

# Epiphany Lutheran Church Congregational Meeting

Sunday, February 18, 2007  
12:30 p.m.

## **AGENDA:**

- I. Call to Order**
- II. Opening Prayer**
- III. Financial Report 2006 – Review and Approval**
- IV. Annual Report – Review and Acceptance**
- V. Strategic Plan Update**
- VI. 2007 Initiatives**
- VII. Closing Prayer**
- VIII. Adjournment**



## 2006 ANNUAL REPORT

6430 Far Hills Avenue  
Dayton, Ohio 45459  
433-1449

# EPIPHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH

## Connecting the World to Jesus One Disciple at a Time

A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
6430 Far Hills Avenue, Dayton, OH 45459  
Services: Sat. 5:30 p.m., Sun. 8:00, 9:00, 10:15 & 11:15 a.m.

Church Office: (937) 433-1449

Fax #: 433-9655

E-mail address: [epiphany@epiphanydayton.org](mailto:epiphany@epiphanydayton.org)

Web site: [www.EpiphanyLutheran.us](http://www.EpiphanyLutheran.us)

### Our Staff

Ministers

All of Jesus' Disciples at Epiphany

Pastors

John Bradosky, 886-2363 (h), Ext. 103 (w) – [jbradosky@epiphanydayton.org](mailto:jbradosky@epiphanydayton.org)

Fritz Wiese, 291-4479 (h), Ext. 102 (w) – [fwiese@epiphanydayton.org](mailto:fwiese@epiphanydayton.org)

Bryce Formwalt, 748-9542 – [bformwalt@epiphanydayton.org](mailto:bformwalt@epiphanydayton.org)

Larry Hoffsis, Ext. 113 – [lhoffsis@epiphanydayton.org](mailto:lhoffsis@epiphanydayton.org)

Ken Proehl, Ext. 110 – [kproehl@epiphanydayton.org](mailto:kproehl@epiphanydayton.org)

Jane Lane, Ext. 105 – [jlane@epiphanydayton.org](mailto:jlane@epiphanydayton.org)

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Kay Wean, Ext. 104 – [kwean@epiphanydayton.org](mailto:kwean@epiphanydayton.org)

Cindy Dahlman, Ext. 108 – [cdahlman@epiphanydayton.org](mailto:cdahlman@epiphanydayton.org)

Shirley Schryver, Ext. 106 – [sschryver@epiphanydayton.org](mailto:sschryver@epiphanydayton.org)

John Scheusner, Ext. 112 – [jscheusner@epiphanydayton.org](mailto:jscheusner@epiphanydayton.org)

Dan Mershon, Ext. 109 – [dmerchon@epiphanydayton.org](mailto:dmerchon@epiphanydayton.org)

Pastor Emeritus

Director of Administration

Director of Children's Education and New Disciple Ministries

Director of Communications

Director of Drama and Children's Ministries

Director of Finance & Human Resources

Director of Prayer and Telecare Ministries

Director of Worship

Director of Youth Ministries

Administrative Secretary

Barb Parisi, Ext. 100 – [bparisi@epiphanydayton.org](mailto:bparisi@epiphanydayton.org)

Administrative Assistant (Springboro)

Linda Sutter, 748-9542 – [lsutter@epiphanydayton.org](mailto:lsutter@epiphanydayton.org)

Facilities Manager

Andy Addy, Ext. 132 – [aaddy@epiphanydayton.org](mailto:aaddy@epiphanydayton.org)

Accompanist for Epiphany Chorale

Nadine Thomas

Bell Choir Director

Jill Byers

Child Care Administrator

April Barrett

Child Care Staff

Amy Basner, Janet Drake, Linda Eagle-Beard, Wendy Hedge, Phyllis Warncke

Jessica Combs, Danielle Hazell, Tonya Johns, Emily Mershon, Brandi Minch

Phyllis Reed – [Phyllis@grisier.org](mailto:Phyllis@grisier.org)

Children's Choirs' Director

John Benjamin – [John.Benjamin@notes.udayton.edu](mailto:John.Benjamin@notes.udayton.edu)

Choir Director

Lois and Lou Grabeman, Steve Scovil

Custodians

John Benjamin – [John.Benjamin@notes.udayton.edu](mailto:John.Benjamin@notes.udayton.edu)

Associate Director of Traditional Worship

Dan Malloy, Ext. 101 – [dmalloy@epiphanydayton.org](mailto:dmalloy@epiphanydayton.org)

Assistant Director of Worship

John Benjamin, Karen Thompson, Sarah Butterbaugh, Peg Williams

Organists

### Preschool Staff

Preschool Office: 433-8715

Director - Heather Phillips – [hphillips@epiphanydayton.org](mailto:hphillips@epiphanydayton.org)

Assistants – Maggie Fingers, Gerry Sandberg, Chris Snyder

Teachers -

Linda Bohman, Linda Eagle-Beard, Maggie Fingers, Bonnie Finefrock, Nancy Johnson

Emily Mershon, Lisa Miller, Tracy Raczak, Chris Snyder

### Mission-Partner Staff

Pastor in Buffalo, MN

Josh Nelson

Pastor in Kosice, Slovakia

Karol Vercimak

Pastor in Pritzler, Germany

Thomas Cremer

Pastor in Dabel, Germany

Hansherbert Lange

Pastor in Vladivostok, Russia

Manfred Brockmann

Pastor of Imani Lutheran Church in Tanzania

Elias Lugaganya

Missionaries in Tanzania

Tom and Sally Roach

To submit prayer requests or to join our e-mail Prayer Chain group, contact Shirley Schryver at 433-1449x106 (home 312-1945) or at the e-mail Address listed above.

## COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S REPORT

### Looking Back

Looking back through my retro-spectroscope, 2006 was an exciting year for Epiphany Lutheran. Sparking renewed involvement and activity from a wider base of new and long time disciples, we continued to strive to meet the growing needs of our congregation and the communities we serve. One year ago your council inherited some on-going initiatives but no comprehensive strategic plan to guide it. The top areas for the council's focus in January 2006 included: the potential merger with Springboro Lutheran Church, the Unfinished Youth Space, the Prayer Chapel, Evangelism & Hospitality, the Strategic Plan, a Communications Initiative, Spiritual Gifts and Leadership Development. Income projections created healthy challenges of stewardship of all our assets and personnel resources.

The potential **merger became reality**. We took a positive first step in better serving the communities of Centerville, Washington Township, Springboro, Franklin, Springboro Township, and even Miamisburg and Lebanon. The **"Unfinished" Youth Space** is no longer unfinished but is a tribute to a lot of volunteers and their efforts. The end result is a welcoming and functional "addition" to the Centerville campus at a real financial bargain. The badly needed **Prayer Chapel** is beautiful, and a warm, comfortable and inviting place for individual and small group solitude in prayer and meditation. Internal and external signage provides clear, crisp and welcome direction to members and guests alike. A three-year **Strategic Plan** that really is strategic evolved over several months and hundreds of team hours of effort guided by our 2007 president, Dennis McDaniel. This is our template and map to chart our course over the next three years. Supported by a new **constitution and bylaws** (in progress) the basis for ministries, staffing, and funding, the Strategic Plan and Balanced Score Card will provide the metrics and a visual representation of our progress to plan.

Sustained growth continues to be a challenge for Epiphany. However, attendance in Springboro is even below 2005 averages. Why? Since January of '06, the local economy has suffered and certain key corporations have impacted both campuses with the exodus of some families and military transfer has also played a role. We expected that some turnover might happen directly because of the merger but to date there are just two Springboro worshipping families that have chosen to worship elsewhere. Of greater relative impact is the relocation of 23 Springboro members to other parts of the country.

We fell short of our dream for targeted and individually focused communications and that may be a key which is driven by the new Strategic Plan. However, the **totally new web site** is a significant step toward better internal and external communications and is a vast improvement for current members and guests to find specific information quickly.

### Springboro Campus

Activity is ramping up and community awareness is increasing. We celebrated the largest external event in the history of Epiphany in September. Follow up efforts to leverage the Spirit Festival will aid us in our goal to double average worship in 12 months. This is a realistic objective only if we apply our resources effectively and invest wisely in ministries and events that help us reach the goal. As we continue to improve the music and the over-all worship experience, provide another venue for groups (puppets, bells, ensembles), and preaching rotation of pastoral and lay staff this campus is showing more and better signs of enthusiasm and energy.

