

The Brethren Baptist Bi-Monthly Newsletter

Representing a Church of the Brethren and an American Baptist Church, January/February Issue, 2022

“Remember George, no man is a failure who has friends.”

Does that line ring a bell? (there’s a pun there – intended) If you’ve seen Frank Capra’s “It’s a Wonderful Life” you’ll recognize the words of Clarence the unlikely angel, and the reference to ringing bells. If you haven’t seen the movie – you need to! Spoiler alert; I love the movie so much that depending on when you read this newsletter, you’re going to hear about the main character again soon...

One of the main themes of “It’s a Wonderful Life” is the impact that one person can have on the lives of many around them. I know even as I write that sentence that you’re nodding your head – we all have appreciated people who have befriended us and made us better as a result. Perhaps a good practice for the new year would be to thank some of those for their investment in our lives.

But there’s another thought that I think is important for us from the movie. Who are we friends with? Whose lives are we pouring into, whose hearts are we comforting and encouraging? The Golden Rule seems to be a guiding principle here; we love to have good friends, so isn’t it right that we in turn, or maybe even first be great friends ourselves? I just this morning had another conversation like so many before, talking about the disturbing trend in our world of uncivility. How have we come to the point where disagreements result in name-calling, broken relationships and downright nastiness? The answer is not to always agree, but it is to love and respect and listen and affirm – in short, to be a friend. Friends don’t always see eye to eye, but they do see the worth of every person and seek to be a positive influence whenever possible.

So, you know, these thoughts have come to me largely because of how well YOU have befriended me. It’s a bit mysterious to me that I have become so enamored with the family of WBBC in such a short time, but there’s no real mystery as to how it has happened. You’ve treated me as a friend. And what a gift that has been. I couldn’t ask for more.

The new year brings many changes, and it’s always a good time for self-examination. What if we all purposed to simply be better friends this year? How does one do that? I think you already know...

- Friends encourage. Notes, calls, words of affirmation, comforting shoulders
- Friends listen. In times of joy and sorrow, of confusion or questioning, friends make themselves available by simply saying “How are you? Really?” and then listening to the answers
- Friends speak words of truth. We all need the wise counsel, the insight and the experience of others who have gone through what we are going through

The beautiful thing in all this is that we don’t have to reinvent a thing. We have been befriended by the King of Kings, the Creator of the universe, the lover of our souls. *“I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you...”* (john 15:15-16a) *“We love because he first loved us.”* (1 John 4:19) How do we become good friends? By imitating the one who has been our best friend.

Thanks for being my friends.

Pastor Don

WE ARE SO BLESSED!

As this year ends and a new year begins, we have some new officers stepping in and some who are continuing in their positions. We want to recognize and say thank you to a hardworking individual who is leaving both of her positions. **Pam Hannah** has done more than A LOT of work as Moderator. There were so many moving parts this past year it is remarkable that she accomplished so much!! Thank you, Pam, for all you have done to move this congregation forward. **Pam** was also Hospitality Chair. **Shirley Mueller**, also part of Hospitality Committee, along with Pam & many others, helped us celebrate a wonderful retirement party for Pastor David.

We also want to recognize the following people:

- **Joe Roy & Colleen Michael**, Co-Moderators.
- **Merry Roy**, Spiritual Nurture, that umbrella covers so much of our church life.
- **Connie Mitchell**, Treasurer.
- **Lael Vickery**, Property Chair, who also holds a large responsibility for the care of the church building.
- **Jan White**, Community Outreach, working at the Serve Wenatchee Food Bank weekly representing our church & mission outreach, will be joined by **Kathy Fairchild**, Co-Chair.
- **Shirley Mueller & Mary Carter Pringer** will be Co-Chairing Hospitality, their committee helps us celebrate special birthdays, new members and other events that come up.
- **Leanne Ford & Linda Vickery**, Deacon Co-Chairs as well as all Deacons who care for everyone by sending out cards and keeping in touch with people.
- **Nominating Committee: Connie Mitchell** will be joined by **Melissa Fletcher & Rudy Mueller**. Thank you to **Barbara Miller** for her many years on the Nominating Committee.

The Pastoral Search Committee is getting ready now to go forward to find a settled pastor. Pray for that process. Pray also for our new Moderator Team of Joe Roy and Colleen Michael who are taking on the responsibility.

Don't forget our wonderful and accomplished Organist/Pianist **Judi Delabarre** and the Praise team who raise our worship up! And, while you're praying, remember the sale of the church building to Trinity as that plan progresses through committees and research.

Leanne Ford

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Our Shut-ins:

Carolyn Storme
Darlene Uhrich



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

3rd Don Myers
14th Merry Roy
18th Angie Estes
30th Diane Stober

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

2nd Evelyn Eikenberry
4th Susan Stockwell
7th Virginia Crowl
10th Barbara Miller
24th Jay Stockwell
27th Warren Eikenberry
28th Dan White

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

6th Dennis & Betty Radke
31st Don & Barbara Miller

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

2nd Dave & Karen Whitley



TIME TO PUT AWAY THE DECORATIONS



It's the New Year and time to start with a clean sweep. Meet with us Saturday, January 8, 2022, at 9:00am to undecorate the church.

This would also be a good time to go through the flower room and the banners again. Contact me (509.881.1083) if this is something you would be willing to work on.

Blessings to you in all new beginnings,

Merry Roy



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Let's hold tight to our faith, as Joseph did! Let's do our part, so future generations can also experience a Loving God, and a good Creation!"

This article is taken from *Interfaith Power and Light, a Washington-based faith movement for Creation Care.*

GOD'S CREATION

"Our Judeo-Christian tradition provides us a story (Gen. 39-41) where key sectors of society come together to avert a collective crisis.

In the story of Joseph and the Pharaoh's dream, a vision announces an environmental crisis (famine) that threatens the lives of peoples and animals, unless people work together. Egyptian faith and government leaders are receptive to this unprecedented revelation and organize themselves without delay to lessen the impact of a reality God cannot avert. They act even during good times, with a mind on the common good. Each sector does their part, using their power, resources and spiritual gifts.

This is the unique opportunity climate change presents us. I choose hope because faith communities in increasing numbers are among those seeking solutions around the world, including multi-faith collaborations. We are united by a sense of the sacred, and all our faith traditions are calling us to seek climate justice.

With moral authority, we call governments and decision makers to do their part. The time of the industrial revolution powered by the fossil fuel industry must come to an end, or future generations will have to live under conditions humanity has never faced.

GRACE & GROWTH GROUPS

Spiritual growth, becoming more like Jesus and more in tune with God's Spirit, happens in community through relationship with each other. For that reason, our church has small "Grace and Growth Groups" where members can grow spiritually in an environment of grace and acceptance. We try to understand how the teachings of the Bible apply to our lives. We share our joys and struggles within a confidential group of friends. And we pray for each other, our church, and our world.

Our church has five Grace and Growth Groups at this time. Several of them have been meeting via Zoom, email, or in-person during the pandemic. Others have taken a hiatus for a time and would like to resume meeting. In this new year leaders from each group will meet to talk about how their groups are doing, how they can address whatever difficulties they encounter, and how to invite new members.

This is a time for new beginnings.

Blessings to all in your walk with God,

Merry Roy



Happy New Year 2022!

