



# The Messenger



PUBLISHED MONTHLY FOR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF  
SAINT ANDREWS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, TOPEKA, KANSAS

January, 2024

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On January 6<sup>th</sup>, the Church celebrates Epiphany which is the revelation and manifestation of Christ the King to the Magi, and ultimately, the gentile world.

We know the Gospel story of the three Wise Men, the Magi from the East, who traveled far following the light of the great Star to find and humbly pay homage to Jesus, the new-born King with their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

So what does Epiphany mean for us today as we begin this new year of 2024? ***Epiphany means Hope and joyful revelation***, just as it did then. The Magi had Hope in the Star that God placed before them. They followed that light of Hope until they found Jesus – realizing that this infant King would save the world.

We too, today, need to follow the light of Hope that God has given us through Jesus.

His Epiphany brought that light to the whole world, not just to the chosen people of Israel, but to all people. These Wise Men who were Gentiles, followed that light and found their Savior.

We are those Magi today when we seek Him. When we follow that light of Christ. When we trust in God and Hope in His promise to free us from death into a life eternal.

Let us allow Christ's Epiphany to be our personal epiphany as we come to realize that true Hope and Joy comes through Him. And as we follow the light that shines forth from His Love, let us reflect that light in our world and become light to others who seek Him, so that our joy may bring joy to others in need.

May God bless you and keep you always in His love.

(Excerpt from Deacon Harry of the Vitality Catholic Healthcare Services)

## Annual Reports

Attention all Session members and moderators of church organizations! Assembling the annual report material will be done beginning the week of January 14th to be available to the congregation on January 21st so it may be reviewed before the annual meeting. If you currently moderate a session committee or other church organization, please write a report that summarizes your activities of 2023 to be shared with the congregation at our annual meeting on February 4th. Please help by getting your information in by January 14<sup>th</sup>. You may bring your report to church and place it in the office or email it to the church at [standrewspresby@sbcglobal.net](mailto:standrewspresby@sbcglobal.net) **Emailing it to the office really works the best.** Thank you.





Our **Annual Congregational Meeting** will be Sunday, February 4<sup>th</sup>, after worship. Please plan to attend as we conduct the important business of the church.

## DOORSTEP

Happy New Year! First and foremost, thank you to everyone who assisted Doorstep in some way to provide Christmas for 260 households with 811 individuals this past December! We tried to provide each person with an item from their wish list, along with books, board games, health kits, blankets, food for several meals, school supplies, if appropriate, and gift cards.



A major theme of 2023 was food... the increased need by our neighbors, the increased costs to keep food in the pantry to help, the increased need of Doorstep by asking for food and monetary donations. By year-end we spent over \$54,600 on food purchases, and the need has remained at an increased level.

One way to help in the first part of 2024 is by donating towards our annual SouperBowl Sunday's collection of soup and crackers! During the weekend of the Super Bowl (February 9<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup>) we ask our member congregations to collect soup, all varieties, and crackers to help stock our food shelves. A really successful event will keep our shelves stocked for a few months, at least! In 2023, we had a goal of 5,000 pounds, and we received nearly 8,000 pounds!!!! I say, "Let's do it again this year!!"

I cannot stress enough just how thankful and blessed we feel to have the partnership and support of our member congregations as we all work to help our neighbors in need. Of course, our volunteers are an incredibly valuable resource, and Doorstep could not be open without their constant assistance! And, the support of our whole community when Doorstep, and those we help, are in need continues to be inspiring to the work we do!

Lisa Cain, Executive Director

## Officers To Be Installed

Church officers elected by the congregation on November 19<sup>th</sup> for the class of 2026 will be installed on January 21st during worship. They are Charles Franks, Betty DeShazer and Bill DeShazer. All have been previously ordained. Thank you to these folks for agreeing to serve.

