

January 2024 The Lighthouse

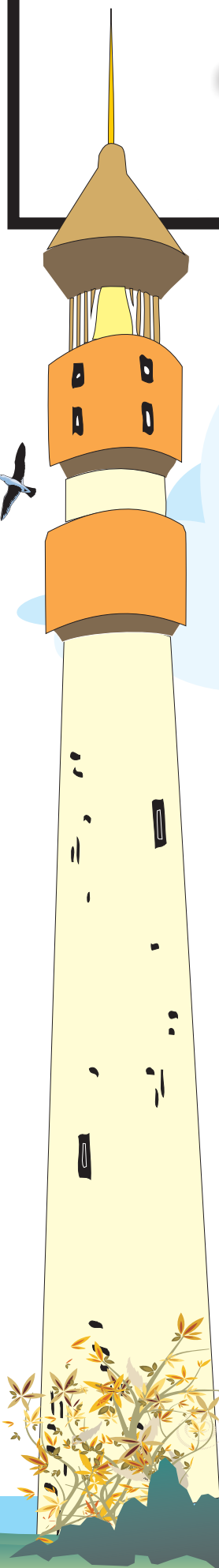
A New Year's Spiritual Resolution
Rev. Shannon Philio, Assistant Pastor

GATHER – GROW – GO

In Revelation 21:5, we hear the Lord's voice booming from His throne, "Behold, I am making all things new." The apostle Paul writes in 2 Corinthians 5:17, "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he or she is a new creation. The old has passed. Behold, the new has come." In Romans 6:4, Paul writes that we have died and risen with Christ that we might now walk in newness of life. In Ephesians 4:17-32, Paul writes about this newness of life we have in Christ, and he implores in verses 22-24 "to put off your old self which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness." In Colossians 3:9-10, Paul writes to put off the old self and to put on the new which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of the Creator.

Well, a new year is upon us, 2024. While many of us make New Year's resolutions and fail in or forget about them by the end of February, may I encourage you to make Ephesians 4:22-24 your New Year's resolution, to be more Christ-like in your thoughts, in your words, in your actions, in your motives, in your desires, in your attitudes, in your dispositions, in your inclinations, and in your entire person? As we gather, grow, and go, may your New Year's resolution be to be more like Christ.

I have read this following poem in the past during New Year's sermons. May it be all our prayer as we begin 2024 for the Lord's honor and glory and pleasure!



Just One Request

Dear Master for this coming year

Just one request I bring:

I do not pray for happiness,

Or any earthly thing—

I do not ask to understand

The way Thou leadest me,

But this I ask: Teach me to do

The thing that pleaseth Thee.

I want to know Thy guiding voice,

To walk with Thee each day.

Dear Master make me swift to hear

And ready to obey.

And thus the year I now begin

A happy year will be—

If I am seeking just to do

The thing that pleaseth Thee.

