

Hilltopper

Harrisonburg District

January 2018



Prayers
Presence
Gifts
Service
Witness

Special points of interest:

- Epiphany
- Photos
- Church Council
- Nurse's Health Corner
- Anniversaries & Birthdays

Happy New Year

For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

Jeremiah 29:11

Epiphany Reflections

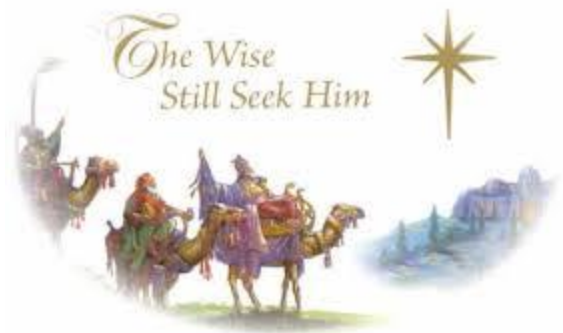
Epiphany

Many of us were introduced to Epiphany through the familiar silhouetted-image of Three Wise Men bearing gifts as they followed the Great Star by night. In some cultures, Epiphany is known as the Day of the Kings (Dia de los Reyes). It is also known as Twelfth Day or Twelfth Night, reflecting an old custom of giving a gift for each of the days from December 25 to January 6 for the 12 days of Christmas. The day has special meaning for a number of reasons. Several branches of Christianity celebrate the birth of the Christ Child on January 6 or January 7

The word epiphany means appearance or manifestation. Popular usage likens epiphany to words such as eureka or aha! Use of this word by some English speakers conjures images of having a light bulb turned on, or of being able to see something that was once hidden from view. The texts for the Sundays after the Epiphany dramatize the many ways that we people came to understand who Jesus was, through his baptism, the miracle at the wedding, or through that bodacious declaration in his hometown synagogue! But, this ever-widening circle of revelation began 'outside the circle' of Judaism, so to speak, with the Magi.

Who were the Magi?

Many versions of the Bible refer to them as the Wise Men. We often forget that these Magi or Wise Men were non-Jews. Older sources suggest that they were priestly descendants of one of the tribes of the Medes known for their knowledge of the stars (astronomy) and their ability to interpret dreams.



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What can we learn from the Wise Men?

First, the Wise Men began their journey because of their beliefs.

It was a common belief that when a world leader like a king was born that a special stellar phenomenon would appear in the sky. The Magi saw something that convinced them that they had seen the long-awaited sign. Historians tell us that the Jews, the Romans, and the Persians were all watching the skies about that time, looking for signs of the birth of an extraordinary king. A few years before, around 11 BC, Halley's Comet had been seen. There were other stellar phenomena, including a bright star, Sirius, which appeared brightly in the daytime instead of at night. The Wise Men saw the star and began their journey.

May God give us all inspiration for this year's journey.

Second, the Wise Men were willing to follow what they had seen into unknown territory.

Their journey took them outside their country and their comfort zone. The Wise Men risked the consequences of disobeying Herod, who was known to behave as a madman when provoked and returned to their country by another way.

The Christian journey is often an off-road excursion.

Third, the Wise Men were committed to the journey -- wherever the star might lead.

The Wise Men set out to find a newborn King by following a star and ended up in finding a baby born to young, relatively poor parents! Not exactly what they expected and not exactly what befit their dignity as priests.

In this coming year, may we look to heaven for guidance and comfort and may we accept God's blessings in whatever forms we find them, just as the Wise Men accepted that their long, expensive journey led them to a baby born to young, inexperienced parents who lived on the poor side of town.

Finally, the Wise Men brought gifts.

They did the thing that people in the East or in Africa or in India would do when visiting royalty. They brought gifts.

Gold was the kind of gift that you brought to a king.

Frankincense was the kind of gift that you would bring to a priest.

Myrrh was given to someone who was about to die.

On This Twelfth Day, or Three Kings Day, otherwise known as Epiphany, think of the gift that you will offer to God in the coming year. The gift of time? The gift of your talents? Your service in the community? Your witness and testimony? The gift of undying love and devotion?

