

# The Connection



**HOPE**  
**CHURCH | RALEIGH**  
• A Congregation of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church—EPC •  
**WORSHIP. GROW. SERVE.**

A Weekly Online Newsletter: Edition 869

January 6, 2026

*Then Herod, when he had privately called the wise men, carefully inquired of them what time the star appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search diligently for the young Child, and when you have found Him, bring me word again, so that I may come and worship Him also.” When they heard the king, they departed. And the star which they saw in the east went before them until it came and stood over where the young Child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with great excitement. And when they came into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary, His mother, and fell down and worshipped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. But being warned in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they returned to their own country by another route. (rf. [Matt. 2:7-12](#) MEV)*

Today marks the beginning of the season of Epiphany in the Christian liturgical calendar. Epiphany means, “appearance or manifestation” according to the article, “What is Epiphany: Christian Tradition and Bible Meaning Explained” from [www.christianity.com](http://www.christianity.com). In some respects, Jesus was truly “manifested” to the world when the Magi came to see and worship Him as detailed in the Scripture above. One might think that His initial “appearance” was to the shepherds from around Bethlehem and that would be true. However, even as the shepherds were Jewish, His being seen by them was limited to them alone. The stable presentation was an intimate display. The Magi’s visit included Gentiles paying homage to the new Jewish king and, by extension, King Herod, his court and the Scribes were also included in this new revelation of the Promised Messiah. Thus, it is the Magi and their pursuit of Christ to worship Him that becomes the first Epiphany.

God had used the profession and pastime of these men from the East (i.e. astronomy and astrology) to ignite a desire to know more about this Person who was important enough to warrant a new celestial presence. They charted and discussed what this new “appearance” in the night truly meant. They may also have been privy to any information left behind by Daniel and his contemporaries when they were selected to be advisors to Nebuchadnezzar, Belshazzar, Darius and Cyrus, all rulers from the realm of Persia (i.e. Babylon and Medo-Persia). God moved these wise men to seek His Son and they found Him worthy of their homage, adoration and worship.

God still uses the same template to bring people to Christ. He moves in their hearts using the Holy Spirit to ignite a desire to find Him. He draws folks to Jesus by various means, all to the ultimate end of revealing His Son to them as the Savior, their Savior. When this experience occurs, the result is the relinquishing of oneself, all that the person is and possesses to worship Christ. The Magi provide for us a clear example of hearts transformed by a personal encounter with Jesus.

By the treasures given in worship and homage to Christ, Joseph and Mary were more than well provisioned for their upcoming journey into the land of Egypt. This would fulfill the prophecy, “*Out of Egypt I have called My son*” (rf. [Hos. 11:1](#); [Matt. 2:15](#)). They would be foreigners, strangers having to provide for their own needs. God’s hand of Providence was with them throughout this new adventure and their necessities were fully met.

As we enter the season of Epiphany, let us be reminded of God’s grace in bringing us to salvation in Christ. Let us also be cognizant of how we are to worship the Lord with all of ourselves and our resources for His disposal. As God blessed both the Magi and the Holy Family so He will bless us as we seek to honor and glorify Him.

*Pastor Chris*

# HOPE Calendar

Wednesday, January 7th  
Supper at 6:15 pm, followed by  
Bible Study in I Corinthians and  
Prayer

Sunday, January 11th  
Worship Team Practice  
@ 8:30 am  
Worship @ 10:00 am  
Extended Fellowship Time in  
Celebration of HOPE's 17th  
Anniversary

Wednesday, January 14th  
Supper at 6:15 pm, followed by  
Bible Study in I Corinthians and  
Prayer

# OPPORTUNITIES TO GROW

## Women of HOPE

Meetings generally at HOPE on the  
second and fourth Saturdays  
every month from 10 am to Noon.

Next Meeting: January 10th  
at HOPE Church

## Raleigh Dream Center Food Pantry

"Food of the Month"

**DRY GOODS FOR SOUPS (ex: pasta,  
rice, lentils, and dry beans)**

The collection bin is in the foyer

# Prayer Requests:

Chris Temple, Ernest, family of Ebo,  
Jordan Stevens, Kathy Herriman,  
Gene and Becky Hale, Erin's parents  
& brother, Burton, Pastor Chris & Lori  
King, Sandy (Kathy's friend), Donna  
(Joan's friend), Patty Moyer & son,  
Brandon, Jerry Kinard, Alice Kinard  
(transplant possibilities), Tom &  
Donna Williams, Ryan's mom & dad,  
Ron Clifton, Josh McDonald, Phil  
Parton, Krishana, Sam & Rachel,  
Joan Rollinson, Dianne Reinoso,  
Cindy, Barbara (stroke), Youth  
ministry, Peggy Karpenske, Claudia  
in Idaho, Dave & Dot Geil, Corbin  
Broome, Mallory family, Carol and  
Colin, Tommy, Skip, Walt, Loretta,  
Joan Summers, Janice Worthington,  
Donna Abel, Pastor Marty & Terry  
Duffell, Laura Bradshaw (stroke  
recovery), Tom Klein, future plans &  
growth (spiritual & numerical) for  
HOPE Church Raleigh!

## Helping Hands Ministries for Jan. 11th, 2026

### Live Streaming

Ramsey Mallory

### Soundboard

Rich Williams

### ProPresenter

Dianne Reinoso

### Communion Preparation

Donna Williams

### Nursery

Al & Elizabeth Floyd

### Communion Assistant

RE Becky Hale

### Prayer Support

RE Donna Williams

### Welcome/Announcements and Scripture Reading

RE Becky Hale

## Our 17th Anniversary

HOPE Church Raleigh officially began its ministry in  
the month of January of 2009. To celebrate the  
church's anniversary, we will be having an extended  
Fellowship Time on Sunday, January 11th, following  
the morning worship. There will be no Sunday  
School on Jan. 11th.

# OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

## TLC Devotion

On Wed. Jan. 28th at 11 am @ TLC

## HOPE Meal Ministry

Take a meal from the freezer if needed for  
you or someone else.

## Church Workdays in January

Christmas Takedown, Saturday, Jan. 10th  
Everyone is invited to help in taking down  
and storing our Christmas decor from 2  
pm to 4 pm on the 10th.

## Church Workday, Saturday, Jan. 17th

Those involved with the Hospitality and  
Worship/AV Committees are asked to  
come and help reorganize and relocate to  
make it easier to find important items of  
ministry. Extra hands to help will be most  
welcome. We will start at 10 am with a  
target time of finishing at 3 pm. Lunch will  
be provided.

## Next Sunday's Sermon:

"A Study on the Worship of God" (Pt. 2)  
(rf. Exod. 20:3-7; Jn. 4:19-24)

For a spiritual pick-me-up, click on the  
link and be blessed!

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?  
v=hwc2d1Xt8gM&list=RDhwc2d1Xt8gM&  
start\\_radio=1](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hwc2d1Xt8gM&list=RDhwc2d1Xt8gM&start_radio=1)

## SERVING OPPORTUNITIES

Meals for Wednesday Night Suppers  
Sound Board Volunteers  
Nursery Helpers

## Giving to the Ministry of HOPE:

Online via QR Code



Or on our website:

[www.hopechurchraleigh.org](http://www.hopechurchraleigh.org)

or by check made out to:  
"Hope Church Raleigh" and dropped  
in plate during Communion

All ladies are invited to a new Bible study  
beginning on Jan. 10th, 2026 with the  
Women of HOPE.

The study will be based on the book,  
*Becoming a Woman of Grace*,  
by Cynthia Heald

If interested, contact Alice Kinard



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in the search box)