

# Epiphany

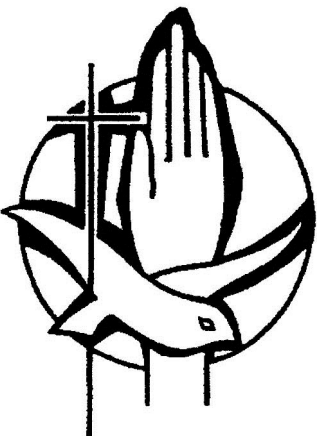
September 2014

epiphanygroup.org

*A Catholic interfaith Community of those seeking to explore current issues affecting our Church and personal lives, prayerfully responding to our baptismal call with "fresh eyes, open minds, and changed hearts," by promoting social justice, education and advocacy.*

*"The Epiphany Group can be pictured as an oasis for those on the spiritual journey; to gather together for a while, to pause, refresh, to think about our direction. The Holy Spirit is our guide and in that embrace we listen, renew, and seek the grace and courage to go where we are led. We wish to welcome all fellow travelers with gratitude for the humble strength we gain from each other."*

Maureen Watson, past-president, 2001



Dear Friends,

It has been a while since our last newsletter, and we wanted to give everyone an update on the Epiphany Group. We have been on a bit of a hiatus for the last year or so since losing four long-time members, and with several others suffering various ailments or family issues. But we have now regrouped and are ready to move the Epiphany Group forward. We also have some new officers. Jim McUsic is continuing as secretary, Kay Brown is serving as Treasurer, and John Kennington is serving as president/newsletter editor.

For many years the Epiphany group met in members' home, but we are now meeting at the Church of the Resurrection, still on the second Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. At our meetings we hope to return to our original mission, which you can read to the left. Rather than focus on the changes needed in the Roman Church (or complain about it!), we will focus on how we can be a prophetic voice for the people of God, deepen our own spirituality, and work for social justice in our communities. The words of past president Maureen Watson (also to the left) still ring true and perfectly sum up our goals today.

We invite each of you reading this to join us at of our meetings (and to bring a friend!) Our next meeting is Oct. 13th at 7:00 p.m. at the Church of the Resurrection, 4804 S Fulton Ave. in Tulsa.

To kick off the "new" Epiphany Group we are sponsoring a 4 week series of classes on liberation theology. It will be taught by Susan Murphy, who spent this summer at Boston College taking a class taught by Gustavo Gutiérrez, the "father" of liberation theology. This will be something unique in Tulsa and not to be missed! More details are inside.

## Remembrances

I feel we need to honor four long-time members who have passed away the last few years, each of whom made a unique contribution to our community and the world. So most of this newsletter features their obituaries and other remembrances, but first here are some of my own memories.

**Steve Eberle** died in 2011. We all knew Steve was involved in many organizations and causes, but I think we were all shocked to learn the full scope of his interests besides the Catholic Church and Epiphany. His funeral, at Holy Family Cathedral, was one of the most moving moments I have ever experienced in my lifetime as a Catholic. As Msgr. Geir noted, never before have so many Unitarians been gathered in a Catholic Church! Steve pre-planned the entire service, down to the readings and music. More than anyone I've ever known Steve truly was the Body of Christ living among us.

**Marian McUsic** passed away in July, 2013. Marian and Jim were the first members we met when first attending an Epiphany event, and we always felt welcome in their home. Marian always had insightful comments in every discussion we had at our meetings, and I learned so much of the history of the church in Tulsa from her.

We lost **Terry Klein** in February of this year. He had surgery to amputate his leg due to diabetes, but died from complications. I did not know Terry very well, but whenever I did see him at a meeting he always had an aura of peace. I found his stories about working with AIDS patients, people in hospice or others in unfortunate circumstances to be very inspiring.

Most recently this past May **Frank Murphy** passed away. Frank and Mary were always some of my favorite people, and their tales of travel and raising their daughters were always a delight. Frank's obituary, written by his daughters, will bring you to tears (of joy!). **Mary Murphy**, while otherwise healthy, does have Alzheimer's, and Frank's devotion to Mary in recent years was a poignant love story. Mary no longer knows her daughters, and they did not try to tell her about Frank's death.

