

# The Courier

## MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

January 2023

Court Street United Methodist Church

### New Year Reflection

It's that time of year again. Another year has passed and a new one will begin. It's a time where many of us reflect on the past year and plan and hope for the next year. As we transition from 2022-2023, how should we view this time considering the gospel? Does Jesus' work of redemption change how we see our past and our future? This past year may have been an amazing year for you. There may have been breakthroughs or accomplishments that you feel helped you grow as a person. On the other hand, this year may have been a difficult one. There may have been sickness, pain, or difficult relationships. My guess is that your year has probably been a mix of both. And even though things may have been difficult, there were still things you could be thankful for. Whether your life has been good or difficult, the Gospel shapes how we see our past. There are certain truths that scripture reveals about human beings. We are sinners and at the same time we are victims of sin. As sinners, we disobey God's commands. His commands were not made to ruin our fun or joy. They were given for our flourishing and our joy. However, we have all transgressed his laws thinking that our way is better. For some it manifests itself in a mild form of regret while for others it is guilt. As for the idea that we are victims of sin, this year we have all experienced the presence and the power of sin in our lives in varying degrees. It might have been through the actions or the mistakes of others. It may have been from the fallen state of our world. Sin's presence is all around us. God has graciously given us minds that can conceive what will be good and plan accordingly. We can budget money and we can plan for work to be done. We can also resolve to improve ourselves, to be more disciplined, and to walk closer with Christ. However, the reality is that we cannot plan for everything. We don't have a guarantee of the next five minutes let alone the next year. The cross shapes how we see our past and our future. The gospel transforms our understanding of our past by reminding us that Christ's death and resurrection has paid for our sins. We stand righteous before God because of what someone else has done. We should feel the weight and guilt of our sin, but at the same time be joyous because of the gift of forgiveness that has been given to us. The gospel changes our perspective by reminding us that God is ultimately in control. In Acts 4:24 the disciples declared God to be, "*the Sovereign Lord who created heaven and earth.*" Christ is the one who reigns and calls all things into being. There is not a single event, big or small, in which God does not exercise his authority. Believers in Christ have the knowledge that this sovereign God is working for our good. This is the comfort of being a follower of Christ. God's wrath is not upon us, but we have been adopted as sons and daughters of the King. This should humble us in understanding that while we are not in control of the future, we have a King who is. We can rest on his unchanging grace. This should also help us deal with our past. God can use the sins of other people and the brokenness in the world for good. We can take comfort in the knowledge that God is still working in us. God is in the process of making us more and more like Jesus. This means that God is still working in us to overcome sin and the power of darkness. This process is called sanctification. God is making us holy. He often uses the challenges and the situations we encounter to do this. This is the glory of the gospel. Jesus was the one who faced sin for us. He was the one who defeated sin while we were weak. By God's grace, let us surrender the things that have held us in bondage to sin and run the race that is marked out for us.

~ *Pastor Bill Burleigh*

## *Historic Church Open House Tour*

**Court Street participated in this year's tour to benefit Interfaith Outreach on Saturday December 10<sup>th</sup>.**

As shown in the pictures below: the crowd was delighted with Gary's invitation for attendees to sit, stand, wander about, or even gather around him while he played the organ.

All were captivated by his playing and his knowledge of the great Schantz organ.



Here is Gary pointing out the different sections of the organ which were printed in a lovely handout that listed the organ specs and the history of the organs at Court Street.

(Thank you Susan Hall)

Thank you to all the members who came out in support of the event and greeted people as they entered our beautiful church! And a big **THANK YOU** to Gary for entertaining us with not only his talent behind the console but also his love and knowledge of the organ.



## JANUARY'S ADULT BIBLE STUDY CLASS

January 1: "Children of God Through Adoption"

January 8: "Grace and Assurance for All"

January 15: "In the World, Not of It"

January 22: "Controlled by Peace"

January 29: "A Seat at the Table"

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

### Returning in January:

**INFORMAL TIME OF PRAYER** Mondays from 6-7pm in the Burleigh parlor. Please join us each week as you are able; to pray for our church and the community we serve.

**WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY** is every Wednesday night at 6:30 in the Refectory. We invite you to come for this time of fellowship and hope that you will bring a friend to join us!



### MISSIONS NEWS:

**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 third year in a row. We collected over **\$2,000 for the Pastor's Fund**; and were able to buy Christmas gifts for 6 kids through R.S. Payne Elementary School. The remaining funds will be used next year for outreach projects to the local community as we continue to grow our relationships with our neighbors downtown. 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.



**LIBERTY CHRISTIAN FOUNDATION INTERNATIONAL** received enough in donations to help with the shipping costs of a van donated to the organization and were able to get it shipped over to Nigeria. Yomi sends his appreciation for your support and wanted you to see a picture of the van in its new home where it will be of great service to the mission and ministries of LCFI.

I can always count on the members of Court Street and for that I am very thankful! *Yomi Adamson*

## \*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
Jeremiah Jackson    January 04	<b>February Anniversaries</b>	Kenneth Bagshaw      February 13
Doris Lee Spriggs    January 06	Kathy & Robert Draper    Feb 09	Lewis Averett      February 15
Bobby Brown      January 08	Robin & Irby Hudson      Feb 12	Dottie Diuguid      February 17
Patsy Wilkinson    January 13	GiGi and John Sweeney    Feb 21	Sarah Leazer Johnson    February 18
William Eric Sweeney    January 17		Reiman Shober      February 22
Eric Johnson      January 19	<i>Anniversaries and Birthdays</i>	Brenda Whitehead      February 22
Patti Montgomery    January 19		James Blankenship      February 23
Shelley Burleigh    January 20		Bill Burleigh      February 24
Misha Dovgalyuk    January 23		Bobbi Hurst      February 24
Rebekah Jackson    January 30		John Spencer      February 24

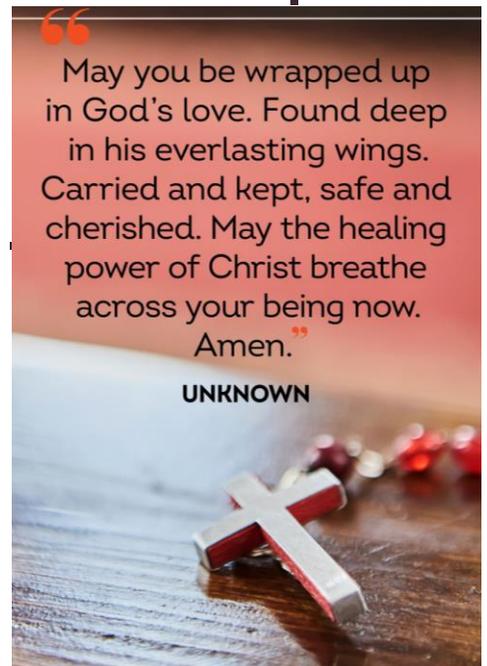
### PRAYER CONCERNS

#### 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
- Matthew Diuguid – 3501 A Ave. 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon, Bravo Company 266 Qm Bn; Fort Lee, VA 23801
- Robert Allen Tyree – stationed at Fort Bragg, 1404 Brookville Ln., Lynchburg, VA 24502  
Grandson of \*Mary Tyree

#### In Need of Prayer

- Phillip Burleigh ~ brother of Rev. Bill Burleigh
- \*Noel Draper - 501 VES Road Drinkard 619, Lynchburg, VA 24503
- \*Christopher Lilly – 1705 Rivermont Ave. Apt 8, Lynchburg, VA 24503
- \*Phil Ripley – C/O Julie Strong 1356 John Anderson Dr., Ormond Beach, FL 32176
- \*Alicia Speer – 1815 Rivermont Ave #68, Lynchburg, VA 24503
- \*John Sweeney - 1487 Jennings Drive, 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



### ***Gifts to the church***

#### To the General Fund in honor of:

Anne Langley’s Birthday by Kathy Mason

#### To Memorials in memory of:

Dr. & Mrs. William F. Quillian, Jr. by Anne Quillian

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.

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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.

