



"Glad Tidings"

Wysox Presbyterian Church

January 2014

Monday, January 6th, is the Epiphany of the Lord

Epiphany is the celebration of God's manifestation or self-revelation to the world in Jesus Christ. In particular, we celebrate the revelation of God's promise and purpose to the nations of the world, as the magi came from the East to worship to the Christ child, and God's covenant of grace is extended to all who believe the good news of Christ Jesus. The symbolism of light is important: not only because of the star that guided the magi, but as it relates to the bright dawning of God's self-revelation in Christ.

The word "epiphany" (from the Greek epiphaneia or theophaneia) means "appearance" or "manifestation" of God, and has roots in the word for sunrise or dawn. In ancient times, an epiphany meant either a visible manifestation of a god or the solemn visit of a ruler venerated as a god.

For Christians, Christmas marks the coming of God to us; Epiphany celebrates the appearance of the Lord in the midst of humanity. The Christmas stories of the birth of Immanuel declare the divine entry; Epiphany extols the revelation of God to the world in the person of Jesus of Nazareth.

In our celebrations of Christmas and Epiphany we rejoice in the dawning and the arising of Light in darkness. ... Epiphany not only discloses the Savior to the world but also calls the world to show forth Christ, to be witnesses to God's true Light. The timeless mystery of the incarnation, God in flesh, leads us forth to show and tell of Christ as God's gift of grace and



salvation

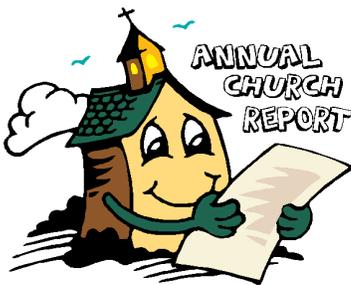


News and Upcoming Activities...

On December 15th, nominations for Elders were held during a short congregational meeting immediately following morning worship. Presented by the Nominating Committee to serve as Ruling Elders of Session for 2014 were Vaughn Hollenback, Rita VanDemark, Michelle Irvine and Dody Savercool. Nominations were open to the floor with no other names submitted. Elections were held and the four names as presented were voted on and approved to serve as Ruling Elders. On Sunday, January 5th we will have the Ordination and Installation of new Officers during the morning worship service. Thank you to Loretta Stevens and Ronald Irvine who have agreed to a second three year term of service. We would also like to take this opportunity to thank Betty Conner who completed her term of service on Session in December.

On Monday, January 13th, the church audit will be conducted at 6 pm by active Session members (prior to the session meeting). All committees and organizations are required to submit a completed 2013 balance sheet for the audit to Crystal at the church office by the 13th. If your account was recently transferred to the general fund, please complete the report up to the date of transfer and submit. If you have any questions concerning the transfer, please speak with our Treasurer, Lora Schmieg.

On Sunday, January 19th, Rick Schmieg has agreed to provide pulpit supply so Pastor Jira can attend the annual congregational meeting at the Lutheran Church.



Our **ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING** and luncheon will be held on Sunday, January 26th, immediately following morning worship. During the meeting the 2013 annual reports and 2014 budget will be reviewed. Everyone responsible for a committee or group is asked to have their completed information to Crystal by Wednesday, January 15th, so the report can be compiled. Please try and attend this important meeting and remember to bring your dish to pass for the luncheon.

2014 Church Directory

It's that time of year again....updating the church directory. Anyone who has changes to their address, phone number and/or would like to add their email address to the directory, please contact the church office at 570-265-6119.



Sewing Society

Due to the snowy winter day, we had a small crowd out for our Tuesday dinner, but we appreciated those who dined with us. Everyone enjoyed the meal. We had people who were there for the first time and they said they would be back.

Thanks to all the workers who braved the storm to be there to help. Many thanks to all who donated dishes and pies.

Hope to see you in January when we will be serving roast pork and sauerkraut.

Hope you all have a blessed holiday season.

God loves you and so do we.

LADIES



Written by Clara Wizelman

We are the ladies of the prayer circle.

We meet on Wednesday mornings.

We made out cards,

And we read The Bible.

It never does get boring.

We send cards to those who are ill,
And to families whose loved ones passed on.

We close with The Lord's Prayer,

And then the meeting is done.

Margaret tells some humorous jokes.

They are really quite cute!

Marty reads some church bloopers

Some of them are a real beaut!

Prayer Circle

We are still in Genesis where God promised Abraham to guide and bless him. Abraham was very obedient and prepared to sacrifice his son Isaac. There was much discussion about this. We marveled at the love story of Isaac and Rebekah. Isaac was like his father and was obedient also. Again, we studied about Jacob and Esau. The difference in their personalities and each was pampered by a different parent. We have obtained many ideas and insights into the biblical people, thanks to Pastor Jira, who is so knowledgeable.

We have sent many card, repeatedly prayed, and hope we send some sunshine to those who are seeing dark days. We would gladly remember anyone that you want. Please contact any Prayer Circle; however, please give us an address. We are so few in number and we extend a heartfelt invitation for you to join us. We meet every Wednesday morning at 9:30 in the conference room.

