



Epiphany

By *The Rev. Charlie Barton*

In common conversation we call any sudden illumination an epiphany. But there is a stronger light at work if we will turn and see it. *An Episcopal Dictionary of the Church* defines an epiphany as “The manifestation of Christ to the peoples of the earth.” The lists of these

showings of His divinity “included his birth, the coming of the Magi, his baptism, and the Wedding at Cana where he miraculously changed water into wine.”¹

The day chosen to celebrate these events was called the Feast of Lights. Christians chose January 6th, a day others used as a day for celebrating the winter solstice. By this practice the young Church expressed their understanding that the Son of God should be revered even more than the sun in the sky. But the return to days of increasing light after a time of deepening darkness has a powerful effect on people.

Is it any wonder that the early church used the first few darkening weeks of December (Advent) as a time of thoughtful preparation? It makes equal sense that the solstice would become a day for baptizing. Imagine being baptized and receiving your first Eucharist on the very day that the sun in

the heavens turned from banishment in darkness to stronger presence and longer days.

You’ll find more information about the Day of the Epiphany and its historical development in Sandy Gallup’s “Holy Mysteries” column on page 6. But even this brief outline of the epiphany shows us how the experience of light and dark, seasons and symbols form our understanding. Liturgy, lectionary, stories and sacrament flow together over time and carry us where we could not otherwise go.

The Rev. Jerome Berryman is the creator of Godly Play, one of the methods we use for Christian Formation in our Sunday school. When Jerome speaks of the Magi, or wise men, he says that they followed “the wild star” to seek the infant who would change the world.

In Jerome’s hands a scrap of cloth, a piece of string, an empty cup and some wooden figures suddenly take on as much significance as the players in a Passion play or the objects in a solemn liturgy. Ordinary things extend beyond themselves to point at something larger, deeper, and more mysterious.

Sacraments are defined as “outward and visible signs of inward and spiritual grace, given by Christ as sure and certain means for receiving God’s grace.”² While I am not suggesting that we can make Eucharist with a piece of string and an empty cup I do want to point to that luminous quality that seems to emanate from some interactions and events like the soft glow of some wild star.

Continued on the next page

¹“An Episcopal Dictionary of the Church, A User Friendly Reference for Episcopalians,” Don S. Armentrout and Robert Boak Slocum, editors.

² Ibid.

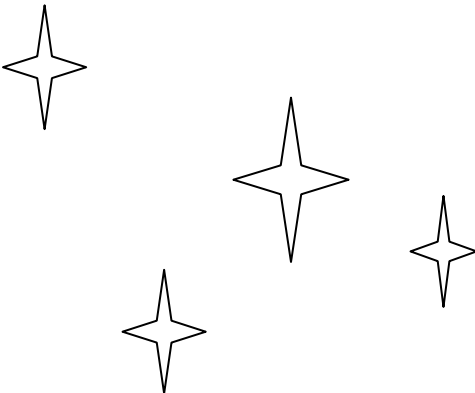
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The bible is full of these star lit stories. I encourage you to use *Day by Day* or our on-line lectionary as a way guiding you into your own experience of Epiphany through daily reading of scripture. But I also encourage you to look into your own life and to listen to the stories of those around you. Christ is manifest there as well.

The divine is shining on us. The light of the wild star falls on pieces of string produced from the pockets of beloved children and on the scraps of cloth worn by the unknown homeless man or woman. The light of holy invitation falls on the wooden figure waiting for forgiveness just at the edge of our vision and into the cup that stands empty until we are willing to fill it. Be with us, O Christ. Fill us with your love and your light that we may face the darkness carrying a luminous hope-not just for ourselves, but also for others.

O God, by the leading of a star you manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth: Lead us, who know you now by faith, to your presence, where we may see your glory face to face; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Your brother in Christ,
Charlie+



CHRISTIAN FORMATION

Make a commitment to spiritual fitness in the New Year! This winter, the Christian Formation Community will offer several opportunities for study and reflection. For further information about any of these programs, please contact Suzanne Zantop (szantop91@aol.com) at 443-506-3660 or the Rev. Loree Penner at 410-771-4466.



