



NBUMC NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2011



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The View From Here

by Pastor Pam

In just a few short days, the year 2010 will slowly melt away and 2011 will begin. I think there's always a sense of hopefulness that we feel when Jan. 1 arrives. It may pass as the weeks and months go by, but I think most of us begin a new year wondering what it will bring and hoping that good things...better things lie ahead. No doubt, there will be many wishes and expressions between now and New Years among friends and family for a happy New Year. And I think usually when someone says, "Happy New Year," they are expressing the hope that it will be a good one from a material point of view. They are wishing us a year of happiness and prosperity when the truth is that both can be at times hard to come by or at least short lived.

One way to begin a new year is by considering what it says about our own mortality. Time keeps moving on. Another year has passed. Our days vanish quickly and will eventually expire altogether. There will come a day for each of us when there is no new year to celebrate in this life. A new year is also an opportunity not just to *hope* that things will be better in the next 12 months, but it is an opportunity to remind ourselves of those non-material realities that are essential for living well, things like faith, hope and love.

The new year may or may not bring an abundance of prosperity or happiness. But without a growing faith in God, prosperity and happiness are meaningless over the long term. The presence of prosperity in this life has nothing to do with the next life. It is entirely possible to be materially prosperous and spiritually poor. Whatever else we possess in this life, without faith, we cannot live well. Not some kind of vague, ill-defined belief in fate or luck or the lining up of the stars, but faith in a creator God who loves us so much that he was willing to actually join us on this planet, become

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a human being who suffers all that we suffer and so much more in order to draw us back to himself. We cannot live well in this life without believing that no matter what happens to us, God loves us and that nothing and no one will ever be able to separate us from that love. When we have God's love for us firmly impressed upon our hearts, than nothing can destroy us.

And so, rather than wish you a happy new year, I will wish you a faith-filled year. I wish for you a year of spiritual prosperity with God, a year of growth in the knowledge of God's love for you and an *expansion in your love* for God. Because when our faith is strong, we can withstand anything. As Paul said, "I can do all things through him who strengthens me." So may you be strong in the Lord in 2011 and in the strength of his might.

THANKS!

To all those who had anything to do with making our annual birthday party for Jesus a success...to those who baked, who decorated, who helped lead games, make crafts or make music, thank you. Ten children came to our party a week before Christmas. Four of them were from outside our church. This is just one way God gives us to make disciples of Jesus Christ.

Thanks also to the congregation for its generosity as exhibited through your financial gift this Christmas to me, Pastor Pam. May God bless you, not just financially, but spiritually this coming year as you seek to walk with him.

Greeters

<i>Jan. 2</i>	<i>John & Carol Ruth</i>
<i>Jan. 9</i>	<i>Pat Lewis & Michael Witte</i>
<i>Jan. 16</i>	<i>Steve & Brenda Lehr</i>
<i>Jan. 23</i>	<i>Laurel Peterson & Chelsea Lehr</i>
<i>Jan. 30</i>	<i>Carol Bequette & Ruth Chaput</i>
<i>Feb. 6</i>	<i>Larry & Pam Buck</i>

Liturgists

<i>Jan. 2</i>	<i>Allen Williams</i>
<i>Jan. 9 & 16</i>	<i>Terry Mason</i>
<i>Jan. 23 & 30</i>	<i>George Mason</i>
<i>Feb. 6 & 13</i>	<i>Larry Buck</i>



PANCAKE BREAKFAST

January 15

6:30 – 10:00 a.m.

***Your help would be
appreciated!***

Prayer Chain Update

We will be updating our prayer chain contact list for the new year. This is a list of people who volunteer to be called to pray for urgent needs and also contact others on the list to pray. If you are not currently on the list but would like to be included, or if you are on the list and would like to be removed, please contact Joan Witte.

New Sunday School Study

Our Adult Sunday School class will begin a new 5-part video series on Jan. 9, entitled *God Heard Their Cry*. All are invited to join us as renowned teacher and historian Ray Vander Laan guides us through the land of the Bible. In each lesson, Vander Laan illuminates the historical, geographical, and cultural context of the Scriptures to help us better understand them and become true followers of Jesus. In this eighth volume of Faith Lessons, filmed on location, discover how God answered the cry of his persecuted people and proclaimed himself LORD to them and their oppressors when he led them out of Egypt.

Bible Reading Guides

At this time of year when many people make New Year's resolutions to eat better or get in shape, why not make it a resolution this year take care of your spiritual health as well as your physical health? One way to feed your spirit is to try to read God's Word every day. If you would like to make that one of your goals for this year, we have made it easier for you by putting out daily Bible reading guides. If you follow these guides every month, you will read through the entire Bible in a year. The readings do not go straight through the Bible, but are organized in a way to make them easier to follow for someone who has never read through the entire Bible before. If you would like to give it a try, you can pick up a reading guide next to the bulletins at the entrance to the sanctuary.

Recycling Update

Thanks to everyone who has been donating aluminum cans for recycling. This past year we raised \$67.38, all of which has gone to our food pantry to purchase perishable items for needy families. As a reminder, the recycling center takes **clean beverage cans only**. Please do not include other items, such as pet food cans, pie tins, or aluminum foil, as these are not accepted and must be sorted out. If you have not been participating in this ministry but would like to start, simply drop off your aluminum cans in a bag by the can bin downstairs, where they will be collected.

Calendar & Events

January 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

- January 2 8:00 am Praise Team
 7:00 pm Youth Group
- January 4 7:00 pm Trustees
- January 5 7:00 pm Finance
- January 6 7:00 pm Choir
- January 9 8:00 am Praise Team
 7:00 pm Youth Group
- January 11 7:00 pm Administrative Council
- January 13 7:00 pm Choir
- January 15 6:30-10:00 a.m. Pancake Breakfast
- January 16 8:00 am Praise Team
 7:00 pm Youth Group
- January 18 7:00 pm UMW
- January 20 7:00 pm Choir
- January 23 8:00 am Praise Team
 7:00 pm Youth Group
- January 25 7:00 pm Worship Committee
- January 27 7:00 pm Choir
- January 30 8:00 am Praise Team
 7:00 pm Youth Group

January Birthdays

- Sarah Ruth 5th
- Kay Jackson 13th
- Ralph Bann 19th
- Rene Davis 21st
- Donna Billhartz 24th
- Jill Weibel 31st

January Anniversaries

- Dennis & Shirley Strake 20th
- Glenn & Laurel Peterson 27th

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