



# Orange Presbyterian Church

## *Presbyterian Perspectives*

January 2019

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## Epiphany - January 6



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.

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## OPC Annual Congregational Meeting

### January 27

The Annual Congregational Meeting of the Orange Presbyterian Church will be held on Sunday, January 27, following Worship. The Annual Meeting is an opportunity to review the ministry of OPC for the past year. At the meeting, we will receive reports from our various session committees and other groups to highlight our work and ministry from 2018. We will also have a presentation of the 2019 budget.



*Packets will be available in the office and in the narthex following worship on Sunday, January 13.*

# Lectionary Readings for January

These readings are from the Revised Common Lectionary (RCL) and are often the basis for the sermon and anthem. These readings are offered to help in your preparation for worship on Sunday.

While we don't necessarily have four readings on Sunday, the lectionary provides an Old Testament, Psalm, Epistle, and Gospel reading to prepare for worship.

## January 6

Isaiah 60:1-6  
 Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14  
 Ephesians 3:1-12  
 Matthew 2:1-12

## January 20

Isaiah 62:1-5  
 Psalm 36:5-10  
 1 Corinthians 12:1-11  
 John 2:1-11

## January 13

Isaiah 43:1-7  
 Psalm 29  
 Acts 8:14-17  
 Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

## January 27

Nehemiah 8:1-10  
 Psalm 19  
 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a  
 Luke 4:14-21

## Thank You

Thank you for your expressions of sympathy with the recent passing of my father, Harry Saxton. Some will take particular interest in knowing that at his Celebration of Life family gathering, our closing prayer was the Garden Prayer below used by the Rapid Ann Garden Club.



May and Mike

### A Garden Club Prayer

Our father in Heaven, we give thanks for the beauty of the earth and the glory of the skies, for Thy heavenly sunshine, rain and dew. Keep us ever mindful that Thou are the unseen Gardener who guides the tender seed and bulb, and may we find courage, comfort and blessings in the face of each lovely flower. May the sunset of our lives be the master arrangement of all things beautiful, fathered from the gardens of our hearts. Amen.

To the church family,

Words cannot fully express our appreciation for the wonderful send-off fellowship prepared in our honor. We have finally arrived here on Smith Mountain Lake and are enjoying over a foot of snow! The scenery takes our breath away and I hope it always will.

Church family, we wish you every happiness, peace, and hope as you continue to carry on God's work. We will think of you often with fond memories. If you are ever in the area, please feel free to drop in.

Fondly,  
 Lee and Linda Nash

## Treasurer's Report as of November 30, 2018

Beginning Balance	\$	68,365.90	Other Contributions:	
Income	\$	11,627.24	5 Cents-a-Meal	\$ 209.35
Expenses	\$	5,037.02	Hymnals	\$ 732.00
Ending Balance	\$	74,956.12	Music Fund	\$ 667.97
			Memorial Fund	\$ 78.99
			Preschool Scholarship Fund	\$ 1,445.68

# January 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <b>Indicates Birthday</b>		<b>1</b> <i>New Year's Day</i> Office Closed	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>  <i>Anne Somerville</i> <i>Karen Tinsley</i>  1:30 Blood Drive 6:00 Covenant Review 6:00 Spiritual Formation	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 9:00 Sanctuary Undecorating
<b>6</b>  <i>Carol Roop</i> <i>Epiphany</i> 11:00 Worship Communion	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>  10:30 Morning Circle	<b>9</b>  6:15 Bell Choir 7:30 Adult Choir	<b>10</b>  4:00 W&M  6:00 Finance	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> 11:00 Worship	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>  7:00 Session	<b>16</b>  <i>Erin Roop</i> <i>Matthew Gibson</i>  6:15 Bell Choir 7:30 Adult Choir	<b>17</b>  <i>David Woolfrey, Sr.</i>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>  <i>Kim Dukes</i>
<b>20</b>  <i>Gene Whitaker</i> 11:00 Worship	<b>21</b>  <i>Martin Luther King Jr. Day</i> Office Closed  7:00 History Group	<b>22</b>  <i>Reese Thomas</i>	<b>23</b>  6:15 Bell Choir 7:30 Adult Choir	<b>24</b>  <i>Shirley Hopkins</i> <i>Ron Rose</i>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>  <i>Ted Haberland</i> <i>Wyatt Mills</i>
<b>27</b> 11:00 Worship <i>5 Cents-a-Meal</i> 12:15 Annual Congregational Meeting	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>  6:15 Bell Choir 7:30 Adult Choir	<b>31</b>  <i>Mildred Butts</i>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>  <i>Robin Kendall</i>

<b>Greeters</b>	<b>Acolytes</b>	<b>Nursery Helpers</b>	<b>Pray Station</b>	<b>Counters</b>
6 Dot Marks	6 Ryder Rose	6 Melanie Rose Anne Clements	6 May Saxton	6 Connie Norberg Cindy Reid
13 Ralph and Carole Sue Graves	13 Matthew Gibson	13 Karen Ulan Ryder Rose	13 Rachel Gibson	13 Dianne Haberland Ralph Graves
20 Lynn and Anne Clements	20 Taylor Gibson	20 Alice Parcell May Saxton	20 Ellen Kendall	20 Louise Whitaker Ted Sherwin
27 Ted and Suzanne Sherwin	27 Anne Clements	27 Jim Reid Millie Tyner	27 Karen Ulan	27 Shirley Newman Cheryl Lewis

## Volunteers Needed!

Volunteers are needed to host the Coffee Fellowship this winter. The sign-up sheet is in the East Room with plenty of open spots! Join with a group of friends, your flock, or your committee. This is a great way to show hospitality to guests and to the rest of the congregation.



