



Happy New Year! As the Christmas Season winds down, (it only lasts 12 days), it culminates with Epiphany, on January sixth (6th). Epiphany, which means “manifestation”, is the celebration of the arrival of the wise men (Magi) in Bethlehem. They were following a star brighter than any other which was the overlapping of three celestial bodies that appeared in the East. It was a sign from the heavens that something **extraordinary** was going to happen. Traveling for months, the star went before them, and they followed it, until it came to rest over a little town, in Judea, called Bethlehem. Emmanuel - “God with us” was born there in a stable in the person of Jesus.

Epiphany is also the Season of Light within the church. It is a time to discover the “Light of the World”, Jesus, in our lives and in ourselves. God’s light illumines our hearts and our circumstances of life, pulling us out of the shadows and the darkness. God is with **us** and **we** are to carry that “Light” into the world. “The people who walk in darkness have seen a great light.” (Isaiah 9:2)

This new year is full of possibilities and hope for the future, as it is for Holy Spirit. During this time of transition let us manifest the “Light” of God in our hearts, our lives and in this community of faith. It will help illumine for us who we are and whose we are at this point in our journey. May the Spirit direct us to the ways God wants the Holy Spirit to share this light and what we are called to do on behalf of God individually and as a community of faith. May the community around us, know of the “Light” we carry within as we discover who **are** our neighbors and make connections outside of ourselves. Like the song says, “This little light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine! Everywhere I go, I’m gonna let it shine! Let it Shine! Let it shine! Let it shine!”

Peace, Joy and Blessings,

Pastor Gwen

The Holy Spirit Transition Team is up and running. Should you have any questions or concerns the members of the team may be contacted as indicated below:

Jay Gerakaris – cell phone or text – 610-812-2758 (cell)

Pat Colahan – email or home phone – colahandp@rcn.com 610-534-7494 (home)

Diana Downey – email – drown418@aol.com

Nancy Harris – email, home phone, face to face – hsecane@comcastnet 610-626-4310 (home)

Steve Keenan – face to face

Pastor Gwen King – email, face to face, church phone, – 610-544-2707 (church phone)

pastorholyspiritsecane@gmail.com



VOLUNTEERS – We need help with ushers, altar guild, lay assistants, psalm readers. Want to help our church? See Kathy Dowd or call the office.

CHURCH TREASURER – We are still in need of a permanent church treasurer. If you are interested or know of somebody, please see Greg Christensen or Pastor Gwen. Training provided.

DAY SCHOOL SECRETARY – Day School is in need of a secretary. If you are interested please see Kim Christensen.

HOPE CIRCLE – Meets once a month. See Barbara Saporetti for more information.

HOMELESS MEAL - January 30th. For the last 15 years on the 5th Wednesday of the month, Holy Spirit members have planned menus; donated cash; prepared, delivered and served meals for the homeless at the Life Center in Upper Darby. Please consider giving some of your time to help with this meal. We need your help!

MUSIC & WORSHIP MEETING – Wednesday, January 9th at 6:30pm

ANNUAL REPORTS – Please have your annual reports into the office by January 14th .

COUNCIL MEETING – Tuesday, January 22nd at 7:00pm.

HOMELESS MEAL –Wednesday, January 30th . Donations are relied upon to make this happen. There is a donation jug on table outside the office. Please help out.

ANNUAL MEETING – Sunday, February 10th . Mark your calendars and plan to be there to hear 2018 reports, where we are in the transitional process, plans for 2019 and vote on a budget.



USED BOOK SALE –Nothing like curling up with a good book this winter. Leave a donation for World Hunger. Bring in some to share also.

NEW CHURCH DIRECTORIES – will be out shortly. Check on the table outside the office.



Lois Saunders 1/1
Cameron Caputo 1/1
Daniel Connor 1/6
Ruth Dukes 1/9
John Dowd 1/10
Olga Burma 1/24
Cathy Shoup 1/13
Sue Shillady 1/21
Henry Kuhn 1/28



Community Action Agency of Delaware County – thanked Holy Spirit for the toy donations received this holiday season. Thanks to all who contributed to our Christmas Tree collection.

Loaves & Fishes – sent a thank you for the donation of \$200.00 from our Strawberry Festival. Thanks to all for supporting the Festival.

CONDOLENCES

To the Colahan family on the passing of Pat's father, George Kline.

To the Chorney family on the passing of Dave Chorney's father.

ALTAR FLOWERS – Please consider sponsoring flowers for Sunday Services. The 2019 chart is located outside of the office. There are spots still open for January. The cost has gone up slightly to \$15.00 per vase starting in January. Unfortunately, the church can no longer cover the cost of unsponsored flowers.



**“ERASE THE DEFICIT”
CAMPAIGN**
Goal to reduce our \$8,000 deficit
By giving in addition to your regular
tithes and offerings
The tree is almost full
So far we have raised \$7,640.79!



The following was a temple talk given on December 16th by Bob Hensil

Stewardship is about Time, Talent, Testimony and Treasure. It is not just all about money, but sometimes in life we will face or have faced a time of unexpected expenses. I experienced that this year at our summer place when a 70 foot tree on the hill behind us, split about 30 feet up and twisted to the side and lodged in another tree. It posed a future danger to the house so it had to be removed at a cost of several thousand dollars. Fortunately we had a rainy day fund we could use to get the tree removed.

Holy Spirit is just like you and me in that there are unexpected expenses that need to be met. Sometimes these are minor and sometimes they are more serious. Unlike some of us, Holy Spirit doesn't have a rainy day fund we can go to when these expenses occur. Sometimes like with the heat in the hall last spring, we only need some basic material and members can provide the labor. Other times, like the sewer blockage in the floor of the basement classroom a few years ago, we need to find the finances to cover the entire unexpected expense.

We are working to raise extra capital in the "Erase The Deficit" fund to cover some of this year's unexpected expenses and our budgeted deficit. Finance and Stewardship have met and identified logical reasons for much of the deficit. So this year we need to dig a little deeper and find a way to Erase The Deficit.

But it doesn't stop there. If erasing the deficit is to be successful, we need to meet the other obligations that we approved in our budget for 2018 at our last annual meeting.

The year is drawing to a close. We only have a few opportunities left to make it all happen. It is important that we all make sure our gifts get here even if we cannot. We need to use the Christmas Eve offering envelope as if it were a sixth Sunday in December and make a gift that matches or goes beyond what we normally do each week. We need to use the Erase the Deficit envelopes in the pew racks and make our special gift.

In the 4th chapter of Acts we read:

"All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had. With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And God's grace was so powerfully at work in them all that there were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned land or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales and put it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to anyone who had need."

I'm not suggesting you sell all you have. I only ask that you pray for guidance and God's Grace to show us how we each can go the extra mile to insure Holy Spirit is able to fully share the Good News in this community now and into the future.