



THE STAR

EASTER ISSUE 2014

THE CHURCH OF THE EPIPHANY

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EPISCOPAL
5450 Churchwood Drive
Oak Park, CA 91377
818-991-4797
www.tcote.org

STAFF

The Very Rev. Melissa McCarthy	<i>Vicar</i>
The Rev. Brian O'Rourke	<i>Associate Priest</i>
Dr. Brian Driscoll	<i>Director of Music</i>
Alice Rucker	<i>Music Associate</i>
Karen James	<i>Children's Ministry</i>
The Rev. Brian O'Rourke	<i>Youth Ministry</i>
Rachel Chittick	<i>Church Administrator</i>
Jeremy Curtis	<i>Communications</i>
Michelle Ponticelli	<i>Bookkeeper</i>
Laurie Burns	<i>Community Liaison</i>
Bill Cabrol	<i>Vergar</i>
Maria Aguilar	<i>Sexton</i>

THE BISHOP'S COMMITTEE

Bishop's Warden – Guy Walker
People's Warden – Matt MacLean
Treasurer – Keith Krantz
Clerk – Kristyne Moulton

Susan Anderson '14 John Harbourne '15
Ryan Kido '14 Matt MacLean '15
Celeste Thiel '14 Alexandra Subramanian '15
Vince Castellana '16 Vinia Pavlath '16
Rodney Reynolds '16

MISSION STATEMENT

We, the members of the Episcopal Church of the Epiphany, strive to be an open and welcoming spiritual family, committed to sharing in God's goodness both within and beyond this community of faith. We will serve God through worship, stewardship, learning, involvement and the warmth of holy friendship, walking the way of Christ. All are welcome here.

The Season of Easter



The Very Rev. Melissa McCarthy

When I was first ordained I worked at St. Mark's Church in Berkeley, Ca, assisting the rector wherever I was needed. I remember my first Easter with St. Mark's and the celebration after the Great Vigil of Easter. The Lenten fast was ended and the rector told us that it was Easter and we are "compelled to

feast" in this time of hope, celebration, and new life.

Her words have stuck with me all these years and I often find myself considering the myriad ways we participate in the Easter feast. By feast I mean more than food, although that can be part of it too. Feasting is also what we do liturgically. The spare liturgy of Lent is set aside. Alleluias return to the liturgy. Flowers adorn the sanctuary. Vestments and all the altar appointments are festive, beautiful, and show us in that outward and visible way the inward and spiritual grace of joy and hope that is characteristic of any feast.

To facilitate the spiritual feast of Easter, when you leave the church on Easter Sunday, each family will receive a small envelope. In the envelope are 7 small cards, each with a different theme for each day of the week of Easter. On the reverse side is a short reflection for you to consider and meditate upon that day. It is a small gift from all of us here at Epiphany as well as a prayer for you, that your Easter week will be filled with the joy and hope of resurrection and that you will know yourself as belonging to this community of faith and the Body of Christ.

Belonging is such an important part of what we receive from our church community. It is the lived experience of what it means to be part of the Body of Christ in the world. This belonging comes to us through the death and resurrection of Jesus, and, ultimately, through the gift of the Holy Spirit. Through participation in the community life at Epiphany, we experience the belonging that is unique to us as Christians. In the words of Brother David Steindl-Rast, belonging is always mutual. We belong to one another, we belong to God, and God belongs to us.

I hold you in prayer in these last days of Lent as we approach the Cross and Resurrection of Christ in Holy Week and Easter. I pray that this season will gift you with new life, new hope, and new faith in the love and grace of God, as well as a new faith in yourselves as the bearers of that hope into the world.



MUSIC GUILD

upcoming events

Choral Evensong & Recital

Sunday, May 18, 2014, 5:00 p.m.



This Festival Choral Evensong service will feature the St. Andrew's Evening Service by Russel Schulz-Widmar. A freewill offering will be received. After Evensong, there will be a free woodwind recital by Ceora Winds (Michelle Matsumune, flute; Heather Millette, clarinet; Christin Webb, bassoon). Hailed by L.A. Weekly as "supremely talented femmes," presenters rave that they "infuse new life into the public's flagging appreciation and value of classical music." Reception to follow.

OWLs (Older, Wiser, Laity)

The year's final OWLs lunch is **Thursday, May 8th** at 12:00pm. Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist, Matt Healy, will be presenting "How to Empower Yourself and Grow Old Gracefully in a Youth-Obsessed Culture." We are asking for a \$10/person contribution toward lunch and expenses of the OWLs program. Please call Rachel Chittick in the church office at 818-991-4797 or email rchittick@tcote.org to RSVP before Monday, May 5th. We look forward to seeing you!



OWLs also had a fantastic time at the Adamson House in Malibu for their April Adventure.



