







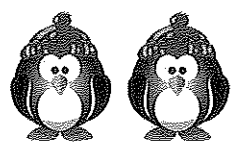
Northwest Hills Church
 9334 Fort Street, Omaha NE 68134
 Phone: 402 572-8392
 Fax: 402 572-8394
 www.northwesthills.com

Alex Wolf, Pastor
 Suzy Parsons, Director of Christian Education
 Cheryl Morehouse, Office Administrator

Vol. 49 No. 1
 December 28, 2020

Barb Renicker, Choir Director
 Ruth Negus, Organist and Accompanist
 Sarah Baird, Nursery Attendant
 Nate & Rita Merriam, Custodians

January 2021

January 3 	9:30 a.m. In Person Worship Service/Communion 1-4 Chin Church
January 10 Newsletter Deadline 	9:30 a.m. In Person Worship Service 10:30 a.m. "Undecorate the Church" 1-4 Chin Church
January 17 	9:30 a.m. In Person Worship Service 1-4 Chin Church
January 24 	9:30 a.m. In Person Worship Service 1-4 Chin Church
January 31 	9:30 a.m. In Person Worship Service 1-4 Chin Church



"UNDECORATING THE CHURCH"

"Many hands make the work light." We invite as many as are comfortable and can to join us after church Sunday, January 10th to "undecorate" the church. We gratefully appreciate any help.

Thank you in advance! The Church & Ministry Team

The Church Office will close at 12 noon on Thursday, December 31, 2020 and will be closed New Year's Day.

Deadline for articles/information for the monthly newsletter is usually the second Sunday for the next month's newsletter. Thank you in advance for your contributions!



"Bev Ambrosius would like to say THANK YOU to everyone for your prayer covering for her nephew Michael Gulliams. He wasn't supposed to get home until January 4th from

service in Germany but was able to come home on December 20th! The family is grateful."

"Dear Northwest Hills Church family: I cannot fully express what it means to be part of such a supportive and caring family. Your prayers and thoughts, during my recent illness, were most welcome. Thank you for the calls, cards, and prayers. I feel God's love every time I read your card, text, or email. What a comfort you all are."

— Isobel Taylor

"Thank you so much for calls, cards and the beautiful prayers shawl (in my favorite color) when I was hospitalized. It is so comforting to know that your church family is praying for you. There truly is power in prayer. Thank you."

— Linda Nelsen

"The ladies of Ruth Circle and Hannah Circle would like to sincerely thank you for all who donated non-perishable food items to the Holy Cross (Project Hope) Food Pantry. This year, above all others, has been very heartbreaking. You helped SO MANY FAMILIES over the difficult holidays of 2020 with warm meals, sweet treats or that little extra something. Bless you all and thank you!"

"We want to thank all of you who helped with the 'Hanging of the Greens'. You are all very much appreciated and we sincerely thank each and every one of you. A special thanks to Barb Renicker for being at the piano, playing Christmas holiday music as we decorated. It made our work go much faster.

We hope to see you all back this month on the 10th as it will be time to "undecorate" and put away the decorations this year.

Thanks again to all our church family who gave of their time to accomplish this task."

— The Church & Ministry Committee

"Thank you for all your prayers, phone calls and sympathy cards. My brother died from the coronavirus."

— Pat Mollak

"Sarah's Circle would like to thank everyone for their support this past year with our Flower Sale, Hat and Mitten Drive, and our Bake Sales. We are truly blessed with the most generous and loving church family!"

"Thanks to the NWH congregation for remembering my family in prayer prior to and following the death of my Uncle Bill Mitchell on November 21, 2020. I would also like to thank those who sent cards, messages to me on Facebook and Instant Messenger or took the time to give me a call. Your thoughts and prayers during this difficult time were welcomed and so much appreciated by me and my family."

— Sherry Mitchell

MEETING UPDATES

CHURCH COUNCIL Meeting 7 PM Thurs., January 14, 2021. No 6 PM dinner due to pandemic.

MEN'S MINISTRY First Saturday Breakfasts postponed until further notice.

WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION & CIRCLE Meetings:

All meetings are postponed until March, 2021, unless otherwise indicated by your leader. Please contact your respective leaders for each of the groups if you have questions:

Women's Association: Kathleen Hammond, 402-981-3630;

Hannah Circle: Lois Gapen, 402-572-6792;

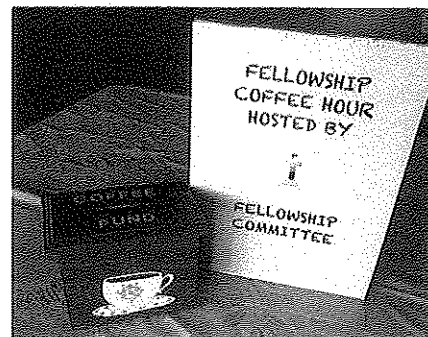
Ruth Circle: Ginger Morelock, 402-312-5126; Sarah Circle: Terri Burright at (402) 659-6913.

January 2021 Mahoney Retreat is cancelled.

BIBLE STUDY

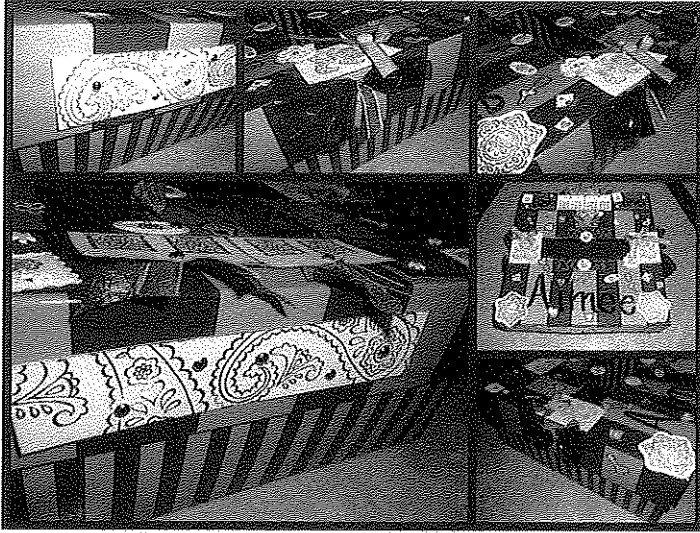
The Wednesday Morning Bible Study is on hiatus for the harsh winter months and will resume in the spring (most likely March — keep watching for details of when we start back up again).

THANK YOU to the kind folks that have been "feeding" our coffee coffer! We appreciate any help we receive so we can keep those hot fluids flowing during these cold winter months! The Fellowship Committee appreciates your continued support as we are faithful to gather and fellowship into the New Year.

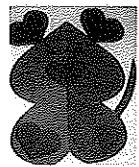


MISSION & SERVICE JANUARY PROJECTS

The Mission & Service team is continuing their "undies" drive for the Open Door Mission through the month of January. Sizes needed: M, L, and XL and larger of men's and women's undies. Thank you in advance for helping provide this much needed, but often overlooked necessity to our community in need served by the Open Door.



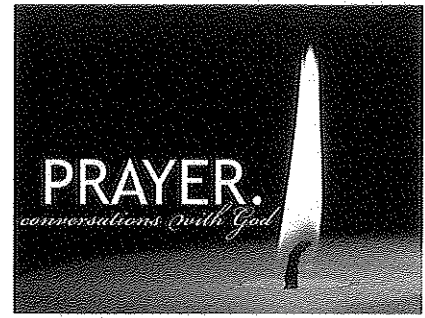
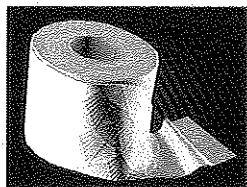
Remember Valentine's Day in grade school long ago? How we decorated shoe boxes with a slit on top, and classmates would drop their valentines to you through that slot? Well, we have a BIG Valentine's Box in the Commons



and invite our Northwest Hills family to make home-made valentines for folks who are confined in nursing homes!

The Mission & Service Team is also asking for your help in identifying nursing homes that you feel have residents that could use a cheery reminder that they are loved and valued. A clipboard will be located next to the Valentine Box for your welcomed suggestions. We will collect your homemade valentines through February 7th. Thank you for brightening another's day with your kind gift of Christ's love!

LOOKING AHEAD: Our **February** Drive for the Open Door Mission will be a toilet paper drive! It is a privilege to help those in our community with basic needs that often go overlooked. We're giving everyone a head start to pick up an extra pack when you go shop. Thanks in advance. Our Northwest Hills Church family have the biggest hearts!



