



# Community of Christ Boyne City Beacon Newsletter

January 2016, Vol 19- No 1

## TODAY'S GIFT

*"This is the day the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it". Psalm 118:24*

Everyday is a new gift from God, created by Him and for Him. The dawning of each day displays the light and love of the Lord's creation. Christians celebrate Sunday, the first day of the week, as a reminder of the Almighty's achievements, namely the resurrection of Christ. However, the work week does not need to be focused on worldly agendas alone.

Seize today as a trust from Almighty God, and steward it with a sense of divine destiny. Perhaps you pray over a blank sheet of paper (or computer screen), and then list by faith how you believe the Lord wants you to focus your time. Follow through with the difficult assignments first, execute some easy ones, and then trust God and others with the tasks out of your immediate control. Today has enough time for you to accomplish His agenda.

*"Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom" (Psalm 90:12).*

Furthermore, receive God's gift of today with generous joy and gratitude. Life does happen, some days it is much more difficult to be thankful than others. There are times when the seeds of sorrow are sown under the dark clouds of confusion, but don't allow fear of the unknown to steal your joy and imprison your peace. Hope in the Lord means you can anticipate His faithful-

ness during dark times, so be still and listen for His voice.

Today is an invitation to focus on and rest in the faithfulness of your heavenly Father. Adam's sinful nature brought a day of sadness, but Christ's sinless nature brought a day of gladness, so live in the moment for your master Jesus. By faith and with grateful anticipation, unwrap His gift of today, and behold the beauty of its possibilities. Be glad you have only one today, and by God's grace live it to its fullest.

*"O Lord, let your ear be attentive to the prayer of this your servant and to the prayer of your servants who delight in revering your name. Give your servant success today..."*

(Nehemiah 1:11a).

So focus on the next right thing today and do not become paralyzed for fear of tomorrow. Today is the only day you have to live, learn and come alive. Seize the day for your Savior Jesus and watch Him do a wonderful work of grace. Progress comes in God's timing and in His way. A day dedicated to Christ has more possibilities than a 1,000 days unrecognized as a gift from heaven. Unwrap God's gift of today and worship the giver.

*"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning" (James 1:17).*

## Happy New Year



## Happy January Birthday!

January 3: David Ecker  
18: Ammie Cole  
21: Mindy Seamon  
22: Tori McGarey  
29: Katie Carson

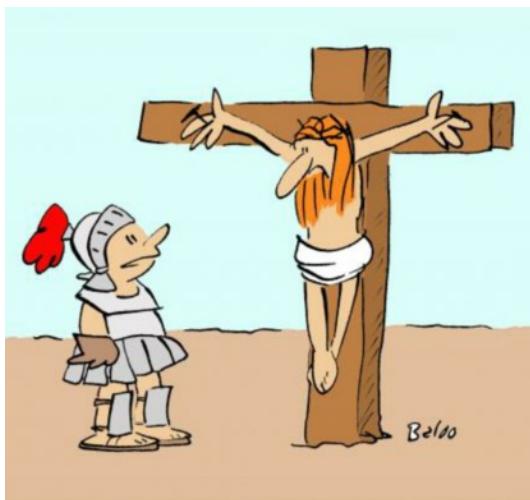
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## GOD'S WORK CHILDREN'S CLOTHING PANTRY

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Our next children's clothing pantry will be held January 16, from 2-4pm. Anyone that can help with set up on Friday evening and during the pantry would be much appreciated.

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"Sorry about all this — It was Pilate error."

