

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 Dearest Sisters and Brothers,

On July 4, we celebrate the 243rd anniversary of our nation’s founding. Each year, on this chiefest American national holiday, indeed, holy day, I read and reflect on the collect (or thematic prayer) appointed for Independence Day in the Book of Common Prayer (page 242):

Lord God Almighty, in whose Name the founders of this country won liberty for themselves and for us, and lit the torch of freedom for nations then unborn: Grant that we and all the people of this land may have grace to maintain our liberties in righteousness and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Over time, as I continue to contemplate our nation’s birth and ongoing evolution, it seems to me that, irrespective of our individual political persuasions, historically, there were and, contemporaneously, there are groups and classes of people who were not and are not included in that phrase “and for us.” There are folk who, as another prayer says, “live and move and have their being” among us who did not then and do not now enjoy the manifold liberties of American citizenship.

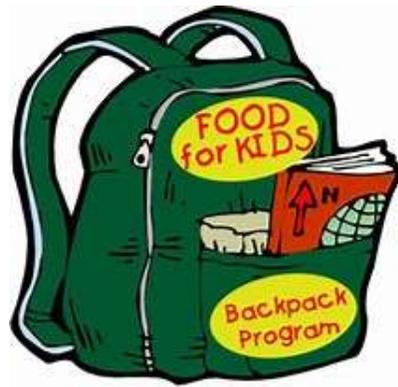
I am a person, doubtless, you’ve heard me say many times, who claims unconditional love and justice, which I believe reflect the image of God, as his principal values to be incarnated in my being and doing toward all people. Hence, there is another Book of Common Prayer collect (*For the Nation*, page 258) that, for me, more clearly expresses the relation between God’s intention in creation and my, *our* daily labor to do God’s will.

Lord God Almighty, you have made all the peoples of the earth for your glory, to serve you in freedom and in peace: Give to the people of our country a zeal for justice and the strength of forbearance, that we may use our liberty in accordance with your gracious will; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

May I, may we ever “use our liberty in accordance with (God’s) gracious will;” the God who “made *all the people* of the earth for (God’s) glory.”

With love, amen,
Paul

July 2019 Backpack Ministry Update



The school year has ended. The Laurens 55 District Administration has told us we will be able to use the same space in their building next year for Backpack Ministry so that will be very helpful.

Financially, we originally budgeted \$12,900.00 which was \$6.00 per student per weekend for two breakfasts, two suppers (including protein, vegetable and fruit), two milks, and a snack. We were able to cover Thanksgiving, Christmas, Easter and Spring Break. Our actual total expenses from May 1, 2018 to May 31, 2019 were \$9,336.35. We paid very close attention to food prices, and, when something we could use was on sale, we stocked up!

Mr. John Swofford at First Presbyterian Church was the accountant for our program, and he has agreed to continue which is a blessing.

School starts on August 19, 2019, and we already are scouring the ads for sales. If you are able to make a donation of any size for this ministry for the next school year, please make your check payable to Church of the Epiphany and write “Backpack Ministry” in the memo line.

On behalf of the students and administration at Ford Elementary, a huge **THANK YOU!**

As always, if you have any questions, comments, or suggestions regarding the Backpack Ministry please contact Connie Daniels.

JULY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

July 08: Katherine Horner
July 08: Rebecca Smith
July 10: Jerry "J.J." Lowe
and Madelyn Lowe (grandchildren of Lorri Roughton)
July 11: Tanner Power
July 15: Bill Horner
July 18: Jennifer Hellams
July 19: Martin Meek
July 20: John Womack

JULY USHER, NURSERY AND LEM SCHEDULE

July 7:	John Womack	Linda Barksdale	Donna Babineau
July 14:	Reid Cox	Base Smith	Donna Babineau
July 21:	Frank Barksdale	Sarah Daniels	Loren Taylor
July 28:	Mark Adams.	Harriet Barksdale.	Loren Taylor

CHURCH CALENDAR

SUNDAY, JULY 7, 14, 21, 28
HOLY EUCHARIST AT 10 AM

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BILL COOPER AT MTHAPPY@PRTCNET.COM OR CALL 864-969-2707***

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