



The Courier

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

January 2018

Court Street United Methodist Church

New Year's Resolutions

The practice of making New Year's resolutions goes back over 3,000 years to the ancient Babylonians. There is just something about the start of a new year that gives us the feeling of a fresh start and a new beginning. In reality, there is no difference between December 31 and January 1. Nothing mystical occurs at midnight on December 31. The Bible does not speak for or against the concept of New Year's resolutions. However, if a Christian determines to make a New Year's resolution, what kind of resolution should he or she make? Common New Year's resolutions are commitments to quit smoking, to stop drinking, to manage money more wisely, and to spend more time with family. By far, the most common New Year's resolution is to lose weight, in conjunction with exercising more and eating more healthily. These are all good goals to set. However, [1 Timothy 4:8](#) instructs us to keep exercise in perspective: *"For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come."* The vast majority of New Year's resolutions, even among Christians, are in relation to physical things. This should not be. Many Christians make New Year's resolutions to pray more, to read the Bible every day, and to attend church more regularly. These are fantastic goals. However, these New Year's resolutions fail just as often as the non-spiritual resolutions, because there is no power in a New Year's resolution. Resolving to start or stop doing a certain activity has no value unless you have the proper motivation for stopping or starting that activity. For example, why do you want to read the Bible every day? Is it to honor God and grow spiritually, or is it because you have just heard that it is a good thing to do? Why do you want to lose weight? Is it to honor God with your body, or is it for vanity, to honor yourself? [Philippians 4:13](#) tells us, *"I can do everything through him who gives me strength."* [John 15:5](#) declares, *"I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."* If God is the center of your New Year's resolution, it has chance for success, depending on your commitment to it. If it is God's will for something to be fulfilled, he will enable you to fulfill it. If a resolution is not God honoring or is not in agreement in God's Word, we will not receive God's help in fulfilling the resolution. So, what sort of New Year's resolution should a Christian make? Here are some suggestions: (1) pray to the Lord for wisdom in regards to what resolutions, if any, he would have you make; (2) pray for wisdom as to how to fulfill the goals God gives you; (3) rely on God's strength to help you; (4) find an accountability partner who will help you and encourage you; (5) don't become discouraged with occasional failures; instead, allow them to motivate you further; (6) don't become proud or vain, but give God the glory. [Psalm 37:5-6](#) says, *"Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him and he will do this: He will make your righteousness shine like the dawn, the justice of your cause like the noonday sun."*

~ Pastor Bill Burleigh

LOVE GOD, LOVE OTHER PEOPLE, SERVE BOTH



Musical Musings

Anthems for January



January 7th

Soloist: Marianne Virnelson, soprano



January 14th

Soloist: Jacob Moreland, Baritone



January 21st

“Dear Lord and Father” by Charles H. H. Parry (1848-1918)


Although Sir Charles H. H. Parry composed the tune to this anthem for an alto aria with an entirely different text, the music was appropriated six years after Parry’s death for use in a school chapel. The text to “Dear Lord and Father,” interestingly, is part of a much larger poem by American Quaker poet John Greenleaf Whittier, titled *The Brewing of Soma*. It refers to Vedic religion, dating back to circa 2000 B.C., and describes the whole population getting drunk on Soma. It compares this to some Christians' use of “music, incense, vigils drear, And trance, to bring the skies more near, Or lift men up to heaven!” But all in vain—it is mere intoxication. Whittier ends by describing the true method for contact with the divine, as practiced by Quakers: sober lives dedicated to doing God's will, seeking silence and selflessness in order to hear the “still, small voice” described in I Kings 19:11-13 as the authentic voice of God, rather than earthquake, wind or fire.

January 28th

“To Thee, O Lord” by Sergei Rachmaninoff (1873-1943)

One of the last great representatives of Russian Romanticism in classical music, Rachmaninoff toured the United States extensively in his later years, and became an American citizen shortly before his death. “To Thee, O Lord” is an alternate text to the twelfth movement of Rachmaninoff’s *Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom* (the most common liturgy celebrated in the Orthodox Church).

