

Mercy Messenger

January 2015

Bethesda United Methodist
Church

“ Loose Lines from Daniel’s Den

Then I saw “a new heaven and a new earth,” for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. ² I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. ⁴ ‘He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death’ or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”

⁵ He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!” Then he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.”

⁶ He said to me: “It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water without cost from the spring of the water of life.

Revelation 21:1-6 (NIV)

Loose Lines from Daniel’s Den

A “fresh start.” “Turning over a new leaf.” A “do over.” These are some of ways we refer to a new beginning or a change in life. It is a moment when we are able to let go of past failures or hardships and look to the future with renewed hope and confidence.

We often attach this kind of meaning with a move to a new community, or school, or job. It could also mark recovery from addiction, or reconciliation between two people whose relationship had been broken. These life transitions are wonderful opportunities for spiritual growth. They are times when we are open to new possibilities and new ways of life. Whether these new possibilities and new ways of life bring us closer to God and closer to the people we love is the key question.

Any new beginning needs prayer, contemplation and discernment. It is not wise to enter into a change in life blindly. We need God’s help and the help of our Christian friends. We need to talk it out and think it out, before we carry it out.

The New Year offers us yet another opportunity for a “fresh start.” As we turn over the last page of our 2014 calendars, we have the opportunity to “turn over a new leaf.” It is good to know that God wants to help us. Just a few days ago, we celebrated this fact when we celebrated the birth of God’s Only Son, Jesus Christ. Through Christ, God has offered us a “do over.” Our past sins can be forgiven and forgotten. With faith in Jesus, we can have a new life. Don’t wait for God to fulfill His promise to make a new heaven and a new earth. Take up God’s offer of new life today!

Have a Happy New Year in Jesus Christ.

Grace and Peace,
Danny ><>

Evangelism Moment

The Meaning of Numbers

Have you ever noticed how pointless numbers actually are? For instance, if I were to give you three, it really wouldn't mean anything. Now, if I were to give you three kisses on the cheek or kicks to the tail, the number three would then take on a whole new meaning. The difference is the units. The unit enables the number to become tangible – something we can relate to. This being the case, numbers means absolutely nothing until a unit is associated with it. In addition to this, units are worthless unless they have meaning. If I were to tell you that I caught a fish that was 30 decimeters long, the first thing you would do is convert decimeters to inches. This conversion would allow you to have an idea of how large or small this fish was and in turn how truthful I was being about my catch. The reason for this is that as Americans, the decimeter really doesn't mean anything to us, but inches - inches we understand. These two points are the main reasons why word problems are used in teaching math. Word problems provide real-world applications which give significance to the numbers.

Let's now look at a real-life example: What if I was to tell you that $\frac{1}{3}$ of 150,000 is 50,000 and $\frac{2}{3}$ of 150,000 is 100,000. Other than being impressed with my mastery of third-grade math, these figures would be meaningless to you. Now let us add in units. Worldwide, 150,000 people die every day. Of these, 50,000 are Christians and go to heaven and 100,000 are not Christians and go to hell. Do the numbers have a little more meaning now? Do you now grasp the severity of these figures?

Although these numbers are statistics and are to be considered approximate at best, they still reveal a shocking reality. Ultimately only God knows who is truly saved and will enter heaven; however, over $\frac{2}{3}$ of the world's population openly profess to not being a Christian and rejecting Christ. Therefore, the fact remains that the majority of people who daily step into eternity, step into a horrific, frightful eternal reality where there is weeping and gnashing of teeth. Fellow Christian, I don't care how you go about it, but do something daily to make this number 99,999.

“Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.” Luke 15:10

Friendly Reminders

Serving in January

January 4	January 11	January 18	January 25	February 1
Greeter	Greeter	Greeter	Greeter	Greeter
Nursery 8:30 Ricky and Gloria Lanier	Nursery 8:30 Keith and Jamie Money	Nursery 8:30 Sonya and Sarah Craver	Nursery 8:30 Patrick and Missy Truluck	Nursery 8:30
Children Church 8:30 NO children's church	Children Church 8:30 Charis Thanos	Children's Church Beth Ray	Children's Church Melissa & Patrick Truluck	Children's Church No Children's Church
Ushers Randall Ashmore—chief James Ashmore Barry Lanning Russell Brown	Ushers Randall Ashmore—chief James Ashmore Barry Lanning Russell Brown	Ushers Randall Ashmore—chief James Ashmore Barry Lanning Russell Brown	Ushers Randall Ashmore—chief James Ashmore Barry Lanning Russell Brown	Ushers James Ashmore—Chief Dean Jarvis Keith Wagner Ken Sink
Flowers	Flowers	Flowers	Flowers	Flowers

Bethesda's GLAD (Giving Love And Dignity) Program

Bethesda's GLAD (Giving Love And Dignity) Program

Sponsored by the Congregational Out-Reach Committee

Mission Purpose: To honor and nurture a Bethesda Church Member who can no longer participate in the church-wide activities on a regular basis with visits, cards, gifts, love, and attention.

