



Church of the Epiphany

FROM THE MOUNTAIN TOP

Monthly Newsletter • Cloudcroft, New Mexico • October 2025



Faith

In the gospel of Luke, the disciples asked Jesus to increase their faith. In our physical world we have eyesight to give us the sense of what is before us. We trust in this sense to make the everyday conditions of our existence into reality. Now in the unreal world we trust in "faith" to give us the evidence of the invisible world, our spiritual world.

The biblical definition of Faith can be found rather well explained in the Book of Hebrews chapter 11. "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." (Hebrews 11:1) Physical eyesight produces a conviction or evidence of visible things; faith is the organ which enables people to see the invisible order, the spiritual world.

One of the most obvious examples of our faith at work is to look at our Bible. The Bible is the most unique book ever published and has over the many years impacted society. But by faith can we prove that the Bible is the Word of God? Do we then think that the Word of God is true by belief or by our faith? It was the Word of God at creation that said, "Let there be light." (Genesis 1:3) The palmist says, "By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, and all the host of them by the breath of His mouth...for He spoke and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast." (psalm 33:6, 33:9) Now clearly, we did not see this act of creation by the Creator. We only know of it by faith. We also know this by reason, because we know the world was created by an intelligent Designer.

This is faith going forward but not in contradiction to reason. In our Bibles it was by faith that the early believers acted to do the will of God. Noah and Abraham acted on faith to do as God commanded. These faithful believers all died without the final blessing that they knew was coming. They did not live to see the coming of the Messiah into the world. These promises of God were seen as far off but they were assured of them. These promises were assured by faith. How many times every day did Abraham and Sarah wonder if the promise of the son was ever to come because God had told them it was to be.

These saints endured through faith the difficulties and discouragement of not having

received the complete promise. But they died in their faith and in an eternity with God.

All of these Old Testament followers of God did not receive the promise of the Messiah. They did not live to enjoy the comfort of Jesus in their lives. We enjoy that in our own time without the physical presence of the Lord Christ. We know the joy of the complete faith in Jesus and are blessed by that continuing promise. They looked forward to the coming of the Lord and we look forward to the second coming. The fruit of his work is left for our benefit. The witness of the past saints is a benefit to us as saints today. This chapter reminds us of the faith passed forward to the present age. We can treasure the footsteps of those who came before us in faith and by our effort leave our own mark on this world. Faithful men and women of the past ages and the present age are the cloud of witness for the coming age. It is the work and the life of Christ that continues to open to us the way to our living God.

Pray for the increase of your faith.

Amen.

Pastor Fred+



CHARACTERS, STORIES, AND BLESSINGS

At our Sunday worship on October 12, we were blessed with reading from the first chapter of the Old Testament Book of Ruth. It is the only time in our three-year lectionary cycle that we read from Ruth. It was a joy to preach on the story of Ruth and the other stories in that day's readings. I hope you were there or that you received the readings and my text by email a day or two later. Maybe you enjoyed both.

Other minor characters appear throughout the story of God's plan of salvation. More complete stories appear in several books of the Bible, some of which bear the person's name. One such story is the Old Testament Book of Nehemiah (often paired with the Book of Ezra). Studying this book in depth is a major blessing, particularly when you use a good study guide or commentary (there are hundreds on Amazon). It is even better in community with a spirit-filled leader! You will find that appearing on stage with Nehemiah are a number of different characters. Some may remind you of stock movie characters from central casting. Read the story for yourself and pick out a few. Others are just fascinating on their own. For today, consider Nehemiah's brother, Hanani, and another minor character named Hananiah. Those two names appear in other places in Scripture, but clearly those references concern different individuals.

CHARACTERS, STORIES, AND BLESSINGS. Continued

The story of Nehemiah is told in the first person, and Nehemiah gets right into the narrative. There are no preliminaries. Read along and see that the first few verses set forth the date and place and circumstances. Nehemiah was among the exiles living in Babylon. His brother Hanani arrived with some other men from Judah. When Nehemiah asked about the remnant of Jews left behind, Hanani did not report good news. The people who had avoided exile and remained in and around Jerusalem were “. . . in great trouble and shame,”) Neh. 1:3). The city wall was broken down and the gates burned, leaving no protection for their homes and families. Hanani's report was simple, straightforward, and factual. Clearly, he recognized that this was a time to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, even if it were painful. No fake news here!