--Unknown Author

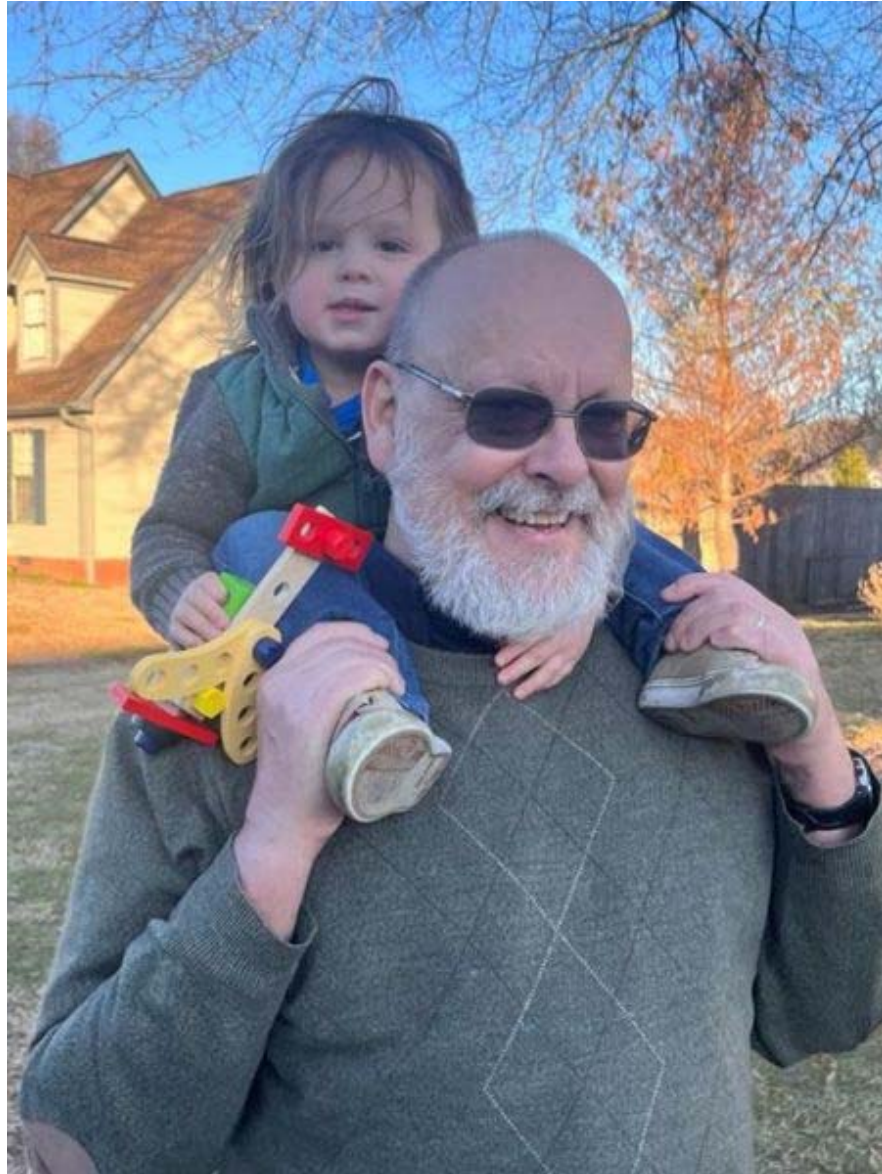


Dear Friends and Family,

We hope you all have had a great Christmas and a happy New Year! We had a busy time of outreach and preparation before Christmas Day, but things slowed down a little once Christmas arrived. Our Christmas programs were very successful through all three of our churches. We saw an encouraging increase in the numbers of people coming to our church throughout the Christmas season and new year. Please pray that many of the new visitors will continue to come to our church.

The biggest thing we have been grateful for is for my dad's continued good health. As many of you know he was diagnosed with stage 4 pancreatic cancer in March of 2023, and the doctors informed us he would most likely die this year or be too sick to enjoy Christmas, but Christmas has come and gone, and he is still in very good health. He unfortunately was unable to have a relaxing Christmas as he needed to spend 3 days in the hospital due to an infection but was released on Christmas Eve. Please continue to pray for my dad. He has already done so much better than expected, but the cancer is still there, and the bi-weekly chemo has been a huge struggle for him, but despite this he is doing well and throughout everything has been very happy and

part of our lives. My kids always beg to talk to him and call him up. It has been difficult to be here in Africa as we never know what the future will bring for him.



Dad got to enjoy new years with my brother and his family in Chattanooga

Prayer for new Pastor

One of the bigger prayer requests we have right now is that you would pray for one of our new pastoral interns, Bruno. Ever since the death of pastor Antoine Sawadogo, I have been doing most of the preaching and attending all the church programs at his church. Bruno has been attending all seminary courses and preaching lessons and

will now be taking over as the pastor in training at the church. It has been an honor to work with Bruno and I am excited to see him in this next step in ministry. Please pray for him as he tries to help this church as they continue to suffer because of Antoine's passing. Pray that he will be able to be a godly pastor that can effectively show the grace and love of Jesus Christ for the church.