Their greatest gift comes to us in the form of a realization. The Wise Men were the first Gentiles to recognize that Jesus belongs to everyone. Good news is for everyone, not just a select few.

Star of wonder

Star of light

Star with royal beauty bright

Westward leading

Still proceeding

Guide us to thy perfect light.

Amen.

(from umcdiscipleship.org)



Spectacular Christmas Celebrations at New Hope



The New Hope United Methodist Church Council met on Thursday, December 7, 2017 with nine members present. Sam Arnold, Vice-Chairman, called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. Debbie Arnold presented the devotions.

Those members present: Sam Arnold (Vice-Chairman), Kevin Armstrong, Debbie Arnold, Cindy Deavers, Wanda Harding, Pastor Shin Hong, Kim Maugans, Bruce Rogers and JoEtta Walker. Cindy Sheets attended the meeting, but is not a member of the Council.

Minutes of the October 26, 2017 meeting were approved as submitted.

Treasurer's Report: Cindy Deavers presented the Treasurer's Report.

A copy of the Treasurer's Report is included in the file with these minutes.

All bills have been paid except for December.

All apportionments have been paid except for December.

Most donations, approved as part of the 2017 budget, have not been paid. Based on the availability of funds, Kevin and Cindy will decide how much to pay for these donations up to the budgeted amount.

Donations received for the midweek meal are \$880. Only \$67.83 in reimbursement receipts has been received.

Update on A/V Project: \$1,167.86 still in designated giving; draw of \$9,946 taken from credit line to pay A/V Installations; total cost to date \$22, 591.80 (\$27,000 budget).

Finance Committee: Kevin Armstrong presented the Finance Committee Report.

We have completed 92.5% of the year and received 88.8% of the budget.

Stewardship Sunday will be January 21, 2018.

\$600 was donated during the Potato Bar to help offset expenses for the handbell choir.

Bruce Rogers was asked to give an update on the A/V Project to the congregation.

Trustees: There was no Trustees Report.

Worship Ministry: Debbie Arnold presented the Worship Ministry Report.

Wanda will handle replacing the prayer cards and pencils in the back of the pews.

Cindy Sheets has agreed to help Debbie with the Worship Ministry.

Who is responsible for the décor in the Narthex? Trustees.

Special bulletins have been ordered for the Christmas Eve services.

Susan Coffman will coordinate the readers for lighting the Advent Candle.

There was an open discussion about placement in the Sanctuary of the US and Christian flags and the Christmon Tree.

Nurture/Spiritual Development Ministry: JoEtta Walker presented the Nurture Report.

The Faith Community Nursing Program will come under the Nurture Ministry.

Martha Fretwell has done an outstanding job with the Children's Ministry.

The handbell choir from South Korea will be here to perform during two services on Sunday, December 24, Christmas Eve.

December 31, Fifth Sunday luncheon will be soup and sandwiches to share.

Are we going to have something in 2018 to follow the Bible Readings in 2017?

Evangelism Ministry: There was no Evangelism Ministry Report.

Children's Ministry: There was no Children's Ministry Report.

Missions/Outreach Ministry: There was no Mission/Outreach Report.

Youth Representative: There was no Youth Report.

Staff/Parrish Relations: Bruce Rogers presented the SPRC Report.

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Celebrating Epiphany
Could these be “junior Magi”?



January Nurse's Health Corner

National Drug and Alcohol Facts Week[®] (NDAFW), January 22-28, 2018, is a national health observance linking teens to science based facts to SHATTER THE MYTHS[®] about drugs! Over 18.5 million persons 12 and older have misused prescription drugs in the past year. When asked how they obtained prescription opioids, a majority of the 12th graders surveyed said they were given the drugs or they bought them from a friend or relative. These statistics are particularly worrisome as youth who misuse prescription medications are more likely to report use of other drugs.

