

GREENSTONE GAZETTE

Nottingham Presbyterian Church PC (USA)

497 W. Christine Road

Nottingham, PA 19362-9760

January 2019

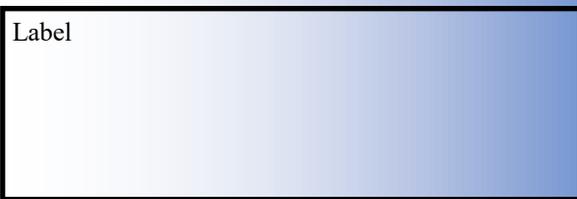
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Bring the love of Jesus to our community by fostering an accepting, nurturing and compassionate environment. Expanding our missions, infrastructure and worship experiences to meet the community's needs. Passionately and enthusiastically developing opportunities for personal and spiritual growth. Seeking partnerships with local organizations in pursuit of God's vision for the greater Nottingham area.



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.

An excerpt from the *Companion to the Book of Common Worship* (Geneva Press, 2003, 94-95):

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 for all persons. Some call this ongoing epiphany the work of Christmas.

NPC Winter Closing Procedure: The Pastor will make the call by 8:00 a.m. the morning of the service. A message will be sent via e-mail. If you wish to be notified by telephone, please place your name and telephone number in the "Suggestion Box" located on the little table as you enter the small room at the back entrance.

January Volunteers

Readers:

- 6 Tenille Dewees
- 13 Gerry Davis
- 20 Ruth Ann Sumner
- 27 Jim Lewis

Head Usher:
Jim Lewis

Deacon of the month:
Alice Witmer

Communion Prep Team:
Ruth Ann Sumner
Alice Witmer

**Communion Servers
January 6**
Donna Davis
Gerry Davis

February Volunteers

Readers:

- 3 Ruth Ann Sumner
- 10 Cindy Sudnikovich
- 17 Bill Moore
- 24 Brooke Glover

Head Usher:
Gerry Davis

Deacon of the month:
Dar Gray

Communion Prep Team:
Ruth Ann Sumner
Alice Witmer

**Communion Servers
February 3**



Volunteers Needed:

The Lighthouse Youth Center in Oxford is looking for Volunteers. The mission of the Lighthouse is to shine the light and love of Jesus Christ to the Oxford Area youth through our staff directed, volunteer supported, activity center and programs. The programs are no cost to youth 9-18 and are divided into three main areas.

First, **recreation**, offered at their facility. Second, **education**, through homework assistance (5:30—6:30 M-F), educational programming and field trips, job coaching, college scholarships, music lessons, and arts and crafts. Third is a **meal program**, that provides an afternoon snack then a 5pm supper meal with a motivational speaker before the meal. The lighthouse believes a relationship with God is an important part of life.

To be a volunteer, the person must be at least 18 years old, attend a local church, live a Christ-like life, believe in the Lighthouse mission and complete an application. For more information you can contact Amy Perkins by phone at 610-467-6000 or by email at amy@oxfordlighthouse.org The website is:

Oxfordlighthouse.org

Seeking partnerships with local organizations in pursuit of God's vision for the greater Nottingham area.

Deacon's Corner



Thank you to all the folks that contributed to the annual Deacon's Toys for Tots toy drive. We collected 42 toys for the drive. The box was overflowing!

Did you know? The Deacons handle our weekly prayer list. Emergency prayer requests are emailed to our prayer list participants.

Christmas gift baskets were assembled and delivered to our friends that can't make it out to worship with us.



Food and monetary donations were collected in December for the Divine Sent Food Cupboard for Christmas dinners. 217

pounds of food was collected and over \$270! **Thank you to all that participated, making this food drive very successful!**



Beautiful Poinsettias adorned our Church for Christmas. Thanks to the Deacons for coordinating this project.

Jolan Squires coordinated through NPC and the community, last minute Christmas meals for 14 Lighthouse families. We are blessed that she will join our Deacons in January!



Coming up:

A food drive in February. Divine Sent Food Cupboard serves many Senior Citizens. Winter is a hard time for folks to pay for heating and food.



January Birthdays

Jan Anniversaries

none

February Birthdays

Feb Anniversaries

Beloved brothers and sisters in Christ,

It hardly seems possible that we have completed our first full year together! What a year it has been! I want to express my deepest gratitude for all that you have done – for Christ, for the church, for my family and for me!

As you know, this year has, in many ways, been a difficult one for me personally, with the death of my father in May, and my illnesses toward the end of the year. Through it all, you have been supportive in all ways possible. Your generosity of spirit, love, support and finances are so very much appreciated. As much, or more, your generosity to our community through the Back to School program, the food collections for Divine Sent Food Ministry, Toys for Tots, the support of a child, the use of our facilities by various groups, all have shown your deep commitment to caring for others in Christ’s name. The hours given by so many of our members to caring for others, and for our facilities, reflect this dedication as well.