Wednesday Morning Bible Study resumes on January 9, 2008 at 9:30 a.m. This winter and spring we will study the Gospel according to Mark with the accompanying text *Mark for Everyone* by Tom Wright. Our optional reading is *Glad Reunion: Meeting Ourselves in the Lives of Biblical Men and Women* by John Claypool.

Newcomers are welcome to this accessible bible study and theological reflection, led by Suzanne Zantop (szantop91@aol.com).

Theology and Spirit continues on Friday morning, January 11 at 9:00 a.m. with an examination of our prayer lives, using the book *True Prayer* by Kenneth Leech, under the direction of Debra Donnelly-Barton.

The CS Lewis Book study resumes January 14th. We will be reading the first book of Lewis' Space Trilogy, *Out of the Silent Planet*. We meet at 10:00 on Monday mornings in the parish library under the direction of Loree Penner+. You are welcome to join at any time.

In early February, **look for our Lenten Series**, coming direct to your mailbox! Each household will receive a guide to weekly study and reflection during Lent on the topic "Reclaiming the Sabbath: Returning and Rest", which is an accompaniment to our Lenten series of speakers.

Suzanne Zantop

FOR WOMEN ONLY:



Do you look forward to the Super Bowl with about as much joy as you look forward to going to the dentist? Then St. James' Football Seminar (for women only) is for you.

Join Doris Bowen and Loree Penner for a brief overview of how the game is played, what to look for, and how to make the most of the game of the year.

Sunday, January 20 11:45 a.m.

TAKING SOME TIME OFF

After an exciting fall, the Sunday Morning Blender is taking a much needed vacation. So, there will be no event during the month of January.



But not all is rest and relaxation. Stay tuned to this spot for information about our next event. **(Hint: 2/3/08)**

Or better yet, check us out on-line for info about upcoming dates and memories of past events!
www.saintjames.org/blender



BRAND NEW ACOLYTES!!!

In case you haven't found your way to the 9am service in the past few months, let me take this opportunity to welcome our

newest Worship-9 Acolytes – Rob and Courtney Moncure and Ellie Marindin! These brave souls are learning the ropes and fast becoming proficient at the acolyting arts. Be sure to thank them and give them a pat on the back for helping to make our worship wonderful! Art+



BAPTISMS will take place on **January 13** which is the Feast of the Baptism of our Lord.

Baptismal Preparation will be at **11:00am on Saturday, January 5**

for parents and those godparents who are able to attend. Please speak with one of the clergy if you are an adult wishing to be baptized, or if you have a child to be baptized. The Rev. Mary H.T. Davisson, Ex-Director, Baltimore International Seafarers Center will be our preacher for that day.

GET CAUGHT –

Did you know that wearing your nametag is one of the easiest and least threatening ways to welcome newcomers to St. James? Sure, you might think that our little church is a place where "Everybody knows your name," but it's not really. And particularly when you are new to a place the thought that you are the only person that doesn't know anybody's name is pretty scary. So wear those name tags, and keep your eye on this space for photos of your favorite church luminaries proudly sporting theirs!



Don't have one? Put your name on the Entertaining Angels board (to the left of the door to the parish hall) and we'll make one for you.

2008 Summit on the City

Beyond Charity Re-Knitting the Community:



Join us for a day of learning, study, and reflection on issues of urban ministry. There will be time for sharing, networking, and worship. Lunch will be provided to all participants. The event is free.

Saturday, January 12, 2008 from 8:30AM - 3:00PM, [St. John's in the Village](#)
 3009 Greenmount Avenue, Baltimore



SMC in our Sunday School

On All Saint's Day the Sunday School came together as one class, excluding the pre-schoolers. They learned about the day, wrapped and packaged

boxes, and made cards for the "Christmas By the Sea" project. We gave them a couple of questions to think of while they joined in the activities.

"Does this make you a Saint for helping the Seafarers?" "Do you think this is what Jesus was teaching us in the Sermon on the Mount, the beatitudes?" You may want to ask your young ones again, to hear what they learned from the project.

Thanks to the Sunday School Teachers for their hard work! Special thanks to the 6 and 7th grade Sunday School for working on this project since the beginning of Sunday School. Thanks to all our Sunday School Students for their hard work. A special thanks to all our parishioners for their continual support and their donations. There were over a thirty shoeboxes and thirty-five gift bags delivered to the Seafarers Center. Exec. Director, The Rev. Mary H.T. Davisson was overwhelmed by the parish's generosity.

