

A New Life for the New Year

There is something special about having something new; the feeling of being the first to use or try something seems to bring a smile to our face. As we enter into a New Year and new decade, let's consider some of the spiritual opportunities for "newness" in which we might participate.

A New Ruler. Those who have not yet been added to the body of Christ (Acts 2:47) can make that decision. If we choose to obey Christ and therefore allow Him to rule our lives, we get rid of our former "master", who would lead us to spiritual death, and begin seeking a righteous life (Rom. 6:16).

A New Standard. The Hebrew writer emphasized the word "better" in his writings. In Heb. 8:6-8 and 10:9-10 he discusses this "new covenant" available to us. Jesus nailed the former covenant (Law of Moses) to his cross (Col. 2:14) so we might have this new standard by which to live.

A New Mindset. Changing our minds from one way of thinking to another is not always an easy thing to do. Putting on the "new man" of Christ involves changing the way we think about our actions and words (Col. 3:9-10; Rom. 8:6). Christ had the mindset of a servant and set that example for us to follow (Phil. 2:5-8).

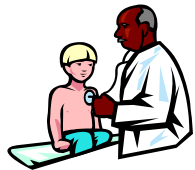
New Goals. Many of us establish goals aka "New Year's Resolutions" to help us achieve new things in the year ahead. Setting spiritual goals will help us meet objectives we hope to obtain. Paul encourages us to "seek those things which are above" and "press toward the mark" as we strive to grow spiritually (Col. 3:1; Phil. 3:14).

A New Conduct. Paul challenges us to be followers of him as he was of Christ (1 Cor. 11:1). We are to "stand fast in the faith" (1 Cor. 16:13). Our commitment to Him as we are baptized is that we will walk in "newness of life" (Rom. 6:3-4). Turning away from our former lives of sin requires that we change our actions to mirror those of the new Master whom we now serve.

God has blessed each of us with a new year filled with fresh opportunities. Let each of us determine to use these opportunities to serve Him better in 2010 than any time in the past. – the Elders

Continue to remember in prayer:

Sick



Margaret Kratz, Miriam Majors, Betty & Walter Jenkins, Jim Dorsett, E.V. Wimmer, Martha Keith, WJ Wood, Al Furrow, Lyn Anderson, Marguerite Charles, Jo Musgrove, Isabelle Simmons, Sandra Wood, Carol & Vernon Daniels, Debbie Bumbalough

- Bobby Paxton had tests done last week.
- Jackie Dixon will be having surgery tomorrow.
- Teresa White is in LGH with congestive heart failure.
- Jo Hartman is expecting the results back from her tests this week.
- Jean Peterson, grandmother of Lori Whitlow, is in ICU in TX.
- Several are out with the seasonal illnesses.

Happy Birthday this week to:

Amanda Brown—1/3

Chandler Jearls—1/5

Ben Munsey—1/5

Erin Simms—1/7

Miles Quesenberry—1/7

Mariam Majors—1/9

Paul Mays—1/10



Happy Anniversary this week to:

Paula & Lee Gibson—1/7



Military

Jay Martin—Afghanistan



Upcoming Events:



Check with your team leader to see if you have any events going on soon. Or make a suggestion for a get-together!

Teens



January Dates

January 9—WYD—Radford

January 17—TBS

January 31—Young Men conduct services.

Bible Bowl is set for March 6
Study Guides are available!

The Mock Bible Bowl is Feb. 13th. at 9am. It's for ALL youth to pre-test their Bible Bowl knowledge before the actual Bible Bowl on March 6th. Youth & Parents should reserve this date on their calendars now! Breakfast items will be available.

WOW

The next regular meeting will be on January 12 at 10:30.

Thank You, West Side! Thank you for your thoughtfulness and generosity to us during the holiday season. Jeanny and I look forward to our getaway night at Natural Bridge. We appreciate and love all of you. We look forward to 2010 with renewed zeal. We wish each of you the best during the coming year. We pray that much will be accomplished here for the Lord's Cause during the next 12 months. Thank you for all you continually do to encourage us. May our journey together be long and prosperous to His glory. -Eddy & Jeanny

JANUARY ITEMS FOR THE

STAFFORDS: Clear packing tape & dry erase markers. (these items are desperately needed) Give your items to Jeanny and she will ship them over!



Big thanks to Charlie & Patty Gwaltney, Ron & Doris White, and Wes White for labeling and setting out the new pew Bibles!

Weekly Reminders

For Your Information

UPDATE INFORMATION

Please check the board to **verify your address** information. The new directory will be posted in the 2010 Plan of Works.

PICTURE UPDATES

Picture Board updates and new pictures will be taken after morning services today. See Jim Harrington if this date is not good and schedule another time.

WEDNESDAY FELLOWSHIP

Wednesday Fellowship will be on January 13 at 5:45. Menu includes Chicken Cacciatore, Salad, Bread, Dessert. Sign up sheet is posted and pay your \$5 at the door!

TURN TURN TURN

There will be a meeting of the T3 Planners on January 24 at 4:30. We are looking for those who have never helped to prepare for this event to come and bring your ideas!

NEW MEMBERS DINNER

The New Members Dinner is Jan. 16th at 5:45. It's for ALL to welcome our 2009 newly baptized and relocating members to West Side. PLEASE RESERVE THE DATE ON YOUR CALENDAR NOW!

SPRING LADIES CLASS

There is a sign up sheet for all ladies interested in attending a Ladies Class during the Spring Quarter.

2009 CONTRIBUTIONS

If you will be needing letters for your 2009 contributions, please send the information to Tom, JoAnn or one of the elders as soon as possible. Thanks in advance!

From The Elders...

The elders solicit your input in suggesting the names of men who could possibly serve as elders and deacons at West Side. Forms are available in the foyer for your convenience. Please submit these names to one of the elders. Thank you for your prayerful consideration of this matter.

Prayer List:

Marguerite Charles
Lyn Anderson
Martha Keith
Miriam Majors
Walter & Betty Jenkins
WJ Wood
Margaret Kratz
Jim Dorsett
E.V. Wimmer
Charlie Puckett
Jo Musgrove
Al Furrow
Michelle Earnhart
Ed Argabright
Sandra Wood
Vernon & Carol Daniels
Glenn & Ruth Hartman
Jo Hartman
Debbie Bumbalough
Bobby Paxton
Jackie Dixon
Jean Peterson



January 2010

Announcements: Jerry Anderson
Song Leader (AM): Eric Earnhart
Communion: Jeff Durham (preside)
C. Brown, E. Mickens, J. Bush, G. Durham
Prayer: Fred Altizer (open)
Herb Baker (close)
Next week prayer: Gene Benefield (open)
John Black (close)
Song Leader (PM): Sam Valentine
Scripture Reader: Bradford Durham
Prayer: Collin Gregory (open)
Danny Guard (close)
Next week prayer: Jim Harrington (open)
Glenn Hartman (close)
Communion: Paul Mays, Roger Mays
Song leader (Wed): Josh Whitlow
Prayer: George Mellon
Next week prayer: Don Pettit
Open/Close Building: Mike Durham
Greeters: Benefields, Paxtons
Nursery: Rebecca Durham (AM) Judy Durham (PM)
Ushers: Curtis Oakes, Squeaky Valentine
Handouts: Mark Brooks, Paul Faw
Prepare Communion: Kay Anderson, Kim Brown

Last Week Attendance 12/27&30/09
Bible Class—141 Worship Service—174
Sunday Eve.—127 Wednesday—130

First 100 Days

“Exceptions” to the Rule (4)

Jan. 3 (Romans 3)

- Read Romans 3 three times today
- Pray today
- Memorize contents of Romans 3
 - Universality of sin
 - Memorize Rom. 3:23
- Write a note or card this week
- *Increase your contribution by \$1 today

Jan. 4 (Romans 4)

- Read Romans 4 three times today
- Pray today
- Memorize contents of Romans 4
 - Illustrations of the law of faith
 - Memorize Rom. 4:7

Jan. 5 (Romans 5)

- Read Romans 5 three times today
- Pray today
- Memorize contents of Romans 5
- Blessings of obedient faith (1-11)
 - Contrasts between Adam's sin and Christ's atonement (12-21)
 - Memorize Rom. 5:8

Jan. 6 (Romans 6)

- Read Romans 6 three times today
- Pray today
- Memorize contents of Romans 6
 - Freedom from sin's dominion
 - Memorize Rom. 6:3

Jan. 7 (Romans 7)

- Read Romans 7 three times today
- Pray today
- Memorize contents of Romans 7
 - Freedom from the law of Moses
 - Memorize Rom. 7:4

Jan. 8 (Romans 8)

- Read Romans 8 three times today
- Pray today
- Memorize contents of Romans 8
 - Spiritual nature of the new life in Christ
 - Memorize Rom. 8:1

Jan. 9 (Romans 9)

- Read Romans 9 three times today
- Pray today
- Memorize contents of Romans 9
 - Why the Jews were rejected and the Gentiles accepted
 - Memorize Rom. 9:33

“There are exceptions to every rule.” We have all heard this or a like statement. In the Scriptures, there are some notable exceptions to some statements. The word “except” then is a very important word in most cases. Our study has revealed some interesting instances in which the exception has even meant the difference between life and death.

The great prophet Isaiah's career spanned over 60 years of time and the regimes of four kings of Judah (Is. 1:1). He spoke concerning Judah and Jerusalem, warned of their impending overthrow and beckoned them to repentance. In his prophecy against Judah he often spoke of their demise as if it had already happened. Such a statement is found in the first chapter. His main statement reads: “...we should have been as Sodom, and we should have been like unto Gomorrah.” However, this was not the case as the words immediately preceding this statement reveal: “Except the Lord of hosts had left unto us a very small remnant” (Is. 1:9). Had not God been mindful of His ultimate promise to man of bringing Christ into the world, He might well have allowed the Jewish people to have been overthrown completely. The exception in this instance allowed for them to continue.

Daniel was one of the captives taken in Babylon's assault against Judah. He spent the remainder of his life in Babylon. He was an individual noted for his character and uncompromising loyalty to God. This truth was demonstrated by his enemies in their plans to have him executed. In devising their plan they made the following statement: “We shall not find any occasion against this Daniel.” Such a statement would seem to make the success of their plot an impossibility. However, their statement continues: “except we find it against him concerning the law of his God” (Dan. 6:5). Such an occasion they, of course, found (Dan. 6:6-17). In this instance the “except” revealed something good about Daniel, even though his enemies intended for it to be bad.

(To be continued.)

-Eddy