

EASTON CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

JANUARY, 2020

PEACHBLOSSOM PRESS NEWSLETTER

Mission Statement

*“Sharing the love and
blessing of God with all.”*



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Along with a few hundred thousand others, I visited the theater in late December to see the latest “Star Wars” movie, the finale to the series of nine films in George Lucas’ Skywalker saga. It had the usual mix of spaceship battles and dramatic action scenes and wacky aliens. But the heartbeat of the “Star Wars” films, at least when they’re at their best, is the persistent victory of light over darkness—portrayed by the Force vs. the “Dark Side,” in this case. Against all odds, the light wins out.

One meaning of the word “epiphany” is to “shine forth,” used in the Christian faith to describe the moment when the wonder of God was made manifest in Jesus. We see glimpses of this in the recognition of the Messiah by Simeon and Anna at the temple, in the visit by three Magi who made a long trek to see the Christ child, and in continuing revelations through Jesus’ life in the years after.

In the first chapter of the Gospel of John, the author writes: “What came into being through the Word was life, and the life was the light for all people. The light shines in darkness, and the darkness doesn’t extinguish the light” (CEB). Some versions translate it as “the darkness did not comprehend the light”—that it didn’t know what to make of this light, or what to do with it, so it was powerless to stop it.

Amid the myriad challenges of our culture, it can be easy to feel that darkness is winning out. Seeing glimpses of light can be harder and harder. That makes it all the more important for us to focus our gaze, finding the light and reflecting and magnifying it wherever we can. As we do that and join with others, we bring illumination to our world.

Where will you seek the light of Christ this year, and how will you help it radiate? Sometimes it’s as simple as looking in on a neighbor, learning or trying something new that widens our horizons, giving a bit of our time to help someone out, bringing a friend to church, cultivating a deeper faith with more time in prayer or Bible study, or just committing once again to being more patient or more loving.

As the wise Master Yoda in “Star Wars” once said, “In a dark place we find ourselves, and a little more knowledge lights our way.” Blessings to you as you seek the way forward in this new decade.

—Pastor Walt 😊

Sermon & Scriptures

January 5

The Faces of Christmas: The Wise Men
Isa. 60:1-6, Matt. 2:1-12

WINTER 2020

January 12

Lift Up Your Voice
Psalm 29; Isa. 58:1-9a; Acts 10:34-43

January 19

Taking the Plunge
Psa. 40:1-11; Isa. 49:1-7; 1 Cor. 1:1-9

January 26

The Night Is Always Darkest...
Psa. 27:1, 4-9; Isa. 9:1-4; Matt. 4:12-17ff

February 2

Conditions of Employment
Psalm 15; Micah 6:1-8; Matt. 15:1-12

February 9

Battery and a Salt
Psa. 112:1-10; Matt. 5:13-16

February 16

Decisions, Decisions
Deut. 30:15-20; Matt. 5:21-26; Sirach 15:15-20

February 23

Mountain Moments
Exod. 24:12-18; Psalm 99; 2 Peter 1:16-21



2020 Leadership Team and other Offices

Chair: Gene Walbridge
Nurture Chair: Sharon Miller
Witness Chair: Anne Harvey
Stewards Chair: Geoff Fox
Christian Ed Chair: Wanda Baynard

Nurture NV*: Terri Jo Tarr
Witness NV*: Diane Shores
Stewards NV*: Leroy Miller
Christian Ed NV*: Liz Wildasin
(*Non Voting)

Moderator: Robert Hutchison
Church Clerk: Lee Ann Fox
Treasurer: Dale Fike
Financial Secretary: Judy Musch
Asst. Financial Secretary: Jane Marshall

Deacon Chair/Recorder: Sharon Miller
Deacons: Leroy Miller
Les & Marlena Groves
Geoff & Lee Ann Fox
Ron & Elisa Miller
John & Norma Trax
Rick & Jane Marshall
Mat & Wanda Baynard

Annual Conf Delegate: Judy Musch
District Conf Delegates: Susan Walbridge
Cheryl Dayton

Camp Mardela Rep: Robert Musch



Our deepest sympathy to the family of Howard "JR" Wooters. Mr. Wooters passed away on December 11. The memorial service was held at the Easton Church of the Brethren on Saturday, December 21.

Our deepest sympathy to the family of Shirley Allen. Mrs. Allen passed away on December 23. Arrangements will be private.

