

The Courier

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

January 2022

Court Street United Methodist Church

NEW YEAR REFLECTION

And so it is that the calendar has flipped, and we have begun a brand-new year. Last year, with its mix of joys and sorrows, goals met, and goals missed, friendships gained, and friendships lost, is behind us. For many, New Year's is just another holiday. For others, it's a time of deep reflection, both on the past year and on the one ahead. For followers of Jesus, New Year's has no unique significance. But this doesn't mean Christians shouldn't pause and reflect on the turning of the calendar. Moses asked of the Lord, "*Teach us to number our days, so we may get a heart of wisdom.*" Time is a gift to us from a good God. In a sense, each day with Jesus is a chance to turn the page on an old way of life and embrace a new one. We are, after all, new creation people, and we serve a King who renews us daily by the Holy Spirit. Setting goals for a new year are an important sign that we're intentional about glorifying God in our callings. When we work and plan, even in seemingly insignificant endeavors, we're fulfilling the cultural mandate. In this age, we're blessed with an abundance of resources to help us to maximize our time: digital tools, productivity experts, and inspirational blogs. But before we write out our goals, we should begin in the heart. The temptation for Christians is to make our plans rather than allowing Jesus to form in us the desires and motivations to do his work. So, whether we're making concrete goals or more abstract ones, whether we're writing down resolutions or foregoing them altogether, here are some important steps we can take, as we peer into 2022, to draw closer to Christ. The wise man of Ecclesiastes said, "*Remember also your Creator in the days of your youth, before the evil days come and the years draw near of which you will say, 'I have no pleasure in them.'*" In January, the year is young, and the opportunities seem fresh. We know every breath is a miracle, a gift given to us by our Creator. The proper response to the past year, whether good or bad, is not "*I made it through*" or "*Look what I achieved.*" It is "*Thank you, Lord.*" Our worship of God for his faithfulness and majesty, evidenced by the changing of seasons, should then lead us to repentance. Beginning the new year with repentance is to draw closer to Jesus, to appropriate the fresh grace that is ours in him. Therefore, confession always brings relief and joy. It is the gateway to greater intimacy with God. New Year's should also be a time of renewing old commitments, like marriage, family, and church. Before we begin grand plans to lose weight or develop a new skill let's begin by renewing the core commitments we already have. Our most vital work is what we do within the walls of our homes, loving our spouses and raising our children in an atmosphere of godliness and grace. We live out the gospel best when we live it out in the daily rhythms of repentance and forgiveness with loved ones. New Year's should also be a time to rest. First, we rest in the reality of our identity in Christ. We may have failed to meet all our goals in 2021. Jesus still loves us, despite our failures and disappointments. The gospel tells us that he loves us during these. Second, we should plan to physically rest. We don't often do this on New Year's. We plan to work and hustle. But do we schedule time to reflect and acknowledge our need for sleep and leisure? So, as we make our plans for 2022, let's remember that even in our failures, we serve the one who remembers our frame and knows we are dust. We make plans, but we hold them lightly. We entrust our future to the King who holds the world in his hands.

~ *Pastor Bill Burleigh*



Musical Musings

Farewell Dr. Speer



It is with mixed emotion that I write this farewell message. Court Street UMC has been my church home for almost two decades, and fond memories are manifold and powerful. Our children, Karl and Alicia, grew up at Court Street. Karl proposed to his wife Christine at an event held in the Refectory. Karen led the youth group, puppet team, and VBS for a number of years. The church's long standing relationship with Randolph (Macon-Woman's) College grew. I am gratified that a good number of my students have benefited from participating in Court Street music and youth programs, and from getting to know many of you. The music itself, a strong tradition in worship and community outreach, ministered to me and my family personally. We cherish a great number of events, ranging from our Christmas Eve services, patriotic programs, organ concerts, and special concerts ranging from John Rutter's Gloria to the Mid-Atlantic Premiere of Stephen Paulus's opera The Three Hermits, and many others. The skill of the choir has sustained me through tough stretches, and I have lost count of the times I found myself getting choked up while conducting such a fine group. For all of these things, I wish to express my gratitude to Court Street United Methodist Church.

Change is difficult under any circumstance. I am reminded of the adage, "Change is inevitable; growth is optional." As my family and I, and the church, too, enter into new chapters in our lives, I pray that meaningful growth - personal, spiritual growth - is in store for us, and that we all continue lives of gratitude for the many blessings God has granted us through our Lord, Jesus Christ.

