

WEST HENRIETTA BAPTIST CHURCH

1815 ~ 2018



GIFTS OF CHRISTMAS

“...Desire spiritual gifts...” KJV I Corinthians 14:1

At this time of the calendar year, I like most of you, have some amount of focus on “gifts”, whether it be giving or receiving. Admittedly, maybe, a lot of focus on both. Further, my focus on “gifts” is split between those of a “secular” nature and those of a “spiritual” nature.

Celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ helps us focus on some of the gifts from God, our Heavenly Father: such as the “Christ child”, the gifts of the Magi, the gifts of the attentive shepherds, etc. If we think “spiritually” hard enough, we may even recognize the “gifts” of scripture being fulfilled in that lowly manger. There is so much more! But, I don’t want to get ahead of myself.

I am positive you like I have either given or received, probably both, gift(s) which are part of yet another “grander” gift. We have stopped a child from exposing one wrapped present because another wrapped present needed to be unwrapped first; we don’t want to spoil the surprise of the “greater” gift. The unwrapping of the first gift, in this instance, heightens a level of anticipation in the receiver because it is known something else is coming. That “anticipation” helps to create extreme joy and adoration as the “second”, “larger” gift is finally realized.

The above scenario is no different when we consider our spiritual gifts. As we celebrate our Heavenly Father who “gave” His own begotten Son this holiday season, we must recognize this “gift” as only the first of many “grander” gifts we’ll receive. The bible confirms, KJV James 1:17, “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father...”. And there are a “heavenly multitude” of “gifts awaiting us as we anticipate and celebrate the birth of the Christ child.

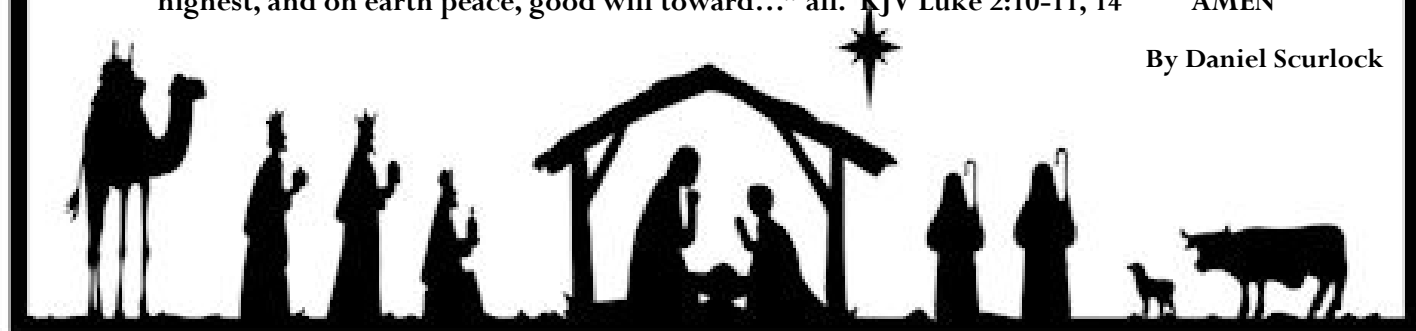
The gifts of the birth of Christ, into our human form, are truly recognized as we learn to understand the fulfilment of His birth. In human form, we can more easily realize the continual gift of God’s love in our lives. By understanding Christ’s teachings as He walked the roads leading away from Bethlehem, we learn to enjoy the Holy Spirit in our own daily “walks”. And through the fulfilment of prophesy, we accept the tragedy of Golgotha as the joyous “gift” of eternal life.

The “infant” sized gift we celebrate during this special season is the precursor of the much grander gift of the Holy Spirit and eternal life with Him. And as children’s anticipation grows as the special day of Christmas and the presents approach, their “belief” grows stronger. We as “children” of God also BELIEVE in the magic of God’s promise of His eternal love and our eternal life with Him.

As we seek that special present for a loved one this Christmas season, let’s also keep our focus on the special gifts of He who “first loved us”.

