



# New Dawn

New Beginning Evangelical Presbyterian

Volume 2, Issue 1

January 2009



January

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New Year's Day  
January 1, 2009



Epiphany  
January 6, 2009



Baptism of the Lord, January 11, 2009



Martin Luther King Jr. Day  
January 19, 2009



Week of Prayer for Christian Unity  
January 18-25, 2009



## 2009 January Calendar

Date	Time	Meeting
1		New Year's Day Church Closed
*4	9:30 AM 11:00 AM	Sunday School Ordination/Installation Service TOT Church
7	6:30 PM 6:30 PM	Prayer Meeting @ Library Girl Scout Meeting
8	7:00 PM	Small Group @ Aardema's
*11	9:30 AM 11:00 AM	Sunday School Communion Service Tot Church
12	7:00 PM	Session Ministry Team Meetings
14	6:30 PM	Prayer Meeting @ Library
*18	9:30 AM 11:00 AM	Sunday School Covenant Renewal Service Tot Church
20	7:00 PM	Ruth Circle @ Matchett's
21	6:30 PM 6:30 PM	Prayer Meeting @ Library Girl Scout Meeting
22	7:00 PM	Small Group @ Aardema's
*25	9:30 AM 10:30 AM 11:00 AM  12:00 PM 12:15 PM	Sunday School New Dawn Pickup Worship Service Tot Church Congregational Meeting Soup Bowl ??
26	7:00 PM	Session & Diaconate Meetings
28	6:30 PM	Prayer Meeting @ Library

### 2009 January Sermon Preview GETTING READY TO DO GOD'S WILL Phil.3: 13-14

#### 4 - CULTIVATING A CONTAGIOUS CONGREGATION (Officer Ordination) Mt.4: 18-20

From the very beginning of Jesus' ministry, He evoked an enthusiastic response from many people. My prayer is that we will evoke a positive response among the people God has placed in our sphere of influence. How can we become a more contagious and inviting congregation?

#### 11 - CHALLENGES TO ACCEPT (Holy Communion) Philippians 3: 13-14

As a church we are either going forward, standing still or going backward. If we were standing still we are slowly going backward. The problem is we can become complacent and comfortable in our "holy huddle." What does it take to move ahead? What challenges does God have for us in 2009?

#### 18 - ENEMIES TO DEFEAT (Covenant Renewal) Romans 12: 4-5

The body is designed in systems that are in turn designed to live, act and work together. The body also has enemies that can damage or even kill it. Likewise, the Body of Christ – The Church has enemies that can keep us from moving into the future. Today we want to consider four enemies and discover how we can avoid being a target.

#### 25 - DANGERS TO AVOID (Annual Cong. Meeting)

If a rattlesnake was loose in the Sanctuary, would you want to know about it? Of course you would – ASAP! We need to identify the dangers that lie before the church because they will stop or kill our ability to move into the future. Other than the world, the flesh and the devil, what danger does the church face?

#### 2/1 - OPPORTUNITIES TO TAKE Selections from the Gospel of Mark

How can we move forward and what must we consider before we can effectively do God's will? There are challenges to accept, enemies to defeat, dangers to avoid and opportunities to take. As we move forward, the church should take note of the following: "The future belongs to those who see possibilities before they become obvious." We must take and make opportunities for service.

#### 2/8 - ATTITUDES TO DEVELOP Phil.2:5; Eph. 4:22-23; I Pet.4:1

What is the key to moving forward toward a positive future? We need to consider the impact of our challenges, dangers, opportunities and enemies, but especially our attitude. Attitude is an essential ingredient in accomplishing God's will as a Christian and as a local congregation.

by Jackie Peens

**Jackie took the month off but she will continue her writings next month**



#### October Budget

Income for October fell substantially below budget. Actual income was \$6991. Budgeted income was \$12,427. Year to date income (January thru October) was \$115,274. Budgeted YTD income was \$131,368.



### Betty Matchett

I can hardly talk about myself without including Bob, the man I married September 4, 1948. Bob quietly left this earth to be with the Lord January 28, 2005. After a little more than 56 years of marriage it's quite a change to just say I'm Betty Matchett.

I grew up in Crescent Springs, KY, attending the Presbyterian Church from childhood. I actually kept the attendance and offering records for the Sunday school while in high school; was a member of the youth choir. Those were very happy times and very patriotic times because of World War II. I was the middle one of three girls, then my brother arrived when I was 14.

Bob was born in Kansas City, Mo.; and at age 4 moved to Staten Island, NY for 10 years before moving to Kentucky. Bob's dad was a P&G employee and was transferred to Cincinnati. Bob and I graduated in the same class from Dixie Heights, but did not date until after he had been in the Navy and was attending the University of Kentucky. We happened to meet again while attending basketball finals when Dixie won and went to State.