Prayer for Travel

Another prayer request I have is that I will be traveling most of January as I am taking more responsibility for Equipping Farmers International (E.F.I.). On January 9th I will be visiting Nigeria as we are looking to start a center for training farmers in Nigeria. They have already carried out three training courses for over 60 pastors in their area, and they have seen the pastors return to their churches and start practicing

conservation agriculture. Then I will head to Liberia, which is the first and biggest E. F. I. training center in West Africa. They have already successfully run several trainings and have even successfully grown upland rice with our conservation agriculture. We are planning to prepare this training center to become fully self-sustaining and be certified by the founding organization Foundation for Farming later this year. The day after I return, I will help in running a training as the local SIM church will be sending their pastors to be trained in conservation agriculture at our farm here in Burkina Faso

Please pray that the trips go well as it will be the first time I have traveled as the regional coordinator with E. F. I. But mostly pray for Bonnie and the kids as they will be staying here in Burkina Faso. The country has been stable recently, but there is always a worry that problems will start back up. Pray things stay stable during the travel.




Our Christmas program at Tanghin filled up our church

Happy New Year!!!



We pray that you are facing this new year with grace and peace from our Lord. Thank you for all the ways you show the love of Christ to us. God bless you and Happy New Year!

God bless,
Evan, Bonnie, Charlotte, Lucas, and Aidan

BIRTHDAYS for JANUARY

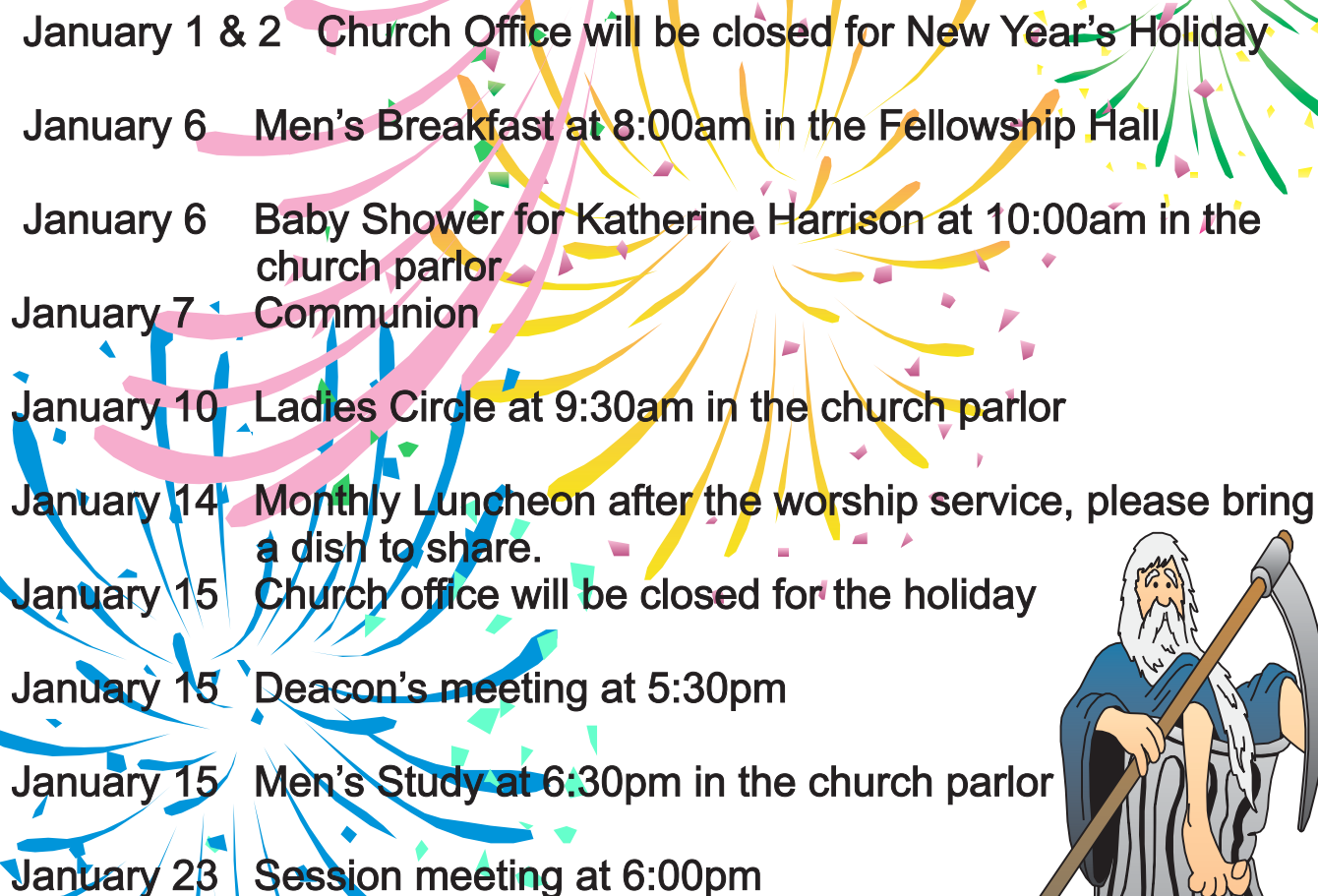


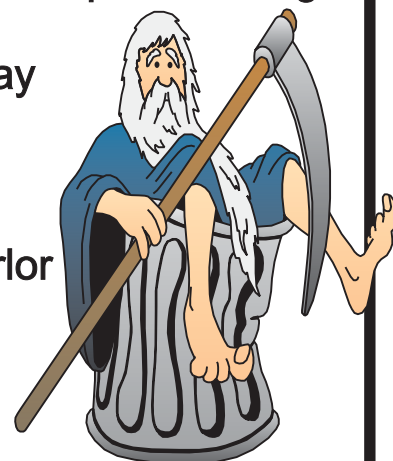
Rosie Willson 3rd
Mike Pizzari 6th
Pat Shaw 13th
Ben Bowden 19th
Joy Glidewell 21st
Megan Jackson 24th



Mike Clark 4th
Kim Clark 10th
Maria Gonzales 15th
Victor Allen 20th
Nicholas Clark 23rd

Dates to Remember for January

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- January 1 & 2 Church Office will be closed for New Year's Holiday
- January 6 Men's Breakfast at 8:00am in the Fellowship Hall
- January 6 Baby Shower for Katherine Harrison at 10:00am in the church parlor
- January 7 Communion
- January 10 Ladies Circle at 9:30am in the church parlor
- January 14 Monthly Luncheon after the worship service, please bring a dish to share.
- January 15 Church office will be closed for the holiday
- January 15 Deacon's meeting at 5:30pm
- January 15 Men's Study at 6:30pm in the church parlor
- January 23 Session meeting at 6:00pm





**1340 Beach Boulevard
Biloxi, Mississippi 39530
228.374.6880**

firstpresbiloxi.org

First Presbyterian Church of Biloxi is a congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America. To learn more about the PCA, log on to pcanet.org

Elders

David Allen	228-547-1007	david.allen@firstpresbiloxi.org
Ben Bowden	228-596-5007	ben.bowden@firstpresbiloxi.org
John Chaney	228-238-4379	john.chaney@firstpresbiloxi.org
Mike Clark	228- 326-3213	mike.clark@firstpresbiloxi.org
Jeff Harrison	228-596-6600	jeff.harrison@firstpresbiloxi.org
Scott Malthaner	830-320-1070	scott.malthaner@firstpresbiloxi.org
Ken Pennell	601-674-1637	ken.pennell@firstpresbiloxi.org
Aaron Smith	601-214-0918	aaron.smith@firstpresbiloxi.org
Charles Pringle (Em.)	228-388-2517	charles.pringle@firstpresbiloxi.org
Tim Horn (Pastor)	662-313-8445	tim.horn@firstpresbiloxi.org
Shannon Philio (Assistant Pastor)	228-327-3875	shannon.philio@firstpresbiloxi.org

Deacons

Andy Bagby	228-547-5334	andy.bagby@firstpresbiloxi.org
Phil Harding	410-310-2389	phil.harding@firstpresbiloxi.org
Steve Lustig	608-719-9372	steve.lustig@firstpresbilox.org
Steve VanderKooy	228-990-1933	steve.vanderkooy@firstpresbilox.org

Church Musicians

Jeff Harrison	Music Director	jeff.harrison@firstpresbiloxi.org
Melba Sipriano	Pianist/Organist	melba.sipriano@firstpresbiloxi.org

Church Secretary

Kim Clark	228-374-6880	info@firstpresbiloxi.org
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