



EPIPHANY STAR

Church of the Epiphany September 2011

The little white church on the corner

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Clergy Clatter

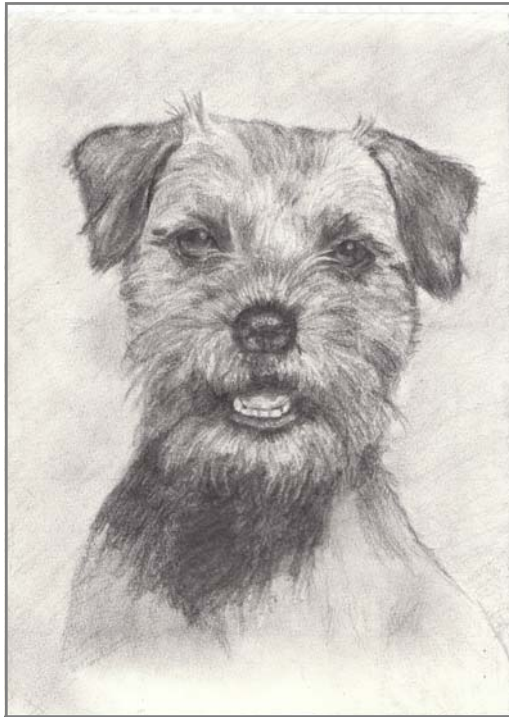
By Guest Columnist Reverend Carol Sims

Thomas Jefferson (1743-1826) of Monticello, the little mountain that cast a large shadow over Albemarle County where I grew up, once wrote:

"Friendship is precious, not only in the shade, but in the sunshine of life; and thanks be to a benevolent arrangement of things, the greater part of life is sunshine."

While I no longer have a dog or tales of woe because of destroyed sofa pillows, chewed chair legs, possums and other wildlife deposited at my feet, or a vat of oil knocked to the kitchen floor, I do have a story to share of one of my best friends, "Mr. Chipper of Merrifield." Mr. Chipper was a Border Terrier, a fairly small, wire haired, hunting dog bred in the Border Country of England and Scotland, the land of my ancestors. This breed was used in scouting out foxes from the farmers' fields, digging out the coveys to rid the farmland of the "nasty vermin."

This, of course, was not the reason I chose Chipper as my companion, as I liked foxes and certainly didn't want any pet of mine killing one. I was looking for a dog who was hale and hearty, strong enough to go cross country with me when I exercised the horses across hill and dale, and, who had a good personality. Chipper fit all of these requirements, and more.



In the Fall of 1992 when I felt called to move to Montana, packing the horse trailer with whatever I could get into it, leaving Virginia for the great unknown guided by the Lord Himself, guess who accompanied me on that journey? You bet - Mr. Chipper! He and I moved into a two room log cabin, circa 1928, filled with dead flies and live mice, under which lived a badger, outside was a

raccoon who frequently climbed up to look in the windows, and mountain lions who roamed the foothills of the Absaroka Mountains. Chipper was my guard dog, my friend, my pal who kept me company and those critters at bay, well, except for the mice who populated faster than you could say Rip Van Winkle!

Chipper went everywhere with me, beginning in November going to Butte each day for radiation crossing the Madison, Jefferson, and Gallatin Rivers, climbing two mountain passes covered in snow to cross the Continental Divide for treatment to demolish

a recurrence of cancer. At Christmas I flew back to Virginia to be with my children and friends taking Chipper with me, but on the return flight, the airline said it was too cold to transport my dog, that I would have to leave him in Virginia until Spring when the weather warmed. I was heartbroken! How was I going to get through chemotherapy without my buddy, Mr. Chipper? (continued p 3)



Vestry Highlights

The August 4th Vestry Meeting was devoted to reviewing the procedure section of our Church Audit. The financial side of our audit was perfectly clean. All findings in the audit dealt with procedures and administrative organization. After thorough examination of the audit findings, the following actions were taken:

- Established a Finance Committee with the Treasurer as Chair, Assistant Treasurer as Vice Chair, Rector (ex officio), Sr. Warden, Jr. Warden, Accounts Payable person and Audit Chairperson.
- Established a Stewardship Committee with the Vice Chair of Finance serving as Stewardship Chair. Directed that a Member of the Vestry should serve on the Stewardship Committee and recommended that there be representation from both the 8 a.m. and 11 a.m. services.
- Moved and approved that the Vestry appoint or reappoint at-large members of the Finance Committee every 4 years, beginning January, 2012.
- Moved and approved that the Finance Committee develop a program of Planned Giving.
- Moved and approved that Sunday collection and parish funds be processed in a secure place on the premises of the church, inventoried and then taken immediately to the bank night deposit.
- Moved that the Vestry each year establish a list of persons responsible for counting and processing weekly receipts and that at least two unrelated persons be responsible for performing the weekly counting together, effective January 1, 2012.
- Referred to the Finance Committee a recommendation that a Financial Procedures Manual be developed using the template supplied by the National Church.
- Tabled until next month establishing procedures and policies for handling pledge information.
- Moved that the required inventory of property and assets be completed.

The next meeting of the Vestry will be held on Thursday, September 8th at 7 p.m.

My Weekend of Arts in the Woods

I left my house Saturday morning at 6:15 a.m.; heading to Chanco on the James for the *Arts in the Woods* retreat. The weather was truly amazing and I enjoyed the peaceful drive until the MapQuest directions left me lost and confused....Thankfully, I arrived just as breakfast was ending. I wasn't late!

After checking in, I headed down to the Pavilion for singing and worship. All ages were represented for this lively session. After morning worship, we headed to our first workshop. I had previously registered for the yoga class. The instructor was excellent. The class left me feeling rejuvenated and ready for the rest of the day.



My afternoon workshop was just as stimulating - we discussed the use of rhythm in prayer and then put our rhythm to use by participating in a brief drumming circle.

Throughout the day, I met lots of friendly, interesting folks. There was time for solitude as well. I went for a long walk along the river and then spent some time rocking and reading on the porch of the Manor House. The talent show at the end of the evening was amazing! What a talented group!

After a good night's rest and finally some coffee, I was ready for my last workshop. We focused on selected Scripture passages and their relevance to our own story. I very much enjoyed this special weekend of praise, prayer, singing and sharing!

Eva

Clergy Clatter *continued:*

The Lord has a funny way of always knowing what's best for us, but I certainly didn't think this was very funny at the time. However, when I got to Montana, the pipes had frozen in the cabin, so I had to move into the main house on the ranch to live with the elderly owner, her three dogs, and 2 cats. Chipper would have certainly mauled the cats, attacked the dogs, and probably tripped up the elderly lady, so the Good Lord was right, again!

Chipper had a special flight home the first of February that year, just in time for the last 6 months of chemotherapy trips to Bozeman. He was an invaluable friend, a smiling and happy companion who helped me through that year bringing me sunshine on some mighty gray days, even though he did run the cows down the entire mountain causing dollar losses for the ranch!

Mr. Jefferson was right, friendship is precious, as was Mr. Chipper!

Carol †

Sunday School Starts in September!

Parents, please note your calendars and make every effort to support and encourage your children and youth and the Christian Education Program at Epiphany. The dates for classes will be the 2nd and 4th Sundays, however, in December we will meet the first three Sundays to prepare for our Christmas Program! **The Sunday School Schedule for Fall:**

9:45-10:45 a.m.
September 11th and 25th,
October 9th and 23rd,
November 13th and 27th,
December 4, 11 and 18th.



We look forward to a great year ahead, so come and join us in our venture into Christendom!

The Reverend Carol Sims †

Epiphany Prayer List

<i>Louise Bailey</i>	<i>Barbara Kledzik</i>
<i>Jeremiah Cronin</i>	<i>Jeff Mitchell</i>
<i>Al & Phyllis Godden</i>	<i>Shirley Mulderrig</i>
<i>Jim Hanson</i>	<i>Nell Steckman</i>
<i>Richard & Louise Jacobs</i>	<i>Joan Warren</i>
<i>Robert Kidd</i>	<i>Elva Wilson</i>

Remember John Paiz on deployment over seas.

Epiphany Celebrations

Happy Anniversary!

David and Linda Armstrong September 21st

September Birthdays!

