



I don't remember where I read it, but recently, in one of my devotionals, I read about the gifts the wise men brought to Jesus. The author of the devotional spoke about how his mother would always go on and on each year about these useless gifts these foolish men brought: gold, frankincense and myrrh. Aside from maybe the gold, what good were these to a young infant, to a young mother? Certainly things like diapers, some infant clothes or swaddling clothes, some more practical gifts would have been better, his mother would always say. I'm sure we can all agree on that one, these gifts were far from practical... Yet, the author of the devotional went on to make a great point.

These wise men set out from the east to follow this star that they believed would bring them to a king. They had no idea what kind of king Jesus would turn out to be, in their heads they figured a normal everyday king. This is why they stop by king Herod in Jerusalem, figuring certainly he must know where the new king was born. This new king they had come to pay homage to and bring these fancy gifts from afar.

These wise men, literally, had no clue, no idea that they would find this "king of the Jews" out in the middle of nowhere. As some commentators so lovingly refer to Bethlehem, this backcountry tiny city, if you could even call it that, given no thought among places like Jerusalem. They had no idea, this child would be born to poverty rather than riches. Instead, they brought gifts that reflected the type of king they believed he was/would be. And perhaps, they weren't really that far off. The author of the devotional ended with some prodding questions: if we knew what kind of king Jesus would be, what gifts would we have brought? Something from Toys R Us or something from Tiffany's?

Well the truth is, we do know what kind of king Jesus is, this one we awaited for all of advent, the promise of his birth. The one to be recognized as king by the wise men, on Epiphany (this recognition of the manifestation of the divine). And so what gifts do we or should we bring to Jesus, to honor him not just as king but as God, the great divine? Not only that, but how do we honor Jesus not just with the gifts we bring but with the gifts he has given us to be of better service?

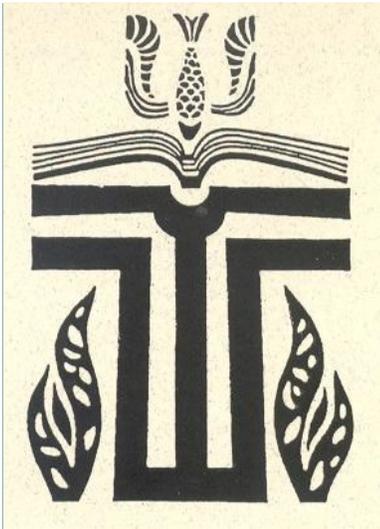
As we enter into this new year, may we continue to reflect on Jesus as king, as Messiah, as God made manifest and the gifts we have to offer both Jesus and the gifts we have been given to offer the world, to continue the work of Jesus, this King, this one who came to save.

Rev. Erin Moore

Happy New Year!

Good News Gazette

First
Presbyterian
Church of
Chester, NY
94-96 Main
Street
Chester, NY
10918



Per Capita Update

Per Capita for the new year has remained the same at \$39. We will have more information in the February newsletter and will be taking this up as our second offering in February.

Save Dates and New Ideas

Thank you all for such a great year of events and fundraisers, especially with all the extra help with the capital campaign. This coming year we are gearing up for a number of new events/fundraisers and are already looking at some tentative dates. These might still change but right now we'd ask if you'd both save these dates as well as consider helping at these events and/or suggesting others.

- February Women's Council Tea (tentatively Feb 29th)
- Sometime mid-winter an art exhibit and lecture will be held in the backroom
- Feb 25 Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper (hopefully with St. Paul's again)

We are also looking for a date to host a Silent Auction possibly pairing it with a pasta dinner or maybe a chili cookoff (some other sort of event).

Stewardship Pledge

Thank you for all who have pledged for 2020! We are thankful to all our members and friends who continue to support the mission and ministry of this church in our community and the world! If you haven't already handed in your pledge, please try to do so ASAP.

Crafter's Corner

We are hoping to start a monthly meeting to start making various crafts for the possibility of holding a craft fair in the fall. Right now, we are thinking either Wednesday or Thursday morning would be best. We have a number of ideas for crafts everyone can participate in, in some way (no matter your skill level), but we are always open and welcome to other ideas!

Also, if you'd like to do some crafts at home instead that is great, too! We will be re-organizing the old nursery room to be able to store both items to work on and crafts that are finished. We hope you will consider joining us in this new effort!

Capital Campaign Update

As of today (12/22) we have \$11,897.22 raised. Total amount pledged for the year, so far, is \$14,297! Thank you for all who have given and pledged! We are so grateful for all the support both in giving financially and those who have given their time to help get projects completed or are currently working on helping with the next round of projects (see B&G below for what's next).

Buildings and Grounds help needed

Buildings and Grounds is looking for help in insulating the CE building (mostly we need some manpower). If you or anyone you know would be interested in helping, please let someone from B&G know. We also need some help with updating some of our weather stripping around the doors (it would be nice to be sealed up so we don't see day light). If you are willing to help in either of these projects, please let someone from Buildings and Grounds know. Thank you!

LOOKING AHEAD

January 5 – Deacons meeting following worship

January 6 – No Bible Study – de-greening the church at 10am; Music and Worship meeting to follow

January 12 – Tentative Session meeting following worship

January 13 - Bible Study 10am at 19 Main St.

January 20 – Bible Study 10am at 19 Main St.

January 23 – Food Pantry 4-7pm

January 27 - Bible Study 10am at 19 Main St.

January 28 – Presbytery Meeting at Yorktown at 9:30am

Women's Council meeting at 1pm in the library

Note: Due to the holiday on the 20th, the Food Pantry truck is TBD.

If you have an article or announcement you would like to have in the next newsletter, please have it into the church office by January 20th.

January Second Offering

Our second offering for January 19th will be for the Capital Campaign.

Ruling Elders:

Vicki Braidotti
Ron Brooks
Ruth Magyar
Jerry Sutherland
Matt Van Der Meulen
Clerk of Session
Gene Winters

Deacons:

Edna Babcock
Jean Barrett-
Moderator
Helen Braidotti
Joanne Brooks
Vanessa Magyar
James Peterson—
treasurer

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