

CHRONICLER

Cape Girardeau, Missouri

www.evangelicalucc-cape.org

JANUARY 2008

New Year's Resolutions

From "My Little Sister's Clean Jokes"

New Year's resolutions you can actually accomplish:

Read less.

Put on at least 30 pounds.

Stop exercising. Waste of time.

Watch more TV.

Procrastinate more.

Drink. Drink some more.

Start being superstitious.

Spend more time at work.

Stop bringing lunch from home: Eat out more.

And last but not least...

Take up a new habit!

I have always been very skeptical about New Year's resolutions, because, "they are mainly observed in the breach." I have tended to choose things for resolutions that I have failed to accomplish during the year, like lose weight or eat less chocolate. When I think about it, merely putting these items on a list of resolutions really does not make it anymore likely that I will accomplish them.

One of the most famous makers of resolutions was the colonial American preacher Jonathan Edwards. Over a period of two years, 1722-1723, he wrote down 70 resolutions, which he resolved to read once a week. **They were not strictly New Year's resolutions, but I think the concept applies.** Here are a few of Edward's resolutions:

- Resolved, never to do any manner of thing, whether in soul or body, less or more, but what tends to the glory of God; nor be, nor suffer it, if I can avoid it.
- Resolved, never to lose one moment of time; but improve it the most profitable way I possibly can.
- Resolved, to live with all my might, while I do live.
- Resolved, never to do anything, which I should be afraid to do, if it were the last hour of my life.

- Resolved, if I take delight in it as a gratification of pride, or vanity, or on any such account, immediately to throw it by.
- Resolved, to be endeavoring to find out fit objects of charity and liberality.
- Resolved, never to do anything out of revenge.
- Resolved, never to suffer the least motions of anger to irrational beings.
- Resolved, to maintain the strictest temperance in eating and drinking.
- Resolved, if ever I shall fall and grow dull, so as to neglect to keep any part of these Resolutions, to repent of all I can remember, when I come to myself again.

Christian thinkers have suggested that the best resolutions are not those that focus on a specific behavior, like exercising 3 times a week. Instead, the best resolutions are resolutions that set a goal of transforming ourselves into a new kind of person, one just a little bit more like Jesus. That change in *who we are* will change *what we do* in countless ways. The theologian Dr. Michael A. Milton proposed three standards for this kind of Christian resolution:

- A Revival of the Heart
- A Renewal of the Mind
- A Refitting of the Soul

I would like to give my own interpretation of this challenging idea.

Romans 10:8-10

8 But what does it say? "The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart," that is, the message concerning faith that we proclaim: 9 If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.

In the Bible, the heart is most often the source of our

"Steeped in Tradition, Stirred by the Spirit, Sweetened with Love"

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will and emotions. The heart is the source of our passions and desires, what drives us to action. To revive the heart means to turn all our will towards **God and God's purpose for us.** For example, show your passion for God by participating in a hands-on mission experience this year.

Romans 12:1-2

1 Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is true worship. 2 Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

The mind is frequently used to refer to our intellect, our ability to make conscious and reasoned choices in life. To renew our minds, we need to stop focusing on what the world tells us we need to be thinking about—the demands of being a worker and consumer. Instead, we need to start thinking about things **from God's point of view.** God has a purpose for us and has given us gifts for that purpose. We need to creatively use those gifts as members of the body of Christ—the Church. For example, if you have a gift for writing, write an article for the Chronicler this year!

Romans 8:14-17

14 For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. 15 The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba Father." 16 The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. 17 Now if we are children, then we are heirs— heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed

we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

The soul is our immortal part, the "breath of life." In the Bible, soul and spirit are closely related. One view is that the spirit comes from God, and the soul is how we live out that spirit in our lives. To refit our souls is to prepare them for

eternity through spiritual disciplines that bring us closer to the Holy Spirit. For example, before each meal, say a grace in which you thank God for all the blessings of the day.

Psalm 51 is a classic example of someone making a resolution to **"turn over a new leaf."** This psalm is attributed to King David, asking God for a revival of his heart and a renewal of his spirit. David had done something more serious than taking an extra piece of pie. He had taken Bathsheba away from her husband, Uriah the Hittite, and engineered **Uriah's death in battle.**

Psalm 51:9-11

9 Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity. 10 Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. 11 Do not cast me from your

presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. 12 Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.

A Christian resolution is simply a prayer. My best wishes to you and yours in the New Year.

Your Friend In Christ,
—Pastor Dan

Bible quotations are from Today's New International Version (TNIV) © Copyright 2001, 2005 by International Bible Society, accessed via www.biblegateway.com



Spiritual Fellowship

News on the Beck's

Tim & Marty Beck and the children are back in the states after being stationed in Germany for several years. They have a few more boxes to unpack and to organize the basement and the garage. They are looking forward to exploring their new city and catching up with friends and family in the states.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Tim & Marty Beck
3728 Deerbrook Drive
Bettendorf, Iowa 52722
536-514-1524
E-mail: becbier@mchsi.com

Friendship Circle

Bring your rolling pins on Tuesday, January 8th, 2008 at 5:30 PM. Yes, that is correct, we are rolling out dumplings once again. We will need **everyone's help on this project**. Come fellowship with us while we work.

The Friendship Circle officers will be meeting soon to discuss activities for the new year.

Love, INC

Please join us as we celebrate the beginning of our ministry!

