

*Welcome to the Church of the Epiphany
Glenburn Pennsylvania*



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Parish Profile March 2023

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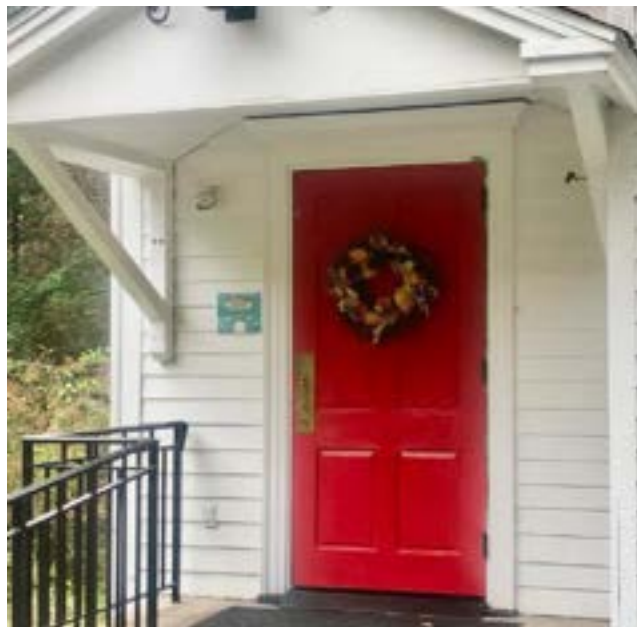
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We at the Church of the Epiphany are seeking a full-time Priest-in-Charge who can guide us into the future and provide our parish family with a loving spiritual leader. We may be small in size, but we are large in heart, mighty in faith, and blessed with an abundance of talents within our congregation. We pray that you may be the right candidate for us, and you find Epiphany to be the home you seek.



Whom We Seek

We are looking for a full-time priest who can lead us. Our ideal candidate is one who is well versed in theology, compassionate, and personable. We seek one who possesses a good sense of humor, a strong code of ethics, a willingness to delegate duties, and an ability to relate to all parishioners, no matter their age or station in life, and who is dedicated to pastoral care, and community outreach, and who views the position as a calling rather than a job.



Spiritual Nurturing & Pastoral Care

For I was hungry, and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me. - [Matthew 25:35-40](#)



As a congregation we are looking for a leader that has a strong commitment to Spiritual Nurturing - Someone who believes in the power of the Eucharist, can promote a deeper prayer life for our members, and be engaged with scripture. We have had several ongoing programs of Spiritual Nurturing: Adult forums, Christian education, a small children's church service, Lenten studies, Blessing of the Animals, Stations of the Cross, Christmas caroling to our homebound, and lay ministries.

We believe that Pastoral Care is an obligation of all parishioners, not only the priest. Whether we are visiting parishioners in the hospitals or nursing homes, welcoming newcomers at church, encouraging our youth, providing company and assistance to homebound parishioners, or simply being there to listen to others, we can all be caretakers of God's flock.

Our Church

As you visit the Church of the Epiphany, you may notice a simple white structure with a quaint steeple and a garden. Enter to feel a serene sanctuary, without the noise of the world. We pray, we love, we welcome you as an affirming and inclusive place to worship God.

We welcome everyone. We cherish our time together as a parish family. We believe that all are equal and loved unconditionally by God.

May you find the quiet peace of God in our midst.



Mission Statement of the Church of the Epiphany

To worship God, to love, pray and care for one another, and to act as the Body of Christ in the community and the world.

We seek to aspire to our mission, and grow our church, through seven Areas of focus:

- i. Spiritual Nurturing & Pastoral Care.
- ii. Youth Programs.
- iii. Parish Growth.
- iv. Buildings and Grounds.
- v. Community Outreach.
- vi. Liturgy & Music.
- vii. Finance & Stewardship.



Our Vision

We see a bright horizon ahead. The setbacks of the pandemic forced us to invest in our future by modernizing our traditional approach to worship. We built a new studio within the church to broadcast our services online. This unique system which has been nationally recognized as being on the forefront of technology, allows for remote &/or homebound parishioners to actively join in the service including as lay readers, or simply as participants, able to chat after the service with other parishioners both at home and on the premises.



Like most churches our enrollment has declined in recent years. Our Vestry has taken many steps to make our campus more appealing to the outside community, and to have many activities that will attract the public to come into our halls. We see this as a parish goal which all members can participate with the right example and leadership of our priest. We see ourselves as leaders of our community willing to take on the challenges that face our society, and as a place of worship and solace to all people, regardless of wealth, race, nationality, gender, sexual preference, or political viewpoints.



Our History

Remember the days of old; consider the years of many generations; ask your father, and he will show you, your elders, and they will tell you. Deuteronomy 32:7



We have a long and rich history dating back to the Feast of Epiphany in 1912 when a small group of people got together to purchase a one-room schoolhouse with a pot-bellied stove for the purpose of creating a summer chapel.

