



Message from Rev. Hale

... wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying. . .

and so we come to this season of Epiphany and arrange the worship of our lives around it—*not* around Christmas or the birth of Christ, but around the *Epiphany of our Lord*.

The “voice” of the church calendar drones along through January and February as it notes: *The 2nd Sunday after Epiphany; The 3rd Sunday after Epiphany*—on and on through the weeks ahead until we reach again the door that opens and leads us right through Lent *and on to Easter!*

Epiphany relates the event of the wise men coming to Bethlehem and finding Jesus and Mary. With reverence, they “worshiped him” and gave him gifts. The significance of their story of discovery was that Christ was revealed to the gentiles—made known to people other than to God’s chosen people of Israel.

An *epiphany* can be a discovery; a revelation; something that becomes “real” in a new and life changing way. The wise men believed the star they followed would bring them face to face with one destined to change their world. Honored in their own right as “wise men” (though not in Matthew’s eyes) and wealthy as well, they bowed before a poor, humble child and mother.

They represented the “others,” the nations; those outside the covenant God had made with Abraham; those outside the promise God had made to David. They represented reason; those who searched for the truth of a thing. As astrologers, they were the scientists of their day, relying on wisdom that was based on reason rather than intuition.

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Wise men and women occupied a profession that was as respected as the office and calling of priests and prophets. The wise men from the East bowed before the truth they were led to discover there in Bethlehem—an *epiphany* for them; an *epiphany* for the rest of the ages to note as well.

The *birth* of Jesus was the opening story of the revealing of God's love. The *epiphany* of Jesus set the course of what would follow—that God's love determined to be the saving grace of all the nations—all the "others" outside the covenant.

Christmas is always a beautiful season to "keep" and that's what we do, and want to do as we celebrate Jesus' birth. But now let us thank God for the Season of Epiphany that is here boldly charting our path into the New Year. May all life be open to the grace of God—the discovery of God's love being real and at hand. And may we open to being a part of that love—receiving and giving and ever honoring the Christ revealed among us.

Grateful for the epiphanies we share, Marilyn

Lectionary for January / February 2012

January 1 – First Sunday after Christmas Isaiah 61:10 – 62: 3 Psalm 148 Galatians 4:4 – 7 Luke 2:22 – 40	January 8 – Baptism of the Lord Genesis 1:1–15 Psalm 29 Acts 19:1–7 Mark 1:4–11	January 15 – 2nd Sunday after Epiphany 1 Samuel 3:1–10 (11–20) Psalm 139: 1–6, 13–18 1 Corinthians 6:12–20 John 1:43–51
January 22 – 3rd Sunday after Epiphany Jonah 3:1–5, 10 Psalm 62:5–12 1 Corinthians 7:29–31 Mark 1:14–20	January 29 – 4th Sunday after Epiphany Deuteronomy 18:15–20 Psalm 111 1 Corinthians 8 th 1–13 Mark 1:21–28	February 5 – 5th Sunday after Epiphany Isaiah 40:21–31 Psalm 147:1–11, 20c 1 Corinthians 9:16–23 Mark 1:29–30
February 12 – 6th Sunday after Epiphany 2 Kings 2:1–12 Psalm 51:1–17 1 Corinthians 9:24–27 Mark 1:40–45	February 19 Transfiguration of the Lord 2 Kings 2:1–12 Psalm 50: 1–6 2 Corinthians 4: 3–6 Mark 9: 2–9	February 26—1st Sunday in Lent Genesis 9:8–17 Psalm 25:1–10 1 Peter 3:18–22 Mark 1:9–15

Mission Committee News

Vicki Schmidt

Our church has been involved in many hands-on mission projects these last couple of months. "In God We Trust" pins were produced for residents in Batavia Veteran's Hospital. Beautiful red and blue scarves are being created for the 2012 National Special Olympics. To date, 33 have been made by our knitters and crocheters! All scarves should be turned in to church by January 15. Thank you to Coni and Shayne Coletti for "lending" your storefront and providing the hot cocoa for our cookie sale at the Santa Lane parade. \$237 was raised for our upcoming, return mission trip to the New Orleans area. And thank you Anita Shuey and all the bakers and sellers for a successful endeavor! Thank you's go out to Carol Everitt and grandson, Ray Carlson, Norm King, Jessica Wyant, and Jim and Rachel Boyer for ringing the bell for the Salvation Army's Red Kettle appeal. We also participated in the Kids Christ-

mas Shopping by Jonas Attic. Thanks to all who donated items and wrapping supplies. If you are out shopping the after Christmas sales, gift bags are needed for next year! Two families were provided Thanksgiving dinner-makings and a family of 7 was "given a Christmas" due to our congregation's generosity. Thanks, thanks, thanks!

