

# ChurchChatter

Newsletter of the Church of The Epiphany in Durham, Connecticut

February 2007

Rosemarie Querns, Editor

## Leaving the Cluster – The Path Ahead

On October 22, 2006, the Vestry presented a plan to leave the Middlesex Area Cluster Ministry (MACM) and partner with another parish. Because a partnership structure would be more expensive than remaining in MACM, the Vestry presented a plan that made leaving the Cluster contingent upon raising \$75,000 in pledges before the Annual Meeting, so that we would be able to support a partnership structure. The Special Parish Meeting voted 33 to 9 to withdraw from MACM if sufficient funds could be raised.

What followed was by far the most successful Stewardship Campaign ever! Epiphany received \$75,736 in pledges (by contrast, in 2004 Epiphany had \$67,000 in pledges; in 2005 it was \$32,000). Therefore, Epiphany has met the terms of the Special Parish Meeting and will be leaving MACM to partner with another parish.

What next, you ask? Epiphany has taken the first steps toward our new administrative structure. We have given official notice to MACM that we are planning to leave the Cluster in one year's time. During this year, Epiphany will be working closely with the Rev. Canon Marjorie Roccoberon, Canon to the Ordinary, and the Rev. Erik Larsen, Transition Minister at the Diocesan level to find another parish to partner with, and then to initiate a search for an appropriate clergy person to serve as Missioner to the new partnership.

Members of the vestry will be meeting with Rev. Roccoberon and Rev. Larsen within the next few weeks. After that meeting, we will have a better idea of how the transition process will work. We will undoubtedly be holding discernment meetings within the parish to clarify our goals for this partnership. Once a partner parish is identified, there will undoubtedly be many details to negotiate: office hours, service times, procedures for pastoral emergencies, etc. As always, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact any vestry member!

## What is Lent?

Lent is a 40-day liturgical season that begins on Ash Wednesday and concludes at the Great Vigil of Easter. Sundays are not included in the 40-day count because every Sunday is a joyful celebration of Jesus' resurrection. Though not biblical, Lent has long been a tradition in the Christian Church, and it is thought that the tradition of the 40 days recalls the 40 days Jesus spent in the wilderness, fasting and being tempted by Satan (Matthew 4:1-11). Lent is considered a time of penance and discipline.

Because of Lent's penitential nature, worship tends to be more solemn, and purple is the liturgical color of the season. Some congregations remove flowers from the worship space, and for many, songs of praise like the Gloria in Excelsis ("Glory in the highest") and expressions of joy like the exclamation "Alleluia" ("Praise the Lord") are removed from the liturgy until Easter. Many congregations hold special mid-week worship services and promote other devotional activities to help their members concentrate on the Lenten disciplines of fasting, almsgiving (charity) and prayer.

Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent. On this day, Christians focus on their complete sinfulness and the necessity of Christ's suffering and death to insure their salvation. Ashes are referred to many times in the Old Testament as signs of sorrow, mourning, humility, and repentance, and on Ash Wednesday they are used to remind people of their mortality – that "you are dust, and to dust you shall return" (Genesis 3:19). Many churches use ashes during Ash Wednesday worship in a ritual called the Imposition of Ashes. In this custom, ashes are mixed with a small amount of oil and applied to the forehead of each worshipper.

The Sunday of the Passion or Palm Sunday begins the last week of Lent, known as Holy Week. During this holiest time of the church year, the worship services relive the final week of our Lord's human life. Holy Week includes Maundy Thursday, when Christians observe Christ's "Last Supper" – the institution of the Sacrament of Holy Communion -- and the mandate to serve one another in love. Good Friday commemorates the imprisonment, trial and death by crucifixion of Jesus.

Lent culminates on Saturday evening of Holy Week in the Great Vigil of Easter, when Christians gather in darkness, light new fire, and celebrate the fulfillment of the Old Testament prophecies in the resurrection of Christ.

