

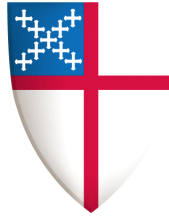
PARISH PROFILE
EPIPHANY
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Las Vegas, Nevada
2015

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Epiphany Episcopal Church



“Epiphany Episcopal Church is a multi-generational Christian community inviting all God’s people to live and worship in the Anglican tradition. We grow in faith through Christian formation, education, fellowship, outreach and liturgical worship.”



What We Seek

We are seeking a warm and pastoral priest who will inspire us through meaningful and relevant sermons. We seek a priest whose vision, experience, and organizational skills will encourage and enable the laity of our parish to continue to lead as we grow together to build our programs in our new brick-and-mortar church home.

“I wish for Epiphany to keep growing and for others outside our community to know the love and friendship that exists here and see what Epiphany has to offer.”- Age 23

How the Church in a Suitcase Became Epiphany Episcopal Church: Our History

In the summer of 2001, a handful of members of Christ Church in Las Vegas met to talk about forming “*Christ Church Green Valley*” in order to fulfill the need for an Episcopal Church in the southern valley area. Their dream was to develop a new parish that would serve those needs.

The fall of 2001 started the months and years of being a “Church in a Suitcase”. At least eight moves were made over a five year period that included a library, a mortuary, a police substation, a rehabilitation center, and a middle school. From place to place, they carried all of the altar essentials and service needs in one rolling black suitcase. With clergy support from Christ Church, the group met regularly on Sunday evenings and the sense of a community parish flourished.

In March 2003, the clergy support ended. Soon after, Deacon Sam, along with a dedicated founding couple, gathered the now two-dozen Green Valley members. Sam laid out the challenges facing the new Parish. Everyone agreed – the need for Sunday morning worship and Sunday School were foremost on their minds. It was at this meeting the congregation decided the newly formed and independent Parish deserved its own name. This is how Epiphany Episcopal Church came into being.

In May 2004, Father Mike Annis started regularly ministering with us part-time, and in July, a dedicated parishioner started a “one room Schoolhouse” Sunday School program. The biggest milestone came in October 2004 when our first Senior Warden stood before the Nevada Diocesan Convention and Epiphany was granted Parish status.

As 2005 dawned, Epiphany was blessed with Helen McPeak, another part-time priest. Helen was new to Henderson, having moved here from Northern California, and she embraced and advanced the family and child focus of Epiphany. By spring, the weekly attendance exceeded 40 and we reached the capacity of the rehabilitation center’s community room. This caused another change in venue, and of course, that meant “The Suitcase” came out again.

Epiphany moved in February 2006 to a storefront location on Pecos Road in Henderson. The atmosphere was energized with parishioners and newcomers finding this a welcoming, comfortable, and friendly place.

The official dedication of our Pecos home took place in June 2006, with Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori offering this sage advice, “*Open the doors, welcome everyone, but then go out into the streets and listen; learn the language of the people around you. Be a listener, not a speaker.*” 2006 was rounded out by the formation of the Prayer Shawl Ministry and the first annual Christmas Pageant – traditions that are still strong in our Parish.

2001
First Meetings

2004
Parish Status Granted

2006
***Moved to Pecos -
Storefront***

2012
***Priest in Charge
Resigns/Interim Priest
in Charge***

2013
***First Year of
Financial
Independence
and
Father Augustin
Interim Priest in
Charge***

2015
***Found and purchased
permanent Church
home - Consecration
and Dedication***



Dedication of our Pecos Location in June 2006

The years that followed brought growth and the enthusiastic development of ministries and traditional events, including a multiple-classroom Church school, a Holy Week program, a Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper (complete with Pancake races), and a child-centered Christmas Eve Pageant. These activities and others embody Epiphany's family and relationship focus. More and more groups formed that were spiritual and social, such as Greet and Eat dinner groups, book club, bible study, and others. Over the years, our music program has grown and changed, at times embracing various combinations of a youth choir, multiple instrumentalists, vocal soloists, pianists, and a choir.

"I know everyone and everyone knows me. It's a medium-sized hardworking church and is always improving." - Age 14



Father Mike and Reverend Helen

During these years the Parish also experienced a shift in responsibilities. Father Mike reduced his time with Epiphany to take on Priest in Charge duties at neighboring St. Timothy's, and the Reverend Helen McPeak became our Priest in Charge, with 15 paid hours per week.

