

**THE EPIPHANY STAR**  
**News from the Church of the Epiphany**  
**Issue #2, September 2017**



**Notes from the Wardens:** Slowly but surely we are working our way forward into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Soon we will have a web site with the help of Anita and Henry Drexler. We are continuing to pursue bids on work yet to be accomplished. Parish hall doors as well as more efficient electric heaters in the parish hall and office are just some of the work ahead. We are renewing our commitment to the food pantry as there is a great need and we would like to encourage outreach. Martha Stowell has taken up the cause and will deliver donated food items to the pantry. Our worship life and church family has been enriched with the addition of our parish priest Elizabeth. Let's continue our work together as we move forward.

Blessings, Ron and Phyllis Britton

**Welcome Canon Schofield-Broadbent on September 10th**

Everyone is invited to meet the Rev. Canon Carrie Schofield-Broadbent, who will be with us at Epiphany on **Sunday, September 10th**. Canon Carrie will be preaching and celebrating at our 9:00AM service. Following the service, we will have a chance to talk with her at the reception in the parish house, and the vestry will meet with her after that.

Canon Carrie is a member of the bishop's diocesan staff. She is responsible for overseeing the transition process in parishes seeking new clergy, as well as for church development. It is the latter in which we are especially interested as we begin to explore new ways in which the Church of the Epiphany might grow.

Please come to give Canon Carrie a warm Epiphany welcome!

**Highlights of the June, July, and August Vestry Meetings, 2017**

The vestry of the Church of the Epiphany is comprised of Senior Warden Ron Britton; Junior Warden Phyllis Britton, who also is the clerk of the vestry; and vestry members William Bergner, Jr., treasurer; Betty Benedict, John Cook, Gail Morgan, Bradley Phillips, Nancy Schell,

and Martha Stowell. Senior Warden emeritus, Bill Bergner, Sr., and the Rev. Elizabeth Gillett also are present at most meetings.

### **Buildings and Grounds**

The need for repairs and some renovations in the parish house has been a major concern at all of the vestry meetings. In June, architect Jim Johnson met with the vestry to share his proposal for new parish house doors and altering the grades of the ramps, which are not up to code. He also discussed the steps to the main entrance of the church. Mr. Johnson is very knowledgeable about the Chenango County Building code for churches, which changed recently. A discussion with him about his recommendations concluded his presentation. He agreed to put them in writing for the vestry, along with a cost estimate. As of the August meeting, the vestry had not yet received it. Martha Stowell agreed to contact him about this.

Also, the basement of the parish house is damp and needs to be cleaned out. At the August meeting, several vestry members expressed concern about other aspects of the parish house which need repair. The vestry agreed that this situation demanded a swift response before the fall and winter weather set in.

The church also is in need of some work with electrical wiring and painting. The vestry is awaiting bids for these items.

In June, vestry member Nancy Schell very kindly bought and planted hydrangeas in the flower beds at the church entrance.

At the August meeting, the issue of the condition of the church cemetery also was raised. Bill Bergner made the point that the grave stones are the responsibility of the families of the deceased. The church is fulfilling its responsibility to mow the grass and to keep the cemetery tidy, thanks to the efforts of Pete Benedict.

### **Vestry Administration**

Because of occasional conflicts with other church activities, the vestry voted to make the second Sunday of each month the official time to hold vestry meetings.

The issue of a written letter of agreement with the Rev. Elizabeth Gillett, describing her presence at services and other relevant activities, was raised at the June meeting. Elizabeth volunteered to share with the vestry, as a possible example, the letter of agreement which she had with St. Paul's, Chittenango, where she also served as parish priest. The vestry received copies to think about at the July meeting. They will work on a version for Epiphany at the special business meeting of the vestry on Sunday, September 17th. The final version will be sent to the diocese for the bishop's approval, and also will be signed by Epiphany's wardens and Elizabeth.

At the June meeting, the vestry approved of a festive stole suggested by Martha Stowell as a thank you gift for the Rev. Bruce MacDuffie for his service to Epiphany. Martha shared the stole at the August meeting; the vestry liked it very much. It will be sent to Fr. MacDuffie with a card signed by parishioners.

At the July meeting, Elizabeth presented a book entitled *Funding Ministry with Five Loaves and Two Fishes*, by Rosario Picardo. The Rev. Picardo writes about imaginative and creative ways that parishes can fund and staff their ministries without a huge financial outlay. Elizabeth suggested that the vestry read the book, and that the group discuss one chapter per meeting. She felt that it contained valuable ideas which might be adapted for Epiphany. Her proposal was discussed at the August meeting, with some members feeling that they did not have time to read or that they just weren't readers.

Elizabeth offered to check into audio versions of the book, so those who wished could listen to it when driving or at home. The vestry passed a motion authorizing Elizabeth to obtain copies of the book for those who may be able to read it.

At the July meeting, Elizabeth also raised the question of the vestry developing a vision statement for Epiphany. A guiding vision is important in making the right decisions and taking the right actions in accordance with the church's sense of God's calling. This will be discussed further at a later date.

## **Outreach**

At the June meeting, Elizabeth brought up the need for a clergy discretionary fund. In years past, this was a line item in the parish budget, but was eliminated. Elizabeth explained that recently there were three separate occasions when people needed confidential financial help, and that this need had been met either by personal out-of-pocket donations, or by the rector's discretionary fund at St. Thomas', Hamilton.

