



January Visitor 2013

Star of wonder, star of Light... be guided by the Light of God!

Welcome to Epiphany

You may remember that I told the children in early December that our “Church Year” begins with the season of Advent. Advent includes the four Sundays before Christmas, and it is a time of preparation — helping us prepare our hearts and minds for the celebration of Christ’s birth.

The season of Advent is followed by the season of Christmas (sometimes called Christmastide). That church season begins on Christmas Day and is the famous “12 days of Christmas” that we sing about. In the old days, that’s when the Church celebrated the birth of Jesus.

Well, the season of Epiphany always begins on January 6 (the 13th day after Christmas) and ends on “Fat Tuesday,” the day before Ash Wednesday. This is the time when we celebrate the arrival of the wise men at Bethlehem. Of course, no one knows just how long it took these wise men to get to Bethlehem, so this is as good a time as any to celebrate it! The Biblical story of the wise men tells us that God wanted to tell the entire world about the birth of Jesus, and these wise men represent that love of God that includes everyone. Jesus was born as a Jew, but his story and his love includes the entire world.

How can we tell the story of Jesus and God’s great love to those around us who do not know it? How can we share this wonderful news with our friends and neighbors? Join us as we worship in Epiphany, and we will consider those questions.

—*Bob*

A WORD FROM OUTREACH



Whatever you do
to the least of my people,
that you do unto me



The Outreach Committee thanks everyone for the wonderful response to the Tree of Hope. A family in Tobaccoville with a student at Old Richmond Elementary will receive our help on December 21.

Jackie Romanello and I will deliver your gifts to a disabled grandmother trying to hold her family together—a ten-year-old daughter, twin four-year-olds, and a one month old newborn.

Thank you for your compassionate generosity!

—*Sam*



From the Board Chair...

Happy New Year! What happened to 2012? As I age, I am reminded of the brevity of time and 2012 seems to have vanished quickly. We are six months into the 2012-2013 church year and the PCC Board is working on several projects. I wish to share with you one of our current priorities—to establish a Pulpit Search Committee and to begin the process of selecting a new minister. Rev. Bob Parvin did inform the church that he would be retiring, most likely in early 2014. As of this newsletter, co- chairs have been selected to chair the search committee. Paul Shropshire and Matt Scharf will lead the search process. The Board feels confident that Matt and Paul will provide excellent leadership. I encourage all church members to be available to help in the search process. Matt and Paul will be seeking people to serve on the search team and may at various times need your help. Prayerfully consider helping if called upon. The Board and the Search Committee will keep the congregation informed throughout the pulpit search. If you have questions or helpful input, let Matt, Paul, or me know. In January, we will have a congregational meeting. At that time you will have the opportunity to ask questions and voice your thoughts to the congregation.

So, 2013 looks like a busy year for our church. We all have hopes and expectations for the year but only God knows what the year holds for us and only God can give us the strength and wisdom to meet its challenges. I pray that you will put your hand in God's hand and trust him as you seek his will for your life in this new year.

Love and Peace

—*Steve*

Notes From Tim

Epiphany and the Carol "We Three Kings"



*We three kings of orient are, bearing gifts we traverse afar
Field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.*

Included in the Christmas season is the *Feast of the Epiphany* which we celebrate on Epiphany Sunday, January 6th each year. This holy day celebrates the arrival of the three men from the East, we refer to as the *Wise Men, Magi, Kings, etc.* as they brought gifts of gold frankincense, and myrrh to the Christ Child.

This carol was composed by the American John Henry Hopkins, Jr. for the 1857 Christmas pageant at the General Theological Seminary in New York City where, at that time Hopkins was the seminary's music director. The carol wasn't published for public use until six years later in 1863. Both the words and melody of this carol are stirring as they describe the arrival of the Magi which marked the first approach to Jesus by gentiles. While Jesus was born Jewish and was hailed as the *King of the Jews*, his message was for the entire world and the story of the arrival of the Magi in the Gospel of Matthew is the first mention in the Bible of gentiles coming to worship Jesus.

In this carol, Hopkins begins by describing the Magi traveling with their royal gifts in the first verse. While the guiding star over Bethlehem is described in the chorus between verses, each of the next three verses describe an individual gift and its significance. Gold, is offered to represent Christ's kingship. Frankincense, which is mentioned frequently in the Bible as being used in religious rites, is given to recognize Christ's deity. Finally, there is the myrrh also used in religious rites but mostly for funeral rites in times past. Myrrh is mentioned in the Gospel of Mark where Mark describes Christ, just before his crucifixion, being offered, and refusing, a cup of wine laced with myrrh—something that was intended to deaden the pain of his crucifixion. The image of Christ's future crucifixion is made even more vivid as the third and fourth lines of the verse continue with: *Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, sealed in the stone-cold tomb.* This is followed by the fifth and final verse that joyfully proclaims Jesus' glorious resurrection which will follow his crucifixion. In these five short verses, Hopkins ties the two holiest days of the Christian calendar, Christ's birth at Christmas and his resurrection at Easter, together in one lyrical and very moving carol.

