

The Good News

The Pastor's Pen

Dear Friends and Church Family,

As we enter a new year it seems somewhat appropriate to look back at the year gone by in its waning days and hours. The newspapers, news channels on radio and TV, and others take time to reflect on all the celebrities who are no longer with us, the big news stories, the tragic events of the year, and some glorious events of the year. As a boy I remember there was an anchorman who would always conclude with "That's the year that was." And depending on the events of our lives some would give thanks that the year was over, while others were looking forward to a new year and a fresh start.

There is something very therapeutic about a fresh start, a second chance, in a sense taking a mulligan for the errant first shot of the past year. In the very last chapter of the Bible (Revelation 21:5), we are given words of hope for everyone who has struggled, fallen, failed and wished that life could somehow be different.

He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true. There will be a time when all the brokenness and sin will be done away with. A new heaven and a new earth will be given to us (Rev. 21:1).

But we are not there yet, so what hope do we have? We have the hope of redemption (that God purchased us at the cross with the price of His own Son. We have the hope of forgiveness and new starts every day (1 John 1:9) by God's mercy and justice through His Son. God never forces us, but through the Counselor, the Holy Spirit who indwells every believer, we have guidance to make fresh starts and to walk new paths when and where we have blown it.

It is good for us to take a glimpse at the past year, determine where we stand with God today, and push ahead into the future knowing that we can start all over again. One

of my favorite passages of Scripture is found in Paul's letter to the Philippians,

Not that I have already obtained all this, or have been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 3:12-14)

Note that Paul readily acknowledges his frail humanity, his desire to do a better job of living, his recognition that God has a plan for him, and his willingness to keep trying - not to change everything - but to accomplish one thing as he surrenders his will to God's will for him.

So, the new year is upon us. God's desire is to help you and me to become new from the inside out, one step at a time! Let me suggest that you begin, my friends, with the surrender of your will to run your life (or at least certain parts of it), and allowing God free reign through His Son Jesus to make all things new.

In His Grip,

Art Helin

REMINDER: ONLY ONE COMMUNION SERVICE AT 10:15 am ON JANUARY 2nd.

Women's Association to Meet

The next meeting of the Women's Association will be Monday, January 10th at 10:00 a.m. in the Family Area. The book discussion will be the chapter on Finding Wisdom. The discussion will be followed with a business meeting and lunch at a local restaurant. All women of the church are invited to attend.

*Thank you to all who participated in the Project Christmas Tree gift giving. We served 5 families from the Macedonia Emergency Assistance Center.

Annual Meeting - January 23

The annual congregational meeting to hear the report of 2010 and confirm the budget for 2011, will be on January 23rd after the 10:15 a.m. service. **We will meet in rooms 201-3.** A light luncheon will be served. Please sign up in the narthex if you can come, and can bring a dessert to share.

Committee chairpersons...please get your reports sent to the office as soon as feasible. Thank you!

“Share” in Confirmation Fundraiser

Ten of our youth are working through the confirmation curriculum this year. In early January they will be having a retreat at Beulah Beach. They are also preparing a future “Youth Service” and participating in local missions. If you would like to help support them in some of these endeavors, you can purchase a “Share” for \$10.00 after upcoming services. Purchasers will be invited to a special Spaghetti Dinner in February to hear from the youth.

Thank you to the youth group for delivering baskets to some of our special members who can't get to church regularly. Several women of the church had a cookie exchange to fill the baskets with goodies and ornaments that the youth made. They will also begin working at the City Mission on a regular basis in January.



PANTRY ITEMS CONTINUE TO BE COLLECTED



The Women's Association will continue to collect food items for the Macedonia Emergency Center. They need dry, boxed nonperishable food items such as: Spaghetti noodles and all other types of pasta either in a box or bags as well as rice, instant potatoes, cereal, hamburger or tuna helper, crackers jellies and Jams.

There is a container in the narthex where church families can drop off their donations on Sundays or any other day they are in the building. We will continue to collect them as long as they are being donated.

PANTRY CLOSED UNTIL JAN 17th, please hold donations until then!
Thanks.

Mission Updates



Did you know we have a bulletin board where all our mission partner updates are kept? Some of these updates are copied and placed in Sunday Bulletins. Sometimes that is not possible but we want you to keep up with what's going on. The bulletin is located on the landing between the first and second floors on the stairwell through the Family Area. For example: The Hills, in Scotland, have finished the girl's floor (with a room our church helped sponsor) and they should be accepting girls soon. You can see pictures on Bob's blog at www.bobhill.tv/bob_hill/Blog/Blog.html (my albums). In addition we are supporting two new missionaries with Gospel for Asia. Their newsletter, pictures and biographies are on the bulletin board.



January

Carol Kreger	Jan. 4
Michele Galambos	Jan. 4
Kristyn VanDerMeulen	Jan. 6
Marianne Fiala	Jan. 7
Iris McCavish	Jan. 7
Tom McCavish	Jan. 7
Steve Galambos	Jan. 9
David Kerr	Jan. 9
Margaret Stitt	Jan. 13
Heather Williamson	Jan. 16
Patty Fenn	Jan. 19
Erin (Scott) Hart	Jan. 22
Ann Anderson	Jan. 24

Thank You...

We would like to express our deep appreciation to Art and Jan and our entire church family for all of your love, care, meals, calls, visits, cards, prayers, support and concern provided since Tom's seizure in July and subsequent brain surgery.

Thanks also to Keith Miller for providing computer assistance and to Keith and Rich Enczur for cleaning our gutters.

In Christ,

The Hall family

Wedding Congratulations

Congratulations to Laurel Bowers and Phillip Mayeaux who were married here at NPC on January 1, 2011.

The address will remain the same.

HAPPY NEW YEAR



JANUARY 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Happy New Year! 5:30 pm Private Event: Bowers/Mayeaux Wedding
2 COMMUNION NO 8:00 am SERVICE 9 am Prayer and Fellowship 10:15 am Worship 12:30 VBC Worship	3 7pm Boy Scouts	4 7pm Building and Grounds 7-pm Evening Bible Study	5 6:30am Men's Bible Study at Chick Fil A 9:30 am Day Care Chapel Time 6:30 pm Cub Scouts 6:45 pm Venture	6 8pm AA	7 Confirmation Class Retreat—Beulah Beach	8 8am Men's Bible Study at Chick Fil A Confirmation Class Retreat—Beulah Beach
9 9am Sunday School 10:15 am Worship 12:30 VBC Worship 4pm Confirmation Class?	10 10:00 am Women's Association 7:30 pm Deacons 7pm Boy Scouts	11 7-pm Evening Bible Study	12 6:30 pm Cub Scouts 7pm Choir	13 8pm AA	14 Confirmation Class Retreat—Beulah Beach	15 7am Session Prayer
16 9am Sunday School 10:15 am Worship 12:30 VBC Worship 3pm VBC Couples Bible Study 4pm Confirmation Class	17 7pm Session 7pm Boy Scouts	18 7-pm Evening Bible Study	19 6:30 am Men's Bible Study 6:30 pm Cub Scouts 6:45 pm Venture 7pm Choir	20 8pm AA	21	22 8am Men's Bible Study
23 9am Sunday School 10:15 am Worship 11:30 am ANNUAL MEETING & LUNCH 12:30 VBC Worship 4pm Confirmation Class	24 7pm Boy Scouts	25 7-pm Evening Bible Study	26 6:30 pm Cub Scouts 7pm Choir	27 8pm AA	28 5:30 pm Community Meal	29
30 9am Sunday School 10:15 am Worship 12:30 VBC Worship 4pm Confirmation Class	31 7pm Boy Scouts & scout parents					