

EVEN IN THE NORTHWOODS,
OUR HEARTS ARE RESTLESS UNTIL T
HEY REST IN GOD

CHIT CHAT

February 2014

THE HOLY “NOW”

“There is no other day. All days are present now.

This moment contains all moments.”

— C.S. Lewis, *The Great Divorce*

Pastor’s Page from Chips

Do not despise the day of small beginnings

The Book was titled: “I’ll Quit Tomorrow,” and it was one of the first publications a pioneering treatment facility called, “The Johnson Institute” released in the infancy of the alcoholism / chemical dependency treatment movement. As the title implies, the authors insist the “I’ll Quit” will never happen in any kind of lasting way if it is relegated to “Tomorrow.” If change is going to happen, it begins *now*! “Behold now is the acceptable time; behold, today is the day of salvation.” (2 Cor 6:2).

When we were younger, we often entered the New Year with enthusiastic commitments to trim-the-fat off our holiday beltline, cut back on the Manhattans, kick the smoking habit, and any of a number of other life-changing, health enhancing resolutions. As we age, ripen and wrinkle, the experience of decades worth of good intentions gone sour have jaded some of our expectations for change in our lives. The apostle Paul’s confesses in the 7th chapter of Romans that the good we desire to do, we do not do. Instead, we find ourselves doing the very things we hate. His words about the Commandments emphasize a law of unintentional consequences that are aroused within us when we begin to attempt to do what is right, or to resist doing what is wrong. Those very attempts, when made with will power alone, revive the latent power of sin, and sabotage our good intentions.



In a fuller context, Paul puts it like this: *For we know that the law is spiritual; but I am of the flesh, sold into slavery under sin. I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law*

is good. But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. Many of our biggest sins and most persistent shortcomings do not yield to a frontal attack. That is part of why it is essential in the Alcoholic Anonymous steps that one acknowledges a sense of “Powerlessness” over the strength and influence of the addiction. Will power may enable a person to temporarily resist an addiction; it will not, however, keep one sober in any kind of meaningful life for any extended period of time. It is only in “surrendering” the whole addiction issue to God, that the poisonous shrapnel from ones’ soul is removed.

Here at the end of January and the beginning of February, most of our resolutions have likely struck back in a rebellious rebound. Do not lose heart, neither put-off for another tomorrow your choices for a better life today. Begin today, indeed, right now. Refocus and “Seek first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.” Make the choice for health and life now! Do it, however, gently and humbly, asking God to take the problem, and then choose, one day at a time, one hour at a time, perhaps one minute at a time, to confirm God’s choice of health for you. In other words, learn how to say, ‘yes,’ to the good God has for you. And remember, as the proverb says, “Do not despise the day of small beginnings,” because God is at work with us in those daily and hourly decisions. The writer of Philippians challenges us to “work out [our] own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in [us], enabling us to will and to work for his good pleasure.” Philippians 2. In other words, ‘God is working so get to work.’