<http://baltseafarers.ang-md.org/>. You have all made a special Christmas for some great men and women. Maybe you should ask yourself the questions we asked the children.

Our 6th and 7th graders will be making blankets in the next coming Sundays. They will choose where to send the blankets, (homeless shelter, PACE Program, an orphanage, pediatric hospital, etc). Thank you again,
Kelly Francis and Karen Underwood



THE
BISHOP CLAGGETT
CENTER

Go to the Claggett Center website <http://www.bishopclaggett.org/> to see the winter retreat opportunities for children, youth and adults.

<http://www.saintjames.org>



Marco V. Avila is a member of St. James Parish (and our newsletter editor). For

the past 12 years Marco has volunteered with the Ecuadent Foundation on its Medical Missions to Ecuador. Marco has recently joined another organization, The Healing Hands Foundation (THHF), as their Executive Director. Marco hopes to be able to help more children in this new role because THHF foundation will be aiding medical missions not only in Ecuador, but all around the globe. Their first mission in Quito, Ecuador in the Summer of 2008. For more information about Marco's new work check out THHF's web site at www.thhfoundation.org



BISHOP'S BLEND OVERSTOCK SALE

For all you decaf coffee lovers who appreciate a great cup of java. If you buy 2 bags of decaf coffee you save \$1.00. Bags are \$10.00/lb so if you get 2 the cost is \$19.00. Get 'em while they last. The cart is right outside of Charlie Barton's office & you may pay Marie Fields or leave a check in the \$ box.

Remember this coffee is dark roasted & the beans are either from Indonesia or Central America. It is certified Fair Trade, organic & shade grown AND you are helping ERD (Episcopal Relief & Development) & St. James Church w/every sip. Questions- contact Susan Baxter @ harmony9@comcast.net or 410-472-2169



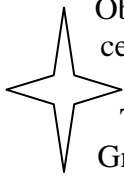
NEWSLETTER DEADLINES

Articles for the St James monthly newsletter are due the 15th of each month. You may call me at 410-440-0473 or e-mail me at avila@pbworld.com. Collating and Folding Day is

usually the third Thursday of the month from 9:00 to 11:00am in the Parish Library. Call Susan in the Office at 410-771-4466 if you have time to help.

*The Newsletter editing room wishes you
Happy Holidays! Marco Avila*

HOLY MYSTERIES: EPIPHANY



Observed on January 6th, the Epiphany celebration remembers the three miracles that manifest the divinity of Christ.

The word "Epiphany" comes from the Greek word Epiphania, "to show, make known, or reveal." The celebration originated in the Eastern Church in AD 361, beginning as a commemoration of the birth of Christ. Later, new meanings were added: the visit of the three Magi, Christ's baptism in the Jordan River, and His first miracle at the wedding in Cana.

While some Greek Orthodox Churches still observe the Epiphany celebration as the Nativity of Jesus, the majority of Eastern Orthodox, Roman Catholic, and Anglican Churches focus on the visit of the Magi and Jesus' baptism.

The eve of Epiphany, called Twelfth Night, is thought to mark the arrival of the Magi in Bethlehem. The significance behind the visit of the Magi is the revelation of Christ as "Lord and King." These Wise Men were the first Gentiles to publicly recognize the divinity of Jesus, by way of their offerings of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

The baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River revealed His divinity as the Son of God. John the Baptist testifies of the Holy Spirit descending upon Jesus like a dove, and a voice from heaven saying, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased." (Matthew 3:16-17) In our own church, we mark the Baptism of our Lord by baptizing candidates on the first Sunday after Epiphany. This year, that Sunday falls on January 13.

Several Russian, Coptic, and Greek Churches also focus on the wedding feast at Cana, in which Jesus revealed His power to perform miracles, a divine prerogative.



Throughout the world there are many rituals and traditions celebrating the Epiphany. In Europe and Latin America, Christians commemorate Three Kings' Day by offering prayers, burning herbs that have been dried and blessed, sprinkling entryways with holy water, and inscribing the initials of the Magi

(Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar) on structures in order to receive a blessing. A favored custom in Central Europe involves "star singers". Children dress as the three kings and go caroling from door to door carrying a large star. In reward, they receive money or sweets, which often go to church charities and relief organizations.



