

# HYATTSTOWN CHRISTIAN CHURCH NEWS



January 2009 Volume 8 Issue 1

If someone you know is in need of prayer or spiritual care please call an Elder or Rev. Manning. We cannot help if we do not know of a need or concern.



## January Worship-- 9am & 11am

**Jan 3 - Men's Breakfast**  
7:30 cook-- 8:00 eat



**Jan 4 - Epiphany**  
Installation of officers at both services

**Jan 7 - Bible Study resumes**  
Wed mornings at 10-11:30



**Jan 10 - Feed the Hungry**  
4:30 at Frederick Rescue Mission

**Jan 11 & 18 - Elder Training 10am**

**Jan 13 - Board Meets 7:00**



# Reflections

## **New Beginnings by Pastor Ben**

Pastor Ben and Carolyn would like to take this opportunity to wish all of you a very blessed and happy New Year! Did you know that New Year's Day is the one holiday that is almost universal? It is the world's most observed holiday.

Many of you made New Year's resolutions, one of which was surely that you would be in worship each week. I won't ask you if you've resolved to lose the weight you gained between Thanksgiving and Christmas. The late Erma Bombeck made some memorable resolutions over the years:

1. I will go to no doctor whose office plants have died.
2. I'm going to follow my husband's suggestion to put a little excitement into my life by living within our budget.
3. I'm going to apply for a hardship scholarship to Weight Watchers.
4. I will never loan my car to anyone I have given birth to.

Take heart! Another way of looking at resolutions: "Don't worry about those 2009 News Year's resolutions. You only have to deal with them until February and then you can give them up for Lent." (The Jokesmith).

Seriously... the new year is a time of new beginnings for us. Our faith teaches us that we can live the next 365 days confidently aware that our life matters and that God is with us and that we can do all things through Christ Jesus who strengthens us.

All of us have unrealized potential. The creation story and the prologue to John's Gospel both remind us that we are children of the dust who have the potential to be children of the Divine. This means that you and I have the potential to be like Christ.

The significance of that truth is awesome! We no longer have to live lives filled with inner conflict, anger, resentment, fear, hatred, guilt or rejection. By the power of the Holy Spirit we can become new people, God's people. This is a gift. To become children of God is not something we earn. It is a gift from a loving, merciful God. "To all who received him,

who believed in his name, he GAVE the right to become children of God.” (John 1:12).

This is a time of new beginnings! I pray you begin this New Year knowing that you are an heir to the throne, not because of anything you have done, but because of what Christ has done for you. You have enormous potential physically and mentally. You have even greater potential spiritually. You are a child of God. May you live like Christ and go forth into this New Year aware of who you are, and to Whom you belong.




**THANK YOU AND UPDATE FROM  
PASTOR BEN  
REGARDING HIS SURGERY**

“I thank the wonderful folks of Hyattstown Christian Church for their outpouring of cards, emails and other expressions of goodwill and prayers regarding my recovery from surgery.” – Pastor Ben.

Our interim minister, Pastor Ben Manning had surgery on his left foot on December 16<sup>th</sup>. It was to repair a condition called Achilles tendonitis and remove bone spurs which involved detaching the Achilles, shaving bone from the back of the heel and reattaching the Achilles. The surgery went perfectly and the plan was to be on crutches for thirty days without any weight on the left foot and then to be in a cast, followed by a special boot for up to three months. He had already planned to be absent from HCC on Christmas Eve and the following Sunday due to travel plans to be with family in North Carolina over the holidays. But alas, he did not plan on the doctor ordering him not to travel for 20 days for fear of blood clots and swelling so the Mannings had a very quiet Christmas at home. Happily, the Mannings had some quality time with grandkids and children as they made the trip to the Mannings for a few days prior to the new year. Pastor Ben followed the doctor’s post surgical plan to the letter and the healing has been enhanced so that he has been fitted for that special boot much earlier than planned. Mobility has increased (still on crutches) and pain has decreased so that now he can travel to HCC and will definitely resume his duties on Sunday, January 4<sup>th</sup> and for Bible Studies and other duties. Pastor Ben also wishes to thank his wife Carolyn for preaching for him on December 21<sup>st</sup> and continuing her puppet ministry at the church on Christmas Sunday. She has been a wonderful helpmate and nurse during his recovering.

