JANUARY 2018

The Bethlehem Star

Guiding us to God's presence in our lives

Evaluating Resolutions

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Youth Ski Trip
- Women's Fellowship News
- CAPS OverNight Stay

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Now that February is upon us, it's a good time to check in on any new year's resolutions we may have set. How are you doing? Did you even care to set some goals for the new year? I've done a decent job with some of my goals but I can always do better. There are a couple goals that I'd like to accomplish this year but I haven't quite toed the line to embark on them just yet.

Often when we set our new year's resolutions, they typically focus around us losing something—i.e. losing weight or tossing aside bad habits. These goals suggest that what we have is deficient or, perhaps, that we are insufficient. Centering our minds on the aspects about ourselves that we don't like can entrap us. We are constantly bombarding ourselves with the message that we don't measure up—that we aren't living up to our expectations or even others' expectations.

I appreciated the article in the January 2018 *Runner's World* magazine that challenged everyone to think not about what they want to lose but what they want to gain. What an encouraging word that I want to share with you. Altering the focus of our goals from places we are deficient to places we want to grow allows us to take a strengths-based approach to our lives. No longer am I judging myself on pre-conditioned metrics—such as pounds lost—but, instead, I am now discerning whether I am getting stronger, going farther, pushing harder, and digging deeper.

Truth is that when we think about what we want to gain, we will probably hit those alternative metrics, too, but our focus stays on what we're gaining and not what we're trying to get rid of. To extrapolate this out to our church's life, I'd love to have us hit some traditional goals of increased Sunday School attendance, worship attendance, baptisms, etc. Yet, some of these goals seem to me a lot like the goals of losing weight—things that you hope for, which leads to disappointment if it doesn't happen. But, what if we changed the focus of our goals from us to them...what difference would the church make in the community if we set our goals on: making sure every kid in the schools surrounding our community could read, ensuring the blood banks had enough blood to offer folks in need, no families having to worry about feeding their children, no one committing suicide because everyone knows someone cares about them. What else would make a good goal for us to strive for this year? ~Pastor Matt

Happy Anniversary

(1) Michael & Diana Miller—21 years
(5) Robert & Mary Joyner—7 years
(7) Lloyd & Judy Gatling—37 years
(14) Andrew & Crystal Hedgepeth—2 years
(15) Mike & Robbin Shelton—43 years

Moving?
Changing Email Addresses?
Changing Numbers?

Please share you're updated information with the church office, so we can keep abreast of your contact information.

Happy Birthday

(1) Anna Powell, Wayne Stancell, Corbin Greene
(2) Kristi Parker Bridges
Mackenzie Palmer, Pamela Speight Merrick
(4) Kimberly Jarvis, Donna Simms
(5) Audrey Patten, Lisa Tarkington, Jayce Holleman
(9) Reagan White, Gary Hedrick
(10) Doris Johnson, John Drames
(12) Sam Sawyer
(13) Karen Bradley, Hunter May, Michelle Ellis
(14) Clifton Lewis
(15) Janet Jasewicz
(16) Robert Dickinson, Kentley Drames, Gavin Ellis
(17) Aston Drames
(19) Jessica Neblett Wolkowich
(21) Audrey Sawyer, Arlene Smith
(22) Pansy Aston, Seth Faison, Cathy Rissell
(23) Sue Baker
(24) Kimberly Shelton McCrum
(27) Janet Brinkley, Robert Brinkley,
Debbie Chappell

The Women's Fellowship Quarterly meeting will be February 6th at 7 pm in the JAH classroom. We'll be packing the bags for the nursing home. All ladies are welcome to come.

We're looking forward to Women's Sunday, February 18th. Our guest speaker is Beverly McQuarry from Healthy Families.

The cookbook committee from the Women's Fellowship wishes to thank everyone for your support in the selling and purchasing the Bethlehem Christian Church Cookbook over the Holiday Season. Just to recap, we pre-sold 190 books which was a fantastic start. We also sold over 100 books at the Harvest Fest and the Holiday Fare. We had books distributed at various locations in Suffolk and they all sold their quantity and requested more. The Suffolk Christian Book Store is also helping to sell the books. We still have a little over 150 books to sell. Please consider a cookbook for a birthday gift, thinking of you, wedding gift, housewarming, or the many other occasions coming up. They are still $10.00 each.

In His Service,
Diane Talley

BCC KIDZ, YOUTH, & TEENZ

BCC Kidz	BCC Youth	BCC Teenz
Ages 2-4th Grade	5th—7th Grade	8th—12th Grade
Leader: Phyllis Hedgepeth	Leader: Jessica Winters	Leader: Dawn Turner

BCC Youth & Teen Ministry

Youth Group and Teens Group Meetings are held the 1st Sunday of each month, after church. Lunch is provided.

All Teens and Youth are welcome to join us. We also have activities throughout the month that focus on building our faith, enjoying fellowship with each other, and providing service to our church family and our communities.

EXCITING NEWS!!!
SKI TRIP!!!! March 2nd –4th.
The Teens and Youth groups (5th—12th grades)

The cost of the trip is 175.00 per person. Fund raising monies and sponsorships are available to help offset the cost. For details and/or to sign up, or to sponsor a youth, contact Dawn Turner-Whitmore, (757) 724-7228, or dawn_turner1@msn.com, **ASAP. We will need to know how many are going by February 10th.**

Looking Ahead:

March 9th—Fish Dinner catered by Captain Bob's

All teens and youth and parents, we will need your help. This will be a big fundraiser for our teen and youth ministries. Proceeds will offset the cost of our trips and activities. Please plan on participating by selling tickets, delivering food, and helping on March 9th.

March 31st– Lend A Hand Day

April 13—15th Mission Madness in Richmond, VA Grades 6th—12th. More information to come soon.

Looking Back:

December 31st—New Year's Eve Party at Pastor Matt and Jessica's. The youth and teens enjoyed a wonderful evening ringing in the new year playing games, and munching out on pizza and snacks. A huge thank you to Pastor Matt, Jessica, Leigha, and Samantha for having us!

Wednesday Night Bible Study
Grades 6th—12th
Weekly: 6:30—7:30 p.m.

Our Bible Study group is currently working on a series called the Bible Basics. This is an 8 week series that begins by explaining how we got the Bible and whether or not we can trust that the Bible truly is the Word of God. With each lesson, we are becoming more familiar with the anatomy of the Bible by learning about its organization, authors, and the main theme of each book contained in the Bible. The series is wrapped up with practical advice on how to develop good Bible study habits. Come join us in this interesting and thought provoking yet fun time as we learn more about our Father's Word and how to apply it to our daily life. If you would like more information or would like to help facilitate, please contact Dawn Turner at 757-724-7228.

Blanket Fund

Your $10.00 donation will buy one blanket for use by the Church World Service.
You may contribute to this project until Sunday, February 18, 2018.
These blankets are so versatile that they are used as makeshift tents, partitions in refugee camps, totes, body coverings, etc. Perhaps you cannot give a whole blanket, any amount, no matter how small, will help. If you wish to write a check, please make payable to Bethlehem Christian Church with memo "Blanket Sunday". Thank you to everyone who contributes to this worthy project!

Craft Circle

1st, 3rd, & 5th Tuesdays
6:30 to 8:30 p.m.
2nd & 4th Tuesdays
1:00 to 3:00 p.m.
We meet in the 3rd, 4th, & 5th grade classroom in the Education Wing of Church. Enter through the side door on the Old Fellowship Hall side. We are working on a quilt for the Fall Bazaar. Questions contact Charlene Dunne 539-9389 or 353-2035.

What's Happening?

Ladies Outing
CULTIVATE

A Women's Gathering Around the Word
March 16—17, 2018
Featuring: Kelly Minter and
The Cultivate Worship Trio
At: River Oak Church
Chesapeake, VA
Schedule: *Friday, March 16—7 to 9 p.m.*
(doors open at 6:15 p.m.)
Sat., March 17—8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
(doors open at 7:45 a.m.)

To register contact Sylvia Porter or the church office 539-4274 or online (Kelly Minter conference, Chesapeake, VA). Transportation will be available.

Kelly Minter is an author, speaker, songwriter and worship leader.

Wednesday Morning Bible Study
10:00 AM

Continues this Winter & Spring!

It's time to create a new church directory.

Lifetouch®
Connecting You through Family Photography

We are in the process of planning a new church directory and hope to begin scheduling appointments soon. Start looking for the right outfits for your family!

Photography dates: May 15-19, 2018

Lent Offering 2018
February 14—March 31

Lent originated in the very earliest days of the Church as a preparatory time for Easter. The forty days of Lent, represent Jesus' withdrawal into the wilderness for forty days; and during the season we too are called to a time of reflection. As is customary, our Church collects a special "Lenten Offering" during the time of Lent. This year the offering will support the Maintenance Fund. If you would like to contribute to this year's project, you may do so anytime during the period of Lent (February 14—March 31). Please indicate "Lenten Offering" on your envelope and drop it in the offering plate or send it to the Church office. Thank you!

Suffolk Lenten Luncheon Series

The Suffolk Lenten luncheon series is returning this year and the dates are still being worked out. Worship will last from 12:00-12:30 with a lunch to follow. This is what we know so far:

February 14: Suffolk Christian Church
February 21:
February 28
March 7:
March 14: Bethlehem Christian Church
March 21:

We Salute Michael Brown!

Michael and Erin Brown visited Bethlehem on Sunday, January 21 prior to Michael's deployment with the US Army. Please keep Michael in your prayers during this time. Erin will continue to man the home front, so keep her in your prayers as well!

We have Michael's mailing address in the office if you would like to send him a card.

thank you!

Dear Caring & Sharing of Bethlehem

I want to thank each one of you for the nice Christmas bag you sent me for Christmas. It was full of all kinds of useful and edible things. I always save this for Christmas morning. I am like a kid with a stocking.

Thank you, Thank you with all my heart!

In Christian Love,
Rose Heffington

Dear One Who Showered Me with Lovely Gifts,

My angel tree gifts were so much appreciated. I love hard candy and what you sent is all I have had this year. My lips are happy with the chap stick and I was fresh out of Kleenex. The lovely fleece robe was perfect.

You don't know just how much you blessed me with your thoughtfulness. Thank you for everything!

With Love,
Nancy Williams

Dear Bethlehem Christian Church Family,

Thank you so much for your partnership with Operation Christmas Child. Every shoebox gift you dropped off is a powerful tool for the Gospel. Thank you for the opportunity to work together in spreading the love of Christ. Your gifts show God's love to children, their families, and their communities. We are grateful that you are a part of changing children's lives all over the world in the name of Jesus. God Bless!!

Sincerely,
Melissa Rountreee
O.C.C. Volunteer, Virginia

Missions Committee News

The Missions Committee would like to thank everyone for their support and generosity that helped to make our Chicken & Dumplings Dinner/Pie Throwing Contest such a huge success! We hope everyone had a great time enjoying fellowship and fun together. We raised $780 which will help support our upcoming mission trip to Ukraine!!!

Our missionaries, Morgan Ognibene and Madison Horn, are busy answering the call to serve the people of Ukraine. Morgan has been working with refugee children and wounded soldiers spreading the word of Jesus. Madison is currently leading an outreach trip in Greece "being the light" for Christ. Please continue to keep them in your prayers.

We are continuing with our planning efforts for a mission trip to Ukraine. We anticipate traveling in July and are actively researching airfares and working on fundraising activities. Please pray for us as we work through this process. Stay tuned for our next fundraising event!

Thank you so much for supporting our mission efforts! We could not do it without you!

Missions Committee: Sherry Turner, Yvonne Johnson, Terese Neblett, Jean Brinkley

February 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 Office Closed	3
4 Scout Sunday BCC Kids Meeting Valentine Project Lunch Provided	5 4 p.m. Girl Scouts 7 p.m. Board of Christian Ed.	6 10:30 a.m. Savage Cr. 6:30—8:30 p.m. Craft Circle 7 p.m. Women's Quarterly 6:30 Cub Scouts	7 10 am Bible Study 6:30 CHURCH COUNCIL 6:30 Youth Bible Study in OFH 6:30 Handbells 7:30 Choir	8	9 Jackson Circle @ Wanda Crumpler's Office Closed	10 Cub Scouts Pinewood Derby Graham Hall Jackson Cr. Salvation Army
11 8 a.m. Laymen's Breakfast **Youth/Teens Meeting Bus**	12 **6:00 p.m.** King Circle Old Fellowship Hall	13 11 a.m. Garden Club Graham Hall 1-3 p.m. Craft Circle 6:30 p.m. Cub Scouts	14 **Ash Wednesday** 10 am Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Youth Bible Study in OFH 6:30 Handbells 7:30 Choir Practice	15	16 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Pilot Club/Stew Sale Office Closed	17
18 **Women's Sunday**	19 President's Day 4 p.m. Girl Scouts	20 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Craft Circle 6:30 p.m. Cub Scouts **7 p.m. Deaconry Board**	21 10 a.m. Bible Study 6:30 Youth Bible Study in OFH 6:30 Handbells 7:30 p.m. Choir Practice	22 Girl Scouts Awards Committee	23 Boy Scouts Barbecue Sale Graham Hall all day Office Closed	24 Cub Scouts Blue & Gold Banquet Graham Hall
25	26	27 11 a.m. Fellowship Club 1– 3 p.m. Craft Circle 6:30 Cub Scouts Old Fellowship Hall	28 10 a.m. Bible Study 6:30 Youth Bible Study in OFH 6:30 Handbells 7:30 Choir Practice			

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Web site: www.bccsuffolk.org
Facebook: Bethlehem Christian Church — Suffolk VA

Office Hours:
Mondays—Thursdays— 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Fridays: Office Closed

CAPS OVERNIGHT STAY MINISTRY

Bethlehem is in the midst of hosting the OverNight Stay ministry through the local CAPS program in Suffolk. We want to say thank you to everyone who has played a hand in the successful ministry of this week so far. We look forward to continuing to be a part of the ministry of God taking place in Suffolk!

Our scheduled week:

Wednesday to Wednesday, January 24-31, 2018!!