



## **“No Longer Servants”**

Our year’s verse in 2011 put a focus on our being servants. There have been several opportunities for us to carry out that goal of being a servant, and we have helped one another.

We are taking our 2012 year’s verse and theme from John 15:15. Jesus told his disciples “Ye are my friends...” and that he would “no longer call you servants” (ESV). There seems to be a progression from being a servant to being a friend. This friendship is conditioned upon obedience (vs. 14) and results in Jesus making known to us what He is doing. This year we will focus on being Jesus’ friends, and being a friend to someone else.

Our world is in need of friendship. It takes fellowship beyond a fellow servant perspective and pushes us to be friends to one another. We want to talk about being friends within the church, and developing friendship outside of church with people we want to win for Christ.

“Be a friend” may be more difficult in some regards than “be a servant”. The initiative is on us. We must take those we are acquainted with and move them to the status of friend.

“Befriending” is the term used for establishing a new relationship on social media like Facebook. With a few clicks, you can add someone else to the list of friends. Real friendship, however, involves more than a few clicks. But the goal of “befriending” is what we’re about in 2012.

*“Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what His lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you.” John 15:15*

## **Winter Schedule**



Afternoon services begin on Sunday, January 8th with our first fellowship dinner following the Morning Service. Check the flyer for the special emphasis each Sunday and what you are supposed to bring. Save the night and winter driving and enjoy both services at church during January and February.

Our Wednesday Prayer Meetings will be moved to 9:30 a.m. in the Heritage Room.



## **Stewardship Shop Opens**

In conjunction with Pastor's messages on stewardship, we will be opening a Stewardship Shop for the benefit of Pastor's "stewards". Children and young people will be selling their products to increase the value of their "talent". Make sure you visit the Stewardship Shop which is slated to open on January 15th. Be an encouragement to our children and youth as they participate in this endeavor.



## **Sanctity of Life Sunday**



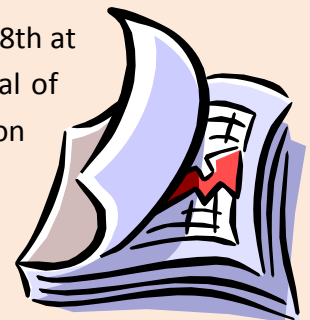
We will be observing Sanctity of Life Sunday on January 15th. We will have with us representatives of Ross Corners Christian Academy to report on the school. We will be taking an offering for the school in the afternoon service.

Also that Sunday, we are planning a baby dedication for Moira Smith. With our focus on children, we are reminded that life is sacred and that abortion takes the lives of countless babies in our country each year. We will be celebrating life on this Sunday.

## **Annual Business Meeting**

We will be having our 2012 Annual Meeting on Wednesday, January 18th at 6:45 p.m. Our agenda calls for the election of Deacons and the approval of the 2012 Budget. Our budget this year will be almost a quarter of a million dollars at \$238,724.00. Our fuel bill alone will increase by \$14,000.00.

We hope you will mark the date on your calendar and plan on attending this important meeting.





## ESF Winter Conference

Our next Empire State Conference is right next door in Maine on January 23rd and 24th. This conference will focus on “The Changing Church”, and will call upon pastors of different churches in Pennsylvania to share the model for change. We’ll explore perspectives from modern to traditional and how others are doing it. It should prove to be an interesting discussion.

## *Women Who Worship*



**TLC!**

Part I

*“For to me to live is Christ...” (Philippians 1:21a)*

You’ve probably heard someone use the expression, “Get a life!” The speaker of the phrase is implying that the hearer needs to find something of importance and value on which to focus and expend his or her energy. Some folks don’t seem to have anything worthwhile to pursue, while others find “a life” in commitment to dreams, goals, causes, or enjoyments. Occasionally someone will say, “Sports is my life,” or “Gardening is my life,” meaning that a certain activity occupies a generous portion of his or her thoughts, plans, time, and resources.

So what’s ***your life***? If you are a disciple of Christ, shouldn’t the reasonable response be that Christ is your life? That’s what the apostle Paul stated: “For to me, to live is Christ.” Was he an exceptionally spiritual person or an aberrant fanatic? Consider what he told all believers in Colossians 3:3: “When Christ, *who is our life*, shall appear, then shall we also appear with Him in glory.”

Lest we think that the phrase only refers to Christ as our source of eternal life in heaven, read the preceding verses: seek those things above, set your affection on things above not on earthly things, your life is hid with Christ in God. These phrases set forth very practical instruction for our everyday living. Pleasing Christ is to be the ruling principle in my thoughts, plans, and use of time and resources.



