



**Dear Members and Friends of Epiphany:**

**I came to Epiphany because of Phebe's+ legacy, knowing about her efforts to make this a place of welcome and diversity. I found here an authentic Christian community, filled with faithful people, eager to express the Good News of Jesus Christ.**

**Through this time of transition, I have been impressed by your maturity in Christ, your willingness to learn, and your humility in the face of change. God has brought each of you to this community with gifts and abilities, and you have demonstrated again and again your desire to offer them for the purpose of Jesus Christ.**

**You have a wonderful future ahead of you. In a time when the Episcopal Church and many other Churches are facing challenges not of your making – increasing indifference to Church membership, financial limits, aging infrastructure—you have “seized the day” of hope and show an eagerness to try new expressions of the Holy Spirit.**

**Thank you to everyone, especially the Vestry, leaders, Maryellen, Shawn, Mark, Debbie, Darius, Robyn, and the volunteers who have stepped forward to help with new forms of communication and administration to bolster the ability of a small church to function without office help. Thank you to those who keep our liturgy strong and vital. Thank you to those who faithfully attend, pray and give. Thank you to those who serve their households, in their communities, and at the places they work as witnesses to the Sacramental life of Epiphany.**

**As I conclude my Interim Ministry at Epiphany, I offer you a portion of one of my favorite prayers from the Book of Common Prayer, with the hope that it will be a touchstone for you going forward.**

*God ....We thank you for setting us at tasks which demand our best efforts, and for leading us to accomplishments which satisfy and delight us. We thank you also for those disappointments and failures that lead us to acknowledge our dependence on you alone. Above all, we thank you for your Son Jesus Christ; for the truth of his Word and the example of his life; for his steadfast obedience, by which he overcame temptation; for his dying, through which he overcame death; and for his rising to life again, in which we are raised to the life of your kingdom. Grant us the gift of your Spirit, that we may know Christ and make him known; and through him, at all times and in all places, may give thanks to you in all things. Amen.*

*---The Rev. Anne O. Weatherholt*