As we together reflect on this carol as we sing it in worship on Epiphany Sunday, January 6, may we, as the Kings from the Orient, be led to follow that wondrous star to Bethlehem and kneel down before the Christ Child offering our hearts, and our lives to him as *our gifts*, as he comes to dwell in us, and fill us with the love and joy that only he can offer, as we continue to become the persons that he would have us be and in turn share that experience with others!

Go! Tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born!

Class Schedule

All classes begin at 7:00 p.m.

Thurs, January 10

Jesus' Interaction With People

Thurs, January 17

Jesus' Teaching

Thurs, January 24

Jesus' Commands

Thurs, January 31

Jesus' Character

Thurs, February 7

Jesus' Glory

Thurs, February 14

No Class Tonight

Thurs, February 21

Course Review & Conclusion

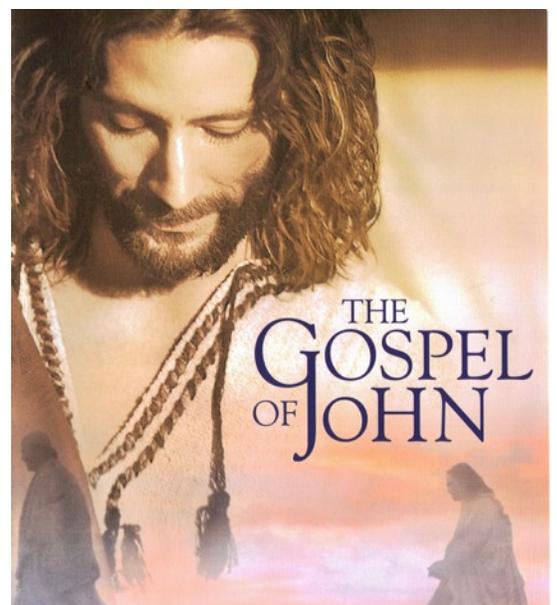
A Study of the Gospel of John

Beginning on Thursday, January 10, we will meet in the Upper Fellowship Hall at 7:00 p.m. to study the Gospel of John. The six-session study will be based on the movie, with the script taken word for word, from the American Bible Society's Good News Bible.

The study will be led by our pastor, Bob Parvin, who encourages you to invite friends and neighbors to participate in this Biblical experience.

The study will be based on the themes of Jesus' ministry as shown in the movie. Each session will last approximately one hour.

Each class participant will receive a copy of the Good News Translation of the Gospel of John.





CHURCH COUNCIL PLANNING SESSION

The Church Council will meet on Tuesday evening, January 22, at 7:00 p.m. in the Downstairs Fellowship Hall. All Committee Chairs are asked to be in attendance, and please remember to bring your Program Forms and Planning Calendars. All Chairs will be meeting with their committees prior to this council meeting to review programs completed and make plans for upcoming events.

Each committee represented on our council is like a "cog on a wheel"—every committee very important, and working together to make our church ministries run smoothly. As council chairs, we have been called by God and appointed by our church to provide strong and effective leadership. Let us remember, as various committees, working together in faith, love, and commitment, and empowered and guided by the Holy Spirit, that we can accomplish our goals and glorify God.

Thanks for all you continue to do, and I look forward to seeing each of you on Tuesday evening, January 22!

– Tim

*The object of a new year is not that we should have a new year.
It is that we should have a new soul.*

– G.K. Chesterton, English Writer



BIRTHDAY LUNCHEON



In celebration of our church family birthdays, we will have our annual birthday luncheon on Sunday, January 27, following the worship service. This will be an enjoyable event as you will share with others who celebrate birthdays the same month as you. Lunch will be provided—consisting of a salad bar, baked potato bar, homemade soup, and of course, birthday cake for everyone! A special program will follow. Please join us!



GOODTIMERS TO MEET

The Goodtimers will meet on Monday, January 14, at 11:30 a.m. in the Downstairs Fellowship Hall for a soup and sandwich lunch, followed by our very own **2013 SWG— Senior Winter Games!** Anyone up to a good game of Uno, Rook, Life, or Scrabble? Some may even want to play *Twister!!* Come on out and enjoy the fun as we divide into small groups and enjoy some of our favorite board and card games! Prizes will be awarded to the winners.

Also, we are asking each of you to bring a picture of yourself when you were a child or a young teenager. We will have a contest to see who can match up the most people with their picture! A prize will be presented to the winner! You don't want to miss this special **2012 SWG** event! Invite a friend to join you!

