



# Bell Tower

## JANUARY 2024 NEWSLETTER

The Hope Valley First Baptist Church family makes followers of Christ and worships God through prayer, fellowship, service and the study of the Holy Bible, testifying to the glory of His Name.

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## Pastor's Note

This is so Boring!

I like to think Christians know the Bible better than non-Christians, but I realize that's not always the case. I know Christians who know very little Bible and non-Christians who have spent years studying the Bible.

Taking this idea a step further, among Christians, most know the New Testament better than the Old. If for no other reason, there is less of it to know. The New Testament has twenty-seven books, the Old Testament has thirty-nine. Most of us have been raised hearing about Jesus, the apostles, and Paul, and most of our Sunday School lessons are from the New Testament.

I also think people are intimidated by the Old Testament. All those hard-to-pronounce names, places, kings—and all those dates! Add in the sacrifices and worship rituals in the temple, and you are left wondering what to make of it. But when it comes to Jesus' parables or Paul's letters, they feel like letters from home.

But for this issue of the Bell Tower, I want to draw your attention to an Old Testament book. The final book in the Old Testament. And it is perhaps one of the least familiar books of the Bible, the book of the prophet Malachi.

Without unpacking all the details, I want to turn your attention to Malachi's opening chapter. In these first fourteen verses, Malachi reveals a concern on the mind of God. His concern is twofold: (1) He is being taken for granted, not respected, and (2) He is being endured, not enjoyed. Let's consider each point.

1. God is being taken for granted, not respected.

“A son honors his father, and a servant his master. Then if I am a father, where is my honor? And if I am a master, where is My respect?” Says the Lord of hosts to you, O priests who despise My name.” Malachi 1:6.

God uses a situation we can all relate to. He says, “Look at the way you treat the people around you. Consider how you treat your parents or those you work for. For the most part, you treat them with respect. You do what they ask, even more so if you genuinely love them.”



Continued.... —>

Then God simply asks, "Where is My respect?" In other words, respect is evident in behavior. The abusive spouse and negligent parent are contradictory terms. Spouses are not supposed to abuse and parents are not to neglect. So God asks his people, "How can you say I am your God when you don't do what I say?" To put it in words a bit more familiar, "You are my friends if you do what I command you" John 15:14.

2. God is being endured, not enjoyed.

"But you profane it [God's name] when you say that the Lord's table is polluted, and its fruit, that is, its food may be despised. But you say, 'What a weariness this is,' and you snort at it, says the LORD of hosts. You bring what you been taken by violence or is lame or sick, and this you bring as your offering! Shall I accept that from your hand? says the LORD." – Malachi 1:12-13

In the Old Testament economy, love and respect of God were evident in one's sacrifices. God had commanded His people to bring him the very best. To those who love God, this was an easy command since it is what they longed to do. But when love grows cold worship becomes a hassle.

Professor Robert Alden sums up the lesson of Malachi 1:10 this way,

"[God] wished that the temple would just go out of business. As long it was not serving as a meeting place for God and man, why should any perfunctory and self-deceiving rituals go on in it? Not only were the sacrifices ineffective, but the people were lulled into thinking that their deeds were winning God's approval. So why not just shut the temple doors and be done with what was for the priests [and the people] just a nuisance?

"This thought may be applied to present-day churches that have ceased to be places where people worship in spirit and truth and are merely meeting places and nothing more. It would be better for them to just close down than to continue misleading those who think that what they are doing pleases God. God could hardly have spoken his mind more clearly than he did in this last part of verse 10, 'I am not pleased with you... and I will accept no offering from your hands.'"

As we begin a new year, let's decide to eliminate some of the routine distractions and focus more of our time and attention on respecting and enjoying our God.

