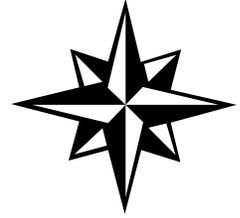


The Epiphany Star



EST. 1846

July 2021



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.

~~~SUMMER SCHEDULE~~~

Beginning Sunday, June 6 through Sunday, August 29, Sunday morning services will begin at 10 AM

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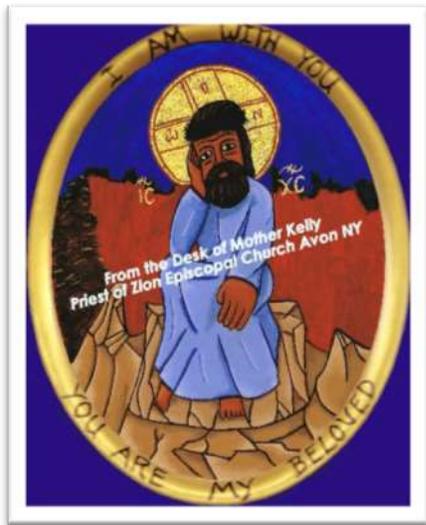
A MESSAGE FROM MOTHER KELLY AYER

June 26, 2021

Dear God's Beloved – of Epiphany,

What an amazing gift it is to be called as your priest. I look forward to our journey together and developing relationships with you all. I ask for you to communicate with me. Let me know how to serve Epiphany better.

As I learn, live in, and grow as your priest, I ask your patience and grace. At times, I will make mistakes and I will fall short, I apologize in advance. Please KNOW it is never my intention to fail you.



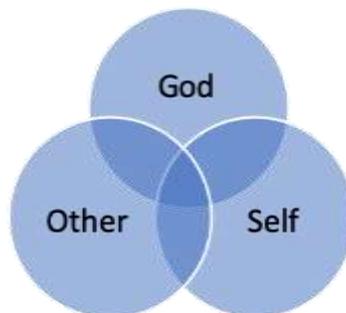
As we begin our journey together, I would like to share with you an important concept that informs my pastoral theology. At the dismissal blessing each Sunday, I say: “May you remember **WHOSE** you are – God’s Beloved!” Some might ask: “But what does that mean?” So I would like to offer some thoughts.

Throughout Scripture, we read how much God loves us and wants a relationship with us. However, I think that society does a good job of trying to convince us that we are not lovable or less than. In my own life, I can no longer count the number of times I was made to feel that way. But Our Lord, Jesus Christ, purposefully sought out the outcasts, the less thans. Jesus intentionally ate with them in plain view to send a message to those who would judge others so harshly. God did not create us to hate us. Instead, God created each and every one of us to love and for us to reflect that love to others. Moreover, God has gone to hell and back to obliterate any obstacles that would separate us from God. What an awesome God we have!

I would like to share with you a portion of an article that I wrote, that is included in my dissertation, on what I call “The Trinity of Christian Love”:

“In all three synoptic gospels, Jesus gives the two greatest commandments: “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself,”¹ which echoes the Old Testament imperative to “love your neighbor as yourself”² and is reiterated by Paul³.

The Trinity of Christian Love⁴



The Trinity of Christian Love evokes the importance of all three loves- God, Other, Self, but also speaks to the intricately, interwoven nature of Christian Love⁵. Each circle is equal to the next and each requires the love of the other circles to complete. Within the Trinity of Christian Love, “there is no pattern of domination or subordination, no

¹ Mark 12:28-34; Matt 22:35-40; Luke 10:25-28

² Leviticus 19:18

³ Romans 13:9-10; Galatians 5:13-15

⁴ Taken from Mother Kelly’s article and dissertation chapter: “Reclaiming Self Love”

⁵ Post, “Communion and True Self-Love” ,Pg 345.

quelling of individuality or uniqueness...the Trinity affirms persons' need for one another by showing us that wholeness is a relational concept, not something that one achieves on one's own."⁶ For example, Love of God cannot happen in isolation, it requires Love of Other and Love of Self... Without such tension, the loves go unchecked and can become disordered...By neglecting the other and self, we ignore the creation story where God created humanity and it was very good. Without accepting God's gift to us, namely ourselves, we cannot be grateful for that gift, which would be insulting to God and becomes sin because we "behave in ways and persist in attitudes and dispositions that are self-destructive."⁷ Any Love that negates or overshadows the other Loves is not Christian Love but becomes the proverbial loincloth that "hides" us from God...Like the diagram above, in the Trinity there is no domination or subordination, each is distinctive and unique, each overlaps the other to signify our need for the other Loves to properly achieve Christian Love. Christian Love allows the self to accept that we are beloved of God, yet not God, and allows us to show gratitude through love and devotion to God. As well it acknowledges God's love for the other and compels one to be in communion with God, others, and self, thereby expressing Christian Love in community worship and actions (i.e. outreach), by Loving what God loves, by showing generosity to others (which is different from self denial or self sacrifice), by fighting injustices, and preventing one from being taken advantage of. If one sphere is diminished, Christian Love becomes compromised...In addition to Jesus' words, I looked to how Jesus acted. Jesus not only tells us what Christian Love is but shows us in his actions. Jesus loved God - He spent time in prayer - His love for the Father led him to spend time in prayer, to reach out to God, led him to nurture his relationship with God. Jesus loved the other - Jesus' invited the "outcast and sinners" to dine with him, not to make them beloved but because they were inherently beloved already. Jesus loved himself - he petitioned God for his needs and encourages us to do the same, which makes no sense if we are to be self-forgetful and not concerned about our own needs. Jesus knew his boundaries and said no to others when he needed to rest and recharge. And because of his Love-for God, Other and Self - Jesus fought against injustice in his words, he took action in the temple with the moneychangers, and he brought down the barriers that compromised humanity's relationship with God via the Cross. Martin Luther King Jr. writes: "The cross is the eternal expression of the length to which God will go to restore broken community." Jesus' death on the cross restored humanity to the Garden of Eden, to the time, when humanity was "naked and unashamed." "

