



# MEADVILLE MESSENGER

## JUST A THOUGHT

Rev. Milton Whatley

### A New Year's Revolution

No, I did not get the word wrong. I meant for the word to be revolution as opposed to resolution. Revolution just sounded better for what I'm going to ask you to do. Included in this newsletter (and in the newsletters you'll receive each month in the new year), you will find a table blessing for you and your family to use for the month.

These are not original to me. I was organizing my files and ran across one of table blessings penned by an old friend and mentor, the Reverend Tom Sorrell when he was the pastor of the Mississippi City UMC on the Gulf Coast. His church was allowed by a local restaurant to provide table blessing cards for the use of patrons. The response was overwhelmingly positive.

On finding these table blessings, it occurred to me these might be a blessing to our church. What you are suggested to do is to use the monthly provided blessing for at least one meal a day with your family, or use the form to write your own.

We all need to be reminded that our Heavenly Father is the source, not only of our "daily bread" as the Lord's Prayer suggests but of all blessings. To keep this thought in mind just might start the spiritual revolution we all need.

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## JANUARY TABLE BLESSING

DEAR GOD, MAY THIS TABLE OF FELLOWSHIP AND THIS PLACE OF NOURISHMENT ALWAYS HAVE ROOM FOR OTHERS WHO HUNGER AS WE DO FOR THY BLESSINGS IN LIFE.

## **WORSHIP MATTERS!**

Pat Jones

There are so many talented and gifted people in our wonderful congregation of believers! I hesitate to rely on my feeble memory to name them all, but I'm going to try anyway!

The worship aspect of our church is so vital. Worship is why we exist! God made us to worship and praise Him and to share His gospel, the Good News, with others. There are four Wesleyan principles: first and foremost, there is Scripture! Then, Tradition, Reason, and Experience. Our traditions heavily lean on, and should always illustrate Scripture!

On December 3, we began this season of celebration with Hanging of the Greens. Thanks to Barbie Fleming, Jaden & Isaac Sivils, Ruthie Cochran, Ashley Priest, Mary Kathryn Williamson, and David Hester, for making this special service happen! Also, thanks to the children and youth who decorated the sanctuary and Chrismon tree. Thanks to the Advent candle lighters: Matt, Heidi, and Leisl Holt and David & Suzie Abadie.

On December 10, the Sanctuary Choir presented the "Good News!". Once again, these talented folks worked hard and sacrificed time and energy to deliver the gospel in musical expression and uplifting fashion! Please take a look at the enclosed program and read the names of all those who participated. I have to add a special thanks to Susie for the brilliant accompaniment, we truly couldn't have done it without her! The music that we did was not an easy, off-the-shelf, already put-together cantata. Instead, it was a carefully chosen collection of challenging anthems. Mitch Priest on percussion and Lauren Lott on bass guitar added so much depth to the music! And Grady and Barbie are always so faithful to step in and expressively narrate!

The Jolly Elders made us all jolly as we laughed and pondered their production of "The Devil and Ms. Dishwater"! There were special "Ta-da" moments and also a convicting, challenging message. This bunch never ceases to amaze and entertain!

Christmas Eve Communion will be another inspiring and special celebration. This special night always evokes the church "family" feeling of Christmas!

While our laity is heavily involved, we deeply appreciate our Pastor Milton who brings us messages that keep me taking notes at a fast pace. His and Cindy's involvement, encouragement, and leadership mean so much. Please be consistent in including them in your prayers and lend all the support you possibly can to encourage them and uplift them in their ministry.

In 2018, let us be more diligent, more dedicated, and more committed than ever before to the worship of our Savior!

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## **WHY VISITORS COME TO CHURCH**

**9 out of 10** attend because someone in the pew asked them to come.

**7 out of 10** will return because they were made to feel at home.

**THEY DO NOT ATTEND BECAUSE OF THE:**

- 1. PREACHER**
- 2. PROPERTY**
- 3. PROGRAM**

You are the most important key to growth.

It is vital that we are an inviting and welcoming church.

On any given Sunday less than one-third of our members attend.

Less than half of the people in any community attend any church.

“The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.” Matthew 9:38 NIV

“I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest.”  
John 4:35 NIV

**THE SIMPLEST EVANGELISM PLAN IS THE MOST EFFECTIVE:**

It require no committee, no budget. It does require you.