For many Christians, Epiphany is a reminder of God the Father's unlimited love and mercy, which He has extended to all of mankind through the revelation of His Son, and of the hope of salvation that is now manifest for all who come to him in faith. *Sandy Gallup, Altar Guild*



You'll not want to miss an evening of

Wine and Music
February 2, 2008
at St. James Academy
6:30-11:30 pm.

Our Wine Tasting runs until 9:30 p.m. with samples of over 50 wines. Plus, exclusive offers on bottles from our

"High Notes Club"

Featuring limited prime and reserve bottles, all at special pricing, well below retail.

Then, continue to enjoy

Food, Cash Bar, Silent Auction and Live Entertainment with your friends throughout the night!

Make your reservations today by returning this form with payment to the SJA Office-Attn: Patrons/Wine. Tickets are \$55/person

Proceeds to benefit the new SJA playground.



THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF MARYLAND

A Prayer for the [Bishop's] Search Committee



The Search Committee invites your continued prayers, and requests that this prayer for the committee be used in your weekly worship and communications:

Almighty God, whose gentle hands shaped the shores of the Chesapeake and molded the hills of the Alleghenies: Guide and direct your people as we seek a chief pastor for the Diocese of Maryland. Give us clear eyes and wise minds to see beyond our desires so that we might choose a bishop who loves and serves you. Support those who hear your call to discernment and surround their families with your care. Lead us by your grace to a greater understanding of your mission and ministry so that together we might grow more and more into Christ-likeness; through Him who died and rose for us and who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever. Amen.

NOMINEES TO BE ANNOUNCED

The nominees will be announced to the diocese on **Tuesday, January 8**. Parish Staff: check your "In-Box" at 8:00 am on the 8th for a special edition of the Parish Mailing with the names, photos and biographies of the nominees. The Bishop Search Web page will also be updated on January 8th with this information.

MEETING THE NOMINEES FOR BISHOP

In an effort to allow people throughout the diocese to meet the nominees for bishop, four sites have been selected for meet-and-greet sessions commonly known as Walk-Abouts. The specifics have yet to be finalized; however, the anticipated format is small group question-and-answer sessions. The amount of time with each nominee is estimated at 20 minutes, but could change depending on the final number of nominees.

March 4 6:30-9 p.m., All Saints' Parish, Frederick

March 5 6:30-9 p.m., Emmanuel Church, Cumberland

March 7 6:30-9 p.m., St. James' Parish, Lothian

March 8 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m. and 3-5:30 p.m., Trinity Church, Towson

2008 Diocesan Children's Lenten Program - *Bread for Itipini*.

Help the children of our parishes further the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by collecting money to buy bread and milk for the children of Itipini in South Africa. Itipini is a community of 2500 people who live on a garbage dump on the outskirts of Mthatha, South Africa. For each Sunday in Lent, *Bread for Itipini* will include a brief lesson plan, with information, photos, prayers, and scripture. The lesson can be used for a brief Sunday School program or a children's sermon. *Bread for Itipini* can also be a parish-wide project. Links to the project will be online in January on the [Christian Formation web page](#) and will be in the Parish Mailings. *All you need is a shoe box!*