Prayer chain requests can be called to Lois Gapen at (402) 572-6792 or the church office at (402) 572-8392.

Thank you for your kind responses regarding updating our prayer list. We are always encouraged to hear when our loved ones are much improved. Please continue to let us know of any changes so that we can update our list and assure that the prayers going out weekly are the most current and urgent needs expressed. Thank you in advance. The ongoing list is below:

Continued Prayer Requests: Dirk Huston (Janet Delehoy's nephew), Nancy Norton (friend of Carol Scott), Sandy Christopherson, Al Cummings (Janet Delehoy's brother), Sharon Marchese (Kathleen Hammond's sister), Carol Scott, Lynn Hammond, Drew Botsakos, Kathleen Hammond, Mary LaHood, Dianne Hasch (Dianna Cupps' friend), Barb Karstens, Jackie Andis, Jeff Walton

On-Going Cancer Treatment: Mike Lambert, Mary Larson, Patricia Gename (Mary Hinman's daughter), Sharon Kirby (Janet Delehoy's sister-in-law), Dick McCoy, Gail Schroeder, Pam Dutton, Dave Merriam, Sue Day, Robert Baker, Sharon McNutt (Ruth Negus' friend's sister), Betty Benskin, Judy Intlekofer, Bill Owens, Pam Burright, Marvin Schoonover (Pat Mollak's brother), Ken Lemons (Jim Lemons' son), Coleen Vincent



"He sent His Word, and healed them" *Psalms 107:20*

"But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed." *Isaiah 53:5*

FROM PASTOR ALEX WOLF

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

We made it through! The year 2020 will be remembered for a long time: a pandemic since March, all of us learning how to stay at home, marches for racial equality, a tense election season. We learned how to worship God through online services and how to safely meet again. We had to cancel plans, we had to figure out Zoom calls, we had to sanitize our hands every 10 minutes. We made masks, we stayed 6 feet apart, and we ordered curbside pickup from restaurants. How life can change in a blink of an eye!

As we turn the page on our calendars, I want to say thank you. First and last, I give thanks to the Lord, for only in him, through him, by him and with him could we ever have accomplished what we did. Thank you, Lord Jesus.

Thank you to our church council who struggled along with the church staff as we entered a time none of us was prepared for. I especially thank our executive committee: Connie Klaumann, Margaret Scofield, Jackie Robinson, and Leigh Powell, who have done an outstanding job facing each difficult step set in front of us and deciding the best way forward for our church.

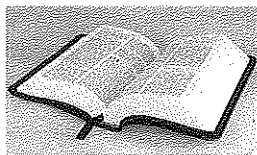
Thank you to our church members and friends for your patience and understanding as we figured out technologies and adapted to online worship. Thank you for your patience and understanding as we figured out how to safely meet in our sanctuary again. Thank you for all the calls and cards you sent to others in the congregation to make them feel remembered and loved. Thank you for comforting those whose loved ones passed away during the last year, especially the families who were not allowed the opportunity to properly say good-bye. Thank you for your faithfulness and generosity in a time when everyone has been stretched thin financially, emotionally and spiritually.

By God's grace and the faithfulness of God's people, we at Northwest Hills Church continue to be shining light in our community of Omaha. As we begin a new year, I pray for God's blessings upon each and every one of you. I also pray for a much brighter year where we can be safe and healthy as well as be in fellowship with one another in person. May each of us keep the faith.

God bless you and keep you safe and may you have blessed 2021!

In Christ's love,

Pastor Alex



Sermon Topics and Scriptures For the Month of January

Restart

Winter 2021 Sermon Series

A new year, a new beginning. After the year we had, we all need a clean slate, emotionally, physically and spiritually. Let's begin this new year on the right foot by renewing our lives and our walk with God.