“...The angel said unto them, ...Behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day ... a Savior, which is Christ the Lord....Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward...” all. KJV Luke 2:10-11, 14 AMEN

By Daniel Scurlock



Worship Servants

December 2nd

Advent Reading: Joyce Shutts
 Invocation: Betty Heisig
 Scripture: Anne Greco
 Kids' Moment: Marti Spaker
 Offering: Betty Heisig
 Greeter: Joyce Shutts
 Nursery: BOCE
 Fellowship: Ginny Chase

December 9th

Advent Reading: Evie Scott
 Invocation: Valerie Bandemer
 Scripture: Joanne Wilbert
 Offering: Valerie Bandemer
 Kids' Moment: Marti Spaker
 Greeter: Joanne Wilbert
 Nursery: BOCE
 Fellowship: Betty Heisig and Sharon Gress

December 16th

Advent Reading: Roger Smith
 Invocation: Leanna Shirley
 Scripture: Mark Heintz
 Offering: Leanna Shirley
 Kids' Moment: Marti Spaker
 Greeter: Dan & Sharon Scurlock
 Nursery: BOCE
 Fellowship: Advent Luncheon/BOCE

December 23rd

Advent Reading: Sharon Scurlock
 Invocation: Betty Heisig
 Scripture: Patricia Floyd
 Offering: Betty Heisig
 Kids' Moment: Marti Spaker
 Greeter: Joyce Shutts
 Nursery: BOCE
 Fellowship: Debbie Covill and Stacie Goff

December 30th

Invocation: Valerie Bandemer
 Scripture: Mike Shirley
 Offering: Valerie Bandemer
 Kids' Moment: Marti Spaker
 Greeter: Joanne Wilbert
 Nursery: BOCE
 Fellowship: Jasmine Morse and Thomas Carpenter



*We invite you to our
 Christmas Eve Service
 Celebrating our greatest gift
 Baby Lord Jesus
 December 24, 2018*

7:00 p.m.

West Henrietta Baptist Church



Men's Breakfast
 7 a.m. Tuesdays at
 Peppermints

Prayer Meeting
 9 a.m. Saturdays

Bible Study
 10:00 a.m. Wednesdays

BOCE Meeting
 11:30 a.m. Dec. 2

Deacon's Meeting
 10:00 a.m. Dec. 7th

Christmas Caroling
 3:00 p.m. Dec. 8

Advisory Council Mtg.
 6:00 p.m. Dec. 10

Movie Day
 1:00 p.m. Dec. 8

Advent Pot Luck
 11:00 a.m. Dec. 16

Trustees' Meeting
 11:30 a.m. Dec. 16

Christmas Eve Service
 7:00 p.m. Dec. 24th

Christmas Day
 December 25



Dec. 5 - Isaiah Buskey
 Dec. 6 - Nancy Chase
 Dec. 10 - Tim VanderMeid
 Dec. 12 - Barbara Miller
 Dec. 12 - Joquina Tosciotti
 Dec. 14 - Theresa Hirschman
 Dec. 14 - Mike Shirley
 Dec. 16 - Scott Miller

The Christmas Story

By Leanne Guenther

Once upon a time,
 A long, long time ago.
 Begins the story of a baby,
 That most of you should know.

His daddy's name was Joseph,
 And Mary was His mom,
 This babe was very special
 He was God's only Son.

Some angels came from heaven,
 And they began to sing.
 To the shepherds in the fields below,
 "Glad tidings do we bring!"

A bright star lit the heavens,
 To light the magi's way,
 To the baby in the manger
 Who was born on Christmas day.

And all who gathered round Him,
 Rejoiced and praised His birth.
 For the babe, the King, named Jesus,
 Is our Saviour here on earth!

Board of Christian Education Events:

We need volunteers to help decorate the Church for Christmas at 10:00 am on December 1st.

The Board is having a "Movie Day" on Dec. 8th, 1-4:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. There will be snacks and an animal themed movie for the kids ages 4-12.

On December 16th, following worship is the Advent Luncheon. Everyone is asked to bring a dish to pass. The Board of Christian Education will provide dessert and drinks.

Please contact Gretchen Young if you have any questions.

Thank you!