After discussing this situation, at the July meeting the vestry approved of restoring a line item in the 2018 parish budget for a clergy discretionary fund, while finding the funds elsewhere if needed for the remainder of this year.

In July, senior Warden Ron Britton delivered a check for \$150 for a summer camping scholarship for a local child at the Rogers Environmental Center. The scholarship money was raised by parishioners with the approval and support of the vestry.

The vestry also supported, at the July meeting, the restoration of Epiphany's relationship with the Sherburne Food Pantry. Parishioners are encouraged to bring nonperishable food for the Pantry to services, which will be offered at the altar along with the bread and wine and people's financial contributions. Martha Stowell very kindly has volunteered to be Epiphany's liaison with the Food Pantry. She will make sure that food offerings are delivered as they accumulate.

Finally, the Church of the Epiphany is embarking upon electronic outreach! Parishioner Anita Drexler has a rough draft of a web site for Epiphany. Ron and Phyllis Britton and Elizabeth Gillett will be meeting with her on August 30th to begin to move it forward. The vestry has approved of the formation of an electronic outreach committee to administer and update the web site once it is up and running. Please consider volunteering to be a part of that group.

## **Clergy Summer Update**

Besides my usual preparation for Sunday worship, I have been busy with visiting parishioners at home, hospital visits in both Syracuse and Cooperstown, sitting in on vestry meetings to learn more about the parish, conducting the first meeting of a Worship Committee, and trying to figure out the best approach for all of you for an adult education, or explorers program, in October and November. I was saddened by the death of Milt Benedict, but appreciated the privilege of getting to know Betty and his family better, and of presiding at his memorial service and interment. I also have met with a parishioner for spiritual guidance and met with the Sherburne ecumenical Council of Churches at their August meeting. So much for slowing down in the summer!

At the Worship Committee meeting, I explained to the group that one of their most important functions is to act as an advisory group to the clergy. Another is to work with me to look ahead at the liturgical calendar to plan worship, not only for Sundays, but also for special church seasons and celebrations, such as Advent and Christmas.

Some members of the group had questions, such as do we have to stand to pray and might it be possible to receive Communion at the altar rail kneeling or standing? My answer was that it is permissible to pray kneeling, if one wishes, and that we could work out receiving Communion at the altar rail, as well as at the altar steps for those who can't do stairs and don't wish to kneel.

We also talked about using the Book of Common Prayer, printed in the worship bulletin, for special seasons such as Advent and Christmas. We did not make any decisions about these situations. We will meet again on Sunday, September 24th, after church. If any of you wish to join us for the meeting, you are welcome.

If you would like to make any comments or suggestions about our worship, please feel free to talk with either Rosemary Jaytanie or Red Ravielle (music); Bill Bergner, Sr., John Cook, Martha Stowell, and Brad Phillips (worship leaders); Phyllis Britton, vestry liaison; or me.

I am enjoying getting to know all of you and getting to know Sherburne better. I am impressed with your faithfulness and commitment. Keep up the good work! Best wishes for a healthy and growthful Fall. Affectionately, Elizabeth+

## **PARISHIONERS IN THE NEWS**

We offer our heartfelt condolences and support to Betty Benedict and her family upon the recent death of her husband, Milt. Thanks to parishioners Phyllis Britton, Gail Morgan, Nancy Schell, Martha Stowell, Michelle Cook, Lois Bergner, Bill Bergner Jr. and Joanne Nigolian for their contributions to the refreshments at the reception at the Sherburne American Legion following the interment of Milt's ashes.

On Sunday, August 13th, the aumbry candle burned in loving memory of Delbert Lehman, given by Dorothy Lehman, while the altar flowers were given in loving memory of Carol Irwin Cook, by the Cook Family.

Many thanks to Gail Morgan and all her assistants who helped her setup and take down all of the tables for the July 15th rummage sale. Thanks also to everyone who contributed to it. There were some beautiful and interesting items on sale.

Thanks also to Martha Stowell who has volunteered to be Epiphany's liaison with the Food Pantry at St. Malachy's in Sherburne.

Well wishes to Bill Bergner, III for an excellent recovery from his recent spinal surgery.

## **IMPORTANT DATES IN SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER**

### **September**

Sunday, September 3 -- Ecumenical service at Rogers Environmental Center, at **10:30AM**. No service at Epiphany.

Sunday, September 10 -- **The Rev. Canon Carrie Schofield-Broadbent preaches and celebrates** at the 9:00AM Service, followed by a reception in the parish house and meeting with the vestry.

Sunday, September 17 -- **Vestry** business meeting after church.

Sunday, September 24 -- **Worship Committee** meeting after church.

Saturday, September 30 -- **Farewell party** for Pastor Joanne of the Sherburne UCC

Church, time to be decided, either 1 or 2PM.

**October**

Sunday, October 8 -- **Walk against Hunger:** sign-up 1:30 PM, walk 2:00PM, Sherburne Methodist Church.

Monday, October 23 -- Sherburne ecumenical **Council of Churches meeting**, 7:00PM, Methodist Church

Episcopal Church of the Epiphany  
5 Classic St., PO Box 538  
Sherburne, NY 13460

Office phone: 607-674-4312  
Email: [info@epiphanysherburne.church](mailto:info@epiphanysherburne.church)