To God be the Glory, *Randall Speer*



Thank you for all of your years of service to the church
You will be missed!! ~ *Your Friends at Court Street*



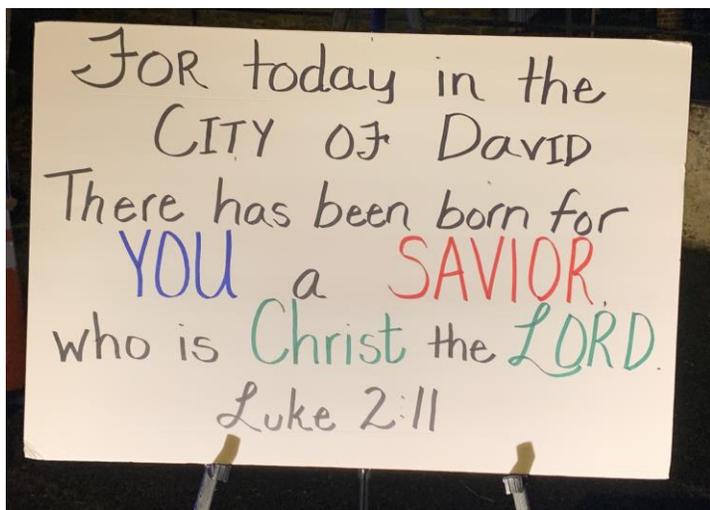
JANUARY'S ADULT BIBLE STUDY CLASS

January 2: "In Awe of God's Creation"
January 9: "Coming Into God's Presence"
January 16: "The Transfiguration"
January 23: "Beholding God's Glory"
January 30: "Joining the Choir of Angels"

**Join us every Sunday after worship service in the Refectory.
Children's Sunday School meets on the main floor off the Bishop Early Hall.**

IN LIEU OF POINSETTIAS was a great success again this year! Court Street collected donations from members who placed names in the bulletin in honor and in memory of loved ones for the second year in a row. So far we have received **\$1250.00 for Meals on Wheels**; a wonderful organization that serves our community everyday with meals for those who are unable to cook for themselves. Court Street has been a long time supporter of MOW through donations and volunteering as drivers. We are so thankful that "In Lieu of Poinsettias" has been so well received by our members and we plan to continue to do this in the future.

THANK YOU to all of the members who volunteered for Court Street's First Annual Living Nativity on Saturday the 18th. We had a great turn out for our first year and we hope to have this event for years to come; making it bigger and better every year. God is Good, All the Time!

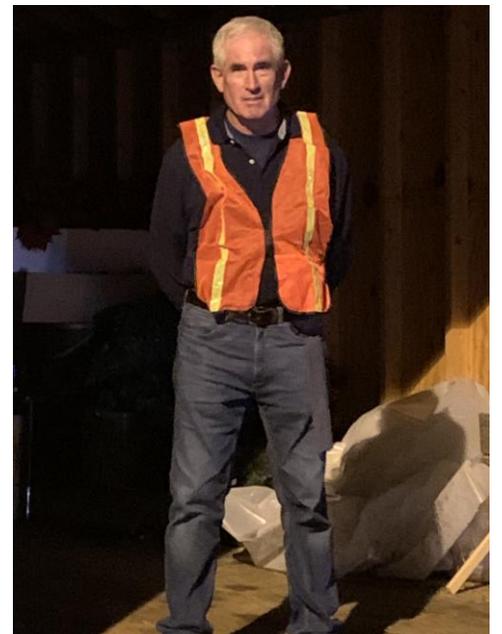




**We had townspeople, shepherds, sheep,
wisemen, angels, Mary, Joseph and no
Live Nativity is complete without.....**

people directing traffic!