We married when Bob was a junior at U.K. and we lived in Veterans housing for 2 years. While in Lexington Kathy was born and attended her Dad's graduation. We moved to Cincinnati where Bob worked as a Consulting Engineer. Later he was hired by Cincinnati Milacron as a Machine Designer. We knew it was time to find our own home when our baby son Mike arrived. We returned to Kentucky and settled in Ft. Mitchell. We loved working on home improvements together. Roger was our next addition and 3 years later Carol. Those were very busy years especially on Sunday mornings getting 4 kiddies and myself ready. Bob always got himself ready. How does that always happen?

Over the years Bob was a Scout Master several years at the Crescent Springs Church and at work he became an Administrative Engineer. We transferred our membership to Lakeside Presbyterian when our children were a little older. Bob became a Deacon then Elder. We were there 25 years.

All of our children married. We have 10 grandchildren and at the present time 4 great grandchildren. **They call me G.G.** This September our 5th grandchild married. We keep increasing and of course, I think they are all wonderful and I'm very proud of each one of them. We have been blest.

Since I have been on my own; I still live in our home and keep busy keeping up with the house and do quite a bit of yard work, which I enjoy. I still volunteer one day a week in the church office or whatever is necessary. I guess I'm a fixture for I started volunteering when New Beginning's began.

Bob and I were charter members of New Beginning EPC. It took a lot of weekly meetings, time and work and determination, and God made it happen. Bob and I always felt New Beginning's may be a small church but it has a big heart with all its' warmth and love. God is good to us.

## Christian Symbols



Anchor Cross

The anchor is a symbol of the Christian's hope in Christ. "We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure" (Hebrews 6:19, NIV). The early Christians used this cross during the days of persecution. They saw hope in the anchor's cross, while non-Christians saw nothing but an anchor.



## Bible Quiz



In John 8:12 (NRSV), Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will ...."

Choose the phrase below that correctly completes this sentence.

- A. never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.
- B. never walk alone.
- C. be my companion always.
- D. sit at my right hand.

Answer: A (See John 8:12, NRSV.)

## Every box checked

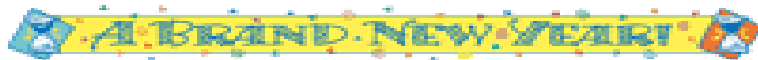


Just before graduating from seminary, Dan Bogre received visits by denominational representatives across the country. Each one gave him a list of about 20 types of ministry from which to choose.

Interestingly, Bogre checked every box placed before him. "I thought to myself that I wasn't going to be pigeonholed by a survey form," he said. At the time, Bogre thought he could do any style of ministry.

Later, as an ordained pastor, Bogre began to realize that God had a specific ministry for him. However able he was to do several different types of ministry, he began to understand he was best suited for helping a church grow.

How many boxes would you check? How many ways are you willing to try to help your church and community? Sometimes checking a box outside your "comfort zone" can lead to unexpected but rewarding new paths.



## The Inauguration

When president-elect Abraham Lincoln headed to Washington, D.C., he called himself a "humble instrument in the hands of the Almighty." He spoke of America's citizenry as God's "almost chosen people."

Wasn't that a lovely compliment? One suspects Lincoln was speaking as a good father speaks to children, wanting them to live up to their full potential. He surely wanted the "almost chosen people" to be servants of the living God.

As God's chosen people, as well as Americans who soon will have a new leader, how can we live up to God's expectations for us? What can we each do to make our country a better place? And how can we share the good news with others that God has chosen us to live with him forever?



## My Morning Prayer

What guidance is God giving  
For my living of this day?  
Will I help someone who's needy?  
Will I have kind words to say?

Will outrageous acts of kindness  
Be the gifts that I can share?  
Let YOUR will, God, be mine today,  
Help me to love and care!

—Peggy Ferrell, Poems, Prayers and Hymns

## Get ready for Epiphany

Many Christian denominations celebrate Epiphany each year on or near January 6. “Epiphany,” which means “showing forth,” celebrates the visit of the magi, or wise men, to the baby Jesus. These men, also known as kings, saw the star that led them to Bethlehem.

The fact that these wise men were Gentiles, not Jews, teaches us an important theological lesson: Their search for the Savior shows that Jesus came for all people.

In 1875, Philip Bliss wrote the hymn “The Light of the World Is Jesus.” The first stanza captures the meaning of Epiphany, a season of light:

The whole world was lost  
In the darkness of sin,  
The Light of the world is Jesus!  
Like sunshine at noonday,  
His glory shone in.  
The Light of the world is Jesus!



## Ways to start off the New Year

According to historians, the celebration of the New Year is the oldest holiday. Ancient Babylonians first observed it in the spring about 4,000 years ago. In 153 B.C., the Roman Senate declared January 1 as New Year’s Day.

The early church started to hold religious observances that coincided with pagan celebrations. Some denominations still mark Christ’s circumcision on New Year’s.

The tradition of making resolutions dates back to the Babylonians, who often promised to return borrowed farm equipment. Using a baby to symbolize rebirth and the new year dates back to the ancient Greeks and Egyptians.

Modern-day New Year’s customs often focus on prosperity. In Spain, people eat 12 grapes at midnight, hoping to have 12 happy months to come. The Dutch eat donuts because another year has come full circle.

