



Life-Lines

919/772-9044
JANUARY 2017

WONDERMENTS FROM PASTOR WAYNE'S WORLD

January may appear to be a less exciting month than December during which time we celebrate Christmas. What?, I say. Both my birthday and Anne Marie's birthdays are in January, and I will be able to get on Medicare (yippee) and get in the 2018 state fair FREE.

And I have a better reason to celebrate, January 18 to January 25 is the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. January 18 marks the Confession of St. Peter and January 25 marks the Conversion of St. Paul. None of these two were "professional" disciples, that is, they did not get paid for their work. St. Paul we know supported himself as a tent maker. Peter we can assume still fished. The reason I can say that with confidence is scripture only speaks of collections taken up for the "Poor of Jerusalem". Scripture never mentions money collected and budgeted for pastor's salaries or even for building church structures. All of Christ's followers were volunteers; therefore, while celebrating Christ's disciples as volunteers on the one Sunday during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, January 21, let us mark the Sunday as a time when we celebrate our volunteers here at Lord of Life. Really that is all of you.

I am writing this into the wee hours of December 15 because I just returned from the Camp Agape "O Holy Night" experience. The Men's Group of Lord of Life was mentioned as helping "light the way for those of us who came to Agape to experience story of Christ's birth close up."

I talk to my fellow Rotarians and they can't contain their praise when speaking about the volunteers who host the breakfast each

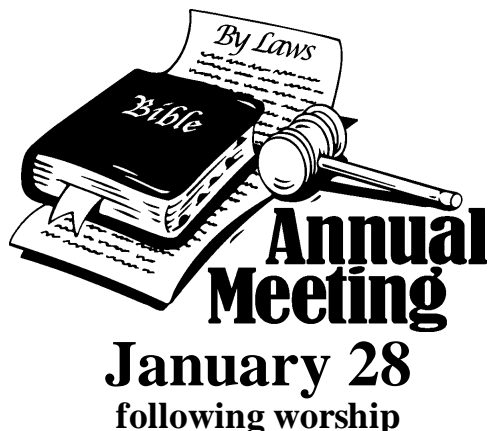
Wednesday morning.

Thinking back to the Advent/Christmas season, our worship experience comes about through the work of the Worship and Music Committee who planned midweek worship, and three worships on December 24. Much work was put in behind the scenes and up front in the nave to be able to hear the finest music of the Advent/Christmas season I know of at our Mary Jo Albert Memorial Christmas concert.

I surmise some of you may not even know the handful of volunteers who provide nurturing for our young people who in turn provide nurture for us "older folks" through the Christmas program,

These are just some of the volunteer disciples of Lord of Life, but I want all of you to know, "I appreciate all you do for Christ and his people the Church." And then we get to the work of the church that needs to be done during our annual meeting and our leadership retreat which will follow. You will see the outstanding leadership of the 2017 Church Council with a foretaste of the council to come in 2018. In my 8 plus years I have been associated with Lord of Life the members of the Church Council have put in long hours in which they exhibit their dedication to Christ, His Church, and His people here in Garner and beyond. For them I am thankful. 2017 was the best year ever for Lord of Life, and 2018 will also be the "best year ever" because of what all of you as Christ's volunteers do for this church in this community, Garner, North Carolina.

Pastor Wayne



Bible Study



Adult Bible Study on the Old Testament will begin January 7 in the fellowship hall with the first session entitled "In the Beginning". All sessions will include a video lecture by Dr. Amy-Jill Levine and discussion led by Pastor Wayne." All are welcome to attend.



January

- January 3 Dave Hash
- January 6 Holly Hans
- January 7 Becky Roof
- January 8 Grace Barnes
- January 9 Anne Marie Dubnansky
- January 13 Carol Wallace
- January 14 Jamie Bredell
- January 15 Rita Clark
- January 18 Gere Savolainen
- January 21 Ryan Macurdy
- January 24 Barbara Kyles
- January 25 Pastor Wayne Dubnansky

February

- February 9 Lisa Hash Burnett
- February 13 Kevin Crocker
- February 15 Clyde Cook
- February 15 Vince Wright
- February 16 Josh Kestner
- February 17 Antonio (Tony) Smith
- February 21 Patrick Niemann
- February 29 Paul Blanchard



Thank you to all those who have helped with the setting up the greens in the beginning of December, baked bread, donated wine or donated for poinsettias for the altar for Christmas. Thank you to those who set up the church and altar after the Sunday 24, service. To everyone a big Thank You!!

