



From the Pastor

A day on our church calendar that seems to have lost much of its significance is Epiphany. Not only is it the final day of the Christmas celebration, January 6, but also marks the season that extends to the beginning of Lent on Ash Wednesday.

The word epiphany has a variety of meanings, most significantly, a manifestation, or a shining of light. Throughout the Advent and Christmas seasons our theme 'Arise and Shine' was focused on the many ways that Jesus shines His light upon the world. Light continues to be our focus throughout the season of Epiphany.



Interestingly, the Day of the Epiphany, along with Easter and Pentecost, is one of the three oldest

and most important festivals observed by Christians throughout the world. This is true even though today the festival seems to be little understood and under-celebrated, at least in the U.S.

The Festival of the Epiphany apparently had its origin in the east at the beginning of the 3rd century. By the end of that century, January 6 had become the accepted date for its celebration. At that time, the Day of Epiphany commemorated the birth of Jesus, His Baptism, and His first miracle at Cana in Galilee. At the outset, it was a splendid, multi-layered commemoration.

By mid, 4th century, the Western Church moved the celebration of Christmas as the birthday of Jesus to December 25. So, the Epiphany festival took on new meaning for the western, and many eastern, churches. The visit of the Wise Men came into prominence on Epiphany day, and, in time, other events were assigned to the Sundays of the Epiphany season. For example, today we commemorate the baptism of Jesus on the 1st Sunday after the Epiphany.

Epiphany proclaims great Scriptural truths to us. This time of celebration proclaims that Jesus, born in Bethlehem, is true God made man. It announces that God has appeared among us as the Promised One who is to be the Savior of all people of every nation, Gentiles as well as Jews. At Christmas we emphasize that God became man. Epiphany focuses on the truth that this human being born in Bethlehem is truly God; He is the God-man.

The stories of Epiphany vividly reveal the reason the Son of God came among us as one of us. He has come as the fulfillment of God's promises to send a Messiah who would save all people, without any kind of exception, from sin, its condemning and life-controlling power, and to restore all kinds of people everywhere to the presence and power of God.

This salvation, which Simeon called "a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for the glory of your [God's] people Israel," is also demonstrated by the visit of the Wise Men to the child Jesus. These Wise Men (or Magi) were not Jews. They were Gentiles whom God led to Jesus by a brilliant star in order to manifest that His saving plan is indeed for Gentiles as well as Jews.

Because the Son of God was born as a human being, He was able to suffer and die for our sins in our place. And because He is God, His suffering and death are sufficient to pay in full the debt we owe to God for our sinfulness and disobedience.

His resurrection from the dead, the greatest of all epiphanies, causes His victory to shine forth in radiant splendor. Salvation is for all of us through faith in Jesus Christ, God's own Son, and this message is the greatest splendor of Epiphany.

As we move through this Epiphany Season, we will continue to seek the light of Christ, shining in our sometimes dark, dreary, and dangerous world. In turn, we will be enabled by God to live lives that are truly enlightened by God's grace and by God's Word.

Bask in the splendors of Epiphany, every single brilliant facet of the season, and praise the Lord for the sending of Jesus to be the light that brightens our dark world!

Wishing all of you a bright, Holy Spirit led Happy New Year!

Pastor Tim

In-Person Services Cancelled

In-person services have been canceled for the month of January 2021 due to COVID cases. Online services will be on Facebook

Live on the church Facebook page for you to view at 11am on Sundays. The deacons will meet at the end of this month to reevaluate the situation. Stay safe!

IN-PERSON
**WORSHIP
SERVICES
CANCELLED**

VBC Preschool

The Victoria Baptist Church Nursery School students enjoyed spending time with another special visitor during the month of December. Santa stopped by and the children had the opportunity to tell him what they were wishing for, sing a few songs, and discuss the true meaning of Christmas.



Thank You

We extend our gratitude to all who planned, directed, and participated in the various services and programs during this Christmas season, despite the unusual circumstances of being in a pandemic. We appreciate all those who planned and participated in our Christmas program. We express appreciation to the Flower Committee for the beautifully decorated sanctuary. We enjoyed the special music provided by our special vocalists. We thank all who participated in the Samaritan's Purse Shoe Box Toy Collection, and the good amount collected for the Salvation Army Toy Drive. Thanks to all of our church family and we wish you a HAPPY NEW YEAR!



Tithes and Offerings

As we strive to maintain the ministry of our church, we hope and pray you will continue to tithe during this time.

