



Christmastide & Epiphany

December 29, 2009

We wish you a Joyous Epiphany!
May you discover anew the
Savior to whom
the Wise Men paid homage;
and may the joy of giving be yours
today and throughout the year.



Twelve Days of Christmas

Message from Superintendent

The Christmas Season, yes season, goes on. This is the Christmas Season so do not be misled nor feel betrayed by the fact that many radio stations are not playing Christmas music or that the malls are taking down their “Christmas” decorations. Christmas Eve worship is just the beginning of the Twelve Days of Christmas Season and it continues through Epiphany, January 6th.

It is just wonderful that during the twelve days of Christmas, church people can continue to enjoy the Christmas carols, Christ candle, nativity scenes and

beautifully decorated Chrismon trees. The world is on their schedule; let them do their thing. “We are in the world but not of the world,” remember?

Oh, by the way, Epiphany is a good time to emulate the magi, wise men. They gave to a needy family that was stranded in Bethlehem and about to become refugees in Egypt. Matthew does not suggest that they asked question like, “what will I get in exchange for gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh?”

Many people today complain that businesses have taken over Christmas. Note however that Christmastide and Epiphany, manifestation of God to the world, has not been commercialized. The world has not stolen from the church the pure joy that comes from giving. The United Methodist Church and members of the church seek to follow the example of the magi in giving generously each year to homeless ministries, refugees, strangers and many others. Praise be to God!

May the Twelve Days of Christmas be a time of celebration and may the world see Jesus in us at Epiphany and throughout this Christmas Season.

Richard Lane Stryker III



*Chrismon Tree
Lanett First UMC*