We pray Christ presence and love to the Wooters and Allen families.

Our Prayer List

Please pray especially for the following individuals and their families: The family of Howard, "JR" Wooters, the family of Shirley Allen, Beth Lockwood, Ken Gresh, Jean & Don Saballus, Jocelyn Lister Koenig, Richard Scott, Billy Harding, Chuck Davis, Annabel Young, Larry Fike, Childlene Brooks, John Ford, Alan Segar, Bruce Butler, Sharon Lister, Virginia Watson, Brent Spurry, Pat Saathoff, Pat Lewis, Bob Fletcher, Ellen Walbridge, Pete Haynes, Lee Roesti, Norman Harding, Gene & Betty Lednum, GraceWay CoB, Nancy Scheffler, Roger Plagge, JK Rider, John Nalley, Bobby Hopkins, Kurt Kline, Dee Candel, Mary Ann Kiser, Doug Edsall, Lois Schall, Meredith Kelly, Natalee Jones, Doris Walbridge, Jeff Wright, continuous prayers for our church family in Nigeria, continued prayers for Comfort Amos, Barbara Taylor, Audrey Geib, Leo Truban, Emerson Fike, Katelyn Howard, Christine & Kenny Fike. Pray for leaders & people that are working towards peace. Please phone the church to add or remove persons on our prayer list.



Special dates in January

- New Year's Day, January 1, 2020
- Epiphany, January 6, 2020
- Baptism of the Lord, January 12, 2020
- Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, January 18-25, 2020
- Martin Luther King Jr. Day, January 20, 2020



JANUARY Birthdays

- 1 Sean Randall-Jones, Joyce Battle, Kathy Fike, Chad Allan Fike
- 2 Lee Ann Fox
- 4 David Fike, Lois Sanger
- 5 Charles Ball, Jr.
- 7 Julie Griep
- 8 Liam Johnson, Shelby Wood, Robert & Matthew Wooters
- 10 Kathryn Ball, Lyn Banghart
- 11 Larry Milburn, Dylan Seese, Garey Lee Fike, Ian Young
- 12 Aaron Joseph Miller, Patty Schwaninger, Jenson Hagenberger
- 14 Maggie Berkey
- 15 Chad Fox
- 16 Paula Colburn, Aaron Holmes
- 17 Morgan Kilmon
- 18 Garrett Foreman, Terri Jo Tarr
- 19 Brittyn Honeman
- 20 Nathan Musch
- 21 Wanda Baynard
- 22 Norma Trax
- 23 Misty Wood, Eric Henderson
- 24 Nick Berkey, David Nalley, Jennifer Grubbs
- 27 Jordan Ball
- 29 Naomi Willey, Nathan Moore
- 30 Tina Wooters, Lauri Glass, Brandon Miles
- 31 Linda Lyons, Billy Miles, Anna Valliant

JANUARY Anniversaries

- 12 Dennis & Tina Wooters
- 14 Michael & Tracy Correa, Robert & Judy Musch
- 23 Gene & Jan Hagenberger
- 26 Phillip & Margie Ridenour
- 27 Jimmy & Linda Mattox

OH, BOTHER: SCRAMBLED NAMES

Jan. 18 is the birthday of A.A. Milne, author of the “Winnie the Pooh” books. (He would have been 138 this year.) Can you unscramble all the “Winnie the Pooh” characters below? If you don’t get them right away, don’t worry. As Winnie the Pooh said, “Rivers know this: There is no hurry. We shall get there some day.”

LEGTIP

LOW

ROEEYE

GAANK

HSTORECHIRP BROIN

BIRTAB

EGGRIT

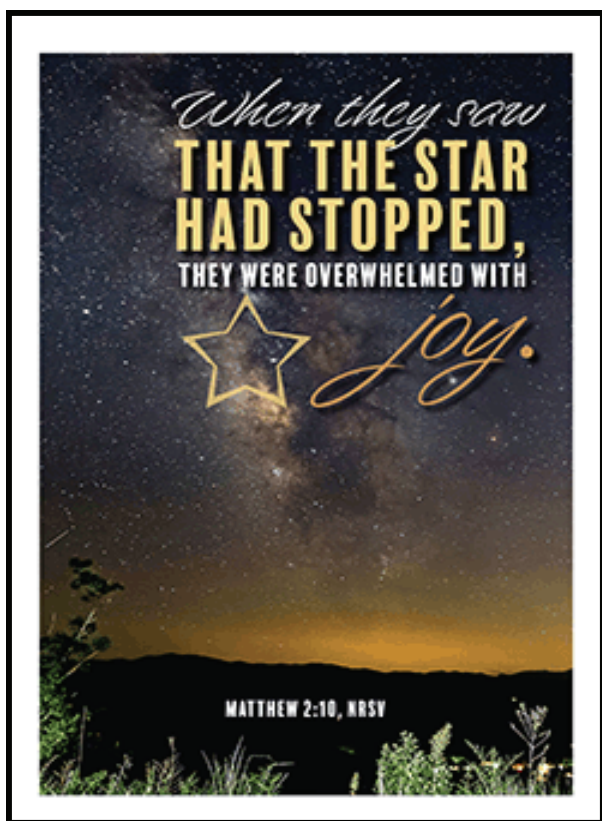
EHAPLUMFF

ZOLEWO

REPHOG



ANSWERS (in order): Piglet, Owl, Eeyore, Kanga, Christopher Robin, Rabbit, Tigger, Heffalump, Woozle, Gopher.



Leadership Team Retreat, January 18, 2020

Gather in Fellowship Hall at 9:00 a.m. Worship starts around 9:30. Meeting with guests starts at 10:00. Adjournment no later than 3:30 p.m. Sign up for food is in narthex. All incoming and outgoing members are encouraged to attend.



“What a wonderful thought it is that some of the best days of our lives haven’t even happened yet.”
—Anne Frank

Volunteer Opportunities

Talbot Interfaith Shelter

The 2020 volunteer list is available for sign-up. Please take the time and look to see where you can spare a few hours of your time every other month. Any questions, please contact Norma Trax. **Our next date is January 19, 2020.**

Interested in Serving as Worship Leader or doing the Children's Time?

We're always looking for new people to share their gifts! It doesn't take a lot of time--just a bit of preparation and a willingness to serve. If you would like to join this team of volunteers or want more information, please contact the church office or Pastor Walt.

Neighborhood Service Center

Please contact Marilyn Neal, if you are interested in volunteering at the center. Their phone number is 410-822-5015.

NSC Food Pantry

Let's not forget that food prices keep going up! When we pay attention to our local, national and international food needs, we are reminded that people suffer from food insecurity all around. If we do not share of our bounty, others go hungry. Let us give, so others may live. Any non-perishable food items with good "best if used by" dates are accepted. **There is a container in the narthex to put your non-perishable items.**

Ridgeway House Lunches

The 1st & 3rd Fridays of each month. For months that have five Fridays, lunches will be provided on the 1st, 3rd, and 5th Friday. Contact Loretta Lohr (410-822-3094). Monetary and food donations (drink boxes, individual fruit cups, small bags of chips and cookies) are always welcome.

Dixon House Senior Living Center

The Dixon House located at 108 N. Higgins in Easton is seeking volunteers interested in helping out occasionally with crafts projects for the residents. All supplies are provided. If you would like to help, please contact Pastor Walt or the church office, or you can contact activities director Shelly Laroque directly at 410-822-6661.





Volunteers for January



	January 5	January 12	January 19	January 26
Preaching	Pastor Walt	Pastor Walt	Pastor Walt	Pastor Walt
Worship Leader	Wanda Baynard	Jay Lister	Mat Baynard	Jane Marshall
Head Usher/	Geoff Fox	Geoff Fox	Geoff Fox	Geoff Fox
Ushers	Dale Fike & Geoff Fox	Seth & Lee Willis	Dale Fike & Geoff Fox	Seth & Lee Willis
Greeters	Barbara Saulsbury & Liz Wildasin	Paul & Ginny Turkington	Mat & Wanda Baynard	Geoff & Lee Ann Fox
Deacons on call	Ron & Elisa Miller	John & Norma Trax	Geoff & Lee Ann Fox	Mat & Wanda Baynard
Special Music	Ellen Wile	Choir	Carolyn Lane	Choir
Flowers	Bruce Butler	Robert & Judy Musch		

2020 Disaster Response Auction Booklet Patron Ad Sign Up Sheet

The Mid-Atlantic Disaster Response Committee deeply appreciated and thanks everyone for your past support of the Mid-Atlantic Disaster Response Auction Booklet. If you have not advertised in the booklet previously, they invite you to consider doing so this year. The 40th Annual Mid-Atlantic Disaster Response Auction will be held on May 2, 2020, beginning at 9:00 a.m. at the Carroll County Agricultural Center in Westminster, MD. Your support enables them to provide even more assistance to more disaster victims this year.