Chips

February

2 (Sun.) Holy Communion

9:30 am – Full Worship Service

3 (Mon.) 2:00 pm – Adult Bible Study

4:00 pm – Hand Bell Choir

4 (Tues.) 10:30 am – Grief Support Group

5 (Wed.) 8:00 am – Men's Bible Study**

10:30 am – Our Home K Care Service

3:45 pm – Elementary Youth Groups

6 (Thurs.) 9:30 am - Guild

3:00 pm – Hand Bell Choir

9 (Sun.) 9:30 am - Worship Service

Angelus - playing

DEACONS/SESSION RETREAT

10 (Mon.) 2:00 pm – Adult Bible Study

4:00 pm – Hand Bell Choir

12 (Wed.) 8:00 am – Men's Bible Study**

3:45 pm – Elementary Youth Group

13 (Thurs.) 3:00 pm – Hand Bell Choir

14 (Fri.) **Happy Valentine's Day**

16 (Sun.) 9:30 am - Worship Service

17 (Mon.) 2:00 pm – Adult Bible Study

4:00 pm – Hand Bell Choir

18 (Tues.) 10:30 am – Grief Support Group

CHIT CHAT ARTICLES DUE

19 (Wed.) 8:00 am – Men's Bible Study**

9:30 am – Session Meeting

3:45 pm – Elementary Youth Group

20 (Thurs.) 9:30 am - Guild Study

3:00 pm – Hand Bell Choir

23 (Sun.) 9:30 am - Worship Service

24 (Mon.) 4:00 pm – Hand Bell Choir

26 (Wed.) 8:00 am – Men's Bible Study**

3:45 pm – Elementary Youth Group

27 (Thurs.) 3:00 pm – Hand Bell Choir

** - meets at Little Bohemia

Happy, Healthy, Prosperous New Year

Duties

Ushers

Feb. 2 Keith & Carol Bohlin

Feb. 9 Keith & Carol Bohlin

Feb. 16 John & Hope Dougherty

Feb. 23 Dan & Nan Bloch

Liturgist:

Feb. 2, 23 Kay Suffron

Feb. 9 Margo Perkins

Feb. 16 Ruth Stober

Lay Leader:

Feb. 2 Dave Vogt

Feb. 9 & 16 Dale Ekdahl

Feb. 23 Jim Bokern

Communion Person: Dave Lukas

Counters

Feb. 2 Bob Bridges and David Foster

Feb. 9 Vince Hoehn and Dave Lukas

Feb. 16 Joan Dioszegi and Carol Bohlin

Feb. 23 Glen Wildenberg and DuWayne Schumacher

~~.....There is absolutely nothing to fear~~
about tomorrow;
For God is already there.

SESSION MEMBERS 2014

Clerk Carol Bohlin-715-356-4060

Janie Williams

Sharon Bridges-715-686-2489

Sarah Becklund-715-686-2907

Tom Erickson-715-543-8046

David Foster-715-385-2217

Deane Galloway-715-543-8010

Ron King-715-583-9979

Dave Lukas-715-686-7697

Mark Schuelke-715-686-7223

DuWayne Schumacher-715-686-2074

Helyn Woolf-715-686-7173

Session meets the third Wednesday of the month.

Due to several circumstances no January Chit Chat was sent. This issue will include a catch up from January and our regular February issue.

We still want to wish everyone a...

DEACONS

Cathy Breinholtz, Mark Buckow, Dale Erdam,
Ruth Stober, Hope Dougherty, Jan Schumacher,
Manny Markham

*Feel free to contact a Session or
Deacon member with any concerns or questions.*

Madams & Sirs

POTLUCK

6:00

February 5, 2014

Program to follow:

Pastor Joel Huenemann will tell about
the "Face of the Presbytery".

Fleazaar Help Needed!!

We continually need volunteers to help pick up donations from individuals who cannot transport their items to the church. This effort is very important to the success of the Fleazaar. If you can spare an hour or two per month, please contact Glen Wildenberg at (920) 323-2728. Your help will be appreciated!!

Your Receipts do
make a
difference!!!

For the last quarter of the Trigs T.s.L.C.s. program we received a check for \$45.10, and the Village Market's check was \$188.60.

Our church number is **14B**. Just write this on your store cash register receipt and insert it in the box prov

Stewardship Committee

Annual Report

for 2013

At the kickoff of the 2014 campaign the Stewardship Committee noted that giving has always been a key part of our lives as Christians. As good stewards, said Peter, "*each of us should use whatever gifts we have received to serve others*" (I Peter: 10). Our stewardship shares the magnifying power of God's grace—just as from a few loaves of bread Jesus made a feast for a multitude.

