

The Kedron Connection

**Kedron United Methodist Church
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Issue 1

From Our Pastor

It's a new year—a time to examine our practices—to regroup and start over—again and again. At our last visioning meeting, we got into a conversation about how politeness has changed over the years and how we can make sure that we are being as welcoming as possible to all of the people we encounter. I've been asked to share some of my thoughts and recommendations for how to navigate conversations in a rapidly changing world. For the next few months, I will share some changes in thinking and speaking that I have found helpful. Please share your own ideas with me and with each other!

I'll start with introductions. While welcoming people into our lives, our church, or the line in the grocery store, let's not ask these questions.

--Are you married?

--Do you have children?

Asking about marriage and children assumes that these things are or should be a part of everyone's lives. For various reasons many people choose not to pursue one or both of these life choices, and often—especially for women—these sorts of questions can seem as though we are indicating that those are the only options for doing something important in their lives. For various reasons many others do not always have the choice to marry someone they love or to have children—and indicating that these are the important things in life can rub salt into their wounds. And mentioning children right after marriage can give the impression that family has to look one way.

We want to allow other people tell us what's important to them—and allow them to share as much or as little as is comfortable for them. If you feel a need to talk about the people who are important in someone's life, try this question.

****Do you have family in the area?**

This allows people to brush off a question they don't want to talk about with a quick yes or no. It also allows them to define what family is for them. I have often found that people take this question as an invitation to talk about whichever people are important in their lives. In this age of mobility, many people are separated from parts of their family—and this question gives them a chance to talk about however that might be affecting them. People may also be grieving a loss that they do or do not wish to share with us in this moment—this gives them an opportunity to say as little or as much as they want. Keep in mind that people may have family or other relationships that are a source of pain—we want to listen intently without pushing for information that is really just to satisfy our own curiosity or desire to categorize the life of the person in front of us.

I would also be very wary of asking people what they do for a living. They may be unemployed or stressed by their work—and in any case this question is an indication that job title is what's important in life—that this is what defines us. Instead try something like, "How is life?" This allows the person to discuss family, work, ice hockey, hopes and dreams, grief, the news, or the weather. We want to allow others to decide what is important to them and what they feel comfortable telling us in each moment.

What are some conversations that have made you feel especially welcome or unwelcome? Please share your insights—we all need to learn from each other. May God's patience and compassion be with us all.

Pastor Angela

Men's Breakfast

The monthly First-Saturday Men's Breakfast will be on January 4. Breakfast will be served at 7:00 a.m. Men, come join us.

Fellowship Supper

We will not have our Wednesday Covered-dish Fellowship Supper in January or February. The suppers will resume in March.

Handwork Ministry

The Handwork Ministry has been meeting the third Wednesday of the month to knit and crochet. The group has decided to not meet again until April. The meeting place, date and time will be announced. Please plan to join us then if you knit, crochet or want to learn.

Choir Notes

We will continue to meet at 9:15 on Sunday mornings. We will decide other practice times. Would you like to start the new year joining us? We would be happy to welcome you.

Bible Study

The Bible Study led by Rev. Travis Perry continues. The group is now meeting at the home of Lytle Hodge on Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m.

Rutherford County Laity

The Rutherford County Laity Fellowship will meet January 27 at 6:30 p.m. The meeting will be at Fellowship UMC in Murfreesboro.

Matthew 1:21 spoken by an angel of the Lord was the quote in the December newsletter.

Epiphany Sunday

On January 5, we will bring to the worship service baby gifts or monetary donations for Miriam's Promise. This is the crisis pregnancy and adoption agency in Nashville supported by the United Methodist Church.

Administrative Council

Our first Administrative Council meeting of 2014 will be January 19. The meeting will begin at 1:30 p.m.

Bucket Offerings

In January the offerings placed in the buckets carried by the children at Sunday morning worship will be contributed to help with grants administered by the Love and Justice group. Our pastor serves with this group.

Food Bank

You may bring donations for the Smyrna/LaVergne Food Bank to the church the first and second Sundays of the month and they will be delivered to the Food Bank. The suggested items for January are jelly and peanut butter. All non-perishable foods are accepted. The need is great.

