

THOUGHTS FOR THE JOURNEY January 2014

Communication Resolutions

Beloved, can you believe we have turned our calendars over to 2014. I'm still wondering where 2013 went. It seemed to have gone by so quickly. Hopefully, Carol will soon be coming back home to Ohio. A new year is always refreshing. We have a chance to push the reset/refresh button for our lives to do new things. In the midst of thinking upon resolutions we might consider communication resolutions. God cares how we communicate with others. Here are a few for us to reflect upon.

1. *I will talk less.* Proverbs 10:19 reads, "Sin is not ended by multiplying words, but the prudent hold their tongues." James 1:26 adds, "Those who consider themselves religious and yet do not keep a tight rein on their tongues deceive themselves and their religion is worthless."
2. *I will listen carefully.* Proverbs 18:2 reads, "Fools find no pleasure in understanding but delight in airing their own opinions." Romans 12:15 says, "Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn."
3. *I will correct my brother/sister if necessary, and forgive him when he repents.* Proverbs 28:23 reads, "Whoever rebukes a person will in the end gain favor rather than one who has a flattering tongue." Luke 17:3 adds, "So watch yourselves if your brother or sister sins against you rebuke them; and if they repent forgive them."
4. *I will confess my sins regularly.* Proverbs 28:13 states, "Whoever conceals their sins does not prosper, but the one who confesses and renounces them finds mercy." James 5:16 reads "Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective."
5. *I will encourage other believers every day.* Proverbs 16:24 says, "Gracious words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones." Hebrews 3:13 adds, "But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called 'today,' so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness."
6. *I will treat all believers with respect.* Proverbs 22:2 reads, "Rich and poor have this in common; the Lord is the Maker of them all." 1 Corinthians 12:24, 25 reads, "While our presentable parts need no special treatment. But God has put the body together, giving greater honor to the parts that lacked it, so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other."

I will demonstrate love with more than words. Proverbs 19:17 reads, "Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will reward them for what they have done." 1 John 3:17 reads, "If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person?"

Blessings for the Journey,

Rev. Chuck

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DATE— JANUARY 2014

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Secretary: Londa Blaine

Music Director: Miki Saito

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JAN-Birthdays & Anniversaries

1	Holly Gross
4	Roberta Balogh Sandy Gross
5	Dan Gross
6	Erin Martin
9	James Purdy
10	Richard Blaine
11	Hope Swindell Micah Butcher
12	Phillip Muth
13	Helen Literati Fran Early
14	Chris Hensley Larry & Eileen Weber Mike & Paula Krasnevich
15	Lucy Vernadakis
16	Bill Cromling Marty Belfi
18	Laura Kuhn Alberta Amos
20	Allison Cihla John Klinec
23	Carol Bokman
26	Karen Klinec
27	David Houston
30	Hanna Susak
31	Matthew Gross

Who Is God? The Christian life was meant to be a journey, not a routine. Starting Jan. 8th, Rev. Chuck will lead a Bible class and video series titled "Who Is God?" We will look at the weighty tope of the Godhead (Father, Son and Holy Ghost) and the nature of God. The author of this series is, Francis Chan who wrote Crazy Love.

Plan now to join us on Wednesday evening, 6:30-8:00. We will enjoy dessert, coffee and engaging fellowship. Come and join us anytime during this eight week series. Any questions call the church office, 748-2230.

EVANGELISM MINISTRY

Starting a new year makes one reflect on their life's journey. It is an opportunity to try new things. Is God calling you to become more involved in the church? Amy Stafford will be heading this new ministry. The first meeting is Tuesday, January 14th @ 6:30 p.m. You are invited to join us and see if this is something you would like to be a part of.

QUESTIONS ?? - Call Amy, 477-8034 or email her amydstaf@netzero.com

Ephesians 4:11-13 *"it was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ."*

Serving at the Lord's Table—January

8:00 Mary Scott, Bob Weber

9:30 Paige Bokman, Pat Ables, Ken Hicks, Cindy Hicks, Carol Bokman, Carol Swartz, Paula Krasnevich, Don Ables, Mike Krasnevich

ELDERS: Ralph Thompson, Robin Galvin

Roberta Balogh wrote this for the Advent Booklet at the church she now attends in Lebanon, Ohio.

God's Pattern: A Gift

Scripture: John 1:14-17

In the Fabric Shack where I work, there is a generous supply of cotton fabric bolts, each one more beautiful than the other. To admit that it has caused me to have a real passion for quilting is to put it mildly!

The patterns are numerous — which shall I choose? Each has its own allure. No matter which, each has many pieces when properly cut, stitched, and put in place, make a piece of beauty. Sometimes, however, a pattern may have an error, leaving the maker to look back on information gleaned in the past. Or ... my seam ripper becomes a favorite tool. It is a joy when finished to think that the quilt will be gifted and enjoyed by someone else.

To think on the patterns that create a quilt causes me to reflect on my life in the Lord. God created so many pieces (words of truth) and sent the master quilter to express to us the pattern of life, fitting together truth, love, compassion, hope, and grace. His life was God's gift to show us how to live righteously. He can correct the errors, if we allow him, making our lives something of beauty.

Thank you, God, for the gift of your Son, Jesus Christ. By Him you sent us truth and grace. May our real passion be to follow and serve Him and to live by your word that others may know Him as well. In his precious name, Amen.

Thought for the day: Jesus brought the piece of love.

2013 ANNUAL REPORTS due to Diana Tyler by January 12th.

A yearbook is a good record of what our congregation has done each year and it can also serve as a guide (regarding procedures, timelines, grants distribution, outreach projects, special programs, etc.) as we operate and grow in the future.

A congregation is as strong, vital and active as its leadership... and I am VERY pleased to serve with all of you.

Diana Tyler — Council President