In October, I spoke at a “TLC” conference. The letters stand for “Total Life Commitment.” I like that! If we care to live according to God’s Word, then being a Christian *IS* a total life commitment; it cannot be anything less. Many who claim to be believers seem to have a life that is consumed by earthly interests. They give Christ a few hours on Sunday, but the rest of the week is theirs to live as they please.

Paul described Timothy as a believer who was much occupied with the things of Christ (Philippians 2:20, 21). Even the Lord Jesus Himself said that following Him would be a total life commitment, characterized by a willingness to give up one’s life for His sake (Matthew 10:39).

As I evaluate myself heading into this new year, can I honestly claim that Christ is *my life*? Can you?

Is your relationship to Him a total life commitment of love, honor, obedience, and service that involves all of your heart, soul, mind, and strength (Matthew 22:37). Or are you at least pressing on into that kind of life (as Paul said!)? May the Lord impress upon my heart, and yours, the need to daily live with my focus on Him.

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## *This Little Light*

Matthew 14:22-34 tell about Jesus walking on the water and Peter tried to do the same. He soon realized that he couldn’t.

At the age of 8, I remembered that message and I understood my need for the Lord in my life and went forward at the end of the message.

There is a song that we sing, and I have changed it a little. *Turn your eyes on Jesus, look into His Word and the things of this world will grow strangely dim in the light of His glory and grace.*

-Durwin Rude

*If you are interested in sharing a testimony of God’s working in your life, either past or present, please submit it in writing to the church office.*



## The New Year

*Dear Lord, as this new year is born  
I give it to Thy hand,  
Content to walk by faith what paths  
I cannot understand.*

*Whatever coming days may bring  
Of bitter loss, or gain,  
Or every crown of happiness;  
Should sorrow come, or pain,*

*Or, Lord, if all unknown to me  
Thine angel hovers near  
To bear me to that farther shore  
Before another year,*

*It matters not—my hand in Thine,  
Thy light upon my face,  
Thy boundless strength when I am weak,  
Thy love and saving grace!*

*I only ask, loose not my hand,  
Grip fast my soul, and be  
My guiding light upon the path  
Till, blind no more, I see!*

*-Martha Snell Nicholson*



*In Tune With...* 

## Resolutions for the New Year

Have you made your resolutions for the New Year? As we open and turn the pages in The Book of an Unlived Year, remember that one day we will look back and see what we wrote on each of those pages. In order for those pages to be filled with choice, actions and passions that honor God, we might want to consider the following resolutions:

Our **tongue!** “Whoso keepeth his mouth and his tongue keepeth his soul from troubles.” Proverbs 21:23

Our **eyes!** “Let your eyes look straight ahead...” Proverbs 4:25

Our **ears!** “My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings.” Proverbs 4:20

Our **mouth!** “...keep corrupt talk far from your life.” Proverbs 4:24

Our **hands!** “Lift up your hands in the sanctuary, and bless the Lord.” Psalms 134:2

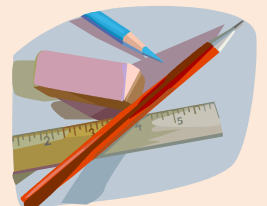
Our **feet!** “How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace; that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation; that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth!” Isaiah 52:7

Our **heart!** “Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.” Proverbs 4:23

Keeping these resolutions will help keep the pages of the book from being soiled by blunders, black regrets, and unholy passions which dishonor God. Remember, what we write on the pages of The Book of an Unlived Year will be read by others, even by our Savior. Will we be ashamed to have others read it, or will Christ be magnified on each page?

That’s how I see it. How do you see it?

Life without God is like an unsharpened pencil...it has no point!





## One Year to Live

*If I had but one year to live  
One year to help, one year to give,  
One year to love, one year to bless  
One year of better things to stress;  
One year to sing, one year to smile  
To brighten earth a little while,  
One year to sing my Master's praise  
One year to fill with work by days;  
One year to strive for a reward  
When I should stand before my Lord,  
I think that I would spend each day  
In just the very selfsame way;  
That I do now, for from afar  
The call may come to cross the bar,  
At anytime, and I must be  
Prepared to meet eternity.  
So if I have one year to give  
A pleasant smile, a helping hand,  
A mind that tries to understand  
A fellow-creature when in need;  
'Tis one with me—I take no heed  
But try to live each day He sends  
To serve my gracious Master.*



*-Exchange*



## The Extravagance of God

Have you ever thought about the extravagance of God?

More sky than man can see

More sea than he can sail

More sun than he can bear to watch

More stars than he can scale

More breath than he can breathe

More yield than he can sow

More grace than he can

comprehend

More love than he can know.

-Anonymous

