

From the Interim's Pastor's Desk...

A poem for the New Year.

HELP ME TO BELIEVE IN BEGINNINGS

God of history and of my heart,
so much has happened to me during these whirlwind days:

I've known death and birth;
I've been brave and scared;
I've hurt, I've helped;
I've been honest, I've lied;
I've destroyed, I've created;
I've been with people, I've been lonely;
I've been loyal, I've betrayed;
I've decided, I've waffled;
I've laughed and I've cried.

You know my frail heart and my frayed history –
and now another day and year begins.

O God, help me to believe in beginnings
and in my beginning again,
no matter how often I've failed before.

Help me to be a beginning for others,
to be a singer to the songless,
a storyteller to the aimless,
a befriender of the friendless;
to become a beginning of hope for the despairing,
of assurance for the doubting,
of reconciliation for the divided;
of comfort for the sorrowing,
of friendship for the forgotten;
of gentleness for the angry,
of wholeness for the broken,
of peace for the frightened and violent of the earth.

Help me to believe in beginnings,
to make a beginning,
to be a beginning,
so that I may not just grow old
but grow new
each day of this wild, amazing life
you call me to live.

Adapted from "Help Me to Believe in Beginnings" in *Geurrillas of Grace—Prayers for the Battle* by Ted Loder, Luramedia, San Diego, 1984.

Many blessings for the New Year!
Diana

First Presbyterian Church
721 Church St.
Jefferson City, TN 37760

STEWARDSHIP OF THE EARTH

Martha Sanders, in her Social Entrepreneurship Seminar last semester, spotlighted the relationship between stewardship and recycling. Too often when we think of stewardship, we only think of stewardship campaigns that focus on financial support of a church's mission and expenses. Martha points out in her paper on Recycling and Stewardship that being a good steward can also involve stewardship of the earth. In quoting the Presbyterian Church (USA)'s Environmental Policy, Martha reminds us of the importance of caring for creation: "God's work in creation is too wonderful, too ancient, too beautiful, too good to be desecrated."

The figures from Martha's paper remind us how important recycling is. "Every day in the United States, we produce about 4.3 pounds of trash per person. Americans generate about 250 million tons of trash per year but only recycle (and compost) about 87 million tons (about 34% of that 250 million tons. Recycling (and composting) in 2013 saved as much energy as 10 million U.S. households would use in 12 months.

Jefferson City has a very extensive recycling program. Plastics coded 1-7, cardboard, all colors of unbroken glass, aluminum and steel cans, and a variety of paper (office, newspaper, magazines, junk mail, phone books, and file folders) all can be recycled in Jefferson City. We have Single Stream Recycling which means that all recycled materials

can be mixed together in a recycling container and they are sorted at an automated processing facility.

We will be posting signs close to our recycling containers with pictures that display items that can be recycled. I encourage everyone to recycle as much as possible.

Diana

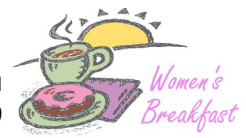
(Many thanks to Martha Sanders for her work on this important topic.)



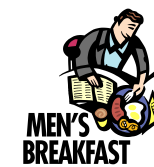
Announcements

WOMEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST

The Women's Prayer Breakfast will meet on Saturday, January 14, from 9:00-11:00 a.m., at the home of Linda Noonkesser (2015 Greenbriar Rd., Talbott). Call Linda at 865-216-0715 or Debby at 423-277-3420 if you have any questions. Bring your Bibles and join us.



MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST



The next breakfast for the men in our church family is scheduled for Saturday, January 14th, at 8:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

YOUTH AND PARENT MEETING

On Sunday, January 15th, during the Sunday School hour Diana will meet with the youth and their parents about the calendar for the remainder of the year. Please plan to be at this meeting. If you have any questions, please call the church office.



FAMILY NIGHT SUPPER



Our January Family Night Supper is scheduled for Wednesday, January 18th, beginning at 6:30 p.m., in the Fellowship Hall. This month's program will feature the Annual Meeting of the Congregation. We will hear reports on church programs and activities for the year just past, as well as plans for the new year. Bring a dish and join us!

SIT 'N KNIT

Sit 'n Knit will meet on Friday, January 20th, at 7:00 p.m. Please watch your bulletins and email as the date approaches for the location of this month's event.



ALL COMMITTEES MEETING



On Wednesday, January 25th, at 6:30 p.m. ALL committees will be meeting in the Fellowship Hall. If you are on a committee for 2017, please plan on being at this initial meeting.

THANK YOU FROM THE STAFF!!

We would like to express our gratitude to everyone in the congregation for the generous Christmas gift. We are touched by your thoughtfulness and extremely appreciative. Thank you!! We wish you all a Happy and Healthy New Year!!
— Diana, Heather, Angie, and Tiffany

PRAYER CONCERNS

SPECIAL CONCERNS:
 Neal Beck and his family
 Terry Jaros
 Kenneth and Mary Winslow
 Chet and Carol Bergman
 Seth Beck and Shelly
 Craig Belton, Mary Ellen Patton's son
 Carolyn Armstrong, Arlene Peck's sister
 Skylar McMillan, Diana's great-niece
 Brent Sykes, son of Kent and Susan Clouser
 The Pastor Nominating Committee
 Kathy, Dick Gombert's daughter
 Ina Hoxha Carhart, friend of the Zirkles
 All members of the military and their families, especially those stationed overseas.

MISSION INTERESTS FAR AND NEAR:
 Hope Unlimited Recovery House
 Safe Space Samaritan House
 Jefferson Rural Clinic Ruth Brown
 Bruce and Deb Robinson, mission co-workers in Haiti
 Hillary Reneau, Bili Ledgerwood's granddaughter, who is a youth missionary in Swaziland, Africa

ILL AND RECOVERING:
 Evelyn Hance, friend of Kay Rutherford-Williams, who has been diagnosed with cancer
 Hafsa Hoxsa, friend of the Zirkles, who has been diagnosed with breast cancer
 Russ Weekley, former pastor of FPC, who is recovering from open heart surgery
 Agnes Farrar, Judy Watkins' aunt, who has been diagnosed with cancer
 Frank McGhee, Beth Folsom's brother
 Leonard Bakker, Rich and Connie Harlan's son-in-law
 Barbara Hayes, Cindy Moses' aunt
 Kitch Lewis, Kay Gowan's sister, who has been diagnosed with cancer
 Tanya, Roxanne's sister, who has been diagnosed with breast cancer
 Kathy Miller, Del Deaton's sister
 Stephanie Hortman, family member of Eva Zirkle, chest-wall tumor is growing and she has developed neurological issues

IN RESIDENTIAL FACILITIES:
 CHANDLER HOUSE: Argie Saylor, C.R. Vest
 HERITAGE CENTER: Bonnie Young
 JEFFERSON COUNTY NURSING HOME: Celeste Reneau, Lucille Tinsley
 SIGNATURE HEALTHCARE of JEFFERSON CITY: Charlie May Bozeman, Paulette Bozeman, Pat and Mary Ellen Patton

**ANNUAL FAMILY RETREAT & SKI WEEKEND
 JANUARY 27-29, 2017**

For more information, please call the church office at (865) 475-2761. Return this sign up sheet with payment by Sunday, January 15th.
DUE TO RENOVATIONS THE HANDICAP ACCESSIBLE ROOMS WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE.

Retreat cost includes 2 nights lodging and 4 meals. (Saturday breakfast, lunch, and dinner and Sunday breakfast)
 Childcare during group times and during ski times will be available.

OPTION A (Non-Skiing)
 1ST PERSON: _____ \$100
 2ND PERSON: _____ \$75
 3RD PERSON: _____ \$45
 4TH PERSON: _____ \$45
 YOUR TOTAL \$ _____

OPTION B (Skiing Saturday Only)
 1ST PERSON: _____ \$170
 2ND PERSON: _____ \$145
 3RD PERSON: _____ \$120
 YOUR TOTAL \$ _____

OPTION C (Skiing Saturday & 1/2 day Sunday)
 1ST PERSON: _____ \$220
 2ND PERSON: _____ \$195
 3RD PERSON: _____ \$170
 YOUR TOTAL \$ _____

FINANCE REPORT		
MONTHLY INCOME		
DECEMBER 4	\$4,352.00	
DECEMBER 11	\$1,965.00	
DECEMBER 18	\$5,737.00	
DECEMBER 25	\$3,033.00	
TOTAL	\$15,087.00	
<i>(\$18,048.75 is needed monthly to meet budget)</i>		
2016 INCOME/EXPENSES		
2016 ACTUAL		
INCOME	\$194,914.67	\$216,585.12
EXPENSES	\$186,107.73	\$221,368.04
YTD INCOME OVER EXPENSES: \$8,806.94		

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Communion Sunday School 9:30-10:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:45-11:45 a.m.	2 OFFICE CLOSED	3	4	5	6 David Nowell	7
8 Sunday School 9:30-10:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:45-11:45 a.m. Rachel Shockley Phil Williams	9	10 CHURCH STREET CAFÉ 5:00-6:30 P.M. Danny Bates Gail Twine	11 SESSION 6:30 P.M.	12 Heather Hill	13 Doug Moody	14 MEN'S BREAKFAST 8:00 A.M. WOMEN'S BREAKFAST 9:00 A.M.
15 Sunday School 9:30-10:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:45-11:45 a.m. Ellison Berryhill David & Melissa Needs	16	17 Abby Reagan	18 FAMILY NIGHT SUPPER/ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION AND CORPORATION 6:30 P.M.	19	20 SIT 'N KNIT GROUP 7:00 P.M. NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	21
22 Sunday School 9:30-10:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:45-11:45 a.m.	23	24 CHURCH STREET CAFÉ 5:00-6:30 P.M. Kay Rutherford-Williams	25 ALL COMMITTEE'S NIGHT 6:30 P.M.	26 Libby Gardner Jennifer Gowan Travis Folsom	27 FAMILY RETREAT Margy King	28
29 Sunday School 9:30-10:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:45-11:45 a.m. FAMILY RETREAT Lucille Tinsley	30 Dianne Reagan Carolyn Berryhill	31				