



Faithnews

January 2024
Volume 4

From the Pastor's Desk

Epiphany is our first Christian celebration of the New Year, which traditionally falls on January 6 and celebrates the **"Showing"** of the infant Christ to the Three Wise Men when they arrive in Bethlehem, after having been led by a star – a small, glowing celestial flash-light on their dark path from the Orient. They had traveled well over 1,500 miles carrying gifts of gold, incense and myrrh. This event – the manifestation of Jesus to the wise men – is the **sighting or showing** of God in the flesh in the manger, an event the Church has seized upon, that lights up the first week of our dark, wintry New Year.

An Epiphany happens when you are suddenly made aware of God's presence, personally, in your life. I have experienced an Epiphany when I see in Scripture a whole new understanding of God's Word. Scripture I had preached on, countless times over these 59 years; I see something new, thanks to the Holy Spirit. In amazement, I wonder why I had not had that insight before. When I focus my heart and mind on the words of Jesus, new sightings or epiphanies come to light. When you think of it, perhaps every miracle that Jesus did, every healing, every teaching, was a new **showing** of himself.

Jesus said, **"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God."**

Bible Study Wednesday, 10 AM at Maryland Line resumes 1/3/2024



Parke Memorial Church
Elisa Poole
Clarence Foard
Jake Robinson
Bill Boykin
Launie Boykin
Alan Brent
Sydney (Brent family)
Sandy Eppinger
Mike and Pinky Kelbaugh
Ferd Driver
Doris and Chris Stahler
Stella Wright-Yingling
Bob Stevenson
Family of Richard Weller
Ralph M. Hopkins (Annaker family)
Judy Moser



The Christmas Cantata was well attended and enjoyed by all! Thanks to all who contributed, either by performing, baking or setting up.



6 Jan Reilly/Bill Boykin– Maryland Line
 12 Elisa Poole – Maryland Line & Parke
 13 Dave Yoder – Maryland Line
 16 George Miller – Parke
 17 Katherine McKinney - Vernon
 20 Helen Wineholt – Maryland Line
 22 Edith Lutz – Maryland Line
 27 Marie Christopher - Vernon
 27 Linda Duke – Maryland Line

A thank you to Maryland Line -

Good morning,

I wanted to thank you for allowing me to hold the yoga classes in the church hall. The students continue to enjoy the classes and are asking for more.

I left the \$100.00 donation in the treasurer's mailbox. This donation is for the current yoga session which is running on Mondays from November 6 - December 11. Since the students are already wondering about my next session, I thought I might as well ask if I can continue in 2024. I'd like to stick with Mondays (10 AM and 6 PM, for 75 minutes). The dates I'd like to hold the next six-week session would be January 8 - February 12.

Please let me know if this works. If it needs to go back through the council and for a vote, I understand. I'm hopeful I can continue.

I also wanted to share again how deeply grateful I am to hold the classes at the church hall. The space is a great size. The parking is excellent. It's very close to my home. It's easy to setup and break down my equipment. Everything is just wonderful. I am forever thankful for being able to teach yoga at your location.

Thank you, and have a very healthy and happy Thanksgiving,
 Elizabeth



Emma Martin, the pianist at Vernon UMC, has recently been nominated by the principal of Hereford High School for the Outstanding Young Women Leaders Program at Towson University. Emma joined Vernon two years ago at the age of 14. She is an excellent student, accomplished softball player and is a joyful addition to our Parish.

*

Pastor Dennis delivered four large bags containing homemade blankets to Mission Central and mailed knitted hats to St. Labre Indian School in MT and St. Joseph's Indian School in SD early in December. A big thanks goes out to our creators, Edith Lutz, Kathy Lutz, Marla Kohne, and to all who contributed donations of money, fabric and wool.

*



Mike Kelbaugh from Parke Memorial as Santa visiting sick children in our local hospitals.

A note from Clarence Foard:

To all my friends at Maryland Line Church,

Because of health reasons, I am moving to SC to be close to my son and daughter-in-law. I will miss our Church Family very much. I love you all.

God bless,
 Clarence

Let's all support Judy Moser by stopping by or sending cards to her, since she is no longer able to attend church services. Her contact information is:

Judy Moser
21100 Ridge Road
Freeland MD 21053
410-357-9471



This beautiful Nativity was recently donated to Mt. Zion by a person who worshipped there many years ago.



Our Parish helps to make Christmas bright for those less fortunate. The presents beneath this tree will be delivered to an eleven year old in our community.

Thank you from our Food Bank...

"We want to thank everyone and their churches and organizations for supporting our Food Bank this holiday season. The clients were amazed by the food boxes, selection of additional food items and the ability to "shop" for their families. Many of them will be so excited on Christmas Day to open their gifts. The sanctuary at Pine Grove was a demonstration of the love and compassion our community has for each other. The spirit of Christmas is flowing throughout our community."



A small glimpse into the Christmas party At Mt. Zion.

Wishing you a Blessed Christmas and Happy New Year!

Thought for the day

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

- 2 Corinthians 5:17

Thank you to all who contributed items for this newsletter.