Monitoring the Future is an annual survey of 8th, 10th, and 12th graders conducted by researchers at the Institute for Social Research at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, under a grant from the National Institute on Drug Abuse, part of the National Institutes of Health. Monitor the Future 2017 Survey Results:

- 71.0 percent of high school seniors do not view regular marijuana smoking as being harmful, but 64.7 percent say they disapprove of regular marijuana smoking
- Binge drinking rates for each grade: 8th grade: 3.7%, 10th grade: 9.8%, 12th graders: 16.6%
- Nearly 1 in 3 students in 12th grade report past-year use of e-vaporizers in 2017, raising concerns about the impact on their long-term health. Many teens do not actually know what is in the device they are using, and even if they read the label, not all labeling is consistent or accurate.
- Teens More Likely to Use Marijuana Than Cigarettes:
 - In its peak year (1997), daily cigarette use among 12th grades was 24.6 percent, compared to a rate of 4.2 percent in 2017
 - In its lowest year of use (1992), daily use of marijuana among 12th graders was 1.9 percent, compared to a rate of 5.9 percent in 2017

Past-year misuse of prescription/OTC drugs among 12th graders in 2017 were:

Adderall[®]: 5.5%
 Tranquilizers: 4.7%
 Opioids other than heroin: 4.2%
 Cough/cold medicine: 3.2%
 Sedatives: 2.9%
 Ritalin[®]: 1.3%

Past-year use of illicit drugs among 12th graders in 2017 were:

Marijuana/hashish: 37.1%
 Synthetic cannabinoids*: 3.7%
 LSD: 3.3%
 Cocaine: 2.7%
 MDMA (Ecstasy/Molly): 2.6%
 Inhalants: 1.5%
 Heroin: 0.4%

Mission Opportunities

Valley Mission – ongoing project of collections – mostly for cereal but other items are welcomed as well

Mission Central – District project at Cedar Grove UMC in Harrisonburg – collecting children's socks and underwear

Prison Ministry – District project at Kingsway Prison Ministry – junior legal pads, pencils, toothpaste, toothbrushes, chapstick

Lectionary Readings

1/7

Isaiah 60:1-6
Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14 (UMH 795)
Ephesians 3:1-12
Matthew 2:1-12

1/14

1 Samuel 3:1-10 (11-20)
Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18 (UMH 854)
1 Corinthians 6:12-20
John 1:43-51

1/21

Jonah 3:1-5, 10
Psalm 62:5-12 (UMH 787)
1 Corinthians 7:29-31
Mark 1:14-20

1/28

Deuteronomy 18:15-20
Psalm 111 (UMH 832)
1 Corinthians 8:1-13
Mark 1:21-28

2/4

Isaiah 40:21-31
Psalm 147:1-11, 20c (UMH 859)
1 Corinthians 9:16-23
Mark 1:29-39

2/11

2 Kings 2:1-12
Psalm 50:1-6 (UMH 783)
2 Corinthians 4:3-6
Mark 9:2-9



WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Acolyte

1/7 Cindy Deavers
1/14 Alec McLaren
1/21 Derek Deavers
1/28 Joanie Schoffield
2/4 Weston Powell
2/11 Becky Tate

Nursery

1/7 Dana Breeding & Clara Breeding
1/14 Carolyn Fretwell & Kenny Fretwell
1/21 OPEN
1/28 Wendy McLaren & Kevin McLaren
2/4 Lynn Tuten
2/11 Gail Armstrong & Debbie Arnold

Children's Message

1/7 Pastor Shin
1/14 OPEN
1/21 OPEN
1/28 OPEN
2/4 Pastor Shin
2/11 OPEN

Lead Ushers

1/7 Rob Riner & Lewis Whitmer
1/14 Dallas Van Lear & Becky Tate
1/21 Charlie Bill Fretwell & Henry Breeding
1/28 Darryl Deavers & John Morse
2/4 Rob Riner & Lewis Whitmer
2/11 Dallas Van Lear & Becky Tate