Happy Birthday to:

Katelyn Patterson	January 11
Shannon Stacey	January 11
Ardeth Obenauf	January 12
Myron Palmer	January 15
Jude McCollum	January 21
Lynn Lee	January 22
Shana Stacey	January 24

Happy Anniversary to:

Ron & Ardeth Obenauf January 29

Thank You

Thanks to all who participated in Advent and Christmas activities at Kedron. What a meaningful time for our church family this was.

Building Improvement

The contract has been let to improve our restrooms. The main purpose of this project is to make them more handicapped accessible.

Who said this?

"... I saw the Lord always before me, for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken; therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; moreover my flesh will live in hope."

--NRSV (hint, Acts)



I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year
"Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown."

And he replied,

"Go into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way!"

- Minnie Louise Harkins, included by Britain's King George VI in his Christmas 1939 radio broadcast

January Calendar

Saturday, January 4:

7:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast

Sunday, January 5:

Epiphany Sunday

8:45 a.m. Sunday School

9:15 a.m. Choir Practice

9:30 a.m. Worship Service

Tuesday, January 7:

10:00 a.m. Bible Study

Sunday, January 12:

8:45 a.m. Sunday School

9:15 a.m. Choir Practice

9:30 a.m. Worship Service

Tuesday, January 14:

10:00 a.m. Bible Study

January 18-25 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Sunday, January 19:

8:45 a.m. Sunday School

9:15 a.m. Choir Practice

9:30 a.m. Worship Service

1:30 p.m. Administrative Council meeting

Tuesday, January 21:

10:00 a.m. Bible Study

Sunday, January 26:

8:45 a.m. Sunday School

9:15 a.m. Choir Practice

9:30 a.m. Worship Service

10:30 a.m. February newsletter information due

Tuesday, January 28:

10:00 a.m. Bible Study

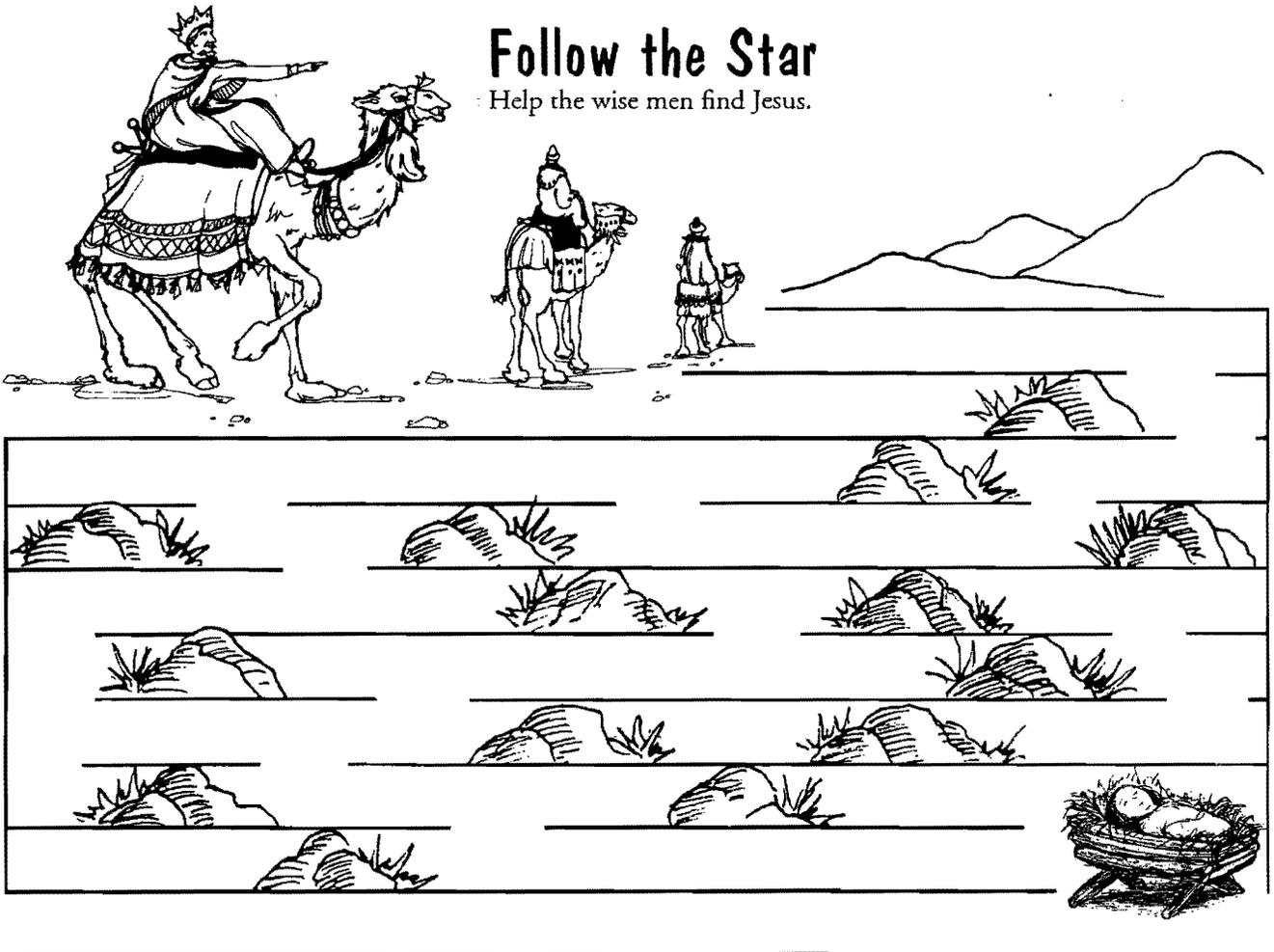


Epiphany
To journey
not knowing
but trusting
following
searching
seeking
wondering
hoping
daring
believing:
such is the stuff
of faith.

– Donald Schmidt

Follow the Star

Help the wise men find Jesus.



"...GOLD, FRANKINCENSE AND MYRRH?... I BET HE REALLY WANTED A PUPPY."

Kedron UMC 2014 Administrative Council

Chairperson: Larry Fraley

Vice-Chairperson: Mary Lee Vanderkooi

Recording Secretary: Fay Fraley

Lay Leader: Wayne Lee

Lay Member to Annual Conference: Danny Fraley

Trustee Chairperson: to be elected

Finance Chairperson: Wayne Lee

District Steward: Danny Fraley

Pastor-Parish Relations Chairperson: Miranda Rhodes

Charge Pastor-Parish Relations Chairperson: Miranda Rhodes

Treasurer: Naomi Lee

Assistant Treasurer: Mary Lee Vanderkooi

Financial Secretary: Sue Harris/Lynne Lee

Membership Secretary: Naomi Lee

Nurture and Membership: Ernestine Clark

Outreach Ministries: John Vance

Witness/Evangelism: Dot Pressley

Church School Superintendent: Jim Pressley

Church Historian: Miranda Rhodes

Newsletter: Fay Fraley

Website: John Vance

Worship Chairperson: Sue Harris

Usher Coordinator: Danny Fraley

Acolyte Coordinators: Ernestine Clark/ Lytle Hodge

Greeter Coordinator: Danny Fraley

Communion Steward: Sue Harris

Pastor: Angela Hawkins

Members at Large: Evelyn Lee, Larry Lee, Sunya Sprinkle

Kedron UMC 2014 Committees

Committee on Lay Leadership:

Term expires 12-31-2014

Danny Fraley

Dot Pressley

Term expires 12-31-2015

Fay Fraley

Lynn Lee

Term expires 12-31-2016

Lynne Lee

Shana Stacey

Pastor (Staff) Parish Relations:

Term expires 12-31-2014

Miranda Rhodes

Mary Lee Vanderkooi

Term expires 12-31-2015

Teresa Palmer

Tom Root

Term expires 12-31-2016

David Lee

Linda Lee

Trustees:

Term expires 12-31-2014

John Vance

Mary Lee Vanderkooi

Term expires 12-31-2015

Melanie McCollum

Shannon Stacey

Term expires 12-31-2016

Travis Perry

Tom Root

Finance:

Term expires 12-31-2014

Ardeth Obenauf

Mary Ellen Vance

Term expires 12-31-2015

Wayne Lee

Josh McCollum

Term expires 12-31-2016

Sue Harris

John Lee