



Bethesda Outlook

January 2013

HAPPY EPIPHANY!

"The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness- on them light has shined" Isaiah 9:2

Sometimes as Christians we call Epiphany "Little Christmas", which is why I believe it is important for us to celebrate Epiphany. Epiphany, which this year falls on a Sunday, is January 6th, is also a season of light in the dark seasonal days of our world. The Epiphany season of the church year celebrates the discovery that **Someone** has come, sent by God. Come, to bring God's light into our lives, to make a difference in our lives and our community, to heal our brokenness and to reveal the unimaginable depth of God's love for you and I and **ALL** through this light of Christ.

This past year, especially the events in Newtown Connecticut and throughout our world, I, possibly like many of you, have had a hard time seeing and finding the hope of a new light as our lives have been filled with many struggles. Struggles as the ways of the past will be significantly different this year with loss of jobs and illness among our families and friends and grieving as well for what has been lost. Many of us have struggled to celebrate with the loss of loved ones no longer with us. Yet, God is with us as this light found in a humble manger which has come into the world whether we recognize it or not, or accept it or not; to love all, to give hope for all and make the world whole again.

"The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it." John 1:5

Yet in the midst of all of this, God came down the stairway of the stars with a baby in his arms and places the baby into our hands. We not only celebrated the past birth of Jesus; but also a baby has born that has changed everything if we let this little baby change our hearts today in new and very different ways.

Maybe this year we might venture into new territory as we leave our lights on and some of our decorations up as we continue to celebrate the unfolding of God who has come to us as Jesus, the word made flesh, and is present **for** and **with us**.

"Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your father in heav-

en." Matthew 5:16

We are called to be not just a place of healing and grace, but also a beacon of light for our world and our community, and a place of radical hospitality where all are welcome; a place where **all** are welcome not how we want them to be or think they should to be, but just as they are when they come!

Shine! Shine for all to see!!

*May you find the Epiphany light of promise and hope! In this Epiphany season may the light of the star and the glory of God be revealed to you in new and unexpected ways! May you light candles and pray for the revealing of God's light in your darkness and for the ever widening of God's love, hope and compassion in your lives. May you share that Epiphany light with those **far off** from God in God's world!*

Dear Brothers and Sisters!

Happy New Year!! Are you all prepared to receive the three kings from the Orient who have traveled far to witness the birth of the star of wonder, Our Lord Jesus! In this modern world, it is hard to remember that Christmas is a season that begins on December 25th and ends on January 6th, Epiphany! I hope you have stretched out your Christmas season and will enjoy a fine piece of King's Cake to conclude our season of Light.



Many of you know that my mom passed on November 27th early in the morning. I think she finally found the peace she was always seeking. She and I shared the most unconditional of our lives together during her death journey. I thank all of you for your support and comfort with your songs and prayers, your cards of sympathy and your pure love.

I am having a memorial service for my mom on Sunday, January 20th in West Seattle at noon to celebrate her life on earth. If you would like to witness this, please call me for details. I know you love me and that means very much to me. God bless us all. Loss is hard. Loss is real. Without loss, we would not experience rebirth, renewal. To love unconditionally is to know God.

I will write again as well as come to worship with you very soon!

