

EPIPHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH

# Epiphany's Epistle



## February 2016

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*Lent*  
BEGINS



*We are disciples of Christ  
We follow Him by leading others to His Grace through  
Worship, Education, Stewardship and Outreach  
To those in need  
And in service  
To All*

## Special Announcements



We're glad that you picked up this newsletter and hope you will find it interesting and full of opportunities to serve the Lord.

If you do not have a home church, please worship with us. *Our Sunday worship times are 8:30 AM and 11:00 AM, with Sunday School at 9:45 AM.*

We are a growing, active church with friendly people who are journeying with God through Jesus Christ. Come join us!

For more information, please call us at 770.483.6222, or visit our website [www.conyersele.org](http://www.conyersele.org).

### Epistle Deadline!

*Sunday, February 14th* is the deadline for information to be submitted for the March Epistle. You can e-mail your news to the church office at [staff@conyersele.org](mailto:staff@conyersele.org) or place your news in the Church Office. Thank You!



### Pastor David's Office Hours

**Monday through Thursday**

**9:00 AM - 12:00 PM**

**The afternoons he will dedicate to hospital or communion visits; please call the office at 770.483.6222 if you wish to make an afternoon appointment.**



Office Hours

Monday - Friday

8:00 AM to 3:00 PM

**Office will be Closed Monday February 15th for President's Day**



**February 7th  
9:30 - 10:30 AM  
Fellowship Hall**



Full fare with beverage just \$3.00/person or \$10.00/family of 4 or more.

**NEXT  
ALTAR GUILD  
MEETING  
FEBRUARY 6TH  
10:00 AM  
Room 6**



Altar Flowers

**There are many opportunities to sign up for Altar Flowers for 2016. In order to continue to have flower arrangements**

**we need you to participate.** We have two calendars available so people can share the same date. You will be able to purchase one flower arrangement for \$25.00. Check your calendar for special dates you would like to give glory to God through the gift of altar flowers. If you have any questions, please call the church office at 770.483.6222.

## *From Pastor David*

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What comes to mind when you think of Lent? Some of us think about what we will abstain from, what we are giving up, whether that be chocolate or sweets or television or computer games. Some of us think about Lent as the 40 days before Easter, in which we dwell on the suffering and death of Jesus. Lent brings to mind a time of somber reflection.

The word Lent comes from a Latin word that means *spring*, as in the season of spring. The season of Lent itself began as the last intensive training in the early church before new Christians got baptized at the Easter Vigil.

Thinking about Lent through the eyes of spring and through the eyes of baptismal preparation provides a helpful corrective to the typical ways that we conceive of Lent. The practices of Lent are not meant to focus on suffering or on an attitude of somberness. Rather, Lent is meant to be a time to plant seeds with our spiritual practices. It is meant to be a time to reflect upon who we are called to be in our baptism.

This year we will focus on practices of prayer that each of us can do in order to connect ourselves more deeply with God. I often compare the importance of prayer with the importance of our relationships. When we are in a relationship with our spouse, friends, children or parents, we know that we need to both talk and listen. In the same way, when we are in a relationship with God, we also need to both talk and listen to God.

The problem that many of us have is that we think that there is only one way to be in prayer with God, whether that be a set prayer that we say or whether it be our shopping list of concerns that we present to God. Yet, there are many different practices of prayer, all of which can help us grow in our life of faith.

We will approach the subject and practice of prayer in three different ways this Lenten season.

First, during Sunday worship we will be speaking about how the practices of faith and prayer help our Christian walk. We will do this as we reflect upon the lessons and also pay attention to the book of Colossians. You will have an opportunity to get a devotional on Colossians that can further emphasize this theme.

Second, during our Adult Sunday Class, we will explore different practices of prayer, so that our prayer lives might stretch and grow. In these classes we will learn that prayer might incorporate the words of the church or of Scripture, but it also might use silence and centering.

Finally, in our Wednesday Lenten services we will hear from different members of Epiphany as they share how their practices of prayer have deepened their Christian faith. Come join us for all three of these opportunities and discover how you might broaden what prayer means to you.

Lent provides us an opportunity to grow in our spiritual practices. So, we invite you to join us in this Lenten season to grow in the practice of prayer.

In Christ,

Pastor David

## *News From Council President*

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Here we are at the beginning of a new year. We have finished our celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ, our budget for 2016 has been developed and approved, and we have elected new council members. We now need to look towards Epiphany's future.