We will now be entering the season of Epiphany. The Festival of the Epiphany of Our Lord is January 6. "The first and last Sundays of the Epiphany season are festival Sundays. The Baptism of our Lord is January 7. The second through the fifth Sundays after the Epiphany have green paraments as a symbol of growth in knowing Jesus as God's Son and the Savior of the whole world and all its peoples."¹

The next meeting of the Altar Guild will be Saturday January 13 in the church library followed by taking down the greens and trees followed by a covered dish luncheon in the fellowship hall.

Thank you to Karen and Cecelia for setting the church for services in December.

---Carol Wallace

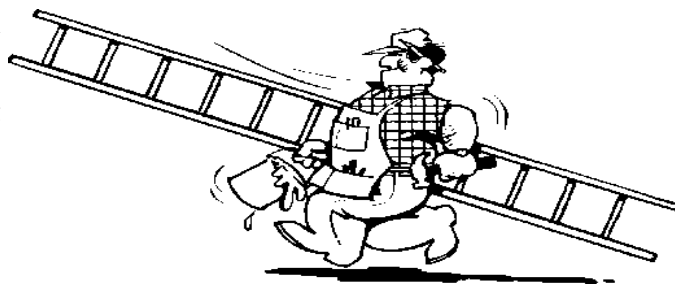
¹Altar Guild and Sacristy Handbook S. Anita Stauffer

A little this, a little that . . .

When the Property Committee met in November many members were absent due to the Thanksgiving holiday. Tim Clark, Gerry Havenstein, Dave Hash and Connie Fortmeyer were present and welcomed a new member, Susan Steckel. Susan had a number of questions concerning the working of the committee which were explained mainly by Tim. She also had some suggestions.

The committee discussed restarting recycling of plastic and metal cans. More information will be presented at a later date on how that will be handled. We also noted the ongoing communication problems and how to solve them. It was noted that there was a "Out of Order" sign on one of the stalls in the women's bathroom but the committee had not received any notice concerning this problem. We ask people to contact any member of the committee or leave a note in Tim Clark's mailbox when something needs attention.

Also on our agenda were concerns regarding our power mower. Able to Serve takes care of the yard work using our equipment. It was noted that our mower frequently breaks down, has been repaired numerous times to the point where it truly needs to be replaced.



We will continue to try to come up with a solution on how this is to be handled.

Some minor repairs such as repairing a hole in the wall in the hallway and one in the storage area will be

taken care of by the time this report is published.

Any questions or concerns regarding the care of our property? Speak to any Property Committee member. You'll get an answer.

---Connie Fortmeyer
for the Property Committee



Gratitude from the “Old” Year

Happy New Year, everyone! May 2018 be a year of peace and blessing for you.

For many of us a new year means a renewal of commitment. Perhaps for some of us the start of a new year means a serious diet after the holiday feasting. For others it may be a resolution to read our Bibles through by December 31, 2018, or to do a good deed for someone each day.

The Parish Committee also has some resolutions for the new year. First is our commitment to publish an updated church directory. Has your phone number changed? Do you have a new mailing address? If so, please let us know by filling out the bulletin insert with your new information. We plan to have a new directory printed and available for each member and friend by early February.

Our next resolution is to update our member and friend picture directory. The next time you're in the Fellowship Hall please take a minute to look at the poster of pictures on the wall above the long pew. If your picture is outdated, not included, or you are just ready for a retake, this is your opportunity to make things right! Tim and Rita Clark will be taking photos after church every Sunday through the end of January. Please take a few minutes to have your picture taken so we can update the poster. This is a wonderful way especially for new members to be able to associate faces with names, and to help them get acquainted.

Our third resolution is to make sure newcomers in particular feel welcome and included. But we can't do it alone; we need your help. If you see someone you don't recognize, please greet them and if they are first time visitors, make sure they receive the welcome folder of information on church ministries. Copies of the welcome folder are kept by the visitor register in the narthex. If visitors are interested in seeing some of the facilities, who better than you to give them a guided tour through the Sunday School rooms, library, Fellowship Hall, etc.? If your tour is conducted after church, why not invite them, better yet accompany them, to the Fellowship Hall for our after-church fellowship. Your introductions to members and friends will be helpful and remembered.