For online bill pay or mail in offerings (please no cash), send to:

P.O. Box 911
Victoria, VA 23974

We have added online giving and text giving for your convenience. There is no charge to the church or you to use it through the rest of this calendar year. To give you have three options now:

1. Mail
in

- Offering
2. [Click here to give](#)
 3. Text
GiveVBC
to
73256

We appreciate your faithful support to Victoria Baptist Church as we weather these difficult days.

OUR GIFTS TO GOD FOR 12/30/2020

REGULAR OFFERING (weekly goal \$3,594.42) \$1,463.00

BUILDING FUND \$75.00

LOTTIE MOON \$200.00

GLOBAL MISSIONS \$300.00

RENT \$425.00

TOTAL \$2,463.00



Remember our Shut-Ins During this Difficult Time:

Help us spread some cheer and write a letter, send a card or give a call to our shut-ins! This is a good at home project for families with children to make cards and mail them to our nursing homes. Phone calls are another good way for them to hear your voice and be comforted during this time of isolation. No visitors please as we observe social distancing and respect the rules of nursing and care facilities.

Below are VBC shut-ins needing some love:

AWAY FROM HOME & NURSING HOMES (November 2020)

Phyllis Hood
Heritage Hall
900 S. Main Street
Blackstone, VA 23824

Nancy Smith
Hundley Center
125 Buena Vista Circle
South Hill, VA 23970

Waynie Pennell
Chase City Nursing and Rehab
5539 Highway 49
Chase City, VA 23924

Charlotte Overton
The Wayland
P.O. Box 719
Keysville, VA 23947

Betty Schumaker
Amelia Nursing and Rehabilitation Center
8830 Virginia Street
Amelia, VA 23002

Jackie Clement
Heritage Hall, Room 211
900 S. Main Street
Blackstone, VA 23824

Faye Loury
Heritage Hall
900 S. Main Street
Blackstone, VA 23824

Anne and Woody Hudson
Heritage Hall, Room 300
900 S. Main Street
Blackstone, VA 23824

LOCAL SHUT INS:

Linda Ramsey, 1530 5th Street, Victoria, 23974
Louie and Jean Overton, 2003 6th Street, Victoria, VA 23974
Betty and Aubrey Lindsey, 1505 Tidewater Avenue, Victoria, VA 23974

Prayer List

Below is our prayer list of members and community who need prayer. Please let us know of any updates to this list by e-mailing or calling the church office.

PRAYER CONCERNS
Members Who Need Prayer

Betty Schumaker	Stephanie Millican Powell
Bay Tomlinson	Nancy Smith
Kathy Wray	Peppi and Gary Dayton
Phyllis Hood	Elizabeth Lacks
Katie Tyler	Linda Ramsey
Louie & Jean Overton	Ken Boyd
John and Susan Hawks	Beth Fowler
Linda Loury Vines	Frances Wilson
Charlotte Overton	Claude Tomlinson
Ann Hudson	Jackie Clement
Peggy Green	Vernon and Jean Harding
Aubrey & Betty Lindsey	Tammy Moody
Millie and Jon Coffman	Suzi Sherwood
Waynie Pennell	Janie Chapman
Roger Pennell	Ella Harrell
Dianne Griffin	Lucille Wood

In Our Community - Keep In Your Prayers

Doris Hankins	Nancy Rutledge
Rebecca Hankins	Robert Lindsey
Nancy Green	Tony Lindsey
Sylvia Bradshaw	Irvin Hagaman
Sue Overstreet	Sylvia Yeatts
Conner Mast	John Lenhart
Carol Driver	Helen Fitzgerald
Gary Newcomb	Ann Bagley Hancock
Bobby McDaniel	Cecil Ryman
Dare Simmons	Rev. Mike Day
Diane Bacon	Amanda Garrison
Dr. Andrew Apostle	Jonathan Stroup
Levi Lupton	Brandon Moody
Steve Hudgins	Ray Martin
Lee Dunnavant	Peggy Townsend
Jean Biggers	
Martha Clark	

SYMPATHY to the family and friends of Woodrow (Woody) Wilson

PRAYER LIST UPDATES - Names in bold print are new this week to our prayer list or are experiencing new difficulties. If you have a family member or loved one on our prayer list, please contact the Church Office with an update. *If the Lord has answered prayers and all is well, please ask us to remove their name from our list.*



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