

The Epiphany of Our Lord

Matthew 2:1-12

... he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. So they said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it is written by the prophet: 'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, Are not the least among the rulers of Judah (Matthew 2:4-6)

A bright and shining star, put in the heavens by the Lord alerts some sky-watchers from far away that a King has been born! Those men, trained astronomers of the Ancient Near East (Babylon or Persia perhaps) recognize this star as telling them that a King has been born. But, how will they find Him? Even through the miracle of the Epiphany Star, it's still all about God's Word. The star leads the Wise Men first to Jerusalem to hear God's Word in the Scriptures: "Bethlehem!" The Word of God tells them where to go and the star points out the house where they find the infant Jesus.

It's the same today. We don't find Jesus by looking for some miracle. We learn where He is from the Word. Without the Word we shall never find Jesus. Without the Word, we will never have our true King! The Word tells us that the Son of God came in the flesh at Bethlehem. The Word tells us that He was baptized at the Jordan River. The Word teaches us that He was crucified on Calvary and laid in a tomb from which He rose on the third day.

But how will YOU find Him? Where will YOU go to see Jesus? The Word tells you that, too. The Word says to find Him at the font, where His water and Spirit wash you clean. The Word says to find Him in His church where repentance and forgiveness are preached in His name. His Word says to find Him upon the altar, in His very flesh and blood which was born, died and rose for you.

And having found where He is, we, like the Wise Men, offer the best of our gifts of praise and thanksgiving. The greatest gift is not the one we bring, but the Baby Himself, who is the gift of our salvation. It is to Jesus that the bright shining star of His Word always points. In the Name of Jesus. Amen.

O God, who by the leading of a star made manifest Your only-begotten Son to the Gentiles, mercifully grant that we, who know You now by faith, may after this life joyfully behold Your glorious Godhead; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. (Collect for the Epiphany of Our Lord).

LECTIONARY FOR JANUARY

January 6

Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72:1-7,10-14
Ephesians 3:1-12; Matthew 2:1-12

January 13

Isaiah 43:1-7; Psalm 29
Acts 8:14-17; Luke 3:15-17,21-22

January 20

Isaiah 62:1-5; Psalm 36:5-10
I Corinthians 12:1-11; John 2:1-11

January 27

Nehemiah 8:1-3,5-6,8-10; Psalm 19
I Corinthians 12:12-31a; Luke 4:14-21



HAPPY JANUARY BIRTHDAY TO:

<i>Mary Jean Barnes</i>	4
<i>Brian Martinson</i>	5
<i>Tara Stamer</i>	7
<i>Ryan Woods</i>	8
<i>Nereida Woodfield</i>	14
<i>Julie Smith (Henel)</i>	15
<i>Claudette Harty</i>	19
<i>Donna Mugavero</i>	26
<i>Michael Curtin</i>	30

.....AND MANY, MANY MORE!!!

THE FOLLOWING HAVE BEEN ON OUR PRAYER LIST OVER THE PAST MONTH. PLEASE CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR THEM.

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| Janet Pavlinic | Leona Parker |
| Megan McCarthy | Dan Ajuka |
| Otts Schnellenberger | Doris Stamer |
| Gertrude Baldwin | Doris Henel |
| Joy Hinko & Family | Irene Hinko |
| Ethel Steiniger | Bill Forster |

If you would like to list someone on the Prayer List, please contact Doris Henel, 908-486-5571 or Djhenel@aol.com and she will see that it is listed in our Sunday bulletin and the current Messenger.

OUR CHURCH IS A VERY BUSY PLACE!

We are certainly not the only ones using our church buildings. The following are also spending lots of time sharing our facilities -

1. The United Methodist Church of Linden
2. El Redentor United Methodist Church
3. New Canaan United Methodist Church
4. Candy Mountain Day Care Center
5. Fencing School
6. Weight Watchers
7. Rentals of Aldersgate Hall (New Canaan UMC, showers, celebrations, graduations, weddings, Linden school programs, parties, outside church special programs, etc.)

The Board of Trustees are also considering another rental on a regular basis for Aldersgate Hall but it is not finalized yet.

There has been a great increase in rentals in all United Methodist Churches because of the increase in costs and the drop in memberships. PLEASE HELP US KEEP OUR FACILITIES CLEAN AND NEAT. IF YOU HAVE ANYTHING ON THE STAGE PLEASE TAKE IT OFF SO WE CAN USE THE STAGE.