Epiphany continued to grow, and our Pecos location began to feel too tight. With land being too expensive, the idea of a permanent church building was considered but abandoned on several occasions for various reasons.

In our first decade, we experienced strong continuous growth and many physical moves to accommodate the Parish. During this time, we maintained consistent membership numbers, though some families moved out or moved on and new families moved in. This stability crossed into our ministries as well, with new small ministries being introduced and championed by individual members.

After many years of greatly appreciated service, Helen felt it was time to move on. Her gifts served Epiphany well over the years. Helen's departure made room for a new part-time priest to carry on. With her resignation official in August of 2012, we moved into an agreement with Father Mike to serve as our interim Priest in Charge. Our Senior Warden worked diligently to ensure the supply priests working with Father Mike were in a consistent rotation. We enjoyed the service of three regular priests during this time. In the summer of 2013, Father Mike began to face health challenges that prevented him from continuing to serve. In September 2013, Father Dale Augustin was appointed to serve as our Interim Priest in Charge, and in February 2014, Father Mike passed away.

2014 was a pivotal year for Epiphany. Facing a lease renewal looming in March, 2015, we knew we had to make a move. Between 2010 and 2013, we had considered purchasing several different properties, none of which were meant to be. In 2014 after considering numerous properties, we were successful in finding our new permanent church home which includes 11,000 square feet and resides on 7.5 acres of land at the corner of Cactus and Gilesie. Our parish came together with the Diocese and the Episcopal Church Building Fund to exceed our goals and enable us to purchase this property without a bank loan. With God's help, we have ended up in our new church home, thanks be to God!



Weather:

- *“It’s a dry heat.”* Summer high temperatures are nearly always over 100 degrees and sometimes over 110 degrees.
- Winters are mild with average daily high temperatures under 60 degrees. Much of the area’s annual rainfall comes in the winter season.
- Late July through August often brings brief thunderstorms and accompanying flash flood warnings to Clark County.

Additional Facts & Features:

- Henderson is nationally recognized for its outstanding parks and recreation system.
- Major employers in Las Vegas/Henderson are part of the gaming/hospitality and health care industries.
- Roman Catholic and LDS churches are prevalent in the area, and there are many independent non-denominational religious institutions.
- Nearby points of interest include the Hoover Dam, Mount Charleston, Lake Mead, the Colorado River, and Red Rock Canyon.
- As of September 2013, Las Vegas is the #11 fastest growing Metropolitan city in the Nation.

<http://www.cityofhenderson.com>

<http://www.lasvegasnevada.gov>

Please see the attached “Epiphany LV 5-mile radius Quick Insight Report” for more detailed information on our community.

Parish Interview Results: The 6 Questions and the 167 Answers

We decided from the outset of our search process to obtain as accurate a portrait of ourselves as possible for our own edification and for our prospective clergy. Under the able direction of Search Consultant Canon Lucinda Ashby from the Diocese of Idaho, the twelve members of the Search Committee interviewed 167 current and recently former parishioners, asking each person the same six questions about their Epiphany experience. Most interviews were done face-to-face. We interviewed everyone from children to our most seasoned parishioners, divided their responses into six age brackets, and then analyzed the results for common themes and key issues. The story we tell here, including our aspirations for the community and our clergy, are based on the answers we were given.

1. What brought you to Epiphany and what keeps you here?

Location, by far, is the most common reason people come to Epiphany. Many parishioners were looking for a faith family away from “home”, wherever that might have been. Some were looking for healing and a place to raise children, while others were unhappy with other faiths and churches and found us. Almost everyone stays because of personal relationships formed within Epiphany – the feeling of family and our welcoming, friendly, accepting way.

2. Can you describe a special moment while you were attending Epiphany?

Younger parishioners identified special moments as participating in youth based activities – our Christmas pageant, being an acolyte for the first time, and feeling a sense of belonging right away in Church School. Mature parishioners looked to worship-based moments as special – baptisms, the consecration of Epiphany at our current location, recognition of Celebrations of Life (Birthdays, Anniversaries, Thanksgivings), or receiving pastoral care.

