**Nurturing Faith Ideas for 2017**

Nurturing Faith Ideas are weekly suggestions and activities from the Presbytery's Nurture Committee to link worship and home and to nurture faith development in the family. These are intended for all ages and all family types - with children or grandchildren or families with no children. Add one to your bulletin each week or put in your monthly newsletter. They could also be sent out via email or added to a Facebook page. Ideas for the entire year will be distributed later in 2016 or early 2017; for now, here are the Nurturing Faith Ideas for the beginning of 2017.

**January 1: Happy New Year** - Instead of making a resolution list that you will not keep, this year nurture your faith by remembering the gracious deeds of our Lord. The hymn writer, Thomas O. Chisholm, penned a hymn remembering God's mercies that are new each morning. Get your pen and paper and write a song or just list the mercies of God in your life.

**January 6: Epiphany of the Lord** - The wise men paid homage to the new King and Christ Child by bringing gifts. Do not hide your gift. Bring your gift to Christ in reverence and in joy. What is it that Jesus is calling you to do in your church congregation, in your community, in your presbytery? Do it!

**January 8: Baptism of the Lord** - As we celebrate our Lord's baptism, we also remember our own baptism. We are baptized into the body of Christ and we are also empowered by the same Spirit of God that descended upon Jesus. What does your baptism mean to you? What can you do to honor your baptism and your place in the body of Christ? Nurture your faith this week by living fully in your baptism.

**January 15: The psalmist** (40) writes that he waited patiently for the Lord and the Lord heard the cry of desperation that the psalmist expressed. If you are not suffering from a desolate spirit, there is someone you know who is. Visit the hospital or nursing home today to tell the glad news of deliverance of the Lord. Do not conceal what great things God is doing. Let those who need to hear a word from the Lord hear that word from you.