



# The Falling Waters Messenger

Issue One

January 2018

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## Epiphany Celebrations!

Several years ago, in an effort to offer an opportunity for a congregation to experience living the Christmas story after the birth of the Christ child, I did some digging into Epiphany traditions throughout the centuries.

While Christmas marks the coming of God to us, Epiphany celebrates the appearance of the Lord in the midst of humanity. Epiphany extols the revelation of God to the world in the person of Jesus of Nazareth.

Epiphany not only discloses the Savior to the world, but also calls the world to show forth Christ, to be witnesses to God's true light. The timeless mystery of the incarnation — God in flesh — leads us forth to show and tell of Christ as God's gift of grace and salvation for all people. Some call this ongoing epiphany the work of Christmas.

The English word epiphany is rooted in the Greek word *epipháneia*. An epiphany is a revelation, a manifestation. All six occurrences of epiphanies in the New Testament's original Greek language refer to Christ's coming. Notably, none of these occur in Matthew's account of Christ's revelation to the Magi. Even so, the story portrays the manifestation of God in person. The Most High is shown forth in the least likely, humblest guise.

Matthew's second chapter also refers to three dreams that convey divine guidance to the dreamer. First comes the dream that warns the Magi to steer clear of duplicitous King Herod. A few verses later, Joseph dreams of the Lord, who leads the exiled holy family to Israel. Then another dream warns Joseph away from Herod's son and toward the Galilean town of Nazareth.

The dream of the Magi, and the insight of Joseph manifest this truth: When our minds are at rest and we are receptive to the light that shines in the darkness,

sometimes God is revealed to us and our lives' purposes are made clear. But what if you're someone who rarely remembers a dream, much less receives divine guidance by night? You might think you're exempt from epiphanies and immune to the self-revelation of the Lord. Resist this conclusion and remember that you, as much as anyone, are a beloved child of God, created in the image of our Creator. The very fact that you're reading this meditation on epiphanies means you're open to the One who made you, whose handiwork you show forth simply by being alive. You, yourself, manifest the Maker's creativity. To you, perhaps quite unexpectedly, God can be made known.

No one can manifest mystical knowledge at will. It would be hazardous to try. However, through such practices as prayer, Scripture reading, spiritual direction and compassionate service to others, people of faith become gradually formed by the Holy Spirit into disciples who have the mind of Christ. The key to becoming an epiphany-receptive Christian is to practice self-emptying love, like Joseph, who raised Mary's child as his own. Jesus appears in many people, from fragile infants to older adults, and all need love. Jesus is the ultimate receiver and revealer of God. If you know nothing else, know this much. To you will belong the holiest epiphany of all.

Epiphany is observed on Jan. 6. This year, at FWPC, we will celebrate Epiphany on January 7. Join us in worship where we will celebrate God's presence with us. We'll learn about, and practice, some Epiphany traditions and prayers that we can take home with us and use throughout the year.

May Grace, and nothing less, be with you and guide you throughout this new year.

Pastor Debra

*Many thanks to Rachel M Srubas for sharing "Observing Epiphany" (the source of much of this content), published in *Presbyterians Today*, Dec. 4, 2017*

## Pray Without Ceasing

Bill and Billy Berg  
Jimmy Cloud  
Kenny Cushwa  
Mary Hodges  
Irvin Horst  
The McKune Family  
Pete and Scott Mekkelson  
Virginia Snyder  
Bill Zombro



## January Greeters

Fawn Fleagle- Head Greeter

7 Fawn Fleagle, Brenda Carper, Lois Jones  
14 Fawn Fleagle, Becky and Larry Brown  
21 Fawn Fleagle, Brenda and Robert Cloud  
28 Fawn Fleagle, Denny and Darla Grove

## Communion Schedule for 2018

January 7  
February 11- Transfiguration of the Lord  
March 29 - Maundy Thursday  
April 1 - Easter  
May 20 - Presbyterian Heritage/Pentecost  
June 3  
July 1  
August 5  
September 2  
October 7 - World Communion Sunday  
November 25 -Christ the King/Reign of Christ  
December 9

## Nursery Attendants

January 7 Beth and Tiffany Henry  
January 14 Laura and Paul Peach  
January 21 Sherry and Pat Dockeney  
January 28 Bill and Judith Lawrensen

## Birthdays

January 1 Sue Pinto  
3 Kate Lewis Brown  
7 John Fleagle  
7 Katie Peach  
17 Maxine Taylor  
20 Beth Fleagle  
21 Audrey MacDonald  
24 Jacob Hylton  
26 Ruth Berg  
27 Nancy Spangler  
29 Buddy Brown



## Warm the Children Thanks You

On behalf of the Journal and **Warm the Children Fund**, Patty Runkles would like to thank the congregation for its generous support of this program to provide warm clothing to the children of Berkeley County at Christmas. Our congregation's donation of \$690.00 was greatly appreciated.