January 3: Ezekiel 37:1-14, The Valley of the Dry Bones

January 10: Colossians 2:6-12, Reaffirmation of Baptism

January 17: Nehemiah 2:1-20, Rebuilding Jerusalem

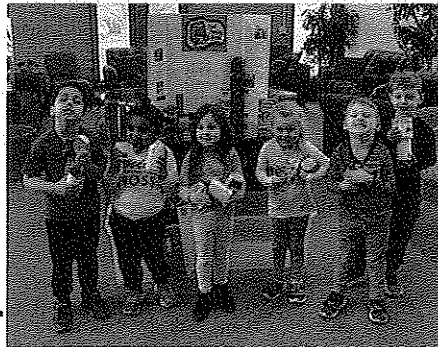
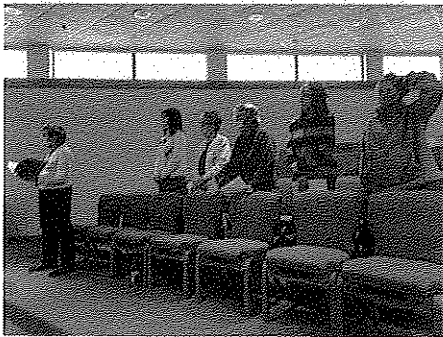
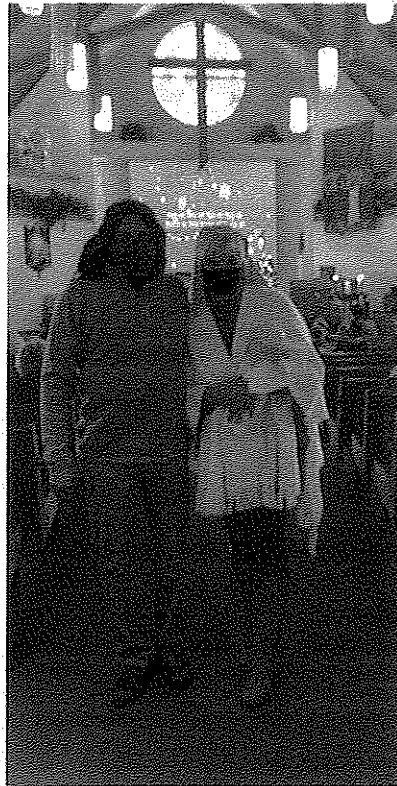
January 24: John 21:1-19, Jesus Reinstates Peter

CE Update:

Thank you to everyone who helped out or participated in the Socially Distanced, All Congregation, Minimalist, Traditionally, Untraditional Christmas pageant. It was great fun and a good learning experience as well.

Thank you to everyone, from Suzy, for the cards, goodies, and gifts over the Christmas season. There were so many yummy treats!! I was truly blessed this Christmas.

The Italiano Ristorante (also known as the Spaghetti Dinner) is closed for the year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Watch for further details about re-opening next year!!



Where's the Bible?



