

Food for thought from J

January 10, 2021

Have you made resolutions for the new year? If you are like over 50% of the US population, you probably have made at least one resolution in the last few days and furthermore, according to recent surveys, you probably resolved to do something very laudable like:

- Lose weight/get in shape/exercise more
- Eat healthier
- Save more money/reduce debt
- Watch less TV

If these apply to you - way to go! I hope you stick with your resolution beyond the 10-12 days that it takes for roughly 80% of “resolvers” to admit to breaking their new year resolutions. As valuable and worthwhile as these very common resolutions may be, though, what are we planning to do about our spiritual health in 2021?

Over the last year, as we have faced COVID19, the chaos of our recent elections, and the growing unrest that seems to be permeating every aspect of our culture, more and more of the conversations I have with people from all walks of life revolve around concern for our society and over the ever intensifying assault by the secular world on traditional Christian values and lifestyles. “The world has just gone crazy,” is an expression I hear with increasing frequency, often combined with a note of despair and the related question: What can one person do to make a difference?

As we look hopefully toward a 2021 that will be “better” than 2020, let me suggest that the only way to make a real difference in this world is to do it one person at a time, relentlessly seeking to do a better job of living as a witness to the love of Christ in the way we interact with the people around us. And a great way to prepare for this resolution is to embrace those time tested and simple rules from our Methodist founder, John Wesley, who taught us to:

1. **Do no harm.** Be kind and gentle in the way we interact with those around us. Slow to anger. Quick to forgive. Stand strong in our faith but resist the urge to become offended by those who scoff at or belittle our Christian lifestyle and beliefs. Remember the advice of Paul when he taught that “If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.”
2. **Do all the good you can.** Don’t wait to be asked to help out with missions or church activities – volunteer now to serve wherever there may be a need. Be generous with those who ask for help. Take time to listen when people ask for advice or comfort.
3. **Stay in love with God.**
 - i. Commit to a plan for reading the Bible through during the next year. Engage in serious study of what we are reading.
 - ii. Make prayer a central part of life. Resolve to pause for personal prayer at least twice every day. Become a part of a prayer group that meets on a regular basis.
 - iii. Be a regular and enthusiastic worshipper. Commit to being in communal worship with fellow Christians every Sunday. When we worship, sing with joy, pray fervently, and invite the Holy Spirit to minister to us as we worship.
 - iv. Participate in the sacraments joyfully and regularly. Give thanks for the gift of Holy Communion and pray for God’s grace as we receive the bread and cup. Rejoice in the baptism of a new believer, commit to supporting them on their road to sanctification, and remember our own baptism and rejoice.

As we enter a new year of promise, opportunity, and yes, challenge, may we consider these simple rules as a starting point for learning how to be more diligent and faithful in following the example of Christ in our own lives. If everyone who claims to be a Christian would pray seriously for a better understanding of what it means to really follow Jesus and then go forth boldly to live as a true witness to the good news of Christ, what a difference that would make!

Let’s make a difference in 2021.

*The Chancel Flowers are given today
by Dorothy and Mike Johnson in
memory of their parents.*

IN MEMORIAM

James Dryman, Sr.
January 5, 2021

"In my Father's house are many mansions..."

GIFTS OF LOVE

In honor of **Lillian Wright** by Doris Rowe

In honor of **Debi Wright** by Doris Rowe

In honor of **Kem Kendall** by Doris Rowe

MEMORIAL GIFTS

In memory of **Maurice Creek** by Linell & David Pringle

In memory of **Dr. John Horton** by Pam & Bob Gilstrap

In memory of **Charles Kromer, Jr.** by Linell & David Pringle; Carolyn Holland

In memory of **Julia Holland** by Linell & David Pringle; Zane Draughon; Mary Mims; Goodwill Sunday School Class

In memory of **Rev. Edward Woodall, Jr.** by Beverly Schlitzkus

In memory of **Kristi Chriss** by Pam & Bob Gilstrap

In memory of **Jennifer Meacham** by Doris Rowe

In memory of **Rev. Mike McAfee** by Cynthia & Dawson McLemore

In memory of **Harold Moon** by Susan & Tommy Hudson

In memory of **Billy Phillips** by Joanne Cole

JOYFUL NOTES FROM THE CHOIR! 🎵

May God bless you and your loved ones richly, this new year! This Sunday, January 10, we recognize and celebrate Epiphany. Epiphany, from the Greek word epiphaneia, means to manifest. God with us, the Word made flesh in the person of Christ. This brings good news for all people!

The Chancel Choir will bring the message of Epiphany this Sunday. Chorally, we will sing of the fatigue of a long journey to the presence of the Holy child, the excitement of seeing the star, and finally the intimacy of quiet worship.

Seeking the King by Pepper Choplin

"Seeking, seeking the newborn King.
The road is dark, the dust is dry. We find our path by
starlight.
We are seeking the King, we are seeking the King.
Though we are tired, the journey's long, we walk in faith to
carry on.
We are seeking the newborn King. Seeking the King.
We bring gold to crown Him with royalty,
frankincense to show His divinity. We bring myrrh, the
fragrance used when someone dies, though we're not sure
the reason why.
Seeking the newborn King, seeking the newborn King.
Now we are so tired, we've come so far, but now once again
we see the star!
We see the star! Now we rejoice with great joy, we rejoice
with great joy.
we're rejoicing, for now we see the star of wonder, star of
night, star with royal beauty bright. Westward leading, still
proceeding, guide us to Thy perfect light.
Seeking, seeking the newborn King. Seeking, seeking the
newborn King.
And when we find the newborn King, our greatest gift we
then shall bring when we worship the King. We will
worship the King.
Worship the newborn King."

God's Great Peace to You!
Diana B.

BASEMENT NEWS



Youth will meet from 5:30-7:30 p.m.! Please wear masks. Temperatures will be taken at the door.

WYNNTON NEIGHBORHOOD NETWORK

The year 2020 brought many changes to the entire world and of course many changes to Wynnton Neighborhood Network! We no longer require referrals. We permitted clients to come once per month instead of every thirty days, and we permitted clients to come more than the four times we used to allow. We also increased the amount of utility assistance we would provide per family. When we did our traditional Thanksgiving and Christmas food giveaways we continue to follow procedures and will do so for months to come. During this time, we served 3,602 families with 10,388 individuals including 4,354 children. We assisted 353 families with their utility bills, spending \$26,792.19.

CHANCEL FLOWERS

If you are interested in putting Chancel Flowers in the Sanctuary, please call the church office.

Our Known Prayer Concerns:

Sue Rogers	Lexie McRae
Bob and Judy Ottman	Jean Adams
Jennefer Spell	Kathy Draughon
John and Saunders Richey	Ralph Hammond
Brad Trim	Norma Meadows
Glenn Killough	Calleen Gregory
Matthew Allen	

Christian Sympathy for loss of loved one:

Family of Agnes Tew
Family of Julia Holland
Family of Alyssa & Dom Edwards
Family of Renee & Glen Summerlin
Family of Sandy Dryman

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sunday, January 10

11:00 a.m.	Streaming Sunday Worship Rev. J Grantham - Facebook Live
11:00 a.m.	The Link - Fellowship Hall Rev. Greg Harrison
5:30 p.m.	Basement - Youth

Wednesday, January 13

10:00 a.m.	Women's Zoom Bible Study
6:00 p.m.	Community Prayer - Fellowship Hall

Thursday, January 14

6:30 a.m.	Men's Zoom Bible Study
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READING THROUGH THE BIBLE

January 10: Luke 10:1-20, Genesis 17, Psalm 10
January 11: Luke 10:21-42, Genesis 18, Psalm 11
January 12: Luke 11:1-28, Genesis 19,
Psalm 12
January 13: Luke 11:29-54, Genesis 20, Psalm 13
January 14: Luke 12:1-31, Genesis 21, Psalm 14
January 15: Luke 12:32-59, Genesis 22, Psalm 15
January 16: Luke 13:1-17, Genesis 23, Psalm 16

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

10 Barbara Blackwell, Margie Nell White
12 Natalie Hubbard, Jaleen Welch
13 Donna Thigpen
16 Maxwell Bray, Janet Gay, Amelia Toelle,
Wallace Twiggs

SUNDAY'S SERMON

The Year of Epiphany
2 Peter 1:3-15
Rev. J Grantham

PASTOR ON-CALL

For emergencies Jan. 8-10,
Rev. J Grantham 706-681-3258

OUR STEWARDSHIP

12-20-20

General Fund.....	14,489.00
Endowment Fund.....	95.00
Christmas Offering.....	800.00
Carpenter's Way.....	575.00
Other Income.....	110.00
Wynnton Neighborhood Housing.....	300.00
Wynnton Neighborhood Network.....	725.00
Wynnton Arts Academy.....	50.00
Music.....	25.00
Pre-Paid Pledges.....	4,500.00

12-27-20

General Fund.....	6,264.00
Endowment Fund.....	175.00
Christmas Offering.....	800.00
Other Income.....	10.00

1-3-21

General Fund.....	6,553.00
Other Income.....	10.00
