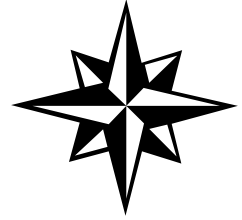


The Epiphany Star



EST. 1846



February 2020

The Light Shines in Darkness.

Episcopal Church of the Epiphany - 225 West Main Street – Laurens, SC 29360 - epiphany@backroads.net
www.epiphanyoflaurens.org Church – 864-984-7000

The mission of Church of the Epiphany is to celebrate the light of Christ, proclaim the Gospel, deepen our faith, nurture and encourage all people.

A MESSAGE FROM FATHER PAUL ABERNATHY

My Beloved Sisters and Brothers,

Since December 20, 2015, with these five words, I have been privileged to greet you each Sunday morning at the commencement of our weekly service of the Holy Eucharist. And, in this period of a bit more than four years, I have been privileged to serve as your priest-in-charge. As I have said many times, the mutual appreciation that we have shared, you for me and me for you, has made my time with you a most gratifying experience of my over forty years of ordained ministry. For this and for more than I can convey adequately, I thank you.

As has been announced previously, I have been called and have accepted the call of St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, Spartanburg, to serve as the Assistant to the Rector, the Reverend Robert L. Brown. February 16 will be my last Sunday of service with you.

In closing, to express my heartfelt sentiments as I depart, there are no more fitting words upon which I might rely than those of my namesake, the Apostle Paul:

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the One who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me (The Epistle to the Philippians 1.3-7a).

Yours, always and in all ways,
Paul

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ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

At our Annual Parish Meeting on Sunday, January 19, 2020, the gathered membership elected by acclamation the following slate of candidates:

To the Vestry: Brad Holmes and Kara Horner, Class of 2023, who will join those continuing in Vestry service: Skye Wells Todd, Class of 2021, Bill Horner, Class of 2022, and Lorri Roughton, Class of 2022. (During a subsequent Vestry vote, Bill Horner was elected to serve as Senior Warden and Brad Holmes as Junior Warden. Kara Horner also will continue to serve as our Parish Treasurer.)

As our Parish Delegates: Graham Duncan and Randall Traynham, Class of 2022, and Mark Adams and John Womack, Class of 2021. (The 98th Convention of the Diocese of Upper South Carolina will be held on Saturday, November 7, 2020 at Heathwood Hall Episcopal School, Columbia, SC.)

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FEBRUARY 2020 BACKPACK MINISTRY UPDATE

We will all miss Father Paul who, for one of his sermons, dwelt upon how the poor will always be among us. Prior to his departure, he has generously donated a portion of his discretionary fund to the Backpack Ministry. Many thanks to Father Paul for his largesse not only for the Backpack Ministry but for all he has done during his time at Church of the Epiphany. My guess is that he will be active somehow, some way with alleviating hunger in Spartanburg. We wish him all the best!!

If any of you wish to help pack the backpack food, please join us at 9 a.m. on Thursdays at the Laurens 55 District Office. Please contact Connie Daniels if you have any questions, comments or suggestions. Thank you for your donations and prayers for the Backpack Ministry.

ANNUAL OYSTER ROAST

The annual oyster roast is scheduled for Saturday, February 8, from 6-8 PM. Tickets are \$45 each. Please sign up to help in setting up, serving during the roast, the cleanup, and providing other items besides oysters to the roast. The sign-up list will be in the Parish Hall. To plan a successful event, selling all of the tickets in advance is needed.

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

February 5:	Luke Wright (grandson of Lori Roughton)	
February 18:	Dick Barksdale	
February 20:		Reid and Ann Cox
February 23:	Miller Barksdale	
February 24:	Sue Barksdale	

FEBRUARY USHER, NURSERY, LEM SCHEDULE

Feb. 2:	Reid Cox	Base Smith	Donna Babineau
Feb. 9:	Frank Barksdale	Linda Barksdale.	Loren Taylor
Feb. 16:	Bill Horner	Sarah Daniels.	Loren Taylor
Feb. 23:	Brad Holmes	Harriet Barksdale	Graham Duncan

MARCH USHER, NURSERY, LEM SCHEDULE

Mar. 1:	Mark Adams	Base Smith	Graham Duncan
Mar. 8:	Phil Betette	Sarah Daniels	Donna Babineau
Mar. 15:	John Womack	Harriet Barksdale.	Donna Babineau
Mar. 22:	Reid Cox	Base Smith	Loren Taylor
Mar. 29:	Frank Barksdale	Sarah Daniels	Loren Taylor

CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday, February 2, 9, 16, and 23, Holy Eucharist at 11 AM.
February 16 will be Father Paul's last Sunday with us.
Saturday, February 8, annual oyster roast, 6-8 PM.

**VISIT MISS LUCY'S GARDEN BLOG AT
WWW.GardenEpiphany.Wordpress.Com**

**SEND ITEMS OR EVENT ANNOUNCEMENTS TO BE INCLUDED IN
FUTURE EDITIONS OF THE EPIHANY STAR TO BILL COOPER AT
MTHAPPY@PRTCNET.COM OR CALL 864-969-2707.**