



CHRIST AND THE EPIPHANY

VOLUME 25

May 2021

What is Mission?

What's the first thing that comes to your mind when you hear the word "mission"? Do you think of China or another far away place? Do you think of repentance or conversion? Or the movie, "The Mission", where a Jesuit priest is killed while establishing a mission in Argentina? Or maybe you think of the Great Commission given by Jesus in the gospel of Matthew, "Go and make disciples of all nations".

My understanding of mission has certainly evolved over my lifetime from thinking it was something done by missionaries in a foreign country to now understanding that mission is actually how the church is to be the church.

That is to say, the church's role is not simply to be witnesses to Christ. The church is called to be collaborators with God in the mission of God for the redemption and renewal of all things. If our mission is to be biblically based, then it means that we are committed to be active participants, at God's invitation and God's command, in God's own mission for the redemption of God's creation.

Because God cannot accomplish God's purposes alone, God needs us, the people, to act as partners. The very first mission of God was to send Jesus, and our mission is

to continue to act as Christ in the world.

So the question we need to ask ourselves isn't "what should we do?" but instead we should ask "Who is God?" and "What is the work of God?"

The Episcopal Church answers these questions for us with *The Five Marks of Mission*.

- To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom
- To teach, baptize and nurture new believers
- To respond to human need by loving service
- To seek to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and to pursue peace and reconciliation
- To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth

Throughout this newsletter, you will see the ways that our C&E community is participating in these 5 Marks of Mission. Thank God for all of you who so lovingly and tirelessly participate in God's longing for healing and hope in the lives of all God's people!

I like to think of mission like this: How the church engages the community through the love of Christ. Clearly, our parish is engaged, and for that, I give thanks to God.

Faithfully yours, *Mary Anne*

Upcoming Events

Every Sunday, 9:00 a.m.,
Sunday Service via Zoom
May 23 - Pentecost! hybrid in-person & Zoom service
May 30 - ECCT livestream service on facebook

Every Wednesday, 7:00 p.m.,
Caste Book Study via Zoom

Sunday, May 9, 8:00 a.m. - noon, Junk in the Trunk

(Zoom connection information at end of newsletter.)

Returning to In-Person Church

The Feast of Pentecost is sometimes known as the "Birthday of the Church," so it seems fitting that on this celebratory day we will return to our church building for worship!

Zoom has brought us many joys by allowing our community to gather during the pandemic and allowing those of us who are far away or unable to travel to be present together for worship.

And now, with most of us being vaccinated, with our church building allowing for safe distance in worship, and with safety protocols in place, we will be holding services in the church AND on Zoom, at **9:00 a.m. on May 23, 2021.**

We want to make sure that everyone can still attend, whether in person or at home. You'll get more information about this closer to Pentecost.

As our church, state, and country reopen, it's important to consider how we've changed and how we want to create our lives going forward. This past year has been one that none of us could ever have imagined. The pandemic, the reckoning with systemic racism, the rising environment crisis, and the political violence and rancor have caused a level of anxiety and fear unknown in our lifetimes.

At our recent ECCT Spring Training event, the closing session was a presentation by Dr. David Olsen, entitled "*Parish Life after Covid: Psychological and Theological Reflections as we Gather in New Ways.*" It's an excellent presentation that I hope all of us will watch, as it addresses concerns that impact us as individuals and as a parish in our regathering.

On May 2, after our church service, we will have an opportunity to watch this necessary presentation together. I ask you to *please* set aside the time to stay and watch. If you are not able to watch on that day, here is the link, and I hope that you will watch it sometime:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EDTzEhXLYrM&list=PLnl1aa6ZBZrJn_MF_UuceohGW2iVJ2CrU

Junk in the Trunk

Our opening day, April 11, was damp and threatening rain but that did not deter the steady stream of new and returning shoppers checking out our vendors and Good Shepherd Thrift Store. Running every second Sunday from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., our next event is May 9 and promises to be even busier. We are extremely grateful for a very generous donation of \$1,000 we received from a parish benefactor.

Vending spaces in our parking lot are \$20 (\$30 if setting up tents) and reservations are recommended. Please call the church office at 203 467-2310 to reserve your space.

Mission at C&E

It is often said about us that "we are small but mighty!" and that is certainly true with our mission work. We are currently supporting two global mission projects - Women of Madagascar and Kateri Medical Services in Nigeria.



