

# The Link



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The Raeford Presbyterian Church is committed to worshipping God, proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ, nurturing the faithful, and showing compassion for those in need.

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## The Season After Epiphany

I am sharing parts of a reflection on “The Season after Epiphany” that was written by Reuben Job in “A Guide to Prayer For All Who Walk With God,” (pp. 60-61).

*Epiphany is the day and the season of the church year when we patiently watch and listen as God is quietly revealed before us once again. Sometimes, even when we try hard to do so, we just don't see God in our everyday lives or in the events of our troubled world. Epiphany gives us the time and the resources to watch, wait, listen, look, anticipate, and discern the light, life, and truth of the Lord's presence in our midst.*

*Contemporary observances of Epiphany include the coming of the wise men with gifts for the Christ child and the baptism of Jesus. The season concludes with Transfiguration Sunday, when the church remembers the radiant vision of the disciples who saw Jesus' garments turn bright and they heard a voice from a cloud that overshadowed them saying, “This is my Son, whom I dearly love. Listen to him!” (Mark 9:7).*

*Epiphany is the time when the church gathers to remember and reflect on the mighty acts of God in the birth of Jesus Christ. As we watch and wait for the light of Christ to overcome the darkness, we see the Christ child who will become prophet, healer, teacher, and savior. Much of the story remains to be told, but the biblical readings for Epiphany remind us of the direction in which this one sacred life is moving. Here was life at its purest and best. Life lived as it should be lived. Life that came from God, walked with God in the world, and would one day be fully with God in the world to come (John 13:3). The life of Jesus is our light and model for how we too may live. As we recognize the image of our true humanity in the life of Jesus Christ, we also begin to understand that we have come from God, are invited to walk in faithfulness with God in this world, and one day will be welcomed to our eternal home. There we will still be with the God who loves us beyond our capacity to fully understand.*

Celebrate Epiphany by worshipping with us on Sunday's at 11 a.m.! Study, pray and reflect with us on Wednesday nights at 6:00 p.m. and Sunday morning Sunday School times at 9:45 a.m. Get involved with us in caring ministries with youth or children, with cooking and cleaning on Wednesday nights. Visit the shut-ins, bring a good word of God's love and yours, to our members who live in nursing homes or retirement communities. You carry the Spirit of God within you. Therefore, you might just usher in an epiphany – a manifestation of God's divine presence – through your acts of caring and loving.

Shalom,  
Dr. Fitzgerald

**COMMUNION**

Raeford Presbyterian Church will celebrate The Lord's Supper on Sunday, January 7, during the morning worship service. All who call Christ as their Lord and Savior may partake.

**SESSION MEETING**

The session will have a Called Meeting on Wednesday, January 3, at 6:00 pm to discuss the 2018 budget.

The session will have their Monthly Stated Meeting on Sunday, January 14, at 6:00 pm.

**INSTALLATION SERVICE**

The Installation Service for the Class of 2020 will be held on Sunday, January 21, during our morning worship service. Those being installed are Kevin Davis, Gary Hendrix, Frank Inman, Margaret Johnson, John Jordan, and Wayne Willis.

**WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNER & BIBLE STUDY**

Wednesday Night Dinner and Bible Study will resume on January 10. Join us on Wednesdays at 6:00 pm for dinner followed by Bible Study and activities for children and youth.

**MISSION PROGRAM**

We are excited about a visit to Raeford Presbyterian Church from Gordon and Dorothy Gartrell on Sunday evening, January 21. The Gartrells have been associated with our church since the 1990's and have served the mission field in Brazil for many years. They will be with us for a covered dish dinner beginning at 6:00 pm. Plan to bring your well filled basket and enjoy an evening hearing about the mission work of these great missionaries. For more information about the Gartrells, visit the church website under "Missions".

**OFFICE HOURS & HOLIDAY CLOSINGS**

The church office is open from 8:30 am to 12:00 pm and from 1:00 pm to 4:30 pm, Monday through Friday. The office will close at noon the first and third Friday of each month. Please be reminded that the office is closed briefly on Monday mornings for the bank deposit to be made.

The church office will be closed on Monday, January 1, for New Year's Day and on Monday, January 15, for the Martin L. King, Jr. holiday.

**OFFERING ENVELOPES**

Please pick up your 2018 offering booklets in the narthex. If you do not have one, contact Lisa in the church office to have one assigned to you.

**FLOWER CALENDAR**

The 2018 Flower Calendar is located on the bulletin board outside the office. Please sign up if you wish to place flowers in the sanctuary on a particular Sunday.

**PRAYERS AND SYMPATHY**

The session and congregation wish to express our prayers and sympathy to John and Polly Jordan upon the death of John's brother, Wally.

**MEN OF THE CHURCH**

The Men of the Church will host a fish fry for the Wednesday night meal on Wednesday, January 17. This meal will replace the regularly scheduled breakfast that was to be held on the 21<sup>st</sup>.

**PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN**

**January Circle Meetings:**

Circle #1 – Sunday, January 7, at 4:00 pm at the church.

Circle #2 – Tuesday, January 9, at 7:00 pm with Judy Davis.

Circle #3 – Monday, January 8, at 2:00 pm at the church.

The PW Council will meet on Sunday, January 28, following the morning worship service.

**PRAYER CONCERNS:** Wayne Bartrug, Bobby Britt, Barbara Burnside, Bobby Cox, Charlie Davis, Van Gibson, Savitri Jattan, Julian Johnson, Susan McColl, Virginia McColl, Jessica McGougan, Willie McNeill, Kay Norris, Becky Smith, Ralph Tindall, our missionaries: Dan and Elizabeth Turk; and members of the United States Armed Forces.

**JANUARY DUTY**

**DOOR DUTY:** John Jordan, John K. McNeill, Dale Teal, Delia McNeill.

**NURSERY DUTY:** Evan and Cortney Hendrix, Elizabeth McNeill and Katharine McNeill, Linda McLeod and Linda Williams, Gary and Lynn Hendrix.

**JANUARY COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

Music & Worship

Monday, January 8, 5:30 p.m.

Personnel

Monday, January 8, at 6:15 p.m.

Spiritual Dev. & Congregational Care

Tuesday, January 9, at 5:00 p.m.

Administration & Finance

Tuesday, January 9, 7:00 p.m.

Christian Education

Thursday, January 11, 5:00 p.m.

Session Meeting

Sunday, January 14, 6:00 p.m.

PW Council

Sunday, January 28, following worship

**If you are hospitalized, seriously ill, or having surgery, please notify the church office at 875-2101 or [imaxwell@raefordpres.org](mailto:imaxwell@raefordpres.org). Your church wants to minister to you whenever you are ill. We can do that only if you or your family informs us of your needs. Thank you for your calls and e-mail.**