The sign-up sheet is located in the narthex. Deadline to sign-up is Sunday, February 9.

WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE HYMN?

During January and February, we'll be highlighting some of the favorite hymns of the congregation. If you would like to participate, send the title of your favorite hymn and a brief explanation of why it's your favorite to the church office or Pastor Walt by Jan. 5. Then each Sunday we will highlight one hymn and invite you to share why you picked it. We can either read what you've written, or you can come up and tell the congregation a bit about it as we celebrate the gift of music!

Box Tops for Education

Please continue to collect the box tops for education during this school year. The box tops are found on a variety of food items we purchase. The box tops will enable us in some small way help the school children of Talbot County. Thank you for your participation.



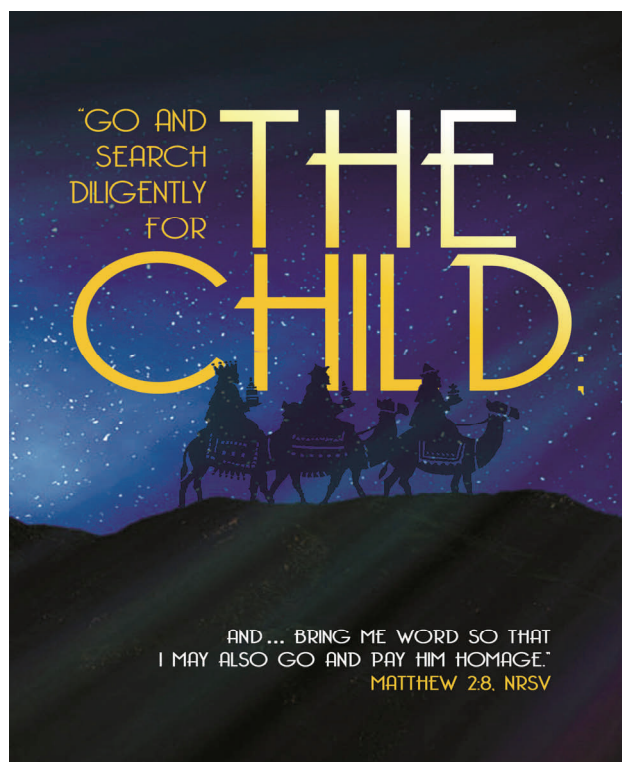
Your Witness Team
Anne Harvey & Diane Shores

Attendance & Offering for December

*** All End of Year Offerings need to be in by January 5, 2020. Thank you.

	12/1/19	12/8/19	12/15/19	12/22/19	12/29/19	Totals
Distributions						
General (06)						
Envelopes	2,205.00	4,427.00	3,488.00	2,699.00	1,790.00	14,609.00
Loose Change/Cash	5.00	8.00	0.00	50.00	68.00	131.00
Tithes	2,210.00	4,435.00	3,488.00	2,749.00	1,858.00	14,740.00
06 Income						
Building Use						
Tidewater Singers					250.00	250.00
Safe Harbor		30.00				30.00
Mid-Shore Intergroup, Inc	575.00					575.00
Kolakowski Wedding	300.00					300.00
Dutchmans Lane Rent		1,155.00				1,155.00
Harrison St. Rent				1,155.00		1,155.00
Subtotal of Income	875.00	1,185.00	0.00	1,155.00	250.00	3,465.00
Totals	3,085.00	5,620.00	3,488.00	3,904.00	2,108.00	18,205.00
Special Offerings (07)						
Deacon Fund		1,000.00				1,000.00
In Kind						
In & Out						
Advent Offering			105.00	20.00		125.00
Poinsettias	26.00	16.00		10.00	8.00	60.00
Pancake Breakfast Tickets		28.00	31.00			59.00
Round Top		50.00	35.00			85.00
Totals	26.00	1,094.00	171.00	30.00	8.00	1,329.00
Totals	3,111.00	6,714.00	3,659.00	3,934.00	2,116.00	19,534.00





JANUARY

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