  
*The Saint John's Bible* Committee  
Trainer Choir  
Ushers  
Weekly Word Tabbers, Deliverer, and all Office Volunteers  
Women's Retreats  
Youth Group Convener and Youth

***Dinner will be provided at the Epiphany Feast! PLEASE RSVP to Nicki in the parish office (epiphanyparish@epiphanyseattle.org or 206-324-2573) by Tuesday, January 7 so that we can anticipate an accurate head count for our shared meal. Would you be willing to bring a dessert and/or a bottle of wine? If so, please include that information in your rsvp. Thank you!***

# You're Invited!

It's a party!



**Please Join Us**

at

**Epiphany's Eponymous Feast**

to

**toast the success**

of

**The Next 100 Years Campaign**

In the Great Hall

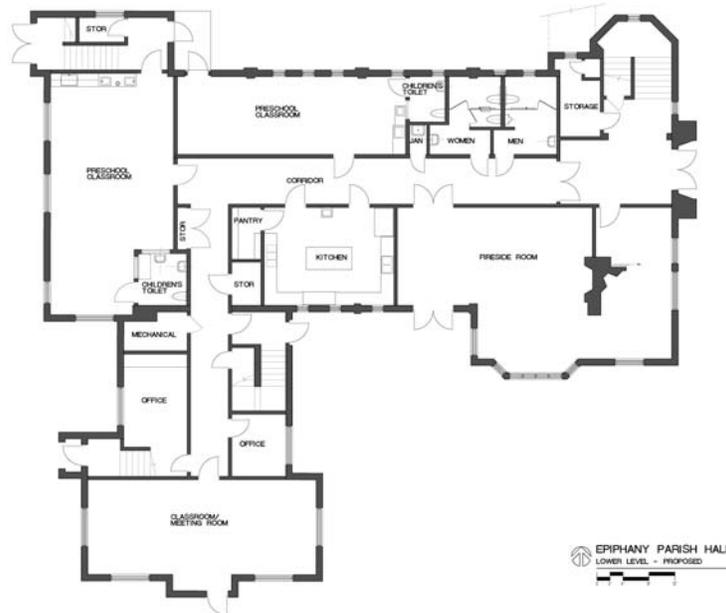
**Saturday, January 11**

immediately following the 5 p.m. Eucharist service in the Church

**FOOD • DRINK • ACTIVITIES • MUSIC**

**Families Welcome!**

***The Next 100 Years Building and Grounds***  
***Friday Morning with the Building Committee***  
***8 am—9:30 am***  
***Christie House Library***



The 100 Years Building Campaign's Building Committee (Bob Barnes, Laura Blackmore, Ed Emerson & John Nesholm) are commencing regular weekly meetings. These are open meetings for any parishioner to attend. Between now and the end of January, the meetings will be devoted to refining scope of work using the drawings that were presented at the September 9<sup>th</sup> Sunday Forum. The goal is to have a refined set of drawings for the Annual meeting on January 26, 2014. The next three (3) meetings will focus on the following areas:

- 01/10/14 Liturgical spaces in the Church and Chapel*
- 01/17/14 Music Wing (under the Chapel)*
- 01/24/14 Campus Grounds*

**The Nominating Committee is please to present its nominations to be voted on at the Annual Meeting on January 26 at 9:30 am in the Church.**

**The nominations for Vestry are:**

Wellesley Chapman  
Beth Clark  
Pete Melin  
Anna White

*Brief biographical sketches of the Vestry nominees follow.*

**The nominations for Convention Delegates are:**

Jamie Balducci  
Linda Maxson  
Aubin Barthold  
Mike Evans  
Richard Coyle  
Marshall Corson

**Nominated as alternates are:**

Susan Snyder  
Bob Shupe  
Lauren Riker  
Tom Rohm

**The nominations for Nominating Committee are:**

Scott Davies  
Kate Ross

*Respectfully submitted by the Nominating Committee,*

*Cory Carlson  
Sue Cary  
Doyt Conn  
Ed Emerson  
Pete Melin  
Elizabeth Walker*