If you have other ideas for how Lord of Life can continue to be the welcoming place, we'd love to hear them. Please feel free to speak to any of the committee members: Grace Barnes, Terry Barnes, John Nalepa, Dave Hash, Tim Clark, Barbara Kyles, Vince Wright, Karen Wright, Cecilia Flickinger, Rebecca Swanson or Don Craig, Council representative, or participate in a Parish Committee meeting. We meet on the third Sunday of the month at 11:30 am in the church library. All are welcome!

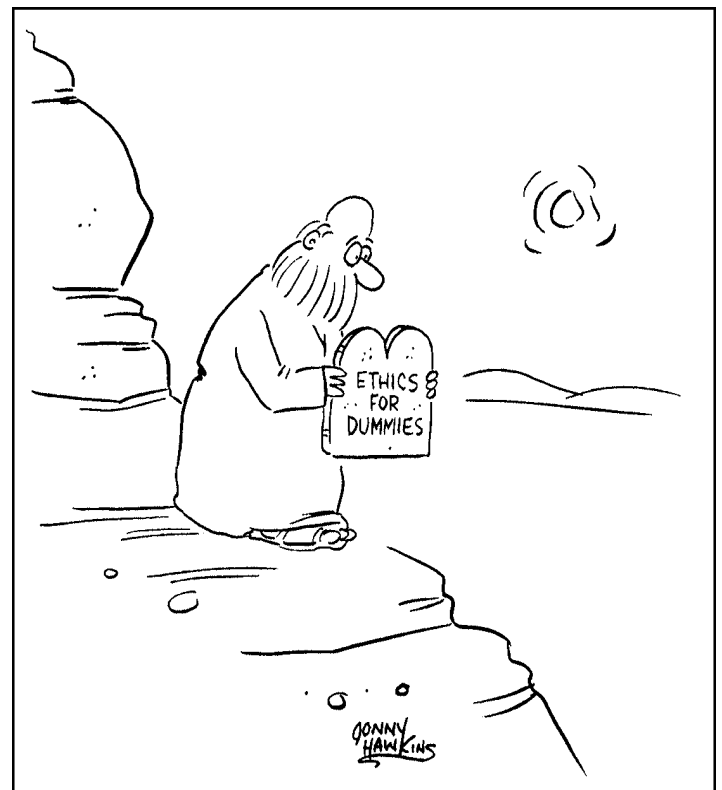
Rebecca Swanson,
On behalf of the Parish committee

Greetings, blessings and THANKS to the entire Congregation! They say “when the going gets tough, the tough get going” and you all got going and never stopped until every gift tag on the Angle Tree was taken and every request from Garner Area Ministries was honored! Often times people give because it is either expected, or they feel obligated, or, as I truly believe to be the case here, you simply want to spread God's message of grace and giving. Can you imagine the joy on the faces of the many children you helped as they unwrapped their toys on Christmas Day? Or the gratitude on their parents' faces when they saw that new coat, or shoes, or other sorely needed items of clothing? Those were gifts you gave . . . from the heart . . . take a bow; we applaud you.

Kindness warms that heart and there is an ever present need for the outreach services, activities, and projects that are spearheaded by our Social Concerns Ministry. And, so, in this brand new year we aren't met with a 'fresh start' rather, we will continue from right where we are, making things better as we go along. This January begins the implementation of our 2018 program focus with our signature projects in tact and we are looking forward to a bountiful year of giving! With the usual support from the rise-to-the-occasion Congregation here at Lord of Life, we'll get it done.

Happy New Year! "You crown the year with goodness, and your paths drip with abundance" (Psalm 65:11).

Social Concerns Ministry
Gale Isaacs and Alecia Harrison
Co-chairs





We pray for our world and those in it with hope for our future.

