

FROM THE PASTOR
Dr. Marshall Cook

By the time you receive this newsletter Christmas will be a memory and the New Year will either be anticipated or already begun, so let me wish you a Happy New Year!

The beginning of a new year always seems to give us hope that this year will be better than the previous year. Just look at the numerous traditions world-wide that seem to give credence to such hopes. Fresh pork is a tradition in many homes on New Year's Day because the pig gets-up feet first, symbolizing entering the new year on a forward thrust. Spaniards gather at midnight. As the old clock strikes midnight, each person eats a grape with each strike, believing this brings luck for the new year. And a recent superstition that appears to be gaining a following is that if you don't see at least one football game on New Year's Day, you will have bad luck the rest of the year.

All of these customs illustrate the need people feel for a fresh start in their lives. A new year seems like it is another chance to begin again. Perhaps that's why making resolutions is always so popular at the start of a new year.

I like a list of resolutions prepared by the Rev. Walter Schoedel. He calls them "7-UPS FOR THE NEW YEAR." This has nothing to do with the beverage. These 7-UPS fall under the heading of attitudes and actions.

The first is WAKE-UP. Begin the day with the Lord. It is His day. Rejoice in it.

The second is DRESS-UP. Put on a smile. It improves your looks.

The third is SHUT-UP. Watch your tongue. Don't gossip. Say nice things. Listen.

The fourth is STAND-UP. Take a stand for what you believe. Do good.

The fifth is LOOK-UP. Open your eyes to the Lord.

The sixth is REACH-UP. Spend time in prayer.

The seventh is LIFT-UP. Be available to help those in need.

A PRAYER FOR THE NEW YEAR

Our dear God of love and care,
Another year of our lives has passed.
Please take from our hearts the burden we bear
Of the "luggage" we held so fast.

Resentment, envy, self-pity, and pride,
Help us forget all our fear.
Help us to put away things that abide
To hinder the joys of this year.

May we put behind us all of the old
To make room for the new ahead.
The New Year is filled with days of gold,
If we look for the good instead.

No more of the luggage of the past;
A new year beckons us on.
Please help us to make it a better one
Than the old year that is gone.

We pray for Your guidance and care
In all that we undertake.
Please help us to follow You everywhere
Through this bright New Year, for Christ's sake.

-Lucille Calhoun Stewart

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Our prayers are with all who are ill or who are recuperating from an illness or medical treatment. Those recently hospitalized include Don Rogers (Lawnwood).

We thank everyone who helped decorate the church for Christmas and those who helped light the Advent candles. If you would like to help take down the decorations, we plan to do so Wednesday, January 13, starting at 10:00 a.m.

Saturday, December 12, some 55 people from church traveled by bus to the First Baptist Church of Orlando to see their annual production of the singing Christmas trees. It was quite a presentation! We thank Janis Gonzales for organizing the trip.

"I would like to thank everyone for the cards, phone calls and prayers sent to me during my recent illness. They were very much appreciated. God bless you all." Ginger Morse

IN OUR PRAYERS

Katharine Gordon, Kathy Schaaf, Lillian Williams, Jennifer Gray, John & Ann O'Connor, Keith Baker, Robert Schneider, Julia Culbertson, Marge Hauer, Audrey Studholme, Betty Laudenslager, Hannah Boudreau, Jim Allan, Elsa Purcell, Sandy Bethune, George & Mae Tynes, Joshua Lewis, Gerry Brown, Linda Rivers, Don Rogers, Luis Galiana, Nancy Richards & Family, Bob Tryon, John Gagliardo, Doug MacWilliam, Amanda Cebe & Family, Patty Kafka, Al Smith, Steve Sabecki, Dennis Russell iii, Mercedes, Del & Bev Russell, Joseph Vaughn, Molly Vonderau, Ginger Morse, Peter Mina, Joyce Shephard, Jean Donahue, Jim Amitrano, Adeline Macie, Dick Sinotte.