However, the existing site is a hindrance to the ministries and programs needed to attract and retain members to the Springboro campus. An interim site team has investigated several alternatives and one in particular within Springboro city limits is high on the list, offering the space, parking, and flexibility needed in the short term. Progress is being made toward an offer for the number one choice of permanent **property** and the **building team** has reviewed numerous architects and favors one to be hired once the property has been acquired. They are also investigating cost-effective construction alternatives and a design plan that meets our ministry requirements, and our short and long term serviceability, flexibility, and growth needs.

As Springboro is a key area of focus in our 2007-2009 Strategic Plan, tactical plans are taking shape to increase the critical mass, better energize the worship experience, and give current members and guests the feelings of comfort and involvement in a church that is moving forward. Active small groups and a more serviceable and inviting interim facility are also key ingredients to reaching our goal of doubling worship attendance in 12 months. Evangelism and Hospitality Communications efforts, internal and external, to help all Epiphany disciples share our strengths, and connect better, is needed to foster the desired net growth and increase retention at both campuses.

### **Finances**

We slightly exceeded our 2006 pledges and held the line on expenditures to the budgeted level, resulting in a surplus of \$48,000. Our pledges for 2007 provided for an increase of roughly \$50,000 over last year's plus an additional \$225,000 in debt reduction a year from now. In January of 2007 we retired an additional \$300,000 in a one-time payoff reducing the mortgage to about \$1.2 million. This frees about \$27,000 for ministries that would have been spent on interest. Thank you for your continuing financial stewardship.

### **Thank You**

To the Pastoral staff and Lay Staff (paid and volunteer) and your 2006 council a big THANK YOU. All have served Epiphany in capacities that far exceed their respective roles mentioned above. Your 2006 council members include: Terry Rapoch, Judi Williams, Chuck Stuart, Darren Harville, Jeanette Thompson, Dennis McDaniel, Wayne Ulman, Dave Hesp, Becky Sillaman, Christine Nadler, Mick Melhorn - Treasurer, Fran Stockert and me.

### **Looking Ahead**

With the exciting opportunities and challenges facing this congregation, the future is bright for both campuses. As we invest our spiritual gifts in our future we will also need to make adjustments in our strategic focus and the proper resources needed to grow to our potential. As a congregation, we are healthy. With the experienced and able leadership on your 2007 council and the Strategic Plan to guide us, I am excited about the outlook for this new church year. Your active participation in the decision-making process is needed. Thank you for your continuing service and support. You play a vital role. The key to "Connecting the world to Jesus – One Disciple at a Time" is connecting at an individual and personal level. Together, we will make it happen.

Yours in Christ,  
Bill Gilbert  
2006 Council President

## **“Power to Witness”**

**Pastor John Bradosky**

In the description of the Ascension in the book of Acts we read Jesus’ words to his disciples. “But when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, you will receive power and will tell people about me everywhere – in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria and to the ends of the earth.”

As I look back at 2006 I am reminded in a variety of ways in which the Holy Spirit was at work. That same Spirit has given us power and strength. Now we must ask how we are doing at telling people about Jesus everywhere. What is our “Jerusalem,” “Judea,” “Samaria” and “the ends of the earth?” If you look closely at those words from Acts, you see both an encouragement to wait and the encouragement to go. Jesus encourages his disciples to stay together not as an end in itself, but as a means to be empowered and strengthened. It is a way to grow stronger, deeper and to be equipped for His mission. It took the disciples time to shift their focus in following Jesus from paying attention to his physical presence to paying attention to the prompting of the Spirit. They had to learn to communicate in slightly different ways than what they had been used to. They also needed time to be reassured that they could still count on Jesus presence beyond his body.

This year we spent time waiting. We spent time together growing, maturing, and gathering strength and confidence. We spent time listening and praying together, becoming better equipped for mission. We worshipped together, planned and gathered resources for new hymnals and bibles. We worked together to improve the quality of worship in both the contemporary and traditional settings. While there were disappointments concerning the frequency and consistency of worship attendance, we still set new records at various points along the way. We focused our attention on the critical nature of prayer and have nearly completed our new Prayer Chapel, creating a space that is constantly available for people to use and is a physical reminder of the importance of prayer in spiritual growth and development. We gathered together for learning and studying the Word of God, providing a variety of adult and youth opportunities for education. We provided special learning opportunities for New Disciples and those who wanted to know more of the basics of Christian faith through the Alpha course. This year Kristi and I served as hosts for around thirty guests who met in our home. A home Alpha reminds us of the “house church” concept of the early New Testament Church. It was also a worthwhile effort to write the Lenten devotions based on a study of “The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe” by C.S. Lewis. It was a way to bring all ages together around a story that also proclaims the Gospel of Jesus. While I have been training a group of disciple mentor leaders, they have been hard at work training small groups of individuals who are willing to mentor our new disciples. This is learning and growth that will eventually make us even stronger spiritually and further equip us to meet the demands of our mission and vision of making disciples.

We have also grown stronger by strengthening our infrastructure. In addition to the Prayer Chapel, we also completed our work on a new space for youth called, “The Unfinished Space.” Every disciple of Jesus is unfinished space, space where Jesus is still at work encouraging, growing and equipping us. The garden and playground area for our preschool was planned and planted. It is now more beautiful than it has ever been. In addition, we made several changes to our staff this year. We said farewell to Kim Collins, Cindy Tuttle and Susan Schmellenkamp, and welcomed Barb Parisi as our Administrative Secretary, Heather Phillips as our Preschool

Director, April Barrett as our Child Care Director, Dan Malloy as Associate Director of Contemporary Worship, Linda Sutter as Administrative Assistant at our Springboro Campus and Pastor Bryce Formwalt as Associate Pastor. We have also grown stronger through our new strategic planning process, “Balanced Scorecard.” This method helps us to focus, integrate and be more specific in determining desired results. It will also help us to measure our efforts and monitor our progress more frequently. Our communication infrastructure was strengthened by our “Town Hall Meetings” that helped to answer questions and provided leaders with an opportunity to hear concerns. A new constitution was developed and the process for consideration and approval will unfold in 2007. One of the key components of our infrastructure is our stewardship. Because of your faithful giving and sharing we finished the year with a surplus and a substantial reduction of our indebtedness. Even when we are waiting there is still important work to do in preparing for reaching out to people with the Gospel of Jesus in word and action.

We received the report of the Evangelism Team that had the responsibility to create a more comprehensive vision for evangelism and witness. One of the areas of concern was our hospitality. We have new signage in the parking lot and new signage for the interior of our building is planned and ready to be implemented. Our web team has developed a wonderful new site that is dynamic and up to date, and the resources available there will continue to grow. If you haven't checked it out please do and, when you're finished, send the link to ten of your friends. It is: [www.EpiphanyLutheran.us](http://www.EpiphanyLutheran.us). We need to remember that searching the net is one of the primary ways people look for a place to worship and determine if a community of faith may be a good fit for them. We added a new electronic sign that has produced dramatic results. Color, graphics, and frequency of new messages have provided a way of communicating with people about our ministry and openness to others. We have direct feedback that as many as six of our current ministries have received people who came because of the information on our sign! For every one of those who shared that information with us, there must be even more who came because of the information on the sign and their need.

We have also reached out to others in our community through the development of new ministries this year that were designed to support the specific needs of people around us. Grief Share, Divorce Care and a new beginning for Stephen Ministry are examples of our outreach through caring ministries. We are also working hard to strengthen our Preschool as a ministry that creates relationships of support and care for both parents and children and create opportunities for spiritual growth not only in our preschool but by connecting them with this community of faith. By expanding what we offer through our preschool we will find other ways to care and serve the needs of families in our community. Even our “Live Nativity” brought people from Centerville, Springboro, Kettering and a number of other neighborhoods to our facility and gave us the chance to share the Christmas message as well as begin conversations that could lead to more personal relationships.

