

Epiphany: Hidden in Plain Sight

Excerpt from a sermon by Pastor Sally Wiens,
Haines United Methodist Church

The Epiphany of the Lord is the day that symbolizes the revelation of God the Son, as a human being in Jesus Christ and commemorates the visit of the Magi (the Three Kings) to the Christ child. The word means "manifestation" or "revelation." Christ revealed himself to the gentiles through the Wise Men who came bearing gifts. Epiphany is also known as Three Kings Day and/or Twelfth Day....since it is the twelfth day after Christmas.

Epiphany is a time of discovery, it is a time when we realize that something has been in place for, who knows how long....and finally we are in the right place and in the right time to notice it...to discover it.

Epiphany can then be seen as the season of light or simply "seeing the light".

Elizabeth Sherrill wrote in an upcoming Daily Guideposts devotional about how she used to hate the month of January. Christmas was over, spring so far away, nights so long. Then she began attending church and discovered a very different calendar. Christians call this darkest time of year the season when we see the light. They named it Epiphany, focusing on four different times when God "shows forth" who Jesus is: the coming of the wise men; the baptism in the Jordan; the wedding feast at Cana; the Transfiguration on the mountaintop. Each epiphany is a total surprise.

One of my favorite Guidepost contributors is Carol Kuykendall of Colorado who for years has celebrated Epiphany by remembering some of the times and places that Jesus was revealed to her in the last year...or the last 24 hours or even the last 24 seconds. As we ask Jesus to reveal himself to us yet again, let us be open to the joys of discovery, and the discovery of gifts that abound, possibly gifts that have been hidden from sight and just waiting to be found.

Epiphany is a time of discovery, it is a time when we realize that something has been in place for, who knows how long....and finally we are in the right place and in the right time to notice it...to discover it.

I like this season because Epiphanies surprise us, even those who may think there are no surprises, a sudden insight, or discovery, for the first time, something that's been there forever, or suddenly understanding something that has been misunderstood, many times opens the eyes of even a true sceptic..... An Epiphany is like all the stars are finally aligned, things become so evident that you wonder where your mind has been prior to the discovery.

Phyllis A. Tickle wrote in "What the Heart Already Knows":
"The twelve days of Christmas comes to an end on January 6, and the season of the Epiphany begins. But Epiphany not only ends Christmas, it also fulfills it by celebrating the revelation of the Christ to the whole world. The coming of Incarnate God to all people, especially to those of us who are Gentiles, is the bridge from birth into life, the event that makes Easter possible for most of us. The light of the Epiphany illuminates the church's year as it illuminates the human race from whom the kings came."

Elizabeth Sherrill once wrote: "From the beginning, other nations were included in God's plan of redemption; the coming of the Wise Men was simply the moment when people grasped this. Epiphanies introduce nothing new. Epiphanies whisper, 'Look again! God is closer than you think!'"

Pine & Eagle Valley News

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Happy New Year 2015! What an ending and an interesting beginning. So, the schedule is busy and again, it will be a short news to read, but it will be funny. My computer is on the mend and I should have it home and in working order by this evening. (Which means great news for next week.)

Weather

We ended last week with absolutely awesome snowmobile weather. There was a good base and lots of powder. Last night we received several more inches of snow. And it wasn't just Halfway. Richland received several inches of snow, as well.

Bingo

Oh what a wonderful way to start the new year. Virginia Bridgmon of Halfway, won the \$600 jackpot at the New Bridge Grange Bingo on Saturday, Jan. 3. Congratulations Virginia, and also to Jack (her husband). When Virginia wins, she shares the winnings with her husband. Maybe I shouldn't have written this....it might be a secret win.

Pine Eagle Charter School

Basketball has now taken center stage. The Jr. high girls basketball practice started on

Monday, Jan. 5. They will play their first tournament on Friday, Jan. 9 starting at 10 a.m. They will play against Cove and North Powder. High School Varsity travels to Wallowa on Jan. 9 and the game starts at 3 p.m. Then on Saturday, Jan. 10, the junior high travel to Imbler. Game starts at 10 a.m.

Santa

I have to tell a story on Santa. Yes, I believe. And so seemed Santa found some seasoned seaweed. Santa thought it would be a different, fun item to add to the Christmas stockings. So here comes Christmas morning, the kids are excited for their gifts and stockings. The first comment was, "seaweed?" There were giggles and pondering as to why would Santa get us seaweed. I looked and said, "Well, it is seasoned. He probably thought it was going to be something different to try and delicious."

So grandbabe Savannah opened the package. She handed me a piece. I put it in my mouth. And I'm thinking....why would Santa get the kids seaweed? Well I couldn't spit it out, as the kids were watching. It tasted like I had

a gulp of water out of a goldfish bowl. Oh my it was fishy, slimy... And so, turns out, you buy that item, seaweed for suchi. Well, Santa learned and tasted a valuable lesson. It's a Christmas memory!

