

Clarion

JULY 2026



THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE EPIPHANY

The mission of the Church of the Epiphany is to offer a home to all those who are seeking God's unconditional love.



From the Vicar

While the Fourth of July 2026 will have already passed by the time you read this, it's as good a time as ever to write about what became the Episcopal Church in America and its involvement in the War of Independence. The story is complicated, because the Church of England (our mother church so-to-speak) was officially on the side of the British, while many of the leaders of the American Revolution were card-carrying members of the Church of England.

You might be asking yourself, how was the Church of England officially opposed to allowing the American colonies their independence? After all, wasn't the point of the revolution to proclaim liberty and freedom for Americans? That answer is simple. Those who wrote and approved the Declaration of Independence aimed most of their grievances at George III, the king of Great Britain. And the head of the Church of England was George III, the king of Great Britain.

As you may (or at least should) remember, when good ole Henry the Eighth split with Rome, he anointed himself to be the head of the Church in England. Subsequent kings (and queens) continued in this role. The current wearer of the crown, Charles III, is the official head of the Church of England to this day. (The one exception was Queen Mary I who abolished the Church of England and reunited her country with Roman Catholicism, but her sister Elizabeth I reestablished the Church of England when she ascended the throne.) I told you the story is complicated.

In any event, most of the Church of England clergy in America remained loyal to the British crown during the war, and many of these loyalist priests left for Canada or other places still under British rule after Independence was confirmed in 1783.

However, other priests (even the loyalists) were involved in establishing the independent Protestant Episcopal Church of the United States. In fact, the Rev. Samuel Seabury of Connecticut was a loyalist during the revolution but threw his support into the new nation and later became the first bishop of the Episcopal Church.

American members of the Church of England played a major role in the nation's birth, with 34 signing the Declaration of Independence. Many of the soldiers and officers of the American army were Anglicans, including General George Washington. Of the 54 representatives who attended the Constitutional Congress in 1787, 27 were Anglicans who became members of the new Episcopal Church when it approved its own constitution and canons at the general convention of 1789.

However, that was just one side of the issue for the Anglicans. One of the complaints lodged by the colonists was against what was called the “Parish Levy.” In colonial Virginia, the Church of England was the established state religion, and its operations were funded by mandatory public taxes. Every citizen, regardless of personal faith, was required to pay these taxes.

While the tax helped parishes with their social welfare, which was the responsibility of these churches, it also paid clergy salaries, build and manage church structures, and other parish expenses. Obviously, the members of other denominations and those unchurched did not like this arrangement.

However, Virginia was not the only one of the Thirteen Colonies that had established state religions. The colonial governments of Georgia, the Carolinas and Maryland also supported the Church of England. Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Connecticut financially supported the Congregational Church, with its Puritan roots entwined with local government.

In almost every colony, members of religions in the minority were discriminated against. Some colonies even forbade Roman Catholics and Jews from holding public office.

This and the obvious ties between the church and nations in Europe were the major reasons for the development of the idea of the separation of church and state in the new United States. And this movement was led by many of the Episcopalians in the new national government.

James Madison, who was the primary author of the Bill of Rights, was an Episcopalian and attended St. John’s Episcopal Church while serving as the President of the United States. The First Amendment in the Bill of Rights is where we find the phrase “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof...” A cousin of his, also named James Madison, was a priest in the Episcopal Church who supported the adoption of this amendment. He was later elected the first bishop of Virginia.

Thomas Jefferson (not an active Episcopalian, but one who grew up in the pre-revolution Church of England) famously wrote a letter to the Dansbury Baptist Association in Connecticut supporting the idea of “a wall of separation between church & state.”

To this day, the Episcopal Church, its clergy and its members are the leading proponents of the separation of church and state. And it all started with a revolution.

Father David+

UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

Pensacola Beach Air Show



The Official Pensacola Beach Air Show
takes place on Saturday, July 18
Civilian performances begin around 10:30 a.m.
The Blue Angels take center stage at 2 p.m. for
the grand finale of air show.



***A magical evening in
honor of Harry Potter's
Birthday and you're
invited!***

-  Butterbeer & themed treats
-  Magical vendors
-  Hogwarts vibes & photo ops
-  Harry Potter Giveaways
-  Fun for the whole family!



UPCOMING EVENTS Around The DIOCESE

The background of the poster features blue line art illustrations of musical instruments: a guitar on the left, a drum set on the right, and a cymbal at the top right. Wavy lines of musical notation with notes and clefs are positioned at the top and bottom of the central text area.