Much of our effort was focused on moving our attention from “Jerusalem” to “Judea,” from Centerville to Springboro. We became one church with two campuses. We moved from exploring a possible merger to merging. We engaged in lively conversation but also sensed the Holy Spirit calling us to move out for the sake of mission. We studied the demographics and decided on Children's Ministry and Sports and Recreation as key areas for ministry growth and development. Transition teams have worked to strengthen worship and publicize our presence,

created the Spirit Fest Event and provided a presence in the Springboro Holiday Parade. Other teams have been hard at work selling the building and property and searching for new property. Others have worked at maintaining a relationship with Minds and Motion School while searching for temporary space until a new building can be constructed. The building team has been meeting with experts to decide on a process for creating new space for ministry. Throughout this past year we have been touching the lives of people, sharing a vision for this ministry and working hard to make it happen. Progress has been made in every category of our endeavor.

We have been involved in ministry with “Samaria” and “the ends of the earth.” We have been supportive of the Southern Ohio Synod, Graceworks Lutheran Services, other local ministries, and other congregations in the United States, including rebuilding efforts in the aftermath of Katrina. We brought the ends of the earth to Epiphany and we sent others out to the ends of the earth. We have expanded our mission effort to include Watoto Children’s ministry to care for orphans who are the innocent victims of the Aids pandemic in Uganda. You supported and sent a team to build a classroom for those children and they came here to present their music and their testimony of the difference this ministry is making in their lives. We have continued to grow our relationships with our partner congregation in Tanzania and with other mission efforts there. The Oktoberfest provided not only fellowship but also more resources for this important mission effort. We added India to our list of growing mission efforts and continued to delight in our partnership with our many friends in Germany.

Other important items that were part of our mission together in 2006:

Teams:

Disciple Mentor Team

Disciple Education Team

Alpha Team

Stewardship Team

Prayer Team

Care Team

Preschool Team

Evangelism Team

Communication Team

Prayer Chapel Team

Finance Team

Epiphany/Springboro Merger Team

Springboro Transition Team

IT Team

Mission Teams:

India

Tanzania

Watoto

Constitution Team

Strategic Planning Team

Strategic Implementation Team

Epiphany Community:

Prayer Service  
Small Groups  
Early Risers Men's Bible Study  
Preschool Chapel  
Preschool Graduation  
Hosted Staff and Council Christmas Celebration  
Emmaus Community Events  
Baptismal Preparation Classes  
New Disciple Classes  
Watoto Mission Trip  
VBS  
First Communion Class  
Healing Services  
Advanced Worship Planning  
Evangelism DVD  
Springboro DVD  
Staff Retreat  
Middle School Ministries Presentation  
Leadership Forum  
Pastor Fritz sabbatical – Lily Grant  
Confirmation – 54

Extended Community:

LSSMA – Branding Team  
Graceworks Board President  
Centerville City Chaplain  
Graceworks Ethics Committee  
Fellowship of Christian Athletes  
Centerville Volunteer Events  
Centerville City Employee Events  
ELCA Senior Pastors Conference  
Retirement Event for Wally Arnold  
Lutheran School of Miami Valley Chapel  
World Day of Prayer Community Services  
Centerville-Washington Township Diversity Council panel discussion, “A Community  
Conversation: Gay and Lesbian Issues at the Intersection of Faith and Society.”  
Leadership Forum  
Lutheran Social Service Conference in Seattle  
Emmaus Gatherings  
Springboro Transition Teams  
Graceworks Annual Volunteer Dinner (host)  
Graceworks Annual Employee Dinner  
Veteran's Day Services  
Memorial Day Services  
IFR Training at Sinclair Community College

Preached at my home congregation – St. Matthias in Greensburg, Pennsylvania on the occasion of their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

High School Basketball Official

Alpha Conference Speaker

Personal:

Jessica will be married this summer and continues to teach middle school language arts.

Jacob is a sophomore at California Lutheran University and still running both track and cross-country.

Jordan has committed to play volleyball at the University of South Carolina and is finishing her last year of high school volleyball with a variety of honors and publicity.

Kristi continues to work at Kettering as a coordinator for Home Health Care.

Together we have had a wonderful year sharing life together with you.

May our Lord continue to hold us together as He equips and strengthens us and may we continue, as well, to reach out to touch the lives of people in faithful ministry and tell other people about him everywhere!

With you following Him,

Pastor John

# **2006 REPORT OF MINISTRIES AND HAPPENINGS AS SUMMARIZED BY EPIPHANY STAFF AND TEAM LEADERS**

## **ADOPT-A-FAMILY**

The family of Joseph, Mary, and baby Jesus certainly needed some extra help that first Christmas. While we might not bear the same gifts as the wise men, we're nevertheless delighted to help as many Dayton-area families as possible through the Adopt-A-Family event. Once again Epiphany embraced this Christmas-time ministry by contributing food, gifts, and hope. Under the direction of coordinators Ed Watson, Nancy Cullen, and Jerry Friedman, ELC touched the lives of 375 Daytonians (81 families nominated from 9 different agencies). We thank over 100 Epiphany families, individuals and small groups for their generous contribution of time and resources in adopting these families, and we also thank the unknown number of families that contributed food to this ministry. In addition, thanks to the approximately 35 volunteers including Boys Scouts from Troop 316 and impromptu helpers who contributed the hundreds of hours required during the final 4 days of food and gift sorting. The church contributed \$300.00 from the general budget and there were additional contributions received for \$1,497.00. Thrivent also donated 40 turkeys.

## **ADULT EDUCATION**

A key to discipleship growth is commitment to learning. We thank God for the leadership of not only our own talented membership in helping us "love the Lord with all our mind" each Sunday morning as well as during weekdays and evenings, but for our growth through the presentations of visiting professors from local seminaries and universities.

## **APPLE TREE SOCIETY**

The Apple Tree Society is composed of those who have included Epiphany in some form in their Estate Plan, thus, in this act of faith, helping to assure the financial foundations of the congregation's mission and ministry among future generations. In 2006, the Apple Tree Society grew by 17 members. Its membership now stands at 91. The following are the new members added during the year: Dick and Sharon (+) Crandall, Gary and Mary Ann Jackson, Roger and Janice Marker, Dennis and Lisa McDaniel, Jim Mullen, George and Becky Reinhart, Don and Julie Schrodi, Giff and Marilyn (+) Solem, Jerry and Kathy Streithorst. (+ - deceased) An inscribed leaf will be affixed to the Apple Tree Recognition Sculpture for each new member unit. An ATS member recognition event was held on September 10.

Utilizing a grant of nearly \$10,000 from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, two videos/DVDs were produced and utilized. The first is a general marketing video; the second contains personal testimonies from ATS members.

## **ASSISTING MINISTERS**

Those currently serving in this ministry are: Roger Shoffner, Sean Barrett, David Hesp, Melonie Johns, Lonny Fry, and Shirley Schryver. They are a major help to our pastors in worship services. Though the primary goal is to ease some of the burden for our pastors within the context of the worship services, it is also a special blessing and enrichment for each of these individuals. We give thanks that they are willing to share their time and energy as they help bring God's word to each of our disciples throughout the year.

### **BENEVOLENCE TO THE NATIONAL CHURCH**

The work of the ELCA in starting new congregations in the United States and sending missionaries to help Christians globally was supported by Epiphany's largest benevolence grant. Our gifts to the Southern Ohio Synod were \$75,000.00

### **BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS,**

This year's 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Blessing of the Animals at our outdoor chapel was another terrific outreach event. Over 50 participants included people who saw the event promoted on our new electronic sign. In addition to dogs, cats, and bunnies, we enjoyed our first pig attendee!

### **BLOOD DRIVE**

Epiphany hosted 6 blood drives. A total of 257 different donors registered to donate 459 times during the year. Of the 257 donors, 111 or 43% were from Epiphany. Of the 459 registrations 244 or 53% were from Epiphany. We will continue to offer drives every 8 weeks. We see this expansion as an opportunity for community outreach and service as well as a way to support the many Epiphany disciples who donate regularly.

### **CANTORS**

Once again, worship at ELC has benefited from trained singers assisting with the vocal portions of the liturgy, taking special responsibility for special offertory music at the 5:30 Saturday and 8:00 Sunday services.

### **CARE MINISTRY**

This ministry is a combination of one-to-one care for our shut-ins or those with needs for extended recuperation, and for hospital visitation. One-to-one care is led by Kim Lopez, hospital visitation is directed by Becky Sillaman. Each segment of this ministry is dedicated to caring for the spiritual and fellowship needs of those not able to attend worship either on a short term or long term basis. Caregivers and hospital visitors are trained to provide communion, prayer, and support as they extend a hand of caring to their brothers and sisters within this Body of Christ.

### **CHILD CARE CENTER**

The Child Care Center continued with its commitment to providing quality childcare for all activities at the Centerville campus the entire year and the Springboro campus for worship services on Sunday mornings beginning in September. Susan Schmellenkamp served as Child Care Administrator through November when she resigned after nine years of faithful, dedicated devotion to the Child Care Center. Following the conducting of interviews, April Barrett was hired as the new Child Care Administrator. Serving as Child Care Workers were April Barrett, Amy Basner, Linda Eagle-Beard, Jessica Combs, Janet Drake, Danielle Hazell Wendy Hedge, Tonya Johns, Emily Mershon, Brandi Minch, Kelly Poplin, Tami Ritz, Susan Schmellenkamp, Kim Skinner, Phyllis Warncke, and Angel Zeigler. Serving as high school child care workers were Amanda Dahlman, Betty Fu, Samantha Parker, and Lisa Splawinski. Approximately 1900 children were cared for during 225 worship services, and 1700 children were cared for during over 325 Epiphany events.

## **CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES**

God Squad and Young Believers are offered as a monthly ministry opportunity and this year beginning in the fall were led by 2 lay leaders. The lock-in which was led by Kay Wean was a great event with over 55 kids in attendance. Kidmo and Lil K attendance was down in the fall, but Lent remained well attended. This programming was extended to the Springboro campus after a great fall event, but programming outside of Sunday morning at Springboro is still a struggling issue. Those who attended loved the program though.)

## **CHILDREN'S MUSICAL**

This year we turned the clock back and brought back one of our first musicals, "Good King Wenceslas." It was a delight to bring back this wonderful story with great songs and a strong message about giving. With the double casting, it gave many the chance to shine and use their God-given gifts. We had 41 children in the main cast with 18 chorus children and 20 preschool. Worship attendance for this event was over 1300. It is always one of our most blessed events.

## **CLOTHING PANTRY**

*"I was hungry and you fed me; naked and you clothed me. ... Inasmuch as you have done this unto the least of these my brothers, you have done it unto me." --Jesus*

In the year 2006, the Epiphany Pantry clothed 1703 children and 525 adults. We provided 768 struggling families with basic household needs; and we sent food to 585 families (with an average of 4 in a family) unable to keep up with rising costs of rent, fuel and food. Over 250 inner city school children were provided school uniforms and 95 children were given school supplies. We also sent extra school supplies to several inner city schools for them to distribute as needed. Two or three times a month, men's and women's business appropriate clothing was delivered to "Clothes That Work" located at the Job Center.

We have sent clothing three to four times a month to support the St. Paul Lutheran Church Pantry's ministry to inner city needy people who come there twice weekly for a hot meal. We have also helped with emergency clothing needs at Edison Elementary, Kiser Elementary and Franklin Montessori. We have also sent emergency clothing to Miamisburg schools.

A very dedicated group of volunteers meets on Monday to sort and store; and on Tuesday another ambitious volunteer group fills requests and assembles bags of clothing, food and household goods to be distributed by knowledgeable, trained caseworkers from various social service agencies in the Miami Valley. Among the agencies served in 2006 are Montgomery County Children Services, Montgomery County Red Cross Emergency Housing; Dayton Public Schools; Centerville City Schools; Help Me Grow/Brighter Futures; Miami Valley Child Development/Head Start; South Community Mental Health; Catholic Social Services/Teen Parent Link; Eastway Adult Recovery; CARE; Christopher House Transitional Housing; West Dayton Service Network; Miami Valley Housing Opportunities; Graceworks Lutheran Services; Salvation Army; and Daybreak. We also have taken referrals from disciples of our own congregations for family, friends or co-workers who are going through difficult times. The church contributed \$3,600 from the general budget. The clothing pantry also received additional monetary gifts for a total of \$17,223.42. These gifts came from disciple donations, the Christmas poinsettias, Reynolds & Reynolds, Meijers and United Way. They also came from memorial gifts in memory of Myron Mitchell, Peggy Wirt and Hugh Wudke. Purchases made for the clothing pantry ministry totaled \$23,396.85.

### **COMMUNION ASSISTANTS**

Since Holy Communion is served at every service, there is a need for many communion servers and grape juice holders. Epiphany disciples have volunteered individually as well as whole families to help with this important part of our weekly services. Our pool of volunteers is approximately 100 but we can always use new faces. The students in the Middle School Ministry are scheduled on a rotating basis to help with communion by holding grape juice at the various stations during the 9:00, 10:15 and 11:15 services. Some MSM parents have also volunteered to help with communion when their children are scheduled.

### **CONFERENCE CENTER**

Epiphany has been pleased to offer space for area support groups such as AA, Al-Anon, Debtor's Anonymous, Group Interactions, Inc., various Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops for meetings and banquets, Buckeye Trails Girl Scout Council for leader training and classes, Bethany Lutheran Village/Graceworks seminars and meetings, Southern Ohio Synod area meetings, FCA banquets, the Miami Valley Symphony rehearsals and concerts, and Centerville High School's Baccalaureate ceremony and several of their dances.

### **CONFIRMATION MINISTRY**

Confirmation is a vital part of our ministry and students are gradually becoming more and more aware of what it means to be confirmed. Our students are active in serving Communion, helping on service teams, active in Worship, and in their small groups. We now have something for our students on almost every Sunday night throughout the school year. We are ever changing to improve the quality of ministry that is offered to our students and their families. Our goal is for our students to become healthy disciples of Christ in every aspect of their lives.

### **DAY OF CARING**

ELC disciples and community neighbors provided much needed support to the homeless shelters and food pantries of Dayton and at the same enjoyed a wonderful brunch at the 16th Annual Day of Caring Pancake Brunch on February 26, 2006. Coordinator Peggy Surdyk and 111 volunteers, including youth and various small groups, logged well over 260 hours to serve 550 breakfasts and raise \$3,400 for the Day of Caring. One of 36 Day of Caring sites, Epiphany raised the third largest amount of money. All proceeds from the Day of Caring event benefit the local Emergency Hunger and Housing Coalition, which funds food pantries, soup kitchens, and shelters in the local community.

### **DINNER GROUPS**

This is an adult activity for all ages, both couples and singles. From those registering, three units are assigned to gather in each other's homes for meals to which each host may invite a fourth couple or single. With this program spanning January through April, relationships are created and strengthened within the congregation. Paul & Dolores Anderson lead this ministry.

### **DIVINE NOTIONS**

The mission of our Divine Notions Bookstore Ministry is to increase the growth opportunities of Epiphany disciples through the sale of a variety of quality Christian merchandise. It also sells clothing with the Epiphany logo and an Epiphany pendant, and serves as a resource for special order items. Epiphany receives a percentage of Divine Notions' sales. This ministry team, which is led by Barb Parisi, has 5 active members who handle various merchandising,

operations, sales/marketing, and inventory tasks. New faces would be welcomed to add to the existing staff.

### **EPIPHANY PLAYERS DRAMA MINISTRY**

The mission of Epiphany Players is to *use the power of theater and drama to reach people inside and outside Epiphany Lutheran, to build new and renewed connections to Jesus, to deepen the understanding of His teachings, and to complement worship services and special events throughout the year.* Ten disciples meet monthly to plan a variety of dramatic activities to support the church's mission and strategic plan. Almost 300 disciples of all ages are involved in producing drama during worship throughout the year, during Holy Week, our Christmas children's musical, and our summer musical.

- **Perform with excellence – Deliver worship experiences that glorify God and nurture God's people**

Many Epiphany members and visitors have shared overwhelmingly positive comments about our work. Skits are used on a regular basis to enhance worship themes and sermons. "Narnia" was presented three times during Holy Week in conjunction with the church's Lenten series. The excellent work of our costume team received an Award of Excellence from the DayTonys, the Miami Valley organization that recognizes excellence in drama at professional, collegiate, and community levels.

- **Grow the ministry and the participants – Grow disciples in spirit and in number**

Our summer musical, "The Music Man," was attended by almost 2000 people during 8 performances. Our Christmas children's musical, "Good King Wenceslas," was seen by 1300 worshippers attending 4 services. During the months of preparation for these events, God-given talents were identified, guided, and used for the community to see in the name of the God who gave them. The drama skills enrichment classes for children were also continued this year, with the addition of Drama Dream World. We were also pleased to contribute \$1000 to the global mission of TWENDE from collections at "The Music Man."

