

A New Year & A New Start!

They say that “time flies when you’re having fun.” I don’t know about you, but time seems to fly just about all the time for me anymore. With each passing year, the days and months seem to go flying by more and more. Here we sit in the year 2014. Wow! This seems unbelievable to me!

Time goes by swiftly, so how we handle time is paramount! The celebration of a New Year provides ample opportunity for us to evaluate and reevaluate how we spend our time and what we are doing in general. This is true both on a personal level but also for our church as well.

How do you celebrate the arrival of a New Year? Do you watch the ball drop in Times Square? Do you stay up to celebrate as the clock strikes twelve?

Internally, what do you do to find a way mentally to do away with the old and usher in some new things into your life? Do you contemplate your spiritual life and how it is with your soul?

Our founding father, John Wesley, was a spiritual man who believed the church of England needed to change and be reformed. Today, many of us believe the church is in much the same condition as it was in Wesley’s day. Change is obvious and all around us, seemingly more now than ever. How are you dealing with change? How is the church dealing with change?

Do you set personal goals for the New Year? Does your family plan to go away on special vacations or do anything special and different this year?

What about your professional life? Do you commit to new endeavors at work? How will this year be different for you than last?

I believe many people are seeking something more in their lives. Some church people call them “seekers.” What are you seeking?

Take a moment right now to reflect and think about this past year, 2013. What did you do? Does anything special stand out from this past year? What did you do? Were you successful? Did you find fulfillment? And, as John Wesley was known to ask, “How is it with your soul?”

How is it with your soul? Is your spiritual cup running on empty or is it filled to the brim? Do you spend quality time with your family? Do you spend quality time with God? Do you attend worship regularly? Do you worship solely on your own? Are you growing spiritually?

Many in the church today are so busy arguing and pushing our personal perspectives that we don’t have time to be still and be silent before God. We just survived the Christmas shopping season and many of us were rushing to have everything prepared and ready. What about now? Are you still rushing around frantically.

Slow down. Take some time this year to satisfy and fill your soul. We should all be seeking to grow closer to God. I am hoping and making plans for myself personally this year. One of my goals is to spend more quality time with God. What about you?



Bob Shank

Daily Scripture Readings

January 1
Jeremiah 22

January 2
Jeremiah 23

January 3
Jeremiah 24

January 4
Jeremiah 25

January 5
Jeremiah 26

January 6
Jeremiah 27

January 7
Jeremiah 28

January 8
Jeremiah 29

January 9
Jeremiah 30

January 10
Jeremiah 31

January 11
Jeremiah 32

January 12
Jeremiah 33

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Jeremiah 34

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Jeremiah 35

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Jeremiah 36

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Jeremiah 37

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Jeremiah 38

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Jeremiah 40

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Jeremiah 41

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Jeremiah 42

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Jeremiah 43

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Jeremiah 44

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Jeremiah 45

January 25
Jeremiah 46

January 26
Jeremiah 47

January 27
Jeremiah 48

January 28
Jeremiah 49

January 29
Jeremiah 50

January 30
Jeremiah 51

January 31
Jeremiah 52

Gather! Grow! Make a Difference!

JANUARY

To Serve You in January

Greeters	8:30
5	Hilda & Walter Roeckendorf
12	Irene Goforth
19	DeAnn Harris
26	Eleanor Bentzoni
	11:00
5	Sue & Bill Weitzmann
12	BJ Bachman
19	Joanne Reed
26	Star Jones
Ushers	8:30
Brad Hildabrant	
Sue Scarborough	
Kirsten Lee	
Walter Roeckendorf	
	11:00
Dick Seip	
Bob Dellicker	
Sue Gouger	
Kelly Edinger	
Eva Knight	
Altar Guild	
Joni Singer & Betty Michelin	
Counters	
Lynn Seip, Bob & Pam Cool	
Soup Kitchen	
Sundays at 4:00 pm	
5	Reeders UMC Youth - Joann Palerer
12	Christ Hamilton Lutheran Conf. Class - Debbie Lamson
19	E. Stroudsburg Baptist Youth - Doug Romaine
26	Stroudsburg H.S. Senior Honor Society - Celia Yost
Tuesday evenings at 6:00 pm	



OUR CHURCH STAFF:

Ministers	Everyone
Pastors	Bob Shank & Ted Good
Pastor Emeritus	Tom Anderman
Church Secretary	Jackie Herrero
Choir Director	Dave Lantz
Organist	Marti Lantz
Youth Leader	Vin Zelizo
Handbell Director	Lynn Seip
Custodian	Matt Parton

OUR CHURCH LEADERS:

Daniel's Dream Team	
Chairperson, Boyd Butz	
	boydbutz@stroudsburgumc.com
Worship	
Chairpersons, Ralph Harrison, Pastor Bob Shank	
	bobshank@stroudsburgumc.com
Property & Building	
Chairperson, Dick Seip	
	relseip@ptd.net
Servant Resource Team	
Chairperson, Beryl Hellgren	
	berylhellgren@stroudsburgumc.com
Stewardship	
Chairperson, Carole Everitt	
	caroleeveritt@stroudsburgumc.com
Missions	
Chairperson, Alberta Weber	
	albertaweber@stroudsburgumc.com
Membership & Evangelism	
Chairperson, Peggy Stewart	
	bpstew@juno.com
Lay Leader	Beryl Hellgren



January Birthdays

- 5 Elizabeth Miller
- 5 Christopher Cook
- 8 DeAnn Harris
- 17 Vivian Cobbs
- 21 Dan Herrero
- 22 Carole Everitt
- 25 Marina Maroney
- 25 Cathy Doane
- 26 Phil Shaffer
- 27 Alberta Weber

If you would like a card on your special day, please call the church office - 421-6020.

This is one of my favorite thoughts and Jesus has comforted me many times by remembering it. I want to call it a dream but it was so detailed that it could be a vision. I just want to share it with you. Now when I pray I go up the stairs and have a cup of black coffee. You could do that too.

JESUS LIKES HIS COFFEE BLACK -By Karen Vaughn

Picture with me a ladder into the sky
There's a cloud not too far up there
Three boards compose the top of the table.
One for the Father- One for the Son-
One for the Holy Ghost.
Two chairs painted white enamel
One for Him and one for me.

Notice two English bone china cup and saucers.
An electric coffee pot without a cord
because He's the power.
No cream or sugar- He likes His coffee black.
So do I!

There He stood dressed in a white robe,
just like His pictures.
Jesus- My friend, My confidant, My mentor.
I was standing there in a red plaid shirt
and blue jeans
And thin- my perfect self image,
BUT, knowing what a mess I can be.

Graciously, He asked me to sit down.
He sat down and poured me a cup of coffee.
We drank and drank
I noticed the level of the coffee
Did not go down.

Eye to eye He asked-
"Can you trust Me with your life?"
Surprised I answered, "Why Sure"
Without another word He waved goodbye.
Comforted, Forgiven, Encouraged- I went home.



Ted and Margie Good and Matt Lesoine would like to thank our entire church family for all of their prayers, cards, calls, love, encouragement and support over these past five and one half years of waiting for a kidney transplant, for Matt, which happened on November 10, 2013. We could not have made it through such a difficult long wait without your help. We would also like to thank the entire Transplant Team at the Lehigh Valley Hospital for their expertise, kindness, compassion and assistance. Most of all we would like to thank the donor's family for thinking of someone else...on the most difficult day of their lives. We will continue to pray for them.

**Thanks again,
Ted, Margie and Matt**

2014 Calendar and Altar Flower Chart

The 2014 calendar is up outside the Conference Room. Please be sure to note your committee and small group meetings so they will be included in the bulletin and future Couriers. The 2014 Altar Flower chart is up in the Fellowship Room. Please consider putting flowers on the altar in memory of or in honor of your loved ones.

Stewardship

Thank you to all who completed and submitted a pledge card for 2014. To date we have received 49 pledges for a total of \$117,116.00 toward the 2014 budget. We are awaiting permission from the District Superintendent to hold a special Charge Conference to hopefully approve the proposed budget from the Stewardship Committee.

Through November we continue with a deficit. Envelope giving is down by \$6,801.77 from last year and our expenses exceed our income by \$39,159.21. If we include the \$41,685.00 final payment for the elevator our deficit through November is \$80,844.21. Fortunately we have been able to fund our expenses through the Property and Building funds. Investment gains on those funds is \$103,949.98 since December 31, 2012. Unfortunately with drawing on these funds for general expenses the Property and Building Committee is limited on funding for needed updates to the church such as bathroom and kitchen renovation. The church also had an added expense with the sewer problems this past month. We ask that you review your pledge for 2013 and if in arrears that you try to maintain your commitment. Thank you to all who have fulfilled your pledge. We also ask that you give prayerful consideration to your financial commitment to SUMC for 2014 as a good steward of what God has provided for us.

Thank you also to those who continue to give so faithfully to the elevator fund. During the month of November \$835.00 was designated toward the elevator giving us a balance of \$79,036.69 to fully fund the project.

Due to a conflict with his work schedule Drenen Tucker will not be able to continue his membership on the Stewardship Committee.

The Stewardship Committee continues to ask for your prayers for our church, its growth and financial stability.