I am looking forward to our continued shared ministry in the coming year! We will resume our Bible study, The Story, on January 8th (10 a.m.) and 9th (7 p.m.) In the challenging times facing our world, grounding ourselves in the Scriptures through thoughtful study and prayer is essential! On January 27th, during the morning worship we will install our new and returning Elders and Deacons. On February 10th, also during morning worship, we will celebrate my installation as Installed Pastor of Nottingham. Session will be having a retreat to pray and discern God’s leading for us in the coming months. I ask that you also be in prayer for Nottingham as we consider how we can best be Christ’s body in our community and in support of God’s work beyond our own community. Part of our connection with other churches will begin with celebrating the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday in a joint service on January 20. And this is just the beginning of the year!

Blessings be upon you all, this coming year and in the years to come.
Your grateful sister and servant of Christ,

Pastor Merritt

WHAT IS PER CAPITA?

Per capita is part of the glue that holds Presbyterians together by supporting various ministries in our church. Per capita exists to allow the whole church to share equitably in those things that make us Presbyterian—our connectedness, our system of councils that allow ruling elders and teaching elders together to discern the mind of Christ, our core structures that keep us together as a church, and our call to work for full participation in decision-making

Further, per capita allows us to work with other churches to further the witness and mission of Jesus Christ in the world. To this end, per capita is a form of stewardship at the presbytery, synod, and General Assembly levels allowing us to use our gifts, talents, and resources to promote the mission of the triune God.

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Peace is not merely a goal that we seek, but a means by which we arrive at the goal.—Martin Luther King Jr

Martin Luther King Service:
Sunday January 20
St. Christopher’s Episcopal Church

Bringing the love of Jesus to our community

Winter tips—DON’T FALL!

From the Mayo Clinic

You have a greater chance of having a **debilitating fall** as you age, even if you’re active, healthy and full of life. 1) **Inspect for hazards.** What floors become slippery when wet? Are there tripping hazards, rugs, floorboards, etc.? Should you have railings, nonslip treads or ramps? 2) Have driveways and sidewalks plowed and salted. **Get help doing this!** 3) **Walk like a penguin.** Take short, careful steps when on snow and ice. Use a wide stance and point feet slightly outward to maintain center of balance.

4) **Exercise your legs and core.** Even chair exercise helps! Improve your balance, coordination and flexibility through low-impact yoga, tai chi, water workouts or dance. (Our YMCA has many of these classes—ask Becky and Connie!)

5) **Know your limitations.** Things like medications, hearing loss and fatigue can be safety factors. You’re probably not as nimble as you used to be. :(

6) **Good footwear inside and outside.** Boots that provide good traction are a must. Consider the removable ice cleats that strap onto your shoes or boots. 7) **Keep your head up!** Pay attention to where you’re walking. 8) **Use railings.** Get into that habit NOW. 9) **Take it easy.** Give yourself plenty of time! 10) **Be prepared.** Wear winter gear even on short walks so you’ll be protected if you take a spill. Always take your cell phone with you so you can call for help if needed.

Caregivers Support Group presented by the Alzheimer’s Association Delaware Valley Chapter. The first meeting will be held on January 5, 2019 at 10:00am at St. Christopher’s Episcopal Church

Session (our Ruling Elders): Donna Davis, Jerry Jackson, Jim Lewis, Nina Hansen, Becky Reiber, Deb Roney

Deacons: Chris Dolinger, Dar Gray, Connie Lewis, Dave Polig, Mark Roney, Jolan Squires, Alice Witmer,

Thanks to Nina Hansen for making many of the costumes used in this year’s Children’s Impromptu Christmas Pageant!



We will continue with our study of The Story, both during Worship and in Bible Study.

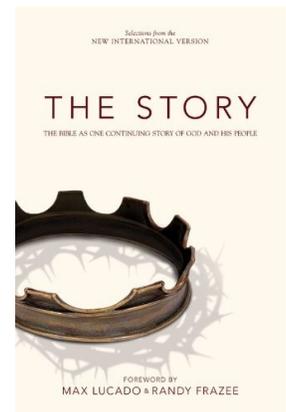
Next Adult Bible Study Classes:

Tuesday Morning, January 8, 2019 @ 10:00 a.m.

Wednesday Evening, January 9, 2019 @ 7:00 p.m.

We will continue with The Story, **Chapter 11 and 12.**

We meet in the Foundation Room of the Church.



Passionately and enthusiastically developing opportunities for personal and spiritual growth.

Per Capita (continued)

Through their sessions, congregations pay an annual amount of money per church member—per capita apportionment—to their respective presbyteries. The per capita amount requested from a congregation is a combined total of requests from that congregation’s presbytery, the synod in which the presbytery is located and the General Assembly—based on their respective budgets for the coming year(s).

2019 Per Capita:

\$ 24.75 - Donegal Presbytery

\$ 2.30 - The Trinity Synod

\$ 7.73 - General Assembly

\$ 34.78 - Total Per Capita

Our Website: Nottinghampc.org