Laying Hands on Wendy Bellmore for her 2016 Mission Trip

In Madagascar the World Bank estimates that 70% of the population lives on less than \$1.00 a day. SAMS (Society of Anglican Missionaries and Senders) has a number of missionary programs there.

C&E is supporting "Women of Madagascar" which built a women's center and runs programs on food and water insecurity, and provides education and skill building to increase independence for women and female children.

The Kateri vision is to provide simple and decent medical care to rural and urban poor people in Nigeria who otherwise would not be able to afford it. In 2020 more than 11,811 people were helped in their six full-time clinics.



Wendy Bellmore in Kateri

You may also remember that in 2020, C&E collaborated with Helen Danbinta, wife of Bishop Danbinta, to request and receive grant funding of \$15,000 from ECCT Mission Committee for the project entitled *Gusau Women's Empowerment Consortium*. The funds will be used to construct a free standing Women's Center on the grounds of the Diocese of Gusau, and initiate educational programming and skills development. This is an exciting grant that entrusts the leadership and program development to local women.

Locally we spread our mission energy and money across a wide variety of places. Our Good Shepherd Thrift Store provides many items free including prayer shawls, spiritual books, and “Cross in a Pocket”. It has also helped people who have fallen on difficult times such as after a fire. The Thrift Store has also donated children’s books to New Haven Reads.

We support Life Haven, a shelter for pregnant women and young families in New Haven. Not only do we hold a “Blessing of the Animals” event each year where we take donations for the East Haven Animal Shelter but we collect items they could use (like blankets) year-round. We often collect winter hats and gloves and have filled backpacks for East Haven school children. For many years we have supported the homeless work of St. Vincent De Paul’s *Midnight Run* program in a variety of ways such as collecting food, clothing, blankets, and toiletries.



Before the pandemic we also were involved with East Haven United and the twice-monthly Community Kitchen luncheons served in our Great Hall.

Whew!



Supporting Mission

Just a reminder that when worshipping in-person we have a special Mission offering basket on the first Sunday of the month. We also have various “change” jars which we use for local mission. Also, if you write a donation check you can always designate money for mission by writing a note in the memo line.

April Vestry Summary

Next Meeting - The next Vestry meeting will be Sunday, May 16th via Zoom after the 9:00 a.m. service.

Worship - We continue to prepare for a hybrid in-person and Zoom service on Pentecost, May 23.

Building & Grounds - Cleaning!

The entire building was sprayed with aerosolized cleaner followed by surface disinfecting for COVID-19 virus particles. Also a steam floor cleaner was purchased and the men’s room floor cleaning is in progress. The kitchen is again

ready to be occupied. Finally the narthex was cleaned and rearranged with new furniture.

Outside: We have a new lawn mowing contractor - Garden of Eden. A diseased tree was removed by an east facing neighbor.

Pending: We are still working on the proposal for portico and upper story exterior painting. Also we are pursuing grant funding from Preservation Connecticut for 47 Park Place exterior painting. A Circuit Rider visit will be on April 21. The Mayor’s office meeting has been rescheduled.



- May 2 - Melanie Miller
- May 5 - Pat Walters
- May 8 - Audrey Sundwall
- May 11 - Diane Villano
- May 13 - Judith Randall
- May 20 - Geneva O’Donnell

Your Ideas Wanted!

Have you read a good spiritual book recently or seen an inspirational movie? Has there been some moment where you especially felt God’s presence in your life and the world? Let us know! We are always eager to hear from you. Submissions do not have to be long. Let’s share with each other those things that affect us. You can email us at newsletter.christandtheepiphany@gmail.com.



Episcopal Church in CT (ECCT)

Bishop Ian Douglas retirement

Bishop Ian Douglas has announced his retirement in the Fall of 2022. We certainly wish him well after his 13 years with us! You can watch his short announcement here: <https://www.facebook.com/EpiscopalCT/videos/837835420143125>

Spring Training Recap

Reflections from some attendees of ECCT's Spring Training online workshops. All sessions were recorded and the links are posted on their website: www.episcopalct.org/spring-training/.

Diane Villano: *Spiritual Practices and Spiritual Direction* provided spiritual practices in addition to those introduced by my Educational for Ministry study plus a comprehensive resource bibliography. *Morning Prayer 101* presented by Bishop Ian Douglas was a great foundation for those contemplating leading this beautiful service, and attendees were invited to submit an application for provisional Worship Leader license. Formal training by ECCT is expected to be in place later this year. I highly recommend viewing the recording of the *Closing Plenary: Parish Life After COVID: Psychological and theological reflections as we gather in new ways* which explores the anxiety we've been living with and how to deal with it.

