

PFAFFTOWN CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)
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Church Staff

The Rev. Gerald Thomas
 Pastor

The Rev. Tim Shoaf
 Minister of Music & Programs

Traci Canter, Office Administrator



Volume 3, Number 7

January 2020

THE VISITOR



Sundays, 9:45 a.m.,
 Downstairs Fellowship Hall
HOW THEN SHALL WE LIVE?
FOUR SIMPLE QUESTIONS THAT
REVEAL THE BEAUTY AND
MEANING OF OUR LIVES
 by Wayne Muller

We all long to experience a sense of inner wholeness and guidance, but today's notions of healing and recovery too often keep us focused on our brokenness, on our deficiencies rather than our strengths. Wayne Muller gently guides us to the place where we are already perfect, already blessed with the wisdom we need to live a life of meaning, purpose and grace.

January 5: Who Am I?
 January 12: What Do I Love?
 January 19: How Shall I Live, Knowing I Will Die?
 January 26: What Is My Gift to The Family of the Earth?



Annual Birthday Luncheon

In honor and celebration of our church family birthdays, we will have our Annual Birthday Luncheon in the Upstairs Fellowship Hall on Sunday, January 26, following the Worship Service. This will be an enjoyable event as you share with others who celebrate birthdays the same month as you.

Lunch will be provided consisting of a salad bar, baked potato bar, homemade soup, and of course, birthday cake for everyone!



Lenten Study
Supplies for the Journey
The Basics We Carry With Us
 Six Sunday mornings during Lent
 9:45 a.m. Sign up in the Narthex.

Lent is a season of heightened commitment to our faith. You are invited to join a special Connect Group on Sundays in Lent as we examine the basic matters of faith Christians carry on their journey.

Study Topics:

March 1: Christian. What's In a Name?
 March 8: Following Jesus
 March 15: The Bible
 March 22: Making Our Prayers to God
 March 29: Worship
 April 5: Life in a Church

We will begin on Sunday, March 1 and conclude on Palm Sunday, April 5. Persons who sign up are asked to commit to being present every Sunday during this study as an act of increased devotion during Lent. Each participant will receive his/her own study guide. Each guide also contains devotional guides for each day of the week.



SERVERS FOR January, 2020

If you are unable to serve, please contact someone to switch with you or call Lynda Bryant at (336)924-4223 or Jo Stanley at (336)813-2522

ELDERS: Tony Bryant, Beth Faircloth

DEACONS: Betty Barker, Jack Bryant
Robert Flynt, Lorrie Bennett

COMMUNION: Lorrie Bennett,
Jackie Romanello

OPENING AND CLOSING: Tony Bryant

*Thank you for your part in ministry at
 Pfafftown Christian Church!*

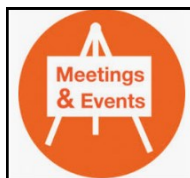
As Way Leads On To Way

When I was a child, an elderly man named King I. Evans would come to various church and association meetings and give all the children a gift: an ink pen with scripture printed on the side. He would place the pen in our hands with this admonition: "Now you are to memorize this scripture and when I see you again, I will ask, 'What's your verse?' If you can tell me, I'll give you another pen." Mr. Evans never forgot a face. Or maybe he gave pens to every child in sight. Whatever the case, he always caught up to you, asking, "What's your verse?"

I was determined to not be caught flatfooted. My verse was Proverbs 3:6 and I recited it everywhere I went for weeks. And so it was, when Mr. Evans saw me on the street, I responded to his question with "In all thy ways acknowledge him and he shall direct thy paths." I got another ink pen, and another verse.

At some point, the ink pens went away because Mr. Evans' life gave out. But I have never ceased to get another verse. They come to me in Bible reading or some sermon or Connect Group lesson, and I'll think, "They should put that one on an ink pen." I slide it into the pocket of my mind. Growing older, I've never ceased to get another verse, which is a good thing because life never ceases to present another challenge.

Mr. Evans wasn't giving out ink pens. He was passing out life preservers to children too inexperienced to know that on some days, the waters are going to be too deep to stand up on our own. – GT



Staff Meeting

January 8 ~ 11:00 a.m.

The Gathering

January 8 ~ 6:00 p.m. - DFH

Elders' Meeting

Tuesday, January 14 ~ 7:00 p.m. - DFH

Pastor Relations Committee Meeting

Thursday, January 16 ~ 7:00 p.m.

(Pastor's Study)

CWF Meeting

Tuesday, January 21 ~ 6:30 p.m.- DFH

Annual Birthday Luncheon

Sunday, January 26 ~ After Worship Service ~ UPH

Board Meeting

Sunday, January 26 ~ 2:00 p.m. DFH

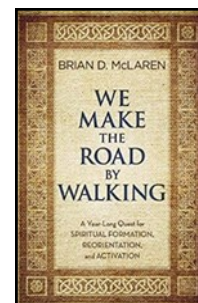


Beginning this month, we are beginning a new challenge for *everyone* to memorize a new Bible verse each month. II Timothy 2:15 instructs "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." January's Memory Verse is:

**I WILL INSTRUCT THEE AND TEACH
THEE IN THE WAY WHICH THOU
SHALT GO: I WILL GUIDE THEE WITH
MINE EYE.
PSALMS 32:8 KJV**

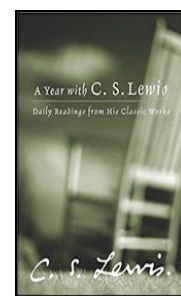
Off the Shelf in the New Year

Two recommendations to use reading as a part of your devotional/meditation time:



*We Make the Road by Walking:
A Year-Long Quest for Spiritual
Formation, Reorientation, and
Activation* Jericho Books, 2014
By Brian McLaren

The fifty-two weekly readings can each be read aloud in 10-12 minutes, and offer a simple curriculum of insightful reflections and transformative practices. Organized around the traditional church year, these readings give an overview of the whole Bible and guide an individual or a group of friends through a year of rich study, interactive learning and personal growth.



*A Year with C.S. Lewis:
Daily Readings from His Classic Works*
HarperSanFrancisco, 2003
By C.S. Lewis
Ruminating on such themes as the nature of love, the existence of miracles, overcoming a devastating loss, and discovering a profound faith, Lewis offers honest insight for each day of the year. One will also find interesting biographical information about Lewis' life sprinkled throughout the pages.

Notes from Tim

"You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste--its strength, its quality--how can its saltiness be restored? It is not good for anything any longer but to be thrown out and trodden under foot by men." (*Matthew 5:13*)

Salt was a commodity familiar to the people of Jesus' time. It was used as a bond of hospitality. Since it was scarce, it was valuable and very precious. Sometimes soldiers were paid in salt.

Salt is used as a seasoning, a preservative and an antiseptic. As a seasoning salt, it adds flavor and zest to the food. It also prevents decay. And it has a healing quality. Salt has an important work to do but does it inconspicuously.

Jesus called His disciples the salt of the earth. We are a savoring influence, a preservative in the world against evil. We are the salt of the *earth*. As Christians, we should have an effect for Jesus Christ on those about us. Salt also makes people thirsty. Are we salty Christians, making others thirst for Jesus Christ?

Since 1911, the Morton Salt Company has kept as its slogan *When it rains it pours.* "As you now, it shows a little girl with an umbrella in the rain. Salt is *pouring* out on the earth from the box she is carrying in her arms.

As we have just celebrated the Christmas season, we see that God has poured out Himself for humankind when in love beyond measure He sent His Son to become the Savior of the world. Jesus poured out Himself for a sinful world when He died on the cross.

Salt is not effective unless it is applied. So, too, we are not effective for the Lord unless the love of Christ so constrains us that we are willing to be poured out in service for a world in need of Jesus Christ.

Grace and peace to you. *Tim*

Remembering in Prayer



Rose Tara: Vallie Cline
Brighton Gardens:

Edna Williamson

Church Family: Bud Barker, Pat & Frank Barber, Tommy Timmons, Garland Terry, John Grice, Mary Ferguson, Ed & Connie Snuffer, Julie Tilley, Jodi Saunders

Others:

Jason Alexander: Jack & Mary Groff's friend
Haley Burns: Skip & Jo Stanley's friend
Chuck Burleigh: Skip & Jo Stanley's friend
John Davis: Ken and Vicki Davis' friend
Tommy Disher: Traci Canter's Uncle
Jennifer Durham: Irma & Fred Muetzel's granddaughter

Geraldine Edwards: Ann Fletcher's aunt
Jan Everton: Jo Stanley's sister
June Fulton: Jill Robertson's friend
Elaine Grice: John Grice's sister
Betty Haddock: Sharon Binkley's mother
Cayden Kingsbury: Rodney Stilwell's grandson
Chuck Kolstad: Evelyn Nifong's son-in-law
Margaret Laudine: Ann Fletcher's friend
Sharon Linscott: Gerald & Marlene's friend
Ramon Mandry: Pat Millsap's family
Doug McClay: Marlene Thomas' uncle
Sue Miles: Jo Stanley's friend
Tina and Charles Norman: coworker,
Scott Robertson and Skip Stanley

Dene Pitts: Traci Canter's friend
Daniel and Lewis Shields (infants):
Jill Robertson's friends
Darlene Stewart: Ann Fletcher's sister
Heather Stokes: Jill Robertson's niece
Joy Stokes: Jill Robertson's sister
Emory and Ella Thomas: Gerald Thomas' parents
Judy West: Ann Fletcher's cousin

Loved Ones in the Military:

Joshua Hughes, Norfolk, VA.
Chase Lee, Guam; USS Key West;
Major Hope Poster, NG, Texas;
Cpt. John G. Van Hoy IV, Fort Campbell, KY.





Dear Gerald Thomas and Members:
On behalf of Durham VA Health Care System's patients, volunteers and staff, we would like to extend our appreciation to you for your donation of winter coats for our homeless Veterans. It is through the efforts of community partners like yourselves that allow us to continue the quality care and services that we seek to provide our deserving Veterans. We look forward to the opportunity to work with you again in the future. Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,
Ronnie Miller, Chief, Voluntary Service,
Durham VA Health Care System

The Worship Committee would like to once again thank the Chancel Choir, and our "Special" Bell Choir for yet another magnificent Cantata, under the direction of our own Tim Shoaf. We are so blessed to have each of you and appreciate the time you dedicated to this outstanding performance.

We are so grateful to Pastor Gerald for his leadership in the worship portion of the service, and others who participated throughout the Cantata.

This is truly a time for Thanksgiving!

Our sanctuary and outside grounds look absolutely beautiful. We thank all who made this possible.

The reception following the Cantata was a perfect time to visit with church family and guest, while enjoying the beautiful decorations and delicious food provided by Evelyn Nifong and her team of volunteers. We are so grateful to each of you.

We hope all of you will join us on Christmas Eve at Five O'clock for a most meaningful candlelight service.

In conclusion, I leave you with this thought: "If every-day could be just like Christmas in our hearts, what a wonderful world this would be"!!

We wish you all a Merry Christmas and the hope and blessings a new year has to offer.



There is something about the start of a new year that gives us the feeling of a fresh start and beginning but in reality, we all know there is no difference between December 31 and January 1. The common New Year's resolutions are to lose weight, manage our money better, pray more, read our Bible more etc.; however, these resolutions often fail because there is no real power in a New Year's resolution. Resolving to start or stop a certain activity has no value unless you have the proper motivation. For example, *why* do you want to read the Bible every day? Is it to really honor God and grow spiritually, or is it simply because you've been told, "it's just the thing you should do".

Philippians 4:13 tells us, "I can do all things through Him who gives me strength". John 15:5 declares, "I am the vine, you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing." If God is the center of your New Year's resolutions, they have a greater chance for success if it is coupled with your commitment. If it is God's will for something to be fulfilled, He will enable you to fulfill it.

So what kind of New Year resolutions should a Christian make? Here are a few suggestions: 1) pray to the Lord for wisdom (James 1:5) regarding what resolutions, if any, He would have you make; 2) pray for wisdom as to how to fulfill the goals God gives you; 3) rely on God's strength to help you; 4) don't become discouraged with occasional failure; instead, use them to motivate you further; 5) do not become proud but give God all the glory. Psalm 37:5-6 says, "Commit your way to the Lord, trust in Him and He will do it."

The Ministers and Staff of Pfafftown Christian Church wish you and your family a very healthy and blessed 2020!



- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------|
| 2- Brian Smith | 10- Kevin Bell |
| 3- Kent Doub | 15- Richard Yarbrough |
| 6- Alan Fletcher | 20- Tommy Timmons |
| 7- Evelyn Nifong | 21- Chris Luper |
| Mike Showers | 31- Betty Barker |
| 8- Debbie Fletcher | |
| 9- Pat Barber | |



While you are doing your grocery shopping, please remember to pick up cans of food and bring them to church to contribute to the Crisis Control Food Pantry. During January, the pantry mostly needs *canned soup*. If you have any questions, please contact Jackie Romanello.



Faith never knows where it is being led, but it loves and knows the One who is leading.
— Oswald Chambers

January 2020

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|--|--------------------------|--|---|-----|-----|
| | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 5 9:45 AM Connect 11:00AM Worship | 6 NO Handbells 7:00 p.m. | 7 | 8 Staff Mtg. 11:00 AM 6:00 PM | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 12 9:45 AM Connect 11:00AM Worship | 13 Handbells 7:00 p.m. | 14 7:00 PM DFH | 15 Chancel Choir 7:00 p.m. | 16 Pastoral Relations Committee 7:00 PM | 17 | 18 |
| 19 9:45 AM Connect 11:00AM Worship | 20 Martin Luther King Holiday Office Closed Handbells 7:00 p.m. | 21 6:30 PM | 22 Chancel Choir 7:00 p.m. | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26 9:45 Connect 11:00 Worship 12:00 Birthday Lunch 2:00 PM Board Mtg. | 27 Handbells 7:00 p.m. | 28 | 29 Chancel Choir 7:00 p.m. | 30 | 31 | |