We especially want to remember Marion Lent, a long time member, who is undergoing therapy. May you get stronger. We all love you and miss you.

We wish all a very Merry Christmas and may we all have a peaceful New Year, with good health and happiness!

**The following were remembered on our Prayer List
November 13th thru December 11th
Prayer Circle Listing**

Angel List

Makayla Evans
Mason Barto
Ashley Weed
Marisa Ivey
Betty Miller
Nancy Irvine
Andrew Pardoe
Deb Mathers
Shawn Mastrantonio
Abbriella Brown
Caiden Irvine
Jim Christini

Current List

Whitney Rockwell
Hunter Shaw
Danny Schmeckenbecher
Marion Lent
Robert Allen
Otto Brown
Gladys Derr
Colleen Close
Elsie Zurn
Todd Maghamez
(Deployment)
Beverly Buffington
People of the Phillipines
Shirley-John-Warren
Strohl

Jim Allen
Wilbur Beers
Prudence Wilson
Lucille Pennay
Jim Wygralia
Millie Hollenback
William Griffs
Sandra Niuman
Tom Jennings
Barb Bailey
Sally Groff
Diane Place
Judy Roelands
Donald Smith
Rev. Dwight Albers
Richard Hollenback
Bob Soper
Mike Randall
Linda Chaffee
Jim Ennis
Howard Keir Family
Eulalie Hurley Family
Luke Flood
Our Nation
Phyllis Patton

Session Minutes

WYSOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH SESSION MEETING NOVEMBER 11, 2013

The regular meeting of the Session of the Wysox Presbyterian Church was called to order by Pastor Jira Albers on November 11, 2013 at 7:00 PM at the Wysox Presbyterian Church.

Opening devotions and prayer led by Elder Mary Bruce

Elders Present: Kim Barnes, Dave Blascak, Lori Blascak, Mary Bruce, Michelle Irvine, Ronald Irvine Jr., Deborah King, Dody Savercool and Loretta Stevens

Elders Excused: Betty Conner and Julie Palmer

Elders Absent: None

Guests Present: None

ORDER OF THE DAY:

1. The Docket for the meeting was approved on a motion by Elder Michelle Irvine and seconded by Elder Lori Blascak.
2. On a motion by Elder Michelle Irvine and second by Elder Mary Bruce the minutes of the Session Meeting on 10/14/2013 were approved, with noted correction.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Various thank you cards and letters of appreciation

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. Music & Worship: Elder Savercool reported:
 - a. Nov 24th Hanging of the Greens after church; Bring a lunch and join in beautifying the sanctuary
 - b. Nov 27th Thanksgiving Eve service to be held at 6pm; with light supper in Ferguson Hall
 - c. Dec 1st Communion and 1st Sunday of Advent
 - d. Dec 22nd Christmas Cantata being done jointly with Trinity Lutheran choir at both churches
 - e. Dec 24th Candlelight Christmas Eve service at 6pm; Communion by Intinction
2. Membership & Evangelism: Elder Stevens reported:
 - a. Visits and outreach efforts continue
3. Christian Education: Elder M. Irvine reported:
 - a. Youth Group to host a breakfast after the Cantata on Dec. 22nd
 - b. Youth Group to host Father/Son dinner on Feb 7th

Session Minutes Continued...

4. Mission: Elder M. Irvine reported:
 - a. Christmas Child boxes collected and delivered on Nov 18th
 - b. TACO Thanksgiving food drive underway
 - c. Grace Connection Christmas family project underway soon
5. Memorial: Elder Bruce:
6. Property: Elder Ron Irvine reported:
 - a. Still researching cost for panic bar on downstairs door
 - b. Snow plow truck might not be "fixable"; might have to hire out plowing
7. Personnel: Elder Ron Irvine
 - a. Continue to be please with job performance of our Secretary Crystal Babcock
8. Finance & Investments: Elder Lori Blascak:
 - a. Presented and reviewed the report prepared by committee member Frank Hoffman.
9. Recognition: Elder Mary Bruce
10. Nominating: Elders M. Irvine, Savercool and Conner, along with church members Margaret Gordon, Renee Arnold, and Mark King make up the Nominating Committee. Recruitment for new session members is continuing.

SPECIAL REPORTS

1. **Treasurer's Report:** Presented and reviewed the report submitted by Lora Schmieg
 - a. The monthly financial report was accepted on a motion by Elder Barnes, seconded by Elder M Irvine
2. **Pastor's Report:** Pastor Albers shared his report of activities for the past month.
3. **Lackawanna Presbytery:** Stated meeting being held Nov 16th with Pastor Jira planning to attend.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. **2014 Budget:** A line item by line item review and discussion was held. The draft 2014 budget will be revised based on the discussion held, and presented for adoption at the December meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Consideration of adoption of Sexual Offender response policy

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:20 pm.
Closing Prayer lead by Pastor Jira Albers

Next Session Meeting: December 9, 2013 @ 5:30 pm @ the Irvine home

Respectfully recorded and submitted by:

Kim D Barnes
Clerk of Session