DINNER AND A SHOW

St. Francis of Assisi & Gulf Breeze Senior Center present

AN EVENING WITH JACK GRIMLEY

The history and music of the Muscle Shoals Studios

DATE: **21** JULY

Tuesday

Purchase tickets by July 13th in the office \$10

Jul 21, 2026, 5:30 PM – 8:30 PM

***St. Francis of Assisi Episcopal Church, 1 St Francis Dr,
Gulf Breeze, FL***

There will be a dinner at 5:30 PM, with a performance to follow. If you are interested in attending the dinner, tickets will be available for purchase in the church office through July 13th at \$10 per ticket.



Confirmation, Reception, Reaffirmation

There are several terms to describe a member of the Episcopal Church. These terms are not necessarily interchangeable but describe varying degrees of membership.

There are congregants, the term used to describe a member of the congregation. There are communicants, those who regularly receive Holy Communion. There are baptized members. The Episcopal Church recognizes anyone who has been baptized by water in the name of the Trinity (God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit) in another denomination. No re-baptizing.

Then there are confirmed communicants, those who can vote at the annual meeting, serve on the vestry or as an officer of the church, and who can represent the congregation at meetings of the diocese.

There are two ways to become a confirmed member of the Episcopal Church: confirming your baptismal vows before the bishop or being received by the bishop from another denomination where one has confessed their faith in an action that is the equivalent of an Episcopal confirmation.

These actions may be taken during a service when the bishop is making his or her annual visit to the congregation. Those being confirmed or received are encouraged to learn about the Episcopal Church through a series of classes. These are often called inquirer classes, because they are open to anyone interested in inquiring (or learning more) about the Episcopal Church. Confirmed members may also attend these classes and can reaffirm their baptismal vows during the bishop's visit as well.

The Church of the Epiphany will learn in November when the bishop will make his annual visit in 2027, but Father David usually requests the visit occur during the season of Epiphany. If you are interested in being confirmed, received or reaffirmed, please let the vicar or the church office know.

A Servant Clown *by Jeff Evans*

The word clown comes from an Anglo-Saxon word clod, a lump of earth, a county bumpkin. The meaning is similar to one of the New Testament Greek words used for servant, doulos. Doulos is used to denote the lowest form of servant, one without power.



We, like Jesus Christ, are called to serve each other. We are called to serve even the poorest of the earth. Servant Clowns are those who see the needs of others and help to meet them there.

A servant clown is someone who helps in the soup kitchen and has a joke for everyone who needs one. Any service to others in name of Jesus Christ is the work of a servant clown.

Saint Mary Magdalene

A disciple of Jesus, she was from the city of Magdala in Judea, hence the surname Magdalene. She was the woman Jesus delivered from evil spirits. Mary was among the women who accompanied and supported Jesus and the apostles. She was present at the crucifixion. Mary was also the first to witness the resurrection, which Jesus told her to announce to his disciples. Some traditions identify her with Mary of Bethany. Since she witnessed the resurrection, she has been called “equal to the Apostles.” Bernard of Clairvaux called her the “apostle to the Apostles.” Later tradition identified Mary Magdalene with Mary the Sinner, the penitent prostitute who anointed Jesus' feet. Mary Magdalene is commemorated in the Episcopal calendar of the church year on July 22.

www.episcopalchurch.org/glossary/mary-magdalene-saint/



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

July 5 - The Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist followed by Potluck Lunch

July 12 - The Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist followed by Vestry Meeting

July 19 - The Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist followed by Healing Service

July 26 - The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

10:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist followed by Healing Sounds, St Joseph Hall

August 2 - The Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist followed by Potluck Lunch



