



The Courier

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

January 2017

Court Street United Methodist Church

A New Year

The practice of making New Year's resolutions goes back over 3000 years. The start of a New Year gives us the feeling of a fresh start, a new beginning, and new opportunities. It is a time when people feel that they can begin anew with their lives. Common New Year's resolutions are to lose weight, exercise more and eat healthier; or to spend more time with family. Still others include managing money better and being more organized. Although there is nothing in the Bible or notable in Christian tradition about New Year's resolutions, many good stewards take advantage of this time of year to become closer to the Lord. They may re-commit themselves to pray more, to read the Bible, or to attend Church more regularly. If you are looking for some helps in your New Year's resolutions, here are a few ideas to get you started:

Practice gratitude – Cultivating a grateful heart is the hallmark of a Christian steward. Every day, express thankfulness to the Lord and to others. Seeing the good in your life will allow you to keep your heart compassionate and loving.

Encounter the Lord each day – Find time to be with the Lord each day, whether it be for an hour or ten minutes. Have a conversation with the Lord. Give your joys and worries to him as well. Allow God's love to transform them. Our encounters will keep our eyes and ears open to the presence of Christ in our midst.

Be present to others – There is much celebration and mourning, joy and sorrow in peoples' lives. What a blessing it is to be able to share those times and not let others experience them alone. The gift of your presence to others is much more valuable than you realize.

Resist overwork – There is a pressure to produce, meet goals, be successful. But activities that lead us to overwork, constant fatigue and worry do not give glory to God. What God calls us to do we can do well. Be mindful that life requires balance, down time and letting go of unrealistic goals.

Nurture friendships – Our friends are those we choose to be with, those with whom we spend our evenings, with whom we vacation, to whom we go to for advice. Friends are gifts from God who give us a greater appreciation of God's love for us. Friends need our time and love.

Give more – Good stewards realize that everything they have is entrusted to them as gift to be shared. There is no better place to begin than sharing with the community of faith. Consider what you are giving to your church and commit to an even greater contribution as circumstances allow.

Make a difference in your community – Believe it or not, your community can use your talents. Offering your talents to your faith community is one of the most effective ways to feel useful and connected to others, and it is a potentially life-changing New Year's resolution.

Consider living more simply – We cannot find fulfilment in possessions. They add nothing to our self-worth. Jesus blessed the "poor in spirit" in his Sermon on the Mount; and that is how we begin to find God.

Get healthy – Studies show that most people in North America are accelerating their own decline into premature old age, owing to poor diet and lack of physical activity. Be a good steward of your body. Plan a complete overhaul of your diet and exercise habits.

Don't give up – People give up their New Year's resolutions because of perfectionism and unrealistic expectations. So take it slow, be kind to yourself and keep trying. Resist the urge to throw your hands up and quit. You succeed through small, manageable changes over time.

Turn to the Lord – Ask the Lord for guidance, strength and perseverance in achieving your resolutions. In his letter to the Phillipians, Saint Paul writes: "I can do everything through Him who gives me strength" (Phil 4:13). If God is the center of our New Year's resolutions, they have a better chance for success.

Have a blessed New Year ~ *Pastor Bill Burleigh*

LOVE GOD, LOVE OTHER PEOPLE, SERVE BOTH

THANK YOU

The response to our Missions projects at Christmas was tremendous.

BELL RINGING FOR "RED KETTLE": Court Street rang the bell on December 17th from 11am till 8pm at Kmart on Wards Road. Our volunteers were: Nancy Russell, Stephanie Hardwick, Pam Jackson, Kathy Mason, Suzanne Campbell, Sharon Brooks, Sherwood Newton, Bill and Shelley Burleigh, Gina Wright and Chuck Carter. Thank you for participating in such a worthy cause.

ANGEL TREE: We provided Christmas presents for students and small gifts for the teachers and support staff at Madison Heights Elementary School. Thank you to our wonderful and generous congregation who gave presents and to: Kathy Mason, Suzanne Campbell, Anne Langley, Susan & Keith Leazer, Nancy Russell and Sharon Brooks for making the project happen from putting up the tree; signing folks up; organizing the presents and finally delivering them to the school.

REVERSE ADVENT: We collected toiletries and other items in reverse advent bags to give to Lynchburg Daily Bread. Over 25 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 Anne Langley, Bill Burleigh and Christopher Lilly for delivering the bags. A special thank you to Kathy Mason for providing the Christmas gift bags.

MISSIONS PROJECT FOR January 2017



A MONTH OF UNDIE SUNDAYS: During January we are asking everyone to bring in underwear to give to the homeless. All adult sizes of boxers, briefs, long johns and janes, t-shirts and socks are needed. Items donated should be NEW and in the original packaging or have the tags still attached. Our gifts will be distributed by Lynchburg Daily Bread. A collection container will be located in the Bishop Early Hall.

FROM THE BISHOP



I think you would agree with me that every New Year there are individuals who decide to make a New Year's resolution. I googled "New Year's resolution" to discover that there are several articles written on this popular subject.

All of us have made New Year's resolutions ranging anywhere from losing 10-20 unwanted pounds, starting a new exercise program, paying off our credit cards and giving up a bad habit.

I've always found it interesting that people will go to great lengths to make a New Year's resolution – throwing away food that tempts their cravings, buying expensive exercise equipment with a voice activated trainer or being the first person to join the gym. Unfortunately, it has been proven that New Year's gym resolutions are normally broken in 90 days, and the gym equipment becomes the new and latest clothes rack in our homes.