Throughout the next 100 years, Epiphany has grown into a loving parish. The 14 priests who have served Epiphany have made a mark in our history that cannot be overstated. The thousands of parishioners who have come and gone are likewise embedded in our core. As our times and demographics change, so too must we evolve to become more welcoming to all. The future leader will guide our next generation as we traverse the 21st Century.



Our Life Together



Weekly Worship

As an Episcopal church, Epiphany is a spiritual home free of judgment and inclusive for all. We like to say that our worship is ancient while our attitude is quite modern. The basis for our worship is the Book of Common Prayer. We are a family and do our best to make you feel welcome.

Sunday Worship:

8 AM Spoken Holy Communion service

11 AM Holy Communion

in the church

or spiritual communion

via Zoom or telephone



Liturgy & Music



Let them praise his name with dancing, making melody to him with tambourine and lyre. -Psalm 149:3

Our parish has a seamless blend of music and liturgy. The church is more “low Episcopalian”. That is not to say that we shy away from appropriate rituals and ceremonies when the occasion calls.

Highlighted by a custom pipe organ handmade by the famous German organ builder Karl Wilhelm, our service enjoys traditional Christian music directly from the 1982 Episcopal Hymnal and similar hymnals from other faiths, as well as numerous musical selections sung by our

talented choir. We often utilize accompanists on flute, violin, cello, trumpet, guitar, and hand bells as well as our grand piano in the church.

Our Mary Benjamin Memorial Concert, made possible by a generous endowment gift, hosts guest musicians of all persuasions.

The choir is a close-knit group. In addition to regular practices, they often gather socially, including for their annual Christmas Caroling where they go out in the community and sing to the homebound parishioners. They also participate in the Youth Group’s remarkable Christmas Pageant.



Parish & Fellowship

There is a bond between our members. The love that exists between them is palpable. When asked what Epiphany means to them, virtually all our parishioners use the term “family”.



We eat together, laugh together, celebrate together,



work together, grieve together, and worship together, just as any family would do. Our recent improvements will serve as a way

to encourage outside groups to utilize our facilities and become familiar with our church and parishioners. Additionally, we have a strong presence on social media, and we invite the community to participate in our events.

The person who does not love does not know God, because God is love. – 1 John 4:8

Love is impossible to describe to someone who has never known it. So too, is the Fellowship at Epiphany. Our humble little parish, in its own way, leads us to a closer relationship with God.



Christian Education

Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.
Proverbs 22:6



Our youth play an integral part in the life of our parish. From Baptism to confirmation to Graduation, and eventually weddings, we all take pride in the development of our youths into young adults.



Virtually all our parishioners know the kids on a first name basis. Our Sunday School program is designed to teach our children respect and reverence in a joyful atmosphere, while learning the stories of the Bible. They are encouraged at a young age to take part in our services as lay readers. All of them participate in the annual off-beat Christmas pageant, which the high school students write themselves.

While the pandemic forced us to discontinue our Vacation Bible School during Summer vacation, we hope to someday return to this annual event.



Our youth program is intertwined with our Acolyte program. The children are treated with respect. They, in return, recognize that there is a time and a place for



fun and worship.

For over 30 years we have been continuously attending



the National Acolyte Festivals held at the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C. This trip is a highlight of the year for our youth, who work hard to fundraise for this event.

This year we are planning to once again participate in the Appalachia Service Project in West Virginia to aid less fortunate families hit hard by poverty and natural disasters.

At the end of each school year, we have Youth Sunday. This is a celebration of our youth where the older students conduct the entire church service, including serving as ushers, lay readers, acolytes, chalice bearers, and one lucky graduating senior is selected to give a sermon. The sermon tends to be a highly emotional occasion where the speaker recounts a lifetime of growing up at Epiphany. All students are thereafter recognized for promotion into the next grade. The day culminates with the awarding of the Lawrence Ketchen Scholarship to all graduating seniors.

We are always sad to see them leave, but take solace knowing that we, as a church community, have prepared them for life.



Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God. - Hebrews 13:16

Community Outreach partially occurs through two committees within Epiphany that work to aid the needy:

Agape is a parish discretionary fund to help those in the parish or beyond who find themselves in need of financial assistance, either in an emergency or long term. In the most current year, it provided aid to 12 families, 8 individuals, and 13 local agencies. The committee encourages parishioners who know of someone in need to make that known. Lacking applicants this last year, they reached out to guidance counselors in the local school districts for families in need. Agape is supported by the church budget and by contributions from parishioners.

Christian Outreach/Disaster Relief Fund is set up through an endowment to support regional, national, and global projects that help meet people's physical and spiritual needs. A sample of the latest grants provided aid to Ukraine, a women's resource center, a local mission to the homeless, an organization for disabled children, and several food banks.