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## 2006 - 2007 SUNDAY SCHOOL/CONFIRMATION CALENDAR

Date	Comment
February 18 <sup>th</sup>	<b>No Sunday School – Winter Recess – 1<sup>st</sup> weekend</b>
February 26 <sup>th</sup>	Sunday School – Pulpit Drama / Gospel Presentation
March 4 <sup>th</sup>	Sunday School
March 11 <sup>th</sup>	Sunday School & Confirmation Class
March 18 <sup>th</sup>	Sunday School
March 25 <sup>th</sup>	Sunday School – Pulpit Drama / Gospel Presentation
April 1 <sup>st</sup>	Sunday School & Confirmation Class
April 8 <sup>th</sup>	<b><u>No Sunday School – EASTER</u></b>
April 15 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Sunday School - No Sunday School 1<sup>st</sup> week of vacation</b>
April 22 <sup>rd</sup>	Sunday School
April 29 <sup>th</sup>	Sunday School – Pulpit Drama / Gospel Presentation
May 6 <sup>th</sup>	Sunday School
May 13 <sup>th</sup>	Sunday School & Confirmation Class
May 20 <sup>th</sup>	Sunday School - Pulpit Drama / Gospel Presentation
May 27 <sup>th</sup>	<b>No Sunday School – Memorial Day</b>
June 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Sunday School
June 10 <sup>th</sup>	Last Day of Sunday School & Confirmation Class

Each child has been asked to attend at least one of the following activities during lent:

Ash Wednesday Service - February 21, 7 p.m.

Maundy Thursday Seder / Simple Supper - April 5th

Maundy Thursday Night Watch - April 5 - 6

Good Friday "Way of the Cross" walk - April 6th, noon - 3 (beginning at Notre Dame and ending here)

The kids have also been encouraged to attend as many Sunday Services and coffee hours as possible. There is a presentation each week with the different speakers/topics. These are listed on page 4.

We discussed a group project for the confirmation class to plan and present a "U2charist". The U2charist is an Episcopal Eucharist service that features the music of the band U2, and a message about God's call to rally around the Millennium Development Goals. These involve global reconciliation, justice for the poor and oppressed and the importance of caring for your neighbor. U2's music is filled with biblical and theological references. If you are interested reading more about it, check out this website: <http://www.e4gr.org/pray/u2charists.html>. We would like to have a planning meeting on Friday, March 16 late afternoon or evening for the confirmation class.

## Total Common Ministry

"Total Common Ministry" or "TCM" is a phrase we hear a lot here in the Cluster, but what does it really mean? According the Episcopal Church Office for Ministry Development, Total Common Ministry is "a way of being Church which animates the ministry of all the baptized", or "the cooperative effort of all the baptized to accomplish God's purpose in their lives as best they understand it."

Although we may associate Total Common Ministry with the Cluster, TCM is not specific to Cluster-type organizations. TCM is based on the text of St. Paul, Corinthians 12:4-6, "There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men." Therefore, Christians are called to do God's work in the world, using the gifts that God has given. Total Common Ministry is merely a mechanism for identifying and raising up the gifts we have been given, so that we can use them in God's service.

June Maffin writes, "Total Ministry is "together" ministry – creative ministry – for it opens new ways for each of us to creatively respond together to the Spirit who guides us as we become the bridges of reconciliation, peace, joy, healing, love and hope for those God places in our path." TCM invites us to look at our faith as more than a "Sunday-only" thing, and open ourselves to be God's people in the world

*The worst sin towards our fellow creatures is not to hate them, but to be indifferent to them; that's the essence of inhumanity.*



## Weekday Services

**Anamchara spiritual companions group**, Tuesdays, at 9:00 a.m. at Church of the Epiphany.

**Holy Eucharist and Bible Study**, Wednesdays, at 8:30 a.m. at Emmanuel Church, Killingworth.

## Church School

Church School and Nursery care: Sunday, February 26, at 9:30 a.m. in the Parish Hall.

**Confirmation Classes**: Sunday, March 11, at 11:00 a.m.

## Epiphany News and Events

**Baptism of David Swerling**: We joyfully welcome David into the household of the Lord!

**Mission Gatherings**: Join us in the Parish Hall each Sunday during Lent following the service to learn about the many ways our members of our community are serving God and their neighbors. Bob Bartosiak will make the first presentation on February 25<sup>th</sup>, on feeding programs.

**Girl Scout Sunday**: Sunday, March 11, the Girl Scouts at Epiphany will be helping out with the worship service as well as coffee hour. The Girl Scouts of Epiphany have challenged the congregation, in honor of the 95th Anniversary of Girl Scouts, to bring in 95 jars of peanut butter on March 11!

