

KEEPING UP WITH THE NEWS

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Birthdays</i>	2
<i>New Committees</i>	2
<i>Crossword</i>	3

CALENDAR:



* **January 1st is New Year's Day.**



* **Sunday, January 4th, we will have a NEJ Deaf Committee planning session.** Contact Darlene Koontz at koontz4@erols.com for more information.

* **January 6th is the Epiphany of the Lord.**



* **Pastor Yates** will be attending the Deaf Immersion from **January 7th – 18th.**

* **Monday, January 19th is a holiday; it is MLK, Jr.'s birthday.**



EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

January 6 is known in western Christian tradition as Epiphany. It goes by other names in various church traditions. Because of differences in church calendars, mainly between the Eastern Orthodox and the western Catholic and Protestant traditions, both Christmas and Epiphany have been observed at different times in the past. Today, most of the Eastern Orthodox traditions follow the western church calendar.



Epiphany is the climax of the Christmas Season and the Twelve Days of Christmas, which are counted from December 25th until January 5th.

In traditional Christian churches Christmas, as well as Easter, is celebrated as a period of time, a season of the church year, rather than just a day. The Season of Christmas begins with the First Sunday of Advent, marked by expectation and anticipation, and concludes with Epiphany, which looks ahead to the mission of the church to the world in light of the Nativity.

For many Protestant church traditions, the season of Epiphany extends from January 6th until Ash Wednesday, which begins the season of Lent leading to Easter. Depending on the timing of Easter, this includes from four to nine Sundays.

The term epiphany means "to show" or "to make known" or even "to reveal." In Western churches, it remembers the coming of the wise men bringing gifts to visit the Christ child, who by so doing "reveal" Jesus to the world as Lord and King.

BAPTISMS

Sunday, November 30, 2003 marked a special day for Daniel, Jeremy, Brady, and Irene Fuller. Each one was baptized with water and the Holy Spirit. What a special occasion! We were delighted to take part in their Christian journey.



MAGOTHY DEAF CHURCH CHRISTMAS PARTY

Friday, December 12th, 2003 our church members gathered to celebrate our annual Christmas party. All of us that attended the party had a wonderful time.



THE RELIGIOUS INTERPRETING WORKSHOP



The annual Religious Interpreting Workshop held on Saturday, November 22, 2003 was a success. There were over 200 people registered for workshops. Magothy Deaf Church's former pastor, Rev. Kirk Van Gilder presented the workshop for beginners. A few people from Magothy attended.

OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY

to the family of Mary Jane Allen. Mary Jane passed away on Friday, November 28, 2003.



OUR GUEST PREACHERS

Magothy Deaf Church was blessed to have two guest preachers during the month of November. On Sunday, November 16, 2003, Rev. Peggy Johnson preached and Christ Church dancers performed a Lord's Prayer dance. Rev. Johnson and her dancers are from Christ Church of the Deaf in Baltimore.



On Sunday, November 23, 2003 Rev. Kirk Van Gilder was our guest preacher. It felt like a reunion having him with us again. Kirk is still working on his doctorate degree in Boston.

MAGOTHY CHRISTMAS VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

The Journey to Bethlehem was the theme for our Christmas Vacation Bible School that was held on December 10th – 12th, 2003. Toys were collected and children learned the true meaning of Christmas. The children performed a drama and sung songs for their parents and other guests on the last evening. A special thanks to Alma Andrews, Cari Mitchell and the other volunteers to make this a successful and memorable event.



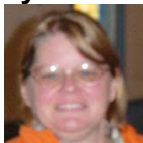
OUR THANKSGIVING LUNCH

On Sunday, November 23, 2003 many of us gathered for a Thanksgiving lunch that was provided by the church. Everyone enjoyed the meal and fellowship during this special luncheon.



CHURCH LEADERS FOR 2004

Lay Leaders



Darlene Koontz

and



Laura Dreany

Lay Member to Annual Conference



Jim Varveri

PPRC CHAIR



Evelyn Pyles

Finance Chairperson



Cheryl Carr

Treasurer



Dolores Robinson

DOOR STEP MISSION

A special thank you to the volunteers of the Door Step Mission team for their continued effort to provide food to families in need during the holiday season.



Birthdays & Anniversaries

January

1st – Andy & Mary Siske (Anniversary)

2nd – Mary & John Hendrick (Anniversary)

6th – Dale Allen (Birthday)

9th – Darlene Koontz (Birthday)

11th – Dolores Robinson (Birthday)

25th – Ellen Heath (Birthday)

COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR 2004

Pastor Parish Relations Committee:

Nick Fields, Joan Tucker, Ruth Varveri, Cindy Blair, Dick Robinson, Evelyn Pyles, and Flo Johnson

Lay Leadership Committee:

Evelyn Pyles, Laura Dreany, Nina Gilbert, Jim Varveri, Robert Jaschik, and Cindy Blair

Evangelism Committee:

Pastor Leo Yates, Jr., Sue Holiway, and Jesus Christ

Finance Committee:

Cindy Blair, Cheryl Carr, Dolores Robinson, Darlene Koontz, and Joan Tucker

Beginning January of 2004 new committee members begin their term. Thank you all for your commitment to Christian service.

In December, church members attended a seminar on how to become a leader within the church. Committee roles and responsibilities was one of the topics presented. We had good participation from the group.

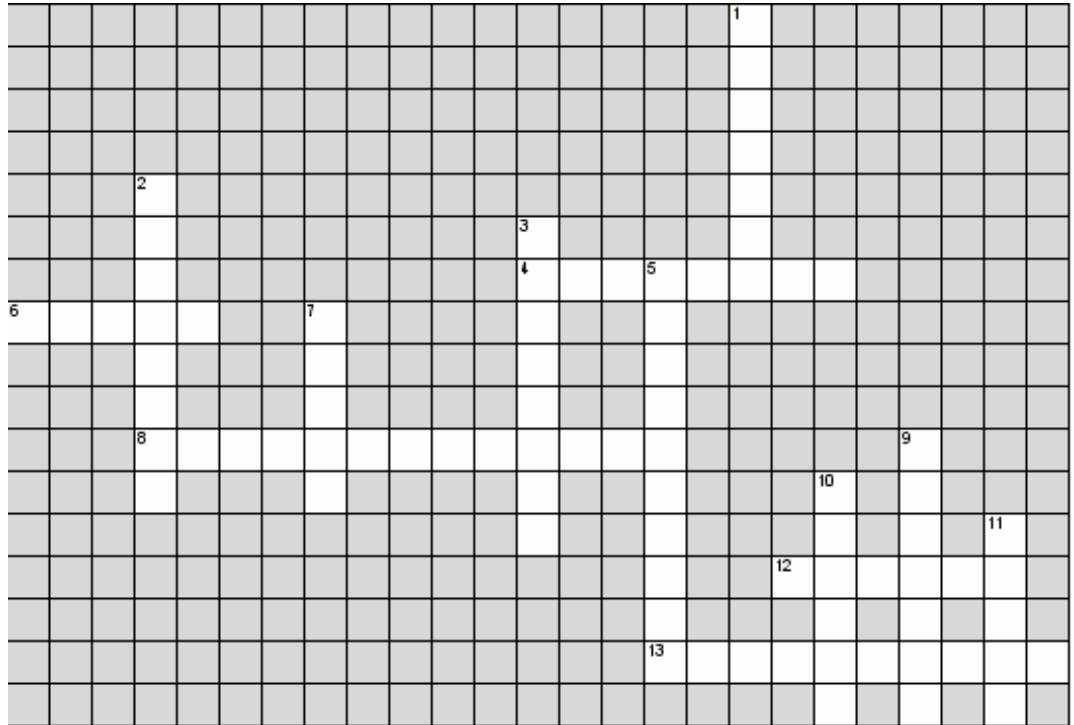
BIBLICAL CROSSWORD PUZZLE....BASED ON ACTS, CHAPTER 1

ACROSS

- One of the James was the son of who?
- What did Judas buy with his reward?
- What was the place they returned to Jerusalem from a day's walk away?
- The apostles asked the Lord would restore the kingdom of what?
- What former book had been written by Acts author?

DOWN

- Where did the two men who stood next to the apostles come from?
- What did they call the place where Judas died?
- Who was chosen to replace Judas?
- What did Jesus say the apostles would be baptized with? (2 words)
- For how many days did the risen Jesus appear to the apostles?
- Apart from Jerusalem where would the apostles be witness?
- Who was not chosen to replace Judas?
- What hid the rising Jesus from the apostles?

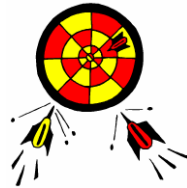


ANSWERS

Across 4. Alphaeus 6. field 8. Mount of Olives 12. heaven 13. Theophilus

Down 1. Galilee 2. Akeldama 3. Matthias 5. Holy Spirit 7. forty 9. Samaria 10. Joseph 11. cloud

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT!