Our Peacemaking offering this year was given to the Southern Tier Military Support Group and earmarked for a local veteran wanting to further his/her education. Monetary donations from the Jack Shepard Memorial Mission Fund are as follows: Wycliffe Bible Translators (Doty family, \$500), Pfeiffer Nature Center's Adopt-A-Tree program (\$125), Buffalo's Kevin Guest House (\$200), and PCUSA Mission Challenge (Dr. Martha Summors in Malawi, Africa, \$500). Hunger Fund donations were as follows: Genesis House

(\$300), Salvation Army (\$250), and the Warming House (\$300).

Happy 2012! Our committee is looking forward to another year of mission work. One of our first planned projects will occur February 5-11. Seven of our church members along with six others will help in a rebuilding project on the Gulf Coast. Feb.20 from 5:30 to 7:30 our church will again host an ecumenical Fun Fleece Festival with the created fleece blankets again being donated to the Southern Tier Child Advocacy Center. Come join the fun!

A huge shout out thanking you all for your support of our Pepsi Refresh Grant. The voting is over with the final tally of votes placing project at #49 out of 250 projects in the number of votes received. Only the top 20 in the \$5000 category were funded. Your efforts in trying to win this grant are greatly appreciated.

THE FOOD PANTRY . . .

from your grocery cart to our shelves!

by Stephanie Hill

"Lord, when did we ever see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and not help you?" Matt 25:44

Haven't we all "been there" at some point in our lives? By the grace of God, we are able to give -- and receive!

Thank you for supporting the efforts of the Food Pantry to respond to needs within our community.

The following is the list of food items we will be collecting in January and February.

FOR THE WEEK OF:	WE WILL BE COLLECTING:
Jan. 1	Egg Noodles
Jan. 8	Mac and Cheese
Jan. 15	Canned Carrots
Jan. 22	Cake Mix
Jan. 29	Pork and Beans
Feb. 5	Macaroni
Feb. 12	Tuna
Feb. 19	Mac and Cheese
Feb. 26	Canned Peas

You REALLY do make a difference!

Christian Education News

Connie King

HOPE, PEACE, JOY, LOVE! . . . and a great time was had by all! Advent season (Nov. 27, Dec. 4, 11, and 18) was very special this year at 10 a.m. in our dining room. Each week our decorated placemats and red/green chains adorned the walls for added Christmas art. Our "Messages From God" lessons were presented by Diana Dunbar with the envelopes and daily verses made by Rev. Hale. The first week we all made a mailbox which was filled with a message and a special gift. The weekly

gifts were a small tea light, a candy cane, a bell, and 9 pieces of candy secured to a small verse each about the events and travels that led up to the birth of Jesus. These gifts were explained in detailed lessons about hope, peace, joy, and love. The lesson, crafts, gifts, the story, the verses, and the fellowship all kept our attention and focus. Thank you both for the giving of your time and talents from which we all benefit. Thank you to Rev. Hale for beginning our Advent celebration with a meaningful

grace each Sunday before breakfast. Also, thank you to Marilyn and Norm for making coffee; Jess for helping Diana set up; Rachel, Jim, and Connie as kitchen crew; the many who signed up to bring casseroles, muffins and coffee cakes, fruit, juice, and donut holes. We appreciate all the help when asked as well as the clean up of dishes, etc. Each Sunday we averaged 30-35 people. Indeed, it was a wonderful celebration of fun, fellowship, and learning together in this Advent sea-

son. We hope you took away some meaningful part of this experience to surround yourself by His love this Christmas season.

Dates to Remember:
January 1
(No Sunday School)
HAPPY NEW YEAR 2012



Advent Lessons



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preparations**

January 2012 Dates to Remember

<p>01/01 New Year's Day! Sunday School classes canceled Worship Service and Communion, 11 a.m. January/February newsletter distributed</p> <p>01/02 Bible Study canceled</p> <p>01/08 Sunday School, 10 a.m. Worship Service, 11 a.m. Orientation Meeting for PWN Mission Team, 4-6 p.m.</p> <p>01/09 Bible Study, 10 a.m.</p> <p>01/10 PWN Personnel Committee, 11 a.m. Session, 6 p.m.</p> <p>01/11 Property Committee, 4 p.m.</p> <p>01/12 Worship Committee, 6 p.m.</p>	<p>Portville Community Food Pantry Committee, 6 p.m.</p> <p>01/15 Sunday School, 10 a.m. Worship Service, 11 a.m.</p> <p>01/16 Bible Study, 10 a.m.</p> <p>01/18 USDA foods delivered</p> <p>01/19 Mission Committee, 6 p.m.</p> <p>01/22 Sunday School, 10 a.m. Worship Service, 11 a.m.</p> <p>01/23 Bible Study, 10 a.m.</p> <p>01/25 Food Pantry open 10-noon and 5-6:30 p.m.</p> <p>01/28 Presbytery Meeting, Wayside PC, Hamburg, 10 a.m.</p> <p>01/29 Sunday School, 10 a.m. Worship Service, 11 a.m.</p>
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February 2012 Dates to Remember