The Stewardship Committee reports that for the 2014 campaign, there were 93 pledges made for a total of \$118,804 with an average of \$1277 per pledge. This compares with a 2013 total of 90 pledges for a total of \$121,269 with an average of \$1347 per pledge. It should be noted that in the past three years the total actual envelope full-year giving has considerably exceeded the pledged amount. The Session has planned the 2014 budget with the confidence that our congregation's generosity will continue.

The Apostle Paul tells us that we "*will always have more than enough to do all kinds of good things for others.*" (2 Corinthians 9: 8). Through our financial support, our presence at Sunday services, our participation in church and community groups, and our personal ministry to others, we can help bring God's love into the challenges of today's world.

Respectfully submitted,
David Foster, Stewardship Committee

Missions

Happy New Year from your Mission's Committee!

Before the 2013 ended, a couple of unexpected needs arose. We are thankful to report that the Missions Committee was able to send \$300 worth of \$30 gift cards to victims of the Washington, IL tornado. These cards are being distributed through the Washington Presbyterian Church. Also, the session approved sending \$500 through PCUSA for typhoon victims in the Philippines. Our prayers continue to go out to those who are struggling to rebuild their lives.

Our Christmas for Kids program was once again a success, thanks to you! Your donations (nearly \$8000!) and willingness to shop made it possible for us to make Christmas a lot brighter for 33 families and a total of 74 children. God bless you for your continued support of this vital program.

It's not too late to sign up for the Pura Vida Guatemalan Mission Trip March 21st – 30th. This year, our projects will be to build two homes, a kitchen for the former Cornstalk School, hold a bible camp for the village children, and complete various side projects for completed schools, the local orphanage, and our friends Sister Helen and Sister Connie. The fundraising goal for these projects is approximately \$22,000. If you are interested in being a part of this exciting and worthwhile project, contact Janie Williams.

As always, the Missions Committee welcomes your suggestions for how we can best meet the needs in our communities, nation and world. If you would like to bring a need to our attention or are interested in serving on the committee, please contact Sarah Becklund or Helyn Wolfe, our co-chairs for 2014.

The **Loose Change Offering** for the last quarter totaled \$321.62. This will go to Heifer International to help provide animals for families in the villages to help them move toward self-reliance. The next three month's Loose Change Offering will go to the Lakeland Food Pantry.

God's blessings to you and yours throughout the New Year!

Committee Member
Janie Williams

Our **Loose Change Offering** for the last three months of 2013 went to Heifer International. The Wednesday Youth Group decided to use the \$361.62 to purchase 1 goat, tree seedlings, a trio of rabbits, honeybees, a flock of chicks, ducks or geese and give the remaining \$11.62 to wherever it was most needed. This will be the first of many times when the young people will be asked to be involved in making decisions.

In the annual report for 2013 there was a list of the individuals or organizations that received funds from our church. For a small church, it is an incredible number and amount and we should be proud of where we stand. But we cannot stop there and must continue to support a variety of needs. Our local food pantries received a generous amount and in these cold days it is much appreciated. I wish you could read all of the thank you letters we receive from all of these organizations. The commitment this church has toward missions is taken very seriously by the Mission Committee but we need your help. If you have an organization that should be considered for funding, please let the committee know. It is not possible to donate to each one but we will look at your request.

This coming year the committee will be considering requests from Madams and Sirs and Guild as part of our donations. These 2 organizations are a vital part of our church and their input is essential.

The Loose Change Offering for these next 3 months will go to the **Lakeland Food Pantry**. The need for food and funds for our local food pantries continues to be great and it is for this reason the mission committee has approved \$200 go to each of the 3 local ones.

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah Becklund, Mission committee member

Westminster Guild

At our first meeting of the new year, on January 2, we continued our most interesting Bible study with Father Bill Radant (a truly awesome study leader). We saw how God's power brought about the Hebrew people's freedom, and the Passover meal still celebrates the miraculous night when God protected them.