ANNUAL CHURCH SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

Next month there will be information in the February issue of the Messenger listing the rules and regulations for applying for our annual church scholarships. We are giving advance notice about this because originally we knew the interest rate for 2011 and 2012 would be so low that there would not be enough to give out any scholarships.

However, due to the generosity of MaryJean Barnes remembering and honoring her mother, Mary Barnes, after her death, she has designated a generous gift in her memory to be given this year for the scholarship fund and to be distributed in the Spring of 2013. Mary served as chairperson of the Scholarship Funds for many years, and it was always very important to her.

There is just one application to fill out for all three scholarships and it is open to only members of the United Methodist Church of Linden. Previous recipients may also re-apply for consideration.

Watch for information in the February Messenger. Deadline is April 30th and the scholarships will be presented in June (date to be announced).

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IF YOU DID NOT RECEIVE A CHURCH CONFERENCE BOOKLET FROM THE CHARGE CONFERENCE OF NOVEMBER 11, 2012, PLEASE PICK ONE UP FROM THE COUNTER IN THE CHURCH OFFICE. INFORMATION FROM 2012 AND THE BUDGET, PROGRAM AND OFFICERS FOR 2013 ARE LISTED.
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NEW BOXED PACKAGES OF OFFERING ENVELOPES FOR 2013 HAVE BEEN GIVEN OUT IN CHURCH AND SOME HAVE BEEN MAILED TO MEMBERS. ABOUT 10 OF THE HIGHER NUMBERED ENVELOPES HAVE BEEN ELIMINATED AND NEW

NUMBERS HAVE BEEN ASSIGNED. PLEASE CHECK YOUR ENVELOPE NUMBERS AND USE THE NEW ONES YOU HAVE RECEIVED.



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OUR SANCTUARY ALWAYS IS SO BEAUTIFUL DURING THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS!
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TO SHOW WE CARE!!

On Friday evening, December 14th, Christina Hanns Crespo, with the help of friends and other Hanns family members, held a pasta, chicken, and meatball dinner with salad, dessert, beverages and music. The room looked lovely, the food was delicious and the service was great. The cost was \$5.00 (although many gave \$10.00 because it was well worth it). Some of their publicity did not work out, but they were still pleased with those that did come out to support the dinner.

\$415.00 was raised and it is already on its way to the Greater N. J. Annual Conference Hurricane Sally fund raiser to help with the terrible damage done by the storm.

Money has also been donated by members to the United Methodist Committee on Relief to help with the same tragedy.

Thank you to everyone who attended the dinner and helped support a very needy project. We thank Christina and those that helped for showing how much they cared!!

SO MANY EMERGENCIES LATELY AND WE TRY TO HELP THEM ALL. HERE IS ANOTHER WAY TO RAISE MONEY. THIS WAS JUST RECEIVED IN THE CHURCH MAIL:

Received from Pizza Papa Johns – Papa Johns Pizza expresses its high satisfaction in serving our school and communities with fresh and superior quality traditional pizzas since 1984. They have become one of the greatest pizza chains across the USA and the world.

Their pizzas are completely free of Textured Vegetable Protein and fillers and use 100% real meat. The cheese has zero trans-fat and vegetables are all fresh.

They are pleased to continue with the LG ONE TOPPING PIZZA for only \$7.00 to the churches, schools and community organizations.

They also will be happy to help you raise funds through the different fundraising programs such as *Pizza Nights, Buy 1 get 1 free card sales*

*Sincerely, Akhilesh Singh, Operating Partner
T.A. Papa Johns Pizza*

301-343-8414 (Call is you have any questions)

*Nearest delivery location –
355 West St. George Avenue, Linden, N. J. 07036
908-259-8800*

INTERESTED?

CHRISTMAS CARDS SENT BY CHURCH MEMBERS WITH HOLIDAY GREETINGS TO ALL

Caroline and Tom Long

Carolyn Franz

The Pavlinic's

Mildred Ebert

Doris Stamer

Ruth Schulte

Charles Lamont & Jayne Cocco & Family

Doris Henel

Marie Dziamba

Joyce & Norman Carhart

*Gay Kulberda
The Horsch Family
Gertrude Baldwin & Family
Bob & Lorraine Carhart*

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL MEETING

AT OUR ANNUAL CHURCH CONFERENCE IN THE FALL IT WAS VOTED TO HAVE OUR COUNCIL MEETING EVERY OTHER MONTH, RATHER THAN JUST FOUR TIMES YEARLY.