The implications are huge. Meaning, when we can truly embrace that we are beloved by God, it infuses our beings and informs how we live and how we love. I am reminded of the old spiritual "They will know we are Christians by our Love," truer words were never written.

So, May you remember WHOSE you are - GOD'S BELOVED! And Beloved at Epiphany.
Mother Kelly+

⁶ Gill-Austern, Pg 319.

⁷ Weaver, pg 136.

MOTHER KELLY'S OFFICE HOURS & CONTACT INFORMATION

SUNDAY: 12:30-4PM
MONDAY: 9:30 AM-3:30 PM
TUESDAY: 9:30AM-3:30 PM
CELL PHONE NUMBER: 585-991-8250
E-MAIL ADDRESS: motherkelly10@gmail.com

THEOLOGY ON TAP

We can meet at the local pub and discuss theology or adult forum type topics. Mother Kelly would like to know which evening would be best for folks—Monday Evening or Tuesday Evening. Her contact information is above.

FROM SENIOR WARDEN BILL HORNER

We will be having a couple of movie nights at the Church coming up in July and August. We are taking suggestions for movies that are "all age" appropriate and entertaining. Please send your suggestions to Mother Kelly at motherkelly10@gmail.com or Bill at dogfan1987@yahoo.com.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Pray for Healing and Comfort: The Family of Celita Strickland, Angela Foggie, Dawn Watson Weaver, Hannah Toole, Nathan Daniels, Dina Hair, Nancy Cendrowski, Jay Betette, those unemployed, the armed forces of our country, and those affected by Covid-19.

Thanksgiving for our great country this Fourth of July and for those who have served in the armed forces.

Prayer requests can be sent to the church in many ways. Our website at <http://epiphanyoflaurens.org/find-us>, or by e-mail to [PriestinCharge@epiphanyoflaurens.org](mailto: PriestinCharge@epiphanyoflaurens.org) or by phone at 864.984.7000 (leave message) or drop a note in the basket at the church.

JULY AND AUGUST SCHEDULE

LEM

July 4 Graham Duncan
July 11 Mark Adams
July 18 Lois Love
July 25 Donna Babineau & Ed Taylor.

August 1 Loren Taylor
August 8 Graham Duncan
August 15 Mark Adams
August 22 Lois Love
August 29 Donna Babineau & Ed Taylor

ALTAR GUILD

Graham Duncan
Harriet Barksdale and Graham Duncan
Harriet Barksdale and Base Smith
Loren Taylor and Base Smith

Loren Taylor
Graham Duncan
Graham Duncan and Harriett Barksdale
Base Smith and Harriett Barksdale
Base Smith and Loren Taylor

JULY BIRTHDAY AND ANNIVERSARIES

July 8: Katherine Horner
July 8: 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 2021 Backpack Ministry Update

Changing our packing location to the First United Methodist Church has provided us with greater flexibility for several aspects of the Backpack Ministry. We have access to a key so we can unpack our groceries at a time convenient for those who do the shopping. The District Office was available only Monday through Friday after 3:30 p.m.

The year was a memorable year to say the least, but we all adapted to whatever Ford Elementary needed, especially when they were closed to in-student learning. We increased the number of backpacks from 50 to 60 each weekend. The big disappointment this year was that our supplier for shelf-stable milk (Ingles) quit carrying the lower cost 8 oz carton of shelf-stable milk. We were not able to locate milk at a reasonable price so we substituted Yoo-hoo drink which is a really poor substitute for milk. One serving of white or chocolate milk (8 ounces) will provide a daily value of 13 nutrients necessary for grade-school age children: calcium 25%, protein 16%, vitamin D 15%, zinc 10%, phosphorus 20%, vitamin A 15%, riboflavin 30%, vitamin B-12 50%, vitamin B-5 20%, niacin 15%, selenium 10%, iodine 60%, and potassium 10%. Milk is extremely versatile in that it can be used with the cereal or the canned soup we supply or enjoyed straight from the carton. For next year we will strive to include milk again even though it will take a larger portion of the budget.

Thank you so much for your support of this ministry this school year. If you are able to donate for next year, please make your check payable to Church of the Epiphany and write "Backpacks" on the Memo line. Your check can be placed in the offering during Sunday services or mailed to Epiphany's treasurer: Kara Horner, P.O. Box 742, Laurens, SC 29360.

As always, please contact Connie Daniels (cdaniels1234@hotmail.com) if you have any questions, comments or suggestions for the Backpack Ministry. Thank you for your donations and prayers. Stay well!

FAVORITE HYMNS

If you have any favorite hymns, either from our 1982 Hymnal or any other hymnal, please drop a note in the basket or let Randy know.

From Treasurer Kara Horner

If you have not sent Kara your current mailing address, please do so at karahorner@yahoo.com.

If you cannot attend services at this time, please mail your donations and pledge payments for Epiphany to Kara Horner, PO Box 742, Laurens, SC 29360.

Laurens Lights the Night—July 3

Don't forget "Laurens Lights the Night" this weekend!! We hope to see you all there!! 7 PM.

Visit Miss Lucy's Garden Blog at
WWW.GARDENEPIPHANY.WORDPRESS.COM

Send Items for future editions of the Epiphany Star to Bill Cooper at mthappy@prtcnet.com, telephone 864-969-2707 or mail to PO Box 400, Enoree, SC 29335. Let me know of additions or changes to the birthday and anniversary list.