Hanani only appears one other time, in chapter 7. The first 6 chapters of the narrative had set forth how, with God's help and in the face of strong opposition, Nehemiah had led the remnant people to complete the project of rebuilding the city wall and installing the gates. But the opposition was still active. Nehemiah was moving on to other ministry, so he needed to put someone in charge of the City of Jerusalem to maintain the integrity that had been established. In verse 2 of chapter 7, Nehemiah explained who he was appointing and why, "I gave my brother Hanani and Hananiah the governor of the castle charge over Jerusalem, for he was a more faithful and God-fearing man than many." The pronoun "he" is singular, apparently referring to Hananiah. However, the same qualifications obviously apply to Hanani. He is Nehemiah's brother, and

apparently he has been involved with the restoration work since his first report to Nehemiah in chapter 1. Whichever antecedent is correct, please note that nothing was said about anyone's advanced education, management experience, or personal charisma.

We may only be minor characters in the 21st century chapter of the ongoing story of God's plan of salvation. But Holy Scripture makes it clear that, in whatever role we have been chosen to play, what matters more than anything else is our faithfulness and fear of the Lord. Jesus said, "To everyone who has, more will be given." Luke 19:26

In Christ,

Frank K. Wilson, Associate Pastor



Epiphany Outreach for 2025

At our October Vestry meeting, it was decided to apportion our 2025 outreach money as follows: Sacramento Mountains Senior Citizen Center, Anglican Relief and Development, Samaritan's Purse, Mercy Ships, and Paws for Patriots in conjunction with Soldiers' Smiles.

We are deeply grateful for all who helped with our garage sale that made these outreaches possible.

Paws for Patriots is a new veteran outreach and we will have more information on it in our November newsletter.



October News From Epiphany

Our aspens have turned to their golden hue and due to all the rain didn't last very long. But we did have a few Sundays to enjoy them.

We celebrated Octobefest on Sunday, October 5, with bratwurst and sauerkraut and all the required side dishes!

We held a vestry meeting on October 12 and apportioned our outreach monies (see page 3 for listing). We voted to have a Memorial Day Sale on Saturday, May 23. We will only be selling jewelry and some of Bill Hayne's collectables. This money will be designated for repair of the porch facing east. We are grateful for Bill's generosity.

The 2025 synod of the Anglican Diocese of the Southwest will be held Thursday, November 20 to Saturday, November 22 at Sacramento Conference Center, Sacramento, New Mexico. Pastor Fred, Fr. Frank, and Annette Fazenbaker will be attending as voting delegates. Madeleine Fazenbaker will be videoing the Synod for the Diocese. Paul Fazenbaker and Nancy Griffin will attend as guests. *Please keep the November weather in your prayers!*

Fr. Frank blessed Tom and Fran Gregg on their 60th wedding anniversary (October 16) on this past Sunday. The Greggs are leaving for their home in San Angelo this Saturday but will be back during the Christmas Holiday. (See picture on right)

From The Mountain Top



Epiphany's Calendar for October through December 2025

Sunday, November 2 - All Saints Day

Sunday, November 23 we will celebrate a Thanksgiving service.

Advent begins, Sunday, November 30

Sunday, December 7 - Star Party & potluck,

Sunday, December 21 - Lessons and Carols and decorating the

church

Christmas Eve

Wednesday, December 24 - 4:30 pm

There will be no service Christmas Day

Sunday, January 4, 2026 - Epiphany



Don't forget Time Change
Sunday, November 2



Tom and Fran Gregg and Fr. Frank



Ecumenical Bible Studies

Fr. Frank's Bible Study Wednesdays at 4:00 - 5:00 PM

At Grace Methodist Church 16th St. and Cuba,
Alamogordo. Wednesdays 3-4 pm.