Annual Epiphany Party

Save the date **Saturday May 31, 2014** for our annual Epiphany party. This year we celebrate the gifts and talents in our congregation "Epiphany Stars". There will be great food, a silent auction, a live auction, entertainment showcasing our parishioners talents and most importantly a time of wonderful fellowship. If you are interested in helping with food please contact Alexandra Subramanian at alexandra.subramanian@gmail.com. If you would like to donate auction items or decorating please contact [vinia Pavlath at Vinia_pavlath@msn.com](mailto:vinia_pavlath@msn.com). All are welcome.



Epiphany CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd - "Let the children come."

Karen James - Tel: Home: 805-498-4640 kjames@tcote.org



Posy Making Day

A small but special group of people, prepared over one hundred posies for the women of our congregation for Mothering Sunday. We worked so hard and had fun too.

Thank you to Ellen Gury, Jennifer, Grace, Marin and Ellie Goodfriend for making Lent 4 an extra special day. Many people told me that the flowers really brightened their home for the whole week. This has become a wonderful tradition of the Children's Ministry.

Children's Passion Play

30 children came to celebrate Palm Sunday with our traditional Passion Play. Unlike the Epiphany pageant, this play takes place in the Bishop's hall : which was transformed into the road to Jerusalem, the upper room, the garden of Gethsemane, Golgotha and the Tomb. After discussions about who should take the various roles and even several costume changes for some, we spent time learning the words to a praise song that celebrates the Messiahship of Jesus. We finally took our places, and as we listened to the narration, we acted out the wonderful, serious, sad and joyous events of the first Holy Week. Our 'eucharistic feast' of Hot cross buns and grape juice was followed by a meditation and wondering on what we saw and heard. Art activities followed and we ended by singing our favorite songs from the atrium. Thank you to all who participated in this great storytelling.



Jesus- Sophia

Disciples- Darwin, Morgan, Aarti, Priscilla, Dylan, Chloe, Abby, Lucas, Aidan, Jenna, Meghan

Soldiers- Harrison, Simon

Angels- Grace, Ellie

Women at tomb- Emily, Marin

Thanks also to Ellen Gury and Alexandra Subramanian our wonderful Catechists, and Elizabeth Pavlath teen counselor, for preparation and clean up support. Also thanks to Cheri Bland for laying out the Hot Cross buns and juice, and to all the parents who waved palms and sang and danced with us.

This liturgy is a very special way to start the journey of Holy Week with all its range of emotions, and to aid the children in understanding the deep meaning of the Easter Mystery.

May your Holy Week and Easter journey be a blessed one.

Save the Date for Vacation Bible School – June 16-20



Why is Epiphany unique and special?

by: Rev. Brian O'Rourke

One of the most wonderful opportunities we have in this life is the opportunity to explore our relationship with God. What might be even more wonderful, but extremely rare and precious, is having the freedom to share this relationship with others. As a Church we remember and celebrate this opportunity through the lives of those who have gone before us, the martyrs: the men and women who gave their lives sharing with the world their relationship with God and paving the way for us to do the same. In countless other faith traditions many have also died for this freedom. Studying our Christian heritage and the history of the many faith traditions which have fought for the freedom to believe and express what they believe is important. In honor of their lives it is important to remember and celebrate the freedom we have living in the United States where we have the freedom of speech and the freedom of religion.

Our church community here at Epiphany offers something unique. In a country where our freedom of speech and religion are protected we can still be left feeling unsafe about expressing our relationship with God publicly. What is unique to Epiphany is the safe and sacred space we have created as a community to explore our relationship with the one who we call "Abba." It is a space where we can all deepen in our relationship with God wherever we are on our journey and share our thoughts and experiences within a loving Christian community. This opportunity to bear witness to our experience is vital to the Christian life and an empowering part of our spiritual journey.

This safe space to explore and have conversation is also central to our family life. Whether a family attends church at Epiphany together, or part of the family attends another church, or practices another faith tradition, or nothing at all, being at Epiphany prepares us and encourages all to engage in wonderful conversations with our families. It sparks conversations in our own families and it helps inform how we relate and treat those in our community and those of other communities who have different opinions. Those who participate in Epiphany's children and youth programs are familiar with the special opportunity their children have to explore their relationship with God. It is an educational process where children are not hammered with doctrine and dogma. Instead children are invited to explore for themselves in the context of a supportive Christian community their relationship with God. It is a place where children and youth are taught above all else that they are loved by God.

While these conversations happen everywhere all the time Epiphany Youth Group partook in these conversations twice during Lent in regards to movies. EYG went to see both "Son of God" and "Noah" in theaters and following each movie there was an engaging conversation to discuss their opinions and thoughts of the movie and what it meant for each of them.

