



AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES OF OHIO

Southeast Area

Cambridge, Lawrence, Marietta, Rio Grande,
Zanesville, and Zoar Associations

JANUARY 2008

A Congregational Development Insight -

EPIPHANY – to reveal – an illuminating discovery, realization, or disclosure – a revealing scene or moment.

During Advent and Christmas we anticipated and celebrated the coming of the Son of God, Jesus, into the world. As the wise men came to worship Jesus they came from far away countries.

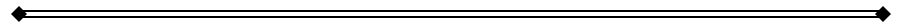
Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the East, and have come to worship him." ... and lo, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came to rest over the place where the child was. ... and going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him ... And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way. Matthew 2.1-2, 9, 11-12

As the wise men traveled back to their own country they had the opportunity to tell everyone along the way and those at home that Jesus, the Son of God, had been born. They were witnesses and took the Good News with them. Jesus was revealed to the world through their personal testimony. Our challenge is to take a similar journey and to reveal the Good News of Jesus to those who have never heard and to those who do not personally know Jesus.

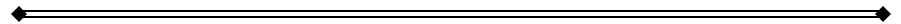
To whom does Jesus need to be revealed in your community? Who needs to be invited to join you for worship, to gather with a small group, to join a book or Bible study? May Epiphany be a time to reveal Jesus to your community. Reach out, Invite and Welcome!

COMING EVENTS for ABC/OHIO CHURCHES

- ☑ January 11-12 - **ABC/OHIO Leadership Academy** - Intensive II at FBC Sunbury
- ☑ February 22-24 - **ABC/OHIO American Baptist Youth Convention** at Heartland Conference Retreat Center - Rev. **David Easter** - Guest Speaker.
- ☑ March 14-15 - **ABC/OHIO Leadership Academy** - Intensive III at FBC Sunbury
- ☑ March 28-29 - **Church Leadership Conference** in Columbus - The Keynote speaker is **Dave Ping**, coauthor of *OUTFLOW*, a book that takes the concepts of Servant Evangelism and makes them practical for churches. Dave is the Executive Director of Equipping Ministries International. Put this event on your calendar - you'll want to be there.
- ☑ April 22-25 - **Fanning the Flame** - a national pastors' renewal conference at the Green Lake Conference Center. Information can be found at www.abc-ohio.org



- **Mr. Vernon Rankin** has been called by the Calvary Baptist Church, Rio Grande, to serve as their pastor. Rankin lives in the area, is a member of the congregation and has served as the interim pastor for the past few months.
- ABC/OHIO Leadership Academy students from the Southeast Area for 2007-08 include:
 - **Jonathan Mollohan** - Vinton Baptist - Cycle 3
 - **John Revenaugh** - Ark Springs Baptist - Cycle 3
 - **Howard Stephens** - Porterfield Baptist - Cycle 1
 - **Robert Woodrum** - Oakfield Baptist - Cycle 1



Remember Pastoral Search Committees in your prayers:

- Newport Baptist Church - Marietta Assoc.
- Torch Baptist Church - Marietta Assoc.
- First Baptist Church of Zanesville
- First Baptist Church of Martins Ferry - Zoar Assoc.

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Minister of Congregational Development - Southeast

REMEMBER - Support the ministries of ABC/Ohio with gifts to United Mission, America for Christ, and ABC/Ohio Specifics.