



Greensboro Gleanings

January 2017

From the pastor's desk ...

"Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat, or about your body what you will wear. For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing . . . Instead, strive for [God's] kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well"

Dear Friends,

We have just marked the turning of another year. Some of us hosted or attended New Year's Eve celebrations while others enjoyed a quiet evening at home. I remember, with great fondness, a New Year's Eve spent with friends sharing a festive libation in front of a blazing fire. Someone suggested that we each share what had been hardest about the past year, what had been best, and one hope for the year to come.

It turned out to be a wonderful exercise as we realized that the things that had been hard brought valuable new learning, the things that had been good brought joy, and that we each had a hope — something to look forward to — for the new year. When we stepped back and looked at our lives in this way, we could see the Holy Spirit at work, gently, and sometimes not so gently, molding us into the people God calls us to be. And we could have confidence in the future, as we pledged ourselves to keep growing into whatever new experiences the upcoming year might bring.

So here's a paradox. We need to look back to understand our lives, and we need to look ahead to plan for the future. But our lives *happen* in the moment. Each moment of each day is the only one we have. The past is gone — we can't change it — and the future isn't here yet. Even the designation of January first as New Year's Day is really arbitrary. After all, each day is the beginning of a new year!

If then, we want to make the best of our lives, to make of our lives, as Mother Theresa once said, "something beautiful for God," we have to be fully present in the present. When we spend all our time thinking about the past or the future, we're not available to the wonder of how the Holy manifests in the now. So if you find yourself mentally running and re-running something that happened in the past, or worrying about something that hasn't happened yet (and might not happen at all!), take a deep breath and pay attention to what is happening in this moment.

Jesus tells us not to worry about the future. Instead, he tells us to turn our thoughts toward God, using each moment to strive for God's kingdom (or kingdom), letting God take care of the future.

So I wish us all a Happy New Year — a year composed, as every year is composed, of individual moments — a year in which we live more fully in the now, which is, after all, the only time we ever have.

Rona

THANK YOU

January Ushers and Greeters

- Jan. 1 — Judy & Roger Waible
- Jan. 8 — Eleanor Guare & Andy Dales
- Jan. 15 — Ken Johnston & Sue Coffey
- Jan. 22 — Marsha Gadoury & Lucy Keefe
- Jan. 29 — Shelly Jungwirth & John Howard



January Coffee Hour Hosts

- Jan. 1 — Sherral Lumsden
- Jan. 8 — Cathy Pollard
- Jan. 15 — Patti Foster & Bronwyn Massé
- Jan. 22 — Anne McPherson
- Jan. 29 — Jeff & Chris Pierpont



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January 2017

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 HAPPY NEW YEAR!	2	3	4 4:30pm Mission Board Parsonage	5	6	7
8	9	10	11 1:00pm Deacons Parsonage	12	13	14
15	16 MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY	17 6:30pm Governance Board Parsonage	18 7:00pm Trustees Parsonage	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	Sundays 8:30am Choir Rehearsal Fellowship Hall 10:00am Worship Service Sanctuary	Mondays and Wednesdays 10-11am Growing Stronger Fellowship Hall	Tuesdays and Thursdays 8:30-10am Tai Chi Fellowship Hall	

MILESTONES

Happy January Birthday to

Anne Harbison, Chris Pierpont, Drex Wright, Helen Twiss, Janet Long, John & Jane Teevan, and a **Happy Anniversary** to Lawrence & Sherral Lumsden

Is your birthday listed this month when it shouldn't be? Have we missed you in our celebrations? Contact the church office and let us know if your birthday is listed incorrectly or has been missed.