As Lent comes to an end, I hope that you have deepened in your relationship to our Savior, Jesus Christ. As Easter begins, may you know that in the risen life of Christ anything is possible. Wherever you find yourself on your faith journey know that it is exactly where you need to be and that wherever you find yourself God loves you. And don't forget to take full advantage of your community here at Epiphany, a place where you can safely dwell in the loving presence of our God.

Outreach at Epiphany

OUTREACH

Epiphany Outreach is an active committee. Our mission statement guides our work. "Provide opportunities for the Church of the Epiphany to reach out locally, nationally and globally so that we may grow, mature and become more fully the people Christ calls us to be." Epiphany Outreach supports our local organizations such as MANNA, Lutheran Social Services (LSS), Many Mansions, and Senior Concerns. In addition, we raise monies for disaster relief such as hurricane victims, and construction in Uganda and Haiti, Episcopal Relief and Development (ERD) efforts worldwide, the LA Diocese's partnership with a school in the Holy Land and The Holy Family Adoption Service.

CURRENT OUTREACH

EVERY CAN COUNTS FOR MANNA

Rhode Island Philanthropist Alan Shawn Feinstein has initiated a \$1million challenge to raise funds to support organizations like MANNA to help feed those in need and raise community awareness about hunger. All donations made until April 30 will be counted toward the Feinstein Challenge. MANNA will receive \$1.00 for each item or dollar for dollar for cash donations marked "Feinstein Foundation." All non-perishable supermarket items are needed as well as toiletries, household cleaners, toilet paper, paper towels, infant formula and disposable diapers. Leave your donations in the basket in the entrance to the church. To make an online donation go to: www.mannaconejo.org. To mail a donation "mark on behalf of the Church of the Epiphany for the Feinstein Challenge" in the memo section of your check.



Theology on Tap

Theology on Tap meets at Ladyface Alehouse every third Wednesday of the month to discuss controversial issues in the Church today. The issues usually span both issues that are within the Episcopal Church such as Communion Regardless of Baptism (CROB - giving the Eucharist to unbaptized people) or as they relate to the Anglican Communion or our ecumenical relationships with other Churches (Women's Ordination). In addition to CROB and

Women's Ordination we have discussed the Creeds, Science and Religion, and the acceptance and ordination of LGBT persons. In March we discussed Matters of Life and Death: Abortion, Capital Punishment, Euthanasia, and War and in April we discussed the Existence and Thoughts about Hell.

May's topic is "**Scriptural Interpretation: How Do We Read the Bible?**" This is an important issue because different traditions read the Bible differently and this causes big problems when conversing with other people. Sometimes the differences are so vast that even though the people talking might be talking about Genesis, but there is no common ground to have the conversation so it seems like apples and donkeys (sorry oranges, it's not even both fruit).

We also celebrate the saint of the day according to the Episcopal Calendar of Saints, discuss the topic of the month with a short lecture and then breaking into small groups for more personal discussion, and close with Compline. May's saint is John Eliot, missionary to the Algonquin.

Come join us third Wednesdays of the month at Ladyface from 7:00 -9:00 p.m.

Pastoral Care Team at Church of the Epiphany

The Pastoral Care Team provides comfort and support for families in our community who are experiencing an illness, hospitalization or death of a loved one. Members of the Pastoral Care team provide support in many ways, including delivering meals, checking in with phone calls and visits, and/or bringing the Eucharist to those who are sick, hospitalized, or homebound. If you would like to be included in the Sunday prayers, would like to request a visit, would like a Lay Eucharistic Minister to share the Eucharist, or if you know of someone in the community in need, please contact the Very Rev. Melissa McCarthy at mmccarthy@tcote.org or (818) 991-4797. All requests are kept confidential.

Grief and Loss Support Group

While we are capable of experiencing joy, expansiveness, and meaning in our lifetime, we are not always prepared to face the trauma and reality of loss when we lose something or someone that has been such an integral part of our lives.

This group is available to those who have had a recent loss and want support from those who are sharing a similar experience. We will meet at 6:00 p.m. for a light supper and a time of fellowship followed by an hour of sharing, processing, and communal support.

This group will be facilitated by Laurie Burns, MFT. Please e-mail Laurie and lburns@tcote.org for any questions. Meetings are scheduled for the first Tuesdays from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. We meet in room 1 in Mitchel Hall.



EfM - What is my ministry?

Have you ever felt that you were called to ministry but wanted to get a taste of what studying theology would be like before stepping through the doors of a seminary? Or, are you desiring to learn more about the bible, how it was written, what it means and how you can apply those lessons to your life? Then EfM may be for you!

EfM - Education for Ministry, is made up of 4 nine-month cycles of study. The curriculum is provided by the University of the South and is guided by mentors from Church of the Epiphany. Weekly assignments are given and each week the group gathers for two hours to discuss the week's seminar topic. The group also works together on a Theological reflection that assists in defining ones and the groups beliefs. Each seminar is concluded with a time of worship.

