

January 6, 2022

First Baptist Church of Eatonton Messenger

FOLLOWERS OF CHRIST SHARING GOD'S LOVE AND GRACE WITH ALL

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

It's not a word that we use often. I'm cautious about speaking it publicly for fear of how it will be heard and what people might conclude it means. The word is epiphanic. It's a stronger word than enlightening, but it means something that is enlightening. It means revealing. It's like an aha moment. It's what you feel standing before a redwood tree for the first time, or atop Clingman's Dome. It's what you feel every time you arrive at the beach and let the waves cover your feet. Or it's what is revealed when a child gives you such a strong hug.

Something is epiphanic when epiphanies overwhelm you. Thus the season of church life into which we enter after Christmas is Epiphany. The birth of Christ has been an epiphanic moment, an epiphany.

The Wise Men signal the first seekers beyond the borders of the country to seek and find and pay homage to the newborn baby with gifts. Innocently enough, they were seeking the origin of the light. They were seeking an epiphany.

Epiphanies are not always openly apparent. Plenty can seek them and feel like they are never found. Others seem to experience them often.

I recall Mary Oliver's poem that concludes with the lines,

"... You wouldn't believe what once or
twice I have seen. I'll just
tell you this:
only if there are angels in your head will you
ever, possibly, see one."

The Wise Men had it in their head, a star. They were seeking, actively, innocently and even with uncertainty – but it all led to an epiphanic moment.

The beauty of this story is that God welcomes seekers and wishes to be found. God wishes to share epiphany after epiphany with all. Sometimes they are directly related to our seeking. Sometimes they are simply happenstance – but regardless the Gospel is epiphanic!

As we move forward through the days of Epiphany I trust you are alert to the stories of light that abound.

Epiphanic,
Craig

CHOIR and HANDBELLS

A new "semester" of proclamation and praise!

Our Choir and JuBELLation handbell choir are beginning a new semester, and would love to welcome new singers and ringers. No audition is required, just a desire to serve our Lord and His people musically. For Choir, simply come to rehearsals on Wednesday, 7:00-8:30 in the Choir Room, across from the Church Office. If you'd like to ring handbells, please call John Cotten's cell phone, 678-863-2468, as he'll need to make some additional preparations.

Both of these groups are wonderful, but very small; enough so that if we do not gain some new members soon, these ministries could evaporate. We need you, and would love to have you join us! (Yes, we're watching the rise in Omicron cases carefully, and will let you know if something changes.)

BIRTHDAYS

1/07 - Robin Benton, Harris McCollum
1/08 - Mac Rainey
1/09 - Mike Faulk, Steve Tubbs
1/10 - Jarred Camp, Pam Lancaster
1/14 - Brooke McMillen
1/15 - Nancy Chambers
1/18 - Pam Douglas

ANNIVERSARIES

1/08 - Mike and Linda Reagin
1/16 - James and Sylvia Cheney

THANK YOU

I would like to thank all my Church family for the prayers and concerns for me during my Covid illness. I am so thankful for you all and so grateful that I have a light case of it and am doing well. God is good and his healing mercies are powerful. Roger has been a great caregiver. Thank you all again so much and God Bless.

Jeanne Vining

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

WELCOMING FOR JANUARY:
Jim and Vicki Hall

USHERS FOR JANUARY:
David Giddens, Scott Joris, Ben Leverette,
Charles Patten, Cary Walton

DEACON JANUARY 9: Steve Benton

Deacon Families: Steve Culberson family,
Charlotte Green, Luceil Harrison,
Joseph Rainey family, Mike Reagin family,
Steve Tubbs family, Sonny Turner family

DEACON JANUARY 16: Susan Davis

Deacon Families: Rob Brown family,
Jarred Camp family, Tim Camp family,
Ryan Carmichael family, Buster Douglas family,
Harris McCollum family, Ashley Rich family

WORSHIP REPORT

<u>Sunday, December 19</u>	<u>115</u>
<u>Sunday, December 26</u>	<u>80</u>
<u>Sunday, January 2</u>	<u>67</u>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DEACON ORDINATION AND COMMUNION SERVICE SUNDAY, JANUARY 9

We will be ordaining Pam Lancaster

OPEN GYM NIGHT

Tuesday, January 11
6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
All Adults Welcome

All Wednesday
Night Activities
will start back on
Wednesday, January 12

Andy's BBQ will cater
our Wednesday Night
Supper for January 12.

Please contact the church
office by Tuesday at noon
if you would like to make
a reservation.

The Old Testament's Treasures

Adult Bible Study starts Wednesday, January 12
Led by Pastor Craig