In addition to these gifts to the community from our treasury, members give substantially of their time and talent as well. We support numerous local, national, and international causes, both financially, and through active participation. Following are just a few of the groups we have supported in the past:



Clothing Shed



Hunger Walk



Hunger charity



Prison Ministry



One Small Step



Service Mission



Christmas at Sea



National Acolyte Festival



Abington Ecumenical



Highway Clean-up



Dalton Pantry



National Cancer Institute



Women's Resource



Weinberg Food Bank



D&A Treatment



Disabled Citizens



Episcopal Annual Appeal



United Neighborhood



Food Delivery



Reaching the Pygmies



Hemlock Hill Nature



Homeless Mission



Food Bank



Prison Re-Entry Program

Buildings & Grounds



And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, -

Matthew 16:18

We are blessed with a wonderful historic traditional church building in the New England style, surrounded by 25 acres of lush, mostly wooded grounds. Our modern Parish Hall houses a large Fellowship Hall complete with Cathedral ceiling and portable stage, a new commercial kitchen, nine

classrooms, a casual commons room with fireplace for smaller group meetings, church offices, multiple storage rooms, and four restrooms.

Outside is the All-Saint's Memorial Garden along with the Woodlands Memorial Garden and Columbarium. Both provide unmarked burial grounds for cremated remains in a natural setting. The campus is well maintained, and our Vestry has authorized a significant budget for additional new improvements.

Our church grounds hosts one of the entrances to the Rails to Trails network. This affords us a very public face. In the past few years, we have added a bar-b-que area and outdoor pavilion. These additions give us an opportunity for rental income.

Our tenant, the Hemlock Hill Academy, is an educational support program focusing on science and nature for children who are home schooled. We enjoy a warm symbiotic relationship which greatly benefits the church.



Our Stewardship & Finances

Stewardship

As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace.

- 1 Peter 4:10

Our parish is mindful of our need for stewardship. We have approximately 88 members and this year we were able to increase our pledges. We are blessed with a strong endowment and the income from it has made it possible to maintain our \$250,000 budget. We are exploring additional forms of income.

We are a very generous church. We share our endowment income to support the diocese, local charities, and individuals in need. Our stewardship truly encompasses time, talent, and treasure. We long to see our church grow so new dreams can be realized.

STAFF

We have a dedicated staff of paid employees and volunteers. They include a Deacon, Parish Administrator, Sexton, Music Director, Organist, Broadcast Media Director, and a Social-Media Director. In addition, we have a full Vestry of nine parishioners including Sr. and Jr Wardens and parish officers.

Our Numerical Data

Number of Baptized Members	88
Communicants in Good Standing	74
2022 Total Attendance	2,174
2022 Average Attendance (non Regular scheduled Worship).....	43
2022 Average Sunday Attendance	37
2022 Pledges	42
2022 Pledges received	\$82,108
2022 Income received (Pledge, Plate, Support).....	\$120,725
2022 Investment Income used for operations	\$116,800
2022 Total Normal Operating Income	\$ 240,894
2022 Total Operating Expenses	\$241,806
Investments & Endowment Fund	\$2,767,604

Assets

Land	\$ 250,000.
Buildings	\$2,784,430.
Outdoor Structures.....	\$ 83,720.
Personal Property.....	\$ 556,887.
Endowment	\$ 2,433,000.
Cash on Hand	<u>\$ 27,000.</u>
Total	\$ 6,135,037.

Debt **No outstanding debt**

Detailed Profit & Loss statements and Annual Reports are available upon request.

Our Community

The Church of the Epiphany is located in a community known as the Abingtons. It is a residential suburb of Scranton, in northeastern Pennsylvania. We are 104 miles from Philadelphia and 121 miles from New York City. We have an excellent highway system and are served by the Wilkes-Barre International Airport.

History - The area is rich in history because at one time it was the anthracite capital of the world and the producer of the steel rail that opened the west. The Steamtown National Park and the Anthracite Museum reflect that history. Several other museums reflect the arts. We have a philharmonic orchestra, ballet company, Broadway theater league, countless choral groups, and community theatre troupes, and a Chamber music society.

Education - The Church is in the Abington Heights school district which is the highest ranked school district in the Scranton Metropolitan area. It is ranked in the top fifty schools in the state and in the top 10% of public schools in the country. Scranton has five colleges, two universities and the Commonwealth Medical School.

Health Care - Three hospitals are within blocks of each other in Scranton with satellites in the Abingtons.

Recreation - We are within four miles of the Lackawanna State Park, and have a Triple A Yankee baseball team, an AHL Hockey team, water parks, several ski resorts, as well as tennis and golf courses in the area. There are hunting and fishing lands, Rails to Trails walkways, lakes, and rivers, and plenty of sports teams for young people, along with a meandering stream right on our own property.

It is a wonderful place to live and to raise a family.



If you believe that God is calling you to consider the Church of the Epiphany as the next step on your journey, please give it prayerful thought, and contact the Northern Canon Missioner for the Diocese of Bethlehem, Canon Melinda Artman, at melinda@diobeth.org or (610) 691-5655 x 259

God bless you.

The Church of the Epiphany



