



New Basel Church
 1075 1100 Ave Abilene, KS 67410
 785-479-5501
www.newbaselchurch.org



DECEMBER 2021

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

One of the songs we hear a lot around this time of year is “We Three Kings of Orient Are”. It is based on the passage from Matthew 2, where the gospel writer relates the story of how those famous visitors from the East came to worship Jesus. When you try to match up the song to the story, however, there are some glaring difficulties.

Take, for example, the number three. The song says Three Kings, but the Bible makes no mention of how many there are. True, there are three gifts that are eventually presented to Jesus, which is where the number presumably came from. Also, the song calls them Kings, but the Bible does not. They are called either wise men or magi, depending on the translation, but definitely not kings! As for the song’s claim that they came from the Orient, well that’s pure conjecture. Probably not true.

So there is a lot we don’t know about who these people were. It is almost as if their identity is unimportant to Matthew. Strange, then, that their gifts should be named so accurately. Perhaps even more strange is that the significance of these gifts is not spelled out.

We all know what gold is, and what it is used for. Gold, however, would have been a really rare thing for a peasant infant to receive. It would normally have been given to kings: it was a royal gift.

The frankincense mentioned a unique gift as well. Made from dried tree sap, it was powdered and used in flour or burnt with offerings. When frankincense was burnt, the smoke was thought to represent the prayers of the people, rising up

to God. It was associated with life at the Temple.

If the first two gifts were strange, then the third is downright bizarre. Myrrh was something like an embalming fluid that was used to anoint a person who had died. The Egyptians used it in their mummification process. A highly unusual gift!

Taken together, however, we see that the wise men understood something profound. Their gifts show that they thought of Jesus as a King and as a Priest, and that they had some inclination that He came to die. Very wise, indeed!

And so the wise men worshipped, and they worshipped truly. Their gifts cost them wealth, not to mention the time invested in bringing them and the effort involved in getting there. When we worship God today, we do these same things – recognizing that Jesus is King and our High Priest that died for us, we worship with our money, time, and effort. And when we at last meet Jesus, just like the wise men we cannot go back the way we came. We cannot truly meet Jesus and go back to being the same person we were before!

In the coming New Year, I pray that each of you worship **Jesus Christ, God’s**



Son, and Savior, recognizing Him as the King and High Priest that died for you. I also pray that you might be

unable to return the way you came, and become the people God knows you can be! When that happens, no matter your path, your journey will end in paradise with the Lord!

Grace and Peace,
 Pastor Jamie

New Basel Church Council Council Minutes
Monday November 1, 2021

Called to order at 7:05 p.m. by President Kenny Chamberlin

Present:

Elders: Nicole Shrack, Pam O'Neal, Kenny Chamberlin

Deacons: Francis Anderson, Holly Bethe

Trustees: Austin Murphy, Gary Foltz

Pastor Jamie opened with a devotion

Minutes:

Approved by Council

Communications:

Salina Rescue Mission asking for donations

St. Jude asking for donations

Samaritan's Purse asking for donations

Reports:

Committee Reports:

Sunday School:

Hanging of the Greens will be November 28th. December 12th Kid Christmas Program. At the Christmas Eve service the kids will sing a few songs.

Pastor Parish Committee:

The committee met October 27th at 6:30pm. The Committee is asking Council to increase Pastor Jamie's CE allowance. In his contract it was noted as negotiable since our previous Pastors did not use CE money.

Jessica also brought to council the need for a few more committees since the Women's Fellowship has dissolved.

Financial Secretary and Treasurer:

Pam O'Neal gave the Financial Secretary's report for October

Holly Bethe gave the Treasurer's report for October

Pastor's Reports:

See attached report from Pastor Jamie

Elders:

We have not taken communion since our last council meeting.

\$420 was donated to The Salina Rescue Mission from the Harvest Home Service.

Deacons:

None

Trustee:

None

Old Business:

Fire Alarm- Kenny Chamberlin reached out to Brad Homan and he has not gotten back to Kenny at this time.

Electrical- Parsonage and Parish Hall for the A/C. Items were discussed as to when we will have the electrical work done, where it will come from (parsonage or the church)

Edward Jones- Kenny needs to put his info on the paperwork as contact.

New Business:

2021 Benevolence Pam O'Neal moved we donate \$500 to each entity Austin Murphy seconded the motion.

Abilene Food Bank

The Cedar House

Salina Rescue Mission

CWU Christmas Aid

Neighbor to Neighbor

Shiloh Ranch Ministries

M/S/C to pay bills that were presented. Pam O'Neal moved we pay the bills; Austin Murphy seconded the motion. Council has also approved Holly to pay the regular monthly bills. Special bills will need to be approved by council.

Community Thanksgiving Service will be held this year Sunday November 21st at Carlton Presbyterian Church at 7pm. Pastor Jamie will be giving the sermon that evening.

Christmas Decorating of the church Janet Chamberlin and Deb Foltz. They will contact individuals to help with decorating. Decorating will take place before the Hanging of the Greens.

Christmas Caroling- will look at next year since nursing homes are still not open

Parish Hall has been rented out for November 25th, December 31st

Upcoming Events:

Church Fellowship will follow after every service

November 21st Thanksgiving Service at Carlton Presbyterian Church

November 22nd Echo Articles Due

Hanging of the Greens November 28th

December 6th Council Meeting 7pm

No Other Announcements

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m. by praying the Lord's Prayer in unison.

Nicole Shrack, Secretary

New Basel Church, Abilene KS

Pastor's Report to Church Council – Pastor Jamie Bonnema

11/1/21

Work Summary for 10/11/21 – 10/30/21

Worship – Preached and/or led Sunday worship 3 times

Administration Meetings – 1 Church Council, 1 Memorial Committee, 1 Pastor Parish Relations

Pastoral Care – 3 Home Visits (Cromwell, Foltz, Kilian), 3 Phone Visits (Davis, Fox)

Other – 1 Enterprise Estates Advisory Board, 1 AV Consultation, 1 New Century Computer, 1 TCT

Calls Taken: 360 Degree Solutions, RE Thanksgiving Worship at Carlton Presbyterian

Mileage: October: 214

New Business:

1. Wireless Router has been replaced
2. Thanksgiving Worship Service at Carlton Presbyterian Church



Eunice Pryor
Elaine Bethe
Naoma Foltz
Harold Provance
Wanda Murphy

Dwight Meuli
Kelly Schrader
Don Reiff
Tammy Anderson
Judy Lauer

The following annual reports are due by January 9, 2022. Please submit reports to Marion Kamm by e-mail if possible at kammalop@tctelco.net or leave in the Church Office.

Pastor's Report – Pastor Jamie

Treasurer's Report – Holly Bethe

Financial Secretary's Report – Pam O'Neal

Memorial Fund Report – Randy Barten

Women's Fellowship Treasurer's Report – Peggy Meuli

Sunday School Treasurer's Report – Peggy Meuli

Cares and Concerns Committee Report – Jane Haney

Christian Education Committee Report – Jessica Murphy

Music Committee Report – Peggy Meuli & Janet Chamberlin

Hospitality Committee Report – Holly Bethe

Trustee Report – Austin Murphy

Records Committee Report – Peggy Meuli & Jane Haney

Scholarship Committee Report – Jessica Murphy

Worship Committee Report – Pam O'Neal & Nicole Shrack

Memorial Committee Report – Randy Barten

Pastor-Parish Relations Committee Report – Jessica Murphy

Pastoral Search Committee Report – Jessica Murphy

Audit Committee Report - *Council will assign*

Nominating Committee Report - *Council will assign*

Enterprise Estates Advisory Committee Report – Francis Anderson & Cecil Schrader

DECEMBER

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

7th Casey Barten **17th Molly Hunnicutt**
Lyndy Tischhauser **14th Cindy Hoffman**
9th Robby Haynes **21st Kabreyan Anderson**
10th Janis Haugh **25th Terry Reiff**
Brett Koster **29th Parker O'Neal**

Upcoming January Birthdays

2nd Justin Beetch **13th Nichole Taylor**
10th Bob O'Neal **Gary Foltz**

The Children's Sunday School Christmas program will be during regular Church Service on Sunday December 12th. During the Christmas Eve Service, the youth will be singing a Christmas song.

There will be no youth Sunday School classes December 19th, 26th or January 2nd.



Greeters, Acolytes, & Usher for December

Greeters:

Acolytes:

5 th	Kenny & Janet Chamberlin	Bo Rothchild
12 th	Ed & Jan McAdams	Larissa Cromwell
19 th	Jen Reiff and Joan Reiff	Devin Kamm
24 th	Mark & Holly Bethe	Sterling Bonnema
26 th	Austin & Jessica Murphy	Scarlett Murphy

December Usher: Cecil Schrader

Thank you to Gary Foltz for being the November Usher

May the peace and hope of
Christ's birth
be with you now and in the days ahead...