The council worked on short term and long term planning at the council retreat and will be rolling out some ideas in the near future. In addition the council will be holding small town hall meetings with each of the different ministries. We will be looking for what your vision is for your ministry as well as how you see Epiphany in the future.

As we move forward we will need everyone's help refocusing how we are to serve God. We want to thank everyone who is participating in all the various ministries. If you are not working with a ministry please prayerfully consider taking part in one. Consider your individual gifts and see if there is a place you could put your valuable talents to use.

Yours in Christ,  
Ron Lyons  
Council President

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## **Counseling Resources**

It seems obvious to say that life isn't easy. Most of us have experienced a time when "difficult" doesn't even begin to describe our situation. When these challenging times confront you, whether in marriage, family, or personal life, remember that the Christian walk is one we share together.

Epiphany has many resources to support you: counseling with Pastor David, listening and companionship through one of our Stephen Ministers, or therapy through InSight Counseling Resources (supported, in part, by Epiphany Lutheran). All of these ministries are confidential. Please call the church office if you would like this type of support or InSight Counseling Resources at 678-712-6898.

## *Special Services*



**Ash Wednesday  
Service of Holy Communion  
and  
Imposition of Ashes  
Wednesday, February 10th  
12:00 PM & 7:00 PM**

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### **Midweek Lent Worship**

Wednesday, February 17th and continues through March 16th

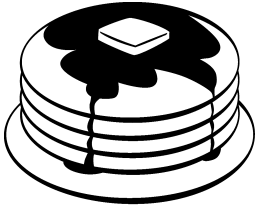
Lent Soup Suppers start at 6:00 PM  
followed by worship at 7:00 PM with Holden Evening Prayer.

**Our Lenten worship theme this year is:  
Prayer – Connecting Ourselves to God**

**February 17th  
February 24th  
March 2nd  
March 9th  
March 16th**

***Please note: We will be taking donations at the Lent Suppers to purchase meals/supplies for the Atlanta University Center - Lutheran Campus Ministry.***

## *Upcoming Events*



**SHROVE  
TUESDAY**

**Tuesday - February 9th  
6:30 PM - Main Hall  
Come and enjoy  
Fat Tuesday  
Red beans & rice, & Pancakes will be served**

### **Groups listed below will provide the meal for our midweek services:**

Wednesday, February 17th	WELCA/Altar Guild/Worship Committee
Wednesday, February 24th	Men's Bible Study/Stephen Ministry/ Prayer Ministry
Wednesday, March 2nd	Youth Groups/Education/Confirmands
Wednesday, March 9th	Choir/WINGS/Fellowship
Wednesday, March 16th	Council/Social Ministry



## Announcements & Upcoming Events

### SAVE THE DATE Sunday, March 13th 31st HUNGER WALK/RUN

Once again we will get a team together and we hope you will want to join us to help feed the hungry by walking and/or donating to this worthy cause.

We will be collecting donations between services. Look for details in your church bulletin !

Hunger Walk/Run is a project of the Atlanta Community Food Bank which benefits Lutheran Services of Georgia and our food ministry in Rockdale County.



### Chili Cook-off/Game Day

February 28th  
12:30 PM  
Main Hall

Come one come all  
Bring your best chili recipe and try to outdo your fellow contestant.

We will also be playing board games, card games, etc. If you have a game you want to share with others, please feel free to bring it.

We need both cooks and judges for this contest, which one are you?



Mark your calendars!  
Vacation Bible School  
is set for the week of June 26th

Our fellowship hall will be transformed this week of June. Please prayerfully consider your part in this year's VBS program. While this time is filled with lots of hard work of the part of our volunteers, it is also a very special gift of energy and excitement given to each participant.

God truly does come to Epiphany during the summer VBS program; you can see him everywhere on all the smiles of his children.

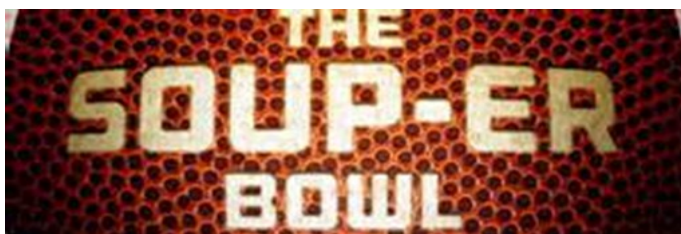
*Thank you for all the prayers ,good thoughts, cards and phone calls while in the hospital and rehab in Arizona. Each was felt and has helped with the recovery.*

*With Love,  
Velda Jones*



## Upcoming Events

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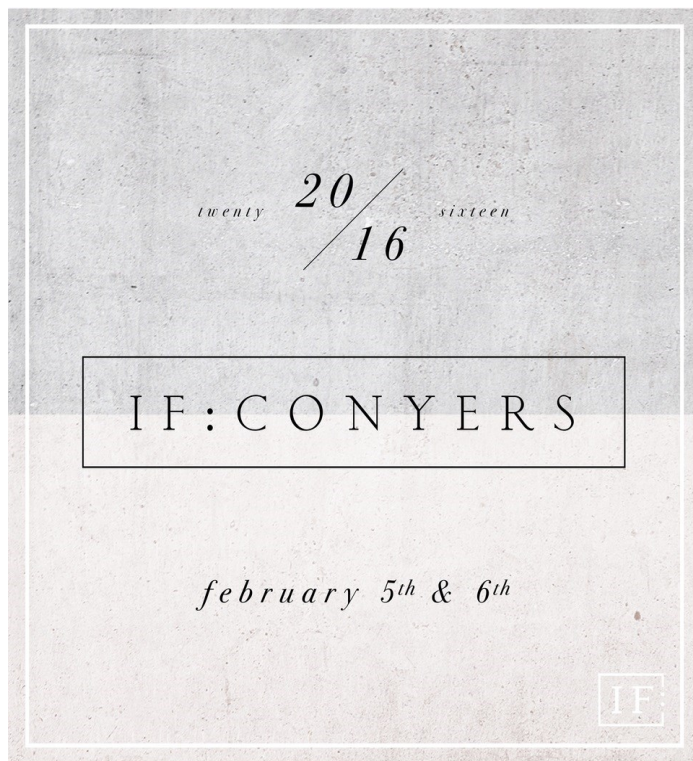


**Please bring \$1.00 + and a can of soup/chili  
the weekend of the big game...**

### **SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY FEBRUARY 7TH**

Since 1990, Souper Bowl of Caring began with a simple prayer from a single youth group: *“Lord, as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us to be mindful of those without even a bowl of soup to eat”*. To date, more than \$110 million has been raised for local charities across the country through Souper Bowl of Caring. It has become a powerful movement that is transforming the time around Super Bowl weekend into the nation’s largest celebration of giving and serving. If you would like to know more information, please visit [www.souperbowl.org](http://www.souperbowl.org).

Be a part of this movement that is sharing God’s love with those in need. Please give generously on Super Bowl Sunday. Every dollar donated or can brought will remain in our community and go to help Rockdale Emergency Relief.



The IF:Gathering seeks to gather, equip, and unleash women to live out God’s calling on their lives. We are women that believes God at His Word that He called us to our places and will use us for His glory and for the good of His people. Our goal is to make the name of Jesus great in and through the women of our church, neighborhood & city.

**Register Now for the IF:  
Gathering in Conyers, GA  
Hosted at Discover Point Church  
on GA Hwy 20  
[IF:2016 | Gather 2016](#)**

Please contact the event facilitator if you have any questions.

Jeanna Dawson



# Education & Bible Study

**Welcome To Sunday School!**  
**Come join us**  
**9:45 AM**



**February 7th**  
**12:30-2:30pm**  
**Confirmation Class**



**February 21st**  
**9:45-10:45am**  
**Mentors Meet**



**CENTERING  
PRAYER  
GROUP**

Need a break from the hectic daily grind, a place to quietly reconnect with the Spirit of God in all of us? Come join us in Centering Prayer.

Centering Prayer is a way of practicing contemplative prayer, and through it we seek to open our entire being to God simply by sitting quietly and being open to God's presence.

No experience necessary. All are welcome!

We will meet on the first  
*Tuesday, February 2nd, at*  
*6:30 PM, at the Prayer Chapel next to Salem*  
*United Methodist Church, 3962 Salem Road.*

For more information, please contact  
Evelyn Brown at 404-825-4615 or  
e-mail [evbrown51@yahoo.com](mailto:evbrown51@yahoo.com).



**Women's Bible Study**  
**(WELCA)**

All women are welcome to our Bible Study!  
We will meet on *Tuesday, February 2nd* in  
*rooms 4, 5 & 6 at 9:30 A.M.*

For our donations, please bring snacks (NO nuts) for the Epiphany Preschool and soup for the Rockdale Food Bank.

Please remember to bring your Gather magazine and any empty medicine bottles you may have.

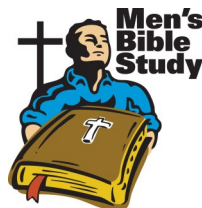
Linda Machansky



**Adult Class**  
**Discussion**

**"Forms of Prayer"**

**10:00 AM**  
**Main Hall**



**MEN'S BIBLE**  
**STUDY**

Meets Thursday Mornings  
7:00 to 8:00 AM  
Main Hall

Pastor David leads a discussion on the upcoming Sunday's lessons.

Please join us for this time of study and fellowship!

## Congregation Activities & Information

### Medicine Bottles For Malawi

The WELCA ladies are getting involved in The Malawi Project. It will help families in a third world country keep their medicines clean, out of reach of small children, and safe while they are being used. While first world nations throw away perfectly good medicine bottles, medical pharmacies and hospital facilities in Malawi often find themselves with nothing except torn pieces of paper in which to wrap medicine for their patients.

Please remove the labels from your used medicine bottles then place the bottles in the container in the narthex. We will mail them to Malawi.



Thank you for your support.

### Meals On Wheels Needs Your Help!!



A short 1.5 to 2 hour commitment is all it takes on a Saturday morning to ensure that people in need in our community receive a meal. Has not knowing what's required held you back from volunteering? If so, you are welcome to either ride along to see how it all works, or I can give you a complete written explanation.

Contact Tim Lohr at 404-807-2192, or by email at [timlohr@icloud.com](mailto:timlohr@icloud.com). Otherwise, you can simply write your name on the sign-up sheet in the Narthex.



A Pot Luck was celebrated on January 24<sup>th</sup> after the second half of the Annual Meeting. Again an interesting assortment. It is really enjoyable to view all of the food offerings and compare them to past events. In this case the selection of pasta dishes and desserts was truly amazing. Thanks to all who made the effort to bring some of your best and create another gastronomic delight. And a special word of thanks to the dauntless few who assisted with the clean up.

The Brunch in February, on the 7<sup>th</sup>, will present a selection of casseroles along with the usual juice, coffee, fruit and sweets. Come and enjoy the repast of food and fellowship.

Next meeting will be on February 1st at 11:00 AM in the library. We will prepare plans for the next few weeks and months of 2016 (at least up until Easter which comes early this year). We would welcome any suggestions that you might like to pass along to us.

Bill Schroeder (Margaret Hill, liaison)

### Congratulations to Allan Jones, son of Velda Jones!!

A local resident whose community service has touched the lives of thousands was recognized Tuesday with one of Rockdale County's most prestigious awards.

Allan Jones was named recipient of the 2016 A.R. "Gus" Barksdale Lifetime Achievement Award at the annual meeting of the Conyers Rockdale Chamber of Commerce held at the Georgia International Horse Park. The award was presented by last year's recipient, the Rev. Aldren Sadler.

## Epiphany Women's Book Club

All women of Epiphany are invited.  
We would love to have more members.

The Epiphany Women's Book Club will meet on Tuesday, February 23rd at 7:00 PM to discuss "Moloka'i" by Alan Brennert. It is a historical novel about a Hawaiian girl who is taken to a quarantined leprosy settlement on the island of Moloka'i. Our hostess and discussion leader is Margaret Hill. Note we are meeting a week later than usual. All women of Epiphany are welcome to join us. For more information call Evelyn Brown at 404-825-4615 or email her at [evbrown51@yahoo.com](mailto:evbrown51@yahoo.com).

*Evelyn Brown*



## WINGS

(Women IN God's Service)

WINGS (Women IN God's Service) is scheduled to meet on Sunday, February 7<sup>th</sup> to assemble Valentine care packages for the college students of our congregation. We will put together an envelope containing two Valentine treat bags ... one for the member of Epiphany and one for his/her roommate, classmate or a student in need. These care packages will be filled with such things as candy, pencils, erasers, notepads, pens and an inspirational message. What a fun way to keep these young adults connected to their church family while they are away at college! If you would like to help assemble these packages, feel free to join us between services on the 7<sup>th</sup>. We will meet in the church library.

*Denise Baker*



Brothers and Sisters in Christ, Epiphany once again has the opportunity to host guests through the Family Promise of New Rock program during the week of February 14th. These guests are families from our very own Rockdale county community who find themselves in need of temporary shelter. We are fortunate to be blessed with the facilities to host families in transition, but the program needs help from volunteers in the congregation to give of their time to fellowship with our guests. If you have some availability during the week of February 14th, please contact Alan Thomas at (404) 354-6210 or email at [athoma7@gmail.com](mailto:athoma7@gmail.com) for more information.

Thanks and God bless you!

Alan Thomas

## Social Ministry News

Back Pack Buddies is going well but it is time to restock our cupboards. The youth will be packing our bags in February and our cupboard is bare. We would like to pack 100 bags. Please help us this month by bringing items from the list below or give us a monetary donation so we can purchase what we need. You can make checks payable to Epiphany and note on it Back Pack Buddies. Our donation tubs are located in the Narthex. Thanks so much.



For more information you can contact Evelyn Brown at 404-825-4615 or email at [evbrown51@yahoo.com](mailto:evbrown51@yahoo.com).

*Evelyn Brown*

## *Birthdays & Anniversaries*



- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <p>2 Pam Stapley<br/>Shae Dawson</p> <p>3 Art Viohl</p> <p>4 Jay Atkins<br/>Denise Baker</p> <p>5 Michael DeLamar</p> <p>6 Cathy Harbin</p> <p>7 Linda Guttman</p> <p>8 Caroline Kuhn<br/>Megan Wheeler</p> <p>12 Jeffrey Crippin<br/>Stephanie Schlueter</p> <p>14 Colleen Simmons</p> <p>15 Elise Dawson</p> <p>16 Mark Hurley</p> <p>19 James Brandon<br/>Bobby Gomes<br/>Carol Carter</p> <p>20 Janet Cecchettini</p> | <p>23 Don Buckner<br/>Cory Erks</p> <p>24 William Prieto<br/>Sue Straten</p> <p>27 David DeLamar<br/>Clayton Gooby</p> <p>28 Dan Bass</p> |
|---|---|

	Date	Years
Bruce & Mary Ahlstrand	11	55
Leighton & Paula Pyatt	11	32
Frank & Joanne Zahm	12	50
Ray & Margaret Ramos	16	36
Stephen & Rene Kuhn	18	17
Gary & Brenda Specketer	23	14
Robert & Greta Hooson	28	63

*Did we miss announcing your birthday or anniversary? Please e-mail the church office at [staff@conyerselc.org](mailto:staff@conyerselc.org) so that we may update our records.*

*Thank you.*

## Support Ministry

### **Grief Support Group Meets February 3rd & 17th at Noon for Lunch at a local restaurant!**

Are you grieving the death of a parent, spouse, friend, or loved one? Often it is easier to handle when we can share with others who have faced loss. *Epiphany's Grief Support group meets on the first and third Wednesday at Noon.* Join us in this caring and confidential ministry for one another. Please Contact Barbara Nieman 770-823-8912 or Bob Astalos, 818-207-9578 for details.

*"The Lord is near to the brokenhearted, and saves the crushed in spirit." Psalm 34:18*

### **NAMI**

(National Alliance on Mental Illness)

Meets 7:00 – 8:30 PM, 1st & 3rd Mondays

*1st Monday, February 1st, at Epiphany Lutheran Church, Room 6*

*3rd Monday, February 15th at First Presbyterian Church, 1169 Clark Street, SW Covington, GA 30014* (Please come in the door on Clark Street with the sign for the Care and Counseling Center.)

The Rockdale NAMI Support Group is open to all adults who have a family member or friend suffering from mental illness, regardless of the diagnosis. The group is led by trained individuals who themselves have loved ones living with a mental illness. They understand your daily challenges and can offer you encouragement and support. All group sessions are confidential. There is no cost and there is no need to register.

If you have any questions or need more information call or text Barbara Nieman at 770-823-8912. [www.namiga.org](http://www.namiga.org).

### **Sometimes It's Hard to Ask for Help...**

We're brought up to be strong, self-sufficient, independent people. We tend to think that if we ask for help, it is a sign of weakness. So we try to keep our struggles hidden, stuffed deep inside. However, that's not God's plan. Galatians 6:2 says "Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ". God wants us to care for others and allow others to care for us in our time of need.

*If you're sad or struggling inside, don't suffer alone. Ask for help.* We've got a team of Stephen Ministers who are ready to listen, care, encourage, pray, and help you through a tough time. (It's confidential too!)

Find out more about Stephen Ministry by talking with Stephen Leader, Marty Gunzenhauser, 404.545.6560 or Pastor David.

**Our Stephen Ministers are  
here to care!**



## *Council Minutes - January 17th*

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The meeting was called to order @ 12:30 PM. In attendance were Pastor David, Riki DeLamar, Ron Lyons, Jeanna Dawson, Bob Ard, Kerry Gibson, Marshall Taplin, Bertie Thomas, Megan Beaucher, Alisa Begitschke, DeAnna Duffy, and Margaret Hill.

The group had sharing time.

Welcome to all new members.

The minutes from the previous meeting (12/20/15) were reviewed. Motion to accept the minutes as presented. Motion was seconded and approved with 12 Aye's.

The agenda for today's meeting was reviewed. Motion made to add LCM Ga to new business. Motion made to accept the agenda with the addition. Motion was seconded and approved with 12 Aye's.

### **FINANCIAL REPORTS:**

1. FINANCIAL SECRETARY Alan Thomas
2. TREASURE Alisa Begitschke
3. FINANCE Ron Lyons

\*there will be no month end financial reports available for this meeting. They will be distributed via email once available.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Council Retreat - will meet at Milano's at 6pm on the 29th. Meal will be covered by Pastors discretionary fund. Reconvene Saturday am at 8am. Margaret Hill will provide breakfast.

Lunch Food Assignments – sign-up sheet distributed

2. Welcome new Members – all new members welcomed

3. 2016 Officer Elections-

President – Ron Lyons

Vice President – Jeanna Dawson

Secretary – Riki DeLamar

Floating Executive Committee Member – Bertie Thomas

4. 2016 Council assignments –

Discipleship – M. Beaucher

K. Gibson

Outreach – B. Thomas

M. Taplin

# *Council Minutes - January 17th, Continued*

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Nurture – M. Hill

Administration/Stewardship – J. Dawson

Worship – G. Potratz

B. Ard

Greg Potratz (absent because of back surgery) communicated his preferences for assignments prior to the meeting. Paul Rowe is out today – likely due to Glenda’s surgery. We will hold on DeAnna Duffy’s assignment until Pastor gets in touch with Paul Rowe. Once we have feedback from him, we will place her and Paul in the last two open positions.

5. Re-visioning Planning – Council members to meet with their groups within the next month to determine where they see the future of the church going and what they feel like their role is in this. Evaluating strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats. Pastor distributed a list of questions from the Synod to use as tools to stimulate thinking. Discussion about when it would be best for the groups to meet. Will split and do a couple on Sundays between services, and a couple after services on Wednesday during Lent.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

Insight Counseling Center - We donate funds from Epiphany that go into a fund to help pay for those that can’t afford counselling on a sliding scale. These funds were previously paid to the Care and Counselling Center. Cindy Elrod has separated from CCC and opened Insight Counseling Center. We would like to continue to donate towards her work in the community. Cindy would provide from Insight the same documentation showing how the Good Samaritan Funds are used. Motion made to make the donations to Insight Counselling Center. Motion was seconded, and passed with 12 Aye’s.

2. LCM Ga - Campus Ministry has started a Food Pantry to help with students that do not have enough food to eat. They have sent a letter asking for donations. Will make an appeal to the congregation to support this worthy cause. Will also take a love offering at the Lenten meals that will be donated to Lutheran Campus Ministries.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

1. **Discipleship** - No report at this time. Older youth are doing weekly meetings again. Fundraisers will be BBQ plate sale and cake auction. April 17th will be the talent show. All Georgia preparations under way. Phil the fish has collected \$1030 toward the well. Total is \$2500. Planning meeting upcoming. No SS March 27th (Easter).

2. **Outreach** - No written report at this time. Meals on Wheels continuing. Back-pack buddy program also is also doing well.

3. **Nurture** – No written report at this time. Update on Malawi bottle program -It costs \$18.00 to send each box of bottles in the mail – so if you would like to donate a couple dollars with the pill bottles, that would help toward expenses. February 28th will be the Chili Cook-off and game day.

## *Council Minutes - January 17th, Continued*

4. **Administration** - No written report at this time. Stewardship, publicity ready to kick-off along with facilities taskforce.

5. **Worship** – Written report. Worship Committee met Jan 10th. Ash Wednesday Services will be February 10th at noon and 7pm. Lenten evening services will start Feb 17th. Palm Sunday March 20th, with procession of Palms at both services. Maundy Thursday will be celebrated March 24th. Good Friday services will be March 25 at noon and 7:00pm. Easter services will be held at 6:30, 8:30 and 11:00am. Children's choir will be singing March 20, April 17 and May 22. Please consider participating with worship – we could use assistance in all areas.

**Pastor's Report:** Written report: Worship Services (3), Special Worship (4), Hospital visits (3), Member Visits (3), Life Passages (0), Pastors Meeting (2), Committee Meetings (1-Exec Council), Education (5), Counseling Sessions (0), Staff Meetings (0), Annual review (0), Private Communion (0), Other Meetings (2), Continuing Education (0). Please get your annual reports in to Barb as soon as possible.

**President's Report:** No written report at this time.

**Vice President's Report:** Please bring a guest to the next Council Meeting. Please RSVP to Jeanna for next meeting so that she can plan for quantities for lunch.

**Columbarium's Report: None.**

Date for February's' council meeting will be 2/21/15, at 12:30pm. Jeanna Dawson will provide lunch. Motion to adjourn was made, seconded, and was approved.

Respectfully submitted,  
Rikita S. DeLamar

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

1/24 Annual Meeting Part 2  
1/30 Council Retreat  
2/10 Ash Wednesday  
2/28 Chili Cook-off and game day  
Lent Services 2/17, 2/24, 3/2, 3/9, 3/16  
3/20 Palm Sunday  
3/24 Maundy Thursday  
4/10 Bishop Gordy will be attending services with us



# *Congregational Meeting, January 24th*

Annual Meeting Part II

1/24/16

12:25 Ron Lyons, President welcomed all attendees

12:26 Pastor David opened with a prayer.

12:27 Ron Lyons called the meeting to order.

12:28 Quorum was determined.

Annual Reports were distributed to those in attendance

In Summary, approximately \$350,000 was received in 2015, with \$356,000 in expenses. Loss of \$6,000.

Approved annual budget for 2016 is \$379,000.

Plea for pledges from assembly.

Council Retreat is this upcoming weekend. Council will be doing short term and long term planning.

Motion was made to approve the Annual report as submitted, this was seconded, and approved with all Ayes, No Nays and No abstaining votes.

Ron announced that Family Promise will be here again the week of February 14, 2016. We are forming a Committee to help distribute some of the responsibility involved in the Coordinating. Please prayerfully consider donating some time to this ministry.

Offering statements and 2016 envelopes are in the narthex. Please pick up to save us the postage expense. Special thank you offered to Art Viohl for his years of service as the Financial Secretary.

Pastor David closed the meeting with a prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Rikita S. DeLamar  
Council Secretary

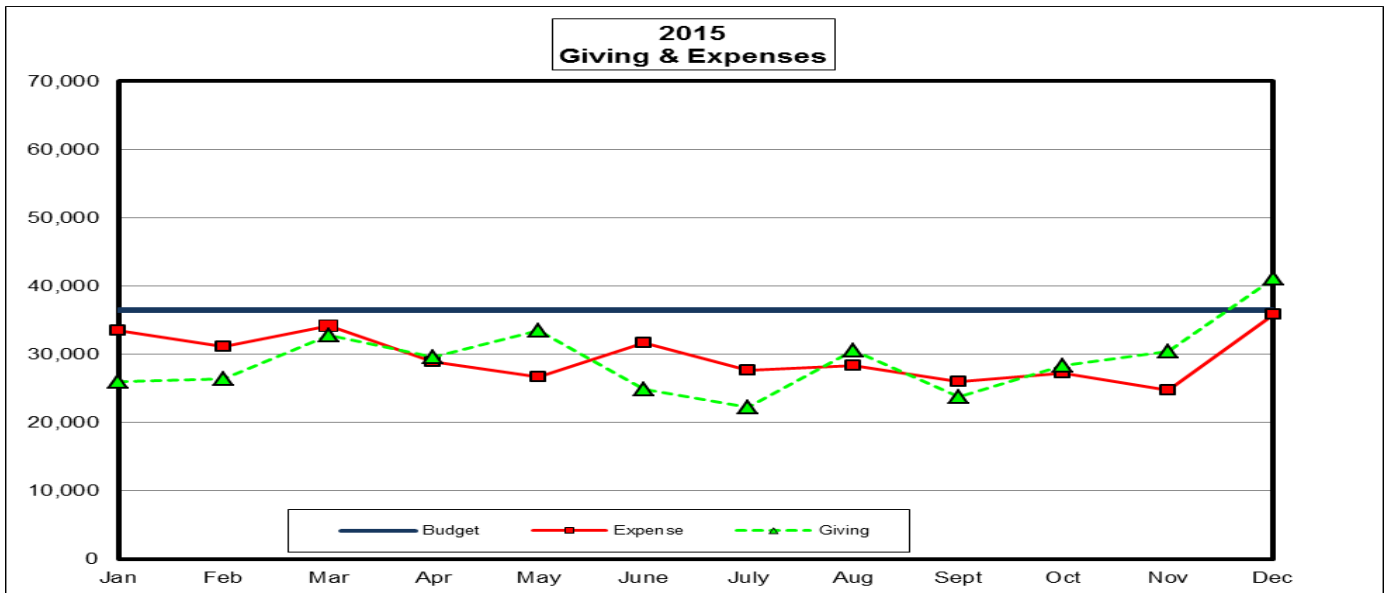
# Financial Report – December, 2015

**EPIPHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENT**  
 12/31/2015

		CUR- RENT MONTH		BUDGET YTD		ACTUAL YTD		Fav (Unfav) Budget
<b>GIVING:</b>								
Operating Fund		41,089		437,926		349,595		(88,331)
Designated Funds		7,194		0		120,289		120,289
<b>EXPENSES:</b>								
01-BLDG DEBT		4,786		57,600		49,150		8,450
02-MAINTENANCE		4,595		58,000		48,597		9,403
3 & 4-STAFF COMP & BENEFITS		20,740		229,076		199,410		29,666
05-ADMIN/OFFICE		2,303		19,500		14,859		4,641
06-SUPPORT		0		1,700		760		940
07-TRAVEL		0		2,500		1,526		974
8-WITNESS		0		6,800		1,751		5,049
9-CONTINGENCY		0		10,000		0		10,000
10-WORSHIP		799		6,650		4,014		2,636
11-EDUCATION		113		8,050		2,399		5,651
12- OUTREACH		2,500		34,700		31,300		3,400
13-SERVICE		0		3,350		2,265		1,085
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>		<b>35,837</b>		<b>437,926</b>		<b>356,032</b>		<b>81,894</b>

**12/31/2015 FUND BALANCE:**

Operating Fund		12,024			
Designated Funds		98,357			
<b>TOTAL</b>					
<b>=</b>		<b>110,381</b>			



## Ring in the New Year with financial resolutions

With the New Year comes the opportunity to improve your financial well-being. Here are five financial resolutions to get you started:

- 1. Establish your 2016 financial goals**, including your retirement and overall savings goals. Post them where you'll see them often.
- 2. Establish a budget** based on what you spent last year, taking into account the variable prices of gas, heating and food.
- 3. Cut back on debt** by paying off a credit card balance, foregoing unnecessary purchases or paying an additional amount each month to your mortgage payment.
- 4. Prioritize upcoming large purchases** and figure out how to pay for them out of your current income.
- 5. Meet with a legal professional to review your will or estate strategy** to ensure it reflects your current life situation.

For help achieving your 2016 financial goals, contact Don Goldsmith, ChFC, RICP, FIC and Kelly Goldsmith, CFP®, CLTC, FIC at 770-982-0420 or Jeff Huenniger, FIC at 678-358-7553 today or visit [Thrivent.com](http://Thrivent.com).

Thrivent Financial and its representatives and employees cannot provide legal, accounting, or tax advice or services. Work with your Thrivent Financial representative and, as appropriate, your attorney and tax professional for additional information.

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**Epiphany Lutheran Church**  
**2375 Georgia Highway 20**  
**Conyers, Georgia 30013-2421**

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## Epiphany Lutheran Church

<b>Early Worship</b>	<b>8:30 AM</b>
<b>Sunday School</b>	<b>9:45 AM</b>
<b>Worship</b>	<b>11:00 AM</b>

**2 miles south of I-20**  
**Church Office 770.483.6222**  
**Fax 770.760.9211**  
**E-mail: [staff@conyerselc.org](mailto:staff@conyerselc.org)**  
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