**The F.R.A.N. Plan.** Make a list of your friends, relatives, acquaintances, and neighbors who do not attend a church. (They may be members, but not attend.) Invite them to attend with you next Sunday. Go by and pick them up.

**F - FRIENDS**

**R - RELATIVES**

**A - ACQUAINTANCES**

**N - NEIGHBORS**

*For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. Romans 12:4,5*

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# LOOKING AHEAD:

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The **Trustees** will be meeting Monday, January 8th at 6:30 P.M. The purpose of this meeting will be to review the projects the Trustees completed and to look forward to what they hope to accomplish in 2018. Members of the committee are: Steve Sullivan, Stacye Campbell, Chuck Freeman, Pat Jones, Mitch Priest, John Smith, Jean Hollinger, Ric Wege, and Melinda Bradford.

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The **Worship Committee** will be meeting Wednesday, January 10th at 5:30 P.M. This will be an important meeting not only because it's the first one of the year, but also, at this meeting plans for the Lent/Easter Season will be made. Members of the committee are: Pat Jones, Grady Fleming, Bo Gabbert, Larry Jones, Rev. Milton Whatley, Ashley Priest, Vana Hurst, Barbara Herring, Sandy Hester, Barbie Fleming, Susie Kimbrough, and Elizabeth Rushing.

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## **Council on Ministries**

Sunday, January 21 following morning worship.

If you are the Chairperson of a committee or work area you are expected to make a report to the Council on Ministries. If you are unable to attend, please have a member of your committee present to submit a written report.

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## **District Leadership Training**

Saturday, February 3 - Place, time, and workshops that will be offered will be made available as plans are finalized.

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## **2018 Leadership Reports**

Copies of the Leadership Report can be found on the table in the narthex.

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# ☀️ MUMC Scrapbook ☀️





**Sunday**

9:45 - Sunday School  
11:00 - Morning Worship  
4:00 - Intercessors

**Tuesday**

5:30 - UMYF

**Wednesday**

11:30 - Bible Study

**Thursday**

4:00 - Prison Ministry

**Friday**

6:00 - Sewing Ministry



# JANUARY

*Twenty eight*

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	Happy New Year's! <sup>1</sup>	<sup>2</sup>	<sup>3</sup>	<sup>4</sup>	<sup>5</sup>	<sup>6</sup>
<sup>7</sup>	6:30 Trustees Committee <sup>8</sup>	10:00 - Jolly Elders <sup>9</sup>	5:30 Worship Committee <sup>10</sup>	<sup>11</sup>	<sup>12</sup>	<sup>13</sup>
8:30 - UMM's Breakfast <sup>14</sup>	<sup>15</sup>	6:00 - Emmaus Reunion <sup>16</sup>	<sup>17</sup>	<sup>18</sup>	<sup>19</sup>	<sup>20</sup>
COM Luncheon <sup>21</sup>	<sup>22</sup>	<sup>23</sup>	<sup>24</sup>	<sup>25</sup>	<sup>26</sup>	<sup>27</sup>
<sup>28</sup>	<sup>29</sup>	<sup>30</sup>	<sup>31</sup>			

**Take delight in the LORD,  
and he will give you the desires of your heart.**

PSALM 37 : 4

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

January 01	Willena Cook
January 01	Anna Prather
January 05	Cindy Jones
January 05	Hayden Herring
January 07	Tre' Fleming
January 07	Sarah Stebbins
January 07	Michael Paul Wallace
January 12	Kim Ray
January 13	Charlotte Jones
January 13	Mary Clement
January 14	Michelle Smith
January 15	Samuel Cowart
January 16	Jimmy Torrey
January 19	Melinda Bradford
January 19	Karen Posey
January 20	Clint Herring
January 20	Cliff Herring
January 22	Jobea Magee
January 23	Matt Holt
January 26	David Campbell
January 27	Gary Jones
January 30	Christy Street
January 31	Anna Grace Shideler

# HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

January 23	John & Clara Guice
January 23	Bob & Susie Kimbrough
January 26	David & Stacye Campbell

## COLEMAN-ISM

Reputation is made in a moment:  
character is built in a lifetime.

## MUMC STAFF



PASTOR,  
REV. MILTON  
WHATLEY



DIRECTOR OF MUSIC,  
MRS. PAT JONES



YOUTH DIRECTOR,  
MS. MARTHA TOMLINSON



CHURCH SECRETARY,  
MRS. SAMANTHA SIVILS

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