

The Epistle

ST. PAUL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, GREENSBORO, NORTH CAROLINA

January, 2014

Volume 14, Number 1



FROM THE PASTOR

Happy New Year! Do you make New Year's resolutions? If so, for how long do you keep them?

The beginning of a new year is the time when many people make "resolutions" – things that they are going to do or improve on in the coming year. Making resolutions is the easy part. It is in keeping them that we so often have trouble. Part of that problem may be that we really aren't as committed to whatever we "resolved" as we thought we were.

Many resolutions are superficial, or of little real consequence. But as we think about our lives for this new year, I would like to suggest something for you to consider with the utmost seriousness.

Birds of all kinds can see where they are going. They pick and choose their direction and path. As birds fly by instinct they head where they are directed. But they can only see what is in front of them.

Eagles are known to have vision. An eagle can see up to five miles and often times is able to see well beyond normal sight. The eagle knows where it is going and determines how it is going to get there. While other birds migrate by instinct the eagle stays in its territory throughout the year, season after season.

The eagle is dependable and will hold its place in its territory. When a storm approaches, other birds fly in fear while the eagle is energized by the challenge of the storm. The eagle catches the wind and rises above the storm. The eagle glides through its territory during the storm and will only leave its post if it is badly hurt and must leave to repair its injuries.

At St. Paul Presbyterian Church, I believe God is looking for men and women of vision who can "see" with their spiritual eyes and catch the wind of God's Spirit. These men and women, like the eagle, are dependable, focused and fearless when it comes to their God-given assignments.

From the Pastor (continued from page 1)

I know that we hear a lot about “dedication” and “commitment” – you hear it from me. And I don’t apologize for holding those challenges before us. At the same time, I firmly believe that God does not expect more from anyone than they are able to do. But neither does God expect LESS than our best. The key is not deluding ourselves into thinking that we are doing all we can if we are not.

God still offers our church a great opportunity, one that will take the dedication and commitment of all of us if we are to be successful. As we think about resolutions for the coming year, I pray that each of us will seek the vision, dependability and boldness of an eagle to be used for the work of the Kingdom in this place. And after all, it is the work of *God’s* Kingdom.

See you in church.

Jay

JANUARY HYMN OF THE MONTH - #275 – “God of Our Life”

As we begin a New Year, it is well to remember that, as the text of this hymn reminds us, God is the “God of our life through all the circling years.” Our trust in him is never a misplaced trust.

The text was written in 1916 for the fiftieth anniversary of the Shadyside Presbyterian Church in Pittsburg, PA by Hugh Thompson Kerr, its pastor. Kerr was also Moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church U.S.A in 1930.

The tune to which Kerr’s text is set in our hymnal, *Sandon*, was originally composed for the text of “Lead Kindly Light, Amid the Encircling Gloom” by Charles Henry Purday, a leader in the attempt to reform music copyright laws in England in the mid-19th century.

Birthdays This Month

January 8 – Bettie Freeman
 12 – Jay Lambeth
 15 – Ruby Whitley
 17 – Michaela Saunders
 21 – Jane Lochbaum
 25 – Hannelore Pearman
 27 – Janet Walker
 30 – Barbara Coleman

Anniversaries

January 5 – Eb and Diane Hancock
 23 – Jack and Marjorie Herndon
 30 – John and Judy Miller

“Keep your eyes wide open before marriage, half shut afterwards.”

-Benjamin Franklin



THE WORD PROCLAIMED

| | <u>Sermon topics</u> | <u>Scripture Readers</u> |
|-------------------|---|---|
| January 5 | “The Real Meaning” Text: John 1:1-18 | Phyllis Watkins Reading: Jeremiah 31:7-14 |
| January 12 | “Understanding Christian Baptism” Text: Matthew 3:13-17 | Merrilou Williams Reading: Isaiah 42:1-9 |
| January 19 | “We Need A Lamb ” Text: John 1:29-42 | Michelle Saunders Reading: Isaiah 49:1-7 |
| January 26 | Dialogue/Q & A Gospel: Matthew 4:12-23 | Megan Saunders Reading: Isaiah 9:1-4 |



IN HIS SERVICE

JANUARY USHERS

Jack Brewer
Rosalee Brewer
Pam Houglan
Margaret Simmons

JANUARY COMMUNION SERVERS

Sunday, January 5 – Jack Brewer
Merrilou Williams
Nita Holder
Pam Houglan

TEST YOUR BIBLE KNOWLEDGE

The book of Hebrews tells us of something the Patriarch Jacob did by faith before he died. What was it?



