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The Flame

of Burns Memorial United Methodist Church

January 2023

On Fire for Christ

Issue Number 204

From The Pastor

Writing about ethics, the Greek philosopher Aristotle (384–322 BC) said

“As it is not one swallow or a fine day that makes a spring, so it is not one day or a short time that makes a man blessed and happy ... These virtues are formed in man by his doing the right actions.”

William James Durant (1885–1981) American writer, historian, and philosopher put it more succinctly. He said,

“We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit.”

What are important habits for Christians? What could be part of our regular routine that would help us in our Christian journey? This could be a long list. But like a healthy diet, moderate exercise, and rest are good for the body, here are a few things that are especially good for our souls.

1) Prayer. I think Jesus intended the Lord’s Prayer to be a daily prayer. Daily we are called to honor God, submit to God, seek God’s will, his help, his forgiveness. Daily prayer is an act of humility, recognizing that we do not have all the answers, nor are we strong enough on our own. We need God. Daily prayer is also a means to peace. Peter wrote, “cast your cares upon the Lord, who cares for you.” (1 Peter 5:7)

“In the morning,
O Lord, You will
hear my voice.”
Psalm 5:3

2) Studying the Bible. Trying to understand Christianity without reading the Bible would be like trying to understand US History without reading the Constitution. The 67 books of the Bible represent the record of the ongoing story of God’s dealings with humanity. The heart of the story is in the four gospels, where we read of the “Word, become flesh.” If you want to know what Jesus believed, read what he said. If you want to grow as a disciple, follow what he said.

“Thy word is a
lamp unto my
feet, and a light
unto my path.”
Psalm 119:105

3) Participating in a Christian Community. The Apostle Paul described the church as a body in which the parts all need each other. In this wonderful analogy, it is clear that not only do we need the larger Christian community, but the community also needs us. We are better together.

Praying, studying, and worshiping together are all parts of a healthy Christian diet. Eat well in 2023.

Blessings, Pastor John

Day by day
continuing with
one mind in the
temple, and
breaking bread
from house to
house ...
Acts 2:46

DISCIPLESHIP OPPORTUNITIES



SUNDAY SCHOOL

Our Fellowship Sunday School Class meets at 9:30 Sunday mornings. Mike Drake is the class President and Bill Williams is the teacher. This January we continue the Winter quarter. The January lessons and themes are listed below:

- January 1 — Galatians 3:23-4:7, “Children Of God Through Adoption”
- January 8 — Luke 15:11-32, “Grace And Assurance For All”
- January 15 — John 17:1-24; Ephesians 4:14, “In The World, Not Of It”
- January 22 — Colossians 3:12-17, “Controlled By Peace”
- January 29 — Matthew 22:1-14, “Seat At The Table”



BIBLE STUDIES — Everyone is welcome to join our Bible Studies, no prior experience is required. The study class is offered both “in-person” Wednesdays at 10 AM and online via Zoom, Tuesdays at 6 PM. Pastor John is the teacher, and in January we will continue the Gospel of Mark.

The Flame Deadline: January 21st

DISAFFILIATION UPDATE

We have had two open meetings for discernment. Following those meetings, on December 12, 2022, the Administrative Council voted unanimously to move forward with disaffiliation. We have requested a called Church Conference with our District Superintendent for an official vote. This meeting date will be sometime in 2023 and all church members will given notice.

MEETING DAY

Following the Worship Service on January 8, (at about 12:15 PM) members of the **Finance Committee**, the **Staff Parish Relations Committee** and the **Board of Trustees** are asked to stay for brief meetings of their respective groups. These groups are asked to (1) elect officers for 2023, (2) set a meeting schedule (at least quarterly), and (3) handle any pressing business that may need attention.



THANK YOU!
FROM THE STAFF

To the wonderful members of our Burns Church family, words cannot express how grateful we are to work with and for such awesome, generous people! We, your Staff, would like to express our appreciation for the Christmas gift you all gave each of us! We all look forward to continuing to work with each of you in the coming years. God bless you all and Thank you, again!

FELLOWSHIP MEALS: BECAUSE FAMILIES EAT TOGETHER!

The Family Night Supper this month is January 18 at 6 PM. The menu is homemade beef stew with white rice, a side salad and dessert. The cost is \$8 for adults, \$4 for children 4-12, and children 3 and under are free. Please RSVP with the form in the bulletin. (Note, the cost has increased by \$1.)



We are also having a **Fellowship Lunch** following the Worship Service on Sunday, January 22. The meal is free, and fresh, hot, grilled, sliced roast beef will be provided. Those participating are asked to bring a side dish or dessert to share.

MISSIONS WALL



The Missions Committee had plaques put up in the hallway to recognize ministries that our church supports – Compass for Hope, iCare, Safe Homes, and Augusta Rescue Mission. These compassionate ministries help those who are suffering in our community, and we are pleased to be a part of their work. If you have any questions about these and other missions, please see Carol Echols.

New Year's Eve

WORD SEARCH

O	C	D	A	D	C	D	Z	I	P	Q	H	K	H	P	Q	K	U	R	B
K	H	G	D	F	T	U	N	A	H	J	H	O	R	N	S	U	Q	P	G
P	E	T	A	F	J	F	O	X	N	I	A	B	R	B	A	N	F	E	Z
A	E	W	W	Y	J	D	I	J	K	Z	J	V	M	L	B	V	N	O	Z
U	R	C	F	C	G	T	S	W	S	O	O	T	M	H	M	R	E	R	P
G	S	Y	U	H	F	E	E	R	C	A	L	E	N	D	A	R	F	W	A
P	K	Q	U	Q	I	F	M	M	E	B	V	A	W	C	A	E	T	J	K
R	I	O	O	D	R	Q	A	F	I	S	U	Q	P	Y	Q	T	B	Z	S
M	S	H	H	V	E	F	K	P	I	D	O	B	L	Y	S	R	J	S	K
Y	S	Z	E	F	W	G	E	Y	A	D	N	L	B	R	L	O	G	C	Z
L	T	B	Y	F	O	E	R	N	T	R	F	I	U	L	Q	S	J	H	I
Q	J	Z	O	Q	R	B	H	Y	I	O	T	C	G	T	E	P	C	E	X
T	Q	S	J	R	K	L	O	Y	M	I	S	Y	B	H	I	S	O	E	F
P	M	Q	X	O	S	P	Y	S	E	P	I	X	X	J	T	O	M	R	K
E	Z	L	S	B	M	P	P	C	L	O	C	K	T	P	B	C	N	N	O
J	D	B	G	H	A	M	B	E	C	O	U	N	T	D	O	W	N	Z	X
G	U	L	T	V	G	L	M	L	Y	Z	K	S	U	T	B	D	K	S	T
D	V	V	O	I	Y	K	L	B	C	E	L	E	B	R	A	T	E	F	R
G	D	Y	I	U	S	H	O	F	E	L	U	S	M	P	Y	O	S	N	T
A	F	X	P	M	L	L	I	W	G	M	U	C	O	I	N	O	W	Y	D

Noisemaker Countdown Cheers Horns	Resolution Calendar Party Ball	Celebrate Midnight Cheer Kiss	Fireworks Bubbles Clock Time
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