ST JAMES CHURCH
YEAR TO DATE FINANCES THROUGH NOVEMBER 30, 2007

INCOME	ACTUAL	BUDGET	ANNUAL BUDGET
PLATE AND PLEDGES	\$429,945	\$434,406	\$512,538
INVESTMENT	22,626	20,003	22,356
CHAPLAINCY/DIOCESE REIMB	45,732	40,803	44,513
RECTOR TRANSITION FUND/RUTH LEAF	0	0	76,854
ENDOWMENT & OTHER	29,497	34,022	43,680
TOTAL	<u>527,800</u>	<u>529,234</u>	<u>699,941</u>
EXPENSES			
COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS	346,078	353,182	382,189
FACILITIES MANAGEMENT	121,085	125,474	140,586
OFFICE	39,594	38,517	41,187
OUTREACH & COMM SERVICE	70,641	76,489	83,460
PASTORAL CONCERNS	504	540	575
WORSHIP	22,297	27,901	34,719
EDUCATION AND YOUTH	10,290	12,463	15,050
EVANGELISM & MEMBERSHIP	918	2,091	2,175
TOTAL	<u>611,407</u>	<u>636,657</u>	<u>699,941</u>
OPERATING REVENUE (EXPENSE)	(83,607)	(107,423)	
NON-BUDGETED INCOME (EXP)	(21)	0	
NET REVENUE (EXPENSE)	<u>(\$83,628)</u>	<u>(\$107,423)</u>	
ASSETS			
CASH	\$103,758		
RECEIVABLES	231,744		
HOUSE, TENNIS CT & BLDG.IMPR.	560,581		
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$896,083</u>		
LIABILITIES AND FUNDS			
LIABILITIES			
DUE TO OTHER FUNDS	\$10,750		
ACCOUNTS PAYABLE	0		
PLEDGES RECEIVED IN ADVANCE	7,390		
TOTAL LIABILITIES	<u>18,140</u>		
FUNDS			
REPAIR	85,180		
RESTRICTED	330,352		
UNRESTRICTED	546,039		
CURRENT NET REVENUE (EXP)	(83,628)		
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>877,943</u>		
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUNDS	<u>\$896,083</u>		

Altar Guild
 Becky Rigger
 Carol Westerlund
 Mary Lee Isenrock
 Cindy Eaton
 Debbie Erickson



Ushers
 Miles Baxter
 Dennis Hendrix
 Mark Lynne

8:00am	Welcome	Reader	L.E.M.	Offering	Prayers	Server
First	Sandy Gallup	Henry Baker	Anne Bricker	Henry Baker	Henry Baker	Cindy Eaton
			Sandy Gallup	Sandy Gallup		
Second	Bruce Parker	Anne Bricker	Debra Barton	Henry Baker	Pat Parker	Pat Parker
			Bruce Parker	Bruce Parker		
Third	John Beever	John Beever	Joe Chadwick	Henry Baker	Joe Chadwick	Bonny Wright
			John Beever	John Beever		
Fourth	Bruce Parker	Margaret Bryant	Pat Parker	Henry Baker	Margaret Bryant	Erica Callaham
			Bruce Parker	Bruce Parker		
Fifth	John Beever	Pam Balcerak	Anne Bricker	Henry Baker	Joe Chadwick	Cindy Eaton
			John Beever	John Beever		

10:15 am Eucharist	Acolytes	Chalicians	Old Testament	New Testament	Prayers
1/6/08 Epiphany	M. Curley E. Curley A. Fries	Matt Rogers Michael Curley	Priscilla Sherman	Philip Norman	Laura Green
1/13/08 Baptism of Our Lord (Baptisms)	E. Dewlin M. Robbins K. Bullard	Lyndy Eddy Pat Newman	Matt Rogers	Fred Smalkin	Debbie Kissinger
2/20/08 2 Epiphany	K. Rogers B & L Heidelberg	Matt Rogers Betty Wilson	Fred Smalkin	Laura Green	Art Sherman
1/27/08 3 Epiphany	R. Sakamoto E. Callaham D. Donnelly	Michael Curley Marge Bowen	Kathy Durkee	Bill Bowen	Priscilla Sherman
2/3/08 Last Epiphany	T. Zantop A. Miller B. Robbins	Betty Wilson Lyndy Eddy	Miles Baxter	Doreen Passaniti	Yvonne Hook

Worship 9	Choir	Liturgist	Acolytes	Lector	Prayers	Oblations	Chalicians
1/6/08 Epiphany		Lynne, M.	Moncure Family	Byron Baldwin	David Eastman	Emerick Family	David Eastman
1/13/08 Baptism of Our Lord		D. Holt	Marindin Family	Fitzhugh	Volunteer	Holt Family	
1/20/08 2 Epiphany	Teen/Youth	L. Fitzhugh	Confirmands	Confirmands	Confirmands	Confirmands	Eastman
1/27/08 3 Epiphany		Kari-Ann Lynne	I. Fitzhugh	Donna Lashof	Mark Lynne	Daniel Lynne	Eastman

If you are unable to meet your assignment, please find a substitute and notify the liturgist.



