

The Lamp lighter



Changing how we think — that is, how we speak to ourselves — can be tough. But God wants to transform our reactions and motives, dispelling pride, a lack of confidence and anxiety.

In this new year:

- *I'm alone* can become *God is with me.*
 - *I can't do this* can become *Anything is possible with God.*
 - *I'm failing* can become *Just because I'm struggling, it doesn't mean I'm failing.*
 - *I'm not enough* can become *I'm God's beloved child.*
 - *I'm tired* can become *God will give me rest.*
- Don't stop there. Consider the concerns in your heart and let God give you new words and attitudes.

Ephesians 4:29 (NLT) says our language shouldn't be "foul or abusive" but good, helpful and encouraging. Whether I'm peaceful, hurried, joyful, empathetic, frustrated, celebrating or hurting, I can carefully choose my words (and the attitude behind them). When I'm not ready to speak wholesomely, may God shut my mouth. When a friend needs encouragement, may I listen to God's prompting. When I need to confront, may I do so lovingly.

Greeter Schedule:

	8:30 AM	11:00 AM
Jan 05	Kevin Guiffre	Dave Bode
Jan 12	Glenn Miller	Ken Doyle
Jan 19	Glenn Miller	Patrick Hancock
Jan 26	Marion Simpson	Scott Nupson

Sunday Morning Security Team:

	8:30 AM	11 AM
Jan 05	Norma Stump, Vacant	Paul Miller, Bob Mathews
Jan 12	Kevin Guiffre, Vacant	Al Law, Jennifer Miller
Jan 19	Marion Simpson, Vacant	Jerry Pruitt, Jim Miller
Jan 26	Courtney Harbin, Vacant	Brian Miller, Melvin King

Sunday Morning Nursery:

	Infant	Toddler
Jan 05	Norma S., Donna F.	Jill H., Ruth D.
Jan 12	Norma S., Karla M., Abby P.	Katie L., Kristen G., Erin H.
Jan 19	Norma S., Ruth D., Carlesh N.	Stephanie W., Ruth D., Adrielle L.
Jan 26	Norma S., Cecelia S.	Amanda N., Fran W., Gracelynn N.

Children's Worship:

Jan 05	Stephanie Walton, Jonathan Miller
Jan 12	Jennifer Cooke, Chloe Cooke
Jan 19	Amanda Nicklis, Ashley Miller
Jan 26	Katie Lusk, Kristen Gibson, Abby Pankhurst

January Tellers:

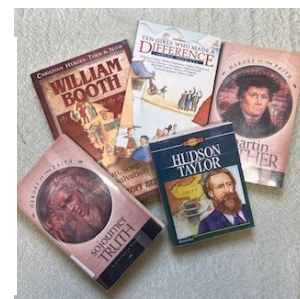
Sharon Bruce, Donna Fleming



Library News by Karen Law

When is the last time you read a biography or autobiography? How about stories about missionaries and martyrs? Go ahead and check one out in the month of January, when our Church Library is highlighting these genres!

We have a wide variety of autobiographies and biographies to choose from, for both children and adults! They can be found on our top shelf, blue tag section. Read one and leave a sticky note inside about what you thought or found interesting. Would you recommend it to others and why/why not?!



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Let's get reading in 2025!

The annual White Elephant brunch and gift exchange added a new twist this year: MEN! It made for some interesting moments like when Pastor Gary opened a hair brush and makeup bag set! Thankfully Dan Minehan was kind enough to steal his gift from him so he could pick something else! A big thanks to Paul & Ruth Dillon and Heather Guiffre for hosting!



Have you ever wondered who is running audio/visual during the 11:00 service? It's Chuck Bonn! He is also serves as the chairman of the Audio Visual Committee if you have any questions.



Julie Burgess is the AWANA Director so she is the one to see if you have any questions or concerns. She has been in this position for the last 8 years but has many more years of experience serving with this ministry!

There are so many parts of our church buildings (and grounds) that need upkeep, maintenance and TIME! Buddy Sanders has been the chairman of the Building & Grounds (B&G) Committee for about 5 years and he always serves the church wherever he is needed.