Mondays at 6:00 p.m.

Dig deeper into the Christian faith, studying the Bible, Church history and theological ideas and reflect on connecting faith with life experiences while enjoying fine fellowship, food, wine and occasional music. We're currently enrolling for the next academic year; the new term for EfM began in September. Please contact Elizabeth Bryant for more information at e.vana.bryant@gmail.com.

Page Turners Book Club

Do you like books, good conversation, coffee and treats? Page Turners will reconvene on Thursday, April 24th at 10:00 a.m. in the Bishops Hall. We will be discussing *My Beloved World* by Supreme Court Justice, Sonia Sotomayor.

If you haven't read the book come anyway the discussion will pull you in.



Amazon Best Books of the Month Review, January 2013: Happily, it is becoming a familiar story: The young, smart, and very hardworking son or daughter of immigrants rises to the top of American professional life. But already knowing the arc of Sonia Sotomayor's biography doesn't adequately prepare you for the sound of her voice in this winning memoir that ends, interestingly, before the Yale Law School grad was sworn in as the first Hispanic Supreme Court Justice. Hers is a voice that lands squarely between self-deprecating and proud, grateful and defiant; a voice lilted with bits of Puerto Rican poetry; a voice full of anger, sadness, ambition, and love. *My Beloved World* is one resonant, glorious tale of struggle and triumph. --Sara Nelson

LOOKING AHEAD: The May selection is *A Thousand Splendid Suns* by Khaled Hooseini.



Seeds of Hope:

The “gardenistas” for Epiphany’s Seeds of Hope garden have been busy making plans! They have a tentative mission statement: *“Understanding that all that we have is given by God and that we at The Church of the Epiphany in Oak Park are abundantly blessed, we desire to share our overflowing bounty by participating in the LA Diocese’s Seeds of Hope project. We are committed to using a portion of God’s land here at Epiphany, protecting His resources, and working together as a family of faith to grow food to help feed the hungry and undernourished in the community.”* And, after meeting with Tim Alderson, the Diocesan Executive Director of Seeds of Hope, evaluating our site, the needs of Manna, our volunteer work force, and with help from expert Elizabeth Bryant, the committee has decided to plant fruit and nut trees! Planting is slated for September. If you would like to get involved, please contact the church office. We would love to hear from you!

The DBSA Conejo Valley Depression and Bipolar Support Group

(Federal Tax ID (EIN) 90-0583142)

Since 2004

A chapter of the Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance

www.dbsalliance.org/conejovalley

Meets Mondays 7 p.m. at The Church of the Epiphany, Mitchel Hall, Room 6
5450 Churchwood Drive, Oak Park, CA 91377

Contact: Rachel Comer or Dawn Collison

dbsaconejovalley@gmail.com

(818) 601-7767 or (818) 735-7322

Dr. Luisa Johnson, Advisor and Board Member

5655 Lindero Canyon Road, Suite 621

Westlake Village, CA 91361

(818) 707-6973



**Alzheimer's Support Group
(Caregiver w/Dementia Partners)**

has moved to

Agoura Senior Retreat Center

5217 Chesebro Road | Agoura Hills, CA 91301

Facilitators: Stacey Houghton & Mark Stelzer

818 681 4270

Free Care & Activities

Provided

This program is open to all.

Communication



In our quest to be better stewards of our world,
we have been moving to E-Mail Communications of our upcoming Church Events.

If you have not received our E-mail Communications
please contact the church office with your current e-mail.

If you would prefer to have information sent out to you via regular mail
and haven't yet let us know, please do.



If you have a personal Facebook Page, and haven't already done so, please [visit Epiphany's new and updated Facebook page!](#) **"Like"** us and click **"Get Notifications"** to stay in touch with the latest updates, news and events at Epiphany!

Calendar of Events

Mondays	EFM, 6:00 p.m. Depression Support Group, 7:00 p.m.
Tuesdays	Centering Prayer, 7:30 p.m.
Wednesdays	Brown Bag Bible Study, 12:15 p.m. Wednesday Book Group, 7:00 p.m.
Saturday, May 3	Fellowship Dinner and Talent Show, 5:00 p.m.
Tuesday, May 6	Grief and Loss Support Group, 6:00 p.m.
Thursday, May 8	OWLs Luncheon, 12:00 noon
Tuesday, May 13	C.V. Free Meal Program, Calvary, 6:15 p.m.
Sunday, May 18	Choral Evensong and Recital, 5:00 p.m.
Wednesday, May 21	Theology on Tap at Ladyface, 7:00 p.m.
Saturday, May 31	Annual Epiphany Party
Sunday, June 8	Pentecost and end of the program year

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Return Service Requested