

# Elkton Communicator

A Publication of the church of Christ in Elkton, TN

8JAN2012

## *Men Privileged to Serve*

### Announcements

Jimmy Butler

### Sunday Services

9 am

**Singing**— Jim Lovell

**Prayer**— Tim Burgess

10 am

**Singing**— Jim Lovell

**S. R.**— John Bryan IV

**Prayer**— Jerry Moody

**Sermon**— Joe Greer

### Lord's Table—

- Presiding

- John Bryan Jr.

- Tim Burgess

- Serving

- Charlie Wilburn

- Jimmy Davis

**Prayer**— Mike Phillips

5 pm

**Singing**— Jay Butler

**Prayer**— Chris Crabtree

**Sermon**— Jim Lovell

**Prayer**— Richard Parker

### Wednesday Bible Study 7 pm

**Singing**—

**Invitation**—

*“The works of  
His hands  
are faithful  
and just.”*

*Psalm 111:7*

## Beginning Again

by Ken Weliever

Well, here we are. Again! Another new year. It's time for the well worn clichés. *“I can't believe it.” “Time flies.” And the ever popular, “Where has the year gone?”*

But I confess I like January 1. It's a great way to wrap up the holiday season, and make a fresh start. The new year is a time start over. To begin again. It's a time for new plans. New goals. New resolutions.

Resolutions are good. It is good to look inside ourselves and see the need for change. For improvement. For growth. Paul commands, “examine yourselves whether you are in the faith.” But we need to realize that examination and subsequent resolve is a serious matter.

The wise man tells us to take our vows seriously. For instance, do not be hasty or rashly promise God something we are not willing to fulfill. In fact, he says it is better not to vow something, than to make a vow and fail to follow through *“When you make a vow to God, do not delay to pay it; For He has no pleasure in fools. Pay what you have vowed. Better not to vow than to vow and not pay.”* Ecc. 5:4-5

**With that in mind, consider some things that will help us begin again.**

**Get a good start.** Don't just flippantly write down some resolutions. Think it over. Make a plan. Develop a method of follow through. Know where you are going. Be excited about goals.

**Recognize the three kinds of goals.** Resolution, after all, is just another way to set a goal. There are short term goals, long term goals, and there are intermediate goals. If your long term goal for 2012 is to read the Bible through, then figure out short term goals by which you can measure yourself and follow a plan of action. How much will you read today? This week? This month? Whatever the resolution, there must be daily, weekly and monthly means to measure your progress.

**Set a time limit.** A goal without a time limit is wishful thinking! Is this goal attainable in a week? A month? By the end of the school year or summer? Is this something you want to be able to do before next Fall? Of course, your resolution may have degrees or steps in which you continue to work on a virtue. It may be a life long pursuit. But still you need some way to check your progress.

**Stay focused.** It is easy to lose concentration. To get distracted. To become bored with the daily routine. Like Paul, keep your eye on the goal. *“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”* Phil 4:13

**Pray.** Ask for God's help, guidance and strength. He cares. *“Casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you. I Pet. 5:7* My friend Dee Bowman says, “A goal without prayer is like bread without butter—rather dry.”

**Enlist support of others.** Find fellow Christians who share your interest. Ask for their help. Share each other's load.

Most of all don't be afraid to begin again. Peter did. Paul did. I have. So can you. Happy New Year, everyone!

*adapted, jg*

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***God calls no one to do everything,  
but everyone to do something.***

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# God's Grace

by Ben Walker

**Grace.** What a wonderful word – so rich and full of meaning. I don't know that the word could ever be used in a negative way. We talk about a graceful person (perhaps a ballet dancer); we talk about gracious people who show kindness and goodness; we talk about 'graces' or traits that we show in our lives. These ideas about grace however do not even begin to describe God's grace toward man.

**God's grace has usually been defined as 'unmerited favor' – this is a good definition.** Sinful man is certainly helpless before God because of sin, and the only way that we could ever be forgiven is by favor shown to us by God. Grace, then, is everything that God does in regard to our salvation that we cannot do for ourselves. Only God can bridge the gap created between us by sin; only God can remove sin; only God could 'stoop down' (the Hebrew word for grace comes from a root word meaning 'to stoop down') to man and create fellowship with him.

**God's grace "has appeared to all men" wrote Paul to Titus (2:11).** God has extended His amazing grace toward every man; but man must choose to accept it. Remember that God's grace is everything that man cannot do for himself – thus, there is something that man must do to accept this wonderful grace. Paul said to the Ephesians, **"For by grace you have been saved through faith and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God" (Eph.2:8).** The gift of God is salvation through His Son; God's part in that equation is grace, man's part is faith. Faith is man's response to God's grace – active, obedient, child-like faith that reaches back to the One who has reached out to us. When man recognizes the need, and God provides the way, salvation is obtained.

**Will you accept God's grace today?**

## *Zimbabwe relief ...*

*A message from Paddy Kendall-Ball this week confirms the "mealie-meal" has been purchased for the brethren in Zimbabwe. He is still waiting to hear if the delivery process went smoothly. Last word was that Elias Chikozho was going the next day with the driver to deliver the food.*

*We need to remember to pray for our brethren who live in a place with so many challenges... and pray for this relief effort.*

## News and Notes

- **Young People's Class**— Next Sunday night at Dick and Marsha Sullivan's.

### SICK

- **Elijah (Eli) Williams** — (classmate of **Kaleigh Butler**) Eli had brain surgery last week because of a tumor on his brain and spine. An MRI indicates other tumors in his body. Pathology reports are yet incomplete so the type of cancer and whether treatment is possible are still unknown. Eli is the son of Vic and Kristie (Sharp) Williams. You can send a card to Eli — **Le Bonheur Children's Hospital, c/o Elijah Williams Room, Room 710, 50 N. Dunlap Street, Memphis, TN 38103**
- **Ruth Davis**— Has not felt well. Went to the doctor and is taking medicine.
- **Lori Crabtree**— Has been sick all week with sinus and head cold symptoms.
- **Brennen and Lily Shelton**— Had a rough couple of weeks with RSV.
- **Dick Sullivan**— Is doing better after battling a sore throat.
- **Betty Yant**— Continue to remember Betty as she has just not felt well.