Thank You to our Choirs!



All of us here at PCC want to express our great appreciation to Tim and our choirs for the magnificent cantata, "The Many Moods of Christmas," which they presented on December 16.

The Adult Bell Choir led us into a spirit of joyous worship as they created such beautiful sounds with the bells and chimes. I think that every face in the sanctuary was radiating the warmth of a smile as our hearts were brought into God's presence.

The Chancel Choir sang clear and strong as they shared the message of God's great love given to us at Christmas. They covered a wide range of emotions as they sang some of the great songs and anthems of this holy season. Their music helped each one of us express our wonder and joy at Christ's birth.

Our guest orchestra added the depth, character, and intensity that comes from beautiful instruments expertly played. How blessed we are that they share their talent with us.

Thank you, Tim, for your leadership, tireless enthusiasm, and marvelous artistic talent. We cherish you, and we thank you!

—Bob



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(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)**

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**CARRY THE LOVE OF THE CHRIST CHILD
INTO YOUR NEW YEAR!**

Rev Bob Parvin,
Pastor

Rev Tim Shoaf,
Minister of Music & Director of Programs

Ralph Botte,
Ministerial Intern

Debbie W Parvin,
Secretary

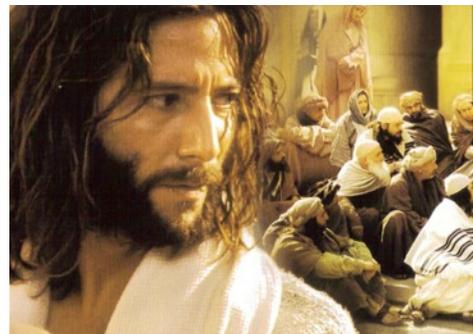
Special showing of the beautiful movie

The Gospel of John

Upper Fellowship Hall
Sunday, January 6 – 2:30 in the afternoon

The Gospel of John may be the best-loved of the four Gospels. It comes to life in this faithful and powerful dramatization of the Biblical text. This film re-creates the world in which Jesus lived and taught.

Starring Henry Ian Cusick as Jesus, and narrated by Christopher Plummer, The Gospel of John is taken word for word from the American Bible Society's Good News Bible. It was adapted for the screen by Emmy-nominated John Goldsmith and directed by acclaimed British director, Philip Saville.



**HOLD IN YOUR
PRAYERS**



HOLD IN YOUR PRAYERS

Church Family

Dick Flynt, Dot Jodrey, Bud Barker
Mary Ferguson, Tommye Logan, Doris Spaugh,
Ludie Blakley, George & Ruth Myers

Others

Jim McClure (Megan Downing McClure's father-in-law), DeWayne Warren & Allie Nance, Clive & Opal Miller (neighbors of the Clodfelters), Raye Feltner-Kapornyai, Margee Kjelson, Linda Rephan (friend of Frank & Kay Range), Lee Crabill (Frankie Denton's brother), Billy Burnes (Vallie Cline's nephew), Mark Depew (friend of Kent Doub), Wade Tuttle, Cassie Mackie (Mary Timmon's sister), Carolyn Bennett, Bill Showers (brother of Dan), Iris Westmoreland (sister of Vallie Cline), Barbara Hester (Jill Robertson's aunt), Jonathan Schaffer, Joy Beck (Jo Stanley's mother), Mary Ellen Cutter (Art Boulware's sister), Sandra (friend of Frankie Denton)

Loved Ones in the Military

PRAN Joshua Hughes/Norfolk, VA
1LT Hope Tucci/Texas
Sgt. Samantha Goliat/Egypt
Specialist Victor Sechrist/Alaska
1LT John G. Van Hoy, IV/ WA
Chase Lee/New Haven, CT

SERVERS for JANUARY

ELDERS: Sam Safrit, Pat Millsaps

DEACONS: Gerald Fletcher, Ann Fletcher,
Matt Scharf, Beth Scharf

COMMUNION: Gerald & Ann Fletcher

OPENING/CLOSING: Gerald Fletcher

NURSERY

06 Lorrie Bennett
13 Rita Moore
20 not filled at time of printing
27 Debbie Fletcher

SUNDAY SCHOOL

06 Ralph Botte
13 Jill Robertson
20 Paula Stuart
27 Rita Moore

ADDRESS UPDATES

Remember to make these changes in your Yearbook to keep it current!



