

A nurse took the tired, anxious serviceman to the bedside. "Your son is here," she said to the old man. She had to repeat the words several times before the patient's eyes opened.

Heavily sedated because of the pain of his heart attack, he dimly saw the young uniformed Marine standing outside the oxygen tent. He reached out his hand. The Marine wrapped his toughened fingers around the old man's limp ones, squeezing a message of love and encouragement. The nurse brought a chair so that the Marine could sit beside the bed. All through the night the young Marine sat there in the poorly lighted ward, holding the old man's hand and offering him words of love and strength. Occasionally, the nurse suggested that the Marine move away and rest awhile. He refused.

Whenever the nurse came into the ward, the Marine was oblivious of her and of the night noises of the hospital - the clanking of the oxygen tank, the laughter of the night staff members exchanging greetings, the cries and moans of the other patients. Now and then she heard him say a few gentle words. The dying man said nothing, only held tightly to his son all through the night.

Along towards dawn, the old man died. The Marine released the now lifeless hand he had been holding and went to tell the nurse. While she did what she had to do, he waited.

Finally, she returned. She started to offer words of sympathy, but the Marine interrupted her, "Who was that man?" he asked.

The nurse was startled, "He was your father," she answered.

"No, he wasn't," the Marine replied. "I never saw him before in my life."

"Then why didn't you say something when I took you to him?"

"I knew right away there had been a mistake, but I also knew he needed his son, and his son just wasn't here. When I realized that he was too sick to tell whether or not I was his son, knowing how much he needed me, I stayed. I came here tonight to find a Mr. William Grey. His Son was killed in Iraq today, and I was sent to inform him. What was this Gentleman's Name?"

The nurse with tears in her eyes answered, "Mr. William Grey....."

The next time someone needs you ... just be there.

Happy 2016

In 2015, it seemed everyone everywhere had something that offended or upset them. But I have a collective suggested resolution moving into 2016. How about this? Stop watching the evening news and read a book. Or a good magazine.

Get off social media and get outside. Don't start arguments. Start conversations. Forgive. Stop nitpicking and pick up the check for someone else. Say yes to adventures that will improve your spirit and no to those things that will only bring negativity.

Travel somewhere you've always wanted to go. Get respect by first paying respect. Meditate. Pray. Fall in love—again. Fall down and get back up. Stop stressing over dollars and cents and focus more on common sense and a sense of humor. Be silly when silly is called for and be serious when serious is called for. Plant a tree. Enjoy your favorite flowers and colors and music. Play an instrument and sing. Loudly and badly.

Make a friend and be a friend. Call your mother, sister, brother, cousin or uncle. Say thank you and please. Stare at the stars. Go to a high school game. Start a fire. Start a tradition. Make a snowman. Make a scrapbook. Take a long weekend. Take photos to frame in your house, not post on your Facebook wall. Walk in the woods.

Have a talk with a two year old, a 20 year old and an 80 year old. Be the reason a baby or an old lady giggles. Both are beautiful noises.

Laugh. Loosen up. Dress up. Take a class and show some class. Eat, and drink what you want.

Stop letting what everyone else is saying or doing bother you so much. Stop being so darn bothered. Stop feeling entitled. Earn and pay your own way. Be genuinely happy for someone else.

Realize if you're blessed and lucky enough to still be breathing you're blessed and lucky enough. Every day above ground is a good day.

Practice patience and tolerance. Stop making people a priority who only treat you like a convenience. Be there for those who have always been there for you. But help out a stranger. Have someone's back.

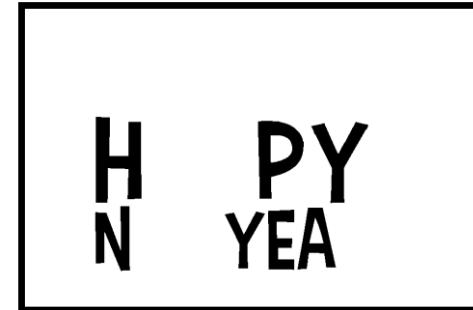
Show up. Follow through. Stop being in such a hurry. Put a cellphone away at dinner, at the movies or in the theatre.

Spend a couple of extra dollars. Tip generously. Work hard. Play nice. Shut up. Calm down. Wait your turn. Take a

nap. Grow up. Listen. Breathe. Trust. And yes, sometimes just sit still and quiet your mind and just...be.

Trust me when I tell you...if you do all or even some of these things in the upcoming year (even if you try) you won't have time to be offended by every little thing. You'll be too busy living a pretty full and happy life to even notice.