A young lady named Sally, relates an experience she had in a seminary class, given by

her teacher, Dr. Smith. She says that Dr. Smith was known for his elaborate object lessons. One particular day, Sally walked into the seminary and knew they were in for a fun day.

On the wall was a big target and on a nearby table were many darts. Dr. Smith told the students to draw a picture of someone that they disliked or someone who had made them angry, and he would allow them to throw darts at the person's picture.

Sally's friend drew a picture of a friend who had stolen her boyfriend. Another friend drew a picture of his little brother.

Sally drew a picture of a former friend, putting a great deal of detail into her drawing, even drawing pimples on the face. Sally was pleased with the overall effect she had achieved.

The class lined up and began throwing darts. Some of the students threw their darts with such force that their targets were ripping apart. Sally looked forward to her turn, and was filled with disappointment when Dr. Smith, because of time limits, asked the students to return to their seats.

As Sally sat thinking about how angry she was because she didn't have a chance to throw any darts at her target. Dr. Smith began removing the target from the wall.

Underneath the target was a picture of Jesus. A hush fell over the room as each student viewed the mangled picture of Jesus; holes and jagged marks covered His face and His eyes were pierced.

Dr. Smith said only these words... "I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me." Matthew 25:40.

No other words were necessary; the tear filled eyes of the students focused only on the picture of Christ.

NOTES FROM THOSE WHO ATTENDED OUR CHRISTMAS VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

By Alma Andrews (chairperson)

Hope everyone is all ready for the Holidays.

The Christmas Vacation Bible School was really awesome! We were surprised what a nice crowd we had all three nights. The children made cute angels and had a wonderful time! God bless the children.

We couldn't have done without your help and your time! We really appreciated your donors (snacks and drinks) This is what made it successful! Thank so much.

Hope you all have a happy and safe Holidays!

Your friend,
Alma

By Jamie Koontz

Hi its me Jamie Do you know that I had fun at Christmas vacation bible school but i liked the bags the best, but I did not like the angel because it was hard but it doesn't mean that I don't like C.V.B.S. and I learned that Jesus was born on Christmas Day and that he was dead and live again.

I can't wait for next year. Merry Christmas!

Your Friend,
Jamie

BRING A FRIEND SUNDAY

Every fourth Sunday has been designated (chosen) to be "**Bring a Friend To Church Sunday.**"



As a way of reaching those who are unchurched, it is our hope we will be able to reach those who are unchurched. Be sure to bring a friend that we can share with them our life with Jesus.



SOUP FEST

Come to the Deaf-Blind Camp Benefit Soup Fest on Sat, January 10th at 6 PM. It is located at St. John's UCC at 1000 S. Rolling Road. Catonsville, MD.

Directions: Go west on Wilkens Ave. (away from the city) to where it dead-ends into South Rolling Road. Make a slight left and you will be there. It is a red brick church.

All you can eat tasty homemade soup, salad, bread, dessert and beverages. Special Entertainment by magician Mark Waddell.

For tickets email the Deaf Shalom Zone at shalomzone2000@yahoo.com

\$8 adults and \$4 kids.

All money will go to help pay for Deaf-Blind Camp



The United Methodist Church

The Meaning of Membership

¶ 216. When persons unite with a local United Methodist church, they, or, if unable to answer for themselves, their parent(s), legal guardian(s), sponsor(s) or godparent(s), profess their faith in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; in Jesus Christ his only Son, and in the Holy Spirit. Thus, they make known their desire to live their daily lives as disciples of Jesus Christ. They covenant together with God and with the members of the local church to keep the vows which are a part of the order of confirmation and reception into the Church:

Information gathered from

http://www.umc.org/abouttheumc/organization/meaning_of_membership.htm

MISSION

The United Methodist Church is in mission in over 100 countries.

1,329 Mission personnel supported through the General Board of Global Ministries

103,000 United Methodist Volunteer in Mission

103 United Methodist-related community centers and mission colleges

HEALTH AND WELFARE MINISTRIES

330 Retirement homes and long-term care facilities including branch sites

69 hospital and health care facilities

59 child-care facilities

130 community service ministries, including six ministries for persons with disabilities

Information gathered from

<http://www.umc.org/abouttheumc/organization/factsandfigures.htm>

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