Around the Church

Easter Altar



Narthex Refurbish



Welcome Spring!



Audrey Sundwall: I attended two sessions and the Closing plenary. *Spiritual Practices and Spiritual Direction* reminds us that following Jesus is helped by devoting time to our personal spiritual practices. *While Effective Leadership in Challenging times* felt more appropriate for clergy and wardens, it was still a good overview of problems that might arise as we reopen our buildings to parishioners who have suffered physically and emotionally from the pandemic, and who might not even realize that they have suffered. As leaders we must realize that parishioners may react in ways we don't anticipate. The *Closing Plenary* was a fantastic talk about the pandemic's chronic anxiety, which leads to many different emotions as we get back together physically. Bishop Laura reminded us that "We've got this", because Jesus tells us how to do this. Bishop Ian reminded us to connect to God and connect to each other.

Susan Shultz: In *Morning Prayer 101* Bishop Douglas walked through the Morning Prayer service. It was fun and entertaining. At the end I got a provisional Worship Leader license! *Vestry 201* was very informative. I was pleased to learn that we at C&E are already following almost all the parish administration best practices ECCT recommends. While I did miss the "in person" aspect of seeing the other parish attendees, there was something nice about being able to attend without commuting or having to commit to an entire day.

Rev. Mary Anne Osborn:
I attended four workshops: *Vestry 101*, *201*, and *301*, and *Property and Operations*, all of which were very well organized and presented. The Vestry workshops included topics such as best business practices for vestries and for parish administration and finance; problematic communication dynamics; and leadership principles. As a result of these, I will be updating our staff's Letters of Agreement, familiarizing myself with how we comply with financial best practices, and other items.

The Property and Operations Workshop was like drinking water from a fire hydrant! There was an enormous amount of very helpful, detailed information presented on a wide variety of topics, some of which are way above my head (like cleaning the boiler and maintaining the HVAC system, etc.). I'm really glad our Junior Warden, Wendy, knows all that she does about our building and its maintenance!



Season of Racial Healing, and Reconciliation

ECCT Reparations Task Force
Twelve members have now been appointed to the Reparations Task Force which was created via a resolution at the 2020 Convention. The task force consists of a majority of clergy and laity of color and is to study and make specific recommendations to the 2021 Convention as to reparations

by ECCT and individual Parishes, Worshipping Communities, and Intentional Episcopal Communities in partial compensation for 400 years of discrimination and bias based on race. For more: <https://episcopalct.blog/2021/04/19/meet-the-reparations-task-force/>



The Episcopal Church

Racial Audit Completed

The Episcopal Church has just released a report that assesses the racial makeup and perceptions of a broad sampling of the church's leadership and summarizes how race influences internal church culture. The 72-page report, three years in the making, also sheds light on nine dominant patterns of racism that were identified during interviews with dozens of church leaders. (See full article here):

<https://www.episcopalnewsservice.org/2021/04/19/episcopal-church-releases-racial-audit-of-leadership-citing-nine-patterns-of-racism-in-church-culture/>

The audit confirmed that the church's leadership, like its membership, is overwhelmingly white, and that white leaders and leaders of color tend to perceive discrimination differently. People of color said they have often felt marginalized - despite the church's professed commitment to racial reconciliation. White Episcopalians, on the other

hand, frequently weren't aware of how race has shaped their lives and their church. There will be three online seminars discussing the audit (May 11, June 1, June 29). Register here: <https://www.episcopalchurch.org/ministries/racial-reconciliation/racial-justice-audit/>

The full audit is available here: [Racial Justice Audit of The Episcopal Church](https://www.episcopalchurch.org/ministries/racial-reconciliation/racial-justice-audit/). Particularly good are pages 33-53 "Nine Dominant Patterns of Systemic Racism." Each pattern is followed by quotations from leaders in TEC that are powerfully revealing of the racism in our church.