- **Bring the ministry to others – Create an environment of hospitality and fellowship**

Epiphany is known in the community for its drama ministry. As a result of this outreach, many have entered this church through attending an Epiphany Players production. Ministry team members were also responsible for television stories and newspaper articles bringing publicity to Epiphany. About 100 people participated on behalf of the church in the Centerville Americana Parade. Our first Live Nativity offered a moving tableau of the Christmas season and was attended by over 700 people over 2 nights. About two-thirds were visitors to the church.

We hope that participating in Epiphany Players allows disciples to exemplify the lettering over the south exit doors that we donated to the church – "Go in peace, serve the Lord."

### **FAMILY MINISTRY**

Pockets continues to be a growth area. Amy Basner decided to no longer take a leadership role with this ministry. Kay Wean took over some of the main events like the birthday party for Jesus and will host a family night in 2007.

### **FAR HILLS SHOPPES**

The Far Hills Shoppes enjoyed another year of solid operating results. The Church contributed \$50,000.00 to satisfy the operations cash flow shortfall. As part of the operating costs, the Shoppes serviced over \$200,000.00 of combined debt service and real estate taxes and retired over \$70,000 in principal on the mortgage loan. The venture continues to satisfy the two principal goals of meeting short term parking needs and providing long term expansion options, while placing very little financial strain on the Church and requiring virtually no staff time. If anyone would like more details or to discuss the Center's operation, please feel free to call Board Member C. J. Fogarty at 228-5912.

### **FIRST COMMUNION**

Following four instructional classes, 44 students (mostly fifth graders) received their First Communion the first weekend in May.

### **FLOWER MINISTRY**

At Easter and Christmas, flowers surrounding the altar are purchased by ELC disciples and are often left behind. Since 1989 these have been donated to members of the congregation in the community, especially those in retirement facilities. This is a very gratifying activity because the people appreciate the visit so much...the flowers are just an extra bonus. For Christmas 2006, there were many plants left behind that were personally delivered to people in the community. This flower and visitation ministry has expanded to include flowers left behind from weddings, memorials, and funerals. Families wishing to donate arrangements should call the church office so that this can be accomplished.

### **GLOBAL MISSIONS/PARTNERS TASK FORCE**

The Task Force coordinated Epiphany's relationships with partners on three continents: Europe (eastern Germany and Slovakia), Africa (Tanzania and Uganda), and Asia (Russia, India and Kazakhstan.) In February we provided ideas for the Partnership Agreement renewal between the Southern Ohio Synod and the Synod of Mecklenburg. At Easter, Pentecost and on Partnership Sunday, greetings were sent to all of our partners. In May Livia Belescakova, a student from Slovakia, graduated from Capital University, and presented a thank you to John and Connie Coffman and Epiphany for their support during her stay in the United States. Also in May, our Task Force provided a week of hosting and a carry-in dinner for the four delegates from the Mecklenburg Synod who attended the SOS Assembly in Cincinnati. In August, Pastor Bradosky and a building team traveled to Uganda with enough money to fund an 8-person dormitory and to help erect a classroom at the Watoto orphanage. In September, a two-person Twende team traveled to Tanzania to meet and work with partners at Imani Lutheran in Mwanza. They also prepared the plan for an Epiphany group which will travel to Tanzania in 2007. In July and August, Pastor Hoffsis and Pastor Ann Marie Winters prepared the Partnership Worship Service made available for use in Ohio and Mecklenburg. In August-September, Terry Rapoch and Melinda Krouskop gave an update on Twende's activities in Tanzania. In early October, Larry and Cindy Hoffsis spent a week in Mecklenburg, meeting with Pr. Kasch, our partner churches, the Bishop and his Assistant, and the MLK Jr. Pilgrimage group. Pastor Hoffsis also preached at the partnership service in Dabel. In September, our Task Force participated in the Mission Fair in Springboro. Also in September, Pam and Myron Charas gave a presentation on their mission activities in India. Our Task Force contributed volunteers who helped with the Oktoberfest to benefit the Tanzania trip. In October, the budget monies were sent to Russia, Tanzania and

Slovakia. In November we received word that the new organ is now in place in our partner church in Vladivostok, Russia. In November, Terry Rapoch reported on his trip to Tanzania and detailed the plans for the 2007 trip. In December, the Watoto Childrens Choir sang for a standing room only audience in the Celebration Center.

### **GOOD SAMARITAN FUND**

Needy persons often appear at the doors of the church office requesting help with food, gasoline and other needs. Assistance is provided in the way of food coupons, gas coupons and other help through our Good Samaritan Fund. The church gave assistance of \$1,360 in 2006.

### **GRIEF SHARE**

Grief Share is a program for those experiencing a loss from the death of a loved one. It is a Christian program designed to educate people about the grief process and allow expression of feelings by those who are grieving. It runs for 13 consecutive weeks. Anyone can join the program at any time. We recommend coming to at least 4 sessions before deciding if the program is beneficial as the painful feelings shared can make an individual feel worse at first. Grief Share was held twice in 2006 and has helped 15 people start to heal from their grief. Each session is divided into 2 segments: a DVD and a group sharing segment. The more people share, the more they heal. They also help others heal by sharing.

In 2007, the program is scheduled to be held 3 times throughout the year. The workbooks that are part of the program are covered in the budget so participants don't have to pay. Two additional facilitators have been trained to help when we break into groups.

### **HABITAT FOR HUMANITY**

Epiphany again had active participation in the Habitat for Humanity program, which is a ministry of building houses for qualified first-time homeowners. The team leader Rob Pinchot will again be looking for volunteers and donations during the winter months. Epiphany gave \$2,000 to this program in 2006.

### **HEALTH AND WELLNESS**

As a committee, we provide health information and pro-health screenings. Also, the blood drive team is a division of this committee. In 2006, pre-schoolers were screened for eye problems, blood pressure screenings were done the second Sunday of each month, "Pills of Faith" were given to several shut-ins, a sun-damage screening was done in the summer, stroke screenings were done, blood drives were held every eight weeks and various health information topics were displayed on our kiosk.

### **HOSPITAL VISITORS**

Over the past year, we have trained those involved with the Hospital Care Ministry to administer communion to those hospitalized who wish to receive communion. In 2007 we plan to recruit disciples from our Springboro campus to be involved with this ministry and we hope to continue to improve our skills and responses to our brothers and sisters as they experience a variety of health concerns.

### **HOSPITALITY TEAM**

The Hospitality Team solicits, trains and supports volunteers in the areas of Meals Ministry and Sunday Staffing of the Welcome Center. New members are always needed and welcomed! The goal is to greet, assist and minister to worshipers and disciples making them feel welcome and comfortable at Epiphany Lutheran Church and providing directions and information when needed.

### **INTERFAITH HOSPITALITY NETWORK**

The Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN) is a national organization of churches, synagogues and volunteers, created to use existing buildings and resources to provide overnight lodging, meals, friendship and hope to homeless families. ELC is a partner with IHN of Greene County, assisting in supporting the needs of the temporarily homeless in our own communities. During 2006 ELC welcomed and hosted families three different weeks. We were able to provide the friendship, food and comfort these families needed with hearts full of God's love. All families were able to acquire housing and secure employment through the help and guidance of IHN of Greene County. After receiving their homes, ELC was able to help each family acquire items they would need. At Christmas time, we again sent a token of love to each of the families. This program requires many volunteers (approximately 70 each visit), physical labor (set-up, tear-down & transporting cots), giving of our material assets (clothing, laundry money, household items, etc.) and most of all, friendship and caring from one group of Jesus' disciples to another group of his children. Coordinators for IHN are Sandy Wickert and Joyce Evans. The church contributed \$750 to IHN of Greene County and budgeted \$175 for hosting expenses. .

### **J.O.L.Y (JUST OLDER LUTHERAN YOUTH)**

This is a group ministry for all retired and semi-retired adults of any age. JOLY had a fellowship luncheon on the third Tuesday every month in 2006 except July and August. Following the meal a program of either a speaker or some form of entertainment was scheduled. In addition there were several off-campus excursions planned. These included the Diana Exhibit in May and the Rembrandt and the Golden Age of Dutch Art Exhibit in October at the Dayton Art Institute, and group tickets for Dayton Opera's *Madame Butterfly* at the Schuster in October. All events are always open to ELC disciples and their friends in the community.

### **LANDSCAPE COMMITTEE**

The landscape committee's goal is to continue to improve the appearance and visibility of our property. We realize that there is a great deal of work needed before any amount of large scale planting, using the plans purchased from Siebenthaler's, can be done. To date, we have cleaned up the south property line, the Far Hills property line, added shrubs, flowers and several trees and helped build a new playground in the front, complete with a fence, shrubs and a new garden. The City of Centerville helped us by clearing and regrading the drainage area adjacent to Far Hills. We contracted to have top soil and hydroseed installed throughout the front of the building and along the driveway. We now have grass in areas where there was previously none. We encourage more of our ELC disciples to join us to help clean up, plant, etc.

## **LENTEN SERIES**

In 2006, we leveraged the “Chronicles of Narnia” movie. Families were invited to read the CS Lewis classic, and then dig deeper into the faith connections through Sunday sermons and small group discussions after our Wednesday evening worship and soup suppers.

## **LOCAL/REGIONAL MISSION TEAM**

This team created its goals and charter in 2004. The effort to coordinate the work of local and regional mission projects with a “beyond the congregation” focus has been addressed. The goal of this team is to assist the pastors and church council in order that ELC responsibly and ably responds to the world around it while providing Epiphany disciples with the support and leadership skills that will allow implementation and maintenance of effective programs. This team supports local and regional ELC ministry leaders spiritually, financially, and with volunteers, coordinates leadership activity, communicates with ELC ministry leaders, the senior pastor, and church council, evaluates these ministries, and fully develops current and new ministries. This is presently a five-member team.

The local ministries supported by this team include Adopt-A-Family, Clothing and Food Pantry (Project Blessing and Back-to-School are organized within the pantry), Day of Caring, Greater Dayton Christian Council, Good Samaritan assistance, Habitat for Humanity, Interfaith Hospitality Network, Jeremiah’s Letter, Inc., Amazing Grace Crafters (formerly Lutheran Social Services Crafters), Lutheran School of the Miami Valley, Graceworks Lutheran Services (formerly Lutheran Social Services of Mid-America), The Food Bank (formerly Montgomery County Hunger Coalition), Storybook Prison Ministry, and Vineyards (Mt. Enon and Epiphany.) We held a Local Mission Fair for all of the above ministries on February 26 in connection with the Day of Caring Pancake Breakfast. The CROP Walk was a new local ministry added in 2006. The Local/Regional Mission Team and many of the ministry leaders participated in the Spirit Festival Sept/Oct 2006 at the Springboro Campus.

There were two mission trips to New Orleans in 2006. The first trip was from February 2–18, with the focus on fixing houses that were damaged by Hurricane Katrina. The second trip was from October 14-21 and the focus was working on a building that will house the constant flow of volunteers to the area of Peace Lutheran Church. These trips were in partnership with 11 other churches in the Southern Ohio Synod. All of the gifts received at Epiphany in association with the Gulf Coast mission trip, as well as the gifts from the Marilyn Solem Memorial, were used for the work done on these trips. In addition, an additional gift of the pennies collected from the youth in the VBS program were also given to the Hurricane Katrina cause.

The regional ministries supported by this team include All Peoples Church (Milwaukee, WI), Campus Crusade for Christ, ELCA/Southern Ohio Synod, Lutheran Outdoor Ministries, Spirit of Joy (Buffalo, MN), and Wernle Home.

## **MAKING CONNECTIONS**

Making Connections continues to be a vital part of the ministry at Epiphany. In 2006, our calls numbered 2,417, with callers connecting with 1,218 families. Prayer requests received were 470. We are down in these numbers, but our goal for 2007 is to regain our full complement of callers. We want to be able to touch as many families as possible in this New Year.

### **MARRIAGE MINISTRY**

Under the supervision of Pastor Fritz, seven Epiphany couples offered 5 sessions to each of the engaged couples to be wed at Epiphany. This ministry is called "Marriage Mentorship" and has exponentially increased the amount of Christian care Epiphany provides to couples trying to explore key relationship issues critical for a healthy Christian marriage. To help engaged couples with logistics, Epiphany offers three wedding coordinators, led by Sandy Wickert. A highlight of 2006 was the "Making Marriage Work" Seminar where 50 couples gathered on Valentine's Day for a day of learning and enrichment.

### **MEALS MINISTRY**

Families and friends are served at funeral luncheons and households benefit from the gift of food following the birth of a new child, hospitalization or illness. Pam Shoffner continued to head this ministry with Joyce Evans as co-head. Overall, approximately 30 people make up the Meals Ministry offering food as well as assisting in serving at luncheons.

### **MEN'S MINISTRY**

Two Bible Study Groups serve the men of Epiphany. The Men's Early Risers meet on Monday mornings at 6:30 a.m. in the Celebration Center for Bible studies under the leadership of Pastor John. This group celebrates with breakfast on the first Monday of each month and coffee on subsequent Mondays. They end each meeting with focused prayer. In addition, they carry out small service projects around the church and within the congregation. A second Men's Fellowship Group meets every Saturday morning at 8 am. These men enjoy weekly fellowship, book and Bible study, care and Christian growth opportunities by learning more about themselves and their relationships and praying for each other's needs and concerns. In September, 12 Epiphany men attended Promise Keepers at Freedom Hall in Louisville. It was truly a blessed experience, as all of the men were renewed and refreshed by the power of the Holy Spirit, lots of music and prayer. These men have committed to serve our Savior at Epiphany and in other ministries. We plan to attend the Cincinnati Promise Keepers in September 2007. The Walk to Emmaus was attended by several of our men in 2006 and they were blessed as they were drawn closer to Christ and learned how important it is to serve others as disciples of Jesus Christ. These brothers have dedicated themselves to Our Savior and to leading other men further down the spiritual path. Several of our men continue to be involved with Kairos Prison Ministries, serving as team members on weekends at Lebanon Correctional Institute. Ten of our men are now involved with the Storybook Project at the MonDay Institute. Men's Ministry used their offerings to fund hams for Day of Caring, purchase study materials for the group and coffee carafes for the kitchen.

### **MIDLIFE SINGLES GROUP**

This group is open to those who consider themselves "mid-life" (40-60ish range) and are separated or single through divorce, widowhood, single by choice, etc. We have monthly social activities and a monthly newsletter that details upcoming events. Our goal is to have fun and also offer support from those who have traveled the path to being single. Donna Tucker is the leader of our ministry team, is our contact person for anyone who is interested in finding out more about what we plan to do and some of our goals. This group is also open to non-Epiphany members so single friends of Epiphany Disciples are welcome to share in some fun and fellowship!

### **MINISTRY WITH LUTHERAN AGENCIES**

Graceworks Lutheran Services, Wernle Children's Home, the Lutheran School of the Miami Valley, and Lutheran Outdoor Ministries are just four of the regional institutions to receive significant financial support from Epiphany. Epiphany member Bill Serr is President and CEO. Jim Bosse is Vice President of Community and organizational care and Pastor Larry Hoffsis is Mission Integration Consultant at Graceworks Lutheran Services. , Pastor John Bradosky is the Board Chairman. He and Karen Medford are on the Executive Committee. Earl Kettler was a member of the Board of Directors. Epiphany member Joy Marts is principal of the Lutheran School of Dayton, and John Beals is a member of the Board of Directors. The church funded \$7,350 for these ministries. An additional \$2,000 was made available for youth to attend a Lutheran Summer Camp.

### **MISSION ENDOWMENT BOARD**

With a goal of perpetuating the future mission of Epiphany Lutheran Church (ELC) through an endowment fund and membership in the Apple Tree Society (ATS), the Board had an active year. The Endowment fund has grown to approximately \$84,667. The Mission Endowment Board has awarded a \$10,000 grant to be used as needed in the development of the Springboro Campus. Only the income from the fund is available for funding mission projects as outlined in the addendum to the constitution.

### **MOM'S MINISTRY**

In 2006, in addition to several Mom's Group/Bible Studies, our ministry offered CCN courses exploring issues of parenting to Epiphany parents and members of the community.

