



THE COURIER

A Monthly Publication of Bethany Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

LOVING God.
LIVING for Christ.
LISTENING to God's Spirit.

Rev. Robert Arnold
Senior Minister
pastorbobarnold@bcc-elp.org

Samantha Flores
Office Manager
office@bcc-elp.org

Christopher Marquez
Director of Music

Carol Frank
Ministry Assistant

Laura Perez & Lupe Diaz
Sunday Daycare

Ruth Crenshaw
Organist

Anna Longo
Pianist

10453 Springwood Drive
El Paso, Texas 79925
915.592.5977
bcc-elp.org

Office Hours
Monday—Friday
9 a.m.—2 p.m.

Pastoral Hours
Monday-Thursday
8:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m.

Arnold's Applications

Tradition says that we begin the new year as a hopeful time, making resolutions for better living in the months ahead. This practice actually corresponds closely with Christ's teaching about repentance. Contra-

ry to the impression held by some people, Christ did not come so much to judge and to condemn as to inspire change and new resolution. Jesus famously

demonstrated to the woman caught in adultery (John 8), that no one sinless enough to condemn her stood among her accusers. Having done so, he warmly informed and blessed her: "Then neither do I condemn you. Go now and leave your life of sin."

One of my former congregations recently posted on Facebook. They highlighted a quotation from a man named John of Climacus, who lived fifteen hundred years ago. He spoke eloquently of the new resolution Jesus aims for us to make

when we come to a time of repentance. I would like to share that ancient quotation with you, because it speaks with as much power today and with as much trueness to Christ's teaching, as it did fifteen hundred years ago.



"To repent is not to look downwards at my own shortcomings, but upwards at God's love. It is not to look backwards with self-reproach but forward with trustfulness. It is to see not

what I have failed to be, but what by the grace of Christ I might yet become."

Are not these words profound? I cannot speak for you, but for me, repentance often comes with bitter self-recrimination and discouragement. Such attitudes can cause us to feel like we have already blown it, leaving us discouraged and disempowered in the face of the need to begin anew. This sort of repentance, instead of lifting us to better life, leaves us wallowing in the slough of despond.

However, John of Climacus reminds us that self-condemnation does not serve the purposes of God for the penitent. Rather, the penitent can trust in the forbearance of God to forgive past failings and in the grace of God to transform future achievements.

As we face this season for new resolutions, let us do so mindful of where the grace of God holds out before us the possibility of change for the better. Rather than letting broken self-esteem and a sense of failure hold us back, let us latch on to the resurrection power of God's grace to move us forward.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Bob

Monday Morning Bible Study

By Jerry De Frank

Our Monday Bible study meets in the **meeting room** at **9:30 a.m.**

January 6 - Zephaniah

January 13 - Habakkuk

January 20 - no meeting

January 27 - Obadiah

Thank You for Your Generosity!

Your gifts of shoes to the children of the YWCA Transitional Living Center were delivered by **Santa Ken (Ho-Ho-Ho) Blystone Claus** in his dashing, but aging, red (Chevy truck) sleigh to the TLC, where they were lovingly logged in by the staff to deliver to the children. Thanks to the El Paso Scale Model Society (John Estes) who contributed generously to this effort. Also delivered were new socks donated to all of the children. Thanks to all of you who let your Love shine down on the YWCA TLC this Christmas!

The Adams, The Arnolds, The Baxters, Carol Beatty, The Blystones, The Connors, Eleanor Corral, Ruth Crenshaw, The De Franks, Bubbles Eades, Dale Eden, El Paso Scale Model Society, John Estes, Cornelia Ford, Carol Frank & Wanda Gibbons, The Greasbys, Mike Harmon, Jan Herron, Jennifer Howell, Glenda Koenigsberg, Anna Longo, Jerrilu Mallo, The Ruben Martinez Family, Tanya McCollum, The Myers, The Nenni's, Betty Peck, Lola Mae Perry, The Phillips, The Porters, Sibyl Rappe, The Rodgers, The Rutherford Family, The Sees, Lucy Snelson, Hazel Thompson, The Thompsons, Dodie Wicker, The Widmers, The Williams

(If your name was inadvertently left off, please let Sandra Blystone know. The error will be rectified!)

Men's Meeting

The Men's gathering is on **Wednesday, January 8th at 6:30 p.m., in the meeting room**. This is a pot-luck meal; bring your favorite dish and be ready for a great time of fellowship and sharing. All men are welcome.

Pastor Bob's Bible Study

Pastor Bob's Bible study is on **Tuesdays, 1:30 p.m. in the meeting room**. The topic to be discussed is the Gospel of John.



Disciples Women

December 's Disciples Women meeting will be held on **Tuesday, January 21st at 9:30 a.m. in the Meeting Room.**

Isaiah 29:13-14 Therefore the Lord said:

"Inasmuch as these people draw near with their mouths And honor Me with their lips, But have removed their hearts far from Me, And their fear toward Me is taught by the commandment of men, Therefore, behold, I will again do a marvelous work among this people, A marvelous work and a wonder; For the wisdom of their wise men shall perish, And the understanding of their prudent men shall be hidden."

An ancient story is told of a King of Spain who was to visit a poor country village. Upon hearing of his plan to visit them, the people seemed excited to offer a great celebration that would show their adoration and love for their king. But the villagers didn't have much to offer.