January/February Anniversaries & Birthdays

January-

2-Filmore Cook
 2-Mary Rowe
 3-Dana Breeding
 3-Jack Walker
 3-Sam Arnold
 4-Michelle Chittum
 4-Brooke Darrah
 5-Dave Critzer
 5-Bucky Darrah
 5-Shirley Western
 6-Gary Campbell
 6-Michael Herman
 6-Phyllis Jarvis
 7-Kristin Walker
 9-Barbara Arndt
 9-Jacob Schreckhise
 10-Vinda Shaver
 11-Jackie Wilberger
 12-Phyllis Fretwell
 13-Amanda Corbett
 14-Will Bergman
 17-Mildred Hartman
 17-Candice Kincaid
 17-Jason Shiflett
 18-Crystal Abbe
 18-Lynn Shaver
 19-Kathy Campbell
 19-Gina Davis
 20-Michael Breeding
 20-John Western
 20-Laura Jenner
 21-Ken Fretwell
 22-Heather Abbe Fitcham
 22-Bob & Jean Critzer
 24-William Critzer
 25-Richard Ritchie
 25-Christian Deavers
 26-Jeremy McLaughlin
 28-Gary Lewis
 31-Denise Duncan

February

1-Martha English
 1-Loretta Dameron
 1-Jamie Stout
 2-Kylie Armstrong
 2-Al & Lynn Tuten
 4-Robert Shiflett
 5-Roosevelt Rowe
 5-JoEtta Walker
 8-Colin Hester
 9-Nancy Pyle
 10-Ian Gruber
 13-Marguerite Howell
 13-Owen Pence
 14-Ernest Shaver
 14-Becky Tate
 14-Dale & Sherry Rankin
 15-Cooper Coffey
 15-Rebecca McCaskey
 15-Holly Morris
 15-Joan Simmons
 15-Isabelle Willberger
 15-Tonya Meier
 17 Pastor Shin Hong
 17-Zack Rickman
 17-Lewis & Karen Whitmer
 17- Seth Joyner
 18-Susie Shreckhise
 19-Jo Layman
 19-Robert Riner
 20-Helen Shiflett
 21-Al Tuten
 22-Colin & Teresa Hester
 23-Mike Shreckhise
 24-Jennifer Bottenmiller
 24-Tabitha Herring
 25-Marc Mehler
 26-Dave Dively
 27-Stephen Sundeen
 27-Richard & Natosha Ritchie

28-Polly Caricofe
 28-Cheryl Shiflett
 28-Jason Massie



If we have any incorrect information or are missing information, please leave updates in mailbox in church library for Hilltopper or email to altuten@vaumc.org

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Even among teens that do not use drugs, it is acknowledged that they are fairly easy to come by.

29% of teens in grades 9 through 12 report that illegal drugs were made available to them on school property

38.4% of teens in public schools report that drugs are readily available

22.4% at private schools report drugs are readily available

62.9% report that street gangs are present to sell the drugs

As a parent, teacher, grandparent, or concerned community member, how much do you really know about drug abuse? Test your knowledge by taking the interactive **National Drug & Alcohol IQ Challenge** quiz at <https://teens.drugabuse.gov/quiz/national-drug-alcohol-facts-week/take-iq-challenge/2017> .

If you or someone you care about needs treatment for drug abuse, please call 1-800-662-HELP (4357) or go to <https://findtreatment.samhsa.gov/> . Valley Community Services Board offers emergency services (24/7). Go to <http://www.myvalleycsb.org/emergency-services-2> or call (540) 885-0866, (540) 943-1590 or toll free (866) 274-7475.

Article provided by Dana H. Breeding, RN Health Educator of Community Outreach, at Augusta Health. To contact Dana Breeding, RN related to the above information please call (540) 332-4988.

Sources:

NIDA. (2017, December 14). Vaping popular among teens; opioid misuse at historic lows. Retrieved from <https://www.drugabuse.gov/news-events/news-releases/2017/12/vaping-popular-among-teens-opioid-misuse-historic-lows> on 2017, December 19.