The Stewardship Committee: Carole Everitt, Paul Edinger, Fran Harrison, Dan Butz, Kirsten Lee, Ruth Weber, Sharon Cottle

BRIDGES OUT OF POVERTY

"ENGAGING THE COMMUNITY, EMPOWERING THE MOTIVATED"

Newsletter December 27, 2013

As 2013 draws to a close Pocono Alliance would like to take this opportunity to thank all the organizations, agencies and people who have made the second year of our Bridges Out of Poverty and Getting Ahead class initiatives a success.

Getting Ahead Class of 2012-2013

Presently working with their mentors in the Pathways program and are continuing to make progress on their journey.

Five members are continuing their education at ESU, NCC & MCTI

Seven members are currently employed: full or part time

Getting Ahead Class of 2013-2014

Has 8 more weeks before the completion of the class

12 are currently employed: full or part time

2 have completed additional training programs

2 are working on their GED's

It has been a busy year, one in which we have witnessed a tremendous growth in the interest in Monroe County to assist those that have a strong conviction and determination to work their way out of poverty, toward a life of economic stability and self-sufficiency.

Pathways

We are seeking mentors for the graduates of our Second Getting Ahead Class. Mentors work with graduates to fulfill goals for their future & become self-sufficient

Mentors provide:

Guidance

Social Capital

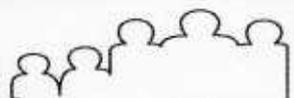
Support

Pathways meetings are held at Christ Episcopal Church, Stroudsburg PA

If you are interested and would like more details on how you can become a mentor or would like to learn more about Bridges or Getting Ahead contact: Arthur Piancone

**Arthur Piancone
Bridges Our of Poverty Director
Pocono Alliance
912 Main St. Suite 300
Stroudsburg, PA 18360**

**W. 570-517-3956
C. 570-269-4167
apiancone@monroecountypa.gov**



Pocono Alliance

UMW NEWS FOR 2014

- United Methodist Women has made some changes in our organization beginning in January of 2014. We have brought back on our Board many of the positions we used to have and have added some new ones. Our Executive Committee will still consist of President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer, however a complete slate of all Board positions was presented to the membership in December, voted upon and accepted. As your new Publicity Chairperson I am including the complete list here for your information. Please keep this handy, as it will remain in effect for 2014, or until further notice of any changes.

President: Ruth Weber
Vice President: Karen Vaughn
Secretary: Diane Rogell
Treasurer: Sharon Cottle

Brothers' Keepers and Little Quilts: Eleanor Bentzoni
Care Team: Joni Singer
Christmas Boutique: Lynn Seip
Church Women United: Eleanor Bentzoni & Alberta Weber
Hospitality: Betty Michelin & Debbie Fox
Knife Sales: Pam Cool & Doris Philips
Mother's Day & Father's Day Booklets: Eleanor Bentzoni
Nominating: Open at this time
Publicity: Lois Shaffer
Special Mission Recognition: Beryl Hellgren
Spiritual Growth: Diane Rogell
Sunshine: Nancy Haase
Weis Tapes: Lois Shaffer

- To begin our new year we will be holding two important meetings in January. The first is our annual Planning Meeting scheduled on Tuesday, January 14th, at 7:00pm in the Lounge. The second is our annual Budget Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, January 28th, at 7:00pm in the Lounge. All Board members listed above are asked to please attend both of these meetings. As always, all other UMW members are invited to attend and offer their input for discussion. Please let Ruth Weber know if you will

be present at either or both of these meetings. Please remember, our 2014 activities and financial plans will be made at these meetings and everyone's thoughts and suggestions are valuable and helpful.

Two Housekeeping items for your attention:

- First: As new chair of the Weis tape and Campbell soup labels, I have moved the boxes for these items off the radiator in the Fellowship Room and placed them on a radiator in the Sanctuary, where more people, especially those who enter and leave the Sanctuary at the front door, will have better access to them. As always, we are asking all of you who attend SUMC, not just UMW members, to consider donating your Weis tapes and Campbell Soup Labels. UMW receives a rebate on the Weis tapes. Signs helping you locate the boxes will be in the Fellowship Room and Sanctuary.
- Second: As a member unit of Church Women United, we are beginning a new year in our collecting of personal items to be given to local nursing homes next Christmas. For those unfamiliar to the program, UMW collects a different item each month beginning in January and concluding in November. We request a different item each month and asked that it be placed in the trunk in the Fellowship Room. Donations of any amount of any items are gratefully accepted. Our goal is to collect 36 of each separate item by November. At our November meeting we fill 36 fabric tote bags (made by Eleanor Bentzoni) with one of each item. They are then taken to Church Women United, who delivers them to the various nursing homes in our area.