### **MORTGAGE DEBT REDUCTION GIFTS**

Epiphany disciples were invited to make pledges in 2006 in addition to their regular stewardship gifts. The gifts received for Mortgage Debt Reduction will be applied directly against the mortgage. We received 144 pledges in 2006 for 2007 that will total \$225,000.

### **MUSIC MINISTRY**

The biggest changes in Worship & Music ministry at Epiphany in 2006 came as we merged with Springboro Lutheran Church and became a multi-site church family. To meet the needs of two campuses with simultaneous worship services and an additional set of rehearsals, a new position was created: *Assistant Director of Worship*. Following the formation of an interview team and a hiring process, this part-time position was filled beginning in September by Dan Malloy. The Assistant Director of Worship leads or facilitates contemporary worship opposite the Director of Worship on a rotational basis at both campuses, leads or facilitates one and sometimes two rehearsals per week, assists in leadership of Youth Worship Ministries, and is charged with building a video ministry for post-production work with still and moving images in support of Epiphany's overall worship life. Contemporary worship in Springboro has undergone extensive transformation, as new songs and arrangements have been introduced comprehensively, and the team grows under the addition of regular weekly rehearsals. Contemporary worship in Centerville continues to explore new songs and mentor musicians and worship leaders for ministry in the church. Traditional music ministry continues to flourish under the leadership of Associate Director of Traditional Worship John Benjamin, as the Epiphany Chorale tries new and challenging music, cantors are recruited and empowered for ministry, instrumentalists are incorporated into worship more frequently, and preparation is made for the introduction of new hymnals and additional liturgies. Epiphany's Music Ministry as a whole is building toward a

strong and well-defined future, with a traditional anthem chorale, a hand bell choir, occasional brass, string, and wind ensembles, four children's choirs, Youth Praise Bands involving singers and instrumentalists serving in Middle School and High School ministries, a contemporary Rhythm Section, a Contemporary Praise Team, a Worship Leadership Team, an Audio Team, a Projection Team, liturgical arts teams, and a soon-to-be-revived contemporary choral ensemble, plus a plentiful array of music associated with each Drama Ministry event.

### **NEW DISCIPLE MINISTRY**

We received a total of 138 New Disciples throughout the calendar year 2006 during four different receptions. Everyone intending to join ELC was expected to attend the classes. The theme of the New Disciple Classes is the process of Discipleship.

### **NEWSLETTER**

The Epiphany *Star*, a bimonthly publication sent to approximately 1200 households, seeks to link families with each other and with church programs. It is also a great introduction to Epiphany life for visitors.

### **PARADISE PARK**

Paradise Park Sunday School is for grades 1-5 and uses puppets, drama, creative storytelling, video clips, games, songs, and other creative approaches to bring the scriptures to life.

We have been using curriculum from Willow Creek and Group and been enjoying it. We now are using a spiritual gifts model to utilize our volunteers. This involves the recruitment of 6 large group presenters, 22 small group adult leaders, and 30 youth assistants grades 6-12.. Paradise Park meets at the 10:15 hour and averaged about 45 last year. It is up to about an average of 55, although we have had up to 64 on one Sunday. We are very proud of this program and are constantly looking for ways to make it better.

### **PARTNERS IN EDUCATION**

Epiphany's Partners in Education fund has two purposes: to help our Lutheran colleges and seminaries and to assist Epiphany members preparing for ordained and lay ministry. Tuition grants were provided for 2 students as undergrads. Tuition grants were also provided for 3 students attending seminary. The funding of this ministry was \$10,917.

### **PASTORAL CARE UPDATE**

The Pastors provided the special kind of care that is part of their training. They did this through hundreds of hospital and in-home visits as well as office sessions.

### **PRAYER MINISTRY**

2006 was a tremendous year for this ministry team led by Glen Sharon. We were blessed to finally provide a dedicated Prayer Chapel for our disciples, and any who are in need of a quiet place to pray or meditate. One of the members of our Prayer Team prays with the pastors each Sunday before worship, and they pray individually during the service. They plan and prepare regular Healing Services, and other special events. They continue to work diligently to help Epiphany become a true "praying church." Our Prayer Chain also remains a vital and active part of the prayer ministry. They provide untold hours of prayerful support for all the prayer requests we receive, either through Making Connections calls, or those given directly to a staff member. A member of the Team is also available after worship services on Sunday to pray with, and for,

anyone with a special need or celebration. Part of the funding that helped pay for this project included The Prayer Chapel project was funded by Council designated funds of \$6,603 and independent disciple contributions in the amount of \$2,500.00 The costs of the project were minimized to \$12,378 due to the volunteers who gave of their time and talents to complete this project.

### **PRESCHOOL** (See attached sheets for the Preschool Director Report)

The church funded \$3,937 to the preschool which included covering the costs of a new printer, storage containers, BCI, CPR training, license fees, software training and a farewell dinner for Cindy Tuttle.

### **PUPPET MINISTRY**

The puppet ministry now includes SPAM (the experienced group), the experienced adult group called Guppets, and the new puppets for youth. The SPAM group in 2006 was comprised of 22 students, the adults 5 and the new group had 7 members. Each will participate in worship with the SPAM group performing more frequently. In August, all groups were involved with the 30-minute puppet program for the opening night of VBS. Puppets and members of the team are also used occasionally in Paradise Park and 9:00 openings to supplement and add variety. SPAM participated in the Spirit Fest at Springboro and made two visits to other churches in the area to spread the good news through puppets.

### **SACRAMENTS**

Excluding December, baptisms are celebrated the second Sunday of each month. These services alternate between the 10:15 and 11:15 services, with instruction for all candidates and parents the Saturday prior to the Baptismal Sunday. Epiphany continues to celebrate the Eucharist at each service. Each liturgy, regardless of its musical style, maintains the historic pattern of Gathering, Word, Meal, and Sending.

### **SENIOR HIGH MINISTRY**

Our Youth Ministry Team is responsible for planning and implementing the programming for the Sr. High Youth. They have been doing a fantastic job. It is our goal that our High School Ministry continue to grow its opportunities to influence and minister to students here at Epiphany and in our community. We have tried to implement a balanced approach to our ministry through worship, service, fellowship, outreach and Bible study. Our youth are taking on an increasing amount of responsibility for our youth ministry. The Student Leadership team helps to plan and implement events and they are also dedicated to helping students feel welcomed and cared for.

### **THE SENIORS MINISTRY TEAM**

This group meets six times a year to oversee and expand activities pertinent to ELC disciples age sixty and above. Mid-week Bible study opportunities continue along with a Council of Elders and a daytime women's reading group. A weekly basketball and a walking group pay attention to senior fitness. Flower and Card ministry teams provide care. The JOLY (Just Older Lutheran Youth) monthly luncheons continue as a fellowship opportunity, which now also includes the church staff. The staff gets a break and we all get to share ideas and concerns about the general life of Epiphany. We continue to schedule periodic day trips. The Senior Weekend in the spring was the highlight of our year. Rex Hicks directed a "Fifty Over Fifty" mass choir for the worship services. The Saturday evening "Builders and Boomers Gala" included a dinner and program. It was well attended and well received. A summer highlight was our Seniors Garden

Tour in July. Approximately 100 persons toured our eight gardens on display. Our monthly newsletter, the "SECOND WIND," continues to be edited and published by Dave Billing, and highlights senior ELC events and other community news of interest. We also maintain a senior bulletin board of current events in the Gathering Space. Pastor Hoffsis and Jerry Friedman attended the Senior Fest at Trinity Seminary in Columbus.

### **THRIVENT HELPING HANDS**

The Thrivent Helping Hands Program provided matching funds for several ministry events in 2006. These included the Lenten soup suppers, Oktoberfest, Adopt A Family, the live Nativity, and the Preschool Ministry.

### **SMALL GROUP MINISTRY**

New groups continue to form and are making great use of our facility. Men's & Women's Bible Study Groups, Young Marrieds, Prayer Groups, Book Reading Groups, and many others are among those that are keeping the church active .

### **SPORTS AND RECREATION**

Again in 2006, ELC disciples enjoyed games and competition for fellowship and outreach. Sporting events included participation in volleyball, softball, and basketball leagues. Two sessions of men's basketball were offered every Tuesday evening. In January, a group headed to Holiday Valley in NY for a ski retreat. In the area of recreation, several campfire sing-a-longs were offered as ways to convey the faith while enjoying God's outdoors.