Taken from "Saying Goodbye to 2015—The Year Everybody Got Offended by Everything" by Shane Riggs, Managing Editor, Allegany Magazine.



Youth Sunday School

Our youth use "Growing in Grace and Gratitude" from the Presbyterian Church with seasonal lesson such as Advent and Lent. Each session is rooted in Bible stories that reveal God's grace.

Teachers are Jeanne Thrasher,
Cindy Scheermesser and Francy Becker.

Adult Sunday School

The Adult Class uses the *We Believe* series.
Sandra Chilcote is the Adult Teacher.

Winter Quarter 2015 Sacred Gifts and Holy Gatherings

Unit 2: Four Weddings and a Funeral

Jan. 3	A Bride Worth Waiting For (Genesis 29: 15—30)
Jan. 10	The Most Beautiful Bride (Song of Solomon 6: 4—12)
Jan. 17	An Unfaithful Bride (Hosea 1)
Jan. 24	A Wedding in Cana (John 2: 1—12)
Jan. 31	The Death of a Friend (John 11: 38—44)

Prayer Requests

Tonia Brandlen Laurie Groves and family Francy Becker Isabel Fain	Erma Landis and family Kathryn Harvey & family Tom's father, Dick Forbes Alison's mother, Ginny Flick Lawrence Cook Floretta Kelly Lauren Cook Gloria Harrell-Cook George Tasker Virginia Metcalf Jack & Tess Tasker Our country and our troops People who are caregivers to family members Orphans of Belize Glynnna & Shawn Harbaugh Ernie and Carol Kelly
PPC ministry Luke Mertz John Michael Hartman Christopher Hartman Bryan Hartman People who are caregivers to family members Orphans of Belize Glynnna & Shawn Harbaugh Ernie and Carol Kelly	Mary Brandlen Theresa Wolford Nina McCarty Paula Swayne LauraNell Hil Artie Hartman Missionaries in Belize Jim Wilson

Please continue to check the prayer list in the fellowship hall

Life and work of your church

Sunday	9:45 a.m.	Sunday School
	11:00 a.m.	Worship service
Wednesday	6:30 p.m.	Choir practice
2 nd Thursday of each month (Nov. & Dec.)		
"Bible Study"	5:30—8:00 p.m.	in the fellowship hall
2 nd Tuesday of each month	Presbyterian Women	
	10:00 a.m.	meet in the fellowship hall
2 nd Saturday of each month	Church Women of the	
	Tri-Towns	12:00 noon meet in the fellowship hall
1 st Sunday of each month	Food Pantry	
	collection Sunday	



January 18 Buck Knott
January 19 Rick Neder

Riddle answer: taken from Jonah 1 and 2—Jonah's big fish

NEWS Notes

Debbie Scheermesser will not be doing the monthly newsletter after this issue. If someone is interested in taking this job over, please see her for details. If we receive no interest in doing this, we will keep you informed about church activities and news through the weekly worship bulletins and via the church website at www.piedmontpresby.com and Piedmont Presbyterian Church Facebook page.

There is a wealth of information to be found on our website—www.piedmontpresby.org. There are links for church history, upcoming events with a calendar of events, Presbyterian Women, Choir, and even driving directions. Our live streaming continues on Sunday mornings. These worship services and special events are also archived so that you can watch (or re-watch) them anytime during your week at your convenience. Check it out—Tell your friends—Pass it on!! *Thank you* to Shawn Groves for his continued work—he is extremely gifted with technical ability.

Pastor Forbes will be away at Dubuque the month of January. If you have an emergency situation, please contact Cindy Scheermesser at 301-359-0493 or any member of the Session.

\$520.00 was collected at the annual Christmas concert held on Sunday evening, November 30th. \$1,330.00 was collected this year for the Lights of Love campaign. A total of \$1,850.00 was split equally between Warm the Children and Toys for Joy. What a Christmas blessing! Thank you to all who so generously gave money and time to these events.

The next scheduled Session meeting will be held Sunday, February 7th following worship in the fellowship hall.

Sunday, December 20th was an eventful day for our congregation: the youth performed their Christmas program during worship and Kathy Boyce, Lori Evans and Jeanne Thrasher were installed as new Ruling Elders for the next three-year term. Thank you to all who prayerfully serve on our Session! You are so appreciated!

At the Session meeting held on December 6th, the yearly contract between Piedmont Presbyterian Church and Pastor Forbes was discussed and approval given to continue this contract for another year.