PASTORAL SEARCH COMMITTEE

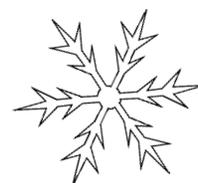
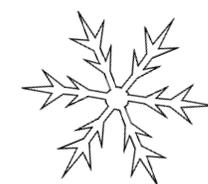
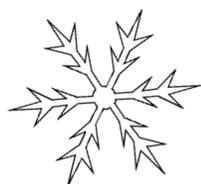
Our Search Committee continues to be in Advent Mode, waiting hopefully and expectantly. This has borne fruit. Profiles have been received from pastors seeking a call from a congregation. Lynn Bujnak, our Conference Minister, has offered to meet with us to offer guiding suggestions on ways these profiles should be evaluated and processed. We look forward to meeting with her early in January.

Therefore soon we will be reviewing profiles we have received. This is an exciting and important job that our committee cannot do alone. Please continue your prayers that we will listen for and hear God as we struggle to discover God's purpose.

Please feel free to contact any of the Search Committee members with questions or suggestions.

The committee members are Susan Coffey, Nancy Hill, Shelly Jungwirth, Jeff Pierpont, Janet Travers, Roger Waible, and John Hewett.

Roger Waible
Chair, Search Committee



THE MUSIC CORNER



Happy New Year from the choir and here are our offerings for January as we continue our mission during 2017 to “*Serve God Through Music.*”

1st: On this first communion Sunday of the new year we will offer “*Come to the Table*” with words and music by Earlene Rentz (b. 1956). This contemporary anthem is one of 300 sacred and secular works by Ms. Rentz who resides in Georgia. It features a baritone soloist and includes the sacred text : “Come to the table, come and remember the love of a Savior who died for you..”.

8th: Sacred composer Jay Althouse,(b. 1951) who studied music extensively at Indiana University, created this Sunday’s anthem *Gentle Spirit, Dwell With Me*. The piano accompaniment is laced with lovely arpeggios with the choir floating harmony based on a text by Thomas Toke Lynch (1818-1871). The text is prayer-like: “ Gentle Spirit, dwell with me so that I would gentle be.”

15th: Everyone knows the 23rd psalm that begins: “ The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want”this psalm has been transcribed into many renditions, including our anthem today *Brother James’s Air*,” also known as “Marosa.” The English arranger Gordon Jacob has created a gorgeous four-part harmony that will feature our soprano section with the main theme and descant.

22nd: With an upbeat 6/8 tempo and joyful pace, Melody Bober, a dynamic clinician and innovative composer from Minnesota, *Praise to the Lord* is this Sunday’s anthem. It is light, crisp and may remind you of works of Mozart.

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NEWS FROM
THE GREENSBORO UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING CONGREGATION
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Upcoming Lectionary Readings

- Jan. 1 ~Ecclesiastes 3:1-13 ~Psalm 8 ~Revelation 21:1
-6a ~Matthew 25:31-46
- Jan. 8 ~Isaiah 42:1-9 ~Psalm 29 ~Acts 10:34-43
~Matthew 3:13-17
- Jan. 15 ~Isaiah 49:1-7 ~Psalm 40:1-11 ~1 Corinthians
1:1-9 ~John 1:29-42
- Jan. 22 ~Isaiah 9:1-4 ~Psalm 27:1, 4-9 ~1 Corinthians
1:10-18 ~Matthew 4:12-23
- Jan. 29 ~Micah 6:1-8 ~Psalm 15 ~1 Corinthians 1:18-
31 ~Matthew 5:1-12

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29th: Many choral singers have sung French composer and organist Maurice Durefle's (1902-1986) *Requiem*. His ethereal harmonies can also be experienced in 4 motets that he composed based on Georgian Themes. One of the most beautiful from this series is *Ubi Caritas* (Op 10, No. 1) that begins with the chant: "Ubi caritas et amor, Deus ibi est" ("Where there is charity and love, God is there"). We will sing it in Latin and bring to you one of the most sublime choral pieces ever written.

This is Harpsichord Sunday and our consort will provide music during the prelude of Georg Friedrich Händel (1685-1759) from *The Fitzwilliam Sonatas, Sonata III*.

The postlude will also include the harpsichord and recorders with a piece from the Baroque period of music.



Hal Parker
Music Director