Peace and Grace,

Your Dena Lee
206-371-9446
301 Minor Ave. N #504
Seattle, WA 98109

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	2 0 1 3	1  (office closed)	2 Mtlk. Terr. Sr's. lunch - Noon Al-Anon Mtg. 7:00pm Jammers Rehearsal 8:30pm	3 Girl Scouts 6:30pm	4 Mtlk. Terr. Sr's. lunch - Noon	5
6 EPIPHANY Worship - 10:15am Comm. Dinner prep. 3:00pm	7 Ruth/Miriam Circle 2:00pm Community Dinner 5:30pm Facilities Committee 6:30pm @ J. Minnis' Girl Scouts—6:45pm	8 Washington Missionary Choir 6:00pm	9 Mtlk. Terr. Sr's. lunch - Noon Al-Anon Mtg. 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm Jammers Rehearsal 8:30pm	10 Life Group 6:00pm Girl Scouts 6:30pm	11 Mtlk. Terr. Sr's. lunch - Noon	12 Mtlk. Terr. Sr's. Pancake Breakfast 7:00am
13 BAPTISM OF OUR LORD Worship - 10:15am Comm. Dinner prep. 3:00pm	14 Care & Concern Ministry—10:00 am Sue's Bible Study 2:00pm Community Dinner 5:30pm Finance Committee 7:00pm	15 Washington Missionary Choir 6:00pm Brownies—6:30pm	16 lunch - Noon Al-Anon Mtg. 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm Jammers Rehearsal 8:30pm	17 Girl Scouts 6:30pm	18 Mtlk. Terr. Sr's. lunch - Noon	19 Family Movie Night 5:00pm
20 Worship - 10:15am Comm. Dinner prep. 3:00pm	21 Community Dinner 5:30pm Council Meeting 7:00pm	22 Washington Missionary Choir 6:00pm	23 lunch - Noon Al-Anon Mtg. 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm Jammers Rehearsal 8:30pm	24 Life Group 6:00pm Girl Scouts 6:30pm	25 Mtlk. Terr. Sr's. lunch - Noon	26 Men's Fellowship 8:00am
27 Worship - 10:15am Comm. Dinner prep. 3:00pm	28 Community Dinner 5:30pm	29 Washington Missionary Choir 6:00pm Brownies 6:30pm	30 lunch - Noon Al-Anon Mtg. 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm Jammers Rehearsal 8:30pm	31 Girl Scouts 6:30pm		

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

2 - Kathie Murphy-Huntington Derald Porter Garry Swierenga	11 - Ray Rasmussen	20 - Laurie Olson (Pearson)
8 - Paula Dibble Sue Rasmussen	13 - Dylan Olson	21 - Audriana Hindman
	15 - Lillian Cunningham	30 - Joan Minnis
	19 - Anny Glebe	

Thoughts For The Month

by *Jeanne Krahn*

The time has come, the walrus said, to talk of many things: of shoes—and ships—and sealing wax—of cabbages—and kings—and why the sea is boiling hot—and whether pigs have wings. (Alice in Wonderland)

Forgive me, please, for the wanderings this month. Our families have had baskets filled with way too much. Tragic losses of three family members and three very good long-time friends (for one, my school buddy over 70 years). I wonder if God has had any sleep with all these prayers and tears coming his way. His hands have been there for all of us. As I try to write and make some sense, it's still Christmas time and haven't people always needed holidays—a break from routine? They are a time of rest and refreshment. Or are they? So many alternative views and ways we have celebrated has changed over time. It use to be that the church was the biggest influence. Now the business world has control. Instead of our church calendars showing us when the Christmas season begins, the shopping calendar does. Oh, and how I grumble—stores opening Thanksgiving Day, decorations put everywhere—how many months ago? People keep suggesting that holidays have lost their true meaning.

There is absolutely nothing at all Christian about the New Year's Eve parties. Hard drinking “go for it, guys” but, whoa, what about next day's hangover? New Year's is a time for taking a big look at ‘who am I?’, ‘what for?’ Review your old custom of getting rid of things you don't like about yourselves—mine, especially procrastination, collecting, storing, etc. Oh, I could fill this sheet of paper.

New Years gathering of your family. Go wassailing on New Year's Day. What fun! This custom is associated with Christmas but it's roots are an English tradition. People go from house to house, singing songs and offering God's blessings for the New Year. Traditionally the singers are then invited to sip from a wassail cup but you might take a treat instead to share with the household. The word wassail comes from an old Saxon greeting, “*Waes Hael*” meaning “good health”. As you go from house to house, carry a wassail branch, an evergreen bough tied to a long stick. Decorate it as you do your Christmas tree (even a branch from your tree if you're taking it down). Traditionally, the wassail branch had red bows tied to it. Hey y'all! Suppose Bethesda could do similarly for 2013 bringing in 2014? Wow! In many parts of Africa, it is customary for families to walk outdoors on New Year's Eve and watch the sun set on the old year.