One of the best ways to start off the New Year is by spending time in prayer. Look back on God’s many blessings during the completed year and ask for his guidance in the one to come. Also consider starting the tradition of praying for people around the world on New Year’s Day.



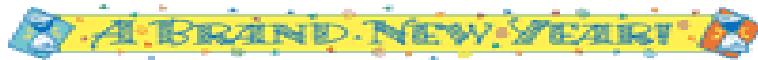
## King and the Good Samaritan

Many Christians will observe Martin Luther King Jr.’s birthday on January 19. (His actual birth date is January 15.) King’s comments about the parable of the good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37) are worth remembering:

“The first question that the priest and the Levite asked was: ‘If I stop to help this man, what will happen to me?’ But ... the good Samaritan reversed the question: ‘If I do not stop to help this man, what will happen to him?’”

## How to keep warm in church

1. Rush to the front of the sanctuary. That will warm you up, and you'll avoid the draft in the back of the church.
2. Invite your neighbors and friends, and sit 12 people to a pew.
3. Seat yourself near the pulpit. Much hot air is emitted from that area.
4. Wear thermal underwear (in the appropriate liturgical colors, of course).
5. Wait for an unfamiliar hymn — and then watch the sparks fly!



## On beginning the New Year

Lord of heaven and earth, prosper thou us this year even as our soul prospereth. Let thy presence go with us. Be thou the Companion of our way.

In our home, grant that we may cheerfully welcome thee as our daily Guest. In our relationships with others, teach us to practice the Golden Rule.

In all our seeking, grant that we seek first thy kingdom and righteousness.

—17th-century prayer



## How Stanley became a good student

In his book *Victorious Living*, missionary E. Stanley Jones tells how he answered a young person who asked, “Shall I be a student or shall I be a religious man?”

Jones said he could see no conflict between the two. Indeed, he had discovered that living for God actually made him a better student.

Jones told the fellow that before he became a Christian, he had been at the bottom of his classes. After Jones gave his life to Christ, he concluded that being a poor student was no place for a Christian.

So he began studying seriously, praying his way through school. Jones devoted his intellect toward serving God, and as a result, God’s power radiated through him.

## Remedy for a flat spirit

Almost everyone has an occasional down day. You know the dreaded “flat” or “blah” feeling. Sometimes you don’t even feel like praying. Is there any hope for this condition?

In the 12th century, a Carthusian monk named Guigo felt drained and depressed. But as he rested, the following prayer came to his mind:

My soul is so dry that by itself it cannot pray;  
Yet you can squeeze from it the juice of a thousand prayers.  
My soul is so parched that by itself it cannot love;  
Yet you can draw from it boundless love for you and for my neighbor.  
My soul is so cold that by itself it has no joy;  
Yet you can light the fire of heavenly joy within me.  
My soul is so feeble that by itself it has no faith;  
Yet by your power my faith grows to a great height.  
Thank you for prayer, for love, for joy, for faith;  
Let me always be prayerful, loving, joyful, faithful.



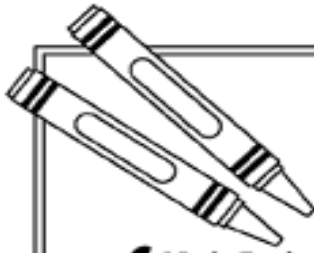
## A nutty explanation

A young pastor tried to comfort a widow as they stood looking at her husband’s body in a casket.

“I know this is very hard for you,” he said. “But we Christians have hope. The body is only a husk. It is only the shell. It is what we see. But the nut that was in the shell has already gone to heaven.”



Rededicate  
Your Life  
to Christ



# Just for **KIDS**

## CHARACTER THAT PLEAS

The New Year is a time for renewed commitments and changes in our behavior. Complete the puzzle below to see whose example is worthy of imitating or copying.

Match the blocks of spaces and letters to finish the NIV Bible verse.

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■	M	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
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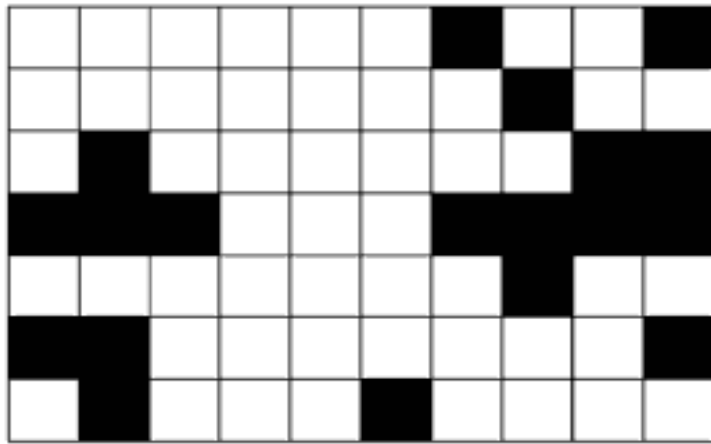
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Answer: Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ. 1 Cor. 11:1