**Liturgical Schedule — also posted on bulletin board inside front door**

			<p>We are Honored to Serve at The Table of the Lord</p> 	
<b>9 am Worship</b>	<b>Elders</b>	<b>Deaconate</b>		
Jan 4 / 11	Gail Howard	Hugh Howard		
Jan 18 / 25	Ginny Pierson	Mark Pierson		
<i>NOTE: Elders are also serving as Worship Leaders</i>				
<b>11am Worship</b>	<b>Elders</b>	<b>Deaconate</b>		
Jan 4 / 11	Chris Moore	Barbara Dangler	Martha Cooley	
Jan 18 / 25	Bob Turman	Gail Knott	Sandy Law	
<b>Liturgist</b>	<b>9 am Worship</b>	<b>11 am Worship</b>	<b>Scripture</b>	
Jan 4	Mark Pierson	John Wilson	John 1:(1-9), 10-18	
Jan 11	Robin Davis	Janice Seaman	Mark 1: 4-11	
Jan 18	Debbie Blair	Pierrette McIntire	John 1: 43-51	
Jan 25	Grace Duke	Bob Turman	Mark 1: 14-20	

**January Birthdays**

Jan 15 - Phil Day  
 Jan 16 - Brenda Yankaskas  
 Jan 20 - Kelly DeLameter  
 Jan 26 - Diana Covell  
 Jan 31 - -Beth Sweeney

Please say a special prayer for these people on their special day!




**Liturgists Wanted**

If you would like to serve as liturgist please tell Barbara Lang. You don't have to be a member, you only have to want to read the scripture on Sunday morning.





# January 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3 <sup>8 am</sup> Men's Breakfast
4 Epiphany Installation of Officers 9 & 11 Worship	5	6	7 10 Bible Study	8	9	10 <sup>4:30 pm</sup> FEED the HUNGRY
11 <sup>9 &amp; 11</sup> Worship Elder Training 10	12	13 Board Meets 7 pm	14 10 Bible Study	15	16	17
18 <sup>9 &amp; 11</sup> Worship Elder Training 10	19	20	21 10 Bible Study	22	23	24
25 9 & 11 Worship	26	27	28 10 Bible Study	29	30	31



This painting is called  
 “Hayrolls on Roderick Road.”

**ART SHOW**

Sharron Smith will be having an art show downstairs at the Urbana Regional Library from December 3, 2008 until February 3, 2009. She will show oil paintings she’s done since taking classes at the Delaplaine Visual Arts Education Center since she retired in 2005. The title of the show is "Focus on Urbana." Most of the subjects are from the Urbana area.

**Useful Information  
 Hyattstown Christian Church**

- Office: (301) 831-8184
- Our Interim Pastor:  
 Rev Ben Manning (301) 412-6675
- Music:  
 Philip A. Day, Jr. (301) 693-3887  
 Barb Lang (301-)829-2527
- Board Chair:  
 Hugh Howard (301) 831-8643
- Vice-Chair: Andy Blair (301) 216-2746
- Board Secy:  
 Debbie Flook (301) 695-2678
- Trustees Chair:  
 Eddie Flook (301) 695-2678
- Treasurer:  
 Pierrette McIntire (301) 607-4242

- Financial Secy:  
 Bob Turman (301)620-7570
- Christian Service:  
 Pat Griffith (301) 972-1316  
 Barb Dangler (301) 668-4194
- Education/Celebration:  
 Barbara Lang (301)-829-2527
- Property Chair:  
 Eddie Flook (301) 695-2678
- Outreach/Stewardship:  
 Doris Horman (301) 662-8740
- Newsletter:  
 Teresa Hearl (301) 682-7360  
 Tkhearl@comcast.net SEND NEWS!!



**Notes from the Chair**

Hugh Howard

The chair is vacant this month, for our dear chairman is out of town. He will return in February with all his notes and wisdom.

**HCC Member News**

If you have news please send the information (and a picture if you have it) to Teresa at **TKHearl@comcast.net**. Or tell Barbara Lang.

It’s the little things that make our congregation a family. We rejoice in your successes and pray for your challenges. Please share.

They began to  
Praise God  
Joyfully with  
loud voices  
for all the  
miracles they  
had seen.  
Luke 19:37



Our thanks to the choir for the beautiful  
Christmas cantata.