SAMANTHA GOLIAT (stationed in Egypt)

SGT Samantha Goliat
C BTRY 5-113th FA
Unit 31530
APO, AE 09833

DICK FLYNT (can receive mail through his son John, but can receive mail directly at:)

Blumenthal
3724 Wireless Drive; Room 311
Greensboro, NC 27455

MARGIE SORRELLS (now back in her home)

4320 Rosebriar Lane
Winston-Salem, NC 27106

DON FITZGERALD (recently moved)

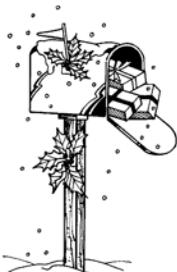
Arbor Ridge; Apt 124
350 Arbor View Ln
Winston-Salem, NC 27105

DOT JODREY

2318 Bethabara Rd
Winston-Salem, NC 27106

The Edmund Davis Family is now sharing the same residence as Gene Trippe & Susan Smith at:

2543 Lake Forest Dr.
Winston-Salem, NC 27106



FROM THE PCC MAILBOX

To Pfafftown Christian Church Volunteers of the Evangelism and Outreach Ministries:

I want to thank all of you at Pfafftown Christian Church for participating in the annual Big Sweep waterway cleanup on Saturday October 6. We had the largest turnout of any county in the state—over 3,200 volunteers who collected over 34,000 lbs. of trash and debris from local waterways, parks, schools and neighborhoods. We could not have had such a very successful event without your help!

George M. Stilphen
Executive Director
Keep Winston-Salem Beautiful, Inc.

The Outreach Committee thanks the congregation for the contributions to the Samaritan **Kitchen Penny Campaign** for 2012. We raised \$5.52. Thanks also for the wonderful generosity shown for the **Tree of Hope** family. —*Sam Safrit*



A BIG WELCOME goes to Fred and Irma Muetzel who made official their ties to Pfafftown Christian Church when they came forward and transferred their membership on Sunday, December 16. Please add their names and information to your current Yearbook of our membership: 4560 Sunny Dr., Winston-Salem, NC 27106 (phone 924-9402)

MORE THANKS...

The Worship Committee would like to thank everyone who helped put up and decorate the Chrismon Tree. Along with the poinsettias, our sanctuary has never looked more beautiful!

We also want to thank our families who have taken part in lighting the Advent candles each Sunday. Now to the congregation—may the love of Jesus and the purpose of His life touch your hearts during this season and in the coming year. —Your Worship Committee

I would like to thank my committee and everyone who helped make the Cantata reception a delicious and beautiful success.

We are so blessed to have Tim and our wonderful choir to fill us with the Christmas Spirit, then round out our evening with members and guests joining in Christian fellowship.

—*Jo Stanley*

PCC members contributed \$420 to Thanksgiving Disciple Mission Fund (DMF) offerings. Thank you to all who gave!

A brand new slate...time for renewal!



January 2013



We thank God for
another year of life!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
NEW YEAR'S CHEERS		1 New Year's Day (Office closed)	2 No Supper No Choir Rehearsal	3	4	5
		6 EPIPHANY 2:30 Gospel of John movie	7 6:00 Jr. Girl Scouts 7:00 Cub/Boy Scouts	8 7:00 Elders	9 No Choir Rehearsal	10 7:00 NIN 7:00 Gospel of John
13 12:00 Congregational Meeting 3:30 Dist. CMF meeting (Stoneville)	14 11:30 Goodtimers 7:00 Cub/Boy Scouts 7:00 Adult Handbells	15 3:00-9:00 Photos made at PCC 6:00 CWF	16 3:00-9:00 Photos made at PCC 6:00 Supper 7:15 Choir Rehearsal	17 7:00 Gospel of John	18 Newsletter deadline	19
20 3rd Sun. Fellowship after worship	21 Martin Luther King Day 6:00 Jr. Girl Scouts 7:00 Cub/Boy Scouts 7:00 Adult Handbells	22 7:00 Council	23 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	24 7:00 Gospel of John	25	26
27 12:00 Birthday Luncheon	28 7:00 Cub/Boy Scouts 7:00 Adult Handbells	29	30 10:30 Newsletter Crew 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	31 7:00 Gospel of John	The Crisis Control donation item for this month is: Toilet Tissue	

BIRTHDAYS

- 02 Brian Smith
- 03 Kent Doub
- 04 Ruth Myers
- 06 Alan Fletcher
- 07 Evelyn Nifong
- 07 Mike Showers
- 08 Debbie Fletcher
- 08 Tom McAllister
- 09 Pat Barber
- 13 Joy Doub
- 15 Reginald Yarbrough
- 15 Richard Yarbrough
- 17 John Flynt
- 17 Rosie Lane
- 19 Crystal Flynt
- 19 Ashley Ibrahim
- 20 Kevin Bell
- 20 Tommy Timmons
- 20 Dillon Wallace
- 20 Steven Lanier
- 21 Chris Luper
- 24 Benjamin Lanier
- 25 Ludie Blakley
- 27 Jimmy Gardi
- 28 Edmund Davis
- 30 Lilly Scharf
- 31 Betty Barker

No congregational anniversaries
in the month of January.