Health Concerns. . . . Carol Wallace, Corine Wichti, Dan Stamm, Mona Stamm, Betty and John Nalepa, Dennis King, Betty Zapata, Christine Brennecke, Bob Baxter; and

Family and friends. . . . Dennis King's sister, Beverly; Lorrie, kidney cancer; Julia Lochra's father, Albert, and her friend Sian McLean; Holly Hans' sister, Heather House and family; Geri and Paul Savolainen's friend, Dave; Clyde Cook's brother; Lisa Grayson's mother, Betty Hooker, and uncle, Bill Winterbottom; Dan and Roxie Hayes' friends, Jacob and Cynthia Sterling; Susie, Benjamin and Bryce Lowe; Camille Morris' mother, Ola Morris-Jones; Don and Carol Wallace's friend, Dan Grazewicz; Don Wallace's nephew, Chuck Wallace, and sister Marge; Shirley Poole's niece, Pamela Chrissinger; Barbara Kyles' niece, Sandy Blackburn; Shannon Thomsen's niece, Kylie Garner, and nephew, Nickolas; Kate Beck's friend, Lisa Gauger; Mary Cook's niece Sarah, nephew Will, son Daniel; Paul and Kerri Blanchard's son, Jason; Dave Hash's mother, Lucille Hash Stewart; Esther Bredell's sister-in-law, Marti Swanson; family of Michael Horvath; Mary Ann de Leon; Beth Owen; Darcy Williamson; Jack and Alice Austin's friends, Bob Anderson and Sam Mansour.

Please note: prayer requests that have been listed for several months have been removed. If you have current requests or updates of those listed, please e-mail them to: paulampic@aol.com

Ready or Not . . . It's His Time

Here it is, a spanking brand NEW year! We made it by the grace of God.

Sometimes we are glad to see the new year turn over so we can claim a clean slate; yet at other times we would like to hold on to it just a little bit longer because it was memorable. Either way, regardless of what happened in 2017, it's not as bad as it could have been . . . without recalling a specific instance, that is truly a true statement! Before 2018 gets "old" let's try to keep in mind that the things we want this year and the things that God wants us to have are not necessarily one and the same. The meeting in the middle comes with the need to understand that God's timing is often enigmatic to us humans here below. When it appears that He gives us what-we-want-when-we-want-it, this wasn't an automatic "seek and ye shall find" kind of thing. He doesn't do things according to our timetable (say WHAT?!)

and once we embrace that often-hard-concept, the rest, as they say, is all good.

You see, this timetable thing is something we cannot figure out. When it seems as if our ship refuses to dock, that's the time to make up our minds not to give up until we cross the finish line and are living in the euphoric blessings of God! We just ended 2017 as we



end most years by focusing mightily on the trust we have in God through the birth of Jesus Christ our Savior. Did you ever pause to consider that Jesus' birth came at exactly the right time?

God causes things to happen at exactly the right time! Of course we don't consciously set a time and try to figure out when our blessings should arrive because God's Word says that He won't be late, but from time-to-time we get sort of restless. In such times we have to focus on that trust we have in Jesus. At 12:01, hopefully no one will have had a bad moment in 2018 yet, so we begin with our strong spiritual resolve. The truth is, though, that for the sake of Jesus Christ, God has forgiven us our sins. It's too time consuming (not to mention utterly futile) to put a deadline on our "God List" and, yes, He hears us on His "God Phone" (prayer), that's all we need do. So let's stop trying to figure everything out in 2018, and simply let God be God in our lives.

Be blessed,
Gale J. Isaacs



And unto us was born . . .

Leslie and David Jarrett are proud to announce the birth of their daughter, Charlotte Anne! She was born on December 12, 2017, was 19.5 inches long and weighed six pounds, six ounces! Leslie, David and Charlotte Anne are well and happy. And Linda and Dave Hash are proud grandparents!



The Council met in the church library on December 3 following worship with almost all members present. Mary Cook served as scribe.

Able to Serve Update(ATS): Carlton McDaniel provided an update on renovation plans for the attic area in the ATS building and presented the proposal and sketches. The new space will house storage, conference area, and Carlton's office, thereby freeing up space downstairs for a much needed fourth classroom. He has retained a commercial architect, electrician, heating/air company, and fire/burglar alarm company, and intends to have plans finalized by February (including all necessary permits). He hopes to have funding in place and begin construction by March or April. Carlton agreed to attend the Annual Meeting to present his proposal to the congregation and answer any questions. Pastor asked about increase in insurance, and Carlton said ATS insurance would provide primary coverage, with ours to be secondary, so impact to our rates would be minimal.

Carlton also shared that he is in the process of consulting with a security company to upgrade the locks (including an intercom or buzzer for the front door), and add cameras. He also said that ATS is looking at purchasing a new lawn mower (at their expense) sometime in the spring.

Financial Report: October was another positive month, partially because there were five Sundays of receipts, and also due to receiving over \$3,000 in tax returns. Expenses were also under budget for the month. At this point, we are approximately \$17,000 in the black for the year. As suggested previously, Barry collapsed line items DF16 and DF17 into DF34, "Infrastructure". To simplify things, he will leave DF 16 and 17 as line items marked "Inactive", and transfer those funds into DF34. Barry and Shannon agreed to confer (and possibly include Dave Hash) regarding the 2018 budget, and have a proposed budget ready for council approval at the January meeting. Barry Brown is resigning as Treasurer effective 2018, and Pastor will ask Becky Babel if she will take the position. Dave Hash has agreed to continue as Financial Secretary.

Loz Vos de Dios: Pastor reported that they have agreed to oversee the nursery, and are in the process of developing simple rules to post.

Pastor elaborated on his research on the MOPS program. The cost to the congregation is \$399 per year (plus \$285 for "starter kit"), and then participants pay about \$30 per month. Since Christian Education has \$1,500 annually in their budget, which is not currently being used, it was suggested any expenses could be covered by

amount already budgeted. Pastor has explained to the MOPS coordinator that Lord of Life would not be able to play any leadership role in initiating the program, however if Christian Education Committee would like to proceed, the funds appear to be available to do so.

Pastor also mentioned the proposal from Hendrix Business Systems to buy out our current printer contract and upgrade our printing capacity (including color) for an additional \$30 per month. (We are currently paying approximately \$214 per month.) Pastor agreed to ask Dave Stamp if he would be willing to meet with the representative from Hendrix to investigate further. This discussion led to a more wide-ranging discussion on technology needs.

Website: Karen and Don presented Social Media Policy and Guidelines along with Image Release Forms. These will be reviewed with congregation at Annual Meeting, and release forms will be signed at that time. Release forms will be required in order to post pictures of children under 18.

Don then suggested the need for Lord of Life to have a Technology Coordinator, and share a "job description" he and Karen had developed for such a position. This position could either be filled by a volunteer from the congregation, or we could hire someone from outside. We decided to start by seeking someone within the congregation and Pastor will speak with Dave Stamp to see whether he might be interested or able. Karen said that Dave Lippard is willing to serve as web master for \$20 per month, providing updates do not become "excessive."

The Mutual Ministry Committee will be discussed at the Leadership Retreat in February.

Nominating Committee: The current committee has identified four candidates to fill the four Council positions which will become vacant in January 2018: Lindsay Crocker, Paula Pickler, Dan Hayes, and Dave Hash. As stated in the church constitution, a new nominating committee consisting of six members, will need to be elected at the Annual Meeting to serve for a one-year term. Mary Cook, Karen Post, and Pastor have agreed to serve on this committee; three additional members will need to be identified before the Annual Meeting.

Security: In light of the tragic shooting at a church in Texas last month, Shannon wondered if we might need to address security issues here. Patrick offered his expertise, and we all agreed that this is an item we need to pursue at the upcoming leadership retreat on February 3, 2018.

Upcoming: Congregational Meeting is January 28, 2018. Leadership Retreat is February 3, 2018

The Council meets the first Sunday of each month right after worship in the church library. Meetings are open to anyone who wishes to attend. If you have anything you wish to discuss, please let the interim president of the Council, Shannon Thomsen, know ahead of time.

--from minutes submitted by Mary Cook

Lady Bird: a review

Lady Bird is, first of all, not about Ladybird Johnson, President Lyndon Baines Johnson's wife. It is about a year in the life of a typical teenager named Christine, who calls herself Lady Bird



because she wants to be special. Lady Bird is wonderfully portrayed by Saoirse Ronan, perhaps the best actress in film and stage having won an Academy Award for Best Supporting actress in *Atonement* when she was only 13 years old and being nominated for Best Actress 8 years later for her role in *Brooklyn*. Now after a stint in *The Crucible* on Broadway, she is getting rave reviews and awards for her role as Lady Bird in *Lady Bird*, even though

the film is in limited release. The film follows a year of Lady Bird's life from her senior year of high school in Sacramento, California, where the director grew up, to the early days of her college life, and the emotional roller coaster relationship she has with her mother, who is a nurse providing for the family because her husband just lost his job, and always has realistic expectations for her; while her "softy" father is always there for her with support often unbeknownst to his wife. Both parents are nailed by the film's director, Greta Gerwig who literally puts her life as a teenager into the film. The parents could be Pastor Wayne and Anne Marie or they could be any of you.

Many of the scene or directions the film goes in are comical like when the school football coach agrees to take on the adult leadership of the theater program or when you meet her brother and his girlfriend whom the family describes as "we just took her in because she had nowhere else to go." She has two boyfriends in that year who could not be more different, and a best friend who loses Ladybird for a time because she is "hanging out" (that's what teenagers do) with a cheerleader from the more upper class side of the tracks. On the other hand we see the quiet comfort the best friend and Lady Bird both share when "hanging out together".

Oh and I forgot to mention, Lady Bird attends a Catholic school which includes daily Mass where Lady Bird sometimes chooses to receive communion or sometimes crossing her arms to only receive a blessing. There is no clue as to the parents' relationship to the school or church. The priest assigned to the school is "superior" in his relationships with the students which brings me to the "mother superior" who speaks with Lady Bird after she decorates her car with a sign "Just Married", and says, of course, I am married, I am married to Jesus"

As you can see, there is so much in this film as there is in a teenager's life. Her mother, played so honestly by Laurie Metcalf, has never stopped loving her daughter deep down even when anger



is shown on the surface. Tracy Letts, as Lady Bird's father, is the opposite in his quiet conversations with his daughter. Moira MacDonald, Seattle Times art critic, calls the movie a "joy from start to finish" and concludes his review in this way, "At a meeting with Lady Bird's catholic school college counselor, Lady Bird, whose grades are not stellar, says she wants to leave California and go somewhere "like Yale, but not Yale because I probably couldn't get in." The world for her is a book she is desperate to open; the pleasure of *Lady Bird* is watching those pages begin to turn." Doesn't that sum up a "year in the life of a teenager?"

If you are a member of a family that has its ups and downs but never loses sight, even though at times it may appear far away, go see this movie, or plan on seeing it during Lord of Life's summer cinema series 2018.

---Pastor Wayne

Antonio "Tony" Smith celebrated his First Communion during worship on December 17, 2017. Tony is a faithful and dedicated participant in worship and Sunday School every week and is Lord of Life's reliable and most reverent Acolyte.

JANUARY 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<p>1</p>  <p>Happy New Year!</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p> <p>7:00 am Rotary Breakfast</p> <p>7:30 pm Choir Practice</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Knitting/Crochet Classes</p>
<p>7</p> <p>Baptism of Our Lord 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship 11:30 am Council</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p> <p>7:00 am Rotary Breakfast</p> <p>7:30 pm Choir Practice</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p> <p>7:00 pm Men's Group Dinner Meeting</p> <p>7:00 pm Women's Meet 'n' Eat</p>	<p>13</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Knitting/Crochet Classes</p> <p>10:00 a.m. ALTAR GUILD Meeting & Luncheon</p>
<p>14</p> <p>2nd Sunday of Epiphany 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship</p>	<p>15</p> <p>ARTICLES DUE</p> 	<p>16</p> <p>7:00 pm Inspirational Book Club</p>	<p>17</p> <p>7:00 am Rotary Breakfast</p> <p>7:30 pm Choir Practice</p>	<p>18</p> <p>6:30 pm Social Concerns</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Knitting/Crochet Classes</p>
<p>21</p> <p>3rd Sunday of Epiphany 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship 11:30 am Stewardship</p>	<p>22</p> <p>7:00 pm Worship & Music</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p> <p>7:00 am Rotary Breakfast</p> <p>7:30 pm Choir Practice</p>	<p>25</p> <p>11:30 a.m. LUNCH BUNCH (site tba)</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Knitting/Crochet Classes</p>
<p>28</p> <p>4th Sunday of Epiphany 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship 11:30 am Property ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING following worship</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p> <p>7:00 am Rotary Breakfast</p> <p>7:30 pm Choir Practice</p>			