The item we are requesting for January is either Liquid Hand Soap or a bar of Hand Soap. As mentioned above, we need a total of 36 to fill our totes in November. If you are unable to locate the trunk or have any questions, please see Eleanor Bentzoni or another member of UMW who will be glad to help you.

We thank everyone for your generous donations.

JANUARY 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 8:30 AM Worship-Sanctuary 9:45 AM Sunday School-Children through Adult 11:00 AM Worship/Sanctuary 4:00 PM Soup Kitchen-Dining Room	30 7:00 PM Mostly Monday's Small Group	31 6:00 PM Daughters of Thunder Outreach Soup Kitchen	1	2 10:00 AM My Brother's Keepers/Little Quilts-Downstairs Dining Room 7:00 PM Scouts 7:00 PM Small Group - Too Busy Not To Pray - Lounge 7:00 PM Youth Group Meetings 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal-Sanctuary	3	4
5 8:30 AM Worship/Communion-Sanctuary 9:45 AM Sunday School-Children through Adult 11:00 AM Worship/Communion-Sanctuary 4:00 PM Soup Kitchen-Dining Room	6 Life Line Screening Downstairs 7:00 PM Mostly Monday's Small Group	7 6:00 PM Daughters of Thunder Outreach Soup Kitchen 7:00 PM Digging Deeper Small Group-Conference Room	8 10:00 AM Bible Study-Lounge 6:00 PM Cub Scout Meetings 7:00 PM Handbell Rehearsal-Sanctuary	9 10:00 AM My Brother's Keepers/Little Quilts-Downstairs Dining Room 7:00 PM Scouts 7:00 PM Small Group - Too Busy Not To Pray - Lounge 7:00 PM Youth Group Meetings 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal-Sanctuary	10	11 Small Groups - Regroup
12 8:30 AM Worship-Sanctuary 9:45 AM Sunday School-Children through Adult 11:00 AM Worship/Sanctuary 4:00 PM Soup Kitchen-Dining Room	13 Family Promise Coordinator's Meeting 7:00 PM Mostly Monday's Small Group 7:00 PM Stewardship	14 6:00 PM Daughters of Thunder Outreach Soup Kitchen 7:00 PM Digging Deeper Small Group-Conference Room 7:00 PM M & E Meeting	15 10:00 AM Bible Study-Lounge 6:00 PM Cub Scout Meetings 7:00 PM Handbell Rehearsal-Sanctuary	16 10:00 AM My Brother's Keepers/Little Quilts-Downstairs Dining Room 7:00 PM Scouts 7:00 PM Small Group - Too Busy Not To Pray - Lounge 7:00 PM Youth Group Meetings 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal-Sanctuary	17	18 8:00 AM Cub Pack Pinewood Derby 2:00 PM Troop 86 Spaghetti Dinner
19 8:30 AM Worship-Sanctuary 9:45 AM Sunday School-Children through Adult 11:00 AM Worship/Sanctuary 4:00 PM Soup Kitchen-Dining Room	20 7:00 PM Mostly Monday's Small Group	21 6:00 PM Daughters of Thunder Outreach Soup Kitchen 7:00 PM Digging Deeper Small Group-Conference Room 7:00 PM Stitch & Pray Small Group - Lounge	22 10:00 AM Bible Study-Lounge 6:00 PM Cub Pack Meeting 7:00 PM Handbell Rehearsal-Sanctuary	23 10:00 AM My Brother's Keepers/Little Quilts-Downstairs Dining Room 7:00 PM Scouts 7:00 PM Small Group - Too Busy Not To Pray - Lounge 7:00 PM Youth Group Meetings 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal-Sanctuary	24	25 8:00 AM UMM Breakfast-Speaker George McGovern, Team Chapel Leader: NY Yankees, NY Giants
26 8:30 AM Worship-Sanctuary 9:45 AM Sunday School-Children through Adult 11:00 AM Worship/Sanctuary 4:00 PM Soup Kitchen-Dining Room	27 7:00 PM Mostly Monday's Small Group	28 6:00 PM Daughters of Thunder Outreach Soup Kitchen 7:00 PM Digging Deeper Small Group-Conference Room	29 10:00 AM Bible Study-Lounge 6:00 PM Cub Scout Meetings 7:00 PM Handbell Rehearsal-Sanctuary	30 10:00 AM My Brother's Keepers/Little Quilts-Downstairs Dining Room 7:00 PM Scouts 7:00 PM Small Group - Too Busy Not To Pray - Lounge 7:00 PM Youth Group Meetings 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal-Sanctuary	31	1