

The Russell Report

Russell Memorial Methodist Church

A Family Rooted in Christ and Reaching Out in Love



Vol. 19, No. 1

January 2023

A New Year Challenge

“Not that I have already obtained it or have already become perfect, but I press on so that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus. Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. Let us therefore, as many as are perfect, have this attitude; and if in anything you have a different attitude, God will reveal that also to you; however, let us keep living by that same standard to which we have attained.” (Philippians 3:12-16 NASB)

Attitude is important. If you need confirmation, ask an airplane pilot what happens when attitude isn't correct. I wouldn't be surprised if it is from the world of flight that we borrow the term "attitude adjustment." The Cambridge Dictionary begins defining attitude as "a feeling or opinion about something or someone, or a way of behaving that is caused by this." Our attitude about something—anything—involves thoughts, feelings, and behavior. Whether we realize it or not, each one of us has an attitude toward the living of our Christian faith, including an attitude about church.

Observe the words of the apostle Paul. In Philippians chapter 3, Paul has been reflecting on the new life he has because of Christ's death and resurrection. In light of what Jesus has done for him, Paul determines to be satisfied with nothing less than total abandonment to his calling in Christ. This is Paul's attitude, and it is powerful. Personally, I can't read this passage without being inspired and humbled. I am inspired because I yearn to have Paul's level of commitment; I am humbled because I lack it. You may think that sounds strange coming from your pastor, but I am willing to admit it. Yes, my attitude could improve. It should be more like Paul's. Interestingly, this is exactly the invitation Paul offers to us. "Let us therefore... have this attitude" (v. 15)

If you believe your attitude could become more like that of Paul, allow me to offer a challenge. The challenge is simply this: be present in worship for the next six weeks. Consider it a "six week challenge" that can be completed before we enter the preparatory season of Lent (at which time you will receive your second challenge). If this challenge seems simplistic or inconsequential to you, remember that the first step toward success often is just showing up. Come and be present with the body of Christ at the appointed time for worship. Be engaged, expecting God to reveal Himself to you. Stand in awe of the grace you are offered through the cross of Christ. Renew yourself in God's unshakable love for you. Come, be present, and worship. See how God starts giving

you a renewed attitude of commitment to the mission of Jesus. Make it a six week start to a deeper walk with the Lord.

See you Sunday,

Pastor Dave

From the Cartwrights

My family and I wish to extend our sincere gratitude for the kind and generous gestures of love received during the Advent season. We are richly blessed to be part of a loving church family. On Sunday, January 22 we invite you to be the recipient of our hospitality at a parsonage open house. You are welcome to come and go between 2:00 and 4:00. Invite a friend if you wish. The parsonage is at 162 Monning Lane. We look forward to hosting you on that day.

Pastor Dave

Youth News

Rockin Around the Christmas Tree

The youth hope you enjoyed the Christmas tree that we set up at the entrance of the Deen building. Hopefully it helped you get in the Christmas spirit. Those who helped spruce up the tree were AJ Galope, Johanna Cartwright, and Sophie Nychka.

Have a Cup of Cheer

Thanks to the Cartwrights the youth enjoyed making cocoa bombs for a cold winters night. It was a fun activity that will be a warm and tasty treat. Those who enjoyed the experience were Frances, Frank, Marguerite, and Robby Groover, Johanna Cartwright, Maggie McDonald, and Sophie Nychka.

Cookies, Cookies and More Cookies!

Many Christmas cookies were made in conjunction with Cheatham Memorial youth. We made cookies from scratch, baked, and decorated them to be given to the residents of Crestwood assisted living. A special thank you goes to Nancy and Katie McDonald for sharing their cookie decorating tips with the youth. Those in attendance were Frances, Frank, Marguerite, and Robby Groover, Sophie Nychka, Maggie McDonald, and Johanna Cartwright.

A Merry Little Christmas Party

The youth Christmas party started off at Crestwood Assisted Living by singing Christmas carols and giving the cookies we made to the residents. Frances Groover and Sophie Nychka played the piano for the residents as well. We then came back to the church where a competitive game of Christmas Pictionary was played between the Snowflakes and the Snowmans . We enjoyed an early dinner of pizza, drinks, and desserts. Our last game for our party was a Chinese Christmas gift exchange. A few gifts may or may not have been stolen from each other. Those enjoying the Christmas fun were Maggie Mcdonald, AJ Galope, Sophie Nychka, Johanna Cartwright, Frances, Frank, Marguerite, and Robby Groover.

Check out the pictures through out this issue.



Calendar of Events for January

Dates to Remember for January



Sunday, January 8, 8:00 a.m. Methodist Men Meeting
 Monday, January 9, 5:00 p.m. Day School Board Meeting
 6:00 p.m. Finance Committee Meeting
 Saturday, January 14, 9:00 a.m. United Women of Faith Meeting
 10:00 a.m. Safety Team Meeting
 Sunday, January 15, 11:15 a.m. Admin Council Meeting
 Saturday, January 21, 9:00 a.m. Crafting with Christ
 Sunday, January 22, 2:00-4:00 p.m. Open House at the Parsonage
 Friday, January 27, 6:30 p.m., Mere Christianity study in the Deen Building

Happy Birthday!