**Lenten Collection for Episcopal Relief and Development**: You may have noticed the large 5 gallon water jug in the parish hall -- as a parish-wide project for Lent, we are hoping to fill it with change to support the work of Episcopal Relief and Development. So bring in those pennies!

**Connie Goodwin Update**: Judy Moeckel reports that Connie Goodwin has moved from Heritage Commons (Assisted Living) to Wadsworth Glen (skilled nursing care) in Middletown. According to Jan Muraca, who is a personal friend of Connie's, one of the things that would ease her transition is being able to visit her friends in Heritage Commons.

Jan is coordinating volunteers to accompany her in her wheelchair from one two facility to the other and back. You do not have to provide personal assistance services, or stay while she visits. These visits can take place during the week or on weekends. You don't have to take her both ways in one day; someone else can bring her back, if you can take her over, for example

This is an opportunity to provide pastoral care to someone who has been a friend to Epiphany over the years, and whose faith remains strong. Can you believe that she will turn 102 in June? What a lady!

We are also looking for someone to pick up her son Rick at his home in Meriden (he does not drive) and bring him to visit Connie on Sundays. This could be done after church, so he is there for Sunday dinner with her. Someone else can bring him back to Meriden in the late afternoon.

If you are interested, call Judy Moeckel at (860) 663-2703 (home) or (860) 280-7638 (cell) and I will fill you in, or call Jan Muraca directly at her home (346-2096) or e-mail her at [jmuraca@townofdurhamct.org](mailto:jmuraca@townofdurhamct.org).

**Book Discussion Group**: The book group returns this winter. We will be reading *The Heart of Christianity*, by Marcus Borg. This book explores how to be an authentic Christian in a modern era of doubt about doctrine. Christianity, Borg writes, is about loving God and loving what God loves, rather than rigidly adhering to a specific set of beliefs. See Christine Michaud to borrow a copy of the book. Discussion date to be announced.

**February 28, March 7, 14, 21, 28, and April 4** – Anamchara prayer service at 9:00 a.m. every Wednesday morning during Lent.

**Mission Gatherings**: Join us in the Parish Hall each Sunday during Lent following the service to learn about the many ways our members of our community are serving God and their neighbors.

**February 25** – Bob Bartosiak on feeding programs

**March 4** – Guests from United Churches of Durham on their Appalachian house-building trip

**March 11** – Judy Moeckel on Jubilee Ministry

**March 18** – Katy on environmental stewardship

**March 25** – Charlie Proctor (and Debbie) on their medical mission trip to Honduras



**April 1** – **Palm Sunday** service at 9:30 a.m. in the Parish Hall and processing into the Church.

**April 5** – **Model Seder and Maundy Thursday** Prayer Vigil. Exact time to be announced. This is a great family affair, for we re-enact the Last Supper - complete with foot-washing, for those so inclined! We have a script and hymns, and shall have the traditional foods of the Pass-over seder to accompany a simple pot-luck meal. Afterwards, people are free to attend the short service and stripping of the altar before the Maundy Thursday Vigil begins. If you are interested in the meal or in having a role to enact, please contact MaryLou at 349-0841 by March 31. If you would like to do a 2-hour shift for the Vigil, please contact Carol Buchanan at 349-0854.

**April 6** – **Good Friday**. Ecumenical cross walk and service times to be announced.

**April 8** – **Easter Sunday** service at 9:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary.

Come to our Model Seder / Agape Meal on Maundy Thursday!

This is a great family affair, for we re-enact the Last Supper - complete with foot-washing, for those so inclined! We have a script and hymns, and shall have the traditional foods of the Passover seder to accompany a simple pot-luck meal. Afterwards, people are free to attend the short service and stripping of the altar before the Maundy Thursday Vigil begins. If you are interested in the meal or in having a role to enact, please contact MaryLou at 349-0841 by March 31. If you would like to do a 2-hour shift for the Vigil, please contact Carol Buchanan at 349-0854.

*Suggestions for Fasting and Feasting: Fast from discontent; feast on thankfulness. Fast from worry; feast on trust. Fast from anger; feast on patience.*

Anonymous

*Turn yourself around like a piece of clay and say to the Lord: I am clay, and you Lord, the potter. Make of me what you will.*

St. John of Avila

*I do not at all understand the mystery of grace--only that it meets us where we are but does not leave us where it found us.*

Anne Lamott

## MEMBER BIOGRAPHIES



Dave Swerling is the newest addition to our Epiphany family. Born in Durham, he lives with parents Robert and Louise and has a sister, Olivia, at college. Dave is currently a Junior at Cogenchaug Regional High School. He enjoys sports and is a member of the outdoor track- and cross country teams. Dave also excels at music, and is the lead trumpeter for the Jazz Band and Dixieland Combo. Needless to say, we are thrilled that he has expressed interest in our music program!

Aside from English, one of Dave's favorite classes is World Religions. With such an interest, it is little wonder that this honor student has been questioning his faith and has asked to become baptized! What a marvelous chance we shall have -- to witness and support this young man making the commitment to welcome Christ into his life. Dave's baptism was Feb. 18: let's celebrate this joyous occasion with him!

Edward (Ned) Hinman says that this is his third time around with Epiphany! His family moved to Durham during WWII, and Ned lived in the house next to Epiphany before leaving for school. At the University of Chicago, he earned a Master's Degree in Slavic Languages. Knowing Russian, Ukrainian, Czech and Polish did him little good in New Guinea, however, for he was stationed in the South Pacific during the war! After working in Washington for the NSA (National Security Agency), DIA (Defense Intelligence Agency), and CIA, Ned returned to Durham in 1975. At Epiphany, he served as a Vestryman and Treasurer, and headed the search committee for calling a priest at the time Epiphany joined the Cluster. After a move to Florida in 1985, he returned to Durham in 1999. With luck, he'll stick around this time!

The Benbows joined Epiphany a little over seven years ago, after moving to Durham from Springfield, MA. Originally from Northford, Jody is an attorney in Middletown who enjoys horseback riding and skiing or hiking with the rest of the family. Wayland, a development consultant from California, also relaxes with flyfishing and swimming. They are kept mighty busy with Carly (2 years) and Ginny (7 years), who was in our Spring production of Godspell.

At Epiphany, Wayland has been involved with Durham Fair Parking, and Jody (formerly on the Vestry) helps out in the nursery and at coffee hour when not getting us great rates for paving parking lots and driveways, that is!



# Epiphany's Photo Gallery

## Epiphany Open House

The Church of the Epiphany held an Open House on Sunday, January 14<sup>th</sup> to welcome visitors and old friends. Members of the community were invited to worship with us and explore Epiphany's various ministries. We had seven visitors who worshipped with us and heard our wonderful Chime Choir; and several former parishioners dropped by afterwards to speak with Vestry and listen to the Sunday School kids present selections from Godspell. A huge thank you to MaryLou Shoemaker, for organizing this



# Epiphany's Photo Gallery

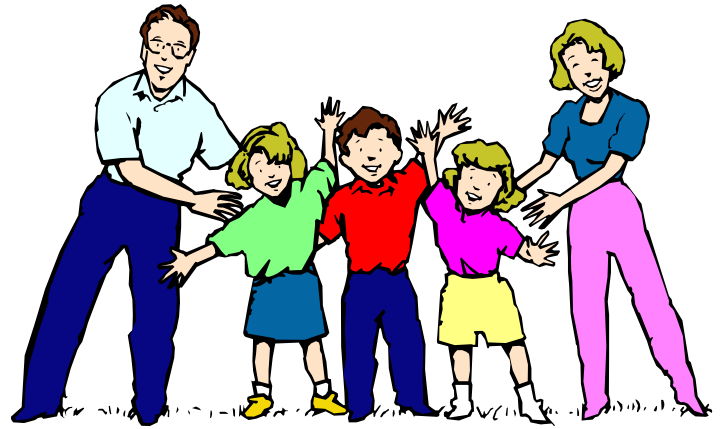
## Christmas Eve

The Sunday School presented a unique Christmas pageant at the Christmas Eve service. The kids wrote the script and built the sets for a shadow puppet retelling of the Nativity Story.



# Getting to Know You ...

**Please take a few moments to share some information about your family so that we may get to know you better! We'll be featuring biographies in upcoming newsletters.**



Family Member(s) (Please give ages of children)

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Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

When did you join Epiphany, and what prompted you to join?