May 19 - Erick & Diane Villano
May 30 - Tony & Jill Lamberti

Intercessory Prayers

Andrew, Astrid Swanson, Barbara R., Barbuschak Family, Brandon, Carol Ude, Carol C., Charlie & Kris Langlan, Clearwater Family, Courtney, Craig, David, David C., David & Edward, David & Irene, Devin K., Diane, Diane Link, Dot Tate, Doug, Ed, Eileen F., Elaine, Eleanor N., Faith, Father Eddie, Fran Zella, Francesca, Frank P., Frank, Fred & Judy Herzman, Gale, Geneva, Goodfellow Family, Greg T., Heather, Holly & Family, Ian, J.D., Jack K., Jen & Tyler W., Jeremy Maldonado, Jessica & baby

Olive Estelle, Jesse, Jim C., Jim R. & Family, Joe Riccitelli, John A., John Guida, John M., John U., John & Vera DePalma, Joseph, Judy DeFeo, Julia, June W., Karen Dattilo & Family, Karl, Kathrine Burdick, Kate W., Katrina R., Ken, Leah S., Lila Day, Lisa H., Lois, Lucas Sundwall, Madeline, Mark Conti, Marjorie Cowles, Marty,

Michael, Michelle C., Mitzi Parisi, Nancy S., Patty R., Rachael, Ray C., Ron C., Sallie Alexander, Stan R., Turiano Family, Wendy, Zach Schatz

for three months unless longer time is requested.

Next issue

The deadline for the June issue is **May 19**. Email newsletter.christandtheepiphany@gmail.com. For an update to the Intercessory Prayers, Birthday or Anniversary lists, please call the church office at 203-467-2310.

Matt, Matt R., Melissa D., Easter Bonnets 2021



Treasurer Report

Susan Shultz

	MAR	(UNDER)/OVER BUDGET	YTD	(UNDER)/OVER YTD BUDGET
INCOME	\$8,592.73	(\$4,324.77)	\$17,316.72	(\$8,105.78)
EXPENSES	\$8,550.07	(\$466.96)	\$26,145.54	(\$2,492.14)
NET	\$42.66	(\$3,857.81)	(\$8,828.82)	(\$5,613.64)

Notes: Income is under budget due to some large one-payment annual pledges for which I did not know the month they would be received - and it did not turn out to be March! Overall our pledge income is generally on track.

Parishioner Spotlight - Wendy Bellmore

Tell us about your immediate family and pets

I have two boys (Erik and Andrew) and three grandsons who are ages 11, 2 and 2. Parishioners may remember my youngest son Andrew, who completed his BSA Eagle Scout project in 2002. He cleaned and painted the Great Hall (including the ceiling) and closed in the south storage area of the Food Pantry. Unfortunately, I do not have any animals presently. I have had horses and dogs in the past, as well as Siamese cats. I would very much like to find a sibling or bonded pair of Siamese cats in the future. I enjoy feeding the birds!



What brought you to Christ and The Epiphany?

We moved to East Haven and came to church. I have been an Episcopalian all of my life.

In what ways do you serve your church family or community?

I have served several/many terms as Senior Warden, and on Vestry. I have also been on the Worship Commission, Finance Committee, Building Committee, and led Bible and book study, and a Vestry retreat. I currently serve on the Diocesan Companions in Mission Committee, and chair the Travel Grants sub-committee. I have traveled to West Africa (Nigeria) and Madagascar on mission with the church. When asked I have led morning and evening prayer and even given the homily. I know how to get on my knees in both prayer as well as floor scrubbing. (an homage to Hal's wit! It's hard to follow him.)

What was your occupation prior to retirement?

I worked in Social Work and Nursing. I have undergraduate degrees in both, and graduate degrees in nursing and advanced practice nursing. One never stops being a nurse, it is lifelong.

What's your favorite pastime?

Retirement, in which I find myself busier than ever! I love to read and can get in as many as three to four books per week. I love to garden, and I am a UCONN Advanced Master Gardener. I like being involved in community work, and volunteer two days a week administering COVID-19 vaccinations with the New Haven Health Department. However the best volunteer job ever is being Gramma.

What brightens your day?

Sunshine, the salty scent coming off the ocean, noisy birds in the morning, a heavy fog coming off the water, hearing the little voices and laughter of children at play. Also hot coffee early in the morning!

What's one thing about you that no one knows?

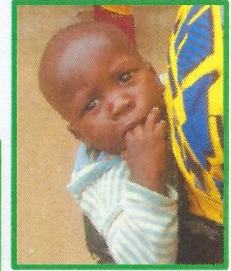
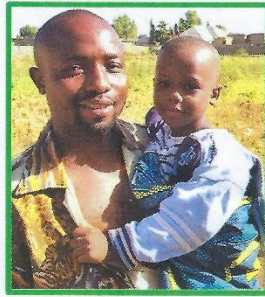
I am a member of the East Haven Inland Wetland Committee. I love being in the Southwest and have had the opportunity to work on Native American reservations in the past.