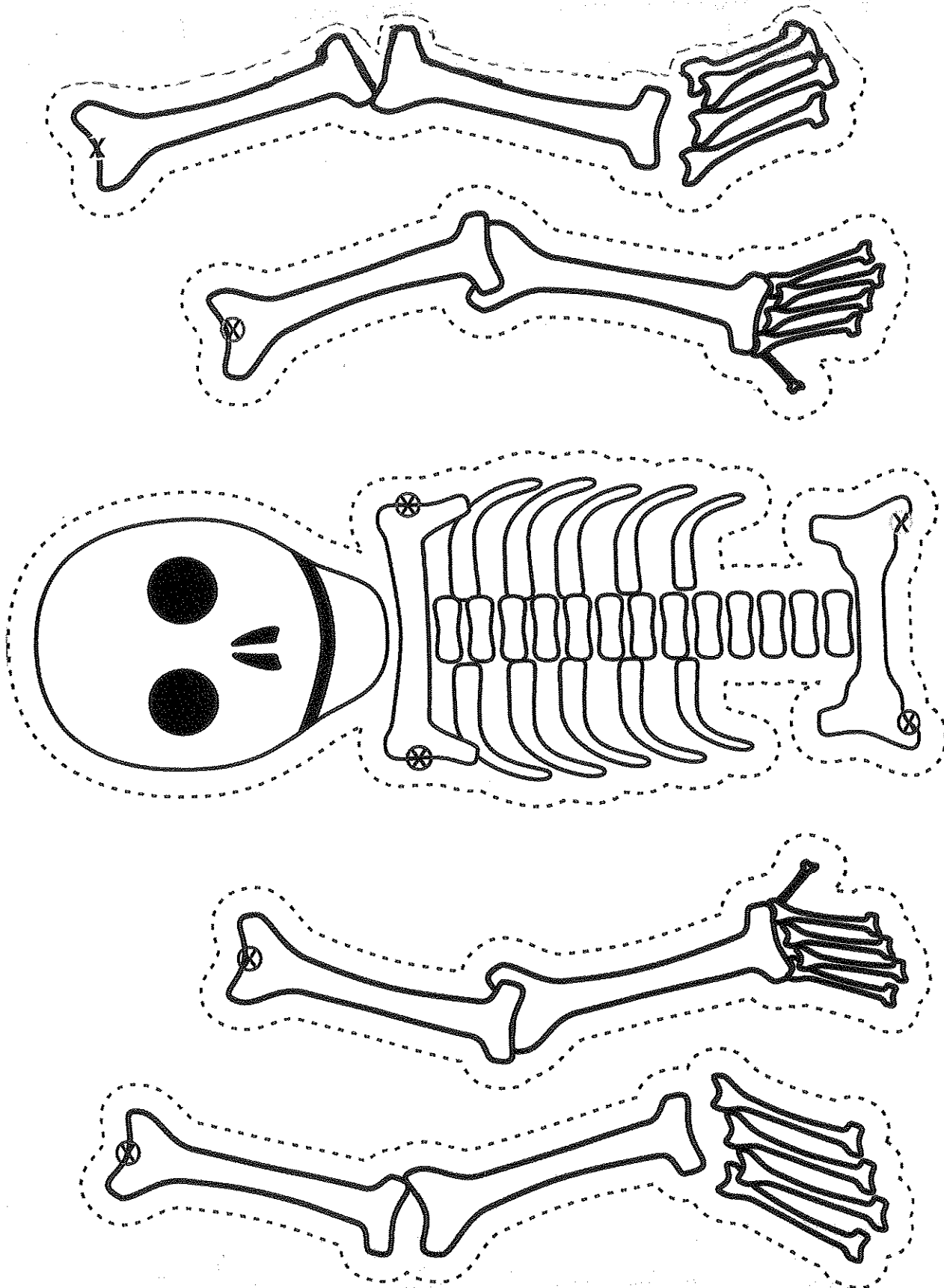
Preschool Update

The preschoolers were very busy getting ready for Christmas this month. They made decorations for the Christmas tree while using their math skills to make patterns. They made snow globes (for science) to give as gifts to their parents. The center room was turned into a bakery where the kiddos made play-dough and pretended to make Christmas cookies, hot chocolate, and other Christmas goodies! They practiced wrapping presents and practiced and practiced their songs for the Christmas program which was held on December 16th. After all that hard work, they are on vacation until January 5th!



January 3

Read Ezekiel 37:1-14. It talks about the Valley of Dry Bones. Once you have read the story, cut out and put together the skeleton below. You can use brads (gold prong fasteners) to connect the skeleton so it moves. If you don't have brads then just glue the skeleton tighter. This will help you remember the Bible story.



January 10

Do you know what baptism is? Read Mark 1:9-11. Ask your parents about your baptism and fill out the information below.

What is your full name?

What date were you baptized on?

Where did you get baptized?