Our meeting on Thursday, January 16, was a wonderful work session. We were working on the darling "pillow case dresses" that are sent to Guatemala and other third world countries around the world. Kathy Vogt brought several guests from her Material Girls group to help on our project, and at day's end sixteen dresses had been completed, and several more were at various intermediate stages -- along with many pairs of little boys' shorts! To add to the fun, Kathy had prepared two delicious "comfort food" casseroles for our lunch. Mid Sharpe was hostess for the day and provided wonderful desserts as well.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday, February 6, at 9:30 AM, when we will continue our Bible study of the Book of Exodus, Chapters 13-18 (Lessons 4 and 5). Everyone is welcome -- please consider joining us! Also, please mark your calendars for World Day of Prayer, coming up on Friday, March 7.

Respectfully submitted,
Kay Suffron, Moderator

Recipe: Kathy Vogt's Melt-in-Your-Mouth Cranberry Pie

2 c. cranberries, picked over
1/2 c. chopped walnuts
1-1/2 c. sugar
2 large eggs
1 c. all-purpose flour
1 stick unsalted butter, melted
1/2 c. vegetable shortening, melted

Preheat oven to 325 degrees, and butter a 10-inch pie plate. Arrange cranberries on the bottom and sprinkle with walnuts and 1/2 cup sugar. Beat eggs and remaining cup of sugar gradually. Add flour, butter, and shortening and beat until smooth. Spoon batter over cranberry mixture and bake pie in the middle of the oven for 1 hour or until the top is golden. YUM!

Deacons

The Board of Deacons continues our work to fulfill our mission as the "caring arm" of the church, to be the helping liaison between church members, the Pastor, and the community.

We appreciate your help, and ask that you please let any Deacon know if you are aware of someone who could use some support.

Members of the Board of Deacons are:

Dale Ekdahl, Mark Suckow, Cathy Breitholtz, Ruth Stober, Manny Markham, Jan Schumacher and myself. Our board is a purposeful group, and we take satisfaction from our work together on your behalf.

Respectfully submitted,
Hope Dougherty

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Operation Christmas Child

Our elementary youth groups participated in this project, which is a part of the Samaritan's Purse Organization. The children each filled a box to be sent out to a child in either Africa or India. We are hoping that some of the recipients will send a note back to us, so we can get to know a little bit about them. **We want to thank** the Westminster Guild for generously adding a dress for each girl, and shorts for the boys. They helped make the boxes even more special.

I really have to give a hand to all the actors and actresses in our **Youth Christmas Program**. It was unfortunate that the weather interfered with our schedule, and we had three who weren't able to be there. The rest of the kids did very well, covering those three parts. Did you notice how much better we could hear them sing? That is because Pastor Chips let us use his new microphone, which picks up the voices from all around. It really made a wonderful difference!

Each of our Leaders had a part in the production, as well as Tom Erickson and Pauline and Bob Rider.

I couldn't have done it without all of them.

What fun we had on our last day of Youth Group! After all their work on the Christmas Program, they deserved a "day of fun". The ones who were able, went outside to sled down the hill on the side of the church. Others stayed inside for games and crafts. We all enjoyed snacks together and a couple more games after.

My phone # is: 715-892-4390

My new e-mail address is:

cedirector@mwpc.org

In His service and yours,

Joan Dioszegi

Membership

By now, the Blessed Christmas Season has ended and we have begun a brand new year. Our wish is for everyone to be healthy and happy. Each year is a new journey.

We celebrated our Hanging Of The Greens with about 50 pair of helpful, efficient hands and were eating our lunch by 12:00 noon. The smiles, the beautiful decorations, the fellowship and food were all a wonderful start to get into the Christmas mood. We want to thank everyone, for participating in the Take Down on January 5th. Undoing is never as much fun, but many hands make for light work. Again, sharing a meal is a great way to end our hard work.