John Kennington

## Steve Eberle

Stephen Eberle left our world August 5, 2011 surrounded by a community of loving friends, who each had a special story about their work with Steve and his tireless efforts to promote positive change for a multitude of social justice, equal rights, racial and cultural understanding, health, poverty, hunger, violence, abuse, incarceration, and sustainability issues. Steve found homes for the homeless, hope for the hopeless, and food for the hungry.

Steve was born and raised in Albany, N.Y., moving to Tulsa after completing a degree in horticulture at Texas A&M University. A longtime political activist who helped lead the statewide push to ban cockfighting, he worked most recently for the Indian Health Care Resource Center of Tulsa, where he taught people how to grow their own food, shop wisely and make healthier meals. As the center's community food and garden coordinator, he was happier professionally than he had ever been, friends say.

Steve, who worked for various Oklahoma nonprofit groups over the years while also volunteering with nearly 50 organizations, made it his "life mission to teach people how to live responsibly and with great respect for every living thing." He offered his friendship and non-judgmental acceptance to many who had been rejected by their families, who had suffered abuse, or who had no positive role models to help them find a healthy pathway for living. Through his wide and constant networking with animal rescue groups, he helped place hundreds of lost and abandoned dogs in safe and loving homes.

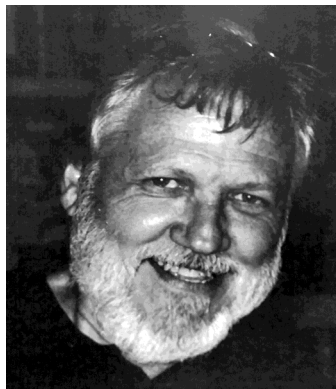
One of the founders of the annual Tulsa AIDS Walk benefit, Steve also helped raise money to establish Tulsa's St. Joseph Residence, which provides services, meals and a home for Tulsans with HIV/AIDS. Every Sunday afternoon for several years he would go shopping for the residence's kitchen, bringing in several bags full of groceries. This was personal for Steve, who was diagnosed with HIV nearly 30 years ago, before much was known about the disease, friends said.

Among his many causes, Steve used to say that he always wanted to be a priest. Well, the reality is, he was - a priest without the collar, someone who would go out of his way for anyone and who was equally comfortable whether cleaning a bathroom or sitting on a non-profit board.

*The above is a combination of several different obituaries/remembrances by various people. All may be viewed in their original form at [epiphanygroup.org](http://epiphanygroup.org).*



## Terry Klein



Terence Stephen Klein, 71, social worker, died February 22, 2014. Terry was born in San Antonio, Texas and moved to Tulsa to attend the University of Tulsa. He soon met Sandra and they were married in 1965, settling into their home in north Tulsa. They spent 48 years together until his death. Education was important to Terry and after attending many of our area colleges and universities he obtained his Master's degree in sociology from the University of Oklahoma. Terry and Sandra have two daughters, Regina and Shannon, and five grandchildren.

Terry lived his life in service to others. Besides teaching at Tulsa Community College, he worked with hospice patients and with residents of St. Joseph House. He and Sandra spent many hours volunteering at Living Arts of Tulsa, and they especially enjoyed the Tulsa Art Car program.

## Frank Murphy

Frank was 86 and a retired illustrator for American Airlines. Survived by wife, Mary Betty, seven daughters, and many relatives. He grew up in Raleigh, NC, moved to New York City to attend Manhattan College at the age of 16. He served in Korea from 1946-1948 and returned to New York and married Mary Betty Keegan, with whom he thrived for more than 62 years.

Though he illustrated for a living, he also painted signs, silk-screened T-shirts, repaired VWs, worked night jobs, and finished his degree at TU, graduating at the age of 50. He loved annual family vacations: Blue Ridge Parkway, the northwest, the outer banks of North Carolina. He celebrated St. Patrick's Day by sending shamrock stickers to his grandkids. He was too young for the Greatest Generation, so he invented his own generation.

He made up George The Bear stories every night when the kids were little. He was up late to talk when teenagers came home, and when they became parents, he was there to get to know his grandchildren. His door was always open to friends and anyone who wanted to drink coffee and talk. He was the best listener ever.