## PRAYER REQUESTS

*In your daily personal prayers, please remember those on this list.*

**Family Members not attending**

**All military and civilians** serving in dangerous places

**Our church members and friends** around the world



**Marlene Groh** -- arthritis & blood infection

**Our enemies** -- "... for they know not what they do."

**Ileen Newlin** -- stage 3 lung cancer having treatments.. The tumor is shrinking

**Whitney Wangeman** -- enlarged lymph nodes and spot on her liver. Getting treatments in Detroit.

**Michelle Archer** -- peace, joy, strength & healing.

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## CONGREGATION MISSION STATEMENT

*To Share the Redeeming Love of Jesus Christ with Boyne Area Communities, while encouraging the Sacraments, Reconciliation, Healing of the Spirit, and the Pursuit of Peace.*

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### Boyne City Beacon

Pastors: Eleanor West, Sandi Ecker & Ron Fuller  
Editor: Sandi Ecker

The Boyne City Beacon is published by the Boyne City Congregation of Community of Christ. If you would like a copy of the newsletter mailed to your home, contact Sandi Ecker, 3006 Ross Ln, East Jordan, MI 49727; phone (231) 547-0429. Donations for mailing costs accepted and appreciated. To receive an email version in PDF format contact Sandi at [leesan@charter.net](mailto:leesan@charter.net) or [sandi.ecker@gmail.com](mailto:sandi.ecker@gmail.com)

# PASTOR'S COLUMN

BY RON FULLER

## What Matters Most

Much of what goes wrong with Christianity today is the improper emphasis placed on various issues. Christ spent a lot of time with people classified by the church as "sinners" and he didn't seem to be all that concerned about it! That was a major criticism made by those who spoke against him.

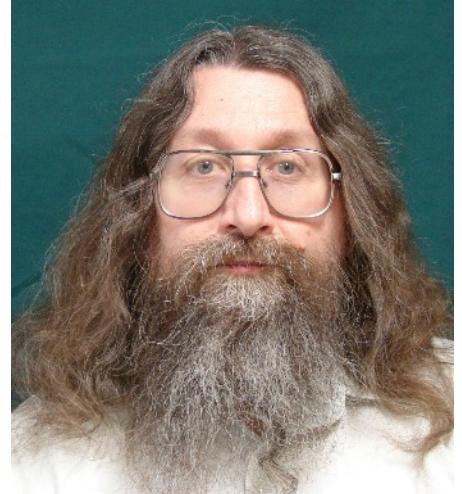
And yet he had major issues with the leadership of the church. I understand the concept that sin is sin and there is a problem when we rank sins in importance. But Jesus seemed to have no hesitation treating the sins of the religious leaders as a greater issue than the more obvious sins like adultery and not keeping the Sabbath. If we honestly read the Book we are compelled to ask "why?".

Why would the religious leader who rigorously follows the law in the scriptures be treated more harshly than the woman taken in adultery? Why would he sit down to a meal with Zacchaeus instead of one of the more reputable people in the

community? Don't the laws written in Leviticus and Deuteronomy matter?

Jesus referred from time to time to "the law and the prophets". Possibly in the reading of the prophets there is an answer to our dilemma. And as we read from the old testament prophets we start to understand why some of them spent a lot of time running for their lives and in hiding. Like Jesus they spent a lot of time calling the upstanding citizens and their leaders to task. The role of the prophets was to reinterpret the law in the world of their day and often they came out in opposition to the traditional interpretation of those scriptures.

Like the sermon on the mount, they focused on the needs of the poor and powerless. They often took the stand that if the leadership of their communities were doing their job there would be no poor or powerless. That issue is a bigger, more important issue than religious observances or who is sleeping with whom. They did not say that those issues were not real issues, but just that they ranked rather low in looking at what matters most.



## Church mice



# **FIVE COMMANDMENTS OF HOW TO GET ALONG WITH PEOPLE**

1. Keep chains on your tongue. Always say less than you think. Cultivate a low, persuasive voice. Understand that how you say something counts more than what you say.
2. Make promises sparingly and keep them faithfully, no matter what the cost.
3. Never let an opportunity pass to say a kind and encouraging word to or about somebody. Praise good work, regardless of who did it. If criticism is needed, offer it gently, never harshly. Always write thank you notes.
4. Always be interested in others--their pursuits, their work, their missions, etc. Let everyone you meet feel that you regard him or her as a person of importance.
5. Don't burden or depress those around you by dwelling on your minor aches and pains and disappointments. Remember, everyone is carrying some kind of burden, often heavier than your own.

