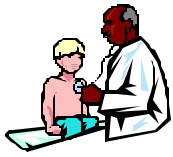


Suggestions to help “Let our Lights Shine in 2009”

- **Forget the past.** It is a tempting thing to rest on our laurels, dwelling on the successes of the past; conversely, sometimes we beat ourselves up for our failures and shortcomings. Building on previous accomplishments is a positive thing. We should learn from our mistakes, but not dwell on them. Balancing these two scenarios can be a challenge for any of us. When we look at the life of the Apostle Paul, he had many negatives to overcome from his past, yet he refused to allow them to keep him from spreading the gospel of Christ. Here was his approach: “Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but *this* one thing *I do*, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.” (Phil. 3:13-14)
- **Set spiritual goals.** Many of us make New Year resolutions about areas of our lives we hope to improve. Challenging ourselves to achieve more in 2009 has merit, both in our personal behavior, as well as our spiritual lives. Businesses, athletic teams, civic organizations all set goals for themselves. They display these goals so their employees/members will keep them in mind as they go about their tasks and not be distracted by other activities. Set goals for your spiritual life in 2009. Make your goals specific, realistic, and measurable. Some available tools to utilize: the first 100 days Bible reading and memorization sheets, the chronological reading of the Bible pamphlet, Bible Bowl questions and answers from Genesis. Giving ourselves targets at which to aim helps increase the probability we will succeed at hitting them.
- **Increase our involvement.** Opportunities abound to participate, with many activities for every age group. Attend an event you’ve never tried, like: Horizons, Christian Training Series (CTS), Virginia Christian Camp (VCC), WOW meetings, SW VA Bible Bowl, Team events, just to name a few. Getting together with fellow Christians is one of the benefits God gave His children to help encourage and edify them. Strengthening our relationships helps each of us realize we are not alone in the world. “A man *that hath* friends must show himself friendly: and there is a friend *that sticketh* closer than a brother.” (Prov. 18:24)

Jesus directs us in Matthew 5:14-16 to “...let your light so shine...” He expects us to share with the world what He has done for us. Let each of us determine today what positive things we can do in 2009 to spread the Gospel to those around us and put into action the words our Master has instructed us to live.

Sick



Continue to remember in prayer: **Marguerite Charles, Jonnie Charles, Margaret Kratz, Lyn Anderson, Martha Keith, Miriam Majors, Steve Harrah, Betty Jenkins.**

WJ Wood is at Salem Health & Rehab; Unit 4, Room 114A. 540-855-9012.

Dee House has been diagnosed with cancer. She will be seeing an oncologist soon.

Martha Keplinger, Mitzi Pettit's mother, suffered a stroke last week.

Judy Bowman, sister of Hazel Maness, had cancer surgery last week.

Richard Baker, Herb's brother had knee surgery last week.

Shelia Clark will have surgery on January 8.

Sympathy is extended to the family of Georgia Pyott, mother of Pat Gwaltney. Sympathy is extended to the family of Clay Fulcher, nephew of Charlie Maness.

Happy Birthday this week to:

Chandler Jearls—1/5
Ben Munsey—1/5
Erin Simms—1/7
Miles Quesenberry—1/7
Miriam Majors—1/9
Paul Mays—1/10



Happy Anniversary this week to: Paula & Lee Gibson—1/7



JANUARY ITEMS FOR THE

STAFFORDS: Plain instant oatmeal & instant sugar-free chocolate pudding. Give your items to Jeanny and she will ship them over!



Upcoming Events:

Team 3 (Valentine) - Will be having a planning session on January 18 after evening services. Bring finger foods!!



Teens

January Dates

Teen Bible Study—January 11—7:00

Mark your calendars now for March 7. We will also be having the Biddy Bible Bowl for the kids ages 5-8.



Bi-Monthly Bible Bowl Study Sessions will be held in the large classroom at 5:00 on the following Sundays: **January 4 & 18; February 8 & 22.** Mock Bible Bowl will be held on Feb 14 at 9 AM. Breakfast will be provided. See Jim or Charlotte Harrington for details.

WOW

Please sign up on the WOW board for the video autobiographies being done by Richard Simms.

Next WOW meeting will be on Tuesday, January 13, at 10:30. Lunch at Harbour Inn on January 25.

MILITARY

In Iraq:

Major Erich T Felps, will be returning to the states on January 11.



HN Aaron T Stricklin

For Your Information

BIBLE STUDY SURVEY

There are special Bible Study Survey sheets on the table in the foyer. Please fill one of these out and return it to Eddy or Jo Ann within the next week. It will assist greatly in sermon and class preparations for 2009.

BIBLE READING GUIDES

There are chronological Bible reading guides for 2009 available on the table in the foyer.

CARDS & CRAFTS

The ladies will be meeting today at 4:30 to make cards. See Melissa Rogers for details and plan on joining us!!

MARRIAGE

The marriage of Aaron Anderson and Emile Dement will be on Friday, January 9, in Memphis, TN.

MENS BREAKFAST

The monthly Men's Breakfast will be Saturday, January 10, at 8 AM at Famous Anthony's.

PRIMARY TEACHER MEETING

The next Primary Teachers meeting will be on Jan. 11 at 4:30. Cradle roll teachers are in charge of snacks.

LADIES NIGHT OUT

The January LNO will be on Monday, January 12 at 7PM here at the building. Michele Nikkel, Becky Cooke and Melissa Marshall will be hosting.

WEDNESDAY FELLOWSHIP

The Wednesday Fellowship will be on Wednesday, January 14, at 5:45. Menu includes chili, ham & potato soup, salad, sandwiches and dessert. Sign up on the board by next Sunday and pay your \$5 at the door!!

STAFFORD VISIT

Cy & Stephanie Stafford plan on being here on January 18 to give an update on the work in Tanzania, Africa. Make plans now to attend.

NEW MEMBERS DINNER

The New Members Dinner will be on January 24 at 5:30. Make plans now to be here to have a formal welcome for all of our new members for the past year!! Charlotte will be posting details soon.

SMOKY MOUNTAIN MARRIAGE RETREAT

The 2009 Great Smoky Mountain Marriage Retreat will be on February 11-14 in Pigeon Forge, TN. Brad Hurrab and James Watkins will be the guest speakers for the retreat. See the board for more details!!

Weekly Reminders

Prayer list:

Lyn Anderson
Judy Bowman
Jonnie Charles
Marguerite Charles
Sheila Clark
Norman Gabbard
Steve Harrah
Dee House
Betty Jenkins
Martha Keith
Martha Keplinger
Margaret Kratz
Miriam Majors
WJ Wood

Family of Norman Gabbard
Family of Georgia Pyott
Family of Clay Fulcher

Activities:

Cards & Crafts—1/4
Bible Bowl Study—1/4
Men's Breakfast—1/10
Primary Teachers Meeting—1/11
TBS—1/11



Turning Over a New Leaf

We have many idioms in the English language (“face the music,” “lock, stock and barrel;” etc.). There are sources which tell us the origin of many of these, and it is fascinating to read about them. We have all heard (and probably used) the idiom “turning over a new leaf.” The obvious import of it involves change. However, the origin of the phrase is unknown. It likely has reference either to the turning of a page in a book or the turning of the page of a calendar. With the beginning of 2009 we have turned the calendar to a new year, and not just to a new month. We have the opportunity to “turn over a new leaf.” As we do so there are several things to which we turn.

New Life In Christ we have a new life. John stated, “He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life” (I Jn. 5:12). Paul revealed that one who is in Christ is a “new creature” (II Cor. 5:17).

New Love When one turns to Christ he finds a new source for his affections. The world is no longer his love (I Jn. 2:15-17). Only in loving Him are we recognized by Him (I Cor. 8:3). Love for Him involves obedience to Him (Jn. 14:15; I Jn. 5:2).

New Lord One’s allegiance is changed when He comes to Christ. He has a new king, the Savior Who died for him (Tit. 2:14). He is a servant of the one and only Lord (I Cor. 8:6; Eph. 4:5).

New Law When one comes to Christ he is governed by His Will (Heb. 9:15). There is a new standard by which he lives and a new law by which he is directed (Heb. 10:9, 10).

New Look When one is truly converted to Christ he is made a “new man” (Eph. 4:24; Col. 3:9, 10). He may not appear to be different just from the outward appearance (cf. Jn. 3:5-8; I Pet. 3:21), but he has and is changed. He will appear different to others because it is not really him that lives, but Christ that now lives in him (Gal. 2:20).

New Lyric One who belongs to Christ sings a different tune. His is a song of contentment (Phil. 4:11) and peace which none but Christians can comprehend (Phil. 4:7).

What better way could you begin a new year than by “turning over a new leaf,” having a new life, claiming a new love, serving a new Lord, following a new law, having a new look and singing a new lyric?

-Eddy

Jan. 4 (Acts 4)

- Read Acts 4 three times today
- Pray today
- Memorize contents of Acts 4—Peter & John imprisoned
 - Peter & John threatened and released
- Write a note or card this week
- *Increase your contribution by \$1 today

Jan. 5 (Acts 5)

- Read Acts 5 three times today
- Pray today
- Memorize contents of Acts 5—Ananias & Sapphira
 - Apostles imprisoned
 - Apostles beaten and released
- Increase your contribution by \$1 Sunday

Jan. 6 (Acts 6)

- Read Acts 6 three times today
- Pray today
- Memorize contents of Acts 6—7 men appointed to care for Grecian widows
 - Dispute with Stephen
- Write a note or card this week

Jan. 7 (Acts 7)

- Read Acts 7 three times today
- Pray today
- Memorize contents of Acts 7—Stephen’s sermon
 - Stephen stoned to death
- Increase your contribution by \$1 Sunday

Jan. 8 (Acts 8)

- Read Acts 8 three times today
- Pray today
- Memorize contents of Acts 8—Philip at Samaria
 - Philip & the Ethiopian eunuch
- Write a note or card this week

Jan. 9 (Acts 9)

- Read Acts 9 three times today
- Pray today
- Memorize contents of Acts 9—Conversion of Saul
 - Peter heals Aeneas
 - Peter raises Dorcas
- Increase your contribution by \$1 Sunday

Jan. 10 (Acts 10)

- Read Acts 10 three times today
- Pray today
- Memorize contents of Acts 10—Conversion of Cornelius’ household
 - Write a note or card this week
- Increase your contribution by \$1 Sunday

Those to Serve in January

Announcements: Bob Garby
Preside at Communion: Tom Rogers

Opening Prayer: Herb Baker
Next Week: Marc Laplante

PM Song Leader: Charlie Gwaltney
Opening Prayer: Charlie Maness
Next Week: Bobby Martin

Serve Communion: Cameron Brown, Sam Valentine

Wednesday Song Leader: Bob Garby

Open/Close Bldg: Fred Altizer
Ushers: Roger Mays, David McFalls
Greeters: Bush/Brown

Last weeks attendance (12/28&31/08)

Bible Class: 162 Worship Service: 175

Contribution: \$11281

Song Leader: Jeff Durham
Serve Table: Jeremy White, Ethan Rogers
Adam House, John Black

Closing Prayer: Gene Benefield
Next Week: Mark Brooks

Scripture Reader: Nathan Pelfrey
Closing Prayer: Glenn Gabbard
Next Week: Jim Cooke

Prayer: Greg Edwards

Prepare Communion: Altizer/Buckner
Cards/Pencils: K. Mickens, N. Laplante
Nursery Attend: Charmaine Bush, Ivy Bush

Sunday Evening: 144 Wednesday : 116

January 4, 2009

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