8th - Linda Edwards	11th - Nancy Reynolds
10th - James P. Gardner	14th - Carols Fernandez II
11th - B. J. Hujdich	19th - Nita Reed

Worship Volunteer Schedule

Sept	Lector	Chalicer	Usher
4	Marcie Kidd	Mike Scott	Mike Scott
11	Todd Bissonnette	Brian Pritchard	Ray Steckman
18	Mike Scott	Jimmy Jorden	Jim Jorden
25	Brian Pritchard	Todd Bissonnette	Dawn King

Rebuild our Church in Haiti

The Diocese of Southern Virginia reports that the Diocese has raised \$21,562.45. Church of the Epiphany Norfolk as well as other participating parishes were thanked for participating in this critical gesture of support to the Church in Haiti.



September 2011

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

<p>September 11th is also National Grandparents Day!</p>				1	2 Al Anon 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.	3 
4 Holy Eucharist Rite II 8 and 11 a.m. Labor Day Lunch on the Lawn!	5 LABOR DAY AA 7-10 p.m.	6	7 Choir 7 p.m.	8 Vestry 7 p.m.	9 Al Anon 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.	10
11 PATRIOT Holy Eucharist Rite II 8 and 11 a.m. Children's SS Girl Scouts 4 pm Sept 11 2001 Bell & Open Sanctuary	12 AA 7-10 p.m.	13	14 Choir 7 p.m.	15	16 Al Anon 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.	17 Backpacking Workshop 8:30 a.m.- 5 p.m.
18 Holy Eucharist Rite II 8 and 11 a.m.	19 AA 7-10 p.m.	20	21 Choir 7 p.m.	22	23 AUTUMN Al Anon 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Scout Lock-In	24 Girl Scout 7 a.m. - 2 p.m.
25 Holy Eucharist Rite II 8 and 11 a.m. Children's SS	26 AA 7-10 p.m.	27	28 Choir 7 p.m.	29 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. "Living a Holy Life" Meeting	30 Al Anon 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.	

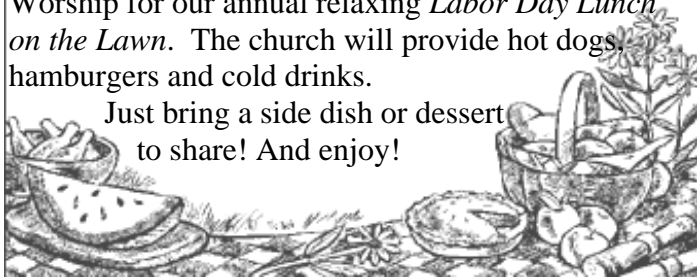
Autumn Events at Church of the Epiphany:

Sunday, September 4th

Lunch on the Lawn - Join us after 11:00

Worship for our annual relaxing *Labor Day Lunch on the Lawn*. The church will provide hot dogs, hamburgers and cold drinks.

Just bring a side dish or dessert to share! And enjoy!

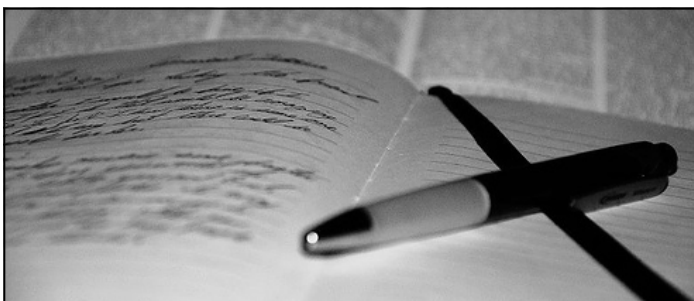


Remembering 9/11

Sunday, September 11th Tenth Anniversary Commemoration

In accordance with a request from the National Church to offer remembrance to those

who were killed on Sept 11, 2001, members of Church of the Epiphany will toll the church bell on the hour from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. and be on hand to offer our beautiful Sanctuary as a place of prayer for those who may be seeking, on this National Day of Remembrance. You can help us in this outreach and Patriot Day observance by volunteering to ring the bell, or to be present in the church for an hour or two as a host or hostess.



Writing Down Your Prayer: Journaling with God

Saturday, September 17th at St. Luke's, Smithfield from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. with meditations led by Rev. Gary Barker. There will be time between for journaling! Retreat is Free. RSVP's are appreciated! Email: garyjmbarker@verizon.net

During Labor Day weekend worship, many congregations bless members of various occupations. From painting to parenting, from truck driving to teaching, from farming to pharmaceutical research, work is honored as holy.

