

January 2014

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<u>Custodian</u> Rhonda Purtle From the Pastor's Pen...

I suppose that it is natural that most of us are glad to see an old year depart and a new year come in. The symbolism of the old year, as it departs, is an old man, tottering with a cane as he leaves our presence. On the other hand, the New Year enters our presence symbolized by a fresh, innocent baby who is filled with life.

The year 2013, as it passes before us, had its triumphs and its tragedies. Nevertheless, the New Year, 2014, stands before us with unlimited possibilities.



As we enter into this year of 2014, let me give you a couple of verses that will help you face the New Year. Paul said in Philippians 3:13-14, "Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus." Paul is telling us that there are some things we need to put behind us. We should put behind us our past successes. Too often we let the Devil infect us with pride concerning our past successes, to the point that all we do is brag about the past and do nothing in the present. We need to put our past successes behind so that we might do even more for the Lord.

We also need to put behind us our past failures. Too often we allow those failures to weight us down and hinder our spiritual growth. As we stand on the brink of a new year we need to obtain forgiveness for our failures and then put them behind us. No matter what kind of failure you thought you have been God can and will use you if you will simply ask Him.

There are some things we need to strive toward also. Paul says we need to reach forward to those things ahead. No doubt, many of you have some goals that you would like to see accomplished this year. Yet, isn't it sad that the majority will face 2014 with no spiritual goals. If you intend to do something for God this year then you need to set some goals that will set you on track. Seek to make this year a year of spiritual growth.

The drawing of a new year promises not only the good but inevitably the bad. So, in order to make it through the year we need to rely on Christ. As one looks at the life of the Apostle Paul one could easily ask, "How did he make it through those days of difficulty?" His reply would be found in Philippians 4:13, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." Acknowledge your dependence and reliance on Him as you enter this New Year.

Church Library News

January - Happy New Year - The first month of the year and it's full of possibilities. As we plan for the coming year, let us remember that there is a God-arranged plan and God has a specific plan for each of us. No matter how much we plan, God's plan is best for us. So let's ask Him for guidance this coming ear and accept and thank Him for all He does for us. With His help we can live His way.

Psalm 9:10 "Those who know your name will trust in you, for you, Lord have never forsaken those who seek you."

Here are a few books from the Library.

<u>The Jesus I Never Knew</u> by Philip Yancey. Relating the gospel events to the world we live in today, this bok gives a moving and refreshing portrait of the central figure of history. With a willingness to tackle difficult questions, Yancey looks at the radical words of this itinerant Jewish carpenter and asks whether we are taking Him seriously enough in our own day and age.

In the Eye of the Storm by Max Lucado. If you know what it means to be caught in life's storms...if you've ever ridden the roller coaster of sorrow and celebration then read and reread about this pressure-packed day in the life of Christ. It is the only day, aside from the crucifixion, that all four Gospels recorded. It's as if God knew the stress you would face. Speaking through Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John he shows you how to face it.

<u>Just As I Am</u> by Billy Graham (an autobiography). This is an inspiring story of how a man of God grew into a man of great influence. Examining his life and ministry from the wise and humble perspective that has made him one of the world's most beloved and respected leaders. *Just As I Am* is an unforgettable portrait that will be treasured by readers everywhere.

Yours in Christ, Lorraine Brown, Mary Robertson, & Joan Frank

January Birthdays

- 9 Dan LaRose
- 10 Jeff Hudspeth
- 11 Heather Richardson
- 12 Gail Thomason
- 13 Jessie Parker
- 19 Halle Wingard
- 21 Ella Huntzinger
- 23 Andy Newsome
 - Sarah Fischer
- 25 Rita DeLozier
- 26 Jim Fultz
 - Rhonda Purtle
- 30 Shelby Dial



Worship Quote of the Month

As we approach the new year, I would like to reference an article written by the President of LifeWay, Thom Rainer. Here is a link to the article on his blog: http://thomrainer.com/2013/12/11/six-ways-millennials-are-shaping-the-church/

As a millennial myself, I found this article very insightful. I pray that you will find it helpful as we see what people in this age group are looking for in a church and what strengths they can bring to a church. I would like to point out a few highlights:

The research done on millennials (people born between 1980 and 2000) tells us that only 15% are professing Christians. On a positive note, although a low percentage of millennials are in church, once they are a part of a church, they are very active.

Millennials desire to live in a relational community with those they go to church with and with the community they live in. I think it's neat that we have seen this already happening within our own church with the Love Loud ministry and the developing men's and women's ministries.

Millennials desire to think deeply and seriously about questions of faith and the Bible. I would also like to add that they like rich Biblical texts in the songs that they sing.

How do you think millennials are impacting our church? How do you think we can improve our efforts to reach this age group?



2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	9 am Sr. Adult Bible Study	3	4
Deacons' Meeting 5 pm AWANA- Regular Mtg	6	7	8 10:15 Cracker Barrel Fellowship 6:30pm Business Mtg.	9 am Sr. Adult Bible Study	10	MEN'S BREEKERS
12 2-4 pm Baby Shower for Amy Easton 5 pm AWANA-Regular Mtg	February Newsletter Articles due in office	14	15 6:30pm Prayer Mtg.	16 9 am Sr. Adult Bible Study	17 6:30 pm Family Connection	18 8:30 am Ladies' Breakfass 10 am Crafty Sisters With a Mission
19 5 pm AWANA Alphabet Night	20 Martin Luther King Jr. DAY Office Closed	21	6:30pm Prayer Mtg.	23 9 am Sr. Adult Bible Study	24	25
26	27	28	29	30 9 am Sr. Adult Bible Study	31	
5 pm AWANA- Regular Mtg			6:30pm Prayer Mtg.			

Schedule of Services:

Sunday

Worship - 8:00 am & 10:45 am Sunday School - 9:30 am Adult Choir Rehearsal - 4:00 pm Discipleship Training & AWANA - 5:00 pm Worship & Youth Svc. - 6:00 pm

Wednesday

Children in Action - 6:30 pm Prayer Meeting - 6:30 pm Youth Service (In Youth House) - 6:30 pm Business Mtg. (2nd Wednesday) - 6:30 pm Instrumental Rehearsal

The Church in Action

Lottie Moon Offering for International Missions Church Goal: \$5,513.00 Received to date: \$1,230.00

There is still time to give ... this offering provides the majority of funding for our missionaries outside the U.S.



It's a Girll

You're invited to a baby shower

for Amy Easton Sunday, January 12 2-4 pm in the fellowship hall



Family

Connection

Happy New Year! Family Connection is back on Friday, January 17th at 6:30pm. Join us in the fellowship hall for food and fun. All young families (just marrieds, young kids, older kids) and those interested in mentoring this group are invited. Bring a finger food to share. Drinks and sweets provided. We're playing inside this month so bring your favorite board or card game and let the laughter begin!

Humor to break up the winter blahs — ☺

- Don't let your worries get the best of you; remember, Moses started out as a basket case.
- Some people are kind, polite and sweet-spirited ... until you try to sit in their pew.
- People are funny: They want the front of the bus, the middle of the road and the back of the church.
- Forbidden fruits create many jams.
- Working for God on earth doesn't pay much, but his retirement plan is out of this world.



Contribution Statements will be mailed out this month. Please be sure the church office has your <u>correct</u> mailing address so there will be no errors in sending out the statements.

Do you need offering envelopes for 2014? Please contact the church office by phone or email for additional envelopes. Thank you.

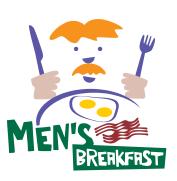


Cracker Barrel
Fellowship
Wednesday,
January 8th
10:15 a.m.
Everyone is welcome

Men's Breakfast

Saturday, January 11, 8 a.m. All Men & Boys are Invited!

Contact Ben Barbre to volunteer and to make reservations callmedoubleb @gmail.com)



Future Growth Funding

\$117,411.14 in a Construction Acct. at First Farmer's & Merchant's Bank \$351, 754.41 in a Building Fund at the Tennessee Baptist

Foundation.





Saturday, January 18, 8:30 am Followed by Crafty Sisters With a Mission 10:00 am