Honoree for January 2015

Frances Wagner Leonard – Birthday: April 28

2451 Bethesda Road

Lexington, NC 27295 - Telephone: 336-731-4150

Born on April 28, 1919 to Samuel "Sam" Ross Wagner and Elizabeth "Lizzie" Hayworth Wagner, Frances Leonard has lived her entire life on Bethesda Road. Her sisters are Virginia W. Tussey (deceased) and Rossine W. Weisner. On September 22, 1935 she married Numa C. Leonard (deceased). Frances' descendants are daughters: Carolyn L. Essick (deceased), Crissie L. Pope, Ann L. Hunt Brown, and Debbie Leonard; grandchildren: Pete Essick (deceased), Cecila Essick (deceased), Mike Essick, (deceased), Joe Essick, Fred Pope III, Jane P. Lanning, Donna H. Spencer, Craig Hunt, and Carol H. Stephens; great-grandchildren: Hence Essick, Emily E. McMahan, Elizabeth Lanning, Brandon Lanning, Fred Pope IV, Lauren P. Stalls, Amanda P. Petruzzi, Luke, Isaac, and Seth Spencer, Charis H. Thanos, Bethany H. Kassouf, Aaren, Melissa, Martha and Hannah Hunt, Nate and Susan Stephens, great-great-grandchildren: Dylan and Macy Essick, Gabe, Luria, Aven, and Michael Thanos, and Ericson Kassouf.

Frances received her education from Welcome School and married her high school sweetheart. She became a housewife and helped her husband farm and operate a dairy. A life-time, faithful member of Bethesda UM Church, she helped to organize the children's department and served as its superintendent. Frances also served on various committees within the church as well as pianist and organist for decades. She is a member of Bethesda UM Women and is the Church Historian. The church history room is named in her honor.

Some activities that Frances enjoys are scrap booking, using her computer and writing in her daily journal. Flowers and pictures bring her joy; her favorite colors are pink and blue. Her favorite TV show is Lawrence Welk, plus she likes the news and the Weather Channel. Favorite foods are chicken, mini moon pies, and ice cream bars; she has no dietary restrictions. The Bible is her favorite book. She enjoys listening to piano and organ music.

Please remember Frances in prayer, in sending her cards, and in visiting her.



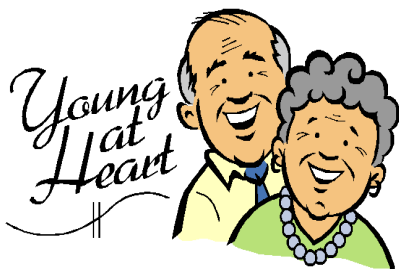
Dear Bethesda Church People:

Thank you so much for giving me the opportunity to use your church for my Christmas concert to bless people with the talent that the Lord has given me. I would like to thank all the people who helped me, and especially the Evangelism Committee for making this possible for me. May God bless each of you this Christmas and in the New Year.—Freddie Craver

I want to thank everyone for the birthday cards, words of wisdom and the prayers from caring hearts. They are deeply appreciated and well needed in the trying times that I am going through. With God's guidance, my family's love, and the church community's prayers, I will make it through and be a better person with changed beliefs and become a stronger man for my family and community and be able to walk with God's grace and mercy in my heart. Thanks again for the letters, cards and prayers. God Bless, Paul Butler

*Ladies Bible Study will
resume on Monday,
January 12 at 10:00 AM*

**Quilting Circle meetings will
resume on Tuesday January
6th! All are welcome to join.**



**The Young at Heart will meet on Thursday.
January 15th at 10:00 AM**



- 2—Alma Craver
Kathryn Yokley
- 3—Clark Darr
Sherrill Waisner
- 4—Phillip Brown
- 5—Alice Clodfelter
Susan Pope
- 6—Jarrett Warner
- 7— Kathin Beane
- 8—Emma Carter
- 11—Mackenzie Boyles
- 12—Casey Williams
- 13—Tony Lanier
- 14 - Jordan Wilson
- 16—Jane Beeson
- 17—Reid Everhart
Charles Wallace
Tommy Sowers
- 19—Nicole Hinkle
Scott Troutman
- 20—Keyton Riggs
- 21—Allison Brandon
Jeremy Taylor
- 24—Sydney Kincaid
- 25—Megan Blanton
Allyson Shoaf
Michaela Whitman
- 27—Traci Jarvis
Roger Berrier
- 28—Jake Boles
- 29 - Jared Edge
- 30—Art Leonard
Bonnie Money
Eli Moore
- 31—Ethan Sink



Prayer Requests

Family & friends:

Ginger Grubb, Keith McCrary, Wally Butler, Butler children, Bethy Knopf, Lupe Perez, Darrel Shoaf, Ronald Myers, David Tedder, Henry Fritts, Tonya Lanier, the homeless, the poor, the Lost; family of Bill Russell, Larry Kincaid and family, Carol Mason, unspoken, Jodi Burton; Darrell Shoaf

Praise: Jason Thomas's recent scans came back clear

Shut-ins: Irene Barnes; Jack Merritt; David Pugh; Camelyn Surratt; Jean Wagner; Elsie Wager; Joe and Theola Essick; Nancy McCrary; Rex Everhart; Norma Day; Drusilla Everhart; Reid Everhart; Frances Leonard; Josephine Wagner; Sonny Williams

Good Shepherd Clothes Closet



The first Sunday of each month is a collection day for clothing, towels shoes, bedding and children's clothes for the Good Shepherd Clothes Closet. Bring your clothes on the first Sunday of each month and place them in the Fellowship Hall . Make sure you bring them by Noon on that Sunday.

United Methodist Women



BUMW is forming a new day circle. Circle of Faith will meet the second Tuesday of each month at 10:00. Their first meeting will be January 13th in the church parlor. Circle of Hope will be our only night circle and will continue to meet the second Tuesday of the month. We will have our meeting on January 13th at 7:00 in the church parlor. We also have the Circle of Joy that meets the second Thursday of each month at 10:00 and the Friendship Circle (quilting circle) meets every Tuesday at 8:30. Please come join one of our circles for spiritual programs and Christian sister fellowship! BUWM will continue to accept clothing donations for the Good Shepherd Clothes Closet on the first Sunday of each month. If you would like to have a receipt for your donation please contact Teresa Sink and give her an itemized list and value of donated items.

MISSIONAL NETWORK NEWS

Our Missional Network has started a new ministry called **“Traveling Christians”**. This will be a ministry targeting travel ball families/teams. Many of these families are away from church on Sunday for tournaments and some of them don't attend church even when they are home (the fields are white for the harvest). Some of the coaches have taken it upon themselves to offer devotions. Now, you can argue that they just should not play ball on Sunday... but let's face it, travel ball is here to stay for a while. Traveling Christians will do what Jesus commanded in the great commission, **“Go!”** We are going to Go, take the Gospel, to the ball fields, arenas, gymnasiums... wherever the teams and families are.

If you are the coach of a travel team or if you have a child (children) playing travel ball and you would like to get involved to bring this ministry to your child's team please email me your name, phone number and email address. We need pastors involved also to help plan the curriculum. This is for ALL sports. The steering committee (which is cross denominational) for this ministry is: Kelly Carter, John Snyder, Jeremy Mabe, Mark Clodfelter, Pastor Eddie Evans, Pastor Karen Roberts and Pastor Steve Pillsbury and Debbie Berrier. **The steering committee will meet on December 7th at 6:00 at Center UMC fellowship hall to review the list of volunteers and make plans for a meeting with all of them.** Please prayerfully consider this ministry. John, Jeremy and Mark already do a flavor of this for their teams. They have nothing for praise and are excited to see this ministry take off. **Let's have a good representation from Bethesda.**

You can email your contact information to: debbie.berrier@walkerfirst.com you may send me your information or get it to your pastor or another member of the steering committee above. Please feel free to share this outside our churches. The more people involved the better and we welcome representation from all area churches. We just need to have the contact info on anyone interested in participating.



January 2015 Opportunities

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 Worship Service 8:30 & 11:00 AM	5 Guitar 7:00 PM Unhanging of the Greens	6 Quilting Circle 8:30 AM Praise Team Practice 7:00 AM	7 Choir Practice 7:30 Youth 7:00 PM	8 Circle of Joy 10:00 AM Volleyball 6:30 PM Praise Team Prac-	9	10
11 Worship Service 8:30 & 11:00 AM	12 Ladies Bible Study 10:00 AM Guitar 7:00 PM	13 Quilting Circle 8:30 AM Circle of Faith 10:00 am Circle of Hope 7:00 pm Praise Team Practice 7:00 AM	14 Bells 6:30 PM Choir Practice 7:30 Youth 7:00 PM	15 Young at Heat 10:00 AM Volleyball 6:30 PM Praise Team Prac- tice 7:00 PM	16	17
18 Methodist Men 7:00 AM Mission Moment	19 Ladies Bible Study 10:00 AM Guitar 7:00 PM	20 Quilting Circle 8:30 AM Praise Team Practice 7:00 AM	21 Bells 6:30 PM Choir Practice 7:30 Youth 7:00 PM	22 Volleyball 6:30 PM Praise Team Prac- tice 7:00 PM	23	24 COM PLan- ning
25 Worship Services 8:30 & 11:00 AM	26 Ladies Bible Study 10:00 AM Guitar 7:00 PM	17 Quilting Circle 8:30 AM Praise Team Practice 7:00 AM	28 Bells 6:30 PM Choir Practice 7:30 Youth 7:00 PM	29 Volleyball 6:30 PM Praise Team Prac- tice 7:00 PM	30	31