***“I feel that God is here always.
This is
God’s House.” –Age 7***



Confirmation with Bishop Dan

3. Can you describe a moment when you felt the presence of God at Epiphany?

Young and old agree that God is everywhere. Within that assertion, many parishioners feel the presence of God during Eucharist and during certain sermons, especially during personal times of stress and crisis in their lives. People also identified God's presence when parishioners shared their own Faith Stories and when receiving pastoral care or care from a small group ministry, such as Angel Food or Prayer Shawl.

"I feel happy, peaceful, content here at Epiphany." – Age 37

4. What makes you feel good about belonging to Epiphany? What makes you proud of this parish?

According to our parishioners, it's our genuine warm, friendly and welcoming manner and our acceptance of others that makes people feel good about belonging to Epiphany. We are proud Episcopalians!

"The connection of people to one another makes me proud of this parish. Belonging to Epiphany is comfortable." – Age 71

5. What do you think is the most important feature of this community?

Aside from the people, which encompassed all responses, parishioners identified our diversity, our multi-generationalism and our acceptance and inclusion of everyone, particularly our children, as being the most important features of this community. Often repeated words during this process were welcoming, adaptable, flexible, warm and hopeful.

"I love when my granddaughter can participate in service." – Age 74

6. What do you wish for Epiphany's future?

The three dominant wishes were having our own priest, having a permanent home of worship, and ensuring our continued growth and development. Within that framework, parishioners want us to maintain our closeness, relevance, enthusiasm and achieve financial soundness.

***"A Puppy."
– Age 6***

Epiphany Today

The very nature of our location in the south Las Vegas Valley makes our congregation a magnificent blend of people who came here from other places. With this diversity of origin comes a wonderful diversity of thought, experience, faith, expression, and our very being. Our earliest days are well characterized by our first promotion document published ten years ago:

We are in a special place and a special time in this corner of Las Vegas & Henderson. So many people from many different places with so many talents and gifts coming together, building a new community. If you are looking for an accepting faith community where you can find and use your talents and gifts, the Episcopal Church of the Epiphany welcomes you.

Today, we are a parish of people who choose to be together and express our faith in Jesus Christ and God Almighty within the Episcopal tradition. The heart of our parish is our warmth, diversity, and acceptance. We have the feel of extended family caring for everyone in our midst, and fostering of intergenerational connections. With ministries existing mainly to bolster our strong worship, our members come to Epiphany to partake in the liturgy and the Church School; to continue to learn about and question their faith, form strong bonds, and, most importantly, to celebrate God and the Scripture. Our youth hold an extra special place at Epiphany. We have always welcomed and celebrated children. We delight in the joy, excitement, and confusion they bring.

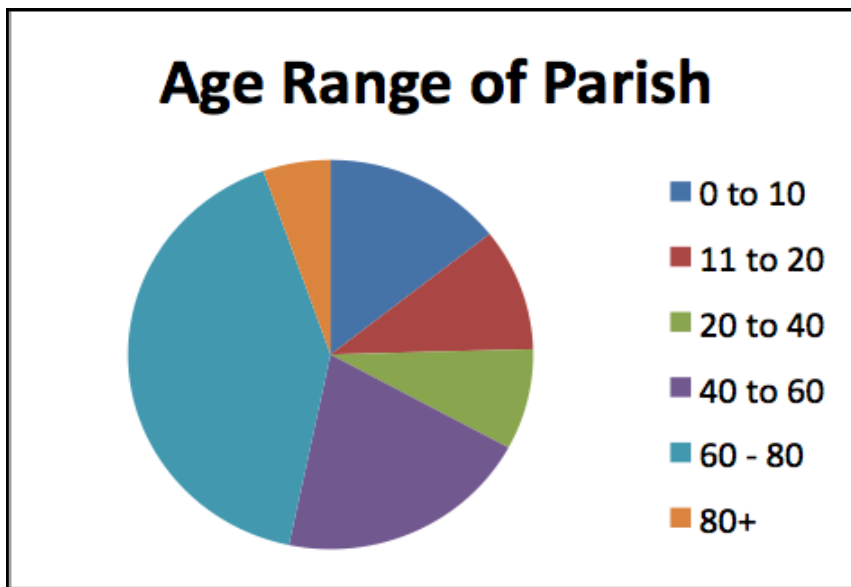
Our organizational model is a pairing of clergy and lay leadership. The Vestry structure consists of a senior warden, junior warden, and a liaison to lay leadership in each of these areas: Building and Grounds, Care and Calling, Education, Evangelism, Finance, Hospitality, Outreach, Stewardship, and Worship. We have learned what works for us through trial and error. As the parish has developed, so have the skills of our Vestry, showing strength, consistency, and growth.

In addition to our interim Priest in Charge, our only paid individuals are our supply priests and our pianist. Laity does everything else. Our volunteers are the backbone of Epiphany and are viewed as a tremendous strength.

“The breaking of the bread is the most important thing we do.” – Age 8

Epiphany Demographics

Epiphany itself is a cross section of the area's demographics. We currently have 170 members from 111 families. About half of our parishioners are under the age of 60, and half are over 60. Average Sunday attendance for 2014 was 117. Since our move, our Sunday attendance is averaging 130 attendees. Our 8:00 a.m. Sunday service serves about 15% of our attendees; the 10:00 am service accounts for the remaining 85%. We are part of the Episcopal Diocese of Nevada, which is headquartered in Las Vegas.



"We are a community of multigenerational people who come together and share their talents and ideas"
- age 62

Worship and Liturgy

Epiphany currently hosts two services weekly. We use Rite 2 most Sundays with Rite 1 being a cherished ritual one Sunday per month. Worship at Epiphany from the outset has incorporated our youth in ways that range from taking up the collection and presenting the gifts, to serving as acolytes. Parishioners have a love of traditional and contemporary music, enjoying vocal and piano solos as well as hymns from the 1982 hymnal and *Wonder, Love and Praise*. We now have a choir and continue our focus on music. Grace in the Desert Episcopal Church in Summerlin donated an organ to Epiphany upon the move to our new location, so now we have an organ as well as a grand piano.

Epiphany has strong participation from its members in all worship activities. Serving as an acolyte is a very special and spiritual activity for our youth. Adult acolytes serve as well for the 8am services.



“Being an acolyte makes me feel like I’m a part of a special group.” –Age 8



A discussion of worship at Epiphany would not be complete without a special mention of Christmas at Epiphany. The Christmas Eve service focuses on participation from the youth. They have done everything from a traditional pageant to a youth service where the children sing solos, play instruments, do the readings, homily, dismissal, and serve as acolytes. The evolution of this tradition, maintaining a focus on family and youth, is illustrative of how Epiphany approaches worship as well as the rest of our programs; with adaptability.



“When I eat the bread and wine, I feel that God is standing right there next to me.” - Age 9

Lay Ministries

“The most important feature is the willingness of the people to dedicate and manage the success of the parish.”- Age 45

Epiphany has a wide ranging collection of lay ministries that are parishioner led and driven. Some ministries have been part of the community since our early days and have transitioned through various leaders. Broadly our ministries can be divided into categories of Hospitality and Fellowship, Christian Formation, Pastoral Care, and Small Groups.

Hospitality and Fellowship - In a transient community where even long term residents don't often have local family ties, this is an important aspect of how Epiphany feeds the needs of members and newcomers.

- “Greet & Eat” These are small groups of individuals (6-8) who meet in each other's homes regularly to share a meal.
- “A Night in Italy” and our annual Wine Tasting and Pairing events are Epiphany's major fundraisers. They are also an opportunity to introduce Epiphany to newcomers in a social setting.
- “Mass in the Grass” is a Sunday service held in the park and followed by a parish picnic.
- The Church School Pool Party is held annually – a potluck hosted at a parishioner's home.
- Newcomers Brunch is held quarterly.
- The Men's Breakfast group meets regularly, having breakfast and discussing the bible as well as other topics of interest.
- Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper and Pancake Races
- Marketing - Our website is www.nvepiphany.org. Eighty-five percent (85%) of all newcomers have found Epiphany through our website. We also have an active Facebook page and are working on some new Marketing ideas to spread the word of Christ in our new community.



Church School Pool Party

Christian Formation-

- Nursery for children up to 3 years old is provided on Sundays. All volunteers must be certified through the “Safeguarding God’s Children” program.
- Church School classes start at Preschool and go through 8th grade. Students move to the Epiphany Youth Organization (EYO) from 9th through 12th grades. Teens and adults work together to help lead Church School.
- Confirmation classes are led by laity and/or clergy and are open to any person seeking to be confirmed, received, or reaffirmed. From 2011-2015, 46 people have been welcomed into the church.
- Adult Education remains active through seasonal study series that have been lay and clergy led. Examples include Advent and Lenten studies.
- Bible Study (“Still Listening”) is a group started by a layperson that meets twice a month. Regular attendees meet in a parishioner’s home.



“I am proud of our strong Church School and how the children are so involved in our services.”

– Age 76

Pastoral Care - Epiphany parishioners take care of each other in both informal ways and in organized ministries. Our goal is that no one in need goes unattended.

- Angel Food. This is a group of parishioners who prepare and deliver meals to individuals just getting out of the hospital and those who are homebound.
- Prayer Shawl Ministry. This is the largest small group at Epiphany. Once a month their prayer shawls are blessed and given to those in need.
- Care & Calling. This ministry serves those who are ill, newcomers and those in distress, with visits and phone calls.

“Last year when my mother passed away and my sister was diagnosed with cancer, I was overwhelmed by the special prayers and support of the Prayer Shawl group.” – Age 63



Prayer Shawls being blessed on the altar

“I feel good about the way Epiphany cares for its members.” – Age 45

- **Small Groups** - Epiphany uses small groups to more thoroughly engage parishioners. Book club meets monthly and contemplative prayer meets weekly for a quiet hour of prayer led by a lay person.

Stewardship

We are fortunate to have such generous and giving parishioners willing to give of their time, energy, and treasure to ensure our continuation of ministry and mission. Our financial obligations are met, including special needs, with little to no surplus year to year. Our 2014 stewardship campaign resulted in 75 pledges, of which 16 were brand new pledges and 36 were increased. 12 of our pledges were from children. We use a two part pledge card asking for promises of both time/talent and treasure, encouraging everyone to pledge. For the first years of our existence we were fortunate to receive substantial financial support from The Diocese of Nevada. That subsidy ended at the end of 2012. After a parishioner recently attended the TENS conference, we know that we have much to learn about life long, year-round stewardship.

Our fundraisers are:

- Our Annual Wine Tasting and Pairing is a fun and well-attended tradition, now is in its 5th year.
- Youth activities are supported through car washes, rummage sales, an annual cake auction, and Mother's Day take-home dinners.
- Periodically, parishioners host elegant dinners and teas in their homes.
- We share our space with 12-step programs to support the community.
- The Giving Tree is well funded by parishioners for parish supplies.



Annual Wine Tasting Fundraiser

Since our beginning, parishioners have purchased some of our basic church and altar needs. With an eye on the future, we recently offered Legacy Planning - planned giving opportunity workshops - and are looking for other ways to maximize our limited financial resources like receiving tax free appreciated stock and IRA rollovers.

Location and Building

*Epiphany
Episcopal Church
Welcomes You!*



Diocesan Life

- Over the years, our parishioners have formally served the Diocese as Treasurer, Council member, Secretary to Convention, Secretary to Standing Committee, General Convention Deputy, Galilee Board of Directors, Galilee Advisory Board and delegates to Diocesan Convention.
- Mission Apportionment – Asking for the Diocese of Nevada is 24%. Epiphany has and will continue to pay a full asking each month. The parish also contributes .07% to Millennium Development Goals (MDG).
- Southern Mission District (SMD) - In Nevada, Mission Districts meet quarterly to discuss what is going on in the Diocese and how each District may assist parishes as well as the diocese.



Diocesan Convention Delegates

Mission Work

Members of Epiphany find many ways to support the needs of those in and near our community with time, money, and supplies.

- Christ Church Food Outreach and Treasure House Thrift Shop
- Friends of the Desert Meal Program
- Haiti Earthquake Recovery
- Navajo Land and Wyoming Mission Trips
- Nevadans for the Common Good - this community, faith-based group recently formed in the valley. The group decided to focus on five major concerns here in Southern Nevada: sex trafficking of minors, education and safety in schools, vulnerability of the elderly, immigration, and the foreclosure blight. Epiphany is highly involved and a leader in this organization.

***“It’s not all about the snacks.
I feel good about raising
money for Haiti because they
lost everything.” – Age 8***



EYO Mission Trip

***“It was a wonderful experience that helped teach me
appreciation for all that I have in my life and a respect for
Navajo people in Arizona. I would love it if all Epiphany’s youth
could have this same experience.”
– 12 year old Mission Volunteer***