I've always wondered when individuals are making resolutions if they ever considered making a "Christian resolution". For example, resolving to pray daily for your church, to become an active agent in inviting people to your church or to increase their participation in a ministry in their local church.

As your new bishop, I would like to challenge you to look at this yearly tradition from another perspective. Let's make a "Christian resolution" by joining me in reading the Bible together this year:

- ◇ Choose your own translation to make this experience engaging and exciting.
- ◇ Invite others to join you on this journey.
- ◇ Commit to sticking to the outlined plan at this link: <http://backtothebible.org/reading-guide/15/1>

Let's become Bible scholars in 2017. ~ *Peace and Blessings*, Bishop Sharma D. Lewis

Birthdays and Anniversaries

January Birthdays	January Anniversaries	February Birthdays
Eddie Letchford January 01	Brenda & Andy Whitehead Jan 04	Lauren Hudnall February 02
Jackie Parman January 02	Cheryl & Milton West Jan 25	Mary Tyree February 02
David Hudnall January 03		Mark Tyree February 05
Doris Lee Spriggs January 06	February Anniversaries	Kevin Sandridge February 09
Bobby Brown January 08	Kathy & Robert Draper Feb 09	Xander Arbaugh February 13
Chelsie Price January 08	Robin & Irby Hudson Feb 12	Kenneth Bagshaw February 13
Jacob Selden January 11	Gigi & John Sweeney Feb 21	Lewis Averett February 15
Patsy Wilkinson January 13		Dottie Diuguid February 17
Meg Case January 15		Deanna Hester February 17
William E Sweeney January 17		Sarah Leazer Johnson February 18
Eric Johnson January 19		Reiman Shoher February 22
Patti Montgomery January 19		Brenda Whitehead February 22
Shelley Burleigh January 20		James Blankenship February 23
Dolly Clingempeel January 25		Bill Burleigh February 24
Ray Brooks January 31		Bobbi Hurst February 24
		John Spencer February 24



**Every 2nd Thursday is
Lunch with members living at
Westminster-Canterbury**
Join us on January 12th
Fauber 2 - 11:30am

PRAYER CONCERNS

All Men and Women serving in the Military

Robert Shober - The Pentagon, son of *Eva Lee and *Reiman Shober
Kenny, Laura Kincaid, and children, son of *Bobbi and *Randy Hurst
Sylvia Shuff, Mother-in-Law of *Pastor Bill Burleigh

SICK

*Clara Gurkin - 501 V.E.S. Road, Drinkard 613, Lynchburg, VA 24503
*Nancy Lane - 411 Oak Point Road, Forest, VA 24551
*Bobby McDaniel - 3743 Woodside Avenue, Lynchburg, VA 24503
*Phil Ripley - 1101 Federal Street; Lynchburg, VA 24504
*Alicia Speer - 217 Lansing Ave; Lynchburg, VA 24503
*Bill Sweeney - 1930 Royal Oak Drive; Lynchburg, VA 24503
*Audrey Tyree - P. O. Box 4463, Lynchburg, VA 24502
*Mary Tyree - 1404 Brookville Lane, Lynchburg, VA 24502

SHUT-IN

*Mary Anderson- Runk & Pratt, Liberty Ridge Apt. 143
30 Monica Blvd., Lynchburg, VA 24502

* Church members



Gifts in Honor

To the General Fund in Honor of:

Eleanor & Doug Pillow by Conrad Frey, Jr.

To the Capital Campaign in honor of:

Mary Brockman, Sharon & Ray Brooks,
Harriette Cash, Jodi Center, Debbie & Richard
Chaffin, George Clark, Dolly Clingempeel, Susan
Cobbs, Patsy Cundiff, Noel Draper, Sam Franklin,
Pat Haley, Bobbi & Randy Hurst, Pamela Jackson,
Lewis James, Jr., Cheryle & Lewis Johnson, Susan
& Keith Leazer, Chis Logan, Kathy Mason, Susan
& Mike McConnell, Lillie McDaniel, Sarah & Aaron
McGlothlin, Sherwood Newton, Ellen & David
Petty, Eleanor and Doug Pillow, Bill Puckett, Ray
Pulliam, Ann & Phil Ripley, Shanda Rowe, Nancy
& Mike Russell, The Selden family, Megan Straw,
Nada & Bill Sweeney, Anne & Charles Thaxton,
Flo Traywick, Mary Tyree, Walter Wright
By: Anne & Bruton Langley

To the Christopher Lilly Fund in honor of:

Anne Langley by Kathy Mason

To the Discretionary fund in honor of:

Bill Burleigh by Kathy Mason

Update on Capital Campaign for church repairs:

Campaign Goal	\$300,000
Promised as of 12/18/16	\$237,521
Balance needed to reach goal	\$62,479
Received to Date	\$159,796
Received since last update	\$7,205
Elevator fund	\$9,228

Gifts in Memory

To Capital Campaign in memory of:

Selene Stewart by Anne & Charles Thaxton

To the General Fund in memory of:

Edna Ford by Garland Harper

Edna Ford by Carolyne & Jay Kelly

Selene Stewart by Carolyne & Jay Kelly

Ken Cobbs by Nicolaus P. Neumann & family

Court Street UMC
621 Court Street
Lynchburg Va. 24504



Mission Statement

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

EMAIL: 621courtstumc@gmail.com

PHONE: 434-845-3427

The sound track of worship services is now posted on Court Street's website: **www.courtstreetumcva.com**

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)