In the midst of their quandary someone proposed that, since so many villagers made their own wines, they might each choose his best wine, and combine them in a barrel to present to the king as a gift from the village. So they did, each wine-maker bringing a flagon with which to fill the barrel. Then, they anxiously awaited the arrival of their king.

When the King arrived, he was ceremoniously presented with a silver cup and invited to draw wine from the barrel. As he filled his silver chalice, he was surprised when he tasted only water. Where was the wine? Each villager had reasoned, "I'll withhold my best wine and give water. There will be so many cups of excellent wine poured

into the barrel that mine will never be missed."

Here was a town full of people whose private greed completely overcame their public enthusiasm. The indictment of Isaiah the prophet suited them perfectly: "these people draw near with their mouths and honor Me with their lips, but have removed their hearts far from Me.."

Yet our God looks at the heart, and He knows well when we are going through the motions of showing love and admiration for him, without any truth or sincerity.

Hypocrisy is a serious offense to our God. He would rather we honestly withhold than pretend to be generous. How often do we act publicly to be seen by men in a certain light, while in fact, our motive is self-seeking? So God will have to do another marvelous work to expose our hypocrisy, because of His love for us, for He knows when our "wine" is really "water". But wouldn't we rather offer our very best wine right from the start?



Serving in January

Elders

Jan. 5– Don Baxter(C), Trish Baxter (B)
 Jan. 12– Dennis Ruffner(C), Vicki Myers(B)
 Jan. 19– W. Salguero(C), Jennifer Howell(B)
 Jan. 26– Sandra Blystone(C), Cornelia Ford (B)

Home Bound Elder—Trish Baxter

Worship Leaders

January 5– Cornelia Ford
 January 12– Dale Edens
 January 19– Sandra Blystone
 January 26– Mike Harmon

Diaconate

January 5– Bob & Joyce Nenni
 Ron & Peggy Williams
 January 12– Jim & Linda Phillips
 Eleanor Corral, Ruben Martinez
 January 19– Lola Mae Perry , Mike Harmon
 Martha Morris, Mike De Frank
 January 26– Lucy Snelson, Donald Thompson
 Jim Rodgers, Luis Meza

Preparers

January 5– Wanda Gibbons & Carol Frank
 January 12– Ron & Peggy Williams
 January 19–
 January 26– Joyce & Bob Nenni

Greeters

January 5– Dale Edens
 January 12– Linda & Bob Adams
 January 19– Bodine & Bruce Porter
 January 26– Wanda Gibbons & Carol Frank

Refreshments

January 5– Lola Mae Perry
 January 12– Linda & Bob Adams
 January 19– Cornelia Ford
 January 26– Vicki Myers & Virginia Moore

January's Birthdays



01/01 Ruben Martinez
 01/01 Bob Adams
 01/05 Chris Martinez
 01/06 Adrena Greasby
 01/08 Donald Baxter
 01/11 John Estes
 01/11 Donald Thompson
 01/14 Eleanor Corral
 01/15 David Howell
 01/16 Terry Chavira
 01/17 Bryon Conner
 01/22 George Myers
 01/24 Laura Martinez
 01/27 Omar Aguilar
 01/27 Glenda Koeningsberg

CAPERS

CAPERS is a time when we gather for fellowship around the table and enjoy some fun and laughter. This month's gathering will meet on **Thursday, January 9th, 11:30 a.m. at Franky's, 9828 Montana.** A

sign-up sheet is located in the Narthex for those interested. Our January host is Lola Mae Perry. Hope to see you there!



Bethany Christian Church

January 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 office closed & Pastor Bob's Vacation 7:00pm Gambler's Anonymous	2 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	3	4
5 9:15am Sunday School- 10:45am Morning Worship 12:15pm Elders' Meeting 3:00pm Sun City Ringers Handbell	6 9:30am Morning Bible Study- Jerry 6:00pm Boy & Cub Scouts	7 1:30pm Pastor Bob Bible Study 7:00pm ACOA Meeting	8 6:30pm Disciples Men 7:00pm Gambler's Anonymous	9 11:30am Capers 5:00pm Worship Meeting 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	10	11 9:00am Retreat
12 Fellowship Dinner 9:15am Sunday School- 10:45am Morning Worship 3:00pm Sun City Ringers Handbell	13 9:30am Morning Bible Study- Jerry 6:00pm Boy & Cub Scouts	14 Board Reports Due 1:30pm Pastor Bob Bible Study 7:00pm ACOA Meeting	15 7:00pm Gambler's Anonymous	16 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	17	18
19 Board Meeting 9:15am Sunday School- 10:45am Morning Worship 3:00pm Sun City Ringers Handbell	20 9:30am Morning Bible Study- Jerry 6:00pm Boy & Cub Scouts	21 9:30am Disciples Women 1:30pm Pastor Bob Bible Study 7:00pm ACOA Meeting	22 7:00pm Gambler's Anonymous	23 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	24	25
26 9:15am Sunday School- 10:45am Morning Worship 3:00pm Sun City Ringers Handbell	27 9:30am Morning Bible Study- Jerry 6:00pm Boy & Cub Scouts	28 9:30am YISD Retired Teachers 1:30pm Pastor Bob Bible Study 7:00pm ACOA Meeting	29 7:00pm Gambler's Anonymous	30 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal		