

WALLACE MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

January 2016

Winter Worship | January 10th - February 7th |

Theme: A New Perspective

View our color version online: wallacememorial.org



**SERVING ALL
GOD LOVING**



January 10th

Second Sunday of Epiphany
The Baptism of the Lord
Pulpit Supply: Rev. Jen Haddox
of World Mission Initiative

January 17th

2nd Sunday after Epiphany
Sacrament of Communion
Pulpit Supply: Rev. Scott Boyd,
Director of P.R.I.S.M.

January 24th

3rd Sunday after Epiphany
Ordination & Installation of
Church Leaders
Psalter Lesson Psalm 19

Time for Young Disciples

"Unspoken Voices"

Scripture Lesson

Luke 4: 14-21

Morning Message

"Hearing is Believing"

Scripture Reading

1 Corinthians 12: 1-11

January 31st

4th Sunday after Epiphany

Psalter Lesson Psalm 71: 1-6

Scripture Reading

1 Corinthians 13: 1-13

Time for Young Disciples

"Loving Like a Child"

Scripture Lesson

Luke 4: 21-34

Morning Message

"Story Messages"

February 7th

The Transfiguration of the Lord

Sacrament of Communion

Psalter Lesson Psalm 99

Scripture Reading

Luke 9: 28-36

Time for Young Disciples

"Jesus in 3D"

Scripture Lesson

2 Corinthians 3: 12 – 4: 6

Morning Message

"Unveiling the Gospel"

Pastor's Corner



Resolving to Change

It is once again that time of year when people make New Year resolutions. According to Time magazine the Ten Most Common Resolutions in recent years are:

1. Lose Weight and Get Fit
2. Quit Smoking
3. Learn Something New
4. Eat Healthier
5. Get Out of Debt and Save Money
6. Spend More Time with Family
7. Travel to New Places
8. Be Less Stressed
9. Volunteer
10. Drink Less

And the success rate for people sticking to their resolutions stands at 8%. That's right, on average 8% of people follow through on their resolutions for six months or longer. Perhaps that is why 38% of people now say they never make New Year's resolutions. One author puts it this way, "Whether or not we make resolutions this time of year, we all know that creating sustained and lasting change is difficult. This is as true for individ-

uals as it is for couples, families, and organizations. Our habits and routines become comfortable over time, and so by definition a change in those habits and routines is uncomfortable. The bigger the change we try to make, the greater the discomfort." Apparently we like to avoid discomfort.

We could probably make a list of things we would like to change within the life of the church too, especially since the last several years and the focus of our future is to bring about change in the direction of our membership numbers. Yet, the issue may be that we focus too much on "the what" to change rather than the "why" to change. Connecting with the why we want to do something helps us to connect with the deeper emotional and spiritual reasons that we want to grow, rather than just make a change for change sake. This involves not just stating a resolution of change but building a resolve of spirit to fulfill the change desired.

In the upcoming months we will begin to focus on implementing our resolve to "foster discipleship" as a congregation. This will require us to learn the difference between membership and discipleship. We will be examining how Jesus taught his disciples and the methods he used to "make disciples" as he charged us to do in his name. Jesus took 3 years to just begin shaping disciples for the Kingdom and it wasn't until

they were ignited by the Holy Spirit, that we were able to have the resolve to fulfill their calling to "make disciples" of all nations.

I would have you begin your renewed journey of discipleship by simply defining what it means for you to be a disciple of the Kingdom of Jesus Christ. Perhaps you could answer the phrase, "A Disciple of Jesus is...." What words would you use to describe discipleship? Does the word discipline enter your thoughts? Resolutions require discipline if actual change is going to occur. And the disciples certainly were taken out of their comfort zone, and being a follower of Christ is not as comfortable as it once was for members of churches. Our worship, education, fellowship, and service will be shaped by our focus on "fostering discipleship" for the Kingdom of Jesus Christ. I hope you will resolve to be a disciple of the Kingdom not just a member of a congregation as we begin 2016, that it may truly be a Year of the Lord!

Peace,
Pastor Dennis Molnar



Events and Announcements



Updated Contact Info Members in Assisted Living...

James and Nancy Warters
Concordia at South Hills
Apartment #1201
1300 Bower Hill Rd.
Pittsburgh PA, 15243
(412) 505-8277
Birthday: 6/15 (Nancy)
Birthday: 10/1 (James)

Marguerite Canonge
Asbury Villas
730 Bower Hill Rd.
Pittsburgh, PA 15243
(412) 341-1030
Birthday 4/22

Bud and May Fenton
(Martha Bald)
The Pines of Mt. Lebanon
1537 Washington Rd.
Pittsburgh, PA 15228
(412) 341-4400
Birthday 1/24 (May)
Birthday: 9/15 (Bud)

Olga Preffer
Providence Point
100 Adams Ave. Apt. 428
Pittsburgh, PA 15243
(412) 489-3797
Birthday: 7/17



Mission Profile: Perspectives Class

The mission team is excited to announce that on **January 20th** Wallace will be hosting an evangelism through mission focused class. The class runs for **15 weeks and is from 6:30-9:30 p.m. on Wednesdays.**

Perspectives helps believers from all walks of life see how they can get threaded into God's story of redeeming people from every tribe, tongue, and nation to Himself. From Genesis to the prophets, Jesus Christ to the early church, and Constantine to today, you will see how God has been moving, how the global Church has responded, and what the greatest needs in world evangelization remain today. It isn't a class about missions, but a course on how every believer can be intimately woven into the story of God using His people to be a blessing to all the peoples of the earth. For decades, and around the world, Perspectives on the World Christian Movement has drawn everyday people deeper into God's missionary purpose for the world. People of all ages, walks of life, and backgrounds have come out of the class with an expanded vision of God's work in the world and a new grasp of their part in it, revitalizing their walk with the Lord and strengthening their faith.

To Learn More about the Perspectives class or sign up please go here: <https://class.perspectives.org/Visitor/Public.aspx?ClassId=432671>
If you have any questions, feel free to contact Eunice Nasri at nasriwe@aol.com

Please take time to consider attending the valuable Perspectives course. And of course as always please pray, support, and join our mission work! Although the cost is \$250 (Pre-Class); Scholarships are available.

*Please note the event calendar has been temporarily removed from the newsletter until we add more events for 2016.
Happy New Year!*

Events and Announcements (continued)



Thank you to Wallace Memorial's High School Youth Ministry!

The youth ministry assembled a total of 96 treat bags for Beverly's Birthdays - a local non-profit providing "birthday cheer" for children in families who are experiencing homelessness or other difficult challenges.

A New Breaking Bread Schedule will be dispersed in February. This is an opportunity for individuals and couples to join in fellowship around table in various member's homes. Everyone provides a portion of the dinner (Appetizer, side dish, or dessert). First-timers are encouraged to try it out. You do not have to host and there will be several opportunities hosted at the manse. Please contact Pastor Dennis or Terri Molnar if you would like to give it a try, molnarzoo@verizon.net.



We Are Hiring

Title: Director of Ministry and Mission (DMM)

Part-Time, 15 hours per week

Wallace Memorial Presbyterian Church, 1146 Greentree Road, Pittsburgh, PA, 15220

We are seeking the right candidate to provide church office services by coordinating the logistics and managing volunteers for the full realm of Wallace mission and ministry projects, making connections among volunteers, committee members, council and staff as necessary. He/she will manage the church calendar of events and will coordinate with Communications to arrange and schedule church announcements for mission and ministry projects and outreach efforts. This position will supervise all office volunteers and will assign and monitor their responsibilities.

The DMM position will report to the Pastor as Head of Staff.

DESIRED SKILLS/QUALIFICATIONS:

- Working knowledge of word processing equipment/software and other general office equipment
- Ø Working knowledge of the ACS Realm database
- Ø Organizational and supervisory Skills
- Ø Managing Processes, problem solving, supply and inventory management, professional communication skills, verbal and writing

Interested candidates - please send your resume and salary requirements to Pastor Dennis Molnar by January 24th at the following email address: dmolnar@wallacememorial.org.

Volunteers Needed

The nursery is in need of volunteers as part of Safe Sanctuary, and to help Ardie out during the Sunday School hour (from 9:00-10:00). The schedule will be rotational, and it would be ideal to have enough people so participants would only have to volunteer once every few months.

If you would be willing to help, please contact Nancy Schultz, nschultz@wallacememorial.org, who creating the schedule.

Thank you for your generosity in helping us with the "Close the Gap" campaign! December's total was \$12,521.

What is the Epiphany?



You will notice that the January services center around the theme of the Epiphany - the Sundays of the Epiphany being January 3rd and 10th, and the following Sundays through 31st noted in numerical order as "...After then Epiphany". Epiphany celebrates the appearance of God's glory in the world through the birth of Jesus, our Emmanuel ("God with us"), and the revelation of the incarnation to the Gentiles, and the whole world. It has been marked since the 3rd century with a Feast Day on the 6th of January and celebrated in both East and West in a rich variety of ways. In the Western Church, the emphasis has been on the nativity itself and the acknowledgment of Christ's sovereignty over all through the visit of the Magi bringing their gifts of frankincense, gold and myrrh. The revelation of his true nature is echoed by the words of the prophet Simeon, the Nunc Dimittis, at the Presentation of Christ in the Temple (February 2nd).

