



January, 2012

# Tower Bell

Dear Friends,

The dictionary would probably define 'epiphany' as a moment of sudden revelation or insight; putting in the vernacular, it would be an "Ah ha!" moment. The light bulb goes on ... we suddenly 'see' something we've never seen before.

I had never heard of the Christian celebration of Epiphany until many years after seminary graduation. Perhaps it was the publication of the new edition of the *Book of Common Worship* in 1993 that brought it to my attention, but whenever it happened, it was something new. It was not, however, new to Christendom.

An excerpt from the *Companion to the Book of Common Worship* reads: "The word 'epiphany' (from the Greek epiphaneia or theophaneia) means 'appearance' or 'manifestation' of God, and has roots in the word for sunrise or dawn. In ancient times, an epiphany meant either a visible manifestation of a god or the solemn visit of a ruler venerated as a god.

"For Christians, Christmas marks the coming of God to us; Epiphany celebrates the appearance of the Lord in the midst of humanity. The Christmas stories of the birth of Immanuel declare the divine entry; Epiphany extols the revelation of God to the world in the person of Jesus of Nazareth."

D. T. Niles, a Sri Lankan and one of the greatest theologians of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, said that "Jesus is more than the son of Abraham. As Luke sets forth in the genealogical table which he gives, Jesus is the son of Adam. It is the whole story of man that finds meaning in the coming of Jesus, for in Jesus was laid the foundation on which the whole of creation was to be built up into that perfection for which God made it."

That's what happens at Epiphany. We see the three kings coming from the East (meaning: the Gentile nations, all the non-Jews) in order to worship this King, revealing that this is the king of the world. This is God himself, the creator and ruler and sustainer of all that is, and now even the Gentiles worship him. Even the Gentiles know who He is! Even the Gentiles say, "Ah ha!!!" That's the celebration of Epiphany. Even we Gentiles have seen His

glory, glory as of the only Son of the Father. Praise God!

Epiphany is always celebrated on January 6<sup>th</sup>, twelve days after Christmas, hence: the 12 Days of Christmas. (And you thought it was only a song!) We do not have a worship service on January 6<sup>th</sup> in 2012, but please feel free to meditate on, and give thanks for, God's manifestation to all of us Gentiles!

On Sunday, January 8<sup>th</sup>, we will celebrate the baptism of Jesus: when Jesus came to John the Baptist and was baptized in the Jordan River. By His action, by receiving the baptism of the repentance of sin, Jesus proclaims that He is one of us, taking on our sin even at the beginning of His ministry. He will not be separated from us. He walks our walk. He is at-one with us! (at-one-ment = atonement)

We will celebrate Jesus' baptism, and ours, with a service of Reaffirmation of the Baptismal Covenant for a Congregation. It will also be our 'Ah ha' moment, I pray, when we, too, will see and hear and feel and be touched by our Heavenly Father and Christ our Brother, in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Love, Dedie

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*Companion to the Book of Common Worship*, p. 94, my emphasis.

*Living with the Gospel*, pp. 14-15.

## BLESSED CHRISTMAS!

Bradley Krueger, our choir and congregational musicians led us in a sublimely beautiful Christmas Eve Candlelight service.

Thank you! You are God's blessing to our congregation.

**A big THANK YOU to the congregation for all the support for this year's JUBILEE CHRISTMAS.**

This year 70 children in South Bend can look forward to a happy holiday thanks to your efforts. Parents of these children left the church on Saturday afternoon, December 10 with appreciative hugs, bright smiles, and heartfelt thanks - as well as bags filled with gaily wrapped gifts, cookies, and food certificates.

Whether you donated gifts, money, your time or cookies please know you made a difference to a child, and a grateful parent, this holiday. We are blessed to have the opportunity to share the joys of Christmas with the South Bend Community. Thank you and Happy New Year, the Mission Committee

**We had a wonderful time at this year's JUBILEE CHRISTMAS!**

Thanks to your efforts, Seventy (70) children in South Bend are looking forward to a happy Christmas morning. Parents of these children left the church Saturday afternoon, December 10th, with appreciative hugs, bright smiles, and heartfelt thanks - as well as with bags filled with gaily wrapped gifts, cookies, and food certificates. To all of you who donated gifts, money, cookies or your time - please know that you made a difference to a child, and to a grateful parent, this holiday season.

Our church-wide project would not be possible without help from so many of the congregation. Nine (9) families each had "hosts" from our church to greet, help wrap, and share cookies. Fourteen (14) bakers provided cookies for munching, and for trays for the Jubilee families to take home. Six (6) people helped to set up the social hall for this big event. The Deacons helped fund our efforts. Many people - too numerous to count - provided donations or shopped for gifts from the Giving Tree. Members of the **youth group** helped lead the singing, fill cookie trays, and load bags, bikes and even Christmas trees into cars. **Kevin Dreyer** translated the letters sent to families into Spanish, **Gary Nicholls** provided music for the gathering in the sanctuary, **Dr. Kelso** led us in singing and prayer, **Dave Norman** led the opening, **Judy Eaton and Sarah Proctor** handled registration and check out. **Cathy Spear** headed up the kitchen crew. **Jean Hill** provided tickets to the College Football Hall of Fame for families to visit for free over the holidays. Our thanks to **Ken and Bonnie Tyler**, who helped with numerous tasks through-out the preparations. It takes a whole congregation to do Jubilee Christmas! Even more than one congregation,

as we were joined by Sunnyside, Westminster and Memorial Presbyterian churches in this effort.