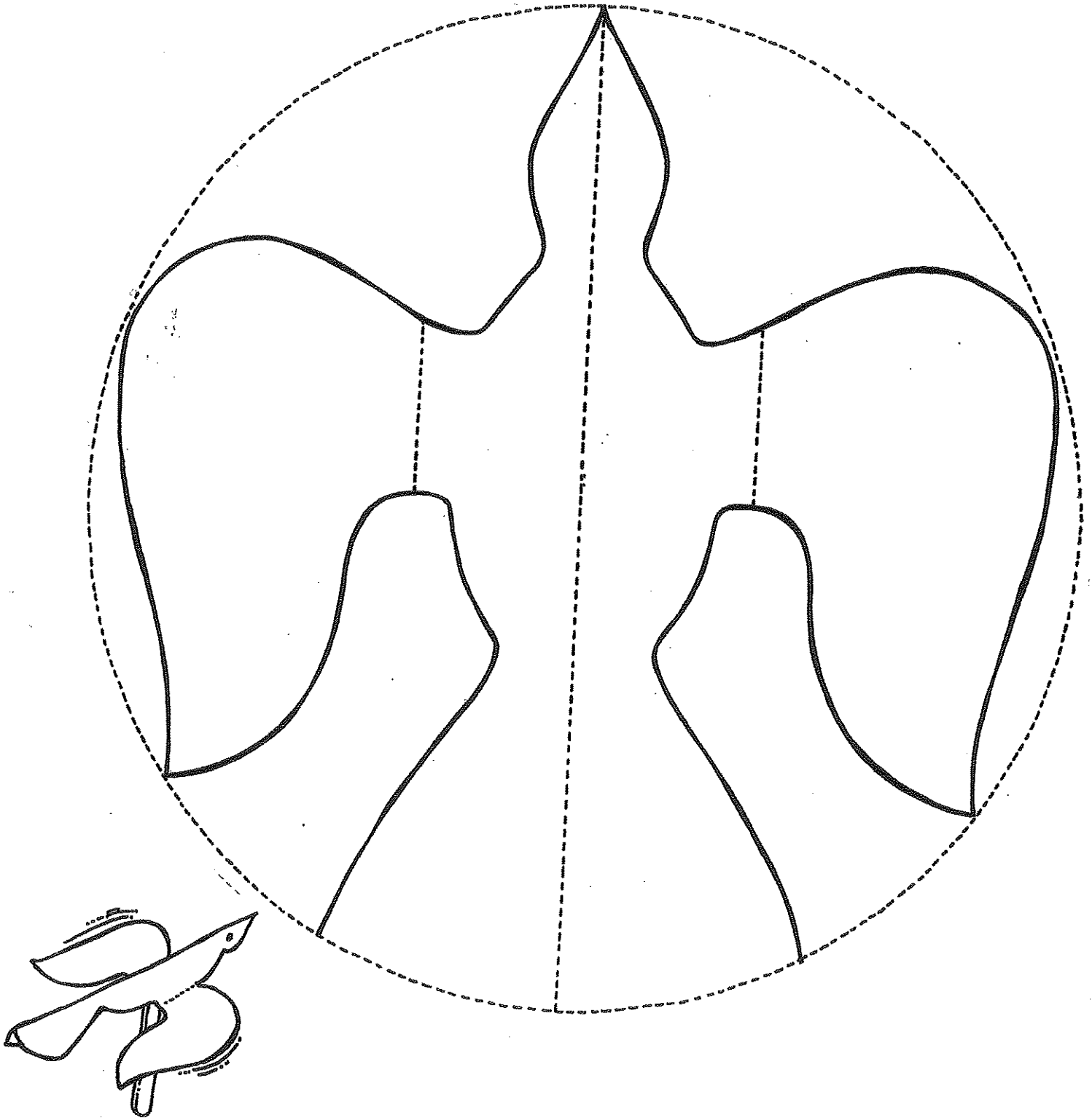
How old were you when you got baptized?

Who baptized you?

Who was there when you got baptized?

What were you wearing?

The white dove is a symbol of baptism. Using the pattern below, enlarge the dove and make the puppet as shown at the bottom of the pattern.



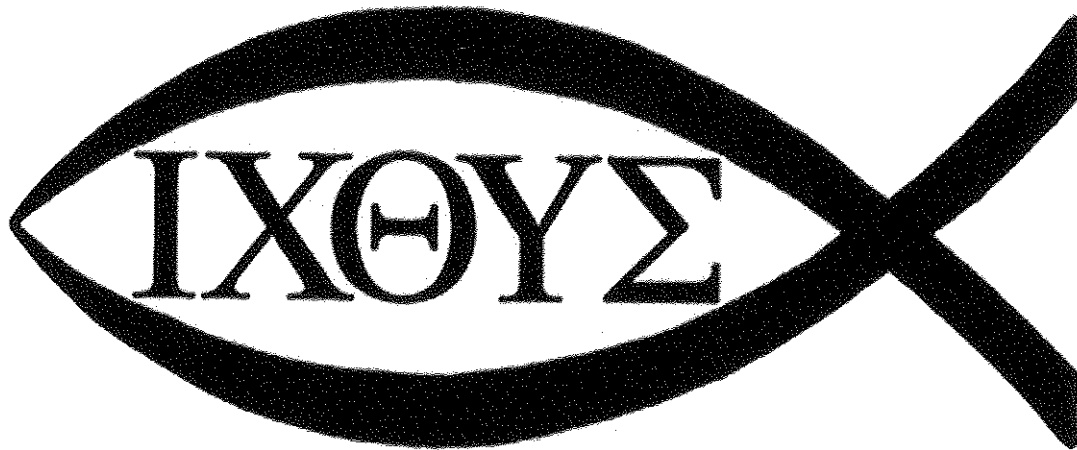
January 17

Using blocks, build a wall as high as you can go...try to pull just one block out and see what happens. See how fast you can rebuild your wall. Or play a game of Jenga with someone.

