

The Lamplighter



Christian New Year Resolutions

To Help You Grow Closer To God

The new year signifies a lot of things for many people. For most, it symbolizes a fresh start, a new hope, a second chance. This is where making resolutions and goals come in. We often make a list of things we want to change and goals we wish to achieve for the coming year.

Did you know that 60% of the human population make New Year's resolutions? That's a lot! And among those people, only about eight percent make it until the end. Now, that's a big gap ratio. So if you're among those unsuccessful 92%, and you want to change your success rate, you might be wondering what went wrong.

First off, people who effectively stuck with their resolutions understood that commitment is key. Everyone knows that change isn't a one-time-big-time thing. It is a gradual process that requires a person's strength, willpower and, above all, faith to take the necessary actions to achieve those goals they have set.

Setting Up Your New Year Resolutions and Faith Goals When making your resolutions and goals, it is important to consider some factors in order to successfully keep them until the end.

Ask About Your Motivation Ask yourself, "Why do I want to achieve this? Is it for vanity and other worldly reasons or is it for the improvement of my physical, mental, social, emotional or spiritual self?" Remember that when making a decision to change, it's important to look into your heart, and ask the *why* of it. God looks into our hearts, and when our motivation is pure and in the right place, our goals are blessed and have more value, making them more rewarding to achieve.

Ask If Your Goals are Feasible When setting your resolutions and goals, it's equally important to ask yourself if it is realistic. Most people set their goal too high, to the point that it is impossible to achieve because the actions needed surpass the person's limit. Let's face it, our goals are only as good as our capability to commit to them. Make sure that if you make your New Year's resolutions for next year, they are realistic and within what you can do.

Ask If Your Goals are God-centered Just like asking yourself about your motivations, you also need to ask if your resolutions and goals align with God's will for you. Does it honor God? Do you think it aligns with His purpose for you? The only way to know is to pray about it.

Lift Them Up to God In *John 15:4-5*, it says, "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing." This literally means that without God, anything we do is futile, and we can't do anything without him. As said before, more than strength and willpower, faith is equally—if not more—necessary and powerful in fulfilling your goals and resolutions. This New Year's, lift them all up to God. Trust that He will guide you throughout this change you want to achieve, and have faith that He will help you throughout this journey. That's why it's called faith goals, right?

Goals and Resolutions for Your Faith and Spirituality Now that you have your New Year resolutions and faith goals figured out, here are some that would help you improve your self and relationships as Christians. (Continued on pg 3)

Hope For Something Better



"We remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ" 1 Thess. 1:3.

Daniel is many peoples favorite book in the Bible. There are so many times when Daniel and his friends displayed unshakable faith and hope. We all hope we would do as well under similar terrifying circumstances. The sixth chapter is a great example that not only demonstrates Daniel's faith in God but also vindicates it. Daniel trusted God in the lions' den, and God honored his faith by protecting him through the night. But you know what? It doesn't al-

ways happen that way, does it? Paul believed in God, and he was martyred for his faith. Peter believed in God, and he was crucified upside down.

Believing in God doesn't mean that the lions will be foiled. History is full of martyrs. They believed in God, but they died. As Christians, we do more than believe in God. We accept His will. If it is to live, then we live. If it is to die, we die. But either way, we're never defeated. If Daniel had lost his life to the lions, he would have been in the presence of God. He couldn't lose. If he had been torn to shreds, the angels that came would have carried him into

the presence of the Lord. The truth of Paul's words remains firm. "To live is Christ and to die is gain!" Phil. 1:21

Where can we find hope? It's not as difficult as we may think. According to Jesus, it's pretty simple. He said, "Seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you" (Matthew 6:33). "Put your hope in God" (Psalms 42:5). Start off 2023 by giving your full trust to God's will for your life...the joys and the troubles!

-Jennifer Miller

General Information



Check out the last page for exciting news on the new food giveaway!!

Sermon Topics:

Jan 01	AM	<i>Signs & Salvation</i>	Mth 12:38-41	PM	<i>Hearing God</i>	Num 7:89
Jan 08	AM	<i>Sowing Seeds</i>	Mth 13:3-9	PM	<i>Light & Levites</i>	Num 8:2-3
Jan 15	AM	<i>God's Net</i>	Mth 13:44-57	PM	<i>Passover & Patience</i>	Num 9:1-4
Jan 22	AM	<i>The Controlling of Herod</i>	Mth 14:1-12	PM	<i>Blow Your Horns!</i>	Num 18:1-2
Jan 29	AM	<i>Water Walker</i>	Mth 14:25	PM	<i>Complainers</i>	Num 11:1-3

Greeter Schedule:

Jan 01 Glenn Miller, Paul Dillon
 Jan 08 Nick Papanicolas, Andy Gibson
 Jan 15 Bob Gill, Patrick Hancock
 Jan 22 Darrell Linville, Billy Moore
 Jan 29 Glenn Miller, Scott Nupson

Tellers for month of January:

Sharon Bruce & Jody Miller

Sunday Morning Nursery:

Jan 01 Norma Flemming, Donna Flemming, Grant & Sara Walker
 Jan 08 Norma Stump, Becky Bucher, Fran Wright, Abby Pankhurst, Stephanie Miller
 Jan 15 Norma Stump, Sandy Getz, Kristen Gibson, Whitney Lumppp
 Jan 22 Norma Stump, Jessica Miller, Patrick & Jill Hancock
 Jan 29 Norma Stump, Stephanie Miller, Kay & Gerald Hancock

Sunday Morning Security Team:

8:30 AM	SS & 11:00 AM
Jan 01 Courtney Harbin, Marion Simpson	Terry Mathews, Al Law
Jan 08 Dillon Edelen, Norma Stump	Betty Lou Moore, Bob Mathews
Jan 15 Kevin Guiffre, Courtney Harbin	Jennifer Miller, Jerry Pruitt
Jan 22 Marion Simpson, Dillon Edelen	Melvin King, Sheri Bresnahan
Jan 29 Norma Stump, Kevin Guiffre	Patrick Hancock, Paul Miller



1 CORINTHIANS 12:27, NIV

Children's Worship:

Jan 01 Stephanie Walton, Ruth Dillon, Adrielle Law
 Jan 08 Jennifer Cooke, Jessica Miller, Camden Cooke
 Jan 15 Ellen Nupson, Alison Bode, Laura Dillon
 Jan 22 Hannah Pankhurst, Katie Lusk, Abby Pankhurst
 Jan 29 Debbie Schneider, Becky Bucher, Ben Burgess

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Make Time for God In every relationship, it's important to spend some quality time with the other person, and our relationship with God should be no different. In our fast-paced world, we often neglect or overlook getting to know God or hearing what He has to say because we're so busy with our lives. But, it shouldn't be that way. This new year, reconnect with God by making time for Him—make time to read the Bible and say a prayer or just sit in a moment of gratitude. It doesn't have to take as long as an hour—that would be impractical and harder to commit to. Instead, devote a constant and specific time in the day wherein you could sit with God for ten to twenty minutes (or however long your schedule permits you). You could even do it when you're doing a passive task, like showering or folding the laundry or even when you're having dinner by yourself.

Invest Time and Reconnect with the Church You may be a passive church-goer or you may have found yourself not going to church as much as you used to, either way, this new year, it's time to change it. If you've been going to church but you haven't made the effort to connect with a small group or other church-goers, now's the time to commit yourself to meeting and getting to know them. Church isn't just about sitting and listening to the sermon for an hour, then going home. It's about connecting with people and sharing the word of God.

Join a Bible Study or Small Group As stated above, going to church means connecting and sharing the word of God with others. Part of your journey and growth in God is to share insights and knowledge about Him and the Bible. Find out if your church has Bible study groups you could join in, and if not, it won't hurt to start your own!

Invite a Friend to Church Oftentimes, there's a stigma that goes with being a Christian or a church-goer; some of us even get scared or shy to invite friends to go to church with us. Whether it's because we're afraid of rejection or afraid of being judged or deemed uncool, it still means that we haven't tried our best to share the word of God. It's time to step into the new year without that reservation. Have courage, and ask your non-Christian friend to church. If they say no, rest in the knowledge that you did what you could, and that it doesn't reflect on you. Plus, this is your chance to be braver.

Read the Bible Daily There are always new lessons you can learn from studying the Bible more closely. Dedicate yourself this year to spending more time in His Word. If you don't already have a daily Bible reading app on your phone, download one now. YouVersion has a great one that gives you a single verse a day to read. It also keeps track of your reading streak, to help you remember to read each day.

Goals and Resolutions for Family It's a new year, and a new chance for your family to bond and grow closer to God. Here are a few Christian New Year resolutions to share with your family this year!

Be a Better Family Member It's a broad, vague resolution, but if you look closely, it's actually clear and simple. Be a better family member. The actions needed for this resolution depends on your role in the family. So, ask yourself how you could improve your relationship with all your family members. The key to this resolution is to be specific. You could list three to five specific actions and changes you could enact to achieve this goal.

Volunteer as a Family If you've tried volunteering by yourself, the experience is twice more fulfilling when it is done with the family. Encourage them to volunteer with you to teach them the value of generosity and sharing God's love to others.

Establish Family Bonding Time You don't have to go all out when thinking of a weekly or monthly activity to do with your family. A simple game night or family movie night would suffice. The important thing for this resolution is to bond and be connected to your family members; to know and catch up with them, and to build a tradition or habit that everyone could look forward to every time. (continued on page 5)



K i d s C o R n E r



Opportunity for the youth to serve

Collect the following for Humane Society:

- dry and/or wet food for puppies, adult dogs, kittens, adult cats
- small animal pellets for rabbits/guinea pigs
- blankets/towels (used is ok)
- animal toys
- cat litter

They do have a specific list of needs on Amazon and Petco if you would like to donate gift cards to those stores.

Mark Your Calendars!

- Jan. 28 (tentative)
Mission Day- Work on crafts for OCC boxes and the Youth will go to the Humane Society to volunteer and deliver donations



AWANA packed 55 Operation Christmas Child boxes and as a drop off location we had 1911! Church members turned in and participated in the packing party which amounted to 600. We know for sure that some of our boxes are going to South Africa and Colombia.

Puzzle!

Look up each verse in an NIV Bible and find a word that fits in that row. Then write the word from the bold vertical column in the blank below to complete Proverbs 24:3-4.

1 Corinthians 8:1		N		
Philippians 1:9				H
2 Peter 1:5				S
		A		2 Timothy 3:7
Matthew 24:32			S	
John 7:15			R	
			I	Isaiah 33:6
2 Peter 3:18				E
	W			Proverbs 24:5

By wisdom a house is built, and ...
through _____ its rooms are filled with
rare and beautiful treasures.

PROVERBS 24:3-4, NIV

Answer: know, insight, goodness, always, learning, foundation, grace, power, knowledge

VBS Recap

Children enjoyed Spark Studio Vacation Bible School July 18-22 this year. God's creativity didn't stop in Genesis. We are His workmanship (Eph. 2:10) and a masterpiece in process. There were 95 students in the morning session, 21 youth in the evening session and 38 volunteers!!



Clubs offered.

Cubbies: 3-5 year olds

Sparks: K-2nd grade

Truth & Training: 3rd-6th grade

Trek: 7th-8th grade

Journey: 9th-12th grade

Memory Verse for January:

Psalms 112:1 – Praise the LORD! Blessed is the man who fears the LORD, who greatly delights in his commandments!

The \$5 Shoebox

If I asked you to go shopping in November and buy \$55 worth of shoebox items, most of you would think "That's a little much, I don't think I could afford that." But what if I asked you to spend just \$5 each month on items, most of you would say "Well, that much I could do.... but what should I buy?" This year I encourage all of you to go on a \$5 shopping spree each month for items to pack in this year's shoeboxes. At the beginning of each month I will hand out a shopping list of suggestions of things you can buy. Each month will have a theme such

as school supplies or hygiene, but remember, these are just suggestions. If you find a great deal on something - don't leave it at the store just because it's not on this month's list! Many of these items cost less than \$5 so you can buy more than one. If you would like to participate but can't get out to shop for any reason, you can also give \$5 to Becky and she will shop for you. As you shop, bring items in, and give to Becky, or place on the table in the Shoebox Room in the back of the church.

"Not all of us can do great things but we can all do small things with great love"

-Mother Teresa

JANUARY:

Personal Care Items



SUGGESTIONS

Combs, Brushes, Toothbrushes, Washcloths, Fingernail clippers, Band-aids (non-medicated), Chap Stick (non-medicated), dental floss, q-tips, hair accessories (clips, headbands, hair ties, etc.) and more!!