This is for a work place but our church ministry is like the work place: Let's try to work together with a POSITIVE ATTITUDE

1. Get along with everyone--it's a choice  
You don't have to be friends with your coworkers, but you do need to be respectful
2. Be cooperative  
**Be a team player--working together gets the job done faster and more efficiently**
3. Get along with your supervisor (I consider God as our supervisor)  
Be respectful--He evaluates you. (God, in our case.)
4. Admit your mistakes  
It is important to learn from your mistakes so they do not occur often.

If we could look into each other's hearts and understand the unique challenges each of us faces, I think we would treat each other much more gently, with more love, patience, tolerance, and care -- Marvin J. Ashton

"The best way to get along with people is to not expect them to be like you." Joyce Meyers  
If you have learned how to disagree without being disagreeable, then you have discovered the

secret of getting along - whether it be business, family relations, or life itself. Bernard Meltzer

I just try to get along with people and show the love that I would like to be shown to me. Marlin Lawrence

Don't worry if you're not an instant, happily-ever-after blended family. Expect to endure "I give up" days and rejoice in the "I can do this" days. It will take work, dedication, an excellent sense of humor and a strong resolve! We don't do easy" - we do "worth it!" -- Jessica James

Half the secret of getting along with people is consideration of their values; the other half is tolerance in one's own views. Daniel Frohman

"You have to get along with people, but you also have to recognize that the strength of a team is different people with different perspectives and different personalities." Steve Case

And now for the people willing to take leadership roles. . . .

Next time you're stressed: take a step back, inhale and laugh. Remember who you are and why you're here. You're never given anything in this world that you can't handle. Be strong, be flexible, love yourself and love others. Always remember, just keep moving forward.

I'm hoping we can remember some of these as we work together this year at Boyne City Community of Christ.



*Church Mice.*

# January 2016

Date/Time	Worship Leader	Speaker	Assisting	Musician
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**January 3: Light for All People**

9:00am:	Priesthood Meeting			
10:00am:	Classes			
11:00am:	R. Fuller	S. Ecker		A. Seamon

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**January 8-10: Congregation Retreat at The Park of the Pines****January 17: Believe! Racial Justice Day**

10:00am:	Classes		
11:00am:	L. Ecker	R. Eaton	A. Seamon

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**January 24: Embrace Christ's Mission**

10:00am:	Classes		
11:00am:	S. Ecker	M. Kinsinger	A. Seamon
Noon:	Potluck Dinner		

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**January 31: Stand for Truth**

10:00am:	Classes		
11:00am:	R. Eaton	R. Fuller	A. Seamon

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**Evening Activities****Dates to Remember**

**Wed, Jan. 6, 6:00pm: Prayer & Share** with Priest Sandi Ecker. Theme: "*Be Baptized*"

**Wed, Jan. 13, 6:00pm: Fellowship at The Brook**

**Tues, Jan. 19, 6:00pm: Congregational Planning Meeting**

**Wed, Jan. 27, 6:00pm: Prayer & Share** with Elder Ron Fuller. Theme: "*Stand for Truth*"

**Sat, Jan. 16: 2-4pm: Children's Clothing Pantry**

**Sat, Jan. 23, 5:30pm: Sacrifice Potluck Supper and Candy Bar Bingo**

**Sat, Jan. 30, 1:00pm: Sledding Party at the church**

# January 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b>  David Ecker Priesthood Mtg Speaker: S. Ecker	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 6:00 PM Prayer & Share	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
					[Congregation Winter Retreat @ Park]	
<b>10</b>  Congregation	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 6:00 PM The Brook	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 2:00 PM -4:00 PM Clothing Pantry
<b>17</b> Speaker: R. Eaton	<b>18</b>  Ammie Cole	<b>19</b> 6:00 PM Planning Mtg	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>  Mindy Seamon	<b>22</b>  Tory McGarey	<b>23</b> 5:30 PM Sacrifice Potluck & Candy Bar Bingo
<b>24</b> Potluck Dinner Speaker: M. Kinsinger	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 6:00 PM Prayer & Share	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>  Katie Carson	<b>30</b> 1:00 PM Sledding Party
<b>31</b> Speaker: R. Fuller						



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