

The Liberty Bell

"To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven:" Ecclesiastes 3:1

Liberty Grove

United Methodist Church



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January 2012

New Year's Resolutions

By Pastor Jeff

I was going to be clever and find 12 perfect New Year's Resolutions for you but we have such a hard time keeping just one or two, that I became more realistic. Jesus gave us the best resolutions of all, in the Beatitudes, found in Matthew 5: 3-12, so for HIS sake let's work on these in 2012.

"Happy are people who are hopeless, because the kingdom of heaven is theirs."

"Happy are people who grieve, because they will be made glad."

"Happy are people who are humble, because they will inherit the earth."

"Happy are people who are hungry and thirsty for righteousness, because they will be fed until they are

full."

"Happy are people who show mercy, because they will receive mercy."

"Happy are people who have pure hearts, because they will see God."

"Happy are people who make peace, because they will be called God's children."

"Happy are people whose lives are harassed because they are righteous, because the kingdom of heaven is theirs."

"Happy are you when people insult you and harass you and speak all kinds of bad and false things about you, all because of me."

"Be full of joy and be glad, because you have a great reward in heaven. In the same way, people harassed the prophets who came before you."

(Common English Bible)



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Sean Kelley, who leads our Junior Church, was graduated on December 21, 2011 from University of Maryland's School of Public Health with a Bachelors degree in Family Science. Congratulations Sean!



No Miriam Circle In January

Miriam Circle will meet on the first Wednesday of February at the church at 10:00. No Circle meeting if it snows! Come join in the fun and fellowship as our new year begins

Birthday Bash for Everyone

Everybody loves a party for their birthday, so back by popular demand, we will have a party on Sunday February 12 after the 11 am service as our Annual All Member Birthday Party.

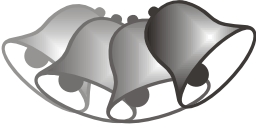
We invite you to bring a dish to share and sit at the table with your fellow birth month friends. It's a good way to meet new people, to find out you share that special month with others and it's a lot of fun and great food. More details to come, but we wanted it on your calendar now, as you fill in new dates in your new book.

It's the Sunday after the Super Bowl. It's President's weekend and you have all of Monday to recover. So plan on joining your Liberty Grove friends for the party of the year.

Please note that "Our Church Family" now includes the prayer chain and all other church membership "Happenings"

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Please try to have articles submitted to the Liberty Bell by the **15th** of each month for the next month's edition.

e-mail to: nancyj4n@verizon.net

or for computer print-outs or *legibly* handwritten entries, place information in the mail slot marked "**Liberty Bell**" in the first floor hallway. Please include your name and telephone number.



Thank you for making our Hat, Coat and Mitten Drive a Success

More than 50 coats and jackets donated!!

Thanks to all those who contributed to this year's Coat, Hat and Mitten Drive! Linkages to Learning requested help in obtaining 36 coats for the children in our community who were in need of coats. Thanks to your generosity, more than **50 coats** and jackets were donated!! And, a large number of the coats donated were new!

Mr. Israel Adetunji, the Case Manager/Site Coordinator at Linkages to Learning, attended our 11:00 o'clock church service on December 20th to express his appreciation for the donations from our congregation at Liberty Grove United Methodist. He mentioned that by having extra coats donated, he was able to give some of the coats to homeless families.

I also want to thank the Riderwood "Needlecrafters" who donated two large bags full of hand-made scarves (34), hats (54) and mittens/sets (22). Together, we were able to collect:

- 37 scarves
- 63 hats
- 31 sets of gloves/mittens
- 22 hat/scarf/mitten sets
- 2 vests
- 6 jackets

I am still going through the last two huge bags donated (to be washed or dry-cleaned) which will add even more items to this count. And, I just found out that four more bags of coats, etc. were donated this past week. Every item donated will go a long way in helping the families who are struggling.

Thank you all for being so kind and generous.

Liz Cole

Extra Campbell's Points Earned, Jan.- March 2012



Place the labels either in the Campbells bin in the Library or the black shoe box in the Narthex. The children's Sunday School program has benefited from the playdough, face paint, water color paints and plants and pots for a mother's day gift that were purchased using Campbell's points. Please continue to bring in V-8 (juice), Swanson (broth), Campbells, and Pepperidge Farm (crackers, cookies, bread) UPC codes.

