

ECHOES

COVENANT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

January, 2018

Issue 63, Number 1

Happy New Year!

This Time I'm Going to Do It!



by
Pastor Quentin
Wallace

I was watching the Today show earlier this week and noticed that most of the topics centered on making and following through on New Year's resolutions. In the past, I have made resolutions that started out great on January 1, but by March or April I had "fallen off the wagon." When this would occur, I would feel disappointed momentarily, but would then ease my discomfort by saying, "I will try again next year."

I went through this for many years until something changed for me. For some people it is easy to create a strategy and follow through, while others may start strong and slowly fall away as I did. The apostle Paul in his letter to the church at Philippi suggests that the key to following through is to give credit to Christ for each of our accomplishments on the journey.

For both the things we find difficult as well as the things that come easily to us, we must give Christ all the glory. Philippi was a town where many retired Roman soldiers resided, and they were very loyal to the government. But now that they were followers of Christ, Paul suggested that they must have a similar if not a greater love for Christ who was their spiritual



savior and leader. How do we give Christ the credit and accomplish our goals simultaneously? Let me share three ways of focusing my thinking in order to accomplish my desires. Hopefully they may be of help to you.

First we have to consider how what we want to accomplish in the New Year will further God's kingdom. For example, if you want to return to school, this will help you be a better educated follower of Christ.

Second, we must consider giving God the credit for each step toward reaching this goal. Sometimes people wait to thank God when it's over or complete. I have found it helpful and strengthening to thank God for each

small victory along the way.

Finally, if this goal is for your betterment, perhaps it started with God providing the original idea. Entrust that God is by your side with every decision and each step you make, and remember that what God started God is able to finish. The Apostle Paul explains this in these words:

"Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."

-Philippians 1:6

In 2018 you will get it done!
HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Short & Sweet

NOTES OF THANKS

Georgi and Dick Galen and family would like to say a BIG thank you for all the support they have received during Georgi's difficult and ongoing medical problem. The calls, cards, visits, meals, and prayers are so important to keeping a positive attitude as they proceed toward a successful solution.

GIFTS GIVEN...

In memory of **Marion and Jack Clare** to the Dolly Kepner Fund from Andy and Peg Loechner.

In memory of **Charlotte Anderson** to the Discretionary Fund from Andy and Peg Loechner.

In honor of Dolly Kepner to the Food Ministry from the Chancel Choir.

In honor of Bill Kepner to the Discretionary Fund from the Chancel Choir.

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST

It's a new year and a time to place the Men's Fellowship Breakfast on your personal calendar. Beginning in January we return to our regular schedule by gathering for breakfast on the fourth Saturday of each month. So our next

Men's Fellowship Breakfast will be Saturday, January 27, 7:30 a.m. at a yet-to-be-determined location. Please keep your eye on the News to Go for the place to be announced. Our plans for the January breakfast meeting will be special for Pastor Carrigan. His son, Benjamin Carrigan, will be the guest speaker. Ben is retired from the Navy and is currently a boiler inspector for a major insurance company. He is a follower of Jesus Christ and active in the small group ministry of his local church in Front Royal, Virginia. He will continue our thinking about what it means to be a Man of God. Plan to begin the New Year by attending the January breakfast meeting.

IN NEED OF OLD MAGAZINES

The youth will be working on a project this month for which they will need old magazines that they may cut words from. Please place old magazines in the "Magazines" box in the Gathering Area. Thank you.

VOLUNTEER SECRETARY OPPORTUNITY

Would you be interested in volunteering one Sunday a month to sit at the Welcome Desk? We are in need of a volunteer secretary. Please call the church office at 717-393-1561 if you are interested.

Two Sunday School Classes to Combine

Beginning January 7, 2018, two long-time Sunday School classes will join together as one class. The Crosby Class and the Abundant Living Class will meet together in the former Crosby Class room for the first time. Co-teachers will be Jeannine Spece, formerly of the Crosby Class, and Patti Willard, formerly of the Abundant Living Class. Other class members may also serve as teacher/leaders. The class will feature teaching, discussion, and occasional videos.

Former members of both classes are encouraged to return to this new class. And other persons seeking a Sunday morning small-group, Bible-learning experience are also invited to attend. The class will meet in Room B-1; just turn right after getting off the elevator on the Lower Level.

The combining of these two long-standing classes at Covenant Church was precipitated by the announcement from "BJ" Wolfgang that she (and Tom) were retiring from S.S. teaching after many, many years of faithful service. Leaders of both classes decided now was the time to pool resources and work together in a new class. A name for the new class will be decided at a later date. Both classes thank "BJ" and Tom for their years of service to the Crosby class and elsewhere in Covenant Church.

This new class will strengthen the adult Sunday School program of our church, but it also opens the door for the possibility of a new adult class. If anyone is interested in the possibility of starting another adult small group class on Sunday mornings (or another time), please speak to Pastor Don.

We Worship Together



January 7, 2018—Epiphany Sunday

Holy Communion

Contemporary Worship (9:00) and Traditional Worship (10:20): Pastor Wallace will bring the message during both worship services. The Chancel Choir will sing at the 10:20 a.m. service and Holy Communion will be observed.

January 14, 2018—2nd Sunday after the Epiphany

Contemporary Worship (9:00) and Traditional Worship (10:20): Pastor Wallace will deliver the message at both the 9:00 a.m. & 10:20 a.m. services. The Chancel Choir will sing at the 10:20 a.m. service, and a mission minute will be part of the services.

January 21, 2018—3rd Sunday after the Epiphany

Contemporary Worship (9:00) and Traditional Worship (10:20): Pastor Wallace will offer the message at both the 9:00 a.m. & 10:20 a.m. services. The Chancel Choir will sing at 10:20 a.m.

January 28, 2018—4th Sunday after the Epiphany

Contemporary Worship (9:00) and Traditional Worship (10:20): Pastor Wallace will preach during both services. The Chancel Choir will sing at 10:20 a.m.

50-Year Member Reflections: Bill Kepner

This past November, Covenant recognized its 25-year and 50-year members during Sunday services. Each 50-year member was given a questionnaire as an opportunity to reflect on past memories of Covenant Church. The following reflections are from **Bill Kepner**.

Events that Bill recalls being special to him were participating in church dramas under the leadership of Lloyd Dull, the growth of our Christmas Eve series, the merger with Bethany and the ceremonial march across the parking lot to Covenant, and our 100th Anniversary.

The areas of church life in which Bill became most interested were music and church leadership. "I wanted to lead in any capacity where there was a need," says Bill.

Bill's greatest satisfaction in serving came from being named adult choir director in 1979 and ultimately the director of the music program. He adds, "God blessed me with this opportunity, and it has dramatically changed my life. It allowed me to meet my wife and minister with my family."

Favorite memories of Bill's include all the wonderful Sunday School teachers he had as a child, but he mentions that Ray Wiggins was the most memorable. "When I was in sixth grade, Ray was my first male Sunday School teacher; he told amazing stories, and I love him."

The persons in the church who had a great impact on Bill include his parents, who were such a positive influence and encouraged Bill to become very involved in the church. He also notes how Elvin Wissler was a won-

derful mentor during his teen years. "As an adult," Bill adds, "Jim Work was my favorite teacher, and he gave me the opportunity to teach, which I currently do with the adult elective class. Teaching has helped me grow in my faith tremendously."

Bill's favorite hymn is "Because He Lives," and his favorite passages of scripture are Romans 8:31-32 and Psalm 27:1.

Bill's hope for new ministry at Covenant would be a renewed investment in children, youth, and young adults.

For those considering membership at Covenant, Bill says, "Get into a small group; get connected and involved. The 'church family' will become part of your family, and you will find joy in serving Christ with others."