jim

#### Most Needed Non-Perishable Food Items

**Soups & stews:** Any variety, canned or boxed

**Pasta, Macaroni & Cheese:** Any variety, boxed, bagged or canned

**Breakfast Cereals:** Any variety

**Rice:** Jasmine, yellow, basmati, white and brown

**Canned Fish & Meat:** Tuna, chicken, sardines, salmon

**Canned Fruit:** Pineapple, mango, peaches, pears, mandarin oranges, fruit cocktail

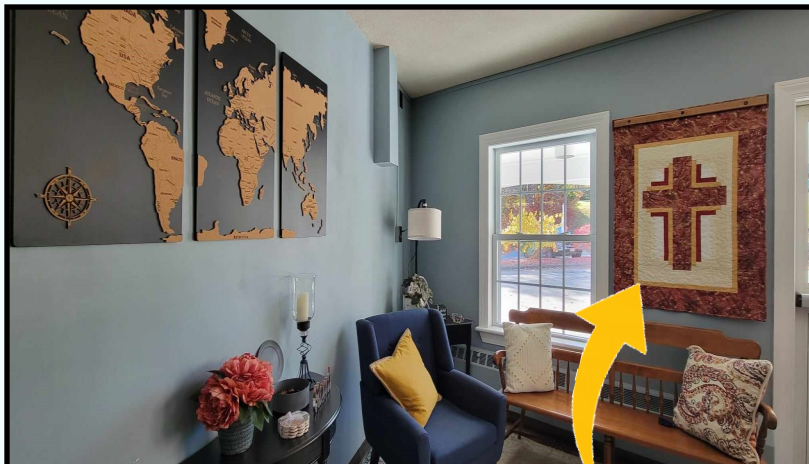
**Canned Vegetables:** Corn, green beans, peas, spinach, okra

**Tomato Products:** Diced, crushed, sauce, paste

**Beans & Lentils:** Canned or dried black, cannellini, kidney, fava, chick peas, etc.

**Nut & Seed Butters:** Peanut, sunflower, soy nut, almond, cashew

**Sauces, Spices and Condiments:** In plastic bottles or cans only, no glass - sofrito, fish sauce, soy sauce, coconut milk, extra virgin olive oil, rice vinegar, crushed red pepper, paprika, adobo, cinnamon, ginger



Thank you to Carol Kenney for the beautiful tapestry quilt that is a lovely addition to our foyer. Come by and look for the cross, dove, and hearts intricately woven into it.

# ANNUAL MEETING

January 28, 2024

As per our church by-laws, all members must receive notice of our annual meeting. This year's will be held on January 28, 2024, right after church service. All members are invited to bring a bag lunch to eat during coffee hour. The members will reconvene in the Sanctuary at 12:45 pm after the coffee hour for the annual business meeting.

**PLEASE SEND IN YOUR REPORTS  
ACCORDINGLY.**



*What's Happening!*



## BOARD MEETINGS

**1st Tuesday — Jan. 2, 2024**

6:00 PM — Trustees

**2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday — Jan. 9, 2024**

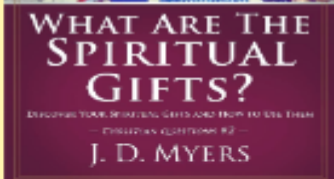
6:00 PM — Deacons

**2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday — Jan. 10, 2024**

10:00 AM — Nichols Board

**Friday, January 19, 2024**

10:00 AM — Missions



**Sunday  
Jan. 14, 2024**

**9 AM and 7 PM  
in the Parlor**

Beginning the first of the new year we will embark on a study of spiritual gifts using as our guide the book, **What Are The Spiritual Gifts: Discover Your Spiritual Gifts and How to Use Them.**

The books are here, but please register if you are interested in taking the class and let us know which hour works best for you if attending the evening session.

Please call at 401-539-7553 or email Maria Gill at

[fbhvsecretary@verizon.net](mailto:fbhvsecretary@verizon.net).

A sign-up sheet is also available at the bulletin table.



*Happy Birthday!*

3 – Kjell Ingebretsen

5 – Tracy Pion

6 – Gertrude Pelchat

6 – Nancy Eckenroth

8 – Joanne Reynolds

14 – Raymond Andrews

16 – Amanda McLintock

19 – Rob Roeleveld

23 – Rosemary Dumas

23 – Bette Leary

25 – Archie Andrews

27 – Ryan Hull

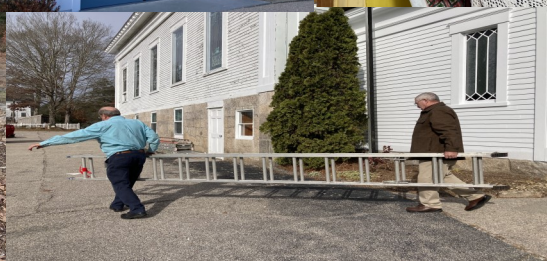
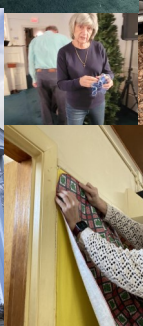
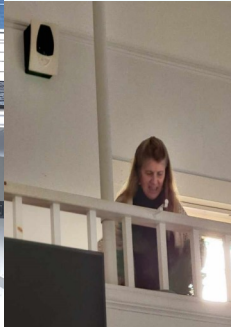
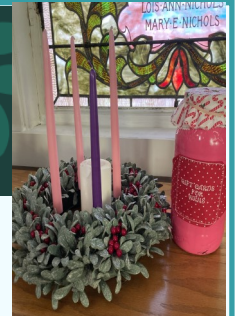
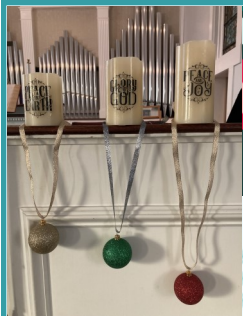
31 – Zack Roeleveld



