

Faith Calls...

January, 2019

Pastor's Thoughts

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Another Opportunity

Birthdays

- 1/3, Kassie Austin
- 1/8, Robert Rutt
- 1/9, Marlyn Burrow
- 1/15, Harold Bristow
- 1/17, Mike McClellan
- 1/18, Marilyn Clemmons
- 1/21, Ben Allen
- 1/27, Kay Crutchfield
- 1/29, Pat Oakes

Anniversary

Harold and Jane Bristow
1/13



Once again, we have arrived at the January 1 doorstep of another year. Our historic way to enter the new year is to review the events of the previous year and to make plans on how we will do things differently in the coming year. Each new year brings us a chance to do better. We might even get a “do-over” in some cases.

What new things will we do in 2019? What will we do over and, hopefully, better? We might be small churches, but there is no limit to what we can achieve if we will believe there is no limit. We are not in control. Our job is to trust that God wants the best for each of us and our churches and to let the Holy Spirit do its work. Our job is also to be in ministry to and with our neighbors.

The prophet Joel was called to speak of God’s judgment to come. He warned of the events which would mark the coming judgment, saying: “I will pour out my Spirit on all mankind. Your old people shall dream dreams and your young people shall see visions.” The challenge is to see this as not just a warning of the judgment to come, but as a call to imagine what the world could be like.

Our faith should open us to possibilities, to visions. Not mystical, surreal sights, but real visions of what we can do to make the world a little closer to the reality of God’s immediate presence. What would that world look like?

As small as Faith and Geyer Springs are as churches, there is a huge spirit within both that is greater than the largest of megachurches. While I said there was no limit to what we can achieve, truth demands I tell you of the one limit. Our ability to vision and our de-

sire to enact those visions. In short, we are our only limit.

To say we are too small, we don’t have enough money, or we are too old is denying the vision God gives us. The con-nectional style of United Methodist church gives us a clue of how these issues can be overcome. There is always something our small churches can do, albeit small. If all UM churches did their small parts, just imagine what the total of such efforts would yield.

We can have the most impact in our neighborhoods, the areas immediately around us. If we truly want to see God’s will done, pray for visions, for courage and strength. Remember to vision things through God’s eyes, not ours. God will find a way to fulfill the possibilities God creates. Pray, vision, trust and act.

Shalom,

Bro. David

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November Stats

Date	Worship	Gen. Fund
11/4	61	\$5,481
11/11	43	2,748
11/18	54	2,632
11/25	49	<u>2,297</u>
Total		\$ 13,158
Noisy Offering	\$	119
Renovation	\$	440
Walkway repair	\$	100

Special thanks to all who helped with the decorating and celebrating during Advent and Christmas. The decorations, songs, lessons, sermons, meals, readings, gift and card exchanges—it was all wonderful. Let's plan to do it again next year!

I would like to thank all of the members of this church for your kindness and warm greetings when welcoming me from New Orleans. I enjoyed visiting your worship services and playing Dominoes.

Happy New Year,
Lorraine Boudreaux

SAVE THE DATE

Each Monday, 10am, Prayer Watch
Each Wed., 11am, Dominoes
6 pm, Choir Practice

1/1, New Year's Day, office closed

1/11, Parent's Night Out

1/15, 6:30, Administrative Board meeting

EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

January 6, marks the end of the Christmas season or Christmastide. In the Western churches, Epiphany Day has marked the observance of the arrival of the wise men. In the earliest Christian traditions, maintained by the Eastern churches, the day began a period that celebrated the incarnation and baptism of Christ. The liturgical color for Epiphany Day is white.

**New Year Resolutions to help you Grow in Faith:**

1. Read your Bible 20 minutes a day, every day.
2. Go to church every week.
3. Set aside 15 minutes per day to pray.
4. Join a Bible Study or Sunday School Class.
5. Ask a friend to church.
6. Begin volunteering.
7. Start working toward tithing.
8. Read a Christian book each month.
9. Memorize scripture.
10. Forgive past grudges.
11. Break an addiction.
12. Be a more loving person.
13. Find a mentor or accounting partner.
14. Be content with what you have.
15. Keep the Sabbath.
16. Refuse to gossip.
17. Stop complaining.
18. Do random acts of kindness.

By Brittany Ann, a Bible based website

(Narrow that list down to a few resolutions and see if you might be successful).

A Successful Advent Study

by Teresa Cozart

The all-church Advent Study, James Moore's *All I Want For Christmas: Opening the Gifts of God's Grace*, has been a great success! We had 34 people register for the adult class and obtain books. Attendance was good each Sunday. The book offered a weekly lesson as well as daily devotionals, and our DVD segment each week introduced us to different ways other churches connect to their communities. Our gathering time has been made special by sharing our thoughts and discussing the amazing gifts Christmas has for each of us!

Looking forward, our all-church Lenten study will begin Sunday, March 10th. More information to come soon. You won't want to miss it!

Administrative Board

Ben Allen
 Trinette Barnes
 Harold Bristow, Chairman
 Cliff Coker (new)
 Gary Horton
 Becky Lay (new)
 Virginia McCastlain
 Ellen McCloskey
 Dianna Noe
 Robert Rutt
 Ginny Ryan
 Brenda Smith

FUMC Report from Safety Team

by Gary Horton

The FUMC Safety Team had its first meeting May 29th, 2018, to start the process of determining the responsibilities and goals of the Safety Team. We have continued to meet twice a month. Some of the broad areas of safety concerns discussed included:

- Security (intruders/parking lots)
- Emergency alerts (weather/natural events)
- Medical emergencies
- Building safety (inside and outside)
- Playground/basketball area

Specific items discussed that would fall under one of the broader categories included:

- Ensuring side doors are secured and locked before worship begins.
- Locking front/back doors at beginning of worship with someone manning the doors to let latecomers in.
- Having "watchers" for front and back parking lot areas on Sunday mornings. Need tools to communicate with someone inside and procedures to know who to call and when.
- Greeters to be more vigilant and aware of who enters the church.
- Outdoor cameras including entry points with/without voice communication ability.
- Better lighting for parking lot.
- CPR training.
- Inviting Fire Marshall in to evaluate the building for safety issues.
- Invite MEMS, etc. in to evaluate accessibility.
- Fire extinguishers - Training on location and how to use them.
- Kitchen safety.
- First aid kits – Are they complete/up to date? Consider locations now and are others needed?
- Carbon monoxide detectors.
- Electrical issues including labeling fuse box.
- Performing fire drills.
- Having wheelchairs available.
- Encouraging people with mobility issues to sit in the most accessible areas of sanctuary.
- Safety of playground (future consideration).

As of this date we have had two CPR training classes, one basic and one advanced and two new First Aid Kits purchased. The Team has done an extensive safety checklist to recognize additional areas of concern.