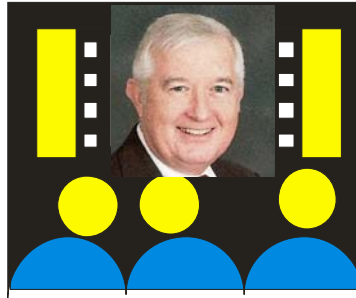
Look for a special sheets on which to collect Campbell's labels in January, starting on the 8th. From Jan. though March we can earn an extra **100 points for each sheet we turn in!! So look for these special collection sheets soon.**

Thanks to all who have been collecting Campbells' Labels for Education. The education drive is still on so we're looking for all the UPC codes you can save.

There is a printed list by the collection boxes if you want to look to see how many other items are also part of the program.



Preacher Feature



Happy New Year to each of you. We have had a great 2011, and now it's time to move into a 2012. Each of us should plan on growing in this new year, to become more faithful and to let our spiritual growth show up in our daily lives by the way we spend our time and treat each other.

Elaine and I thank you for your generous gifts to the staff this year. Thank you so much. We do have an awesome crew and I am delighted to be working with them. Thank you for the support you show them as well.

I pray for us all, to become more and more a part of God's plan to bless Burtonsville and the surrounding communities we come from through our actions and love of neighbors. We each touch several lives and if we are prayerful and aware, we can see ways to offer God's love in those connections, whether at work or school at home or community or in our play and fun times. If we pray more often, "use me O God, in this place and time, give me a word of encouragement or hope in this conversation or situation", we will begin to see God's miracles too.

We often wish we could have been around for a burning bush or the parting of the Red Sea or Jesus feeding thousands or walking on water or raising the dead. But the same kind of miracle is available whenever God is at work in our situations. Let's be more mindful of those possibilities and we will see awesome evidence of God this coming year. Start by praying to hear God's voice more clearly.

I heard God speak clearly to me a while back. I was driving home after watching the Super Bowl at my

brother's house, when I heard a voice tell me to change lanes. I was driving in the left lane of two on the road. I hate driving the curb lane because I feel like I don't have any options available to me from there. Anyway, not once or twice but at least three times I heard, move over Jeff, move over. So when I did, the car crossing

the double yellow line only hit me in the corner of my car, instead of a full impact. I was spared a life or at least a great deal of injury.

A few days later, I was very aware that God had helped me in this case, and I began to wonder what other times God had spoken to me and I hadn't acted upon it? I still try really hard to pay attention to when God speaks to me. It isn't always an audible voice, but the words of advice from friends and colleagues, or a word of Scripture comes to mind at the right moment. This is just as Jesus said it would happen. He said the Holy Spirit would remind us of what we needed if we let him.

So for a New Year's Resolution, let's all ask God to equip us with the voice of the Holy Spirit that we recognize the guidance and warnings and advice God gives us each time we need it.

The great thing about faith in God is that we can begin a new connection to God and a new way to live at any time, it just isn't at or near midnight on Dec. 31, but anytime our hearts and soul is quickened to what God is up to.

May each of you have a great New Year and may each of you see progress in your spiritual journey this year. We follow and Awesome God. All Year Long

Blessings, Pastor Jeff

Belles & Beaux

Belles and Beaux meet the 1st Tuesday of every month at 10:30 a.m. January 3rd will be BINGO and other board games. Watch for more B & B news in future Liberty Bells.



January Worship Themes



We jump ahead thirty years to the **Baptism of Jesus on January 15th** and realize that if we are going to be used by God we need to know what to expect. Jesus began his earthly ministry in Baptism and we will be able to follow his leading by knowing what he did and why.

John Wesley wanted the Methodists to begin each year with a covenant renewal emphasis, which we did on January 1 with Holy Communion. The topic was connected to the topic for the month as we follow the Fruitful Congregational pattern of emphasizing Deepening Faith by following the mind of Christ described in Philippians 2:1-11.

The Sunday nearest the 6th of January is for celebrating the coming of the Magi who followed the Star to come and worship the New Born King. This fits nicely with our desire to grow in knowledge to be able to lead us in the way we should live. So deepening faith, like study of history and astronomy aided the magi, so we too will be guided in life with a commitment to study as a regular part of our spiritual life.

January 22 we study one of Saint Paul's most dramatic lessons about moving into full maturity in Christ. Ephesians 4:11-16 is foundational for a spiritual growth journey. If you hope to become more spiritual in 2012, this is the place to know what to look for.

We have a **newly formed Praise Band and they will be leading our worship on the 29th at 11 am.** One of the key passages of Scripture for the sermon for the whole day is Psalm 42, as a deer pants for water when thirsty, so we will seek to be filled by living water of Jesus. The praise band is open to anyone who would like to sing with them.

Psalm/Prayer Classes

The winter's Pastor's Bible Study will focus on the book of Psalms. This is one of the richest and most exciting parts of Scripture, because we learn how to pray and talk to God about real life in these passages. If you have ever wanted to go deeper spiritually or make any progress in your prayer life, this is how you can do that.

The class will follow the Disciple Bible Study short term class material on the book of Psalms. We will begin on Wed Jan. 11 at 2 pm. The same class will meet on Thursday nights at 7 pm, beginning on Jan. 12. The cost of the study book is \$ 13. They will be available in the Sanctuary after worship beginning now.

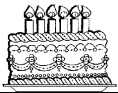


Psalm 90:12

There is a sign up sheet on the pastor's door if you would like to join the class, or you can just come and try it out.

The class format is a combination of video presentations from a scholar and a sample discussion on questions. The class highlights participation and an invitation to ask questions based on your reading or other material related to the passages. No prior knowledge is required, we read ahead and ask when we need help.

The Spring term will cover the book of Romans, a real deep and challenging book from St. Paul but the essence of what we believe. You might want to consider that class too, later on.



BIRTHDAYS

JANUARY 2012

ANNIVERSARIES



- 01 Donald Burke
- 03 Helen Gordon
- 04 Freda Kaplan
Holly Milligan
- 05 Christine Knisley
David Smith
William Smith
- 06 Angela Fling deLeon
Robert Rosenberger
- 07 Franz Shelko
Doris Snyder
- 08 David Burgess
- 09 John Davis
Barbara Miller
- 11 Donna Busch
Joan Taylor
- 12 Julia Flick
Laurie Young
- 13 Michelle Amos
Judy Danaher
Gary Dwyer
Matthew Gudenius

- 14 Phyllis Davis
Dewey Dematatis
Zoe McIntosh
- 15 Steve Arntz
Laura Dudley
- 16 Jen Fling
Lily Greenberg
Katelyn McKiernan
- 17 Alice Cook
Dominique Cook
Kenneth Fries
Mark Johnson
- 18 Brian Anthony
- 19 Kaitlyn Yanka
- 20 Susan Brunsell
Kelsey Edge
Sharon Hawkins
Shamus Kelley
- 21 Joan Keller
Michael Melton
- 22 Ruth DeShazor
Selma Weems

- 23 Anthony Frangoulis
Sue Hines
Doug Russell
 - 26 Mareth Davidson
Todd Newell
 - 28 Jonathan Kieffer
Ade Paseda
Eileen Ulrich
 - 29 Chuckie Dunn
Caitlin McBride
Bill Miles
Roberta Wootten
 - 31 Sara Kohorst
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- 02 Dave & Robin Hart
 - 18 Rob & Molly Bowering
 - 19 Sharon & Russ Tice
 - 20 Carole & Kenneth Oursler
 - 27 Mary & Mike Carroll
John & Bobbi Meyers
 - 31 Michael & Joan Taylor

Prayer Chain

Our Church Family

Happenings

ILLNESS

Ruth Adams
Bob Allison
Gloria Ann Beckett
Roseanne Bender
Mike Berg
Chana
Lori Crawmer
Judy Danaher
Tom Davis
Dorothy Dunn
Owen Dunn
Nemi Falsis
Dorothy Foster
Ginny Garvey
Peg Gritton
Donna Groome
Noah Johnson
Maggie Kelly
Byron Leach
Monica Lercher
Elizabeth Marcoux
Tosin Oyewole
Enver Park
Dwayne/Diane Parris and family
Dave Rodgers
JoLee Rohrer
Jean Skidmore
Michael Smith
Susan Steele
Marilyn Swanson
Selma Weems

NURSING OR ASSISTED LIVING

Doris Brown
333 Russell Ave. #323
Gaithersburg, MD 20877
301-216-4419

Selma Weems ←
Senior Constant Care
1200 W Old Liberty Rd. Room 8
Sykesville, MD 21784
(410) 549-1840

correction

INDEPENDENT LIVING

Ruth Adams
Simpson Meadows, Room 230
101 Plaza Drive
Downingtown, PA 19335
610-518-6427

Marge Crutchfield (lives with grandson)
c/o Barton Sink
39 Offshore Lane
Berlin, MD 21811

BIRTHS

LAYING ON OF HANDS

NEW MEMBERS

CONDOLENCES

If you want to add someone to our prayer list, please call or email

Kathy Curry at 410-480-9343 or kathlynjc@aol.com Please identify who you are when giving a name.

Also please notify her when the name is to be removed. Thank you!