You will have celebrated New Year's Eve already when you read this. Still resolve to help others in particular ways in 2013. Always donate food to our local food bank or wherever you are or choose one charity to support financially as a group this year. Consider projects that involve personal action, like donating time to a service

agency or your church. I'm glad God changes the times and seasons, aren't you? Just think of how dull our life could become if He didn't paint nature's scenes several times a year in different colors. Our seasons are designed to deepen up, to instruct up in the wisdom and ways of God. This year our Christmas will be when? I remember one year it was near the end of January for Mike's return from Viet Nam. But always back to Epiphany—the last 12th day of Christmas. Our family—youngsters, parents, us oldsters, two new babies—getting together as close to Epiphany as we can.

Do your younger ones know what Epiphany is? Do you? Do your friends? On the twelfth night after the nativity (the time we call Epiphany) wise men, or magi, brought gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh to the Christ Child. An old custom in many lands to celebrate 12th night is the serving of the Epiphany Cake, into which is baked a surprise—who finds it will have a talisman to wear as a symbol of the eternal life and heavenly blessings. Enough time still to begin your own yuletide tradition by baking an Epiphany Cake (if you didn't save the recipe once before):

1/2 cup shortening	1/2 tsp ground cloves
1/2 cup brown sugar	1/2 cup raisins
1/2 cup sugar	1/2 cup chopped apple
2 eggs	1/2 cup candied cherries
1/2 cup cold strong coffee	3 slices candied pineapple
2 cups flour	1/2 cup chopped nuts
1 tsp. baking soda	2 oz rum, whiskey, or sweet wine
1 1/2 tsp. nutmeg	Epiphany ring wrapped in foil

Cream together shortening and sugars, add eggs and coffee and mix. Beat in flour, soda and spices. Fold in diced, candied fruits, apples, raisins, nuts and rum, whiskey or wine. Fold in wrapped ring. Pour into greased tube pan. Bake at 350° for 1 hour and 10 minutes. When cool, frost with butter cream frosting or dust with powdered sugar. Put on your coffee pot—I'll be glad to come for a taste test.

‘Nuf heavy, heavy! This month let's list some creative ideas or thoughts we have had, such as a new way to use leftovers, how to wear different combination of clothes, a new way of doing something, a new way of perceiving someone or something or using something we were about to throw away. Church goers in America report better moods on Sundays, when the rest of the country has a lower mood than normal. The Gallup Poll found that Americans who attend church have more positive emotions than those who don't. (Thrivent) Take some relaxing, thinking ahead—what's your wish for 2013? Kate Douglas Wiggins wrote “*You can never prove God; you can only find him.*” New Year's blessings!

**Bethesda Lutheran
Church**

23406 56th Ave. W
Mountlake Terrace, WA 98043

Phone: 425-778-6390
Fax: 425-361-7781

jean@bethesdalcm.com

Pastor: Malcolm Brown

Church of the Beloved: Ryan Marsh—Deployed

Change Service Requested

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Mountlake Terrace, WA
PERMIT #10

We're on the Web!
bethesdalcm.com

Brothers and Sisters in Christ - ***Thank You and Happy New Year!***

As another year ends and a New Year begins I thank God for you daily and am grateful for who you are and all that you do to further God's mission to bless and heal our world. Thank you for your generous gifts of your time and talents, for your generous gifts of your resources and your generosity of spirit. Your generosity blesses me and humbles me and for that I am very grateful. Thank You

It is a pleasure to serve with you in our mission field and to wonder with God how we are called to serve our world and community— Thank You.

May the New Year be filled with many blessings and much joy, peace grace and love!

Happy New Year!

With gratefulness and love,

Pastor Malcolm and Charlie Brown
