



Bethel Beacon

JANUARY 2019

New Beginnings Make New Endings

by Cathy Irvin

I recently saw this quote, "No one can go back and start a new beginning, but anyone can start today and make a new ending" (Unknown). I really began to think about that statement. The conclusion was that we don't start over; but we begin again right where we are, making things better in our lives.

As a believer in Christ, it is not about saying I will do this, and I won't do that and then dropping the idea or falling short. It is more about asking the Lord to help us each day, to fall deeper and deeper in love with Him; this way our focus will be set on the things of heaven and not on all this earthly stuff.

This year I am determined to make Him my all and all. He wants our undivided attention despite the distractions and temptations that lie waiting around the corner. He must be our focus.

Do you want a new beginning, middle and ending this year? If you're not a Christian, please know that this could be the best New Year of your life. Your life can be filled with hope and peace. To know what the ending will be is an extra bonus. Why should every year be the same as the one before with nothing really changing? After all, the New Year resolutions may or may not get accomplished.

If you are a Christian and you feel stagnate in your relationship with the Lord, then now is the time to rekindle the love affair with Him. He calls us to Himself and says, "Come away my beloved." Can you hear Him? He is tugging at your heart. The real ending in our life will be when Jesus says well done my good and faithful servant. That statement will be for someone who took the time to get to know Him, love Him, and then obediently followed Him.

Happy New Year!

Laughter Is Good for the Soul

A little boy opened the old family Bible and flipped through the pages. Suddenly, something fell out. What he saw was an old leaf that had been pressed in between the pages.

"Mom, look what I found," he said.

"What have you got there dear?"

"I think it's Adam's underwear!"



Mission Focus Pot-Luck Supper

Come learn about Salem Presbytery's mission partnership with a children's home and feeding program in Nairobi, Kenya. Some participants from the autumn mission trip will share their experience with us. Bring a dish to share for supper. Drinks and dessert will be provided. Please let Pastor Paul know by January 20 if you are likely to attend.

Peace of Christ,
Reverend Marybeth Asher-Lawson
Springwood Presbyterian Church



McLeansville Lions Club

Cookies for Santa was a lot of fun because of the many children visiting Santa, participating in the hayride, and playing together. Parents and friends had a great time in fellowship and catching up with each other after years going in different directions. Thanks for coming out and supporting the Lions in this community event.

The next McLeansville Lions Brunswick Stew will be January 19. The cost of the stew is \$7.00 and can be preordered by calling 336-697-1600 or talking to Jimmie Flippin. Stew pickup is 10:00 am to 2:00 pm on January 19.

The McLeansville Lions knew the January/December stew would be over a month apart, so we made extra stew in December and froze it in quart containers. Anyone wanting stew now, stop by L&O Body Shop or see Jimmie Flippin and we will get you stew as long as our supply lasts. With the cold snowy days, the stew has been enjoyed by many so get your stew now.

Evangelism Committee

As we begin this new year, our objective is to create an interest in our church and to take God's message to as many people possible. We plan to improve what we do by developing new methods and tools to meet this objective. We have worked on updating the Bethel Church brochure and will have it available soon. Then we will provide the brochure to you to pass out when opportunities arise. Our first meeting will be on January 9, 2019 at 1:00 PM in the Education Building. We will also be developing our plans for the year. Everyone who has an interest and desire to assist in this important mission is welcomed to join us!

Stewardship and Finance Committee

The numbers for the month of November are as follows:

Giving:	\$7,200.76
Expenses	\$7,295.87

Those are amazing numbers! We spent less than \$100.00 more than we gave! Thank you for your continued support of our mission and ministry here at Bethel as you faithfully continue to give of your time, talent, and treasure.

The numbers for January-November are as follows:

Giving:	\$75,896.26
Expenses.	\$84,756.44

Even though those figures are not as close as we would like for them to be, we are still grateful for what God allows us to do in His name.

At the time the January Beacon is being printed, we haven't completed the month of December, but we're hopeful that we'll have a good ending to 2018. We're still grateful that we have not had to transfer any funds in order to meet our monthly expenses all this year. God is good and continues to bless Bethel through your faithfulness.

This committee welcomes anyone who would like to join us in 2019. We meet the 2nd Monday of the month at 7pm. So, come join us on Monday, January 14th.

Clerk of Session

The Bethel Presbyterian Church Session met on December 2, 2018 in the Fellowship Hall. The session meeting was opened with a time of prayer and worship. The meeting's highlights and motions approved follow:

- 2018 Annual Reports for Bethel Committees are due February 1, 2019 and will be published separate from the Beacon.
- Rev. Paul Rhodes and Jimmie Flippin attended the Presbytery meeting in Blowing Rock on November 13, 2018. The Presbytery meeting was a busy meeting including the discussion of the motion regarding Racial Reconciliation and Justice which was modified from the first motion we received and was passed by Presbytery, discussion of the Dream Team recommendations for Presbytery reorganization, and changes in the Presbyterian Constitution which will be voted on in February 2019.
- Session established January 6, 2019 for the ordination and installation of Elders for the Class of 2021.
- Session authorized the replacement of the office printer which has broken.
- Communion will be served at the Christmas Eve Service.
- Since Bethel does not need to cut wood for the BBQ, property committee suggests that the wood splitter is no longer needed. Property committee will discuss options with Pam Ring.

Next session meeting is the Session Retreat on January 12, 2019.

Elders: Class of 2019-Scott Amoriello, Betsy Green & Barbara Thompson
Class of 2020-Ralph Alexander, Marilyn Hartis & Sharon Smith
Class of 2021-Eva Allen & Stephen Stiles

Ministry Committee

It has been a busy year of fellowship thru family meals, Meals for Neighbors, Golden Gang and hospitality refreshments. We thank you for your support by attending these functions. We thank you for your donations of time and man/woman power given along with the delicious foods brought to make our fellowship together so enjoyable.

A special thanks to Sue and Jim Flippin for organizing the Golden Gang outings and to Beth Andrews for cooking and organizing our meals.

We hope to enjoy fellowship with everyone together in supporting the works of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, in this new year. Thank you.



Ladies at Bethel prepared eighteen fruit baskets to deliver to shut-ins. The baskets were delivered while caroling on December 16th.

Missions Committee

A Call to Christian Missions Work for 2019-The Missions and Outreach Committee invites any and all who have an interest in helping others both locally and abroad to join our committee. Our task is to educate the congregation on needs at home and elsewhere and to meet those needs by providing monetary and non-monetary assistance.

We support 4 denomination-wide Special Offerings each church year as well as the quarterly Pennies for Hunger offerings. In addition, we research Christian mission project opportunities and select several to fund. We also support those in our community in emergency situations with financial assistance. Aside from financial support, we strive to fulfill needs that require “hands-on” help. We also address local hunger needs with 2 food drives each year to stock the local Elementary School food pantries. Other projects include the Warming Tree and the Hands for Hope collections for clothing, toys, books, toiletries, etc.

The Missions Committee is responsible for orchestrating the Annual Bethel Yard/Bake Sale which is always enjoyed by those who help and shop!

Our first meeting of 2019 will be held in the church parlor on January 10 at 3:30 pm. Please contact Barbara Thompson if you are interested in joining the committee or have questions (336-456-3684).

Volunteer Opportunity –McLeansville Elementary School needs you! Would you like to mentor a child?

A mentor is someone who plays a role of a teacher, coach, advisor or just a friend. In addition to motivating and inspiring young students, mentoring has been shown to have some of the following positive benefits: 1. lower dropout rates, 2. increase graduation rates, 3. enable healthier relationships and lifestyle choices, 4. encourage higher educational aspirations, 5. enhance self-esteem and self-confidence, 6. improve behavior and interpersonal skills and 7. decrease the likelihood of initiating drug and alcohol use. Mentoring takes place during school hours. Only a few hours a month can really make a difference in a young child’s life.

If you are interested in becoming a mentor, please contact Barbara Thompson to discuss and hear about the requirements.



Hear Our Prayers O Lord!

Illness: Annie Alcon-hip, Frances Alcon, Lynda Hinshaw-disc & nerve, Paula Hoeger, Becky Lowdermilk-pacemaker, John Nix-hip replacement delayed by blood clot surgery, John Paisley-fall/stitches, W.R. Smith-hip/rehab, Jay Brookshire-bone infection, Brenda Brown, Judy Hankins-eye, Gerald Williams-psoriatic arthritis, Cindy Adkins-stage 4 cancer, Bill Aldridge, Eula Mae Carter-breast, lung & kidney cancer, Sheila deVitry, Barbara Durham-cancer, Gene Hackney-cancer, Gail Hooks-pancreatic cancer, Larry Idol-chemo, Rose Jeschke-hospice, Molly Johnson-lung cancer, Charles Long-cancer returned, Debbie Moore-cancer, Sarah Oakes-cancer in hip, Jeff Perkins-MS, Taylor Petty-thyroid cancer, Rodney Ramsey-cancer, Ed Rich, Jr.-cancer, Sue Ryan-cancer, Jimmy Sloan-cancer, WR & Jean Smith, Lane Teague-lung cancer

Grieving: Family & Friends of...Lee Forbis Conrad, William Twoomey and Erna Lorenzen



January



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 	2	3  Education Committee Meeting 7 PM	4	5
6 Epiphany of the Lord  Communion  Installation & Ordination of Elders	7 Chrismon Tree to be taken down at 6:30 PM	8	9 Evangelism Committee 11 AM 	10  WORSHIP COMMITTEE 7 PM Missions Meeting 3:30 PM 	11	12 Session Retreat 8 AM-5 PM Fellowship Hall 
13 Baptism of the Lord	14 Finance Committee Meeting 7 PM 	15	16	17 Companions Circle 6:30 PM	18	19 Helen Sheets 
20  Beacon Articles Due by Noon	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 Danny Morton 	28 Mike Bowman 	29 Anita Broome  Rob & Anita Broome 	30	31 John Paisley 		

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

PARSONAL PONDERINGS

And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new..."

Revelation 21:5a

For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God.

Romans 8:20-21

The New Year is a traditional time for reflecting on the year that has passed and looking forward to the year that is coming. Sometimes we make plans or resolutions for the new year. Hopefully we also take time to count our blessings in the old year, even – maybe especially – when the year has been hard. Where have we seen God? Where has he given us joy? Where has he carried us through hard times that we weren't sure we could handle? Where have the blessings been more ordinary, yet blessings all the same?

Looking forward to the new year is also a good thing. Now and again we need to pause and evaluate the directions of our lives, and the New Year is a good reminder and time to do so. Am I happy with my priorities and how I am living them? Are there things I'd like to do better, or differently? Are there new things I'd like to try or experience? Are there bad habits to break or good habits to establish? If we are gentle with ourselves and have a good mix of realistic expectations and hope and determination to grow, this is healthy, especially if we do it in conversation with and cooperation with our Lord.

When we converse and cooperate with God, he will often lift the eyes of our hearts to look beyond just the new year, and to look beyond just the "now and not yet" that we live in. It is worth looking beyond this life into the life that is to come, both for ourselves and for all Creation. When I do so, I find not only joy in great hope and confidence for our destiny, but also greater sense of purpose in the present.

I find it significant that God on the throne says, "I am making all things new", not "I am making all new things". To be sure, there is a tension in the wording of Scripture in various places that both talks about a new heaven and new earth since the old have passed away, and other times speaks of the restoration of all things. But the more I read and ponder, the more I anticipate – with all creation – that God's big plan is not destruction and replacement but rather restoration in Christ. We already believe this in terms of people and gives us hope and even joy amidst our grief in the death of loved ones. Scripture like Romans 8:20-21 and many of those in the prophets and the words of Jesus himself point to restoration for Creation as a whole. The evil will be purged and destroyed, but the good of those who and that which submits to the grace of Jesus Christ will be restored to the way they were intended. That is well beyond the way that everything in this current world experienced existence, including the earth itself! And I believe that it points to this reality:

Nothing that is good in this life will be permanently lost.

May you have joy!

Pastor Paul