Nehemiah 2:13 tells how Jerusalem was in ruins and Nehemiah went out to inspect them.

January 24

Read John 21:4-11. The fish was used as an early symbol for Christians as a secret code to find out if others were Christians or not. See the picture below. The letters on the fish mean Jesus Christ, God's Son, and Savior. Draw your own picture of the fish symbol putting the letters on it.

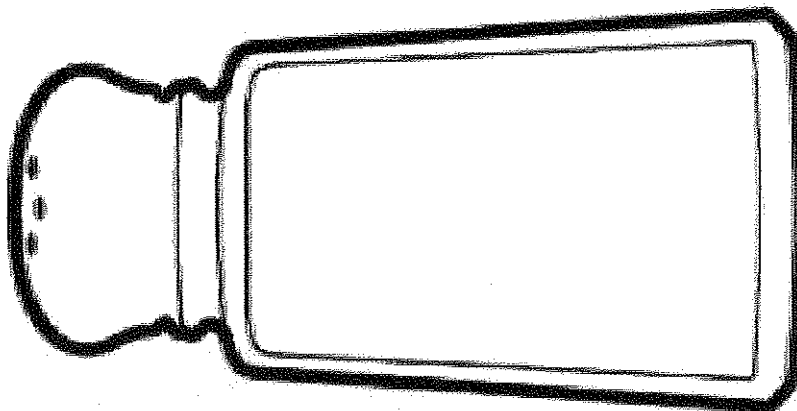


Jan. 31

Read Matthew 5:13

Color the salt shaker below and write on it: You are the salt of the earth.

What does salt do to the food we eat? What do you think it means to be the salt of the earth?



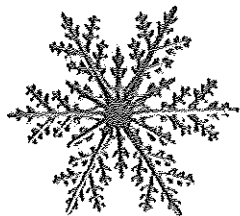
Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

JANUARY						1 NEW YEAR'S DAY Office Closed 1-4 Chin Church—S 4-6 Chin Church Celebration—FH	2
3 9:30 Worship/Communion 1-4 Chin Church-S	4 No Preschool	5 Preschool Starts Back Up 7 PM Bell Choir 7:00 Scouts - FH	6	7	8	9	
10 9:30 Worship-S 10:30 Undecorate Church S&C 1-4 Chin Church-S <i>Newsletter Deadline</i>	11	12 7 PM Bell Choir 7:00 Scouts—FH	13	14 7 Council Meeting-C	15	16	
17 9:30 Worship-S 1-4 Chin Church-S	18 Martin Luther King Jr. Day No Preschool	19 7:00 Scouts - FH	20	21	22	23	
24 9:30 Worship-S 1-4 Chin Church-S	25	26 7:00 Scouts - FH	27	28	29	30	S: Sanctuary C: Commons L: Library FH: Fellowship Hall
<div> <div>31</div> <div>9:30 Worship-S 1-4 Chin Church-S</div> </div>							

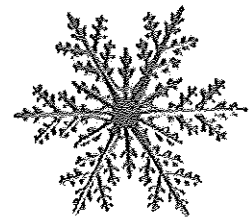
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JANUARY BIRTHDAYS



1 Elaine Jones	9 Jim Vincent	19 Dennis Ressett	26 Trent Beal
3 Mary Bilger	10 Barb May	20 Peter Massa	27 Riley Svacina
4 Lawrence Buckley	11 Babe McDaniel	21 Jean Murch	28 James Vincent
6 Jaime Barker	11 Lois Gapen	21 Alice Larson	29 Lois Blankenship
8 Adam Johnson	13 Roger Schwes	21 Marilyn Walton	31 Catherine McIntosh
9 Dennis Burright	16 Annette Carlin	25 Terry Markuson	

NO JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES