



February 11, 2018

Rector's Annual Report

Dear Friends:

This past week, I had the good fortune of participating in a class at Virginia Theological Seminary presenting a Genogram of Epiphany. A genogram is a method by which systems are studied to learn who and what are the moving forces; where is the emotional energy, how the system understands leadership, and how is the system adjusting to change in the life of the system. Typically, the genogram starts with a chronological history.

Epiphany is just thirty years old, a dream of Bishop Peter James Lee, Bishop Coadjutor in 1985. With a request from the assistant rector of Truro Episcopal Church in Fairfax, The Rev. B. Clifton Reardon, more affectionately known as Father Bill, began discussions with 35 people for a church to be planted in Western Fairfax County. By February 2, 1986, Father Bill was called as vicar as this small, faithful congregation gathered to worship in Benjamin Franklin Intermediate School. It wasn't long before Father Bill applied for parish status for the young mission. February 1, 1987 Bishop Lee celebrated Epiphany's new ministry with Father Bill as rector and Epiphany granted parish status.

A building campaign in 1987 led to the first worship service in The Great Hall. Epiphany celebrated and grew, and affectionately became known as the church on the corner. By 1995 Father Bill bid a fond farewell to his beloved Epiphany that he might enjoy retirement. A series of interim rectors filled the vacancy until the Rev. Robin Rauh became the second rector of Epiphany. Construction began again as well as tension in the wider church that resulted in a schism. Epiphany suffered mightily in the schism, but God continued to bless Epiphany. In 2012, after several years of exile over the concerns of the wider church, the remnant congregation of Epiphany returned to 3301 Hidden Meadow Drive. Our growth has steadily risen since our return to the property.

Genograms typically list descriptive characteristics as well. When asked what some of the descriptive characteristics of Epiphany might be, I listed: Trust, resilience, perseverance, flexibility and faithfulness. As we exhibit, trust, resilience, perseverance, flexibility and faithfulness we're experiencing some growing pains in our busy, active, life together as Epiphany, while God moves us through this next season. You've recently learned of a series of events, we believe overseen by God's great wisdom, has called us, for the time being, to de-fund the Minister of Music position with Epiphany. Jiji Park is still very much with us as the principal musician. The Praise Band is re-birthing under the direction of Tom Irby. Children, Youth and Family Ministries collectively have agreed to establish volunteer leadership of the Children's Choir. Adult choir members are now among the congregation encouraging congregational singing in worship. Two focus groups will be held under the leadership of vestry member, Elaine Perry, February 18 and February 25, immediately following 10:00 a.m. worship. Bring your gifts, your questions, and your thoughts to one of these sessions and let's learn more of how God is revealing to us a creative Music Ministry. Trust, resilience, perseverance, flexibility and faithfulness will prevail. May we be surprised as God leads us through and to a resurrected Music Ministry and may we give thanks to God for believing once again in who we are as Epiphany.

Thank you for the honor of serving as your rector. Thank you for teaching me trust, resilience, perseverance, flexibility and faithfulness as we grow to be the church on the corner.

Many blessings,

Hillary T. West