Thank You

for your service to your church:

Ushers and Greeters

Jan. 3 Debbie & Mike Hartman
Jan. 10 Kathy & Mike Boyce
Jan. 17 Aggie & Phil Carnell
Jan. 24 Andi Grady & Buck Knott
Jan. 31 Francy Becker & Maxine Groves

Counters

Jan. 3 Kathy & Mike Boyce
Jan. 10 Sandra Chilcote & Andi Grady
Jan. 17 Erma Landis & Andi Grady
Jan. 24 Denise & Darlene Spitzer
Jan. 31 Debbie & Mike Hartman
Feb. 7 Kathy & Mike Boyce
Feb. 14 Sandra Chilcote & Erma Landis
Feb. 21 Erma Landis & Andi Grady
Feb. 28 Denise & Darlene Spitzer
March 6 Debbie & Mike Hartman
March 13 Kathy & Mike Boyce
March 20 Sandra Chilcote & Andi Grady
March 27 Erma Landis & Andi Grady
April 3 Denise & Darlene Spitzer
April 10 Debbie & Mike Hartman
April 17 Kathy & Mike Boyce
April 24 Sandra Chilcote & Erma Landis

Liturgists

Jan. 3 Jeanne Thrasher
Jan. 10 Cindy Scheermesser

Laurie Groves

Frances Becker
Steve Scheermesser
Laurie Groves
Jeanne Thrasher
Steve Scheermesser

Jeanne Thrasher
Frances Becker

Laurie Groves

Sign up on the main table in the Fellowship Hall for available empty dates for Liturgist or call Francy Becker at 301-359-9962 or e-mail her



Tom Forbes

The Lord be with you!

I'll be honest with you. I struggled to find something to write about today. What do we normally say this time of year? Happy New Year? I don't want to come across as curmudgeonly, but being happy just seems to be setting our goals pretty low for this New Year.

I looked around on the Internet for some ideas and found New Year's pastoral letters from some of the more conflicted and fearful places in the world. They had something in common—they all said to read your Bibles. Read your Bibles, read God's word every day.

This makes sense to me. In the scriptures we find God revealed in Jesus Christ and God is our refuge in times of trouble and trouble always seems to be in abundance. So, my wish for you this New Year isn't happiness although I hope that you will be happy and enjoy yourself every day of your life and that you will eat and drink and take pleasure in your work, but my prayer is that you will be at peace.

Before Jesus ascended to the Father he said to his disciples, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you...Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid" (John 14:27). He sent the Holy Spirit to remind them and us of his words. When we are able to live without fear, even in the midst of fearful things, we can live joyfully. Paul tells us to rejoice always and to be thankful in all circumstances because this joy and peace are gifts of God freely given out of God's loving-kindness. Paul also tells us that there is nothing that can separate us from God's love. We are Easter people—resurrection people, and so no matter what happens we can still say,

Have a Peaceful New Year.

Tom



January Worship Services & Lectionary

Sun., Jan. 3 2nd Sunday after Christmas

Jeremiah 31: 7–14 Psalm 147: 12–20
Ephesians 1: 3–14 John 1: 1–18

Wed., Jan. 6

Epiphany of the Lord

Isaiah 60: 1–6
Ephesians 3: 1–12

Psalm 72: 1–7, 10–14
Matthew 2: 1–12

Sunday, Jan. 10

Baptism of the Lord

Isaiah 43: 1–7
Acts 8: 14–17

Psalm 29
Luke 3: 15–17, 21–22

Sunday, Jan. 17

2nd Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 62: 1–5
1 Corinthians 12: 1–11

Psalm 36: 5–10
John 2: 1–11

Sunday, Jan. 24

3rd Sunday after Epiphany

Nehemiah 8: 1–10
1 Corinthians 12: 12–31

Psalm 19
Luke 4: 14–21

Sunday, Jan 31

4th Sunday after Epiphany

Jeremiah 1: 4–10
1 Corinthians 13: 1–13

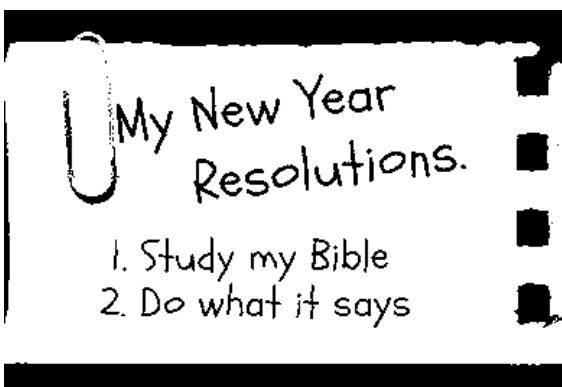
Psalm 71: 1–6
Luke 4: 21–30

Sunday, Feb. 7

Transfiguration of the Lord

Exodus 34: 29–35
2 Corinthians 3: 12–4:2

Psalm 99
Luke 9: 38–43



Family Rules

ALWAYS BE HONEST

...PROVERBS 12:22...

COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS

...PSALMS 34:1-3...

FORGIVE AND FORGET

...MICAH 7:18...

BE SUPPORTIVE OF ONE ANOTHER

...ACTS 20:35...

BE KIND AND TENDERHEARTED

...EPHESIANS 4:32...

KEEP YOUR PROMISES

...ROMANS 4:21...

COMFORT ONE ANOTHER

...1 THESSALONIANS 4:18...

and above all...

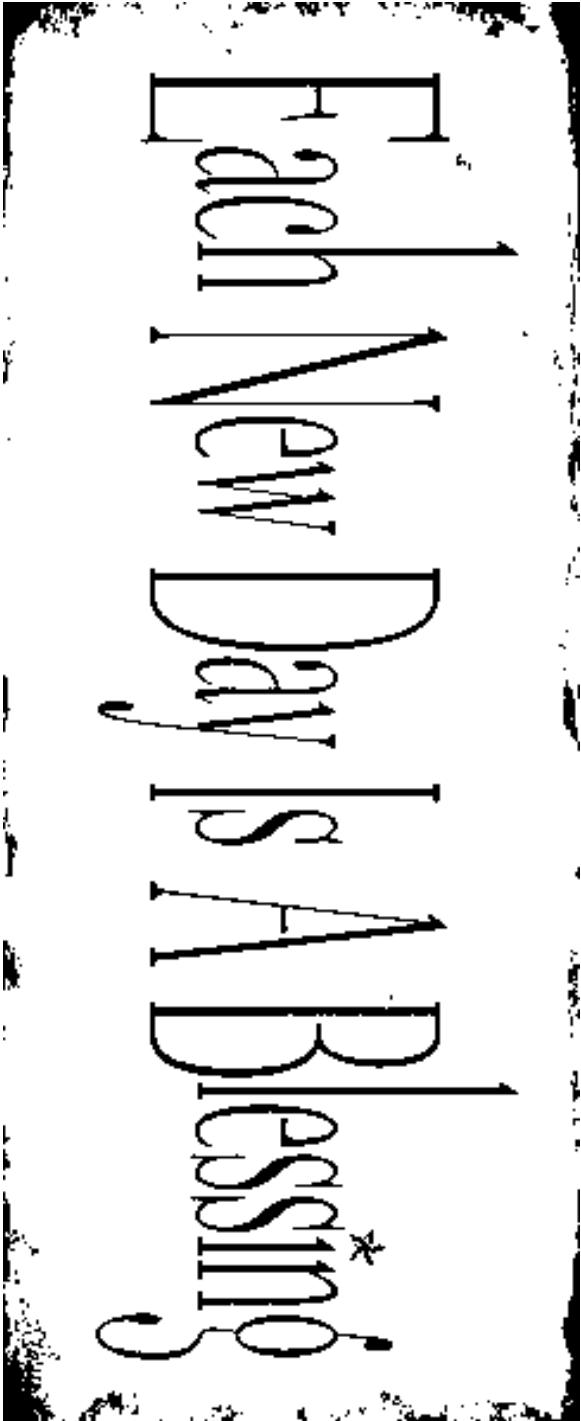
LOVE ONE ANOTHER

...1 PETER 1:22...

Riddle:

I was appointed but wasn't expected
I swallowed whole what I did not eat
I was a place of prayer out of sight
And when I was sick, God approved!
I am in the Bible - what am I?





THE GLEANER

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A circular logo with the word "JANUARY" written vertically in a bold, sans-serif font.

If we can be of
service to you in

any way,
please contact us.

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Pastor Tom Forbes

E-mail address: pastor@piedmontpresby.org
Cellphone: 304-707-1864

Session Members

Frances Becker	301-359-9962
Kermit Becker, Treasurer	301-359-9962
Kathy Boyce	304-813-6553
Lori Evans	240-362-6175
Mike Hartman	301-359-0163
Cindy Scheermesser, Clerk	301-359-0493
Jeanne Thrasher	304-355-2970

Presbyterian Women

Cindy Scheermesser 301-359-0493

Choir Director

Laurie Groves 304-788-6755

Organist

Pat Knott 301-359-9709

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