The Greek word epiphany means literally 'sudden appearance' and refers above all to the manifestation of God. This is the moment we see that Jesus is more than a good human being, a wise teacher and a moral example. In fact he is the Word become flesh. It is in this sense that Simeon declares him to be 'salvation' and 'a light to lighten the Gentiles.' Later Jesus calls himself 'the light of the World.' Thus the symbolism of light pervades both this season and this Epiphany Service of Lessons and Carols.

Christ calls us out of darkness and into light, so that we may recognize his effect on all creation. In this service, we pray that our eyes may be opened to see his glory; for all are made in the image and likeness of God.

Finally, a word about the hymn, The First Nowell: the meaning of the word "Nowell" is sometimes misunderstood to mean "Noel", French for "Christmas". Its true meaning is "Good Tidings" or "Good News". So, the first stanza might be understood as "The first good tidings by the angels were made to a certain group of poor shepherds in the fields . . .", and the refrain translated as "Good News! The King of Israel is born!"



Additional Service Survey



We would like your input to help us make a service that is beneficial to our congregation, to help us grow as a community of faith and glorify to God to the best of all our abilities. Please return the survey to the church office or when you attend worship on Sunday. Survey Collection bins are placed next to the bulletins, near the entrances to the sanctuary.

1. When would you prefer an additional service?

- _____ Friday at 6 PM
- _____ Saturday at 5 PM
- _____ Sunday at 7:30 AM
- _____ Other (please specify)_____

2. What music content would you prefer more of?

- _____ Christian Contemporary (Modern, inspirational)
- _____ Taize’ (quiet repetitive, meditative)
- _____ Gospel
- _____ Praise
- _____ Other (please specify)_____

3. Would you ever utilize a podcast, or online version, of a service if you missed? (For example, to hear the music, pray the prayers, or listen to the sermon)

- _____ Yes
- _____ No
- _____ I’m not good with technology
- _____ Other (please specify)_____

4. Would you consider sharing a recording of a service with someone who couldn’t make it to church; for example a shut in, or someone recovering from illness?

- _____ Yes
- _____ No
- _____ I don’t know anyone like that.
- _____ Other (please specify)_____

5. Which interactive activity would you most enjoy?

- _____ watching skits
- _____ walking a labyrinth in prayer
- _____ discussion groups
- _____ Other (please specify)_____

6. Would you like the additional service to appeal to...

- _____ a new crowd
- _____ the same crowd

_____ both crowds

7. Which would you prefer to wear to church most often?

- _____ dress/suit and tie
- _____ dress pants/slacks
- _____ jeans and a fashionable shirt
- _____ Other (please specify)_____

8. How often would you prefer an additional service?

- _____ Once a week
- _____ Every Other week
- _____ Once a month
- _____ Other (please specify)_____

9. How long would you prefer the additional service to be?

- _____ 45 minutes
- _____ 1 hour
- _____ 1.5 hours
- _____ Other (please specify)_____

10. Are there any other considerations, concerns, or comments about the additional service at Wallace?

Angels Among Us



"Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure. It is our light, not our darkness that most frightens us. We ask ourselves, Who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented, fabulous? Actually, who are you not to be? You are a child of God.

Your playing small does not serve the world. There is nothing enlightened about shrinking so that other people won't feel insecure around you. We are all meant to shine, as children do.

We were born to make manifest the glory of God that is within us. It's not just in some of us; it's in everyone.

And as we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same. As we are liberated from our own fear, our presence automatically liberates others."



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Marianne Williamson is an "American spiritual teacher", and New York Times best-selling author, who founded many non-profit organizations. Find out more about her outstanding resume at, www.marianne.com
.....

"Angels Among Us..."

...Is a new inspirational section of the Wallace Memorial newsletter dedicated to how the divine *may possibly* interact through our world. It is not specific only to angels - but also how we may be influenced by God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit. Do angels actually walk among us? Does God, with a subtle hand, at times guide our thoughts and actions? When you see quotes as beautiful as Marianne Williamson's, we most definitely tend to wonder. If anything, we hope the people, stories and ideas we feature in this section will refresh your spirit, feed your soul, and motivate you on your journey as a disciple.

Communications Updates



Stewardship Through Online Giving

We are excited to announce the launch of Online Giving through the new church website – www.wallacememorial.org.

"Is there a fee associated with using the online giving through the website?"

This safe, secure option allows you to set up a recurring pledge through an electronic funds transfer, assuring timely delivery of your pledge. You also have the option to contribute above and beyond your weekly pledged amount.

There is no fee to a donor utilizing this service. However, a small percentage of the donation will go to the New Ministry Partnership Fund (through the Presbyterian Foundation), and for an electronic funds transfer fee.

Here is an example - a person sets up a gift of \$100 from their checking account, they will receive a gift acknowledgement for the full amount and the church will have \$99 in the MPF account. EFT -1% transaction charge. If the donor uses their debit or credit card then the fees are 1% + 2.598% + \$0.26 per transaction. So for a gift of \$100 the donor would receipt the gift acknowledgement for the \$100 and the church will have \$96.14 in the MPF account.



What's up with the website?

We hope you're finding the redesigned website to be a useful asset to our congregation. Keep in mind that not only is it a valuable resource for obtaining information, but also a representation of Wallace Memorial to our community, and even a more global Christain network. Therefore, it can be a very instrumental tool in church growth.

However, the website is incomplete, and many sections are out-dated, so we need your help! Below is a list of pages / sections of the website that need to be revamped or finalized. If any of this is your area of expertise, please send revisions to **Meredith Barrett, Communications Coordinator**, mbarrett@wallacememorial.org.

- Nursery School
- About Us
- Christian Education
- Missions
- Youth
- Young Adults (The Table, Young Woman's Group)
- Coffee Hour, Breaking Bread
- Senior Ministry

Please feel free to send any additional comments or items you would like to see on the website as well!

Birthday Fund 2016:

Raise the Roof!



The Birthday Fund is an opportunity to give back for the blessing of life, and to help us save for a rainy day! This year again the focus of the birthday fund will be “Raising the Roof!” During your birthday month, we ask that you consider giving one dollar for each year of your age in celebration of your years. But it is not limited to those celebrating a birthday during any given month - not at all! Do you see a name of a dear friend on the list below, or someone who has inspired you in your faith journey? Make a gift in honor of his or her birthday.

Gifts can be submitted on Sundays, using the blue envelopes located in the sanctuary pews (please indicate “Birthday Fund” on your check or envelope), or submitted at any time in person or through the mail - simply complete the form below with your info, and return it to the church office.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ALL OF THOSE BORN IN JANUARY!

1/4	Ann Baldrige	1/11	Genevieve Fugate	1/18	Sydney Krauth
	Christine Popovich	1/13	James Kozlowski		Jennifer Tancraitor
1/6	William T. Gery	1/14	Laura Halley	1/19	William R. Gery
1/7	Helen Hultman		James Lash, Jr.	1/20	Mildred Hum
1/8	Leanora Rombach	1/15	Paul Weightman		Janet McConnell
	Shirley Schultz	1/16	Dr. Ronald Kunz	1/22	Liam Dugan
1/9	Haley Bittel		Kate Oudsema		William Schwartzmiller
	Hannah Bittel	1/17	Scott Donald	1/23	Betty Horne
1/10	Hannah Olstein		Elizabeth Gillen	1/24	Patricia Bissert
	Finn Dugan		Jeannie McGuire		May Fenton
	JoAnne Lamb				Helen Trautman
				1/27	Joan Wylie
				1/29	Karen Badzgon
					Jessica Franceschina
					Brian Gottschall
				1/30	Karie Golden
					Christopher Volk

.....

Yes, I am grateful for the blessing of life, and am happy to be a part of the Birthday Fund!

Name: _____

Gift Amount: _____

This is a:

_____ Gift for my birthday month

_____ Gift in honor of the birthday of: _____

.....



Litany on the Gospel in the Light of the Paris Massacre

(A message equally applicable to San Bernadino and all acts of terror in modern times.)

Mark 13:1-8

There will be wars and rumors of wars,
wars that will shake the foundations of the world,
wars that will shake our faith in God.

There will be murder of the innocent, brutality and disaster,
and all manner of undeserved suffering.

There will be anxiety, fear, and circular hatred,
racism, injustice and mortal terror.

There will be those who rejoice in the suffereing of others,
who delight in spilling the blood of children.

There will be wars and rumors of wars,
but it will not be the end of the world.

The world ends not with flames and terror,
blood and carnage,
with tears of sorrow and rage.
This is not how the world will end.

The world will end with a new beginning:
the beginning of the reign of God,
the reign of God that is the end of violence.

For the following is trustworthy and true:

“See, the home of God is among us!
God will dwell with us and we will be his people.
Death will be no more;
mourning and crying and pain will be no more.”

“Fear not,” Jesus tells us. “I am the Beginning
and the End.
The end of death, the beginning of life and peace.”

Let us rejoice and be glad!

Revelation 21: 3-6

by Gordon J. Schultz, November 14, 2015, based on a
text by David Henson.

“I will be with
you always,
even until the
end of the
world.”

(Matthew 28:20, CEV)

Wallace Newsletter
"Serving God, loving all."

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