Sanctuary Flowers

There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex to provide flowers for the sanctuary. The flowers add beauty to our worship service and are a way you can honor or remember a loved one, or just to share your love for flowers and arranging.

## Prayer Chain

The OPC Prayer Chain is up and running! We know that often we have prayer concerns that cannot wait until Worship on Sunday. If you have an immediate prayer concern, please contact May Saxton at [saxton-family@comcast.net](mailto:saxton-family@comcast.net), call her at 540-661-7694, or go to the church web site and click on the Prayer Request icon. When a prayer request is received, our five prayer warriors are contacted so that they can start offering intercessory prayer as soon as possible.

If you would like to join the Prayer Chain, please contact May.



## Thank You from the Staff



We all appreciate your generosity year-round, and especially at the holidays, both in your gift and in allowing us time off to be with family and friends to enjoy this special time.

Melanie, Al, Theresa, and Anne

## Bazaar Update



Many, many thanks to everyone who assisted with our bazaar this year to make it our very best! The members of our congregation and Habitat for Humanity were so generous with their time and talents - making delicious soup, setting up tables, baking, arranging, making greenery arrangements, making crafts, attending workshops, kitchen duty, collecting payments, advertising, clean up, and so much more. The bazaar brought in \$6,721.48 to distribute between our 3 groups listed below.

We also thank our church family members and community members for your overwhelming monetary contributions to three community organizations through Alternative Gifts! The total collected was \$2,080, and the final distribution was as follows:

- Habitat for Humanity - \$951.66
- Christian Emergency Council - \$731.67
- Young Life - \$396.67

Through our support of alternative gifts, we make our community a better place!

## Winter Weather Schedule Changes



In the event of winter weather affecting our area, Orange Presbyterian Church will make every attempt to hold Worship at 11:00 am. We will do our best to clear our parking lot and walkways to ensure the safety of members and visitors.

If the weather situation becomes unsafe, we will cancel services and activities at the church. Our practice is that the pastor (at present, our supply pastor) confers with the Clerk of Session to make the decision about cancelling the service.

Shepherds are immediately notified to make calls to the members of their flock. We make every effort to contact the local radio and TV stations. You should check these television stations: WVIR TV - Channel 29, NBC; WVAW TV - Channel 16, ABC; WCAV TV - Channel 19, CBS. Radio station: WJMA - 103.1 FM.

## OPC History Covenant Group

Join us on Monday, January 21, at 7:00 pm in the Leland Lord Library, for our next meeting as we continue to discuss and share new finds regarding OPC's History in preparation for our 175th anniversary in 2020!



**Church  
History**

## Preschool Corner

I'm always astonished at what young children can accomplish in such a short amount of time. December was particularly short for us due to the snow but both classes managed to make several parent gifts, ornaments, and multiple holiday crafts. The older children ended the month with a Christmas program for their families and refreshments in our classroom. For the younger class, we invited parents for a holiday lunch.

Beginning in January, we will have two staff changes. Mrs. Williams and Mrs. Ernst have both taken full-time jobs, so Mrs. Bodendorf and I will finish the year. We are blessed to have two exceptional groups!

Mrs. Ski

## American Red Cross Blood Drive

Thursday, January 3, 1:30 to 7:00 pm  
OPC Fellowship Hall



OPC is hosting the American Red Cross Blood Drive on Thursday, January 3, from 1:30 to 7:00 pm.

Those who wish to donate should stay well-hydrated that day and maintain a healthy level of iron in your diet in the weeks before your donation. You can call, visit the Web site, or use the app to make an appointment, or just walk in. More information can be found on the bulletin board outside the church office.

## Souper Bowl of Caring February 3



We are collecting cans of soup for our annual Souper Bowl Sunday festivities on February 3.

Beginning Sunday, January 20, we will have team boxes in the narthex for you to place your cans of soup. Watch your bulletins for more details. Help us provide soup for those in our community who are hungry! Thank you!