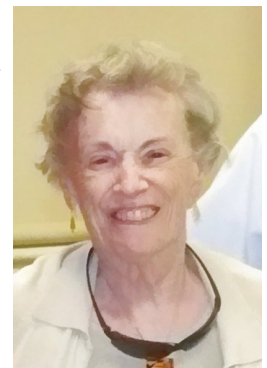


When Mary Betty's health declined, he created a safe and vibrant world for her as long as he could. The man raised by two widows and two older sisters, then fathered seven daughters, was surrounded by the love of those women for whom he always will be, and actually originally was, the most interesting man in the world. He was one of a kind; no definition can capture his uniqueness.



## Marian McUSIC

Marian Frances (Blacher) McUSIC, beloved wife of James McUSIC, Marian passed away peacefully on July 4, 2013, in Tulsa. She was a native Tulsan, born on November 11, 1926, to Teresa and Fred Blacher, and spent most of her life in Tulsa, graduating from Will Rogers High School in 1944 and the University of Tulsa in 1948. She is survived by: her husband, James; three sons, Michael, Donald and Richard McUSIC; and one daughter, Teresa Vonder Haar. Prior to her marriage to James in 1954, Marian wrote advertising copy for several prominent Tulsa department stores. During her long lifetime, she volunteered for many local organizations, including the Shakespearean Society, PTA, Tulsa Opera, Tulsa Little Theater, Assistance League of Tulsa, Tulsa Historical Society, Tulsa City-County Library, and Neighbor for Neighbor. .



### Jim McUSIC Update

Jim has recently moved to University Village. His new address is 8555 S. Lewis Ave., #102, Tulsa OK 74137. His phone is 918-627-3065, and email is [jmmcusic@cox.net](mailto:jmmcusic@cox.net). He would love to hear from you!!

## Liberation Theology Workshop

September 21<sup>st</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup>, October 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> 2014 (Sundays at 2:00 p.m.)

Hardesty Library, 8316 E 93rd St, Tulsa, OK

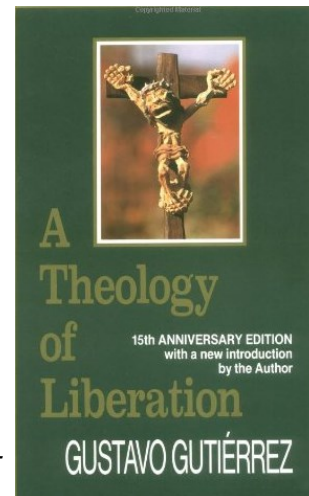
We live at a time when a far-reaching historical event is being experienced. Fr. Gustavo Gutiérrez calls it “the irruption of the poor”. It is the new visibility and new presence of those from the “underside of history” - those who use to be “absent” from our society - individuals or groups of little importance to the culture. They are the voiceless ones that we relegate to the margins because they threaten our comforts, sensibilities, and even the way we relate to God.

Recently Pope Francis was quoted as saying, “How I would like a church that is poor, and for the poor”. The term “the church of the poor” was first used in 1962 in a message by Pope John XXIII at the start of Vatican II. We find reflections of this being expressed in the theologies of third world countries and nowhere more ardently than in the church of South America through the writings and preaching of Fr. Gutiérrez who is considered the father of Liberation Theology.

This summer Fr. Gutiérrez taught a class in Liberation Theology at Boston College. It was attended by Susan Murphy, a Bartlesville resident and pastoral minister who has been working with the poor for the last 20 years. Susan will be sharing the knowledge she gathered from this Boston College experience in a Liberation Theology workshop to be presented by The Epiphany Group. It will be held on Sunday afternoons September 21st, 28th, October 5th, and 12th at Hardesty Library from 2:00 - 3:30.

If you feel called by the Gospel to reflect on and practice a spirituality that includes liberating the oppressed, relieving suffering, and restoring human dignity to the marginalized, then we invite you to join us for this interesting class.

Though not essential, please RSVP to [epiphanygrouptulsa@gmail.com](mailto:epiphanygrouptulsa@gmail.com) (or 918-809-6325) so we can be sure to have enough handouts and chairs.



**The Epiphany Group**  
 11224 S 83 E Ave.  
 Bixby, OK 74008