As we enter another year, we are always anxious to see and welcome new faces. If you meet someone who would like more information about our church and all the opportunities we have to offer, please pass their names on to Lois, Chips or myself. Just a call to the office will get the ball rolling. We are always ready to gather for an Inquirers Meeting whenever there is a need.

Blessings to all of you, near and far, and enjoy your winter, whether it is our beautiful winter wonderland or sun and sand.

Respectfully submitted,

Helyn Woolf, Membership Chairlady

From your Secretary...

As you realized, there was no January Chit Chat. Sorry! I hope this issue catches you up on the Church happenings.

This is not uncommon for January. After the busy holiday season comes the refocusing of a new year. A busy time for many, so delays in articles seem to be eminent.

Just FYI - I would like to go over the process of getting the news letter to you, which is somewhat of a time consuming task.

After the articles are in the office they need to be gone over, tweaked into a format (hopefully in an attractive manner), and then graphics are selected and applied. The articles are then proofed; corrections made, and then are ready for the printer. They are printed separately (front and back). Folding is the next procedure which is done by hand and then collate. To get them ready to mail they must be folded again and a closure sticker put on each end. A mailing label is printed and put on each letter.

The Post Office requests the letters to be counted by towns, state, and mix states, and they need a tally list with each town's total. A form is then filled out and calculations made for the cost of the mailing. Finally, a check is made out, signed and they are ready to be mailed.

And, that's the process. One other thing I would like to mention is the Due Date for the articles. I need them in by the 18 of the month. Sometimes this may seem early, however upcoming holidays and other obstacles can interfere with the time allotted on getting the news letter out on time.

I do want to **THANK YOU** for your articles. The more the better!!! I love to receive your ideas, thoughts, and am open to new ideas. Bring them on!!!

Again, I thank you and hope this year brings joy and hope for everyone. God Bless.

Respectfully submitted, LOIS

1st Chrystel Paulson, 2nd Marion Jacobs, Hayle Woolf, 3rd Marilyn Eddy, Lee Leeder, 4th Helyn Woolf, 6th Betty Gunther, Vanessa Hahn, 7th Julie Detling, 8th Mark Kayser, Journey Jacobs, 9th Heidi Pronath/Jahnke, Jake Schilling, 11th Ruth Horner, Ana Erickson, 12th Tomas Spencer, Andrew Spencer, 13th Glenn Ripley, David Vogt, Amy Slone, 14th Glen Wildenberg, Becky Kayser, Daniel Slone, 15th Parker Sharpe, 16th Tom Larum, Terry Lipp, 17th Richard Trommer, 19th Mary Willson, 22nd Maren Moll, Susan Glynn, 23rd Carol Bohlin, 24th Winnie Carlson, 25th Steve Jacobs, 26th Jasmin Erickson, 27th Kit McFarland, Luke Schilling, (29th) Judy Erickson

2nd Mark & Dawn Halliburton
10th Mark & Marjean Schuelke
14th Bud & Judy Arnold
14th John & Ann Wilson
14th John & Hope Dougherty
19th Dick & Elaine Newton
22nd John & Jane Bals

Bible Trivia

...check your Bible
knowledge

Happy Valentine's Day

Books Within the Book

1. What prophet ate a book and found it sweet as honey?
2. What New Testament writer ate a book that tasted good but gave him indigestion?
3. What book of the Bible mentions the Lamb's book of life?
4. What book of the Bible makes reference to "the books of the chronicles of the kings of Media and Persia"?
5. What Old Testament prophet mentions the Lord's "book of remembrance"?
6. According to Revelation, who will open the book with seven seals?
7. What Old Testament book mentions "the book of the acts of Solomon"?

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Answers: 1. Ezekiel (Ezekiel 2:9-3:3) or John (Revelation 10:10),
2. John (Revelation 10:9-10), 3. Revelation 21:27, 4. Esther (10:1-2),
5. Malachi 3:16-17, 6. The lion of the tribe of Judah (Revelation 5:5),
7. 1 Kings 11:41.