**NOTE: November 5 the time will change to
3:00-4:00 PM**

They are studying the Gospel of John.
For more information, call or text Fr. Frank
At 575-442-1354.

Combined Ladies Bible Study Thursdays, at 10 am

at Westminster Presbyterian Church,
2201 15th St. , Alamogordo.

We are studying
"Living Life Backwards" a study of Ecclesiastes
By David Gibson

For more information call or text Nancy at
575/495-3811

Epiphany Military Prayer List

Gabriella Murley, US Army, Ft. Bliss, TX
Mason Gregg, US Marines, Okinawa
Creed Napier, USAF
JW Grove, US Navy
Shawn Zima, US Army, Hong Kong
Wyatt Green, US Navy
Emma Skidmore, US Navy

Praise Reports

- For** Nancy Knowles' music this summer and her safe trip back to Florida.
- For** Darcy Ellis' safe trip to Glacier and her return home to High Rolls.
- For** God's provision for Epiphany during 2025 And our outreach monies.
- For** a very wet September in the mountains.

Prayer Concerns

- For** The 2025 Synod of the ADSW to be held November 20-22 at Sacramento Conference Center, NM. *Please pray for good weather.*
- For** Donya Conine to regain more strength and mobility
- For** Trevor Conine's recovery and mobility.
- For** the Fyock Family and Lydia Tran, Callan and Cohen.
- For** Fr. Frank and Carolyn Wilson, Walter & Carolyn Ford, George and Gayla Chapman, Patty Kendrick, and all our caregivers
- For** churches in Alamogordo who are having searches for pastors: Grace Methodist Church and Westminster Presbyterian Church.
- For** the Diocese, Bishop Steven, and the Standing Committee.
- For** Annette Fazenbaker as a deanery representative to the Standing Committee of the Diocese.
- For** Fr, Frank as a member of the Diocesan ROC committee and the Bylaws committee
- For** church plants within the diocese: Emmaus Anglican Church, Albuquerque; Comunidad del Fey Rey de Justicia, Iglesia Piedra Angular, Juarez MX; Comunidad de Gracia, Xalpa, MX

October Service Schedule *LEMS & Lectors*

The Rev. Willis F Griffin, Pastor
The Rev. Frank K. Wilson, Associate Pastor

Pentecost 17 - Sunday, October 5 -10 AM

Holy Eucharist - Pastor Fred
 LEM Karli Sorensen
 Lector Madeleine Fazenbaker

Pentecost 18 - Sunday, October 12 - 10 AM

Holy Eucharist - Pastor Frank
 LEM Karli Sorensen
 Lector Annette Fazenbaker

Pentecost 19 - Sunday, October 19 - 10AM

Holy Eucharist - Fr. Fred
 LEM Patrick Zima
 Lector Karli Sorensen

Pentecost 20 - Sunday, October 26 - 10 AM

Holy Eucharist - Pastor Frank
 LEM Karli Sorensen
 Lector Machele Lackey

All Saints Day - Sunday, November 2 - 10 AM

Time Change!!!!

Holy Eucharist -Fr. Fred
 LEM Patrick Zima
 Lector Paul Fazenbaker



Oct 5 - PotLuck
 Oct 12 -Annette Fazenbaker
 Oct 19 - Karli Sorensen
 Oct 26 - Nancy Griffin
 Nov 2 - Pot Luck
 Sign-up sheets are on the table.

October Event Schedule

Sunday, October 5

Potluck after the service

Sunday, October 12

Vestry Meeting after the Service

Ecumenical Bible Studies:

Wednesdays - 4-5 pm

Starts September 17

Gospel of John

Fr. Frank - Grace Methodist Church
 Alamogordo

Ladies Bible Study

Thursdays - 10-11:30 am

Ecclesiastes

Westminster Presbyterian Church
 Alamogordo

(Teachers: Katy Bailey, Bobbie. Cover,
 Nancy Griffin, Dawn Wilder)