Fred Masterson had surgery for cancer in Dec. and is doing well following some reconstruction. He is going to be in the hospital for several more weeks. What would be great, is if you would take a moment for this Veteran and write a card. It can be sent to his address and then will be taken up to Seattle with his son. Send to Fred Masterson at 1715 Washington, Baker City, Ore. 97814.

Ending

And that my friends, brings me to the end of the news. Remember to call me with your news, it adds to the fun reading. Until next week, I shall leave you with this thought - We will open the book. Its pages are blank. We are going to put words on them ourselves. The book is called Opportunity and its first chapter is New Year's Day. -Edith Lovejoy Pierce

Have an awesome week, thank you for reading.

Sumpter News

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Annual Hot Dog and Chili Feed Successful

The annual Hot Dog/Chili Feed & Light Show put on by the Sumpter Valley Blue Mountain Snowmobile Club New Year's Eve had a nice attendance of about forty people who arrived by snowmobiles and by cars. There was more than enough chili for all and roasting the wieners at the bon fire was very popular, according to club v.p. John Young.

The snow that fell a couple of Saturday's ago hung around for a week. This past Sunday and Monday the daytime temperatures were up around forty degrees and some rain moved in Monday morning, softening the snow and helping roofs shed their covers of white.

Bingo

Members of Sumpter Vol FD and the Auxiliary will be hosting their first Bingo evening of the new year this Friday evening (Jan. 9) at the Old Schoolhouse community center. The fun begins at 7 p.m. with a jackpot of \$174.

Outhouse Races in the Works

Saturday, Jan. 10 members of the Sumpter Valley Blue Mountain Snowmobile Club will meet at 6:30 p.m. at the community center for a potluck dinner with a meeting to follow. The group will be discussing plans for next month's annual Poker Run and Outhouse Races coming up Saturday, Feb. 14. Watch for information regarding a possible

change of dinner/meeting date next month.

Calendar

Jan. 9 - Bingo at Schoolhouse Community Center, 7 p.m.

Jan. 10 - SVBM Snowmobilers at Schoolhouse Community Center, 6:30 p.m.

Jan. 13 - City Council at City Hall, 7 p.m.

Jan. 15 - Bag Ladies at Schoolhouse Community Center, noon to ?

Planning Commission at City Hall, 7 p.m.

Jan. 20 - PRRFPD, 6:30 pm, Mosquito Flat Station Sumpter Vol FD at fire hall, 7 p.m.

Tues, Jan. 27 - Alpine Chapter, OES, at Masonic Hall, 8 p.m.

Feb. 2 - Masons at Masonic Hall, 8 p.m.

Feb. 3 - PRRFPD, 6:30 pm, Mosquito Flat Station Sumpter Vol FD at fire hall, 7 p.m.

Installation of Officers at McEwen Masonic Lodge

McEwen Masonic Lodge of Sumpter finished their year last month with an installation of the new officers for the year 2015. Installing officers were: Installing Master Myron Miles, Installing Marshal Ralph Morgan and Installing Chaplain Skip Weisgerber. Installed were: Worshipful Master, Craig Sipp; Senior Warden, Gregg Miles; Junior Warden, Ralph Morgan; Secretary, Joe Fontana; Senior Deacon, Dick

Southard; Junior Deacon, Leland Myers; Junior Steward, Skip Weisgerber; Chaplain, Myron Miles; and Tyler, Don Burrows. Yet to be installed are the Treasurer, Senior Steward and Marshal.

McEwen Lodge has a new member-Skip Weisgerber, and petitions out with two other gentlemen who have inquired of being members.

This past Monday evening, the members of McEwen Lodge held their first meeting of the new year and part of their discussion was their annual Sweetheart dinner to honor their 'sweeties.'

Have a great year, fellows, and thank you for your support of education, Shriners Hospitals and Knights Templar Eye Foundation.

Churches

Sunday morning services are held at St. Brigid's in the Pines on the first and third Sundays of the month at 11 a.m. followed by a coffee 'hour.' The Jan. 18 service will be led by Rev. Aletha Bonebrake.

Weekly services at McEwen Bible Fellowship include Sunday School at 9:45 a.m. and Morning Worship at 11 a.m. and Wednesday evening prayer at 6:45 p.m.

News items received by this reporter by Sunday evening will be included in the Sumpter column the following week. Send in news and/or photos with captions of guests, births, group meetings, any special occasion.

Keating Cub Scouts to Hold Chili Feed Fundraiser

Julie Winton will be doing a special talk about her hiking experience on Mt. Kilamonjaro during the chili feed fundraiser sponsored by the Keating Cub Scouts on Jan. 18. It will be held at the fire hall in Keating from 1-3 p.m. and monetary donations are accepted to help fund scouting activities throughout the year.

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