## Offering Envelopes for 2018

New **offering envelopes** for 2018 can be found on the front left pew in the sanctuary. When taking a box, please write your name next to the corresponding number on the yellow pad.

## Maintenance Committee Needs Your Help

To avoid a fire hazard everyone needs to help make sure that all materials are kept clear of the **electric heaters** in the Sunday School rooms, Fellowship Hall and church offices.

Volunteers are needed for **snow shoveling** this winter. The parking lots and driveways are professionally plowed by Tink Manor but the sidewalks will need to be cleared for the church office hours and Sunday worship. If you can help, please sign the sheet posted in Fellowship Hall.

**Snow cancellation policy:** if school is canceled due to snow, the church office will be closed and all church activities will be canceled. Worship cancellations will be announced via e-mail by 8:00 a.m.

You are cordially invited to  
the marriage ceremony of

Rebecca Sue Hawthorne  
and  
George Samuel Tobin

Saturday, January 20, 2018  
1:00 p.m.

Falling Waters Presbyterian Church  
Hedgesville, West Virginia

Wedding cake and punch reception immediately  
following in Fellowship Hall

Please, no gifts! Your presence is our present.

## Thank You from The Amazing Grace Fund

The **Amazing Grace Fund** wants to express its appreciation for your generosity in helping families in the Marlowe/Sportsman's Paradise area this holiday season. Your personal commitment and gracious support of money, paper goods and turkeys was incredibly helpful and allowed us to provide Christmas for 20 disadvantaged families. Each family received a turkey, roasting pan and a large bag of paper goods, toiletries and cleaning products. Tuscarora PC assisted with boxes of food and some type of Christmas gift for each child. The true meaning of Christmas giving was accomplished through your acts of kindness.

## Thank You!

The **Fellowship and Recreation Committee** would like to thank all who contributed for the coffee hour in 2017 and to those who helped with receptions. There are many serving dishes in the church kitchen. Please stop in and pick up yours.

The Worship Committee thanks **Susie Cushwa and Crystal Mason** for decorating our sanctuary so beautifully for the Christmas holidays. Thanks to the generosity of the congregation there was enough money from the poinsettia donations to refurbish the Advent Wreath and the outside door wreaths.

**Fawn** thanks the congregation for the Christmas gift card. It is her pleasure and privilege to serve as secretary.

## Vacation Plans

Pastor Debra will be on vacation from January 31 - February 15. Pastor Carl will be guest minister on February 7 and 14 and will provide pastoral care in her absence.

## We Remember

The poinsettias adorning our sanctuary are in honor  
and memory of:

Jack G. Baumbaugh  
William and Lena Berg  
Jordy Carper  
Gary Carper  
The Parents of Marge and Richard Chamblin  
Charles and Elvira Cloud  
Janice Cloud  
Donald and Katherine Cushwa  
Wayne Cushwa  
Ellis and Virginia Donaldson  
Rog and Lucille Fleagle  
Edmund Goodell  
Karen Grove  
James "Nick" Hawthorne  
Louis and Reva Hilliard  
John and Valeria Horner  
Joseph R. Jones, Sr.  
Geraldine Aikens Keesecker  
Jack and Glenna Laing  
Tom and Roberta Lantz  
Ted Largent  
Marie Eileen Lawrensen  
Doc Linton  
Richard McKinley  
LeRoy and Ruth McWayne  
The Parents of Shelly McFillan  
Melissa Burke Moran  
Louise Mullenax  
Claude and Alice Newkirk  
Mary Catherine Payne  
Richard Pill, Sr.  
Thelma and Paul Pittsnogle  
David Porterfield  
Noah and Deronda Rickman  
Herbert and Ethel Runkles  
H. Louis and Mary O. Tabler  
Paula Diane Tobin  
George and Pauline Webber  
Lee and Florence Weidman  
Laura Mae and Arthur Wydner  
*...and many more not specifically named.*