We are in great need of 8:30 am door monitors. Please contact Logan Irwin if you're able to serve in this way.

Women on Mission will meet on January 9th @ 9:45 AM.



God's Constant New Work

From the beginning of time, God's pattern has been to continually do new things and make things new. Though we can celebrate this every day, the New Year's season is especially fitting to pause and recognize God's work of renewal. Consider the following scriptures (all NIV) and how God is making them real in your own life right now.

- [God] has granted us new life to rebuild ... and repair (Ezra 9:9)
- If [a tree] is cut down, it will sprout again, and its new shoots will not fail. (Job 14:7)
- He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God. (Psalm 40:3)
- See, I am doing a new thing! ... I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland. (Isaiah 43:19)
- You will be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will bestow. (Isaiah 62:2)
- [God's] compassions ... are new every morning. (Lamentations 3:22-23)
- I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you. (Ezekiel 36:26)
- [Jesus] took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you." (Luke 22:20)
- Just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. (Romans 6:4)



Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come:
The old has gone, the new is here! (2 Corinthians 5:17)

Have you considered going on
the short missions trip to
Virginia Beach in March 2025?
See Jennifer Miller
NO LATER THAN 1/5/25.

If you have a story, funny joke,
accomplishment, anniversary or
anything else you would like to
share in a newsletter, please
submit it to the office via email or
leave it on my desk. ~Amanda





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here have these 50 years gone? November 23, 1974, was just like yesterday but also seems like a century ago. These two young 23-year-old kids starting an unknown journey filled with adventure. Our prayers were answered with two, now adult children and their spouses on their own God directed journey with 4 healthy grandchildren. Each with their own individually created design by God for His purpose yet to be determined. A long laundry list of good times a few bad, saying goodbye to our parents while knowing that a heavenly reunion is in our future. Our commitment to those vows said 50 years ago remains strong regardless of what lies ahead or where our journey goes. We are so blessed by the Lord with many friends that have joined us through it all - God knew exactly what He was doing, and we are confident knowing that His plan is perfect. Yep folks, I definitely married up and so thankful she said yes and still does today entering into these new uncharted golden years. I must add that Mrs. Jackson, NANA, Betty Lou's mom, was so important in our journey as she taught my bride about Jesus Christ who in turn, as my soulmate and my moral compass, led me to the Lord. God knew what He was doing even before we were born and still does today. Now that is Amazing Grace. Thank You Lord. Happy 50th Anniversary to my bride. May God continue to use our lives with a heartfelt desire to share the love of God leading others to Jesus Christ.

~Billy





Operation Christmas Child The Power of a Simple Gift

741

Number of boxes packed during the packing party on 11/23

2,637

Number of boxes our church received as a drop off location

8,051

Number of boxes from Charles County (not incl. online or late)

**Liberia &
Botswana**

Two countries in Africa where some of our boxes have gone



Monthly Shopping Ideas:



January: hats, gloves, scarves
February: fashion accessories
March: “wow” items
April: stuffed animals
May: personal care items
June: toys
July: clothing
August: school supplies
September: games
October: letter & photo
November: \$10 donation per shoebox
December: prayer

Please bring in the following craft items all year long:

old t-shirts
fabric
yarn
buttons
washers
pipe cleaners
beads
pill bottles (take labels off)
old glasses cases
sewing needs
ribbon

Box packing tips for you at home:

- Find a closet or a tub that you can put OCC items in all year.
- Set a shoebox goal at the beginning of the year to help you plan and stay motivated.
- Visit samaritanspurse.org/occ to order preprinted shoeboxes so you can pack all year.
- When shopping, choose quality items that will last a long time.
- Don't miss out on post holiday deals after Christmas, Valentine's Day, St. Patrick's Day, and Easter.
- Take advantage of back-to-school sales in the fall.
- Check for tax-free weekends in your area to save money when purchasing your shoebox items.
- Go to the Operation Christmas Child Amazon storefront that includes gift suggestions.