Our WHBC's "Vendors and Craft Sale" is now history and was a huge success due to Joanne Wilbert and tireless efforts of her dedicated team of helpers. The two (2) day event, November 23 and 24, netted \$656.61. Thank you Joanne, and all those who helped make this event so successful.

From the Missions Committee:

The Missions Committee is hosting a Christmas Caroling Party on Saturday, December 8th, 3:00 pm at the Church. We are encouraging our members to help us out with this mission ministry. We need food for our party and a lot of bodies to sing the old fashioned way. Thank you for what you can do. We meet at 3:00 pm at the Church and the food is warming while we are out singing. Afterward we come back and share a meal together. It will be so much fun!

The other Mission Project is the Family we adopted for Christmas. On the Church bulletin board, there is a list of food items that you can contribute. Please sign up by Sunday, December 2nd or as soon as you can. The family include a 10 year old boy and a 16 year old young man. Gift cards and monies will be used to purchase gifts. If you are so inclined, there is also a list of things that can be purchased and the sizes for the boys are on the list. If you need more information please call Patricia Floyd or Leanna Shirley.

Please remember that we appreciate your continuous and generous support for the missions. Our church continues to be a beacon for others in their time of need and it is all because of you. We wish you and your family continued blessings from our Lord and Savior JESUS CHRIST. We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.....

Yours in Christ Jesus,

The Missions Committee



WHBC Retreat

Our Annual Church Retreat was held on November 10th, at the Mercy Spiritual Center. Our focus this year was "Getting to Know Each Other in Faith". And get to know each other we did! Everyone there fully participated.

The Mercy Spiritual Center was just the most wonderful place to spend the day. They provided us with delicious breads, fruit, lots of juices and of course our much appreciated coffee. Both Pastor Peter and Leanna brought homemade soups. Betty, though unable to attend, provided us with bread. Others helped in many ways.

Pastor Grinion and Leanna guided us through much thoughtfulness. We shared our faith journeys, we dug deep. We laughed a lot and cried some. Through a game Marti found called "Who Am I", we found out silly things about each other.

We were filled with love, friendship and prayer when the day came to a close.

By Marti Spaker

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

From the Board of Trustees:

Starting Saturday, December 1, 2018, a Building Use Permit will be started. You will find them under the Church Calendar as of Saturday, November 24, 2018. This will involve WHBC Members as well as the Bhutanese Church. After filling out the form, it will be looked at by the Trustee and noted for conflicts. Use to WHBC members will be respected, but this will make sure we have a fair building use to avoid conflict as well as check for billing purposes. Please place completed forms in the Trustee Mailbox opposite the Pastor's Study. The Trustees would like two (2) week's notice if possible, but will make every effort to accommodate all requests.

Rush-Henrietta Interfaith League of Churches

Thanksgiving Service

Tuesday, November 20, 2018.

On Tuesday, November 20, our Church hosted the Rush-Henrietta Interfaith League of Churches Annual Thanksgiving Celebration. We had approximately sixty (60) people in attendance, including three (3) of our Town's Council Board members, and many of our local "multi-denominational" church leaders

The service theme "Standing on the Shoulders", organized by Rev. Martha Koenig Stone, Pastor, Henrietta UCC, focused on utilizing the strength of legacy and diversity of local previous/current religious leaders to propel us forth into our combined future. The contributions of our Islamic, Jewish, Bhutanese, Catholic, Evangelistic, Baptist and other "Brothers/Sisters" truly demonstrated we can all worship, each in our own way, yet love the support/nurture our differences. A presented video highlighted many from our community history and their legacy contributions.

The memorable evening resulted in comments of "best RHIL service ever had", "great teaching moment", "marvelous presentations", "glad I/we attended", etc. This "Thanksgiving" Interfaith service was only possible because of the participation from so many of our local religious, lay, and community leaders.



Thank You

A well-deserved thanks goes to many of our church members for all they did to "do our church proud" in hosting this year's Rush-Henrietta Interfaith League of Churches "Thanksgiving" celebration. So many of our church members pitched in to ensure cleaning, organizing, choir practice, bulletins, etc. was completed.

A special "THANK YOU" goes to the Shirley family, Leanna, Michael and Katie, for all the hours of work they gave to make certain our church was ready to receive our community guests.