LECTOR SCHEDULE

July 5 - The Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

1st Reading - Melanie East

2nd Reading - Kat Ivanov

July 12 - The Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

1st Reading - Missy Jones

2nd Reading - Michele Dennis

July 19 - The Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

1st Reading - Ginny Bauer

2nd Reading -

July 26 - The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

1st Reading -

2nd Reading -

Independence Day



The commemoration of the signing of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776, is a legal holiday in the United States. The 1785 General Convention directed that a service be drawn up for this day, and “That the said form of prayer be used in this Church, on the fourth of July, forever.” The Proposed Book of Common Prayer 1786 contained “A Form of Prayer and Thanksgiving to Almighty God for the inestimable Blessings of Religious and Civil Liberty” to be used on the Fourth of July. The presiding officer, [the Rev.] William White, was opposed to the service since many of the clergy had been Loyalists and were against the Revolution. The General Convention of 1789 supported White, and the service was withdrawn from the 1789 BCP. Propers for this day were published in the 1928 Book of Common Prayer, but it was not a major feast. The 1979 BCP (p. 17), lists Independence Day as one of the “Other Major Feasts,” and provides a collect for the day (pp. 190, 242). Eucharistic propers are provided as well as propers for the Daily Office. The collect “For the Nation” may be substituted for the collect for the day.

www.episcopalchurch.org/glossary/independence-day

The Collect for the Nation:

Lord God Almighty, in whose Name the founders of this country won liberty for themselves and for us, and lit the torch of freedom for nations then unborn: Grant that we and all the people of this land may have grace to maintain our liberties in righteousness and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen. *The Book of Common Prayer, 1979 p. 242*

June Property & Maintenance Report

Projects Completed

- ◆ The painting of the parking bumpers and lines on the new handicap pad has been completed.
- ◆ The entry way for the church main entrance is completed.
- ◆ The quote for the new hand rails for the main entrance has been approved by the vestry.

In Work

- ◆ The handrails for the handicap ramp and front steps are scheduled to be done the first week of July weather permitting.
- ◆ We are awaiting the schedule from the contractor for the chain link fence for the northwest end of the property.
- ◆ The Labyrinth continues to be worked on. Any help is welcome.
- ◆ The new doors on St. Joseph Hall and the garage shed need painting.
- ◆ The kneelers in the choir pews need repair.
- ◆ Three church pews need the seats reupholstered.
- ◆ The security lights on the church and St. Joseph's Hall are in the works.
- ◆ Still trying to get FPL to do an audit and replace one of the meters.

If you would like to assist on a project, or know of something else that needs attention, please let me know.

Maurice Phillips, Property Chair

EPIPHANY'S BIRTHDAYS and ANNIVERSARIES



Celia Broadhead Jul 1st
Laura Hill Jul 1st
Don McCallum Jul 7th
Bill Giliam Jul 7th
Alexis Walters Jul 10th
Jean Ellenberger Jul 17th
Linda Williams Jul 19th
Carson Newman Jul 20th
Michele Miheich Jul 20th
Missy Jones Jul 26th



Monica and Craig Black Jul 8th
Jeff and Debbie Evans Jul 15th
Sanda and Linn Lukert Jul 22nd
Don and Katharine McCallum Jul 31st



EPIPHANY'S FAVORITE RECIPES

Summer Cucumber Salad

by *Chun Bryant*

Ingredients:

- 2 Large Cucumbers
- ½ Red Onion
- ½ White or Yellow Onion
- 1 Large Carrot
- 3 to 4 Radishes



For the Dressing:

- 2 Cloves Garlic, minced
- ¼ Cup White Vinegar
- ¼ Cup Water
- ¼ tsp salt
- ½ tsp black pepper
- 1 tbsp sugar

Directions:

1. Slice the cucumbers, onions, radishes, and carrots very thin. You may want to use a mandolin.
2. For the dressing, in a large bowl combine all the other ingredients and mix well.
3. Add the vegetables to the dressing and mix to coat.
4. Enjoy cold or room temperature.

Please remember in your prayers:

Addice Thomas, Addison Hendrix, Amy & Anthony Lehatto,
Barbara Procino, Betty Schwartzkopf, Brenda Faulkner, Buni O'Brien,
Charlotte Boutwell, Charlotte Green, Debbie Evans,
Debbie and Jim Larson, Rev. Dennis Brown, Dennis Jackson,
Donna Andrews, Eddie Stevens, Florie Angelini, Herselie Hendrix,
Jeff Evans, Jerry Giles, Judy Tinsley, Kerrie Schwartzkopf, Lester Taylor,
Linda Williams, Lynn Smith, Mary Meehan, Melanie East,
Michael Schwarte, Mindy Post, Mitzi Purvis, Nancy Delierre,
Nikole Webb, Phyllis Alles, Richard Mazerat, Rocky Robinson,
Rev. Salem Saloom, Sharon Lundy, Stacy Burleson, Susan Cole,
Ward Hendrix, Warren Seifert, and Yisrael Goldman

The Episcopal Church of the Epiphany

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