



# The Herald

January 2011

First and St. Stephen's United Church of Christ

6915 York Road

Baltimore, Maryland 21212

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Director of Music, Jeffery Beyers  
Administrative Assistant, Joyce Kruse

Rev. Linda McFadden, Interim Pastor

Dear Friends,

The Feast of Epiphany on January 6 is traditionally the day the magi arrived to present their gifts to the Christ Child. Actually, we don't know how many magi there were. The tradition that there were three wise men probably arose from the fact that they brought three gifts, and generations of Nativity pageants have fixed that idea in our consciousness.

Epiphany is all about *showing up*. The name "Epiphany" comes from a Greek word that means "appearance" or "manifestation" of a god. For Christians, it refers to the appearance of Emmanuel, the Light of the World. The showing up of the magi in response to the appearance of the star announcing the appearance of the divine in the realm of human life reminds us that God's showing up invites us to show up, too.

Woody Allen famously said that 80% of success is in *showing up*. Much of the life of incarnational faith is also a matter of showing up. In response to God's presence among us we show up at worship to offer prayer and praise. We show up to serve meatloaf dinners to homeless guests at Supper Club. We show up to teach children or count money or repair the building. We show up at the bedside of the sick. God shows up in our lives and we in turn show up for Life.



As the glitter of holiday celebration dims and the lights and tinsel get packed back into cartons for another year, the Gift is not packed away. In the days ahead, we can count on the Holy One to show up in our lives in many unexpected ways. I pray that in this New Year each of us will also be moved to show up for the unexpected opportunities of life in community.

Blessings and peace,

*Linda*

## Congregational Meeting - Sunday, Jan. 16

Please plan to remain for the Congregational Meeting and lunch following the service.

**The Search Committee** invites your prayers as we bring two candidates to Baltimore for further interviews the end of the month.

*Church Office Hours - Monday, Wednesday, Friday (8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.)*

*Joyce will be on vacation from Jan. 17-25*

**Habitat for Humanity**  
**Open House, Tues., Jan. 25, 5-7 p.m.**

Tour our facility and workshop, learn about current and future worksites, talk with our volunteers, homeowners and staff, and discover how you can help us build homes and revitalize neighborhoods. 3741 Commerce Dr., Suite 309, Baltimore 21227. Please RSVP Madeline Manlove at 410-366-1250 x102 if you plan to attend or [mmanlove@habitatchesapeake.org](mailto:mmanlove@habitatchesapeake.org).

**Happy Birthday**

**January 2 - Colleen Swanson**  
**January 3 - John Wagner**  
**January 5 - Richard Hawver**  
**January 13 - Ellen Kavanagh**  
**January 15 - Lois Joellenbeck**  
**January 16 - James Kavanagh**

**January Needs for ACTC**

Cereal, baked beans & spaghetti sauce

**Facility Update**

Sam Marshall is in the process of repairing 3 leaks in the boiler room and the 2-piece wooden ladder to the loft over the organ.

**Lectionary Study**

Bring a brown bag lunch and discuss the Sunday Lectionary at 12 noon each Wed. in the Gathering Room.

**8th Day Study Group**

The group will meet on **Fridays at 10 a.m.** in the Gathering Room instead of Thursdays beginning in January. Please join us!

**Consistory - 7:30 p.m., Jan. 11**

**Supper Club - Wed., Jan. 19**

We will be serving meatloaf at the Supper Club this month. You can help by contributing meat loaves, canned fruit and vegetables (preferably institutional size) and rice. Meat loaves can be left in the church freezer at your convenience. Please use the check list in the Gathering Room to help us plan our needs.

**Pastoral Notes**

Sally Murray is at her daughter's house while she continues her chemotherapy treatment. Cards can be sent to: Drennen Nickerson, 318 Presway Rd., Timonium, MD 21093.

**Thank You**

*To First and St. Stephen's UCC,*

*Thank you for the generous Christmas check. The check made our Christmas a bit more merry. It has been a pleasure to work with Pastor Linda McFadden and the rest of the congregation in 2010. May God continue to bless all of you in 2011.*

*Joyce*

**Consistory person for January**  
**Janice Galiani**

<b>Readers &amp; Lectionary</b>		
Jan. 2	Martha Wharton	Isaiah 60:1-6, Matthew 2:1-12, Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14
Jan. 9	David Brinker	Isaiah 42:1-9, Matthew 3:13-17, Psalm 29
Jan. 16	Greg Snyder	Isaiah 49:1-7, John 1:29-42, Psalm 40:1-11
Jan. 23	Jack Cyphers	Isaiah 9:1-4, Matthew 4:12-23, Psalm 27:1, 4-9
Jan. 30	Ed Robinson	Micah 6:1-8, Matthew 5:1-12, Psalm 15