St. James Academy

Faith in Action at the Academy

Views from an Administrator and a Student

Every morning the students recite the School Prayer and the Honor Code. The Honor Code (composed by Dr. L. with middle school student input 10 years ago) is noted below:

My goal is to be the best person that I can become. To this end I will strive:

to develop my potential physically, intellectually, morally, and spiritually;

to make careful choices, exercise self-discipline, and accept responsibility for my own actions;

to respect the property, rights, and feelings of others; to fulfill the ideal of service to others.

I will live by the St. James Academy Honor Code and will not lie, cheat, steal, or hurt; and I will discourage others from such actions, as well.

Thus every morning our entire community renews its vow “to fulfill the ideal of service to others.” This service manifests itself in a myriad of ways (time, talent, and treasure) at SJA that this single article could not hold the complete list. And of course there are new activities added yearly. It is the nature of our plenty that many are willing to help restricted only by time available.

Much of our community service is highlighted during the holidays, but in fact the ideal of “servant leadership” pervades our entire school

year. Keep an eye on the **Faith in Action** bulletin board (located in the lower level of the south wing hall outside of my office) and watch our story unfold. *Bayly Buck, Assistant Head*

At SJA, Dr. Legenhausen and Mr. Buck encourage students and their families to do as much community service as possible. For Kindergarten to 2nd grade there is a toy drive. The 3rd through 5th graders participate in Operation Christmas Child, which is a program that provides gift boxes for children who normally don't receive anything for Christmas because they are homeless or are in need. In 6th grade, students participate in the Special Olympics. As for the 7th graders, they travel to Paul's Place and help the other volunteers serving the homeless. The 8th graders and the 7th graders both helped glean the fields at One Straw Farm (with students from Al Rahmah and Baltimore Hebrew Day School), nearby Saint James. The produce gathered went to local food banks. The 8th graders also participate in Bay Grasses in Classes, which is a program that lets students take care of submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) that is found in the Chesapeake Bay, helping to both grow more SAV and allow students to learn more about the aquatic vegetation of the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries.

Increasing environmental consciousness will help the Bay thrive. All these acts help others as well as open new doors for students who are interested in serving their community. *Katelyn Newman, Student*

Note: The 7th grade students had the opportunity to exhibited their “Faith In Action” during the recent Thanksgiving holiday. As a school community, the students at SJA donated food and personal hygiene items for those less fortunate. On November 19th, the 7th grade delivered the donations to Paul's Place Outreach Center and assisted with sorting supplies, creating baskets, and serving lunch.

Saint James Episcopal Church
3100 Monkton Road
Monkton, MD 21111-2112

U.S. Postage Paid
Monkton, Maryland 21111
Permit #5
Non-Profit Organization

Parish Center: (410) 771-4466

Parish Fax: (410) 472-2613

Academy: (410) 771-4816

Email: The Rev. Charlie Barton, Rector, cbarton@saintjames.org
The Rev. Loree Penner, Associate Rector, lpenner@saintjames.org
The Rev. Arthur Callaham, Curate, acallaham@saintjames.org

In celebration of God's gifts
 and your stewardship of them



**Join us at an Epiphany
 Stewardship Tea**

The Rev. and Mrs. Charles Barton, the Men's
 Organization and the Stewardship Community
 wish to express their appreciation of the people
 of Saint James.

Open House at the Rectory
 3-6 P.M.
 January 27th, 2008

A FEW DATES TO SAVE FOR 2008

Vestry Retreat	Jan. 11 & 12
Inquirers Classes Begin	Jan. 13
Baptisms	Jan. 13
Office Closed MLK, Jr. Day	Jan. 21
Women's Retreat/Claggett	Jan. 25 & 26
Ash Wednesday	Feb. 6
Men's Retreat/Claggett	Feb. 8-10
Lenten Soup Supper & Study Begins	Feb. 13
EASTER	March 23
Electing Convention for the 14 th Bishop of Maryland	March 29
Confirmations	April 8
Annual Visitation	May 4
The Rev. Canon Mary Glasspool	
Last Sunday School Class	May 18
Academy Graduation	June 6
Consecration of the new Bishop	June 28