## Poinsettias

**Gifts were made to the Glory of God  
and in Honor of:**

*The Congregation of OPC  
by Nan Hawkins and Rich Knox  
Martha Clark by Jim and Cindy Reid  
Rich Knox and Nan Hawkins  
by Mike and May Saxton  
Ethel Rhodes by Suzanne Sherwin*

**Gifts were made to the Glory of God  
and in Memory of:**

*Leroy Crowder by Nancy Crowder  
Our parents by Don and Joanna Davies  
Cinde Dodson by Martin Dodson  
Joseph and Ida Hebrance  
by Carol and Joan Hebrance*

*Lewis Hutchison by Winnie Higgins*

*Lee and Mary Win Brown  
by Winnie Higgins*

*John, Janet, and Jo Kendall by the  
Kendall Family*

*Julius, Ellen, and George Patrick Dees  
by the Kendall Family*

*Bill Newman by Shirley Newman*

*Penn Mohrmann by Shirley Newman*

*Beatrice Langford by Lloyd and Alice Parcell*

*Larry O. Phillips by Lavinia Phillips*

*John and Helen Reid by Jim and Cindy Reid*

*Richard Rhodes by Suzanne Sherwin*

*John and Lois Sherwin by Ted Sherwin*

*Etzell and Virginia Stewart by Pat Stewart*

*Ed Tyner by Millie Tyner*



## Adult Spiritual Formation Opportunity

The Spiritual Formation Team would like to offer a bible discussion opportunity during the winter. In response to the Spiritual Formation 2017 Survey, we would offer this on an evening to be determined by those interested in participating, along with a potluck dinner. In response to the survey, we would offer this on a Wednesday evening, along with a potluck dinner.

The Presbytery of the James Resource Center has recommended several books and DVD series by Adam Hamilton that have been used in other churches throughout the Presbytery. For more information about the author, take a look at <https://www.adamhamilton.com>.

A couple of choices are:

1. *Why?* by Adam Hamilton

Where is God when tragedy and suffering strike? When the ground shakes, and a poor nation's economy is destroyed; when the waters rise, washing away a community's hopes and dreams; when a child suffers neglect and abuse; when violence tears apart nations, where is God? If God is all powerful, and if each one of us is a beloved child of God, then how can God allow tragedy and suffering to mar his creation? In "*Why?*", best-selling author Adam Hamilton brings fresh insight to the age-old question of how to understand the will of God. Rejecting simplistic answers and unexamined assumptions, he lays out core ideas for comprehending God's plan for the world, including:

§ God will not take away our free will, even when we use it to grieve him.

§ God will never abandon us, especially in the midst of our suffering.

§ While God is not the author of suffering, God will bring blessing out of tragedy.

1. *Christianity's Family Tree - What Other Christians Believe and Why* by Adam Hamilton

Learn more about the Christian histories and traditions of other denominations within the faith "family" as Adam Hamilton respectfully explains their similarities, differences and value within the Church. Eight denominations are discussed: Orthodoxy, Catholicism, Lutheranism, Presbyterianism, Anglicanism, Baptists, Pentecostalism, and Methodism (Reverend Hamilton's tradition).

Please indicate your choices below and return to the offering plate, to Melanie in the office, or to the envelope on the bulletin board in the Narthex. Please contact May Saxton with any questions.

### Adult Spiritual Formation Winter 2019 Bible Discussion

Your name \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like to participate in a Wednesday evening potluck/bible study during Winter 2019.

\_\_\_\_\_ I would be willing to help facilitate a session. (A Leader's Guide will be provided.)

Please rank (1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>) your preferences of the two offerings above.

\_\_\_\_\_ *Why?* by Adam Hamilton

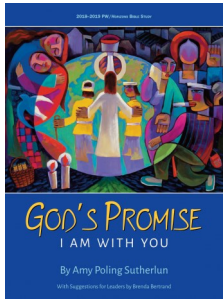
\_\_\_\_\_ *Christianity's Family Tree - What Other Christians Believe and Why* by Adam Hamilton





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## Presbyterian Women



Ring in the new year by joining the Orange Presbyterian Women's Morning Circle on Tuesday, January 8 at 10:30 am in the East Room. We will study Lesson Five, God With Us Wherever We Are from *God's Promise: I Am With You*. Ellen Kendall will lead the discussion and Lavinia Phillips will provide refreshments.

Many thanks to all those who supported the Thank Offering in November. We raised \$267 to aid programs that help women and children nationally and internationally. In January we are collecting diapers for distribution through the Love Outreach Food Pantry. Please leave all contributions in the East Room. Thank You!

## Prayer Concerns

- Ethel Rhodes, Suzanne Sherwin's mother
- All recovering from natural disasters, particularly in Indonesia after the tsunami
- Carolina Dunstan
- Alice Parcell's brother
- Nan and Rich Knox's neighbor's granddaughter
- All those caught in the web of addiction, especially Todd
- Michael Knight
- Gail Chapman
- Jim Smith, Joanna Davies' brother
- Sylvester Coleman and family
- Chris Wynkoop
- Lloyd Parcell
- Jennifer Ernst
- Dwight Calhoun
- Joe Taylor at Dogwood Village
- Mildred Butts at Dogwood Village
- Elizabeth Goodwin at Dogwood Village
- Bill Taylor at Dogwood Village
- Our Christian sympathy to Lloyd and Alice Parcell upon the death of their daughter-in-law, Cindy Parcell, on December 18.

