

The  
**Faith Script**  
CPFI Serving Christ and the World Through Pharmacy

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*“On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary,  
and they bowed down and worshipped him.  
Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts  
of gold, frankincense and myrrh.” Matthew 2:11 (NIV)*

Prayer Wall

As I write this 2018 is just a few days away. The New Year provides an opportunity to resolve to do things differently. It's also a time when the Advent is still an important event that still occupies our minds so let me try to combine both events into this commentary. The visit of the Magi occurred sometime after Jesus birth and the family was now in a house. The whole story of their visit is filled with wonder. What was the star they saw and what drove them to make this journey? This whole event seems like a miracle of God's providence. In fact the gifts they brought may have enabled Joseph to support his family when he followed the Lord's command to take his family to Egypt. (Matthew 2:13)

Outreach  
Opportunities

When we take time to reflect on our lives, probably something we should do regularly but at least at the beginning of a new year, we realize that our lives are filled with God's providence. That should fill us with a gracious attitude and make us resolve to be more Christ like in the New Year. There is much we could do to make that happen but a recent message delivered in my Thursday noon Chapel Hill men's Bible study has caused me to ponder the significance of the Magi's gifts. Sure, I am in a blessed financial position and could give Jesus "rich treasures" and I think I am generous. But usually these financial gifts don't require any sacrifice because I give out of my excess. I was reminded that gold is a gift for a king, frankincense is a gift for a priest and myrrh is a gift for someone who dies. Jesus fulfilled all those roles for me so the question for me is what might be equivalent gifts that I might give to Jesus today. I offer you these gifts to think about giving to Jesus in 2018 as you seek to know Him more and to love Him more.

Upcoming  
Events

Time is the one thing we often complain we don't have enough of. We struggle to get done what we have agreed to do. How can we give God more of our time? It really is a priority thing. Could I give God two more hours a week? I could if I wanted to. If I did it out of a love for Him would that not please Him? I think it would.

NSC 2017  
Summer  
Newsletter

Treasure is something that is important to use. Sometimes it is money but often it is something really important or special like a hobby or activity. What would happen if we said, "Lord I give you my treasurer in 2018 so I can spend more time with you"? I think that would please Him, too.

Trust is something that we often want to hold on to. Have you had the experience of trying to do it yourself only to fail and then turn to God and ask for help? What would 2018 be like if we gave Him our complete trust by telling Him that I want to trust You completely with every

area of my life this New Year? If we did that 2018 could be a stress and worry-free year.

I close with these two verses to ponder as you begin 2018.

Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV) “For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

Proverbs 19:21 (NIV) “Many are the plans in a person’s heart, but it is the Lord’s purpose that prevails.”

Fred M. Eckel, Immediate Past President  
Chapel Hill, NC

## **CPFI 2018 Annual Conference & National Student Retreat**

### **Program \* Speakers \* Silent Auction \* Register**

**National Student Retreat: May 30 to June 3, 2018**

**Annual Conference: May 31 to June 3, 2018**

**Theme: Hope is in our God**

**Isaiah 42:2-3**

**Bonclarken Conference Center  
500 Pine Drive  
Flat Rock, North Carolina 28731**

*Register on the CPFI website at <http://www.cphi.org/annual-meeting>  
or call the CPFI office (888) 253-6885*

***Registrations must be made through CPFI.***

## **CPFI Prayer Breakfast at the 2018 American Pharmacy Association Annual Meeting & Exposition**

March 18, 2018

7:30 am to 8:45 am

Speaker: Dr. Joy Greene

Title: “When I Grow up, I want to Be \_\_\_\_\_.”

Location: Nashville Music City Center, Nashville, TN

Cost: \$25.00 (Pay when you register for the conference. A small quantity of tickets will be sold at the door on a first come first serve basis.)

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