Birthdays and Anniversaries

January Birthdays	January Anniversaries	February Birthdays
Eddie Letchford January 01	Brenda & Andy Whitehead Jan 04	Lauren Hudnall Knapp February 02
David Hudnall January 03	Cheryl & Milton West Jan 25	Mary Tyree February 02
Doris Lee Spriggs January 06	February Anniversaries	Carol Williams February 03
Bobby Brown January 08	Kathy & Robert Draper Feb. 09	Mark Tyree February 05
Chelsie Price January 08	Robin & Irby Hudson Feb 12	Kevin Sandridge February 09
Patsy Wilkinson January 13	GiGi and John Sweeney Feb 21	Xander Arbaugh February 13
Meg Case January 15		Kenneth Bagshaw February 13
William Eric Sweeney January 17		Lewis Averett February 15
Eric Johnson January 19		Dottie Diuguid February 17
Patti Montgomery January 19		Deanna Hester February 17
Shelley Burleigh January 20		Sarah Leazer Johnson February 18
Dolly Clingempeel January 25		Reiman Shober February 22
Ray Brooks January 31		Brenda Whitehead February 22
		James Blankenship February 23
		Bill Burleigh February 24
		Bobbi Hurst February 24
	John Spencer February 24	



Debra Sweeney – RN, Centra School of Nursing



William Sweeney – BA, Christopher Newport University

Graduated with honors and is employed with Kima Communications in Arlington, VA



LUNCH AT WESTMINSTER – went out with a bang this past month! Pat Haley joined with his guitar in hand and played Christmas carols. Thank you, Pat, for playing and encouraging us all to sing our best! **Due to renovations to the dining areas, this will be our LAST LUNCH until June 2018.**

REVERSE ADVENT: Court Street members and friends along with Marsh Memorial members collected toiletries and other items in reverse advent bags to give to Lynchburg Daily Bread. 27 bags were filled and delivered after Christmas to help Daily Bread provide for the homeless in the new year. Thank you to all the members who participated and to Bill Burleigh for delivering the bags. A special thank you to Kathy Mason for providing the Christmas gift bags.



JANUARY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday	Jan 7 th After Worship Service	Vision Group with Hugh Ballou Refectory ~ Lunch provided All members are encouraged to attend
Wednesday	Jan. 10 th 2:00pm	Trustees Meeting Wesley Guild
Sunday	Jan 14 th After Worship Service	Music Committee Meeting Wesley Guild All committee members need to attend
Wednesday	Jan 17 th 2:00pm	Finance Committee Meeting Wesley Guild
Sunday	Jan 21 st After Worship Service	Church Council Meeting Refectory ~ Lunch Provided All members are encouraged to attend

MISSIONS – *BEING THE HANDS AND FEET OF JESUS*



FOOD PANTRY throughout the month of January, Court Street will be collecting non-perishable food to stock the shelves of the community food pantry at C.U.M. A collection container is located in the Bishop Early Hall. Monetary donations are also welcome. Make checks payable to CSUMC and note C.U.M. – Food Pantry on the memo line.

CHURCH VISION GROUP By now, you are aware that we are in the process of starting new initiatives at Court Street UMC to revitalize our church. As God’s renewed image, he calls us to consider what it means for us to live based upon gratitude for all he has done and will do for us. In fact, our response in faith to follow him signifies to all that he makes his claim upon our lives. It also notes our desire to grow in our relationship to God and who he has called us to be kingdom builders. Entrusted by God with responsibility to “invest” ourselves for the sake of his kingdom, we find ourselves with many choices of becoming engaged with the “mission of God” in this world. One of the primary avenues for joining God’s mission continues to be our participation in the ministries to which God has called Court Street UMC. Often, by his grace, God calls us to step back, re-evaluate our lives, and once more commit ourselves to him. He calls us again and again to “seek first his kingdom.” On Sunday, January 7, we will be taking the opportunity to meet after worship and plan for the future of our church and for the advancement of the kingdom of God. You are invited to express your commitment to this endeavor. Following the 11:00 service, there will be a lunch that will be provided. After lunch we will meet to plan initiatives for revitalization. Everyone is encouraged to attend. Whether in the willingness to give in ministry or in the provision of financial resources, both elements represent our desire to consecrate ourselves to our gracious God. We would ask that you prayerfully consider both parts of your act of grateful service and how God might be leading you.