Lawson White	1-1	Jim Briggs	1-19
Laura Bates	1-4	Nathan Hullum	1-21
Barbara Lamb	1-5	Joan Berry	1-22
Theresa Turner	1-5	Linda Poteet	1-22
G.R. Culpepper	1-7	Harriet Hardin	1-24
Becca Rowe	1-8	Rusty Miracle	1-28
Taylor Hulsey	1-8	Judy Culpepper	1-29
Mark Hataway	1-10	Maxine Page	1-31
Herschel LyBrand	1-13	Molly Brittain	1-31
Sophie Nychka	1-13	Phillis Humphrey	1-31
AJ Galope	1-17		

Right Now Media

Don't forget about the amazing offer of rightnow media offered through the church. Text RMUMC to 49775 for an invitation to set up your account, or contact the church office to request help.

Our Presence and Our Gifts

	Dec 4	Dec 11	Dec 18	Dec 25
Worship	83	105	107	83
Giving	\$6,756.00	\$9,949.00	\$6,853.00	\$8,719.00

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship Service	2	3	4	5	6	7
8 8:00 am MM meeting 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship Service	9 5:00pm Day School 6:00pm Finance Meeting	10	11 6:00pm Ladies Hand Bells 7:15pm Choir Practice	12 6:00 pm Trustees	13	14 9:00 am UWF Meeting, Deen Building 10:00am Safety Team
15 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship Service 11:15am Admin Council Meeting	16	17	18 6:00pm Ladies Hand Bells 7:15pm Choir Practice	19 8:30am George Hall in use	20	21 9:00am Crafting with Christ
22 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship Service 2pm-4pm Parsonage Open House	23	24	25 6:00pm Ladies Hand Bells 7:15pm Choir Practice	26	27 6:30pm Mere Christianity Study Deen building	28
29 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship Service	30	31				



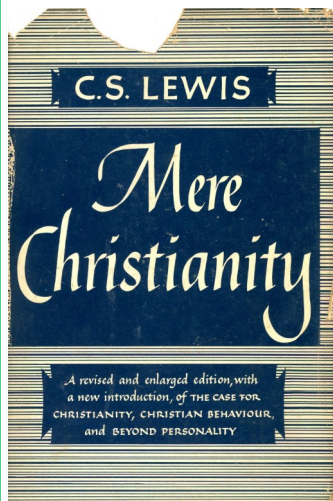
Remember in Prayer:

Family of David Bates
Family of Roy Rogers
Family of Lynn Mullins
Family of Helen Tapp
Family of Emily Ross
Family of Barbara Grimes
Petty
Family of Prater Monning
Family of Priscilla West
Family of Jim Freeman
Arthur Galope, Jr.
Alice Kolb
Andy Anderson
Angie Smith
Betty Manning
Billie Cade
Bobbi Smith
Chad Ash
Charles & Wynona James
Cheryl Bradley

Cheryl & David Shaw
College Students
Crestwood Nursing &
Assisted Living
Darian Richardson
David Cartwright (not the
pastor)
Denny McCormick
Dianna Perry
Eric Johns
Evan Mayone
FG Hardy
GR Culpepper
Harrison Mayone
Helen Liston
Isaac Bullard
James Brown
Jared McDonald
Jeff D'Amico
Jim & Sandra Smith
John Buffington
Kay & Benny Mitchell

Karl & Keeta Lybrand
LaNell White
Laura Bates
Marigrace & Mike Lang
Mark Brown
Marty Mitchell
Mary Bullard
Maxine Page
Mike Tolin
Patsy Aulich
Randy Daniel
Richard Anderson
Richard Briley
RMMC Staff
Robert Butts
Sherri Rowe
Students, Teachers & Admin.
Sunday School & Church
Travis Deen
Virginia Cockerham

Book Study



Study will begin Friday, January 27 at 6:30 pm at the Deen Building, no meal will be served. Plan to meet for about an hour each time for discussion. We will NOT be watching the videos linked below, you will need to read and watch the appropriate video before each session. You will need to purchase your own book, if you have not already. Here is the link to study materials, you will need to set up a free login/account here:
<https://www.cslewisinstitute.org/study-courses/>
Choose the materials under CS Lewis Works: Study Courses for Mere Christianity. The course is *Mere Christianity: The Book, the Idea, and the Legacy with the late Dr. Chris Mitchell*. You can download/print The Study Guide, which outlines the schedule of the study. You will need to watch The Case for Christianity, Part 1A BEFORE our first session and have read at least Book 1 of Mere Christianity.

Russell Memorial Methodist Church

Rev. David Cartwright, Pastor
John Ross, Minister of Music
Theresa Turner, Ladies Hand Bells Director

Nancy McDonald, Office Administrator
Fritz Gilbreth, Organist
Jackie Cockerham, Financial Administrator

Join us Sunday Morning!

Sunday School 9:00 a.m.

Worship Service 10:00 a.m.

Office Hours: 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Monday-Thursday

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED