

January, 2018

# Faith Calls...

## Pastor's Thoughts

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### Birthdays

1/8,	Robert Rutt
1/9,	Marlyn Burrow
1/15,	Harold Bristow
1/17,	Mike McClellan
1/18,	Marilyn Clemonns
1/21,	Ben Allen
1/25,	Sue Jones Nathan Mims
1/27,	Kay Crutchfield
1/29,	Pat Oakes

### Anniversary

1/13, Harold & Jane Bristow

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## Beginning Again

On January 1, we begin again. We have closed the last chapter in the book of 2017 and we have taken a brand-new book off the shelf to open 2018. Nothing is written on any page, not even an ink mark. Another chance at everything. 2017 is history and we can't change that. Here's what we might do next year.

Let's remember the things we did last year that were successful and see if we can see a pattern we can repeat this year. Remember the things that weren't so successful so we don't make the same mistakes again. For any good ideas, try again. Never let a previous failure keep you from a possible success.

We will begin 2018 with new faces while we notice others who aren't making this journey with us. We will lose other faces this year but we should add some new ones. This, too, we cannot change. This is God's way of renewal and we

should see the blessing God intends in each event. The pain of grief fades, though not quickly enough in most cases.

We are implementing big changes in both churches this year and with big changes come big opportunities. I thank you for being patient and willing to try these new ways. With your help and prayers, these opportunities can become great successes for our churches. Leadership is in the hands of faithful and very capable persons who are dedicated to God's plan at work in us.

I'd love to see this year become a year in which we truly find a greater role in our work to transform the world. Our neighborhoods need us to be THE church, even if we are not THEIR church. Don't get caught up in the amount of work to be done, we can choose our projects and then divide the work to get it done.

I start this year happy and content to serve two won-

derful churches. In both, I am privileged to be in a partnership ministry made up of hard working and loving people. You have shown me so much in the 18 months I have pastored your churches. God has blessed me in great ways by bringing us together.

Because God has put us together, when we are happy together, we laugh and share our joy. In our sadness, we lift each other's spirits. In our grief, we give each other hope. And when we clash, we seek understanding and practice forgiveness.

I look forward to putting ink to paper in the coming year as we write the book of 2018. Let's do great things together! Shalom,

*Bro. David*





## Faith UMC Helpers Lend a Hand

On the 2nd, 4th, and 5th Wednesday you will find Ginny Ryan and Kay Crutchfield getting up very early, and heading straight to their kitchens.

Ginny begins cutting sausage links in half and warming them in her oven. She loads bread, napkins, and condiments into her car. She arrives at the Salvation Army around 6:45am. She immediately begins placing one piece of sausage in a piece of sandwich bread with a napkin wrapped around it.

Kay usually prepares hard boiled eggs and a breakfast casserole while she loads

containers of juice and milk in her car.

Items are set up behind a steam table in the SA kitchen. Other volunteers from other churches bring in day-old donuts from Community Bakery, eggs, sliced cheese and extra bread.

At 7:00am women and children come in for breakfast, and then the men are served. Each person signs in, picks up a tray, cup and utensils. They are served food and drinks.

The feeding program and volunteers were organized by Robert Johnston and Matilda Buchanan several

years ago. Originally donuts and coffee were served to the homeless under the Broadway Bridge in cold weather. From there serving places were at the city garage, under city hall in a vacant area, a church, and a large empty house trailer near the bridge.

Unfortunately, Robert died suddenly in September. All are carrying on the work he enjoyed.

*Submitted by—Ginny Ryan, Mission/Outreach Chairman*

### SAVE THE DATE...

**1/7, Epiphany Sunday**

**1/16, 6:30pm,  
Administrative Board**

**1/19, Parents' Night Out,  
6:30-9:30pm**

## Commission on a Way Forward

During the most recent Council of Bishops meeting, the Commission on a Way Forward proposed three preliminary models to help the church address current disagreements associated with human sexuality. The proposed models follow.

- One model affirms the current Book of Discipline language and places a high value on accountability.
- Another model removes restrictive language and places a high value on contextualization. This model also specifically protects the rights of those whose conscience will not allow them to perform same gender weddings

or ordain LGBTQ persons.

- Another model is grounded in a unified core that includes shared doctrine and services, and one Council of Bishops, while also creating different branches that have clearly defined values such as accountability, contextualization and justice.

Bishop Mueller invites pastors and lay members of congregations to participate in the *Commission on a Way Forward Town Hall* meetings. Participants will be able to provide feedback and ask questions about the preliminary models. Watch for more information regarding the meetings.

## What Happened at Ingathering, 2017?

November 19th was a great day for Ingathering at Arkansas Food Bank. Volunteers from Methodist Churches met and sorted items for distribution.

Most of the youth chose to work on the giant boxes of sweet potatoes which were donated by Society of St. Andrew. These were broken down into smaller boxes for various food pantries.

Large bags of beans were emptied into metal bowls. Beans

were scooped into gallon size bags. They were then weighed, heat sealed and labeled.

Volunteers also received and sorted disaster relief supply donations of cleaning buckets, health/hygiene kits (48 from Faith UMC), and school kits.

Workers from Faith were Elizabeth Childs, Ellen McCloskey, and Ginny Ryan. It was a busy morning where two shifts of workers accomplished great

deeds. Workers also enjoyed the worship service which served as a break between the shifts.

Watch the 2018 calendar and plan to participate. It is really a special event.

### November Stats

Date	Worship	Gen. Fund
11/5	46	\$ 3,051
11/12	54	5,821
11/19	63	2,463
11/26	46	1,978
		\$13,313

Renovation Fund	\$ 370
Noisy Offering	77

*Submitted by—Ginny Ryan, Mission/Outreach Chairman*

## Advent, a Season to Remember

How quickly the season of Advent moved into our lives. Our Advent Study was a huge success. Thank you, Teresa Cozart.

Many of you enjoyed preparing cards for the annual exchange where you had the opportunity to share greetings with your friends.

Others prepared gift bags for our folks with health issues who were unable to attend services. They are remembered in our weekly prayers and seem to enjoy receiving bulletins, devotionals, and the newsletter. Our Nurture and Caring Committee does a great job.

Many of our small groups had gatherings to celebrate the season. The choir sang selections and special solos were sung by individuals during our services and the Christmas Dinner. As always, it was a season to remember... and many took time to sit back and enjoy "It's A Wonderful Life"!

## What's New at Faith...Parents' Night Out

The second Friday evening in November was the "Grand Opening" of Parents' Night Out. Four children attended and enjoyed playing games, crafts, and a movie.

December 15th was the second meeting, and 8 children were here. What an adventure. They made frames for their Christmas

pictures, ornaments, enjoyed popcorn, and decorated cookies.

Ben Allen, Stephanie Traxler, and a team of adults look forward to this monthly activity as much as the children do. It is an adventure where planning and coordinating is required. Both children and adults are having a great time working together!



Join us, Jan. 19th.

### 2018 Administrative Board

Allen, Ben
Barnes, Trinette
Bristow, Harold (Chairman)
Brummett, Jerry
Eubanks, Carolyn
Horton, Gary
McCastlain, Virginia
McCloskey, Ellen
Noe, Dianna
Rutt, Robert
Ryan, Ginny
Smith, Brenda

# January, 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>1</b> <i>New Year's Day</i> Office closed	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> <u>11:00 a.m.</u> , Dominoes/Bring your lunch <u>6:00 p.m.</u> , Choir Practice	<b>4</b> <u>11:30 a.m.</u> , Alzheimer's Arkansas (caregivers) Lunch & Learn RSVP 224-0021	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>  *The Methodist Conference
<b>7</b> <u>9:45 a.m.</u> , Sunday School, <u>11:00 a.m.</u> , Communion, Worship Service  <i>Epiphany Sunday</i>	<b>8</b> <u>10:00 a.m.</u> , Prayer Watch Ministry at Faith or wherever you are	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> <u>11:00 a.m.</u> , Dominoes/Bring your lunch <u>6:00 p.m.</u> , Choir Practice	<b>11</b> <u>11:30 a.m.</u> , Sr. Networking (agencies)	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>  *Faith UMC and the Administrative Board
<b>14</b> <u>9:45 a.m.</u> , Sunday School <u>11:00 a.m.</u> , Worship Service	<b>15</b> <u>10:00 a.m.</u> , Prayer Watch Ministry at Faith or wherever you are	<b>16</b> <u>6:30 p.m.</u> , Administrative Board Meeting	<b>17</b> <u>11:00 a.m.</u> , Dominoes/Bring your lunch <u>6:00 p.m.</u> , Choir Practice	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> <u>6:30–9:30 p.m.</u> , Parent's Night Out (moved to 3rd Fri., this month)	<b>20</b>  *Pastors who serve others
<b>21</b> <u>9:45 a.m.</u> , Sunday School <u>11:00 a.m.</u> , Worship Service  <i>Ecumenical Sun.</i>	<b>22</b> <u>10:00 a.m.</u> , Prayer Watch Ministry at Faith or wherever you are	<b>23</b> <u>1:00 p.m.</u> , UMW meeting	<b>24</b> <u>11:00 a.m.</u> , Dominoes/Bring your lunch <u>6:00 p.m.</u> , Choir Practice	<b>25</b> <u>11:00 p.m.</u> , Cure PSP	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>  *Our nation and leaders
<b>28</b> <u>9:45 a.m.</u> , Sunday School <u>11a.m.</u> ,Worship Service	<b>29</b> <u>10:00 a.m.</u> , Prayer Watch Ministry at Faith or wherever you are	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> <u>11:00 a.m.</u> , Dominoes/Bring your lunch <u>6:00 p.m.</u> , Choir Practice			*Please pray for those listed above.

Scripture:

...Jesus was baptized by John in the Jordan. As Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove.

—Mark 1:9-10