#### BIBLE STUDY IN JANUARY

We continue the Wednesday morning Bible Study sessions through January as we study “The Parables—the Greatest Stories Ever Told.” We meet in the “new” Parlor area of the church’s education wing from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. each Wednesday to study the following topics:



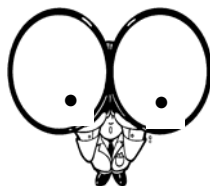
January 7: “The Unforgiving Servant” Matthew 18:21-35  
January 14 “The Widow & the Judge” Luke 18:21-35  
January 21 “The Wheat & the Weeds” Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43  
January 28 “Money and Self-Worth” Matthew 19:16—20:16

New class members are always welcome. Just bring your favorite study Bible and join the group for any of these sessions. Pastor Ben Manning leads the study. Call him if you have questions. His number is 301-412-6675.



#### FYI- Note from the editor

*The February News will be late because the editor will be in and out of town. The February and March news will be combined.*



#### LOOKING AHEAD

Watch the bulletin for details about the **Women's Winter Retreat**. (Beth Sweeney and Barb Lang are working on the arrangements.)



## FEED THE HUNGRY

**DATES FOR 2009**      **Saturday at 4:30pm**

-- **January 10**

-- **April 11**      **to serve, come to the back door**

-- **August 8**      **of the Frederick Rescue Mission**

-- **November 14**

At the Frederick Rescue Mission on All Saints St. we are known as the "Lasagna church" to those who come for a meal. (Others serve lasagna, but we did it first.) Serving at this meal gives us a greater appreciation for the many physical blessings we have, and helps some of our hungry neighbors. Join us to gain a new perspective. For more info call Barb Dangler 301-668-4194



## Men's Breakfast on Saturday Morning



What is Men's Breakfast? We meet, we eat, and talk. That's fellowship! Men's Breakfast meets the Saturday morning the week before Feed the Hungry.



**Cooking 7:30a.m. Eating & Fellowship 8 -9 am**

**Dates for 2009**

-- **January 3 --April 4 --August 1 --November 7**

## Camp Starfish

We have planned the dates for our 5th Annual Camp Starfish! This year's camp will be held **August 9-12 at Camp Mary Mac**, near Sharpsburg, MD. As you may know, Camp Starfish is a camp for the children of inmates (who have at least one parent incarcerated in a correctional facility). This is a very high-risk group of children, with statistics indicating that over 70% will become incarcerated themselves. Camp Starfish hopes to make a difference in the lives of these children by offering them a summer camp experience that includes wholesome activities and good fellowship in a safe setting. It also offers great fellowship for our volunteers, who spend four days and three nights together working with these children in this wonderful setting. People should mark their calendars. Pierrette also mentioned that we need to build our funds back up a bit. The jail wasn't able to subsidize as much of the expense this past year, so if we plan ahead and donate now, it will be less painful for everyone!



## OUR ELDERS

For Disciples, the ministry of the laity has always been central to who we are. Since the beginning Elders have presided at the Lord's Supper, visited the sick or those in special need, and offered oversight to the work and life of the congregation. Elders usually assist the pastor. We are in a time of transition, our Elders are available. If there is a spiritual need, please don't hesitate to call. If we don't have the answer, we will find someone who does.

### **Hugh Howard 301-831-8643**

Gail Howard 301-831-8643

Debbie Blair 301-216-2746

Robin Davis 301-865-5285

Debbie Flook 301-695-2678

Frank Hearl 301-682-7360

Teresa Hearl 301-682-7360

Ginny Pierson 301-865-3750

Beth Sweeney 301-865-9238

John Wilson 301-253-1807

Stacey Wilson 301-253-1807

Bob Turman 301-620-7570

Sharon Turman 301-620-7570

Chris Moore 301-414-5493

Janice Seaman 301-228-2357

## ELDERS' TRAINING SCHEDULED FOR TWO SESSIONS IN JANUARY



Pastor Ben Manning has prepared two special training sessions for all our HCC Elders. These classes will provide some essential information and training to increase the skills and spirituality of these very important leaders in our congregation. The sessions will take place during the time between the Sunday morning services on two different Sundays: January 11<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>. We will meet from 10:10 to 10:45 a.m. in the new Parlor area in the education wing. We will cover the following topics:

January 11<sup>th</sup> "Ministry at the Table and Shepherding"

January 18<sup>th</sup> "Ministry to the Sick and Homebound"

We want to reaffirm that this training is for all our HCC Elders. Pastor Ben will contact each Elder and provide some recommended readings and a brief homework task to do in preparation for the first session. Pastor Ben has made the comment: "We have an outstanding corps of Elders at Hyattstown Christian Church. The training and sharing we will do together will serve to empower them even further to do Christ's ministry in this congregation and increase their skills and confidence in the fine work they already do."

