

JANUARY CALENDAR

Fri	1 st	Happy New Year	
Mon	4th	10-12 p.m.	Kid Junction
Wed	6th	12 and 5 p.m.	Bible Study (Zoom&Annex)
Thurs	7th	7 p.m.	Finance Committee
Wed	13th	12 and 5 p.m.	Bible Study (Zoom&Annex)
Thurs	14 th	7 p.m.	Administrative Board
Mon	18th	10-12 p.m.	Kid Junction
Wed	20th	12 and 5 p.m.	Bible Study (Zoom&Annex)
Wed	27th	12 and 5 p.m.	Bible Study (Zoom&Annex)

(continued from page 1.) prepare for the celebration of Easter Season. After that there is Pentecost Sunday and Trinity Sunday. Then we slip back into ordinary time that culminates the end of the Christian year on Christ the King Sunday.

The next major Sunday is the second Sunday of January. It is Baptism of the Lord Sunday and think of it as our renewal Sunday. We renew together the vows made at our Baptism and reaffirm our faith in an individual and communal sense. One thing about Baptism, it has been the Christian rite of initiation from the beginning of Christianity. I know we may not totally agree on the method of Baptism or the appropriate age for baptism, but one thing is for sure: Christians baptize!

Baptism is open to male and female and this subtle opening has helped paved the way for gender equality in the Christian faith, and I would think also in the secular world. When you wonder about God's grace, remember, you have been baptized! God's grace rests upon you. If baptism rested upon my faithfulness, then I would have to be baptized often, but baptism rests upon the faithfulness of God!

When Christians disagree, remember, we all have been baptized in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit and water was used. I know there are some Christians who only baptize in the name of Jesus Christ, but I believe yes they are still baptized. We are baptized and initiated into Christ's Church to be a light that reflects the light of God's love revealed in Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit leads us into this revelation and leads us continually in the way of Christ so that Christ is formed within us and among us.

January is also the month in which we celebrate the birth of Martin Luther King, Jr. He was a baptized Christian of the Baptist persuasion who, led by the Holy Spirit, pointed out that racism and segregation are inconsistent with being a follower of Christ. He was also in the forefront of equal pay for workers. His last visit to Memphis was to address unfair working conditions and the situation in which black sanitation workers were paid less than white sanitation workers. He was killed by a man who resented such a vision for humankind. May we renew our vision for equal pay and fair, just treatment for all as we reflect upon Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

Glenna and I thank you for your cards and thoughts during Christmas season. We are blessed to be here, and we pray that you had a joyful celebration of Christmas. We also wish you a joyful celebration of Epiphany when the star shined upon the birth of Jesus and the Wise Men (Magi) brought their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. May we share our gifts together with Christ's Church.

Pastor Mark McFadden



Donor

Taylor & Celia Vaughan

Rose Houk

MEMORIALS/HONORARIUMS

Fund

Unified Budget

Camp Dickenson

In memory of

Marguerite V. Neff

In honor of

Craig Worrell



Brent Crockett	2	Scott Kegley	16	Alicia Ford	23
Tyler Boyer	4	Marley Cornett	18	Susan Helton	23
Laura Reynolds	4	Ed Hanks II	18	Rickey Wilson	26
Carly Parks	8	Cameron Higgins	18	Vinnie Chappell	28
Rebecca Cardwell	9	Richard Farmer	21	Scott Wilson	28
Tim Spraker	10	Sarma Doane	22		
Taylor Vaughan	12	Paige Hanks	22		
Nancy Frangos	14				

Kid's Junction served 4 families and 11 children on December 21.

Thanks to Kid's Junction!



