

HENSON VALLEY CHRISTIAN CHURCH

(Disciples of Christ)
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JANUARY 2018 UPDATE



The Season of Epiphany

The period from Christmas (December 25th), to Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent (March 5th), is the season in the Liturgical Calendar that we call Epiphany. (The word "epiphany" means to show, make known, or reveal. It refers to the manifestation of Jesus as Savior not only of the Jews, but of all the peoples of the world. The Lectionary scriptures in this season describe three "manifestations" or realizations of Jesus that we celebrate in this season and help us realize Jesus' identity with a greater scope.

The first of these is the visit of the Magi, which we celebrate on January 6. These Wise Men were the first Gentiles to publicly recognize the divinity of Jesus, by way of their offerings of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Epiphany is a story that speaks to the very essence of the gospel and its redemption, for Epiphany has to do with the extension of salvation not just to the Jews but to the Gentiles. The importance for us is shown in the Epistle passage for the day which proclaims the truth of Epiphany - Eph. 3: 2-6 - "the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body and partakers of the promise of Christ Jesus through the gospel."

The baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River by John the Baptist, revealed his divinity as the Son of God. According to Matthew 3:16-17, God reveals Himself to the world with the sign of the Holy Spirit (the dove) and the voice from heaven like thunder, saying "This is my beloved Son, in Whom I am well pleased." John proclaims (and God authenticates) that Jesus is God's Son, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, the Anointed One (in the Greek, *Messiah*).

Transfiguration Sunday, is the last Sunday before Lent begins, and closes the Epiphany season. The story of Transfiguration Sunday is a miraculous experience of Peter, James and John, as they are on the mountain with Jesus, and they see him "trans-figured" before them. As this miraculous event occurs, they hear a voice from heaven, "This is my Beloved Son! Listen to Him!" The early church fathers interpret the glory of God manifested as the dazzling light to Peter, James and John, as the true vision of the Divine in Christ, a presence available to us through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Ministry to the Differently-abled and Their Families

James Ryder Randal Elementary School has requested support in helping to make the holidays special for some of the families of the children who attend the school. The request was for gift cards for groceries and toys. The Maryland International Day School joined Henson Valley in responding to this request.

Together we provided \$675 in gift cards to the school. Thanks to all that helped to make this season of Holiday giving a success!!

Maryland International Day School

The congregation, by overwhelming consensus, agreed to enter a relationship with MIDS. We will move forward with the expansion project that will eventually place a modular unit on the property to accommodate the majority of the classes. Updates on the expansion project will be provided.

Our Church Family

- ❖ We welcome Ethan and Jaxon McDonald to Sunday School.
- ❖ Congratulation to Ethan McDonald. He was honored for being on the Principal's Honor Roll at Waldon Woods Elementary School.
- ❖ Congratulations to Denise Idun. She received a double Masters from Marymount University in Business

Administration and Health Care Management.

- ❖ Congratulations to Kalonji Griffin on receiving a Bachelor of Philosophy from the University of Maryland.
- ❖ We are sorry to see Linda and Rhonda Rice leave Henson Valley. They will be missed. Rhonda is going back home to Kentucky and Linda is moving to another congregation.



- ❖ Congratulations to Rhonda Rice on her Retirement.

Congregational Care

- ❖ Members who are sick and shut-in are listed on the weekly prayer list. Please continue to pray for them. Consider mailing a card or giving them a call from time -to-time to let them know you are thinking about them.

Pleasant words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones

Proverbs 16:24



Thank you to everyone who has been saving Box Tops for Education as part of the Henson Valley ministry to the differently-abled students at James Ryder Randall Elementary School. Your contributions are greatly appreciated. Please continue to support this ministry by bringing the box tops to the church and placing them in the lime green bag on the table in the narthex.



Thanks from the Staff

- ❖ To the Henson Valley Church Family. Thank you for the very generous gift. You are truly amazing! Blessings to all at Christmas and thought-out the New Year. Delores Riley



Celebrating Birthdays....

- Michael Gaines
- Myron Idun

Newsletter Deadline

All articles to appear in the Update must be submitted by the 20th of each month.

Upcoming Events

January 14 Rev. Teresa Hord Owens, preaching at United Christian Parish in Reston VA at the Martin Luther King Commemoration

Coming Soon

February 14 Ash Wednesday Service
February 18 Retirement Party for Pastor Martha Brown

January 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31	1 New Year's Day Office Closed!	2 NO Infant & Toddler Group	3 7 p.m. Bible Study 8 p.m. Choir Practice	4	5	6 10 a.m. Search Committee Meeting
7 First Sunday after Epiphany 9:45 a.m. Bible Study 11 a.m. Worship	8	9 10 a.m. Infant & Toddler Group at OHL	10 7 p.m. Bible Study 8 p.m. Choir Practice	11 6:30 p.m. All School Meeting (MIDS)	12	13
14 Second Sunday after Epiphany 9:45 a.m. Bible Study 11 a.m. Worship 12:30 p.m. Congregational Meeting	15 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Office Closed!	16 10 a.m. Infant & Toddler Group at HVCC	17 7 p.m. Bible Study 8 p.m. Choir Practice	18	19	20 11 a.m. – 2p.m. Open House (MIDS)
21 Third Sunday after Epiphany 9:45 a.m. Bible Study 11 a.m. Worship	22	23 10 a.m. Infant & Toddler Group at HVCC	24 7 p.m. Bible Study 8 p.m. Choir Practice	25	26	27
28 Fourth Sunday after Epiphany 9:45 a.m. Bible Study 11 a.m. Worship	29	30 10 a.m. Infant & Toddler Group at HVCC	31 7 p.m. Bible Study 8 p.m. Choir Practice			

February 1 – African American History Month Begins

February 14 – Ash Wednesday

February 19 – Presidents Day (Office Closed)