A few moments to share:

Two (2) mothers took home "holiday-tested" Christmas trees, and both spoke of the delight their children would have to see a "real" Christmas tree at their houses. We thank **Greg and Mary Jane Lawson, Dave and Riley Norman** for delivering these oversized Christmas gifts!

One (1) mother was a happy winner in our bike drawings, and was eagerly waiting by the door when the little girl's pink bike was delivered to her house. She looked forward to giving her 11-yr old a special early Christmas gift.

Another mother, with a big smile, had 2 gently-used winter coats to take home, in addition to the bags of Christmas gifts she had wrapped.

In addition, Jubilee Christmas was able to help provide Christmas for a young mother with 2 small children who attend the Children's Center. Winter clothing, Christmas gifts and a grocery certificate were all possible with the donations to Jubilee Christmas.

The smiles from the mothers and fathers who attended Jubilee Christmas this year touched all of us.

*Pam Proctor, Jubilee Christmas chairperson*

**Important Information!!!**

For those who bought **Treasure Chest Cookie Mix Jars** from the Youth - Please note that some important information regarding additional ingredients was overlooked when putting together the instruction tags.



You will need to add 1 stick of softened butter, 1 egg and 1 tsp vanilla to the contents of the mix before baking. Do not be surprised- the mix will be very thick.

Sorry for the inconvenience - but thank you so much for supporting our Youth in their effort to fundraise for this summer's mission trip.

Any questions please see Staci Norman or call at 210-2136.

## ADULT ED SUNDAY SCHOOL—CHAPEL—9:15

### JANUARY

Dr. Randall Zachman will be back to lead classes on **January 29, February 5, 12, & 19.**

### FEBRUARY

Dreams can be either cotton-candy fluffy pink clouds or horrible nightmares, or maybe something else. Perhaps they can be rooted in God's own dream and offer the possibility of new life in the reality of this world and relationships. Dr. Kelso will be offering a Bible Study, "**We ARE the People of God's Dream**" on **Sunday mornings, February 26 - April 1, from 9:15 - 10:15.** Be prepared to hear a word about God's dream, our broken dreams, and God's renewing of His dream with US .... and also to spend time studying and talking together about questions and thoughts that come to mind.

### OUTREACH LUNCHES

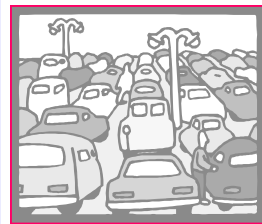
**MidTown/South** group will meet **Wednesday, January 11,** at 11:30 at Allie's Café, Mishawaka Avenue

**NorthSide** group will meet **Tuesday, January 17,** at 12:00, at Eleni's in Roseland.

### PARKING PROTOCOL AND PRACTICE

With an increase in Sunday attendance the word has gone out that 'we need more handicap parking spaces'.

Unfortunately, we are not able to do any restriping until spring but – if you are able to park in the Tribune lot and walk the 50 steps to the church door we can save the nearby spots for those who are less mobile. Come spring we will add two more

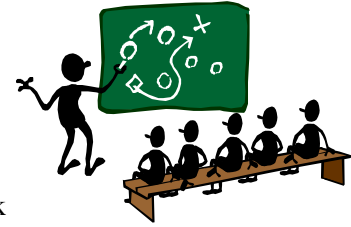


handicap spaces.

The House Committee thanks you!

### Join the Team!

The children's and youth Sunday school program has great leadership (coaches) and fun curriculum (plays) to kick off our 2012 program year. Here's the lineup!



Senior High Coaches:

**Kevin Dreyer and Tracy Spear**

Mid High Coaches: **Greg and MJ Lawson**

K – 5<sup>th</sup> Coaches:

**Peggy VanLeare and Diane Wojcicki**

Pre K Coach: **Carolyn Schult**

Nursery and Toddler Coach: **Janet Mwachande**

To maintain the safety of all, we need to always a second adult present...that's where you come in! **We're recruiting for volunteers to be the "team trainers" for our "coaches".** You simply need to be present on the "sideline" and be there to assist your coach – no preparation or training necessary! We will be rotating the 2<sup>nd</sup> adults, so we can work around your schedule. Your "signing bonus" is a Sunday school snack, learning some things about the Bible that maybe you didn't know and getting to know some of FPC's great kids!

If this sounds like your kind of game...contact Margaret Eggleston:

[margaret.eggleston@sbcglobal.net](mailto:margaret.eggleston@sbcglobal.net) or 259.5186

**Pledge envelope** boxes can be picked up in the Parlor, beginning Christmas Eve. The boxes are NOT numbered so you may pick any box you choose. Please be sure you write your number and/or name on the envelopes. Please call Carla Fay if you have any questions. Thank you.



Tower Bell is a publication of First Presbyterian Church of South Bend. We welcome all visitors!  
Visit our website: [www.fpcsouthbend.org](http://www.fpcsouthbend.org) or email: [info@fpcsouthbend.org](mailto:info@fpcsouthbend.org)

First Presbyterian Church  
333 West Colfax Avenue  
South Bend, Indiana 46601  
Return Service Requested

**JANUARY 1**

Rev. Don Neely, preaching

**JANUARY 8**

Service of Reaffirmation  
of the Baptismal Covenant  
Dr. Adelia Kelso, preaching

**JANUARY 15, 22 & 29**

Dr. Adelia Kelso, preaching

Articles are due for the  
next Tower Bell  
on **January 23**.  
Please email to

[btyler@fpcsouthbend.org](mailto:btyler@fpcsouthbend.org)

A HAPPY  
NEW YEAR



In Memory of:

Julia Bower—December 17, 2011