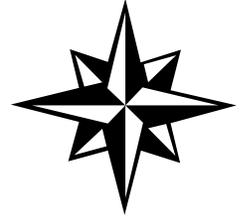


The Epiphany Star



EST. 1846



September 2016

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.

< SUNDAY MORNING SERVICE RETURNS TO 11 AM EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 4 >

A MESSAGE FROM FATHER PAUL ABERNATHY

My Dear Epiphany Sisters and Brothers: I am honored to serve on the Diocese of Upper South Carolina's Race and Reconciliation Committee. The initial planning retreat was held on Saturday-Sunday, August 27-28, at Camp Gravatt, Aiken, SC. Here, I share *a meditation on race* that I wrote two years ago and posted on my blog page; for, on immediate reflection on my retreat experience, it continues to represent my sense of things. Love, Paul

What is race? A thing to run? If so, how?

A thing to run *toward* as a shelter of safety in which one's identity dwells secure? A ground on which one's integrity, the maintenance of that identity, can stand?

Or a thing to run *through* to get to the other side to stand with "the other" so to see one another through the lens of our common humanity, as in that generation ago liberal-minded goal of a color-blind society? (A laudable ideal in theory, the pursuit of which, however, is beset by this insoluble reality: even when color-blind, we still see black and white. It seems we can't run through race to some mythological place of color unconsciousness.)

Or a thing *from* which to run afraid of "the other", conscious of what we've been taught and learned, and so believe about "them", about "those people"? Or a thing from which to run from ourselves, refusing to be identified by race, in fear of rejection and isolation by the prejudice that prejudges without benefit of knowledge or in fear of facing our prejudices, our judgments of others based on evidence other than what we can attain by personal, individual encounter?

Race. A thing to run? No. Rather a thing *to be* as an expression of diversity. A diversity – seen from a theological perspective of divine intention and from an anthropological point of view of the created order itself – paradoxically, best shown and seen as one. For there is but one race, whose name is holy. And that race is wholly human.

So Jesus told the Parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10.25-37). An essential element of a just and compassionate life is our knowing and honoring our neighbor, who is anyone and our being a neighbor to everyone.

Then why, O why do we, in fear, still divide ourselves one from another, color by color? Despite our highest ideals and best intentions, our history and sociology continually trump our theology and anthropology.

Let us pray and struggle still that we may find a more excellent way.

SCHOOL BACKPACK MINISTRY

The school Backpack Ministry will be starting the first week of September. More than half the students in S.C. schools participate in free or reduced lunch programs. In some schools, as many as 95 percent of students qualify for free or reduced lunch, but there are few programs that focus on providing food while school is not in session. National programs are available, but are based only on the poverty classification of the school, not the individual need of the students, which limits their impact.

Churches across the state have recognized this need and have been creating weekend backpack food ministries to help close the food gap between school lunch on Friday and school breakfast on Monday.

In Laurens, The Church of the Epiphany, Atonement Lutheran Church, First Methodist and First Presbyterian have undertaken the mission of providing backpacks for 15 students at Ford Elementary School each month on a rotational basis. The Church of the Epiphany will provide the backpacks for the 4th Friday in each month. We need to provide nutritious food for two breakfasts, two lunches and two suppers and two snacks along with milk that does not have to be refrigerated for each backpack. If you would prefer to allow us to do your shopping for you, please indicate on your donation that the funds are for the Backpack Ministry. Some items to consider donating for the backpacks will be individual breakfast cereals and bars, dried fruit, individual containers of fruit, fruit drinks, protein items, snack items and juice drinks in containers that will not leak or spill along with milk in aseptic containers (does not need to be refrigerated). If items are canned, please make sure the lids can be opened easily. Remember that some of these families may not have a stove on which to cook. There are tables set up in Hobart Hall for the items you are able to donate. On any items that are somewhat perishable, please be sure to check the "Use By" dates.

At Church of the Epiphany, we will be packing the food after services on the third Sunday of each month. We will also be providing additional food items over the Thanksgiving break and Christmas break.

Please contact Connie Daniels at 681-0329 or cdaniels1234@hotmail.com with any questions. Thanks in advance for any donations you are able to provide.

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Sept. 02:	Mark Adams	
Sept. 19:	Jackie Womack	
Sept. 22:	Harriet Barksdale	
Sept. 29:	Sarah Daniels	
Sept. 30:	Mary Herbert	Bill Cooper & Martin Meek

SEPTEMBER NURSERY AND USHER SCHEDULE

Sept. 04:	Base Smith	John Womack
Sept. 11:	Sarah Daniels	Reid Cox
Sept. 18:	Harriet Barksdale	John Womack
Sept. 25:	Linda Barksdale	Reid Cox

AUGUST FINANCIAL REPORT

August income = \$5,007.33

August expense=\$8,076.56

August balance= \$18,940.09

Miss Lucy's Garden Blog: www.gardenepiphany.wordpress.com

Please send any announcements, additional birthdays or anniversaries, corrections or other items to be included in future editions of the Epiphany Star to Bill Cooper at mthappy@prtcnet.com or call me at 864-969-2707.

***ANNUAL GARDEN SONG GALA IN MEDITATION GARDEN AT LAURENS COUNTY
MEMORIAL HOSPITAL***

You are cordially invited to attend **GARDEN SONG** in the Ferguson Meditation Garden at Laurens County Memorial Hospital on Sunday, September 18 at 6 p.m. This annual musical event features some of the best voices and musical talent in and around Laurens County followed by fellowship and hors d'oeuvres in the Garden. This year's featured performers include: Mrs. Lynn Robbins, vocalist and composer, of Clinton; Ms. Marian Smith Nee, pianist, of Laurens; Jonathan Butler, flutist, of Gray Court; Ms. Toni Coomer, soprano, of Hickory Tavern; Mr. Frank Brown, bass, of Laurens; as well as others. The proceeds of Garden Song fund maintenance in the Garden, and help build an endowment for the Garden's perpetual care. Tickets are \$12.50 and may be purchased from the Ferguson Garden board members or at the gate the night of the event. For tickets or more information, please call Donna Peay in Clinton, 833.6938 or Holly Saunders in Laurens, 984.3336. In case of rain, Garden Song will be held in Rasor Chapel, Martha Franks Retirement Center.