NATIONS FOR WHICH TO PRAY:

January 3— Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine

January 10— Iran, Iraq, Syria

January 17— Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Yemen

January 24— Cyprus, Greece, Turkey

January 31— Algeria, Libya, Morocco, Western Sahara, Tunisia

Sunday, January 3 (Epiphany Sunday) (Holy Communion)

Scripture: [Before Greeting: Isaiah 60:1-6, 9; Matthew 2:1-12]; Ephesians 3:1-12

Focus: Revealed Mystery

Sunday, January 10 (Baptism of the Lord Sunday)

Scripture: [Before Greeting: Mark 1:4-11]; Genesis 1:1-5; Acts 19:1-7

Focus: Renewal of our Baptismal Vows

Sunday, January 17 (Ordinary 2)

Scripture: John 1:43-51

Focus: Have your views ever changed?

Sunday, January 24 (Ordinary 3)

Scripture: Psalm 62

Focus: Struggling with God

Sunday, January 31 (Ordinary 4)

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 8:1-3

Focus: Misuse of knowledge

PRAYER LIST:

NEW ADDITIONS: Yvonne Strader Alexander (Taylor Alexander's grandmother); Keri Keith (Danis' granddaughter); Linda Painter (Erlene Ogburn's friend); Jake Widener & Lilly (Mark's cousin Jake had bypass surgery); Shelby & Gayle Phipps (Shirley DeZern's friends)

Shelly Algiers	James Duncan	Jane Naylor
Maggie Amburn	Charlotte East	Bud Nelson
Alice Anderson	Eddie Farris	Mary Parks
Bell Arvin	Susie Floyd	August Reavis
Sandy Billings	Brenda Gravely	James Rollins
Susie Blevins	Ronnie Gravely	Jo Rudy
Audene Bogert	JayJay Grimes	Barbara Sawyers
Betty Bowman	Mimi Hill	Linda Sharpe
Clare Boyer	Keith Helton	Benny Shupe
Skip Boyer	Angie Hill	Melissa Sizemore
Tracy Brannock	Laurie Hawks Jones	Tim Spraker
Gardner Brannon	Keri Grimes Keith	Autrey Taylor
Christine Briscoe	Don Knox	Sandy Ward
Max Brown	Penny Kyle	Judy White
Steve Burcham	Rubie Larrowe	Edith Wilson
Billy and Vivian Coleman	Pam Leadbetter	Jerry Wolford
Ruth Ann Cox	Danita Moore	Lloyd Works
Stacy Cox	Trish Moore	



JANUARY 2021

"I am the vine...you are the branches"

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INVITING—FORMING—SERVING

PASTORAL PONDERINGS

Christmas 2020 is now Christmas past. The year 2020 is now past and it will not be fondly remembered. It will be remembered as the pandemic year. We have adjusted, and yes, some more than others. Going into 2021 the pandemic is still among us and here in Galax and the Twin Counties area we still have high numbers of infections, as does the rest of the nation. There are vaccinations that give us hope but having gone through Christmas season may Jesus Christ always be our hope, so no matter what happens we are anchored to that rock that gives us stability and vision.

We celebrate Epiphany on Epiphany Sunday, January 3, during worship. God's light has shined upon us! Epiphany literally means "shine upon." It reminds me of one song that I did like from our Resurrection events with youth in January. "Shine Jesus shine!"

As we gaze on your kingly brightness, so our faces display your likeness.

Ever changing from glory to glory, mirrored here

may our lives tell your story.

Shine on me, shine on me.

May Christ's light shine upon us so that we reflect God's light to the world in word and deed! May we not permit any situational event or events dim the light and sharing of God's love.

I do note that Epiphany is January 6 and concludes the 12 days of Christmas but celebrating it on Sunday gives us Protestants a better chance to celebrate it together since we are not that good at attending non-Sunday Christian holidays. And oh, this is not meant as a criticism, but a reflection of our Protestant reality when it comes to Holy Days and the few that we do observe.

When I was growing up, I only remember two Christian holidays, Christmas and Easter (and the occasional one week or two-week revival). I am glad I learned about the seasons of the Christian year beginning with Advent preparation, the celebration of Christmas and Epiphany, a slip into ordinary time, then Transfiguration of the Lord Sunday as we head into Lenten Season beginning on Ash Wednesday to
(continued on page 3.)