## *Vestry Nominees*



**Wellesley Chapman** joined the Epiphany community in 2011 with his wife, Brooke, and daughters Zoe (9) and Elliott (7). Brooke is active in Sunday school, and the girls love being part of choristers. Wellesley was raised in the Episcopal church in St. Louis, Missouri, and after broad travels landed in Seattle for medical school and residency training. He has worked at Group Health for five years as a physician and also currently serves as Medical Director of Innovation & Development.



**Beth Clark** was baptized in the Methodist Church in Bremerton and joined Epiphany Parish in late 1993. She was confirmed here in 1997 and was active (including service on the Vestry) for several years. After a hiatus, Beth resumed attending Epiphany in 2008 with her children Hal Clemons (15) and Ruby Clemons (8) who both enjoy being active in the Epiphany community. Beth is a graduate of the University of Washington School of Law and practices at Foster Pepper PLLC where she chairs the real estate practice. Beth is a member of the Altar Guild and has served on Epiphany's building committee, on the Epiphany School/Epiphany Parish Campus Committee and for the past year in an interim capacity on the Vestry.



**Pete Melin** has attended Epiphany since 2008 with his wife Chantal. They have three grown kids, Paul, Steven, and Sophie. Pete's been involved with Acolytes, and Sunday School, and is a Men's Shelter host and Stewardship Co-chair. Pete served 24 years in the Navy, and is currently a Metro Transit Supervisory Engineer. Pete bikes to work daily and is planning a 2014 ride to Boston.



**Anna White** has attended Epiphany since Christmas Eve, 2009. Anna was born and brought up in Staffordshire, England and was christened and confirmed in the Church of England. She is a Banking & Finance graduate and ex-banker and executive search consultant. Anna relocated to Seattle from the Netherlands with her husband Cliff and their two young daughters in 2008. Since joining Epiphany Anna has sung in the choir and co-chaired Epiphany's Next 100 Years steering committee. She is also a trustee of Epiphany School.



## *Weekly Word Submission Deadlines*

*Submit content by 5:00 pm on:*

Monday, January 6  
Monday, January 13  
Monday, January 20

*For the:*

Monday, January 20 issue  
Monday, January 27 issue  
Monday, February 3 issue

## *Sunday Lectionary Corner*

**January 12, 2014**

Isaiah 42:1-9, Acts 10:34-43, Matthew 3:13-17, Psalm 29

*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 January 5th and 11th:**

Margaret Cleworth, Patrick Kelly, Eleanor Nelson, Allen Webb, David Jones, Kelly Yates, Carol Martin, Kate Wesch, Barty Hall, Sara Perkins, Tucker Richmond, Mike Coie, and Kathryn Crandell.

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

Thomas Hitt; Janet Hoehne; Anne & William Hofius; Tom & Sally Holford; and Kennan Hollingsworth. We pray for the churches of St. Alban (Edmonds) and The Redeemer (Kenmore).

## **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, Ellen Gimbel, Eileen Riley, Bonnie, Roy Enriquez, Will Gluck, Ruth, the Hawkes family, Richard & Dolores Maxson, the Zehm family: Shelly, Atticus, Coco, & Bijou, Silas, TJ Johnson & family, Bill, Grace, Susan, Debbie, Megan, Carl Putnam, Holden Shaw, George Fisher, Rosalie, Dan Miller, Scott Gehring, Gracia Conn, Malina, Matt, Nancy, Isla Jude and family, Alice, Mimi Pierce, Susan, Hank Schilling, Tristram Hyde and family, Emily Coyle, Noreen, Evie Gassaway, Jeanne Edwards, Millie Gould, Sandra, Neil Hammond, Bill & Millie Grayson, Larry Mayer, and Tom.

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