PRAYER CONCERNS: Luke Finison, Barbara Carter, Marjorie and Jack Herndon, Andy and Emily Bristow, Lucy Smith, Aiden and Jeanetta French, Bob Berthold, the families of Myrna Stell and Earney Walker, Katie Williams, Georgia Giberson, Chuck Adams, Betty Lawson, John Patzsch, Ron Ervin, Dale and Nita Holder, John Perkins, Joe Miles, Edith Taylor, Gary Houglan, Roger Coleman, Mark Griffin, Luke Neal, Carl Hollman, Carolyn Davis, Kevin Tewes, Terri Battle, Zachary Reavis, Joe Herndon, and our own family members in the military: James Lochbaum, Andy Bristow II, Shane Finison, Brian Fountain, Rob Salka, Brandy Zehr, and all who serve in our armed forces.

“...pray for each other so that you may be healed. The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results.”

James 5:16 (NLT)

** * * OUR DECEMBER RECORD * * **

| | <u>Worship Attendance</u> | <u>Stewardship</u> |
|------------|---------------------------|--------------------|
| December 1 | 52 | \$ 3,716.00 |
| 8 | 31 | \$ 1,235.00 |
| 15 | 53 | \$ 4,047.00 |
| 22 | 53 | \$ 1,704.00 |
| 24 | 57 | n/a |
| 29 | 47 | \$ 2,493.85 |

ANSWER TO NOVEMBER BIBLE KNOWLEDGE QUIZ

To escape from the king, the angel of the Lord told Jesus’ family to leave and go where? Egypt
Bonus: Where did they live after they returned? Nazareth. Read Matthew 2:13-23

THE NEW HYMNALS ARE HERE

The new Presbyterian hymnal, *Glory to God*, is here and will be used beginning in February. You have the opportunity to honor or remember family and/or loved ones. If you wish to do this, a donation of \$10 will purchase a plate to be placed in the front of a hymnal showing your name and the name of the one honored or memorialized. These memorials/honorariums will be collected during January. A form will be provided later. Contact Merrilou Williams with questions.

OUR MONTHLY "REGULARS"

Sunday School – Sundays, 9:45am
Worship – Sundays, 11:00am
Session meets at 12:15pm on the 2nd Sunday of each month (except July)
Good News Ringers – Sundays, 5:00pm
Men's Fellowship – Mondays, 7:30am
Bell Tones – Mondays, 6:15pm
Alanon – Mondays, 7:00pm
Circles normally meet on the 1st Tuesday, times and places announced
Gad-A-Bouts normally meet on the 4th Tuesday, times and places announced
BYO Bag Supper – Wednesdays, 5:30pm
Bible Study – Wednesdays, 6:15pm
Choir Rehearsal – Wednesdays, 7:30pm

FOOD CART

In November St. Paul members collected 222 pounds of food for the Urban Ministries. The featured food cart items for January are jars of peanut butter and jelly (no glass jars please). Please remember that you can purchase any non perishable item that you choose. We just feature items each month that Urban Ministries request we collect throughout the year.

THANK YOU

Thank you to all who donated towels, etc. to Urban Ministry's Family Shelter. They were very grateful. Their greatest need now is twin or full sheets, baby diapers and always towels and wash cloths. They are experiencing some mold and mildew and bed bug problem so are not accepting clothes at this time. They currently have 70 families on their waiting list.

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Thank You to all who donated to Joseph's House so that Rev. McLean could get the 8 young men gift cards, etc. They are striving hard to reopen by the first of the year. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers. If you'd like to donate, the mailing address is PO Box 13241, Greensboro, NC 27415. Thank you, Jay, for having them on your TV program.

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I want to thank each and every one of you for coming out to help me celebrate my 90th birthday. Seeing you and reading all the cards was wonderful.

-Lucy Smith

THANK YOU

My sincere thanks to my St. Paul family for the many cards, gifts and other expressions of love and caring received during the Holidays. And I am deeply grateful for your support and encouragement throughout the year.

-Pastor Jay

Dear St Paul Family,

Thank you all for the generous Christmas love-offering, cards and good wishes. It has truly been my pleasure to serve this church and I wish you a very happy new year, full of good health and blessings for all your families.

In Christ's Love,
Carolyn Painley

Special thanks to Jeannine and our handbell groups for the fine Christmas program presented at our dinner on December 15, and to our choir for the lovely Cantata on the 22nd. All of these people are a blessing to our church and we appreciate their dedication and the joy they bring through their music.

COMPUTER CLASS

A computer class on managing Windows 8 is being offered at the Shepherd's Center on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1:30 to 4:00 pm on February 4 through 20. Here is the course description:

"Become acquainted with the NEW Windows 8 operating system and the NEW Start Menu it offers. Become more proficient using both the Start Menu and Windows 8 desktop. Manage your files and maintain your system for peak performance. Learn how to install and remove programs, perform virus scans and do routine cleanup of your computer. Learn shortcuts and the use of the Taskbar. 6 Class days / \$35."

Carolyn Painley, our office assistant, noted that several of our church members told her they took the Intro to Windows 8 course last year and found it very helpful, and thought this one might be of interest to some as well.

CIRCLE MEETINGS

The Peace/ Love Circle will meet at the church on Tuesday, January 7 at 9:45 and Charity Circle will meet at Margaret Tewes' home at 7:00 that evening.