## Thoughts on Epiphany

### Would We Welcome Three Odd Strangers Bearing Gifts?

Adapted from a Presbyterian church website. Matthew 2: 1-12



The word epiphany is a Greek word. Epiphania. It means "appearing" or "appearance." Sometimes we hear it defined as "revelation." When someone says, "I had an epiphany" that person usually means that he or she had an insight or a revelation that came out of thin air or dropped from the sky. Paul uses the word a lot in the many letters he wrote. He uses it to describe what will happen at the end of history – Christ's "appearing" again.

The day of Epiphany marks the 12th and final day of Christmas. You've heard of Twelfth Night. You've heard of the twelve days of Christmas. This day is the 12th and final day of Christmas. For you mathematicians, you'll soon figure out that the first day of Christmas must be December 26. The Feast of Epiphany in the church celebrates the appearance of the star in the east – (epiphany – appearance) leading the Magi to the cradle of the Christ child. The star – the appearing of the star – guided the way of the Magi – the Wise Men. Some of you have heard of names given for the Wise Men – Caspar, Melchior, Balthasar. But those names aren't part of the biblical record. They came about because of someone in the 8th century. So those names are just part of the Christmas tradition that has been built up over time. But those names are not in scripture. For us, if we rely only on what Scripture tells us, the wise men remain nameless.

The magi, at the cradle of the Christ child, would have been scandalous to the first hearers of today's scripture from Matthew. We've seen so many Christmas pageants and so many nativity sets and so many wise men dressed in regal garb – wonderful exotic colorful costumes. We've seen them process up to the Christ child with their gifts and we have no clue that in that day in that time the fact that they were there would have been so scandalous. Those first hearers of Matthew's gospel – mostly Jews and Jewish Christians – would have had to spend some time wrapping their minds around the fact that magi were there in that scene. They were viewed as magicians – as foreigners – as present day horoscope writers. One commentator likened them to the Jeanne Dixons of Persia – stargazers trying to predict life by reading the heavens. Some have concluded that they were likely men who followed Zoroastrianism – a religion older than Christianity and still in existence. Whatever they believed and whoever they were would not have been welcome to the scribes and the priests and the religious faithful Jews. "What were they doing there?" might have been the response. Why are they kneeling at Christ's

cradle? And why are they giving gifts?"

We've lost touch with the scandal that would have surrounded the presence of the magi at the scene of the infant baby's cradle. And yet, they saw the revelation and knew what it meant and bowed down and gave gifts. The first chapter in Matthew is a long list – a genealogy. It too includes people in Jesus' family line that wouldn't have been acceptable – Tamar who presented herself as a prostitute, Rahab, a spy, who was a prostitute, the wife of Uriah – who was Bathsheba, and Ruth – a foreign woman from Moab. Questionable people linked up with Jesus and the wise men – the magi – continue that stream in Matthew. And at the end of Matthew comes the instruction from Jesus – make disciples of all nations.

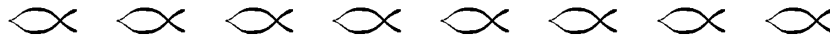


Who are the wise men in our midst? Who do we welcome with open arms and who are we polite to but not terribly welcoming to. We are said to be friendly to visitors – to the guests who come and worship with us. But are our hearts really open to receiving their gifts. To finding out who they are. To understanding their lives – to getting to know them at a deeper level.

The wise men wouldn't have been welcome at that scene – they would have been outsiders and their presence would have been greeted tentatively at most – not by Jesus, but their presence in that scene would have been something everyone else who had waited for the Messiah would have had to grapple with. But those magi, those strangers, those odd guys, had gifts to offer.

Can we seek out the gifts that we have to offer and the gifts of those around us, and find different ways of doing things that push us to go beyond the way we've always done it?

In this new year, let's keep a watchful eye to experience epiphanies.



### The Search & Call Committee

The Search & Call Committee has been prayerfully reading minister profiles. We have had productive meetings. Please continue to pray for our efforts.

Blessings, Beth Sweeney



Members of our Search Committee are:

**Chair-** Beth Sweeney (Elder) phone: 301-865-9238  
Hugh Howard (ex-officio), Andy Blair (Deaconate), Meghan Blair (Youth), Frank Hearl (Elder), Gail Howard (Elder), Pierrette McIntire (Women), Dana Reitman (Deaconate), Frank Roys (Congregation)

## Hanging of the Greens

Of course we had lunch before we started. Then everyone pitched in to transform the church into it's Christmas glory. When the poinsettias were added, many stopped in their tracks when they entered the sanctuary. It was breathtaking!





# HCC Member News



Our church family is always on the move. So many people traveled over the holidays I can't list them all!

Scripture, carols, and candlelight focused on Christ's birth set the tone for a meaningful Christmas Eve service. **Kayla and Angela Howard** laid baby Jesus in the manger to start the service.

**Sharron Smith** shared her news. She is grandmother again! Griffin Lee Chandler born 12/15; 9.7.5 lbs, 21.5 inches. Mother and baby doing well and big brother Miles shows no signs of jealousy. Kevin is back safely from Iraq but will deploy again in early January, centered around the Ramadi region. Bill and Sharron returned from Seattle 12/23 in time to get to NC for Christmas with Kevin, Stephanie and Allie. There's still time to catch her art show at the Urbana library; it ends 2/3.



**Pearl Anderson** and the Seaman's niece are coming from North Carolina to visit **Larry and Janice Seaman**. It will be wonderful to see Pearl again.

**Ellen Pierson** participated in the Frederick County Children's Chorus Concert.

**Angie Flook** conducted her first concert as a choral teacher.

**Meghan Blair** is doing so well as a volunteer at Shady Grove that she was offered a job at Montgomery General. And Meghan has been accepted at Penn State!

**Frank and Theresa Roys** celebrated **Kevin Elkins** graduation from college. During the holiday season we were blessed that several families were able to be together, if only briefly, to celebrate Christmas.

What a joy it was to give \$1100 to the children of Clarksburg Elementary. Teachers provide coats and supplies where they see need. It is a direct ministry that we collect for each year. We were also able to give over \$500 toward Regional Church Programs. This helps keep our camp and conference youth programs in place. It also supports our Bethany Beach facility that we enjoy so much.

## HCC Member News

If you have member news, Tell Barb Lang at church or email Teresa at [TKHearl@comcast.net](mailto:TKHearl@comcast.net) Share a picture if you can.

**Lord, be with us as we pray for:**



*Family members in search of jobs and direction in life, also for family relationship issues.*

*Family members and friends of our church family who are dealing with cancer, death of loved ones, Alzheimers, anorexia, and other debilitating diseases.*

*Family members and friends with health issues; Cherry King, Hannah Matlock, Artye Hellner, Doris & Norman Horman, LaQuita Huteman, Bob & Sharon Turman, Barb Dangler, Doris Horman & family, several members of the Flook family, Chris Moore & the Reister family.*

*The Pastoral Search Committee, our Deacons, our Elders, and the HCC Church Board*

*The Disciples of Christ Church and Christ's church in the world.*

*Victims of natural disasters who are still struggling after the reporters leave.*

*Victims of violence at home and in war zones.*

*Our military who serve in harm's way.*

*A peaceful resolution to conflict.*

*Wisdom for our government leaders.*

*Wisdom for all world leaders.*

*Thank you for the blessings of joyous occasions, and for children growing up.*

*Thank you for the jobs we have, for activities we enjoy, and the gifts we are able to share.*

*We thank you, Lord, for the gift of Jesus Christ.*

*May God's will be done.      **Amen***

***The Reister's New Address***

Terry and Janet Reister  
10395 Fox Meadow Circle  
New Market, MD 21774  
Ph: 301.865.5772

Email:  
Terry- wftreister@earthlink.net  
Janet- janet.reister@lmco.com  
or jsreister@earthlink.net

# Hyattstown Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

26012 Frederick Rd  
Hyattstown MD 20871  
Phone: 301-831-8184



WELCOME!



GOING TO  
YOUTH