~ Sincerely in Christ, *Pastor Bill Burleigh*

Calling All Lay Readers

The 2018 list of Lay Readers will be mailed out next month with dates through June 2018. If you have not read in the past and would like to be added to the list; please contact Susan Hall in the church office 434-845-3427. You will be given a few Sundays each year to read the scripture. A print out of what will be read will be mailed to you the week before. This is a great way to participate in the Sunday service. Thank you ~ *Susan Hall*

PRAYER CONCERNS

All Men and Women serving in the Military

Robert Shober – Fort Bragg, NC, son of *Eva Lee and *Reiman Shober
Kenny Kincaid and children, son of *Bobbi and *Randy Hurst

SICK

Ray Brooks – P.O. Box 2804; Lynchburg, VA 24505
*Clara Gurkin - 501 V.E.S. Road, Drinkard 613, Lynchburg, VA 24503
*Bobby McDaniel – 3743 Woodside Avenue, Lynchburg, VA 24503
*Ann & Phil Ripley – 1101 Federal Street; Lynchburg, VA 24504
Sylvia Shuff - Mother-in-Law of *Pastor Bill Burleigh
*Alicia Speer – 1815 Rivermont Ave #68, Lynchburg, VA 24503
*Audrey Tyree – P. O. Box 4463, Lynchburg, VA 24502
*Mary Tyree – 1404 Brookville Lane, Lynchburg, VA 24502

* Church members



Gifts in Memory

To the General Fund in memory of:

William “Bill” Sweeney by:

Lewis James, Ann & Phil Ripley, Lillie McDaniel,
Muriel Casey, Susan & Keith Leazer, Thomas Warren,
Edward Hunt, Jr., Cheryle & Lewis Johnson,

Anne Stevens Thaxton by:

Ann & Bobby McDaniel, Kathy Mason, Susan Cobbs,
Bill Puckett, Lucy & Robert Cook, Eleanor & Doug Pillow,
Edna & Roy Jessee, Sara Rebecca Lee, Lewis James,
Wayne & Sandie Bailey, Nancy Hunter, Lynn & Gary
Garner, Ragged Robin Garden Club, Deborah & Louis
Iovinetti, Elizabeth Wilkerson, Ann & Phil Ripley,
Maxine & Buddy McCraw, Sharon & Marvin Tinsley,
Lillie McDaniel, June Bacon, Debra & Michael Smith,
Gaile & Wallace Hensley, Muriel Casey, Mary & Eugene
Kidd, Mary & James Rogers, Marie & Marvin Tweedy,
Chiswell Logan, Ann Lis, Susan & Keith Leazer

Dona Pillow Forehand by:

Susan & Keith Leazer

To the Garden Fund in memory of:

Anne Stevens Thaxton by:

Ray Pulliam

To the Capital Campaign in memory of:

William “Bill” Sweeney

By: Adult Sunday School Class, Walter Wright

To the Capital Campaign in memory of:

Anne Stevens Thaxton

By: Adult Sunday School Class, Walter Wright

Gifts in Honor

To the General Fund in Honor of:

Eleanor & Doug Pillow by Conrad Frey, Jr.

To the Capital Campaign in honor of:

Sharon & Ray Brooks, David Case, Jr.
Harriette Cash, Jodi Center, Debbie & Richard
Chaffin, George Clark, Dolly Clingempeel,
Susan Cobbs, Patsy Cundiff, Noel Draper, Sam
Franklin, Pat Haley, Shanda & Garnett Horner,
Robin & Irby Hudson, Bobbi & Randy Hurst,
Pamela Jackson, Lewis James, Jr., Cheryle &
Lewis Johnson, Susan & Keith Leazer, Chis
Logan, Kathy Mason, Ann & Bobby McDaniel,
Lillie McDaniel, Sarah & Aaron McGlothlin,
Sherwood Newton, Ellen & David Petty,
Eleanor and Doug Pillow, Dennis Pruitt, Bill
Puckett, Ray Pulliam, Ann & Phil Ripley, Dr.
Mark Roper, Nancy & Mike Russell, Megan
Straw, Nada Sweeney, Charles Thaxton,
Cornell Ray Thompson, Flo Traywick, Mary
Tyree, Darrin Wilson, Walter Wright
By: Anne & Bruton Langley

Update on Capital Campaign for church repairs:

Campaign Goal	\$300,000
Promised as of 12/31/17	\$240,881
Balance needed to reach goal	\$59,919
Received to Date	\$186,491
Received since last update	\$2,205
Elevator fund	\$10,128

Court Street UMC
621 Court Street
Lynchburg Va. 24504



In worship, praise and ministry, we respond to God's call by reaching out to all people with light, hope, and a vision of God's love.

COURT STREET UMC WEBSITE: www.courtstreetumcva.com

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PHONE: 434-845-3427

Please contact Randy Hurst at:
rwhurstva@gmail.com or (910) 443-4865 on or before Wednesdays to have
events and notices posted on the church website.
(The newsletter, The Courier, is also on the website)