Ladies of the Light Bible Study- Every Tuesday @ 10 AM

ROMEO's- Jan 3rd @ 11:30 AM- Foster's Grille

Women on Mission-Jan 5th @ 9:45 AM

Connect Bible Study- Jan 5th & 19th @ 6 PM

Brotherhood Fellowship- Jan 7th @ 9 AM

Widow's Support Group- Jan 19th @ 11 AM

(continued from page 3)

Eat Dinner Together For busy parents, listing this as one of your resolutions is a good thing. Mealtime is when we catch up with one another and talk about how each other's day went. Not only does this activity bring the family closer, but it is also important for the children's growth. Spending this extra little time together each day, or at least when possible, will give your family more time to connect with each other. Use this time to talk to them about their passions, their fears and their faith.

Pray as a family Praying as a family is a wonderful Christian New Year Resolution. If you haven't been praying together with your family, the new year may be a good chance to start. Pray together before school and work in the morning, say a prayer together at bedtime, or even pray during the Sabbath day. No matter what time of day or day of the week, praying will help your family bond together and grow closer to God.

Conclusion We know that keeping a New Year's resolution can be hard to do. Most of us forget the reason why we're doing it by the second or third month of the year. However, don't lose hope and don't give up just yet; this year may be different. As we said above, it's important to set your resolutions and goals with God in mind. Lift them all up to Him, and trust that He would help you cross your bridge with flying colors. This new year, make your resolution with these words in mind, 'Ask your why's and have faith.'

Gathered Again (2019, December 25) *Christian New Year Resolutions To Help You Grow Closer to God* <https://gatheredagain.com/article shortened for space allowance>

Library News

What's New And on the Shelf --Bob Mathews

Fiction

Dead Sea Conspiracy by Jerry Jenkins (F JEN)

Dead Sea Rising by Jerry Jenkins (F JEN)

Nonfiction

God of Surprise by Bill Crowder (NF 231.76)

To Know Him by Gloria Copeland (NF 248.4)

Walking Wisely by Charles Stanley (NF 241.4)

Audio

Never Lose Sight by Chris Tomlin (Audio – Music)

Enduring Treasures: Timeless Hymns for Today by Charles Billingsley (Audio – Music)



“The spirit of Christ is the spirit of missions. The nearer we get to Him, the more intensely missionary we become.”
(Henry Martyn)

We're so grateful that
Pastor Gary is home!



Upcoming Mission Opportunities

- Jan. 8- Love offering to support our Missionary Guest Speaker
- The Youth are collecting items for the Humane Society, please check out the Kids Corner page in this issue for details!
- Please be in prayer as Jennifer Miller finalizes summer mission opportunities



Cookie Wilsey would like to say *Thank You* to everyone for all of the prayers and cards after her brother Jesse's passing.



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www.fbclaplata.org
www.facebook.com/FirstBaptistChurchOfLaPlata
www.instagram.com/fbclaplata

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Treasurer: Terry Mathews 301-752-3648, treasurer@fbclaplata.org



01 - Kylie Duehring

01 - Bob Mathews

02 - Virgil Burnette

02 - Dean Howard

07 - Doug Duehring

08 - Drew Havrilla

09 Ayla Havrilla

09 - Elle Havrilla

10 - Janet Jones

10 - Xaris Schneider

16 - Sally Sexton

17 - Lucy Bowie

18 - Adeline Freeman
(Paul & Jody's Granddaughter)

20 - Thao Dinh

21 - Dottie Guilliams

26 - Jonathan Miller

30 - Mary McNair

11 - Ken & Janet Doyle

25 - Jim & Ann Robey

30 - Barbara & Jerry Hill



Upcoming Events:

- Jan 8-Kenny & Cheryl Morris will be here during both AM services! They are the American IMB missionaries that we have partnered with in Panama the last two summers. They will present their work in that area.
- Jan 27-'The Horse and the Boy' play at Museum of the Bible @ 7 pm. Contact Jennifer Miller if you would like to carpool.
- Jan 28-Mission Day (tentative). See kids' page for details.
- Feb 24/25-Ladies retreat to Eden Resort in Lancaster, PA. There is space for 5 ladies. \$100 deposit is due at time of registration.

FREE FOOD for YOU!!!

WINTER FOOD DISTRIBUTION

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF LA PLATA
FOOD DISTRIBUTION - FIRST COME, FIRST SERVE
WHILE SUPPLIES LAST

MEATS, BREADS, STAPLES, DAIRY PRODUCTS, ETC.

EVERY WEDNESDAY from 5:00 - 6:30 p.m.

9070 HAWTHORNE ROAD
LA PLATA, MD 20646