THE FIRST ONE FOR 2013 WILL BE **WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 9TH AT 10:00 A.M. IN ALDERSGATE HALL.**

ALL OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF COMMITTEES ARE ALSO MEMBERS OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL. PLEASE MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO ATTEND THIS FIRST MEETING IN THE NEW YEAR!! IF YOU ARE WORKING AND CANNOT ATTEND A DAYTIME MEETING WE WILL SEE THAT YOU RECEIVE A COPY OF THE MINUTES.



THANK YOU!!!

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO JANE MCCARTHEY, WHO EVEN THOUGH SHE RETIRED, STILL FILLED IN FOR US DURING THE MONTH OF DECEMBER. WE WERE GLAD TO HAVE HER BACK WITH US AND THANK HER FOR THE EXTRA PEOPLE SHE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND THE CHOIR FOR THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS. OUR CHOIR WAS GREAT AND WE THANK JANE FOR HER DEDICATION AND COMMITMENT. WE REALLY APPRECIATED IT!!!



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS – 2012

We dedicate the Christmas poinsettias to the “Glory of God” in Honor or Memory of our loved ones. Thank you for allowing us to enjoy them....

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Betty Lamont & Gertrude Lamont by Charles Lamont & Cocco Family
Ken & Norma MacAlpine by Dick & Jeanie MacAlpine
Fred & Irene Messenger by Bob & Lorraine Carhart
Norman & Mary Carhart by Bob & Lorraine Carhart
Gregg Carhart by Bob & Lorraine Carhart
Simpliciso & Hilda Pagueyo & Loving Husband,, Victorino Peralta by Ida Peralta
Fred & Randy Gmitter by Kathryn Gmitter
Loving Parents by Caolyn Franz
Loved Ones by Doris Stamer
George Koslosky by MaryJane Koslosky & the Curtin Family
Mary & Dee Dalziel by daughters, MaryJane & Kathy
Ralph Horsch by the Horsch Family
Loved Ones by Ruth Schulte
George C Barnes, by Mary Jean Barnes & husband, Mike Maye
Mary M. Barnes by Mary Jean Barnes & Mike Maye
George M. Barnes by Mary Jean & Mike Maye
Albert Henel & Gladys & Arthur Mellor by Doris Henel
The Lawson Family by Grace Hickman
Loved Ones by the Baldwin Family

IN HONOR OF

Daughters, Donna, Diane, & Allyson by Lorraine & Bob Carhart
Donna Ettel by Charles Ettel
Charles Ettel by Charles Ettel

THANK YOU FOR SHARING YOUR POINSETTIAS WITH US AND ADDING TO THE BEAUTY OF
OUR SANCTUARY DURING THE CHRISTMAS SEASON!

JANUARY 2013

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 NEW YEAR'S DAY	2 4:30-Fencing School	3 4:30-Fencing School	4	5 9:30-1:30 Fencing School
6 9:30 AM - Choir 10:30 - Worship	7 7:00-Board of Trustees: D.Beyer,T.Henel,B.Losyk, G.Baldwin,J.Stamer, C.Franz,C.Ettel, M.Curtin (ALL PLEASE ATTEND) 4:30-Fencing School	8 10:30-Bible Study 12Noon-United Meth. Women-bring a sandwich 4:30-Weight Watchers 4:30 -9:30 Fencing Sch.	9 10 AM - Administrative Council –Aldersgate Hall - Please attend. 4:30-9:30 – Fencing School	10 4:30-9:30- Fencing School	11	12 9:30-1:30 Fencing School in gym
13 9:30 AM - Choir 10:30 - Worship	14 4:30-9:30- Fencing School	15 10:30-Bible Study 4:30-6:30-Weight Watchers 4:30-9:30-Fencing Sch	16 4:30-Fencing School	17 4:30-Fencing School	18	19 9:30-1:30- Fencing School
20 9:30 AM – Choir 10:30 -Worship	21 4:30 – 9:30 Fencing School	22 10:30-Bible Study 4:30-6:30-Weight Watchers in Aldersgate Hall 4:30-9:30-Fencing Sch	23 4:30-9:30 Fencing School	24 4:30-9:30-Fencing Sch	25	26 9:30-1:30 Fencing Sch. in Gym
27 9:30 AM – Choir 10:30 -Worship	28 4:30 – 9:30 Fencing School	29 10:30-Bible Study 4:30-6:30-Weight Watchers in Aldersgate Hall 4:30-9:30-Fencing Sch.	30 4:30-9:30 Fencing School	31 4:30-9:30 – Fencing Sch		