

Courier

FROM ME TO YOU . . .

As we begin the New Year, I am considering our congregation's future.

Later

this month, I will turn 60 years old. If God blesses me to live and stay healthy,

my plan is to retire from full-time ministry in ten years. I am aware that time

is ticking by. As one who loves God and this congregation, I don't want to

limp to the finish line. I want to hand off the baton to a new pastor, confident

that this congregation is growing, healthy, and effectively carrying out our

mission. I want to help our congregation refocus our mission and ministries to

become more effective in what God is calling us to do and to become.

Here are some preliminary steps:

- 1. Logo. We are using the new Church of God logo.**

2. Website. We are switching to a new website provider to make our website more appealing, powerful and user friendly. We are saving money in the process.

3. Motto. Instead of the dated "Exalting, Evangelizing, Equipping - We Care."

Our motto is: "Loving God and Others." We will update our printed materials

and signs as time progresses. Loving God and Others is based upon the Great Commandments of Jesus found in Matthew 22:37-39.

4. Mission Statement. "Our mission is to assist persons in becoming mature, reproducing, followers of Jesus Christ who love God and others."

5. Refined Ministry Strategy: Our current strategy lacks, focus, alignment and clarity.

Our refined strategy is to emphasize four priorities.

Growth in Loving God requires placing priority upon:

***Weekly Worship**

***Daily Devotions**

Growth in Loving Others requires placing priority upon:

***Growth Group**

***Meaningful Ministry**

Similar simple strategies have been proven effective in many growing and healthy churches.

My Strategic Goals:

Here are some goals that I am working toward right now.

- 1. Communicating our Mission Statement and Strategy.**
- 2. Creating a "Starting Point" group for persons who are new to the church.**
- 3. Developing a Leadership 101 group to train growth group leaders.**

4. Developing a regular schedule and curriculum for growth group leader training and support.

5. Utilizing a simple Personal Growth Assessment to assist you in progressing

on the four priorities. This will be a low key, twice per year experience. It

will be a simple and private self-evaluation but your growth group leader will

assist you if you want help.

6. Creating a growth group that targets young adults. (Young adults and their

children are the key to rebuilding our children's Sunday School.)

7. Communicating current opportunities for you to better participate in growth

groups and ministries.

8. Creating a list of resources to assist you in your daily devotions.

9. Helping our congregation understand and apply our mission and strategy.

Pray that we will be more effective than ever as we seek "to assist persons in becoming mature, reproducing, followers of Jesus Christ who love God and others,"

Enjoy a blessed New Year!

Love,

Pastor Randy

YOUTH NEWS

PRAISING, IMITATING CHRIST

Words of Wisdom

"Going to church doesn't make you a Christian any more that standing in a garage makes you a car." -Billy Sunday

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Sunday morning Bible Study - Studying lessons in the book of James

Flash-point - EPIC Youth's Sunday night meeting at 5:30-7:30 pm. We gather for a meal and then have a night of bible study, prayer, sharing and fun. Come join us!

UPCOMING EVENTS

January 10 - First CREATION planning meeting*

January 23 - Financial Class for youth and parents?

February 13 - Youth led Valentine Dinner/Fundraiser (dinner/babysitting)?

More to come!

EPIC YOUTH WEBSITE :[HTTP://CHCOGEPICYOUTH.WEEBLY.COM](http://chcogepicyouth.weebly.com)

Contact Michael or Sue for more updates and information

THE EARLY CHURCH

A believing Church

An obedient Church

A steadfast Church

A praying Church

A worshiping Church

A joyful Church

A praising Church

An effective Church

A growing Church

Enter expectantly,

Breathe prayerfully,

Worship reverently,

Relax restfully,

Greet others cordially

Leave thoughtfully,

Come again soon.

SPIRITUAL ACROSTICS

"He who guides himself has a fool for a follower"

JANUARY - FEAR (neg)

What kind of a lifestyle is healthy? I would think one living doing the right things

with Jesus at the center. Amen! Well, unfortunately living in today's world this

could be a little difficult. But only if one chooses this road to walk on!

"Enter

through the narrow gate, for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction and there are many who enter through it. For the gate is small and

the way is narrow that leads to life and there are few who find it." (Matt. 7:13 -14)

I think the saddest words of these verses are at the end which read,

"...there are

few who find it." Shame on us for not actively working evangelism and even more

shame on the one who sees, hears and doesn't believe! Why? Because the easy road always leads down. What is one of the biggest excuses you may hear one say when

you witness to someone when asked, "Do you want to ask Jesus to be Lord and

Saviour of your life?" I mostly hear that "I'm not done having fun yet!"

What are

they afraid of? Losing their freedom, not having fun, they may have to change or

is it simply the name JESUS?

The Israelites standing at the shore of the Red Sea with Pharaoh's army looking

down upon them on the hill behind them they felt scared, confused and wanted to

run! But run where? They were trapped and have already forgotten everything

that God had just done for them. Just as in my life. There were times that one

would share the Gospel with me in my past. I would listen only to make fun
when
that person walked away. Yvonne's grandmother was a warrior in sharing
Christ
with us. Again we would listen, make fun and walk away. I didn't see this
then like
I see it today is that those who do not learn from their mistakes tend to
repeat
them. Now you can see how in one's life today either a non-believer or a
believer
how negative fear can play a huge part in their lives. As we live our lives
today in
real live moments we deal with our negative fear by forgetting everything
and run
from false evidence appearing real if we choose too. The secret to getting
ahead is getting started which is living our lives in positive fear which is a
later story to
help us find . . . that narrow road.

In Christian Love,

Bro. Jeff <><

An Alphabetical Name and Address Listing is available for you in the Foyer.

Pick up a copy. Updates may be available as information changes.

Thanks to the ladies who prepared a delightful evening for the Secret Pal/Sister Revealing covered-dish. Did you have a clue about who she was? I sure didn't! FUN!

Have you noticed the messages on the bulletin boards? That's the work of the Food Pantry ladies. Thank you!

Special THANKS to Donna Marion for the sanctuary curtains! Nice work!

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Sometimes we fail to see the doors that are opened around us because we are staring so long at the closed door that has been shut.

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I AM THE NEW YEAR

I am the new year. I am an unspoiled page in your book of time.

**I am your next chance to practice what you have learned about life
during
the last twelve months.**

**All that you sought and didn't find is hidden in me, waiting for you
to
search it out with more determination.**

**All the good that you tried for and didn't achieve is mine to grant
when you
have fewer conflicting desires.**

**All that you dreamed but didn't dare to do, all that you hoped but did
not will,
all the faith that you claimed but did not have - these slumber
lightly,**

For you trivia folks check this out . . .

INTERESTING BIBLE FACTS

*What is the shortest chapter in the Bible? Psalm 117

*What is the longest chapter in the Bible? Psalm 119

*Which chapter is in the center of the Bible? Psalm 118

*Fact: There are 594 chapters before Psalms 118

*Fact: There are 594 chapters after Psalm 118

*Add these numbers up and the total is 1188

*What is the center verse in the Bible? Psalm 118:8

*Does this verse say something significant about God's perfect will for our lives?

HAPPY JANUARY BIRTHDAY!

8 Brian Yadlosky

9 Alexa Watts

11 Patty Fogle

13 Donna Marion

18 Annette Boyer

22 Jonathan Watts

30 Colton Dull

Pastor Randy Huber

CHUCKLES . . .

Back in the days, did you know . . . Personal hygiene left much room for improvement.

As a result, many women and men had developed acne scars by adulthood. The women would

spread bee's wax over their facial skin to smooth out their complexions. When they were

speaking to each other, if a woman began to stare at another woman's face she was told,
'mind
your own bee's wax.' Should the woman smile, the wax would crack, hence the term
'crack a
smile.' In addition, when they sat too close to the fire, the wax would melt ... Therefore,
the
expression 'losing face.'

Now you know.

My mechanic told me: "I couldn't repair your brakes, so I made your horn
louder."

The colder the x-ray table, the more of your body is required to be on
it.

My grandmother was a very tough woman. She buried three husbands - and two of
them
were just napping.

During a children's sermon, Reverend Larry asked the boys and girls what the word

"amen" means. Little Chucky's hand shot up, "I know," he chirped. "It means, 'Tha-tha-tha-that's all folks!'"

Our favorite restaurant tried to get cute by putting the time of the early-bird special

in Roman numerals.

At 4 P.M. there was a line out front of people waiting for bottles to hook up to their IV's.

ANOTHER YEAR IS DAWNING (a hymn)

Frances Ridley Havergal, 1836-1879

It is always challenging to approach a new year and to realize anew that our days upon this earth are so rapidly passing. How important it is that we pause with the psalmist and pray for a "heart of wisdom" that will enable us this year to live each new day in a way that brings all glory to our God.

In January of 1874, the many friends of Frances Ridley Havergal received a New Year's

greeting with the heading, "A Happy New Year! Ever Such May it Be!" Following this greeting appeared her text, still considered to be one of the finest New Year's prayers of consecration

ever written:

Another year is dawning, Dear Father, let it be, in working or in waiting another year with

Thee; another year of progress, another year of praise, another year of proving Thy presence

all the days.

Another year of mercies, of faithfulness and grace, another year of gladness in the shining

of Thy face; another year of leaning upon Thy loving breast; another year of trusting, of quiet,

happy rest.

Another year of service, of witness for Thy love; another year of training for holier work

above. Another year of dawning, Dear Father, let it be, on earth, or else in heaven,

another

year for Thee. Amen.

One can well imagine that those who received this greeting card from Miss Havergal that year read her words thoughtfully. They were written by one who had become widely known throughout England as "the consecration poet." It was said of her that she always lived her words before she wrote them. Her life was one of constant and complete commitment to God. Her many talents -- an accomplished pianist and vocalist, proficiency in seven languages, a keen mind (memorization of the entire New Testament, Psalms, Isaiah, and the Minor Prophets) -- were all dedicated to serving God and others during the new year. May that be our challenge for this new year as well!

Begin this new year with a fervent prayer such as the one written by Frances Havergal that God will give your life a renewed purpose and power as you earnestly seek to represent Him in a worthy manner.

**THANK YOU for taking the time to read the Chapel Hill Church of
God**

January 2016 *Courier!* May you have a blessed day in the Lord!
