



The Courier

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

January 2020

Court Street United Methodist

Reflections for the New Year

At the end of December 1772, an Anglican priest in the poor parish of Olney worked by candlelight on his New Year's Day sermon. He would preach on the text of 1 Chronicles 17, verses 16 and 17. That passage was David's response to God after Nathan informed him that his descendants would be enthroned forever as kings of Israel. David, the once poor shepherd boy, the man who would have repented of adultery and murder, responded to the news by saying, "*Who am I, O Lord God, and what is my family that you have brought me thus far?*" That pastor was John Newton, and those words struck a deep chord in his heart. In those last days of 1772, Newton found himself running out of empty pages in his journal, a bound book of 300 pages holding 16 years of entries. As he came to finish that journal and start another, his mind was drawn to the pages of his past: the story of his life from his days as an unregenerate slave-trader to becoming a child of God. Newton would have remembered when his rebellious spirit got him thrown off numerous ships, publicly flogged, and ousted from His Majesty's Navy. He would have remembered the shipwrecks and the mutinies—and then the transformation of his heart by the power of the Gospel. As Newton considered those days gone by, he would have asked as David did, "*Who am I, O Lord that you have brought me this far?*" As was his habit, Newton set to work composing a hymn to illustrate his New Year's Day sermon. In that hymn, he would tell his poor congregation of low-paid artisans about the dangers and snares he had faced. He would reflect on the amazing grace that had saved a wretch like him. Those now-famous words of "*Amazing Grace*," first sung in the small parish of Olney on New Year's Day, 1773, lingered in obscurity for many years. Even as Newton counseled the young William Wilberforce and encouraged him to stay the course in the long battle against the slave trade, the words to "*Amazing Grace*" were little sung in England. But the Olney hymnal, later published by Newton, caught on in the Americas. The words of "*Amazing Grace*" would surface again some 80 years later in a book that would change the course of this nation, *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. In it, the slave, Tom, at his lowest point, sings the words of "*Amazing Grace*." Two verses hardly sung today were sung by Tom: "*And when this mortal life shall fail and flesh and sense shall cease, I shall possess within the veil, a life of joy and peace.*" These words of the ultimate hope in God, even in the face of deep injustice, forever entwined the words of "*Amazing Grace*" with the plight of the slaves. But it all began in that dark little study in the waning days of a year gone by, when one man took the time to reflect on God's goodness to him. This New Year we would all do well to pay tribute to Newton by imitating his gratitude to God and his heart for the lost. We would do well also to set aside some time to reflect on what God has done in our lives—how he has delivered us from slavery to sin. And we would do well to consider how we, in this new year of 2020, can sing God's praise with our lips and with our lives.

~ Pastor Bill Burleigh

BE FILLED BY WONDER; BE TOUCHED BY PEACE



Musical Musings **Anthems for December**



January 5TH ~ Epiphany Sunday

“Lullay, My Liking,” by Gustav Holst (1874-1934)

The great British composer Gustav Holst, perhaps best known for his orchestral work *The Planets*, composed a great deal of choral work that remains in the canon today. His setting of the Middle English text of “Lullay, My Liking” is simple, effective, and sometimes chilling.

January 12TH ~ First Sunday After the Epiphany ~ Baptism of the Lord

“Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies,” arranged by Healey Willan (1880-1968)

English-born Healey Willan is now hailed as one of Canada’s greatest composers. Willan taught at the Toronto Conservatory of Music for many years. His arrangement of “Christ, Whose Glory” is a favorite in our Chancel Choir’s repertoire.

January 19TH ~ Second Sunday after the Epiphany

“Agnus Dei,” from *Messe Solennelle*, by Charles Gounod (1818-1893)

Nowadays perhaps best known for his setting of *Ave Maria*, in which he composed a melody over an existing keyboard work by Bach, relatively few of Gounod’s works are regularly performed now. Nonetheless, he wrote in nearly every idiom: opera, orchestra, chamber music, choral, and solo voice; and his influence on composers such as Gabriel Fauré and Charles Debussy cannot be underestimated. Gounod’s *Messe Solennelle*, composed in 1855 for chorus, soloists, and orchestra, marked a departure from his earlier and more austere masses to a style more influenced by opera.

January 26TH ~ Third Sunday after the Epiphany

“One Thing Have I Asked of the Lord,” by J. Melvin Butler (1945-)

J. Melvin Butler serves as organist/choirmaster at St. Mark’s Episcopal Cathedral in Seattle, Washington. He studied at Oberlin Conservatory and Eastman School of Music. His setting of “One Thing Have I Asked of the Lord” is eclectic, containing passages varying from ethereal, quirky, dissonant, peaceful, and triumphant.

“Rise and Shine!”, arranged by Rollo Dilworth (1970-)

Award-winning composer Rollo Dilworth currently serves as Director of Choral Activities and Music Education at the North Park University School of Music, and as Minister of Music at Martin Temple African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church in Chicago, Illinois. Dilworth’s research interests are in the areas of African-American music and music education curriculum and instruction. His arrangement of “Rise and Shine!” creatively combines two different spirituals: “Rise, Shine, for Thy Light Is A-Comin’”, and the well-known “This Little Light of Mine.”

JANUARY’S ADULT BIBLE STUDY CLASS ~ SUNDAYS ~ 9:45AM

January 5: **“God’s Covenant with Abram”**, Richard Chaffin

January 12: **“Ruth’s Covenant with Naomi”**, Lewis Johnson

January 19: **“God’s Covenant with David”**, Richard Chaffin

January 26: **“God’s Covenant with Us”**, Richard Chaffin



Lunch at Westminster

Every 2nd Thursday is
Lunch with members living at
Westminster-Canterbury
Join us on January 9TH
Fauber 2 - 11:30am



CHRISTMAS MISSION GIFTS were delivered to the elementary schools Wednesday December 11th for parents to pick up. The counselors were grateful for the Christmas help with students they knew needed it. A big **THANK YOU** to everyone who participated. We called the kids the angels on our tree, but you are the real angels this Christmas!

JAMES CROSSING BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM'S CHRISTMAS PARTY!

James Crossing got a visit from a very hungry caterpillar on December 20th Along with story time; they had snacks and a movie to kick off their 2-week winter break. A big **THANK YOU** to everyone who helped make this party a success. The kids had a great time as you can see below!



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		Kenneth Bagshaw February 13
Bobby Brown January 08	February Anniversaries	Lewis Averett February 15
Patsy Wilkinson January 13	Kathy & Robert Draper Feb 09	Dottie Diuguid February 17
William Eric Sweeney January 17	Robin & Irby Hudson Feb 12	Deanna Hester February 17
Eric Johnson January 19	GiGi and John Sweeney Feb 21	Sarah Leazer Johnson February 18
Patti Montgomery January 19		Reiman Shober February 22
Shelley Burleigh January 20		Brenda Whitehead February 22
		James Blankenship February 23
		Bill Burleigh February 24
		Bobbi Hurst February 24
		John Spencer February 24

PRAYER CONCERNS

All Men and Women serving in the Military

Travis Dean Burleigh – 5271 Avenue Unit 373, Shepherd AFB, TX 76311
son of Shelley and Rev. Bill Burleigh

SICK (Church members*)

- *Patsy Cundiff – 1559 Lexington Drive, Lynchburg, VA 24503
- *Noel Draper - 501 VES Road Drinkard 619, Lynchburg, VA 24503
- Susan Dwyer – sister of Rev. Bill Burleigh
- *Christopher Lilley - 408 Blackford Street #2, Lynchburg, VA 24504
- *Warren Martin – 174 Salisbury Circle, Lynchburg, VA 24502
- *Eleanor Pillow – 1201 Langhorne Road, Lynchburg, VA 24503
- *Phil Ripley – 60 Jill Alison Circle, Ormond Beach, FL 32176
- Sylvia Shuff - Mother-in-Law of Rev. Bill Burleigh
- Noah Slocum – 698 Don Pablo Drive, Santa Maria, CA 93455
Great Nephew of *Karen and Randall Speer
- *Alicia Speer – 1815 Rivermont Ave #68, Lynchburg, VA 24503
- Elaine St. Vincent – 501 VES Road Room 415, Lynchburg, VA 24503
- * *Church members*

A Prayer for the New Year

Lord,
Whether I leave behind
a year of joy or of trials and difficulties,
I pause to *give thanks*.
Thank you for being with me
every day of every year.
Thank you for making all things **new**
and for giving me the grace of
fresh starts
and **new beginnings**.
Remind me of your presence in the days to
come,
even when I feel pushed and rushed by
busyness.
Be glorified in my life this year.
Amen

Update on Capital Campaign:

Campaign Goal	\$300,000
Promised as of 12/29/19	\$248,981
Balance needed to reach goal	\$51,019
Received to Date	\$207,566
Received since last update	\$550.00
Elevator fund	\$10,328

Gifts to the church

To the General Fund in Honor of:
Anne Langley's 80th Birthday by:
Susan Cobbs

To the General Fund in Memory of:
Dr. & Mrs. William F. Quillian by:
Anne Quillian

JANUARY 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED City Wide Prayer Vigil 11am Bible Study 7pm			4 Unity in Our Community 9AM ~ Wesley Guild All Peoples Worship Service ~ 6pm
5 Adult Sunday School 9:45am Worship 11am	6	7	8 Bible Study 7pm	9 Trustees Meeting 2pm Lunch at Westminster 11:30am Fauber 2	10 LSYO Auditions 4pm ~ 8pm	11 ESA Dance Camp 10am-1pm All Peoples Worship Service 6pm
12 Adult Sunday School 9:45am Worship 11am	13	14 LSYO rehearsal 3pm ~ 7pm APC Ladies Fellowship 7pm ~ 9pm Wesley Guild	15 Finance Committee meeting ~ 2pm Bible Study 7pm	16	17 Oisen Wedding Rehearsal 2pm	18 Oisen Wedding 1pm All Peoples Worship Service 6pm
19 Adult Sunday School 9:45am Worship 11am Church Council After worship	20	21 LSYO rehearsal 3pm ~ 7pm	22 Bible Study 7pm	23 LSO Rehearsal 7pm ~ 10pm	24 ESA Paint Night 5:30pm	25 All Peoples Worship Service 6pm
26 Adult Sunday School 9:45am Worship 11am	27	28 LSYO rehearsal 3pm ~ 7pm	29 Bible Study 7pm	30		

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.courtstreetmethodist.com

EMAIL: 621courtstumc@gmail.com

PHONE: 434-845-3427

Please contact the church office at:

621courtstumc@gmail.com or (434) 845-3427 on or before Wednesdays to have events and notices posted on the church website.