Poinsettias Gracing the Altar

Sandra Cohen in honor of family
Elaine Souza in memory of John Souza
Diana Junker in memory of Carol and Carl
Dick and Carol Sinotte in honor of family and friends
Lindsey and Becky Miller in honor of our wonderful parents
Carol Mina in memory of Lillian Guilmette
Tom and Joyce Maybury in memory of our parents
Peggy Goldacker in memory of parents, brother, John Goldacker
Martha Pease in memory of Mom, Dad, and husband
Patricia Bryant in memory of husband and Dad
Pat Allen in memory of Jack Sullivan and Ken Allen, Jr.
Dickie Brooks in honor of this wonderful church family
Doug MacWilliam in honor and memory of parents
Clyde and Audrey Embling in memory of parents and Donald
Don and Carolyn Rogers in honor of family and memory of Eric Rogers, Anna Mae Rogers, and Annetta Coffman
Frank and Elsa Purcell in honor of family and friends and memory of Art and Dottie Millard
Jim and Charlotte Fritz in honor of our family
Barbara Tuzes in memory of Richard Tuzes
Linda Lawver in memory of beloved husband, Del Lawver, and in honor of recently departed Uncle Don and Aunt Betty
Humphrey Family in memory of all our loved ones
Bob Evans in memory of loved ones



HOPE ...

**It is often in the darkest skies that we see the
brightest stars – Richard Evans**

Castle Gifts & Enjoyment Books (Peggy Goldacker)

Thank you so much for the donation of many toys and goodies for the children at Castle. They have been delivered and are much appreciated!

Also, we still have Enjoyment Books on hand. If we sell 12 more, we will have sold 80 and that would break a sales record and yield a wonderful donation amount for our church!

Mission Report (Becky Miller)

The Mission Committee would like to thank all those who wished the Church Family a Merry and Blessed Christmas through support of the Christmas Mission tree. We wish you the best in 2016!

From “How the Grinch Stole Christmas” (shared by Elaine Souza)

And the Grinch, with his Grinch-feet ice cold in the snow, stood puzzling and puzzling, how could it be so? It came without ribbons. It came without tags. It came without packages, boxes or bags. And he puzzled and puzzled ‘til his puzzler was sore. Then the Grinch thought of something he hadn’t before.

**What if Christmas, he thought, doesn’t come from a store?
What if Christmas, perhaps, means a little bit more?**

FROM SPENCE

For the morning: to begin the day. Choose any five of these and make them a theme for your day. As days and weeks go by you will be more happy and more satisfied with who you are:

Today I will concentrate not on where I do not want to be but on where I want to go.

Today I will cultivate my mental garden.

My inner resources are greater than my needs.

God has called me to peace, 1 Cor. 7:15

I am floating in a sea of eternal strength.

I shall be opportunity minded not problem minded.

Positive thoughts produce power.

What my mind has created my mind can change.

I am responsible for my life.

I shall expand my awareness to make wiser choices.

The value of my life is increasing.

I am capable.

I am searching for the ideas that matter.

I shall eat only that which satisfies hunger not emotional needs.

I shall approach others with love.

Today I shall say something nice to somebody

or

Today I shall do something nice for somebody.

Women's Fellowship (Grace Carboni)

This year's Christmas Bazaar was a huge success. Through the hard work of so many dedicated church members, our grand total was \$3,145.20. This amount could not have been achieved without the generous church-wide fellowship of our members, both men and women. Thank you.

At this Christmas time, a very special member of the "our" fellowship, **Diana Junker**, is honored with our appreciation, respect and love. In her role as president of the Women's Fellowship and a Deacon, she has demonstrated Christian leadership, devotion and goodwill. Thank you, Diana, for all you do for us.

The next Women's Fellowship meeting is Tuesday, January 5, 2016, starting at noon with a brown bag lunch. Bring a small item for our Chinese Auction. A delicious dessert and coffee will be provided for all. This meeting is open to all women of our church. Please come and help us plan the rest of our events.



Raffle Prize Winners

Bob Evans – small musical clock
Shirley Goodwin – large clock
Lois Calhoun – quilt
Marilyn Kneller – picture
Marshall Anderson – picture
Mary Ann Hower – quilt
Janis Gonzales – picture
Bradley Miller – hummingbird picture

JANUARY

BIRTHDAYS

1st **Ken Noone**
8th **Dickie Brooks**
11th **Darlene King**
16th **Carol Mina**
21st **Bob Sternal**
22nd **Bob Bater**
24th **Leone Bater**

ANNIVERSARIES

26th **Charlie & Dot Basdekis**

MARSHALL'S OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday – Friday 1:00 to 4:00
772-465-2082

You may feel free to contact him at any time at
772-340-0472

Please call before stopping by the church in case
he is out calling on people.

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DEADLINE THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EVERY MONTH

You can drop off articles in the newsletter mailbox
at the Church or give Elaine Souza (772-462-2272)
or Dickie Brooks (772-971-1370) a call.

Thank you!

CHRISTMAS 2015

Dear Members and Friends,

Christmas time 1999. Do you remember? Many were dreading 12:01 a.m., January 1, 2000. Many were afraid of Y2K, a computer glitch that conceivably could cause computer systems around the world to fail when the year 2000 began. It was feared that power systems would fail, ATM machines, gasoline pumps, trains and airplanes would stop. There were some who predicted the world would end and Christ would come again. There were news stories about people moving out of cities to farms so they could be self-sufficient.

People were stocking up on food, closing out bank accounts, buying portable generators, selling their stocks, in order to protect themselves from any dire consequences.

Of course, Y2K never happened. Our fears were groundless. Today, however, there is a new fear, the threat of terrorists. The killings in Paris, Colorado Springs and Santa Barbara have many on edge, wondering where and when will be the next attack.

Do you remember the song, "Who's Afraid of the Big Bad Wolf?" The song became enormously popular with Americans fighting the Great Depression in the 1930's. The song was in Walt Disney's animated cartoon, "Three Little Pigs," which opened at New York's Radio City Music Hall in May 1933. Disney expected a good response but, to his disappointment, critics and audiences were ho-hum about it.

Then the lightning struck. After the movie was shown in other theaters, it suddenly caught on. Radio stations and band leaders were asking Disney for permission to play one of the songs featured in the film.

The song soon swept the country as a hopeful response to the Depression. Even President Roosevelt said the movie was one of his favorites. This was during the time when Roosevelt was telling Americans that the only thing they had to fear was fear itself.

And Roosevelt was right. The only thing most of us have to fear is fear itself. How much better it is to approach life with faith rather than fear.

Think how often in the Christmas story we read, "Fear not!" "And the angel said to the shepherd, 'Fear not; for, behold I bring you good tidings...which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord.'"..."Fear not, Mary... the Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee"..."Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife."

Fear not! That is one of the messages of Christmas. So do not be afraid of the future-whether it be the dawning of a new year, or the process of aging, or your health, or terrorists. There is One who was born in a manger in Bethlehem who will never forsake us and who will give us the courage we need.

May you be aware of God's presence this Christmas and throughout the new year. May you and your family have a blessed and merry Christmas.

Enclosed is a special offering envelope for those who wish to express their joy for the meaning of Christmas and for our church.

Yours in Christ,
Dr. Marshall Cook

COUNCIL MEETING DECEMBER 20, 2015

The meeting was opened at 12:10 P.M. with an opening prayer by Rev. Marshall.

CLERK'S REPORT: Dickie asked if there were any changes to the report. There wasn't any and the minutes were approved as read.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Carol spoke for Brian. She said all bills are paid and Brian had to tap into our funds to pay for some bills due to the repairs. We have had some contributions to the roofing fund.

PASTOR'S REPORT: Marshall is going to work up a letter to bring to the next meeting about giving to a roofing fund. We need to come up with some money raising ideas. He'll talk to Janis about possibly a music concert or something.

DEACONS' REPORT: The Egg Nog Party is all set for New Year's Eve. We will need finger foods. The Service is at 7:00 P.M. January 13th we'll need help to undecorated the church.

TRUSTEES' REPORT: Repairs will start this week on the church.

PROPERTY REPORT: The windows have been sealed and the trees have been trimmed.

MUSIC REPORT: No report.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP REPORT: We had a great BAZAAR with the great effort from everyone. There is a busy schedule coming up the next few months. January 5th will be our next meeting and we will have a Chinese auction. Lent is early this year so if we have Wednesday night suppers, a Valentine's supper and then into St. Patrick's Day supper, we will be very busy.

OLD BUSINESS: The web site info is coming along with Dickie and her husband willing to get it started and it was voted to go ahead with their plans. There is a site that the UCC has and also they are going to work up something for Face Book.

The next meeting will be January 17th. The meeting was closed with a prayer at 12:35 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Joyce Maybury, Clerk