

The Beacon

*"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for,
the evidence of things not seen.."*

Hebrews 11:1



Volume 8

January 2024

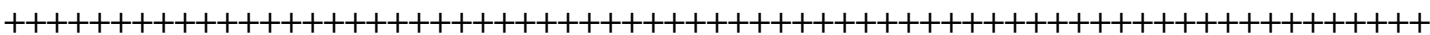
Issue 94

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Sherrie McKean, Secretary
Office Hours: 9:00 am-1:00 pm
Monday-Friday
Gary Reitzel, Custodian

Council Members: Betty Hawn, David Arndt (Vice Chair), Benjamin Stewart (Secretary),
Gary Reitzel, Robin Sigmon, Victor Paquin, Christopher Painter
Wesley Stinson, Celia Reece (Treasurer), and Kristen Helton



PASTOR KEN, **I HAVE A QUESTION:**

What is the Season of Epiphany?

After the twelve days of Christmas, we begin the Season of Epiphany on January 6th. It's often referred to as the "Season of Light" because it represents the appearance or manifestation of

Christ. Since the Church Calendar begins with Advent, there is the unfolding theme of Jesus' identification: from his birth, to the arrival of the Magi, to Jesus' presentation in the temple, his baptism, then first miracle at Cana. Basically, during the Season of Epiphany we see Jesus the Christ as cute baby in a manger to miracle maker (as human and divine).

Epiphany in Luke's Gospel signals the arrival of the shepherds at the stable after hearing the angelic announcement. However, Matthew's Gospel has a focus on the Magi visiting the Christ child after seeing the star.

According to tradition (not from the bible), the shepherds and Magi meet at the manger all together at the manger as one group. Also, tradition says that there was possibly twelve Magi, one for each of the tribes of Israel. Although the age and nationality of the Magi are not known, it is consistent that Matthew's intention is to tell us that Jesus is the Messiah for all people of all nations.

As for the wisemen themselves, well, stay tuned to a future children's sermon and I'll share their traditional names. Have a blessed Epiphany!

JANUARY ACTIVITIES

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

The **Daytime Ladies' Circle** (which will meet on the 1st Thursdays at noon) has been put on hold at this time.

The **Evening Ladies' Circle** will meet on Monday, Jan. 8th at 7:00 p.m. in the Assembly Room.

The **Laity Team** will meet on Monday, Jan. 8th at 6:30 p.m.

The **Legacy Task Force** will meet on Jan. 4th and 18th at 7:00 p.m. in the Library.

The **Evangelism Committee** will meet on Wednesday, Jan. 10th.

BINGO is Saturday, Jan. 13th from 12 noon until 3:30 p.m. See below for further details.

Red Cross Blood Drive is Wednesday, Jan. 17th from 2:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Please sign up if you would like to bring refreshments.

The **Cemetery Committee** will meet on Thursday, Jan. 18th at 7:00 p.m.

The **Men's Breakfast** will be on Sunday, Jan. 28th at 8:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Building.

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EVANGELISM NEWS

The Evangelism Team thanks everyone who volunteered or participated in the past year's activities. It was a good year. We are blessed to have your help with church and community-related events. As we begin a new year, it is our hope to provide both our church and the community with programs and events that will be a reflection of God's love to share with one another. Faith and fellowship go hand in hand. We invite you to be a part of this ministry.

On Saturday, January 13th, we are planning an afternoon of fun. At 12:00 noon, soup and sandwiches will be served. Following the meal, from 1:00 to 3:30 p.m. we will play **BINGO!** Lots of prizes and a few surprises. Bring your family and friends and enjoy the food, fun and fellowship.

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We Have Four Weekly Bible Study Opportunities

Tuesdays @ 7:00 pm (Fellowship Bldg.)
(studying scripture readings for the upcoming Sunday)

Thursdays @ 10:30 am (Sanctuary)
(currently studying the Psalms)

Sundays @ 9:30 am (Fellowship Bldg.)

Sundays @ 9:30 am (Library)

Come join us! We have a place for you!

JANUARY

Birthdays and Anniversaries

1. Marshall Sigmon
2. Robert Lineberger
6. Jeff Arndt, Logan Arney, Jean Harris,
Dakota Smith
7. Darbie Crouch
8. Joe Devine
10. Todd Sipe
11. Sue Lindley
15. Nell Houser
17. Dottie Rudisill
18. Ray Ford, Jr., Jimmy Long, J.C. Sipe
19. Jamie Smyre Smith
20. Betty Hawn, Tracy Montgomery
21. Trudie Warren
22. Reagan Saunders, Charlie Sigmon
24. Averi Crouch O'Brien
25. Kay Sigmon
27. Jeremy Clark, Tammy Link, Amber Crouch
28. Joe Dean Sigmon
29. Teresa Turner

17. Mr. & Mrs. Kevin Sipe
29. Mr. & Mrs. Charles Smyre

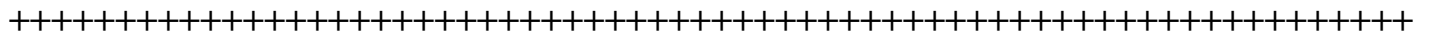


FEBRUARY

Birthdays and Anniversaries

2. Victor Lineberger
3. Amy Brown, Brandon Nelson
6. Linda Sipe, Preston Workman
8. Seth Ford
9. Regina Lee
10. Shanna Smyre Rabon
13. Judy Brown, Taylor & Zach Harris,
Ron Sipe
14. Colby Collins, Max Lowman
16. Heather Hagan
18. Susie Devine, Earl Sipe
20. Annabelle Hernandez
21. Kristy Estep
22. Allison Ford
23. Bill Armstrong, Joseph Reitzel,
Dwayne Sipe
25. Kaitlyn Stewart
26. Lynn Hill

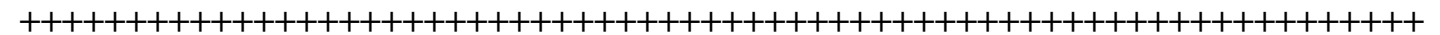
1. Mr. & Mrs. Kelly York
3. Mr. & Mrs. Charles Sipe
6. Ps. & Mrs. John Lingle
9. Mr. & Mrs. Victor Pauquin
21. Mr. & Mrs. Robert Smyre



THE LAITY TEAM

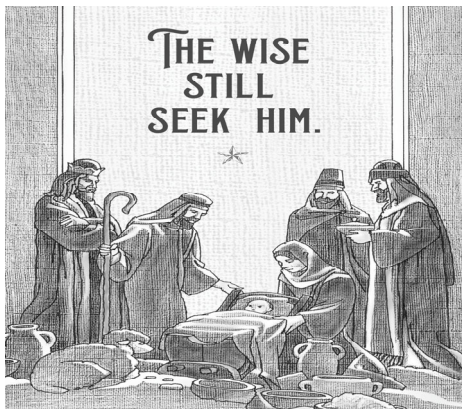
Laity Team works include praying, caring, sharing, encouraging, helping, and supporting each other. Everyone in keeping with our Lord's calling is a Laity Team member.

Please contact co-chairs, Kristy Painter or Keeley Stikeleather, at any time to pray and support members with health issues. God's continued blessings to all.



IMPORTANT DATES IN JANUARY

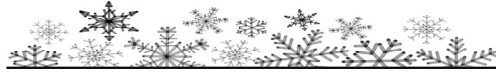
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| New Year's Day | Jan. 1 |
| Epiphany | Jan. 6 |
| MLK Jr. Day | Jan. 15 |



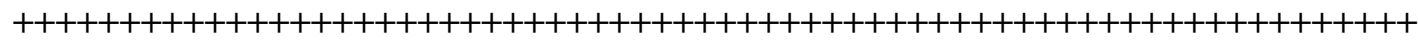
Nancy and I wish to thank the St. James congregation for our wonderful worship and fellowship experiences with you and for your generous Christmas gift.

We wish you all a blessed and abundantly joy-filled New Year.

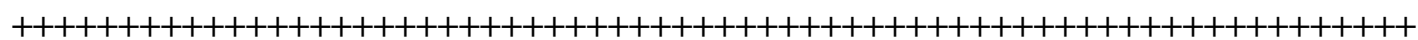
Pastor Bob & Nancy Alle



Erica Paquin would like to thank all of St. James for their continued support in helping to make the *Wreaths Across America* ceremony so special.



The Catawba County Band Concert was in December. Madelyn (French horn) and Cayden (Drums) Beisler, grandchildren of Claire & Ron Sipe, participated. They are students at St. Stephens High School.



KITCHEN FIRES ARE SCARY!

Use the following safety tips when cooking in the kitchen:

- Stay in the kitchen when cooking;
- Use a timer as a reminder;
- Keep a lid nearby to cover a pot or fire;
- Salt will smother a fire;
- Keep anything that may catch fire away from the stovetop - towel, oven mitts, etc.;
- Invest in a fire extinguisher.

Cook with children/grandchildren. It is a lot of fun!



DECEMBER PHOTOS OF ST. JAMES



Manger scene at parsonage —
courtesy of Ron & Claire Sipe



AHG in the Maiden Parade



A visit from Santa



Outdoor Manger Scene



Children's Christmas Program



Choir Cantata



Darby Cordell Crouch, son of
Darby and Amber Crouch, and
brother of Tucker, was baptized
on Sunday, December 24th.



Christmas Eve



Advent Wreath