NIDA. (2014, July 1). Drugs, Brains, and Behavior: The Science of Addiction. Retrieved from <https://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/drugs-brains-behavior-science-addiction> on 2017, December 19.

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Our search for a Music Director has not been successful. Elaine DeJong has graciously continued in the position, but has advised that she will play through January. The search continues, but we may have to come up with an alternative to our current music program. This will be discussed with the Worship Ministry.

Al Tuten has advised he wants to give up his position as Church Administrator. He has been in the position for over 3 1/2 years and feels he needs the additional time for his job at Mt. Zion. We will announce his decision and begin a search for a replacement.

Historian: There was no History Report.

Membership Secretary: There was no Membership Secretary Report.

Lay Leadership/Nominations: Kim Maugans presented the Lay Leadership Report.

The Planning Team will meet on January 7 at 6:00 pm to discuss "where do we go from here"?

Communications: Wanda Harding presented the Communications Report.

December 9 – 4:30 pm - New Hope Christmas Parade (Church will sponsor a float and small gifts are requested for distribution following the parade).

December 10 – 5:30 pm - Annual Church Christmas Dinner (covered dish) followed by entertainment by Tri-County Line.

December 11 – 7:00 pm - SACRA benefit concert at Memorial Baptist Church.

December 14 – Noon - Hi Noon is meeting at Mt Horeb Presbyterian Church.

December 16 – 6-8 pm - Walk to Manger at Camp Overlook.

December 24 – 10:00 am – Christmas Eve Worship Service with special music by handbell choir from South Korea.

December 24 – 9:00 pm – Christmas Eve service with special music by handbell choir from South Korea.

December 31 – Fifth Sunday Soup and Sandwich covered dish luncheon.

January 18 – 7:00 pm – 24 Double Training at Weyers Cave UMC (Third Thursday).

January 19 – Last day to remit 2017 district and conference apportionments.

January 27 – 8:30 am – 2:00 pm – Chat/Chew with Bishop Lewis at Verona UMC.

February 1 – 7:00 am – 3:30 pm – UM Day at General Assembly.

March 2 – 4 – Lay Servant Academy at 4-H Educational Center, Wirtz, VA.

Mission Central – fenced area for children to play while parents shop.

District Conference on November 19 recognized Rev. Tommy Herndon for his service as District Superintendent.

Continue to look at the foyer bulletin board for dates and special events.

Pastor Shin:

Spiritual Growth: The devotional book developed by Pastor Shin will be completed and ready for distribution on December 24 and 31. The books are free, but donations will be graciously accepted.

Comcast internet has been installed in the church and Pastor Shin is working on a new church website.

These changes will require us to have a new email address.

Fourteen members of a handbell choir are coming from South Korea, December 22-29. They will be in New Hope from December 23-25. There will be two performances (morning/evening) at New Hope UMC on Sunday, December 24, Christmas Eve. The special offering at the evening service will go to missions. The choir will need someplace to sleep in the church. Decision was to allow them to sleep in the Sunday school rooms.

The Mid-Week Meal program has been a huge success. It will begin again at 6:00 pm on Wednesday, January 10.

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Pastor Shin presented the 2018 Church Officers to the Church Council for consideration and approval. There are still a couple of positions to be filled.

Unfinished Business:

Bruce Rogers advised no one has expressed an interest in the Church Council secretary position.

New Business: None.

Respectfully prepared and submitted by Bruce Rogers, Secretary.

Next scheduled meeting: Thursday, January 25, 2018 at 6:30 pm.

Devotions for January 25 meeting: Bruce Rogers.

New Hope United Methodist Church

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New Hope, Va 24469

Web Page: www.newhopeva.net

Address Service Requested



HILLTOPPER

Mission: Growing as followers of Jesus Christ, we seek to live out our faith and serve God's community.

Identity: The New Hope congregation is a family of sharing and caring Christians who gather for worship and fellowship and through whom opportunities for spiritual growth are offered for all ages.

Vision: The people of New Hope will allow God to make a lasting and holy difference in us and through us as we apply ourselves to worship, prayer, study, witness and service



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