### **STAFF TRANSITIONS**

Barb Parisi was hired as Administrative Secretary and Heather Phillips was hired as the Director of the Preschool. Pastor Bryce Formwalt joined the pastoral staff when we merged with Springboro Lutheran Church. Linda Sutter is the new Administrative Assistant at the Springboro campus, Dan Malloy joined us as the Assistant Director of Worship and April Barrett was hired as the new Child Care Director.

### **STEPHEN MINISTRY**

Stephen Ministry is a distinctively Christian Ministry that pairs a trained Stephen Minister with a hurting Care Receiver. The Stephen Minister meets with the Care Receiver once per week to listen to them and pray with and for them. He/She stays in the therapeutic relationship for as long as the Care Receiver needs him/her. Stephen Ministers take 50 hours of training (20 2.5 hour sessions) on topics such as: Listening, Distinctively Christian Caring, Process Vs. Goal Oriented Caring, and Confidentiality to name just a few. They also meet twice a month for Peer Group Supervision and continuing education. The information shared in the caring relationship is strictly CONFIDENTIAL. Care Receivers can be anyone going through a hard time and needing to talk. Talking about a problem makes it seem less overwhelming. A donation of \$1,700 helped offset the cost associated with starting this ministry this year.

In 2006, one person was sent to the Leaders Training Course. She and two other previous Stephen Leaders have been planning the program, advertising, recruiting Stephen Ministers, interviewing them and getting ready for the training to start in 2007. In 2007, 8 Stephen Ministers will be trained, commissioned, and assigned to Care Receivers. We also hope to send another Stephen Minister to the Leaders Training Course.

## **STEWARDSHIP**

“Stewardship Essentials” was our three-week stewardship theme in 2006 for our 2007 church budget. This campaign generated pledges for 2007 totaling \$1,237,000.

## **STORYBOOK PROJECT**

**“Never let your love fail nor refuse to extend your hospitality to strangers – sometimes people have entertained angels unawares. Think constantly of those in prisons as if you were prisoners at their side.” Hebrews 13:1-3**

The Storybook Project is Epiphany’s Prison Ministry. This program is built around the simple idea that men and women in prison should have the opportunity to read to the children they love while incarcerated. Dedicated Epiphany volunteers visit the MonDay Community Correctional Institution three Saturdays each month, taking books, cassette tapes and tape recorders with them. The inmates choose books that are appropriate for their children and then record the books on tape along with a personal message for the child. The books and tapes are then sent to the children so they can hear their mother or father’s voice and know they are loved. There are 23 dedicated and caring Epiphany men and women who volunteer for this ministry. In 2006, we visited the MonDay Institution 33 times and sent approximately 750 books and tapes to children throughout the state of Ohio. This ministry received 300.00 in donations and had expenditures of \$4,455.

## **SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR YOUTH**

During the Winter/Spring Semester, Sunday School classes were offered at 9:00 and 10:15. Summer Quarter classes were offered at 9:00. During Fall Semester, Sunday School Classes were offered at 9:00 and 10:15. Nearly 150 people staffed Sunday School for Youth as Teachers and Aides.

## **SUNDAY SCHOOL OPENINGS**

Kay Wean continued to conduct the 9:00 opening with the usage of drama, games, puppets, and songs for creative and fun opening messages.

## **SUPPORT GROUPS**

This area continues to change with each year. Some of the groups meeting in 2006 included ALS and The PITZ Group (people in transition). Building space was also provided to several twelve-step programs from within our community such as Al-Anon, AA, and Debtor’s Anonymous.

## **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

ALL ABOARD the GOSPEL EXPRESS, God’s Celebration Train, Epiphany’s Intergenerational Vacation Bible School for 2006, held six nights in August, was an absolutely huge success thanks to the dedicated efforts of about 190 people. Attendance figures: Monday through Thursday averages – Youth - 148; Adults - 34; Teachers/Helpers/ Coordinators - 69. VBS collected \$819.88 in coins, which was donated, to Victims of Hurricane Katrina in Slidell, LA.

## **VINEYARDS PROGRAM**

The partnership between Epiphany and Mt. Enon Baptist Church in the Vineyards program seeks to deepen its roots of fellowship and mutual understanding. On March 26, Epiphany members worshipped at Mt. Enon. Pastor Wiese preached and Epiphany musicians presented several selections. A meal followed. On February 26, Mt. Enon members worshipped at Epiphany. Kima Cunningham preached and Mt. Enon choirs sang. Members of Mt. Enon were guests of Epiphany at the Day of Caring breakfast. Pastor Wiese has held several marriage enrichment gatherings for

couples of both congregations. We attend events sponsored by the citywide Vineyards program: the annual gathering of the paired congregations and the monthly Friendly Supper Club, which meets at the MCL Cafeteria. We participated in the annual Third Street "Peace Bridge" event. . In December, we held a joint Christmas caroling at Mt. Enon Plaza.

### **WEB SITE**

Epiphany's website has continued to significantly expand functionality, including the ability to register for events; fun and interesting Bible study tools; weekly sermons to either view or hear; a wealth of photographs from events and activities; an expanded Youth section; church calendars; monthly preschool, mid-life singles, and senior newsletters as well as the STAR. The site is continually updated with information on virtually all aspects of ministry and fellowship at Epiphany as well as links to area Christian radio stations. The website will continue to be enhanced throughout 2007 to hopefully include additional resources for Middle School Ministry confirmation, video presentations, and online educational offerings. [www.EpiphanyLutheran.us](http://www.EpiphanyLutheran.us).

### **WORSHIP SERVICES**

Epiphany hosts seven regular weekend services of Holy Communion (5 on the Centerville campus and 2 at Springboro). Upon the merger with Springboro, Pastor Bryce Formwalt joined the preaching team of Pastor John Bradosky and Pastor Fritz Wiese, with occasional rotation of three other staff members, and guest speakers including our mission partners from Mt. Enon Missionary Baptist Church. A highlight in worship life was a successful fundraiser to purchase the new ELCA worship book.

### **YOUNG MARRIED MINISTRY**

Epiphany seeks to connect younger couples (20s and 30s) to small groups early in their marriages, enjoying about 7-9 active small groups of 12-14 people each who meet monthly for study, fellowship and service. New groups are started by Pastor Fritz and team at least 2 times a year, and function as neat "training grounds" for future council members and ministry leaders. Related ministry events to this small group movement include an annual ski/study retreat, a young adult "Olympics," participation in several community sporting leagues, participation in a Promise Keepers weekend, attendance at Ohio church camps and camp board leadership.

### **YOUTH MINISTRY TEAM**

Our Youth Ministry Team has been busy, busy, and busy planning and implementing all of our programming. A heavy emphasis has been placed on each of our team members developing meaningful relationships with our youth. A monthly meeting that includes training, planning, prayer, accountability, and food is expected of all members. Additionally, other training and planning dates are added as needed. The Unfinished Space project was completed in 2006. Donations totaling \$28,985 were received from general donations, Council designated funding and financial gifts from the memorials of Robert Gantner and Carl Shade. The expenses were minimized to \$57,830 with the help of many volunteers, including the youth.

# STATISTICAL REPORT 2006

Baptized Members	3144	
Confirmed Members	2851	
Youth in Catechism	100	
Baptisms (Children)	32	
Baptisms (Adults)	5	
Weddings (Members)	8	
Weddings (Non-Members)	3	
Funerals (Members)	14	
Funerals (Non-Members)	2	
Number of Saturday/Sunday Worship Services	260	
Average Attendance (per Saturday & Sunday)	1024	
Number of Special Services	18	
Sunday School Average Attendance:		
Spring	217	
Summer	63	
Fall	265	
Winter	234	
Youth Confirmed	54	
First Communion	44	
Number of Households	1101	

## GAINS

32- Baptisms, Children  
 5- Baptisms, Adults  
 88 -Affirmation of Faith  
 38- Transfers from ELCA  
 8- Transfers from Other Lutheran  
5- Transfers from Non-Lutheran  
 176

## LOSSES

14 - Death  
 14- Transfers to ELCA  
 5 - Transfers to Other Lutheran  
 4- Transfers to Non-Lutheran  
31 - Others/Drop  
 68