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

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*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,

With the coming of Easter Day on April 21, we now are in the Easter season. Given the enormous and elemental significance of Jesus' resurrection from the dead, without which there is no Christianity, Eastertide offers us an opportunity to explore more deeply the meaning of the church's central proclamation: "Alleluia! Christ is risen!"

Eastertide is also known as The Great Fifty Days, being the fifty days from Easter Day to the Day of Pentecost (the word Pentecost meaning "fiftieth") when we commemorate the coming of the Holy Spirit on Jesus' first disciples, thereby granting them wisdom to become apostles to go out into the world to spread the message of Jesus' gospel or good news.

During Eastertide, these Great Fifty Days, I share two particular features of worship that attend to this season...

The first reading in our Eucharistic liturgy, usually from the Old Testament, is taken from the New Testament Book of Acts. Its longer title is the Book of the Acts of the Apostles, which recounts the lives and labors of the apostles in carrying the gospel of Jesus into the world. Therefore, these are most appropriate readings for the Easter season.

The Paschal Candle (also known as the Christ Candle), being the largest candle in the church building, as a symbol of the eternal presence of Jesus Christ in our midst, is placed prominently in our sanctuary and remains lit throughout the Easter season. (The term "Paschal" is derived from the Latin, "Pascha," which was taken from the Hebrew, "Pesach," meaning Passover. For, as the Apostle Paul writes (1 Corinthians 5.7) and we recite in our Rite II Eucharistic liturgy, "Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us, therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia!")

Love y'all,

Father Paul

## ***May 2019 Backpack Ministry Update***



I will be giving an oral report about the Backpack Ministry to the Laurens County Community Foundation on May 16<sup>th</sup> between 4:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. at their annual event which will be held at the Laurens County Museum Witherspoon Building on the Historic Laurens Square. The public is invited to the LCCF event. The LCCF awarded Church of the Epiphany \$940.00 in grant funding for the Backpack Ministry program. Each week for the 42 weekends of the school year, the four churches participating in the Backpack Ministry (Epiphany, Lutheran, Methodist and Presbyterian) provided funding to feed fifty students. The menu each weekend consisted of two main meals (protein), one veggie, two breakfasts, two milks (one white and one chocolate), two fruits and one snack. That translates to 4200 main meals, 4200 breakfasts, 2100 veggies, 4200 milks, 4200 fruits and 2100 snacks. Because of your financial support, we were able to add a bit more over Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter. So please, pat yourself on the back for helping these fifty food insecure students have something nutritious to eat on the weekends.

Also, please start thinking about any financial donations you will be able to make for this program for the next school year. On behalf of the students receiving the backpacks, a huge THANK YOU.

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

## ***MAY USHER, NURSERY AND LEM SCHEDULE***

May 5:	Reid Cox	Harriet Barksdale	Loren Taylor
May 12:	John Womack	Linda Barksdale	Graham Duncan
May 19:	Reid Cox	Base Smith	Graham Duncan
May 26:	John Womack	Sarah Daniels	Lorri Roughton & Donna Babineau

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## ***MAY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES***

May 2:	Anna Horner	
May 4:	Adam Parrish	
May 13:	Dan Babineau	Donna and Dan Babineau
May 17:	Joyce Foggie	
May 18:		Skye Todd and Brad Holmes
May 26:		Linda and Dick Barksdale

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## ***CHURCH CALENDAR***

SUNDAY, MAY 5, 12, 19 AND 26  
HOLY EUCHARIST AT 11 AM

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***SEND ANNOUNCEMENTS TO BE INCLUDED IN FUTURE EDITIONS OF THE EPIPHANY STAR  
TO BILL COOPER AT [mthappy@prtcnet.com](mailto:mthappy@prtcnet.com) or call 864-969-2707***

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