The Salem Tidings, January 2012

The monthly newsletter of Salem United Methodist Church

541 Hwy. 59, Waukesha, WI 53186

Salem's mission is to GROW Disciples of Jesus Christ.

From the desk of Pastor Linda…

Once again we greet the New Year with the three Wise Men as our companions. They have seen a star and are on their way to where Jesus is present. Our church joins them in seeking out the Christ Child and offering him the best that we have and all that we are. Ann Johnson, in her book, *Miryam of Nazareth,* remembers this journey in such wonderful prose…She speaks with Mary's voice…

Magnificat of the Magi

I am immersed in peaceful silence in the presence
of those you lead to us, my God.
With quiet awe my spirit listens to the story of the star-led quest
for this newly born one.
I feel your knowing eyes probing the depths of my wonder-filled heart,
and my heart responds in the fullness of knowing.
Yes, this day of recognition, affirmed by wise people,
shall be remembered as long as stars shine,
for in this time the Almighty has become a simple child through us,
the ones who have united with you, to claim your promised presence.

Holy is this child's name,
and caring shall flow from age to age
among those who touch our lives.
He lifts his tiny hand to these mighty rulers,
and they understand pure power.
Their prideful eyes are washed clean with tears.
These Magi have disregarded Herod
and bow before our little child.
Their hearts overflow with the fruit of their search,
and their rich gifts lie in shadow on the floor.

The Magi do not come without assistance. A star and great light leads the way. We are reminded on the edge of this new day and this New Year that we are not alone. The Holy Child and our God go with us into the future and work through us, around us, in spite of us, in partnership with us, to bring light to our waiting world.

It is my prayer in this New Year, that we immerse ourselves in peaceful silence in the presence of those God leads to us. We may meet them in church, in small groups, in fellowship, in discipleship at the Food Pantry, Hebron House, Hope Center or Interfaith. They may be waiting for us in our families or at work. We will know them as contemporary Wise Ones because they will long to know Christ more fully, they will offer their talents and gifts to Christ. They will stand up to power that is unkind or oppressive, they will take chances for the sake of the Word of God and its power to heal. In short, they will inspire us, and through them we will know that you are moving in our world and in our lives.

I invite you to be on the look-out for present day Magi. I invite you to notice their desire to be present wherever Christ is touching lives. I invite you to join them in their search that together we might kneel with them before Christ in all his coming.

Meeting the Magi, Pastor Linda