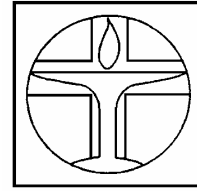


# Epiphany

February 2007



VOLUME 10 ISSUE 19

## Sunday Services:

Fenton Community Center  
150 S. Leroy Street, Fenton  
*Nursery care and youth worship available*  
Minister: Rev. David Abbott  
Cell 313-300-0804  
Email: [revdwa@juno.com](mailto:revdwa@juno.com)

## Continuing the Ministry of Jesus into the 21st Century

In the love of truth and the Spirit of Jesus Christ, we unite for the worship of God and the service of humanity.

## Offices & Activity Center:

11062 Runyan Lake Road  
Fenton, MI 48430  
Office Hours: Tu 10-3, W 10-3  
(810) 714-9214  
[www.epiphanyuu.org](http://www.epiphanyuu.org)  
[Office@epiphanyuu.org](mailto:Office@epiphanyuu.org)

WORSHIP WILL BEGIN PROMPTLY AT 10:00 A.M.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Title of Sermon</u>	<u>Speaker</u>	<u>Lectionary Readings</u>
February 4	"Go Away!?"	Rev. Abbott	Isaiah 6:1-8 Luke 5: 1-11
February 11	"The Living Spirit of Jesus"	Dean Drake	1Cor. 15:12-20 Luke 6: 17-26
February 18	"Glory"	Rev. Abbott	Exodus 34: 29-35 Luke 9: 28-36
February 25	"This is Love?"	Rev. Abbott	Deuteronomy 26: 1-11 Luke 4: 1-13

## The Board Members for 2006-2007:

President: Dean Drake  
Vice President: Glenn Beavis  
Treasurer: Tom Walsh  
Secretary: To be determined  
Member-At-Large: Ann Lerche  
Council for Servant Leadership  
Chair: To be determined

## Committee Chairs:

Building/Grounds Maintenance:  
To be determined  
Welcome and Caring: Joyce Richmond  
R.E.: Ann Lerche and Amy Pilto  
Matthew 25 Ministries: Dianne Parr  
Good NEWS: TBA  
Webmaster: TBA  
Servant Leader Coordinator: Louise Beavis  
Office Administrator Volunteer:  
Pam Quackenbush

## March Newsletter Deadline:

Feb 20, 2007  
Send to Pam Quackenbush at  
[pmorrisq@yahoo.com](mailto:pmorrisq@yahoo.com)

Children join their parents and the congregation for the first part of the weekly church service. This includes the first hymn and a special Children's Message from the Minister. The children then leave for their classes as the congregation sings "God be with you."

## **President's Column**

When things finally started to happen to the characters in the old television show, 'The A-Team,' the team's leader, Hannibal Smith, would light up a cigar and proclaim, "I love it when a plan comes together!" Of course, in most cases, the plan only came together because of luck and chance and not because of anything Hannibal did, but no one seemed to begrudge him his cigar.

Epiphany is not quite at the stage where we can all light up the figurative cigar, but the broad outlines of the plan to lift up our congregation and return to a pastoral sized church are beginning to take shape.

First, the ministry.

Since the Reverend Peter Boullata, our last full-time called minister, left Epiphany, we have depended upon the Reverend David Abbott to provide us with spiritual leadership. Over the last year and a half, Reverend Abbott has done a fantastic job healing our emotional and spiritual wounds and providing a constant presence at worship, thus leading us to the point where we can again hope and plan for a better future. But Reverend Abbott also has another career which limits how much he can give to our congregation, and our congregation has healed to the point where we are anxious to move beyond healing to constructive change.

To accomplish this change, we are negotiating with Robert Seymour to become Epiphany's next minister. Many of you have already met Bob; he has done a number of services here at Epiphany. Bob is completing his Doctorate degree in Ministry, and feels called to start a new congregation – one much like Epiphany. But rather than starting from scratch, why not take an existing congregation that is ready to restart itself, and lead that group? Thus, Bob and Epiphany discovered they had a lot in common.

Like Reverend Abbott, Bob would begin his ministry (pending the finalization of contract negotiations, of course) on a part-time basis. Our goal is for Bob to begin doing Sunday services the beginning of March. In order to ensure that his ministry here has every chance of being a success, the governing board made a number of clarifications and changes to the way worship is done here at Epiphany. We developed guidelines for the roles of the minister and of the worship

committee, and made it clear that the ultimate authority for worship lies with the minister. Also, to support the minister, the Committee on Ministry is being re-constituted. This committee will both support the minister and provide the congregation with an institutional liaison with the minister.

Second, our facility.

Since its inception ten years ago, Epiphany has always met at the Fenton Community Center. It has always been understood that this was to be just temporary – the Community Center feels its mission is to help new churches to get started, but does not see itself as the permanent home for any one church. The fact that we have been graciously allowed to worship at this fine facility at a quite modest rent for ten years is a testament to the good relationship between our congregation and the Community Center.

Two years ago, we bought our property at Runyan Lake Road with the intention of building a church that would accommodate 120 worshippers, and that we would leave the Community Center when this new facility was complete. Unfortunately, our "perfect storm" of problems hit, and we lost too many members to be able to complete the project.

Fortunately for us, the property we purchased had buildings on it, including the house we now call Epiphany House (or E-House for short). In the spring of 2005, we moved our offices to the lower level of E-House just as the Methodist Church began to prepare for demolition the building where our old the office was located. More recently, we have begun to consider the possibility of converting the upper level of E-House into a worship center. If this proves to be feasible, we would like to convert the upper level of E-House into a 60 seat worship center and add parking for 20 cars to the site by the fall of 2007.

There are a number of advantages in doing this. First, we would be able to leave the Community Center, and save the nearly \$6,000 a year in rent we are paying them. Second, we would have a visible and permanent physical presence in the community. Third, we would free up the energies now expended in setting up and tearing down Sunday worship for other activities to encourage church growth. Fourth, we would have a worship facility that could be used for worship and programs throughout the

week, rather than just on Sunday, thus expanding our program options. And finally, we would have a space we could rent out to other non-profit groups, providing us with additional income.

Yes, a new minister and a new worship center will dramatically change the nature of Epiphany. And change, even a positive change, is always hard. In order to go someplace new, you have to leave the place you are, and that is never easy. But we also know that we cannot stay where we are – as a church community, we are too small to survive. We have not labored for ten years doing what we all have felt God has asked us to do just to give up now. The Fenton community and the greater Unitarian Universalist movement need Epiphany Community Church. It is time we get back to the task of what we have historically done best – stepping out and taking chances firm in the faith that, with God, all things are possible.

### **Appreciation Celebration – Sunday, February 25, 2007**

There will be a special potluck after church on Sunday, February 25<sup>th</sup> to express our appreciation to Reverend Abbott for his tremendous contribution to Epiphany over the years, especially since September of 2005. Reverend Abbott served our congregation in early 2003 while the search process was continuing for a full-time minister. He again volunteered to serve our congregation after Reverend Boullata ended his ministry here. Time and again he has been there for us when we have needed him. Please join us on the 25<sup>th</sup> to show our appreciation for all that this kind and generous man has done for our congregation.

### **Welcome and Caring**

W&C facilitates phone calls, cards, visits, meals and rides. If anyone knows of someone who is ill or needs a card, please contact Dianne Parr at 810-629-3645. To our members and friends who have called, sent a card, visited, cooked a meal or given a ride THANK YOU!!!!

- Our next scheduled meeting is April 15, 2007 right after church. We welcome visitors and potential committee members.

### **Servant Leader Teams**

#### **Reminder for Servant Leaders:**

Please arrive no later than 9:15 to set up

Please wait at least 15 minutes after worship before cleaning up.

Please remember to count the number of adults and children at the service and write the numbers on a special form and put it in the collection basket.

There needs to be one greeter at each door at 9:45 until the first hymn so that latecomers and visitors can be welcomed and given an Order of Service. Either stand or put a chair near the door. After the hymn, please place the remaining Order of Service on the nearby tables and continue to watch for late arrivers.

I hope everyone is enjoying the more relaxed atmosphere during coffee hour now that we're postponing clean-up for fifteen minutes. I know I like the extra time to visit.

Thank you again for all of your help each Sunday.

#### **Sharing Suppers**

Join your Epiphany friends for a fun-filled evening of good food and conversation at one of our Sharing Suppers. They are held on the third weekend of the month in Sept., Oct., Jan., Feb., Mar., April and May. Sign-up sheets are available during coffee hour each Sunday.

The Sharing Supper on Friday, February 16, will be at the home of Dianne and Sharry in Fenton.

The Sharing Supper on Saturday, March 16, will be at the home of Rodica Phillips in Holly.

We still need hosts for April and May. Please let me know if you would like to host one of them.

Louise Beavis  
(810) 750-8969  
loubeavis@aol.com

## 2007 SERVANT LEADER TEAM SCHEDULE

Feb. 4	Praise Altar Cloth:	<u><b>Pam Quackenbush</b></u> Green Dean Drake Greg Gibbs
Feb.11	Praise Altar Cloth:	<u><b>Pam Quackenbush</b></u> Green Dean Drake Greg Gibbs
Feb. 18	Serenity Altar Cloth:	<u><b>Sharry Dumont</b></u> Green Dianne Parr
Feb. 25	Serenity Altar Cloth:	<u><b>Sharry Dumont</b></u> Green Dianne Parr
March. 4	Love Altar Cloth:	<u><b>Louise Beavis</b></u> Purple Glenn Beavis  Rodica Phillips
March 11	Love Altar Cloth:	<u><b>Louise Beavis</b></u> Purple Glenn Beavis Rodica Phillips
April 1	Fellowship Altar Cloth:	<u><b>Richard Mossmann</b></u> Purple Jackie Korsedal Jack Korsedal

## Matthew 25 Ministries

### Souper Bowl of Caring

Thank you to all who supported our Souper Bowl of Caring this year. Your participation in this charitable endeavor helps put God's love into action. Every dollar donated helps people in need feel the power of that love! This year we collected \$162.00. Half of that amount will be donated to St. John's food pantry, with the other half going to G.R.A.C.E. Inc. to support their efforts to feed the hungry. Once again, thank you for your donations and may God bless your generosity!

### Letter from the Editor

I just want to thank everyone who came to the sharing supper on Jan 20<sup>th</sup> that was hosted by Dean and me. We had a really good turn out with Dave and Karen, Glenn and Louise, Jack and Jackie being there. Dinner was easy, I made lasagna the day before and everyone brought a dish to add to the dinner. After dinner we heard a lot of good stories. Skunk stories, mountain climbing stories, camping stories, mother stories, canoeing stories (which is the ultimate relationship test) and several really good bear stories. We had a real good time as we all got to know our church family members better. I never knew Glenn was such an adventurer or that Karen could stare down a skunk nose to nose and not get sprayed. We had fun!

Pam Quackenbush

P.S. Almost forgot!  
Happy Valentine's Day, don't forget to get your Honey something sweet.







Epiphany Community Church  
11062 Runyan Lake Road  
Fenton, MI 48430