Volunteers for January

January 7

Anchorite: 10:20 - Don Dale
Hallway Greeter: 10:20 - Grace Fisher
Lobby Greeters: 8:40 - Faye Zechman & Brenda Roth; 10:00 - Lori Brown & Tina Butler

January 14

Anchorite: 10:20 - Nancy Grau
Hallway Greeters: 10:20 - Bill & Nancy Grau
Lobby Greeters: 8:40 - Cindy & Bob Hean
10:00 - Youth

January 21

Anchorite: 10:20 - Ruth Neuman
Hallway Greeter: 10:20 - Sylvia Groff
Lobby Greeters: 8:40 - Mary Lou Hill;
10:00 - Sandy & Guy Carrigan

January 28

Anchorite: 10:20 - Corey Dick
Hallway Greeter: 10:20 - TBD
Lobby Greeters: 8:40 - Sara & Alex Cuebas; 10:00 - Janice & Harold Ulmer

JANUARY USHERS

Glenn Miller, Head Usher
Meryl Groff, John Longenecker

FEBRUARY USHERS

Denise Troop, Head Usher
Bill Grau, Jr.; Ron Kimmich;
Esther Mefferd; Joan Miller

Covenant Members in Business



Conestoga Innovations Promotional Products (for all your advertising needs)
Wanda Snyder, 1.800.759.8885 or sales@conestoga-innovations.com

CTC Lollipop Company
414 N. Pine Street, 717.509.5916
Tues.-Fri. 11am-7pm; Sat. 9am-2pm

Dale Building Designs
Donald A. Dale, 872.4263
2086 New Danville Pike, Lanc., 17603
www.DonDaleDesigns.com

Groffs Family Funeral & Cremation Services, Inc.
Thomas S. Buter, 394.5300
528 W. Orange St.

Interiors by Kristen
Kristen Stemmer, 875.4014
2086 New Danville Pike, Lanc. 17603

JM Services
Jeff and Brad McGary
Interior & Light Exterior Painting,
Handyman, and Junk Removal
717.330.9616 or jcmcgary@comcast.net

Kresge Computer Consultation
Roger Kresge, 299.4613 or rkresge123@comcast.net

Miller Optical
Glenn & Maryanne Miller, 393.2020
Glasses, Contacts, and Exams
Lancaster & Willow Street

Richard B. MacDonald
Attorney at Law
312 W. Orange St., Lancaster
717.394.1508

Steve's Automotive Technology
Steve Sultan
PA Safety and Emission Inspections
1027 Dillersville Rd #16
666.3646

Willard Hypnosis Center
Roger J. Willard
3304 Main Street, Conestoga PA 17516
717.872.7561 or willardhypnosis.com

Covenant Welcomes New Youth Director



Minister Santa Jenkins

Minister Santa Jenkins comes to Covenant, having been a member of Bright Side Baptist Church in Lancaster for 25 years. She has served there in many capacities including Youth Sunday School Teacher, Leader of Women's Fellowship, and Teacher of New Members Classes. She was licensed in 1998.

In addition to serving as the Youth Director at Covenant, she also works part time as a Chaplain Associate at Lancaster General Hospital. Minister Santa graduated from Lancaster Theological Seminary in May of 2017 with her Masters in Divinity.

She would like everyone to know that she loves the Lord and believes He has a purpose for her at Covenant.

Her goals for the youth this coming year are: for the youth to learn who God is, to learn to love and worship Him, to learn to serve Him and then to share him with others. She wants to thank everyone for making her feel welcomed.

Here's to Good Health

2018 Resolutions



Do you make New Year's resolutions?

Did you get your flu vaccine? Vaccines (not just flu) may be the best way to help protect you and your family from more than a dozen diseases. Check with your Health Care Provider.

Remember to schedule your yearly checkups. Checkups can help you stay healthy and may catch small problems before they become big ones. Schedule routine physicals and don't forget dental and eye exams.

Most New Year resolutions focus on making healthy changes. Good habits are formed through repetition, so

just focus on one new habit. That new habit might be to eat healthier, start to exercise (even just a short walk), or lose some weight.

This Year ...

- ⇒ Hang on to your truth and respect the truth of others.
- ⇒ Choose to be happy.
- ⇒ Forgive those that you can forgive and seek forgiveness of someone who deserves it.
- ⇒ Do something outside of your comfort zone.
- ⇒ Be the voice for someone who has no voice.
- ⇒ Be quiet strength.
- ⇒ Be the type of kindness that is strength.
- ⇒ Remember that love is a verb.
- ⇒ Choose healthy foods, activities and people.
- ⇒ Fall six times, get up seven, and persevere.
- ⇒ Wish people a lovely day.
- ⇒ Live honestly, truly, and with integrity.

(Author Unknown)

Happy, Healthy 2018!

Cindy Smith,
Wellness Coach

UMW Winter Breakfast

The annual UMW Winter Breakfast will be held on Saturday, January 13, at 9 a.m. All teenage girls and women are invited. We have three speakers scheduled: one from TLC, one from the YWCA Women's Shelter, and our Conference's Mission Lay Leader. All three will be discussing homelessness and mission opportunities in Lancaster County.

In addition we are asking everyone to please save your plastic grocery bags and bring them to the breakfast for a hands-on mission project. We will also reveal our 2017 prayer partners and choose new prayer partners for 2018.



Leadership Team Reflections & Thanks

Reflections on and Thanks to the Leadership Team
(as shared at the Leadership Team Meeting, December 12, 2017)

For four years the Leadership Team has sought help from above
To do God's will and serve this church that we love.
The team concept was new, but we found our way
As decisions needed to be made without delay.
Services times were changed and pastors, too,
All to serve Covenant Church the best we knew.

We met monthly, which provided time for us together
To tackle the jobs and challenges of this new adventure.
We discussed, we surveyed, and we retreated
All to move our church forward in ways we saw needed.
But most of all we prayed to God for wisdom and guidance
To share His love in our church and with those all around us.

My thanks now to Kristen, our capable leader with a dream,
Whose dedication and contagious spirit inspired us on the team.
The more she served, the more she grew
In leading us and working with Covenant's children, too.
Her time given to this role both in meetings and at home
Are especially appreciated by all of us in this room.

Then what can I say to Jeff, our wonderful secretary,
Who month after month recorded what was necessary
To summarize our decisions and help us remember
How far we had come and what the job was of each member.
So sincere thanks to you for being so dedicated.
Your humble spirit, time, and talents are much appreciated.

Know that it has been my privilege to serve with all of you.
And for these four years I have found it true
That when dedicated people of God seek His will
Through prayer and discussion His plans to fulfill,
They will be led as they as leading
And grow in His way to reach others who are seeking.

There is still more to do to see our vision clearly,
To develop our mission, and live it out sincerely.
May you balance time for both business and vision
That our church may grow and serve out its mission.
So my prayers for you who continue on and those who are new
Are to seek God's leading and know His blessings, too.

This poem was written and then shared by Lois Neidermyer during the December 12, 2017, Leadership Team meeting. Lois, Jeff McGary, and Kristen Stemmer were attending their final Leadership Team meeting after serving for four years. The poem includes words of appreciation for Kristen and Jeff, but Lois, too, should be recognized for her dedication and the always thoughtful, positive, and encouraging contributions she made to the team's discussions and decisions. Thank you, Lois.

*Lois Q. Neidermyer
Leadership Team, 2014-2017*

Elected Officers for 2018

Leadership Team

Class of 2020: Chris Kimmich, Cheryl Lichty, Stephanie Schall, and John Seyfert

Staff Parish

Class of 2020: Sylvia Frey, Ken Gebhard, Mary Lou Hill

Nominations Team

Class of 2020: Linda Henning and Ruth Neuman

Board of Trustees

Class of 2020: Nancy Groff, Bob Hean, Barry Miller

Endowment Team

Class of 2020: Flo Kochenberger, Janice Ulmer

Finance Team

Class of 2020: Don Dale

Lay Leader – Roger Kresge

Lay Member to Annual Conference – Lois Neidermyer

Church Treasurer – Lori Weiler

Assistant Treasurer – Dick Galen

Financial Secretary – Bob Moss

Assistant Financial Secretaries – Grace Fisher, Carole Horn, and Joan Miller

Chair of Finance – Carolyn Moody

Chair of Evangelism – TBD

Chair of SPRC – Greg Smith

Chair of Nurture—Minister Brenda Wallace

Chair of Worship – Glenn Miller

Chair of Stewardship – Jennifer Engle

Chair of Hospitality – Marilyn Keener

Chair of Outreach – Cindy Hean

Church Historians Team – Grace Fisher, Nancy Groff, Joan Miller

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The Reverend Donald E. Zechman, Nurture & Worship

The Reverend Sally Ott, Visitation & Witness

Minister Santa Jenkins, Youth Director

The Reverend Theodore C. Mefferd, Pastor Emeritus

The Reverend William Keeler, Pastor Emeritus

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