*Installation of Officers*

## January Birthdays



Mary Jane Elder, January 2<sup>nd</sup>

Don Newman, January 3<sup>rd</sup>

Marguerite Newman, January 10<sup>th</sup>

Cheryl Kelly, January 10<sup>th</sup>

Jadyn Baum, January 23<sup>rd</sup>

Matthew Reynolds, January 29<sup>th</sup>



## January Anniversaries

None this month

## JANUARY 2024 LECTIONARY READINGS

**Epiphany of the Lord—January 6** Isaiah 60:1–6 Psalm 72:1–7, 10–14 Ephesians 3:1–12 Matthew 2:1–12

**Baptism of the Lord—January 7** Genesis 1:1–5 Psalm 29 Acts 19:1–7 Mark 1:4–11

**Sunday, January 14** 1 Samuel 3:1–10 (11–20) Psalm 139:1–6, 13–18 1 Corinthians 6:12–20 John 1:43–51

**Sunday, January 21** Jonah 3:1–5, 10 Psalm 62:5–12 1 Corinthians 7:29–31 Mark 1:14–20

**Sunday, January 28** Deuteronomy 18:15–20 Psalm 111 1 Corinthians 8:1–13 Mark 1:21–28



**Communion-** Holy Communion will be celebrated on January 7<sup>th</sup>..



We were blessed with special music from our church family during the Advent and Christmas season. Susan K. William and Don Newman sang *Come Jesus, Holy Son of God on December 10<sup>th</sup>*. An acapella trio consisting of Francene Beall, Stephanie Reynolds and Susan K William presented *The Snow Lay on the Ground* at the Christmas morning service. Francene shared her talent with us with a piano solo, *The Coventry Carol*, and a beautiful organ solo of *O Holy Night* on Christmas Eve. Thank you to these folks for sharing and making our worship special this season.

### ***Caring for our Members and Friends***

Pastor Stacey Jan Rice, Sue Aschenbrenner, Anita Evanhoe, Yolanda Jackson, Tad Estes, Kaylin McDaniels, Don and Suzie Marker, Dana McDaniels, Marlene Watson, Jo Ann Miller, Judy Morton, Dolores Wilmers, Rita Kelly, Cheryl Kelly..

Remember all our service men and women, both active and veterans, those who protect us- firefighters, EMTs, police officers.

Prayers for the hungry and the homeless.

Prayers for the victims of the ongoing Israel-Palestinian War and war in Ukraine. Prayers for the release of hostages.

Pray for our government officials and world leaders.



### **Session Meeting**

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS-December 17, 2023

A] '25 Dean Robinson	[ P ] '24 Sharon McDaniels	[P] '23 Betty DeShazer
[P] '25 Larry William	[ P ] '24 Linda Ozaki	[P] '23 Bill DeShazer
[P] '25 Jan Rice	[ P ] '24 Stephanie Reynolds	[P] '23 Charles Frank

[P] Session Moderator- Rev. Dr. Stacey Shaffer Jones  
[P] Clerk of Session-Bill DeShazer  
[P] Treasurer-Stephanie Reynolds

Amount in checking - \$18,000.00- This is approximately the amount we started the year with, so our finances have remained stable.

Cornerstone's Kurer House was dedicated on December 7<sup>th</sup>.

Mt. Carmel Baptist Church has invited St. Andrews to join them for their New Year's Eve Watch Party which begins at 10:00 pm.

Annual Reports are due January 14<sup>th</sup>.

Installation of Officers will be January 21<sup>st</sup>.

Next session meeting is January 21<sup>st</sup> following worship.

Annual Congregation meeting will be February 4<sup>th</sup> following worship.

Communion will be celebrated on January 7<sup>th</sup>.

◀ December		January 2024					February ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
	1	2 Mary Jane Elder-B'day	3 Don Newman B'day	4	5	6 Epiphany	
7 Communion	8	9	10 Marguerite Newman B'day  Cheryl Kelly B'day	11	12	13	
14 Annual Reports Due	15	16	17	18	19	20	
21 Installatio of Officers Session	22	23 Jadyn Baum B'day	24	25	26	27	
28	29 Matthew Reynoods B'day	30	31	February 4 <sup>th</sup> - Annual Congregation Meeting			

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**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**



**January, 2024**

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**WELCOME TO  
SAINT ANDREWS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
Bible Study, Sunday, 10:15 AM  
Sunday Worship 11:00 AM**

