

Pres-Bits Newsletter

The Presbyterian Church of Washington

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Volume 44 Issue 1
January 2017

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

– Romans 12:1-2

Dear Friends,

I have a January tradition. It is not a tradition of which I am proud. I never intended for it to become a tradition in the first place. But, over the course of the last few years, I find myself repeating the same January routine – I make a resolution in late December and then in January, I start going to the gym.

Now, that in itself sounds like a very healthy tradition. Increasing your level of exercise is a wonderful resolution. However, (and some of you may have been anticipating a “however”), my January tradition of good intentions transitions to a February of broken resolutions.

Every January for the last few years, I go to the gym two or three times a week. And, I feel great! The gym is less than one mile from my house. How could I *not* make it there? And, the gym is PACKED with people in January; packed with people with similar traditions as my own. Then, each week, the crowd thins a bit, and I proudly think to myself, “I’m still here! This year is going to be different. I haven’t dropped away from my resolution like all of those other weak-willed individuals. GO ME!” Then February comes...and the gym seems like the other side of the planet.

Many people make very similar resolutions to get physically healthy in the New Year. And, many people have similar disappointing results. Other people, will make similar efforts to get “spiritually” healthy in the New Year – going to church *every* Sunday, reading the Bible cover to cover, praying every morning. And, just like the gym gets lonely in February, the Bible gets dusty, the pew stays empty, and prayer time turns to TV time.

I believe (strike that...I KNOW) that my resolutions often fail because I am too “ambitious.” Instead of making a weight loss goal of few pounds, I resolve to get back to my college weight. Big goals are easily found to be unattainable and therefore, tempting to surrender.

So, for 2017, let’s set some admirable, but attainable Spiritual goals. Perhaps you feel like it has been a very long time since you read any scripture. Instead of reading the Bible cover-to-cover, how about reading the Gospel of Matthew in 2017? Then, when you’re done with that, set a new attainable goal, and go from there.

If you serve on a committee or volunteer for a ministry of the church, let us set admirable yet attainable communal goals as well. Let us act as the Apostle Paul tells the church in Rome and be transformed by the renewal of our minds in 2017.

Happy New Year,
Pastor Pat

Our Church Mission Statement

Jesus Christ calls us to:

- Enliven our spiritual lives by experiencing God among us,
- Grow in love for one another as children of God,
- Invite all to share in our fellowship,
- Demonstrate God's love through service to others.



Office Hours

The church office is open Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Current Elders

David Brunworth	636-239-4102	dbrunworth@hotmail.com
Vivian Marshall	636-667-0013	marshv1849@att.net
Bruce Wiese	636-432-1057	ssswbw@charter.net
Jamie Tucker	314-814-2780	jmtsrvir09@gmail.com
Mary Ellenberger	636-742-4591	maryvet01@yahoo.com
Kathy Froning	636-239-7995	kathyfroning@yahoo.com
Lois Kempf	314-630-8379	loiskempf@hotmail.com
Karen Ladd	636-239-5271	jladd001@charter.net
Tim Urban	636-239-2082	tim.urban22@yahoo.com
John Anglin	636-239-6031	johneanglin@gmail.com
Ian McCracken	636-667-2015	ismccracken408@gmail.com
Jean Weekley	636-667-4624	possumhawhill@aol.com

Ordination/Installation of New Elders

During worship on Sunday the 29th of January, we will be installing and ordaining our new class of elders for active duty on session. John Anglin, Vivian Marshall, Jamie Tucker and Bruce Wiese will be installed. And, we will have the honor of ordaining the following members as Ruling Elders in the Presbyterian Church (USA): Ian McCracken and Jean Weekley. Ian and Jean will also be installed for active duty on session.

The Lord's Supper

The sacrament of Communion will be served on Sunday, January 1st.

Removal of the Greens

Please help pitch in around the church following worship on January 8. That Sunday, we will be removing the Christmas decorations from the sanctuary and around the church.

Worship Assignments for January:

Sound Tech:

1/1/2017	Allen Vogt
1/8/2017	Ian McCracken
1/15/2017	Joe Hagan
1/22/2017	Tom Ellenberger
1/29/2017	Tim Urban

Worship Leader: Laura Lawson

Ushers

Jan 1st Jean Weekly & Kay Hucke
Jan.8th Roland Schwarzen & June Gellhausen
Jan. 15th Luther Bierbaum & Barb Hagan
Jan. 22nd Open
Jan. 29th Jamie & Olivia Tucker

Greeters

Struckhoff's & Nancy Klingert
Tim & Gerry Urban
Don & Jenny Scheibe
Allen Vogt & Karla Becker
Dan Greer & Danielle Tucker

Ushers/Greeters

The Worship and Music Committee has decided to move to a monthly schedule for ushers and greeters. This means that ushers and greeters will be asked to serve for a full month. The transition to the new schedule will happen sometime in early 2017. For now, we will continue to follow our rotation schedule until the committee feels ready to make the switch. Be on the look-out for a sign-up sheet early in the year if you are interested in serving as an usher and/or greeter. There will also be a training session for anyone interested in serving as an usher or greeter after worship on Sunday, February 5. Thank you to everyone who has served as ushers and greeters as part of our "rotation" schedule!

Annual Congregational Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the congregation of The Presbyterian Church of Washington will be held following worship on Sunday, the 22nd of January. The full Annual Report will be available on Sunday, the 15th of January to review in time for the congregational meeting.

Annual Reports Due

If you are a committee chair or team leader, please submit your annual report to the church office by Monday, the 9th of January. This way, we can have full reports available for the congregation on January 15. Please submit your annual reports to Clerk of Session, Vivian Marshall or to the church office.



Harvest Table

A friendly reminder our church is scheduled to host the Harvest table on February 18th. This is such a rewarding experience and such fun. Clear your schedule and let's be Jesus hands for our community. Announcements will be made in church as the date approaches.



Mission News

A big shout out to all who helped with bell ringing for the Salvation Army on December 10th. We have such a wonderful group of people at our church who care so much for our community. I know it's cold outside so let's be thinking about mission garden and spring. If we have any people with green thumbs or even slightly green, the mission committee is looking for people who would be interested in helping expand our plantings in the spring. Our garden proceeds go to loving hearts which helps feed our community. Please contact David Brunworth if interested. Merry Christmas from the mission committee. God's blessing in the new year.



2017 Valentine's Date Night, SAVE THE DATE!

Ok, all you romantics, please look forward to a wonderful evening on Saturday, February 11, 2017 as we ask any couple to join us for a fabulous Valentine's Date Night complete with a homemade gourmet meal, made by our gentlemen friends, followed by a great movie in our own Fellowship Hall. All the ladies get to sit back, nibble on chocolate fountain goodies, and relax for the night! Any couple interested, please sign up by February 5th. The cost is about \$50 which includes a four course meal (appetizers, salad, entrée and dessert) and alcohol. Any questions? Please see Tom Farrell.



All-Church Potluck

Pot luck was held Wednesday, December 14th. There were 27 in attendance. The next pot luck will be January 11th at 5:30. Soup will be the main dish. There is a sign-up sheet posted on the bulletin board in the hallway.



Youth Group News

Our Youth Group has had a lot of fun in December with doing Christmas cards for our shut-ins and members with needs AND we had a fun Christmas Party on 12/21! We will continue to meet in January with our regular meeting dates of Wednesdays, January 4th and 18th, 2017. Our Youth Group meets on our regular schedule of meetings with the first and third Wednesday nights in the Church Youth Group room (Room #10), the first room to the right off of the Fellowship Hall. The first Wednesday of the month we usually do a mission project and on the third Wednesday, we usually have a fun activity (always a surprise!). All Youth from 6th – 12th Grades are welcome to come have some fun, snacks, a short Bible Lesson and a great time to be with other Christian Youth. Any questions? Just ask any of the YG sponsors: Laura Conley, Gretchen Farrell, Ian McCracken, Miles McCracken and Heather Miller.



Movie Night

Our next Movie Night event will be on Sunday, January 15th at 7 p.m. and the film will be **The Goonies**, an awesome 80's classic!! Bring your stadium chairs and join us in our Fellowship Hall for a cozy evening watching a wonderful movie with some friends! Surround sound, giant screen, free popcorn, water bottles, and soda, all provided. Please feel free to bring more friends.

January Birthdays



1-1	Ron Nagel	1-17	Alisa Conrad
1-8	Bob Eade	1-19	Jean Murney
1-10	Shirley Coulter	1-24	Susan Benedict
1-11	Mary Eleanor Farrell	1-30	Kathy Froning
1-15	Jeff Pierce		
1-16	Brad Carpenter		



Food Pantry Items of Month

January's items for Loving Hearts Outreach are **Canned Meats, Cereal and Dry Pasta**. You are encouraged to bring these items and place them in the donation box for Loving Hearts. They can also use canned vegetables, canned meats, and cake mixes – basically anything non-perishable. Thank you for your generosity!

Prayer for Life (PFL) meets Tuesdays at 7:00 a.m.

Prayer can be the glue that holds individuals, couples, ministry teams, families, and churches together and the fuel that makes them soar. It is the means by which we can all engage in ministry to each other. Join us on Tuesdays at 7:00 a.m. We study and learn a variety of prayer methods, both as individuals and as a group, to connect people and their needs to God.



Bridge

Please join us on Fridays from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. to play Bridge. Everyone is welcome to come and play. Bring your friends.



Creative Hands Group

Meetings are normally every Tuesday of the month. The quilt frame is set up and quilting is going strong! For information, please contact Barbara Duemler.



MEMBERS WITH CONTINUING NEEDS

Heather Miller, Barbara Pierce, Whip Schultz, Don & Connie Conrad, Janet Aaron, Laura Fenner, Patricia Bagley, Pam Schwarzen, Karen Gruber, Laura Evans, Mike Becker, Jocelyn Van Buskirk, Mary Lais

GRANDVIEW: Christine Lewis

SOUTH POINTE: Elsie & Jack Truesdell, Elaine Dodson, George Peters

CEDAR CREST: June Kleberger, Dorothy Mutert, Beth Saunders, Lisa Conrad

BARATHAVEN SPECIAL CARE: (Dardenne Prairie) Boots Bonney

FRIENDS OF THE CHURCH REQUESTING PRAYERS:

Vicky Vogel (sister of Karla Becker)
Anna Roetheli (friend of the church)
Laura Leigh Rhoades (daughter of Laura Evans)
Dixie Kottwitz (friend of the Bierbaums)
Jeff Pierce (son of Barbara Pierce, brother of Janet Aaron)
Rick Kresse (father-in-law of Mauri Truesdell's daughter)
Sarah McGurthy & family (daughter of Ollie & Virginia Whyte)
Taylor Bierbaum (grandson of Judy & Luther)
Holly Stoltz-Smith (friend of the church)
Betty Buerk (relative of Schultz, Vogt, Struckhoff)
Jean Kimme (friend of Barbara Schofield)
Rena Middendorf & Family (niece of Kathy Froning)
Pam Evangelist (sister of Sharon Fenner)
Ray Tucker (father-in-law of Jamie Tucker)
Joe Bryant (friend of Lya Struckhoff)
McKenna Kleinheider (granddaughter of June Gellhausen)
Felix Frye (brother-in-law of Trisha Bagley)
Charles Bagley (brother of Trisha Bagley)
Jill Ince (friend of the church)
Lisa Brule (sister of Vivian Marshall)
Eddie McGurthy (son-in-law of Ollie & Virginia Whyte)
Beth Bonney (daughter-in-law of Boots Bonney)
Allie Mooney & Patrick Jensen (sister of Jenny Bieg)
Eunice Linda (sister of Jim Watson)
Brad Crider (Loving Hearts Outreach)
Maxine Lohr (mother of John Bugele)
Fred Swantko (Derek Van Buskirk's Father-in-law)
Dorothy Clarkson (substitute accompanist)
Linda Tillman (friend of Bob & Jan Eade)
Tom & Jane Farrell (friend of Mauri Truesdell)
The Family of Cindy Corley (former Presbytery staff)
Kathryn Whyte (daughter of Ollie & Virginia Whyte)
Nancy Brueggemann (daughter of Whip Schultz)