Some might believe that certain jobs - pastor, missionary, bishop - are more holy than others. But in his classic book *The Practice of the Presence of God*, Brother Lawrence tells of performing even the most common, tedious tasks as holy service to God: "I turn the cake that is frying on the pan for the love of [God]," he wrote. "It is enough for me to pick up but a straw from the ground for the love of God."

No matter your field of work, remember than any task done in God's name and to His glory is holy.

I will not doubt, though all my ships at sea
Come drifting home with broken masts and sails;
I will believe the hand which never fails,
From seeming evil worketh good to me.
And, though I weep because those sails are battered,
Still will I cry, while my best hopes lay shattered,
"I trust in Thee."
Ella Wheeler Wilcox

"O LORD, you will hear the desire of the meek; You will strengthen their heart, You will incline Your ear to do justice for the orphan and the oppressed, so that those from earth may strike terror no more."
(Psalm 10: 17-18)

Ten years have passed since that tragic September morning in 2001, when terrorists took thousands of innocent lives and shattered America's sense of security. As we reflect on this anniversary, Psalm 10 reminds us that God is on the side of the victim, the weak and the helpless. He won't ignore the cries of people in need, and He ensures that justice is ultimately done.

Saturday Oct 29

Start cleaning out your car, cabinets, closets, garage and drawers! Items can be brought to church starting October 2nd.





Bishop's Day at Good Shepherd

It's not just for Vestry anymore!

Saturday, October 8th from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. the Diocese of Southern Virginia will be offering a large variety of workshops (13 in all!) to strengthen and support the local parish. Workshops cover such topics as:

- * *Using the Gifts of the Generations,*
- * *God Gives the Growth,*
- * *Understanding the Diocesan Budget,*
- * *Building an Infrastructure for Pastoral Care,*
- * *Communication in the Digital Age.*

Certainly Vestry and Wardens are strongly encouraged to attend, but *all members are invited* to attend, network, share experiences, gather up resources and bring lots of food for thought back to the parish!

Deadline for registration is noon on Monday, October 3rd. Registration fee is \$15 and includes refreshments, supplies and lunch. Please speak to Father Bridgford with your interest in attending!

SUMMER FINANCE UPDATE

As at the end of July, Epiphany is operating at a deficit. Epiphany's expenses continue to rise, yet our YTD (year to date) income is

\$1,650 under budget. If you are behind in your pledge gifts or can afford a little extra to our church, the Vestry would appreciate it! Thank you for your continued support of our church family!

Tina Wright, Treasurer

Episcopal Diocese of Southern Virginia

"Friend" the diocese at www.on.fb.me/diosova. Visit the Diocese website at www.diosova.org, and their YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/user/TheDioSoVa. Sign up to receive the Diocese's weekly eNews email, www.bit.ly/weeklyemailnews.

Food Fundraiser!

Donkey Dawgs, a Virginia Beach Restaurant, along with Randy Eason and Jimmy Teeters, are hosting an Epiphany fundraiser on Sunday, September 11 after the 11 a.m. Worship service.

A fully prepared meal will be available for you to take home. For a suggested contribution of \$15, your family can enjoy:

- ✓ 1 1/2 lbs of Carolina style smoked chopped pork BBQ with vinegar or sweet sauce for topping,
- ✓ four buns
- ✓ homemade coleslaw
- ✓ 1 1/2 lbs slow cooked baked beans
- ✓ 1 lb Amish macaroni salad OR 1 lb red skin potato salad
- ✓ four slices of chocolate OR key lime cake!

All proceeds to go Epiphany. Sign up sheets are available so the chef knows how much to prepare! Please mark your preference for salad and cake!



Fall Camp at Orkney Springs

Theme: Discovering Ourselves Anew!

October 24-27 at Shrine Mont. \$250 per person, \$220 per person for a double room.

Camp isn't just for kids! Keynote Marcus Borg! Workshops on journaling, genealogy, healing, prayer beads, marbleizing paper, GEO tracking, getting your affairs in order, dreams, sensing prayer, crafts... Sponsored by the **Tri-Diocesan Council on Aging**, registration forms available in the parish office!



The Epiphany Star
is the monthly newsletter of
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