For more information

See article in this newsletter - pg. 6



October Birthdays

Donya Conine - 13
 John Manley - 13
 Alonso Marquez - 28

October Anniversaries

Murl & Gayle Tullis - 5
 Stan & Sandy Thomas - 13
 Jim & Mary Ann Russ - 15
 Tom & Fran Gregg - 16
 Esther & Joel Fyock - 24

ACNA Lectionary C for October

Pentecost 17 • October 5, 2025

Habakkuk 1:1-13,2:1-4
Psalm 37:1-17
2 Timothy 1:1-14
Luke 17:5-10

Pentecost 18 • October 12, 2025

Ruth 1:1-19a
Psalm 113
2 Timothy 2:1-15
Luke 17:11-19

Pentecost 19 • October 19, 2025

Genesis 32:3-8, 22-30
Psalm 121
2 Timothy 3:14-4:5
Luke 18:1-8

Pentecost 20 • October 26, 2025

Jeremiah 14:7-10,19-22
Psalm 84
2 Timothy 4:6-18
Luke 18:9-14

All Saints • November 2, 2025

Revelation 7:9-17
Psalm 149
Ephesians 1:15-23
Matthew 5:1-12 or Luke 6:20-26

The Head of the Church is Jesus Christ

The Anglican Church in North America,

The Rt. Rev. Steve Wood, Archbishop

Diocese of the Southwest,

Bishop Steven Tighe

The Church of the Epiphany

The Rev. Willis F. Griffin, Pastor

The Rev. Frank K. Wilson, Associate Pastor

Musicians: Esther Fyock, Stan & Sandy Thomas.

Senior Warden

Annette Fazenbaker, Junior Warden

Financial Committee: Paul Fazenbaker, Machele Lackey,

Doug Price

Church Board

Karli Sorensen Aguilar Patrick Zima

Machele Lachey, JR Hester

Nancy Griffin, Clerk

Mission Statement

Our mission is to provide a warm and welcoming atmosphere where the Word of God fills each person with an understanding and renewal of their faith in Christ.

Outreach, both within our own community as well as abroad, is a further extension of this faith.

Romans 10:17 ~ Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the Word of Christ.

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The Church of the Epiphany, Cloudfcroft, Rev. Fred Griffin, Rev. Frank K. Wilson

Christ the King, Albuquerque (Rev. Peter Falk, Deacon Bill Lock); Church of our Lord, Albuquerque (Rev. Harold Trott, Michael Kline); Emmaus Anglican Church, Albuquerque (Revs. Greg & Noel Pfeifer; Christ Church, Farmington (Revs. Carl & Barbara Brenner); St. Clement's, El Paso (Revs. Bill Cobb, Rick Milliorn, Eduardo Gonzalez, Michael Sheehan, Deacon Courtney Brown) Rey de Paz, El Paso (Revs. John Dixon, Ken Hanna); Good Shepherd, San Angelo (Rev. Hal Scott); St. Stephen's, Roswell (Rev. Bob Tally); All Saints' and St. Paul's, Midland Texas (Rev. Tom Finnie); Iglesia La Trinidad, Guadalajara (Lay Leader, Miguel Meriono Lobos) Iglesia de Jesus & Jesus es la Resurreccion, Aguas Caliente, Mexico (Revs. Elias Rosales Mendez and Maria del Rayo Jimenez Victoria, Deacon Roger Griffin); Gran Pastor, Fresnillo, Mexico (Sr. Warden, Norma Rodriguez, Missionary Meredith Omland); Good Shepherd, Hill New Mexico (Rev. Farhid Adabache); Iglesia Anglicana, Puerto Vallarta, Mexico (Rev. Jack Wehrs, Deacon Fernando Sandoval); St. James, Dalhart, Texas (Rev. Philip Ray). Emmaus Anglican, Castle Rock CO (Rev. Theron Walker; Resurrection Anglican Fellowship, Greenwood Village, CO (Fr. Phil Eberhardt) St. Paul's Anglican Church, Owasso, OK (Fr. Chris Waters); Christ the Redeemer, Oklahoma City, OK (Fr. Brad Van Deventer); Iglesia Piedra Angular & Comunidad de Fe, Rey de Justicia, Juarez, Chihuahua;