<p>02/05 Sunday School, 10 a.m. Worship Service and Communion, 11 a.m. Mission Team to NOLA, Feb 5-11</p> <p>02/06 Bible Study, 10 a.m.</p> <p>02/12 Sunday School, 10 a.m. Worship Service, 11 a.m.</p> <p>02/13 Bible Study, 10 a.m.</p> <p>02/14 Session, 6 p.m.</p> <p>02/15 USDA foods delivered</p> <p>02/16 Mission Committee, 6 p.m.</p> <p>02/19 Sunday School classes canceled Worship Service, 11 a.m. Annual Meeting of the Congregation</p> <p>02/20 Bible Study canceled</p>	<p>Fun Fleece Festival, 5:30 p.m.</p> <p>02/21 PWN Personnel Committee, 12:30 p.m.</p> <p>02/22 Food Pantry open 10-noon and 5-6:30 p.m. Ash Wednesday Worship Service, 7 p.m.</p> <p>02/26 Sunday School, 10 a.m. Worship Service, 11 a.m. Info to Cso for March/April newsletter</p> <p>02/27 Bible Study, 10 a.m. "Soup and Study" Lenten Gathering, 6-7:15 p.m.</p>
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Birthdates to Remember

January

1/3 Courtney Schmidt
 1/3 Dan Schmidt
 1/10 Shelley Pollock
 1/13 Landon Tigh
 1/16 Deanna Dunbar
 1/16 Pat Kennedy
 1/17 Jack Pagett
 1/19 Joe Matthews
 1/20 Joseph Long
 1/20 Alex Woodhead
 1/22 Emmy Woodhead
 1/31 TY Hoagland



February

2/2 Jim Boyer
 2/6 Ray Roulo
 2/13 Barb Fairbanks
 2/13 Terry Keeley
 2/16 Alison Tigh
 2/16 Gary Woodhead
 2/17 Adam Hellwig
 2/21 Jack Wyant
 2/24 Marie Hildebrand
 2/27 Jo Dunbar
 2/28 Shirley Scott



**Soup and Study
 Lenten Gathering**
 February 27, March 5, 12, 19, 26
 6-7:15 p.m. in the dining room.
 Study material will be provided.
 Watch for sign-up sheet!

There is no gift greater to me than our life together, gathered in the love of God; called in the name of Christ. Your kindness and support and generosity are a reflection of the beautiful Spirit in your hearts. Thank you from the bottom of mine for your collective gift. I always rattle on, helplessly humbled!

Love, Marilyn



Volunteers for the month of January



Date	Jan 1	Jan 8	Jan 15	Jan 22	Jan 29
Greeters / Ushers	The Pagett Family	Coni Coletti Jess Wyant	Rachel / Jim Boyer	Joan Vaine / Cso Woodworth	Joe / Stephanie Hill
Liturgist	Anita Shuey	Bob Fairbanks	Norm King	Jess Wyant	Carly Woodhead
Children's Time	Shirley Longbothum	Rev. Hale	Kari Kloss	Shirley Longbothum	Carly Woodhead
Nursery	Sharon Hill-McLarney	Jess Wyant	Julie Pagett	Ronda Pollock	Kari Kloss
Prayer Family	Ronda/Tom Pollock	Shelley/Ron Pollock	Ray/ Joyce Roulo	Courtney Schmidt	Erica Schmidt

Elder for the month: Shirley Longbothum / Acolyte for the month: Christine Pagett



Volunteers for the month of February



	Feb. 5, 2012	Feb. 12, 2012	Feb. 19, 2012	Feb. 26, 2012
Greeters / Ushers	The Pagett Family	Jess Wyant	Barb and Bob Fairbanks	Joe / Stephanie Hill
Liturgist	Sharon Hill-McLarney	Bob Fairbanks	Jess Wyant	Barb Fairbanks
Children's Time	Jess Wyant	Rev. Hale	Barb Fairbanks	Rachel Boyer
Nursery	Coni Coletti	Ronda Pollock	Emily Woodhead	Cindy Keeley
Prayer Family	Vicki/Dan Schmidt	Shirley/Allan Scott	Carey/Vickie Shields	Anita/Karl Shuey

Elder for the month : Ray Carlson / Acolyte for the month: Hannah Kloss

**LOOK
AT
THIS!**

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation will be held during worship Sunday, February 19, 2012.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - PORTVILLE, NY

19 North Main Street
Portville, NY 14770

Voicemail: 933-6426
Email: portville.presbyterian followed by @gmail.com

Sunday School: 10:00 am
ages 3 to adult
Worship Service: 11:00 am

Website:

www.portville-presbyterian.org