What is your fondest childhood memory?

Family outings and picnics. I seem to hold the idea that we lived in a kinder, gentler time, but I was a child and that may be the innocence of childhood speaking.

Do you have any favorite psalms, Bible passages, or inspirational sources?

I am enthralled with the passionate language used in Paul's communication with the Romans. For example Chapter 5 on Peace and Hope. I am fond of old hymns, and you may hear me humming or singing *Breathe on Me Breath of God*, or *In The Garden* while cleaning the toilets or gardening. (another homage to Hal's wit).



March 6, 2021

Christ and The Epiphany Church
39 Park Place
East Haven, CT 06512

Dear Christ & The Epiphany Church Parishioners,

I am writing to say thank you for your generous grant of \$1,250 to Kateri Medical Services. Your gift makes it possible for us to continue to serve the urban and rural poor in Nigeria with simple, decent and affordable medical care. We do this as an expression of, and an extension of, the healing work of Jesus. When we read the Gospels, we see one consistent theme in Jesus life: he taught about the Love of God, and he always healed the sick, the lame, the blind, the lepers and all afflicted by spiritual oppression and mental illness as an expression of the love of God. This is also our goal with our clinics, to demonstrate the love of God for hurting people.

This past year has been difficult for our clinic staff and their patients, as it has been for the whole world as we live through the pandemic. On top of the many problems caused by COVID 19, our clinics have also had to endure great social unrest and violence caused by the economic hardships which the pandemic has made much worse.

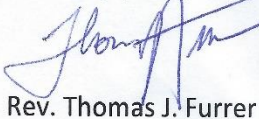
Our clinic staff have had to live under conditions which daily threaten their life because of kidnapping, banditry and tribal violence. All of these were present before, but they have become much worse in this past year.

And yet, despite all of the hardships, our clinics have continued to serve their patients faithfully. In 2020, our clinics served 10,791 people. More than ever before.

All of this is made possible by your donations. And 96.3% of your donation goes directly to build, equip and maintain clinic buildings, pay medical workers and purchase medicine. We work very hard to keep our administrative costs low. All of our American team members are volunteers. We pay for our own travel expenses. We have meetings in our homes, not at fancy hotels. For that reason, we can dedicate such a high percentage of your donated dollar to help real people who are hurting.

We are so grateful for your support.
Please keep supporting this work as generously as you are able.

Sincerely yours,



Rev. Thomas J. Furrer

President and Executive Director of Kateri Medical Services, Inc.

*Thank you very much!
We really appreciate
your support!*



*This letter will serve as documentation for your 2021 tax return.
No goods or services were provided in return for this gift.
It is a charitable contribution used only for the operation of
Kateri Medical Services, Inc. a 501©3 organization.
This contribution qualifies under Section 170 of the Internal Revenue Code.*

Worship Schedule (9:00 a.m. via Zoom)

	<u>May 2</u>	<u>May 9</u>	<u>May 16</u>	<u>May 23</u>
Lay Reader	Diane Villano	Ray Clearwater	Richard Mead	Wendy Bellmore
Voice of the People	George Coulombe	Pat Walters	Audrey Sundwall	Carol Link-Ude
MP Officiant	n/a	Susan Shultz	n/a	n/a

Note: On May 31 we will be attending the ECCT-wide online service so there are no service participants.

Zoom Worship Connection Information

To connect by computer click:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7639094733?pwd=WkR1ZHBNTNkWMjQ2NvTkRjZ09hdz09>

To join by phone call:

929-436-2866

Meeting ID = 763 909 4733

Password = 39

Weekly bulletins are emailed out on Fridays. Zoom is opened around 8:30 a.m. on Sunday.

Past sermons are available on the *Christ and The Epiphany* YouTube channel here:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCkGs9WC8ug7syl9n0kHkRaA>.

If you are not receiving the email bulletin please contact Diane in the office at 203-467-2310 or christandtheepiphany@gmail.com.

If you want or need any help getting connected on Zoom please reach out any time to Susan Shultz at 860-669-1104 or sbshultz@gmail.com.

Christ and The Epiphany Church

39 Park Place
East Haven, CT 06512

Phone: 203-467-2310

E-mail: christandtheepiphany@gmail.com

Website: christandtheepiphany.org

Worship Schedule

Sunday 9:00 a.m. Online Zoom Worship

*(See the newsletter, our website, or facebook page for
Zoom connection information details.)*