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If you moved to the area, from where did you come?

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Your occupation(s)

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Interests and Hobbies?

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Do you belong to any clubs or civic organizations?

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Church projects / committees in which you're interested?

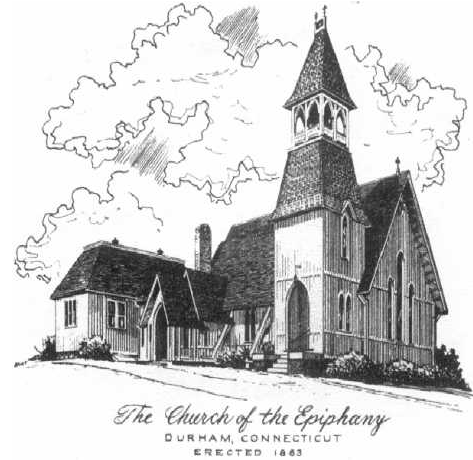
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Thanks for your time!  
Please return to MaryLou Shoemaker OR phone in the info to  
349-0841 OR email info to [ennishoe@comcast.net](mailto:ennishoe@comcast.net) !

Church Chatter  
Church of the Epiphany  
196 Main Street  
Durham, CT 06422



## Church Chatter

### Cluster News and Events

**Sacred Songfest and Potluck Supper:** Saturday, February 17 at 6:00 p.m. at St. James Church, Higganum. Come and sing, sit, listen, eat, visit, and enjoy.... You pick the hymns, no plan, no structure, just fun and "make a joyful noise unto the Lord." Bring a friend!

**Cluster-wide Book Study:** The Christian Formation and Discipleship Lay Ministry Leaders will be facilitating a book discussion of *Living the Truth* by Alan Jones. The first of six sessions will be held Thursday, March 8, from 7:30 – 9:00 p.m. at St. James Parish Hall, Higganum. For more info contact Barbara Collins at [Collins.house@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Collins.house@sbcglobal.net) or Fred Raudat at [Frederick.raudat@att.net](mailto:Frederick.raudat@att.net).

**Ski Trip:** If anyone is interested in a ski weekend away at Mission Farm Retreat Center in Vermont, please contact Fred Raudat at [Frederick.raudat@att.net](mailto:Frederick.raudat@att.net) for details.

### Other Events

**Baroque Music Concert:** Sunday, April 15 at 4:00 p.m. at St. Paul's Church, Westbrook.

If you do wish to receive a notification e-mail from Church of the Epiphany, or if your e-mail address has changed, please contact Christine Michaud at [cmichaud1@comcast.net](mailto:cmichaud1@comcast.net)

### [Starting an Inspiration Practice](#)

Five ways to live each day 'in Spirit.'

By Wayne Dyer

*Excerpted from "Inspiration: Your Ultimate Calling," with permission of Hay House, Inc.*

These daily practices will help you move toward Spirit in your thoughts and actions.

**1. Commit to at least one daily experience** where you share something of yourself with no expectation of being acknowledged or thanked. For example, before I begin my daily routine of exercise, meditation, or writing, I go to my desk and choose my gift for that day. Sometimes it's just a phone call to a stranger who's written to me, or perhaps I order flowers or send a book or present to someone who has helped me in a local store. On one occasion I wrote to the president of the university I graduated from to start a scholarship fund, on another day I took a calendar to the yard man, on another I sent a check to Habitat for Humanity, and on another I sent three rolls of postage stamps to my son who'd just started his own business. It doesn't matter if this activity is big or small—it's a way to begin the day in-Spirit.

**2. Become conscious** of all thoughts that aren't aligned with your Source. The moment you catch yourself excluding someone or having a judgmental thought, say the words "in-Spirit" to yourself. Then make a silent effort to shift that thought to match up with Source energy.

**3. In the morning before you're fully awake**, and again as you're going to sleep, take one or two minutes of what I call "quiet time with God." Be in a state of appreciation and say aloud, "I want to feel good."

**4. Remind yourself of this statement:** *My life is bigger than I am.* Print it out and post it strategically in your home, car, or workplace. The "I" is your ego identification. Your life is Spirit flowing through you unhindered by ego—it's what you showed up here to actualize—and is infinite. The "I" that identifies you is a fleeting snippet.