Love INC of Southeast Missouri
OPEN HOUSE

On Sunday, January 6, 2008
2:00 pm—4:00 pm

At 804 N. Cape Rock Drive
Cape Girardeau, MO

Dedication Service at 2:30 pm
Reception following.

We are located in the Multi-Purpose room
Of St. Andrew Lutheran Church

Mary Martha Circle

Foster Children Receive
Gift Bags of Candy

Through the generosity of the congregation we were able to supply a nice gift bag of Christmas candy to all 100 foster children in Cape County.

Mary Martha ladies appreciate your help with this love gift at Christmas time. \$220.00 worth of candy was donated, and this provided 15 candy items for each child.

They had their party on Saturday, December 8th. So, we hope the foster parents saved some for later.



Union of Concerned Christians

The Union of Concerned Christians will have a planning meeting on Sunday, January 13th, 6:00 PM here at the church. We will start our **meeting with hors d'oeuvres** — finger foods and dessert. Coffee, Tea, etc. will be furnished.

Please bring your food and ideas so we might plan our new year. Questions call 335-3867.

Bob & Velma Roloff

Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting and Congregational Dinner is scheduled for Sunday, January 27th, 2008 right after church. The Friendship Circle will be our Hostesses for the afternoon.

The deadline for turning in items for the Annual Report will be Monday, January 21st either by e-mail or hard copy. Susan would prefer e-mail if at all possible. For a cohesive look to the report, please use Georgia with a font size around 12. Thanks a Bunch!!

Memorial Gifts



With Deepest Sympathy

Memorial Fund

In Memory of Lillian Kies
 Gary & Clodine Metje
 Fern Schlimme
 Phyllis Hulshof
 David & Barbara Schaffner

In Loving Memory of
Clarence "Bill" Seabaugh
 Gary & Clodine Metje
 Friendship Circle

Memorial General Fund

In Memory of Lillian Kies
 Louis Geldmacher

In Memory of
Clarence "Bill" Seabaugh
 S.G. & Grace Coy

Council Financial Report

Beginning Check Book	Balance- CORRECTED	\$22,361.14
Deposits	November	\$7,387.26
	Interest	\$.91
Total Deposits for November		\$7,388.17
Distributions	November	\$5,348.36
Ending Check Book	Balance	\$24,400.95
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A.G. Edwards Account	{Memorial Fund}	
	Interest	\$36.40
Ending Balance	As of 11/30/07	\$10,782.22
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Check Book Balance	As of 12/17/07	\$30,083.33

Prayer List & Shut-Ins

Prayer List

In case of hospitalization or surgery please notify our church office. When being admitted to a hospital be sure to tell them that you are affiliated with this congregation. * indicates a new request.

Please note: after six months names will be removed from the prayer list, unless an update is made to the church office.

Leo Amelunke; 09-07
Loyd Bollinger
Tom Boston; 07-07
S.G. Coy
James Dickison; 10-07
Michael “Benji” Doerhoff [In Iraq]; 08-07
Ruby Doughty; 10-07
Joan Hope; 10-07
Mary Huckstep
Frankie Hutson; 11-07
*Jaden, 1 & 1/2 yrs old—seizures; 12-07
Ernest & Ida Mae Jordan
Robert Juergens; 08-07
Kaye Lee; 12-07
Frank Maevers, Sr.; 07-07
Kenny Mehrle
Betty Metcalfe; 07-07
Esther Nussbaum; 10-07
Helen Owens; 11-07
Tonya Pobst; 09-07
Paul Propst; 08-07
Kaylyn Sneathen; 08-07
Susan Spinks; 11-07
Wesley, Kailey &
Kimberley Spinks; 11-07
Harold Stahlman
Andrea Truitt; 11-07
LaDonna Wells; 09-07

Hospital
* Tabitha Martin; 12-07

Shut-Ins

Ratliff Nursing Home
717 N. Sprigg Street
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

Polly Wilmsmeyer

Fountainbleau Lodge
2001 N. Kingshighway
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

Alta Proffer

Lutheran Home
2825 Bloomfield Road
Cape Girardeau, MO 63703

Dorothy Cole
Frank Maevers, Sr.
Leonard Moore
Andora Peetz

House Bound

Ruby Doughty
711 South Pacific Street
Cape Girardeau, MO 63703-7836

Esther Nussbaum
181 Gopher Lane
Gordonville, MO 63701-9506

Helen Owens
2237 West Cape Rock Drive
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701-2857

“With everlasting Love I will have compassion on you ...”

Isaiah 54 : 8

Evangelical United Church of Christ
33 South Ellis Street
Cape Girardeau, Missouri 63703-6201

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Church e-mail: eucc-cape@sbcglobal.net
Church Web Site: evangelicalucc-cape.org

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Cape Girardeau, Missouri 63703-6201

ETC.



Meal-a-Month for FISH

Cold or Hot Cereal
Canned Fruit Juice
Macaroni & Cheese
Canned Fruit
Canned Chicken or Beef
Vienna Sausages or Spam

Thank You!

Poinsettias

In Memory of
Bill Brinkopf by Ramona Brinkopf

Bill Seabaugh, Allen Lee, Albert & Minnie
Schloss by Kaye Lee Seabaugh

Lillian Maevers (Poinsettia Tree)
By the Maevers Family

In Memory of their Parents
Kenneth Mehrle & Bettie