And of course, **Jesus!!**



Birthdays and Anniversaries

January Birthdays		February Birthdays	
Eddie Letchford	January 01	Lauren Hudnall Knapp	February 02
David Hudnall	January 03	Mary Tyree	February 02
Jeremiah Jackson	January 04	Kenneth Bagshaw	February 13
Doris Lee Spriggs	January 06	Lewis Averett	February 15
Bobby Brown	January 08	Dottie Diuguid	February 17
Patsy Wilkinson	January 13	Sarah Leazer Johnson	February 18
William Eric Sweeney	January 17	Reiman Shober	February 22
Eric Johnson	January 19	Brenda Whitehead	February 22
Patti Montgomery	January 19	James Blankenship	February 23
Shelley Burleigh	January 20	Bill Burleigh	February 24
Rebekah Jackson	January 30	Bobbi Hurst	February 24
		John Spencer	February 24



PRAYER CONCERNS

All Men and Women serving in the Military

Travis Dean Burleigh – 7425 Snowy Owl St. Unit 102, N. Las Vegas, NV 89084
son of Shelley and Rev. Bill Burleigh

Robert Allen Tyree – stationed at Fort Bragg, 1404 Brookville Ln., Lynchburg, VA 24502
Grandson of *Mary Tyree

SICK (Church members*)

Anne Burleigh ~ 2608 Plum Branch Road, Concord, VA 24538
mother of Rev. Bill Burleigh

Phillip Burleigh ~ brother of Rev. Bill Burleigh

*Noel Draper - 501 VES Road Drinkard 619, Lynchburg, VA 24503

Susan Dwyer – sister of Rev. Bill Burleigh

*Christopher Lilly – 1705 Rivermont Ave. Apt 8, Lynchburg, VA 24503

*Bill Phillips – Liberty Ridge, 30 Monica Blvd #223, Lynchburg, VA 24502

*Phil Ripley – 1356 John Anderson Dr., Ormond Beach, FL 32176

*Alicia Speer – 1815 Rivermont Ave #68, Lynchburg, VA 24503

*Cornell Thompson ~ 2029 Grace Street, Lynchburg, VA 24504

*Robert Tyree – 1404 Brookville Lane, Lynchburg, VA 24502

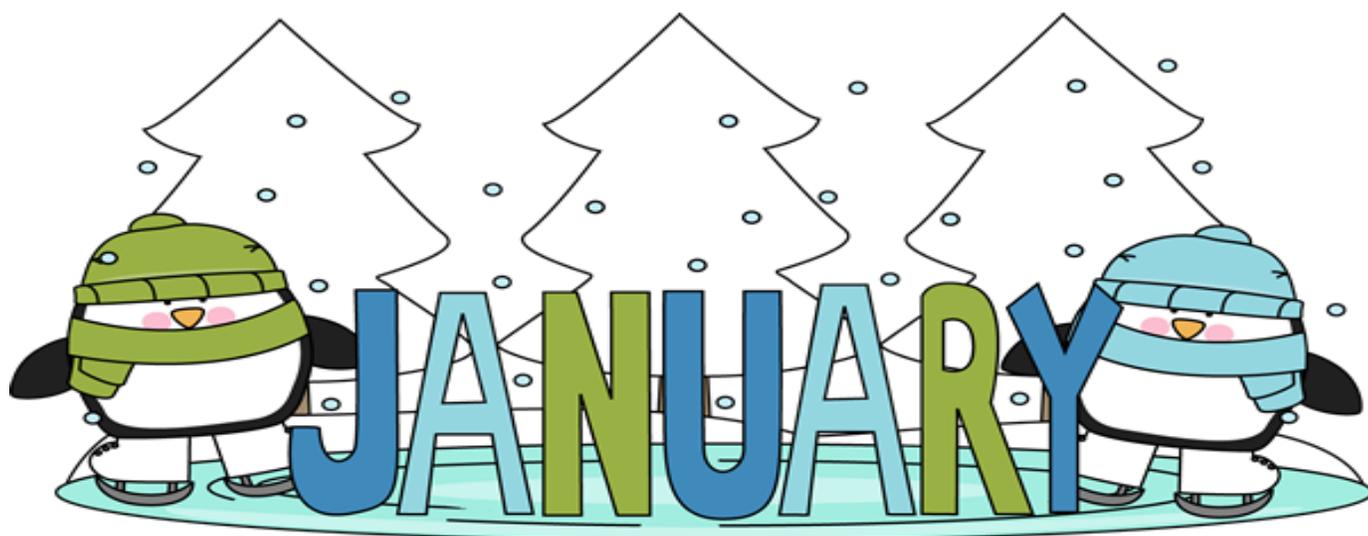
son of *Mary Tyree, brother of *Debbie Chaffin

* Church members

Update on Capital Campaign:

Campaign Goal	\$300,000
Promised as of 12/26/21	\$278,981
Balance needed to reach goal	\$21,019
Received to Date	\$241,616
Received since last update	\$50.00
Elevator fund	\$10,328

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.