# Hanging of the Greens



Elaine Kenney





# WELCOME PEACE

Cookies, Carols & Cocoa







## CHURCH AND PARSONAGE GROUNDS BEAUTIFICATION.

Thanks to Pastor Jim, Loren Andrews, Titch Kenney, Dallas Hazard, Ray Pedro, Kjell Ingebretsen, Susan Andrews, Jay Menzies, and all the hard-working men and women of FBHV for maintaining and keeping our church and parsonage grounds beautiful!



Continued...





Elaine Kenney



# Children's Corner

## Having A Right Attitude

**Read: 2 Corinthians 11: 24-33**

If anyone understands disappointments and hardships, Paul does-yet he maintained a right attitude.

How do we react to disappointments? How do we react when we don't get our own way?

No matter what disappointments or frustrations we face in life, we can either let it get us down or not, depending on how we handle it-which is our attitude.

If we have an attitude of self-pity and feel that it's 'not fair', then we won't rise above it, instead we will feel miserable.

It takes on a whole new meaning when we choose to respond in a more loving way. Especially in an area where someone else seems to be getting his or her way above what we wanted. To have a right attitude, we need to stop feeling sorry for ourselves when we don't get our own way. This is a hard lesson to learn, because it does hurt and makes us angry. But we do need to try to choose to react lovingly. Taking on a wrong attitude, for whatever reason, causes us to become bitter inside and feel as though the whole world is against us. This is a sad and lonely place to be in. God loves you and wants you to be free from the hurts and anger that results in having a 'bad attitude'.

There are going to be disappointments and frustrations in life. People do let us down. The key here though, is to seek God through it all and allow His love into the situation. Ask Him for the help you need in how you will respond to it all.

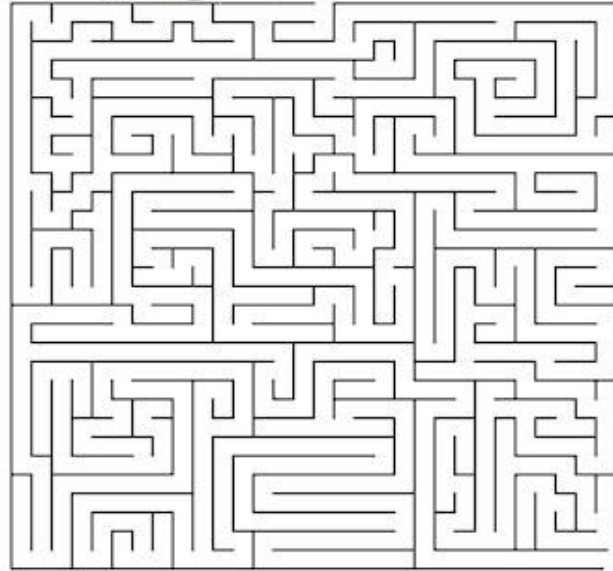
My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. - [James 1: 2-3](#) (NKJV)

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## Happy New Year!

Can you help the children get together for their New Year party?



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## New Year's Word Search

J A N U A R Y F R I E N A C E  
F R I E N D S Y A S R I L A H  
N E Y S E R T I E M O W B L C  
B S I L Y F A E N E I Y A E O  
N O C R N V N V E Y D L B N U  
A L D C L O C K L T I E Y D N  
R U V E W M I D N I G H T A T  
V T O A S T W S N O L Y I R D  
G I A N I N G S E V E U A R O  
C O N F E T T I T M I N G S W  
R N O L C E L E B R A T I O N  
A J A N U E L V E I M K E R A  
Y P A R T Y H A A P Y S E V W  
N E W Y E A R C L O K S O R Y  
S H A P P Y E B A L L R E S O

BABY  
BALL  
CALENDAR  
CELEBRATION  
CLOCK  
CONFETTI  
COUNTDOWN  
EVE

FAMILY  
FRIENDS  
HAPPY  
JANUARY  
MIDNIGHT  
NEW YEAR  
NOISEMAKER  
PARTY

RESOLUTION  
TOAST



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JUST FOR LAUGH

