

January 2017 Signal

SOMETHING WORTH THE WEAR OF WINNING

A new year is more than a change of calendars; it's a new beginning – or at least it can be for those who are willing to seize the opportunity. The English writer and poet Hilaire Belloc once wrote,

From quiet hours and first beginning,
Out to the undiscovered ends,
There's nothing worth the wear of winning,
But laughter and the love of friends.

Striving to win is not wrong unless we are wearing ourselves out attempting to win the wrong things. In America we have the custom of celebrating New Year's Day by watching bowl games, a ritual of competition and the fight to win. Belloc advises us to strive rather to be victorious in winning the goal of "laughter and the love of friends." What better advice at the beginning of the new year to help us examine our priorities.

True friendship is a rare gift to win in our all-too-busy world, our lives overloaded with obligations and work. For friendship takes time and effort, requires creativity as well as that mortal sin of the assembly line, the ability to "waste time." Unless we are willing to waste our precious hours being in the company of a good friend, seeking nothing but the pleasure of another's company, we shall miss one of life's rarest gifts.

In olden days friendship was easier, for people spent most of their lives in the same village or neighborhood. Today our work causes us to frequently move from place to place and, with so much greater ease in mobility, it is commonplace to have a large number of acquaintances but few friends. While we often use the word "friend" even for people we have known for only a short time, it should imply a deep and profound sort of communion. Among certain tribes in Africa, when two friends ended a relationship, it required a formal ritual of divorce by the whole tribe. As in so many other matters, primitive peoples often had a deeper understanding of the realities of life than do we.

In reading the Gospels, it is clear that Jesus had both a profound respect for and personal knowledge of friendship. His use of the word implies the sort of bond which primitive peoples considered as sacred and secure as marriage.

This new year can be a fresh beginning, or it can be nothing more than an overlapping and extension of the past, where the only thing that changes is the page on our calendar. In these first new days of a new year, what better resolution could we make than to deepen our existing friendships into relationships of communion that are truly holy.

A Pilgrim's Almanac
By Edward Hays

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HELP WANTED - USHERING

Friends, we are adding the opportunity to usher from monthly to also include weekly...as we recognize the schedules for many do not allow for long-term ushering.

We encourage you to volunteer to usher any one or more weeks during 2017 – starting with the January to April period.

Please advise the church office (475-0011) or Jeffrey Morey (474-3516) of your availability.

With appreciation,
Jeffrey Morey
Worship Chair

JUNIE BOY

Submitted by Maxine Adams

“Cherish what you love while you have it, so that when it passes, you will have memories of joy to sustain you.” (“a big little life” by Dean Koontz)

Cecil Patterson Jr., my baby brother, came into this world and dethroned me from my position as an only child but I still loved him unconditionally. He was given the nickname “Junie Boy” which remained with him into adulthood. My children called him Uncle Junie Boy.

His arrival changed my life in so many ways. I became a big sister with a little brother to boss around. I gained a constant playmate as well as a confidant. There is nothing more sacred than the secrets between siblings. We had three wonderful years together as the dynamic duo before the birth of our sister.

We grew up, I got married, and he went to war in Vietnam. He left for war a skinny kid but returned a hefty man. All that mattered to me was his safe return.

Junie Boy had a medical emergency, was rushed to hospital, stabilized, and diagnosed with diabetes. On the day of his death I was in a meeting prior to reporting for duty. Since I had to work that day, I planned to visit him the following day but the Holy Spirit compelled me to excuse myself from the meeting and visit him that day. My beloved brother, 48 years of age, graduated to heaven while I was at work.

I cherished him while he was with me. I have many memories of joy to sustain me until we meet again. “Do not marvel at this, because the hour is coming, in which all those in the memorial tombs, will hear His voice, and come out.” (John 5:28-29)

NURSERY SCHOOL NEWS

The end of the calendar year brought activities filled with music, family and shared time. We celebrated the holiday season in early December when families had more time to break

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away from work and other obligations to see their children sing songs wearing 'mitten necklaces' they created during school. Both of our classes did a great job entertaining families and then we all shared some light refreshments.

We have been touring new families interested in enrollment for September. Remind anyone interested in next year that they can call Kathy at 475-2344 to begin the process.

Plans for our spring semester are well under way! We have many exciting events and special visitors planned that are sure to make for a fun-filled start to 2017!

We hope you enjoyed a peaceful, family-filled holiday season and that 2017 brings you all good things.

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UMW NEWS

The United Methodist Women's Christmas Luncheon was held in the Fellowship Hall on Saturday, December 10th. Several guests from other local UMW's joined us. David Forrest was the caterer and Betty Morey played Christmas carols, so that we could sing. Dottie Montgomery provided festive decorations. The UMW, as well as other church members, donated unwrapped gifts for the Christmas store at Brown Memorial.

Our next UMW meeting will be in April 2017.

SOME HUMOR FROM BOB LARGE:

A SIGN IN A SHOE REPAIR STORE

We will heel you.

We will save your sole.

We will even dye for you.

IN A PODIATRIST'S OFFICE

Time wounds all heels.

AT AN OPTOMETRIST'S OFFICE

If you don't see what you're looking for, you've come to the right place.

ON A PLUMBER'S TRUCK

We repair what your husband fixed.

ON ANOTHER PLUMBER'S TRUCK

Don't sleep with a drip. Call your plumber.

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AT A TIRE SHOP IN MILWAUKEE

Invite us to your next blowout.

ON AN ELECTRICIAN'S TRUCK

Let us remove your shorts.

IN A NON-SMOKING AREA

If we see smoke, we will assume you are on fire and will take action.

ON A MATERNITY ROOM DOOR

Push. Push. Push.

AT A CAR DEALERSHIP

The best way to get back on your feet – miss a car payment.

OUTSIDE A MUFFLER SHOP

No appointment necessary. We hear you coming.

IN A VETERINARIAN'S WAITING ROOM

Be back in 5 minutes. Sit! Stay!

AT THE ELECTRIC COMPANY

We would be delighted if you send in your payment on time. However, if you don't, YOU will be de-lighted.

IN A RESTAURANT WINDOW

Don't stand there and be hungry; come on in and get fed up.

IN THE FRONT YARD OF A FUNERAL HOME

Drive carefully. We'll wait.

AT A PROPANE FILLING STATION

Thank Heaven for little grills.

IN A CHICAGO RADIATOR SHOP

Best place in town to take a leak.

January Birthdays

Happy Birthday to you!!!



Please notify the office by phone or e-mail with additions or corrections.

01 Rev. Andy Anderson
Deborah Haines

14 Peter Cole
16 Bill Gessler

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	Jeanette Callaghan		Mary Stoddard
	Mallory Hohm		Susan Spooner
02	Pamela Martin Louer	18	Emily Curran Wade
	Youngsoo Kim		Robert White
04	David Kovarik	20	Constance Hall
06	Madelyn Hornstein		Emily Rowles
	Marilyn McDermott		Ray Dewitt
	Robert McIntyre	22	Donald Davis, Jr.
07	Abigail Haines		Brenda Kelley
	Claire Aloan	23	Susan Garman
08	Kyle Phelps	24	Valerie Garfield
	Stephen Strock	25	Thomas Cowin
	Warren Covell	26	Barbara Bouton
09	Suzanne Dewitt	27	Courtney Rich
10	Amy Castle	28	Patricia Wojens
	Stephanie Discepolo	29	Linda Parton
11	Gary Tyler		Daniel Corcoran
	Edward Prosser	30	Eric Lind
	Thomas Martin	31	Melissa Gloo
12	Melanie Foster		
13	Eric Brown		

City Wide Youth Group 2017

Save the following dates for some exciting activities for youth in Grades 7-12:

Schedule:

Jan. 8	Sledding or Movie Night at church 6:00 pm
Jan. 15	Lazer tag after church
Jan. 22	No meeting
Jan. 29	Meeting with Rev. Anderson
Feb. 5	Mission Dinner TBD
Feb. 12	Habitat for Humanity Bowl-a-thon starts at 12:30 pm

If you have any questions, please call:

Diane Morgan or Laura Mattice

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END OF 2016 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

2016 was a very good year for Bellevue Heights. For the first time in quite a few years, we were able to pay all our bills, including 100% of our Shared Ministry (formerly known as apportionments).

Our total income for the year was \$171,000. Our total expenditure was \$158,000, leaving us with a balance of approximately \$13,000 to begin the New Year.

In 2016 we also contributed over \$1600 to special benevolences, such as World Communion Sunday, One Great Hour of Sharing, Human Relations Day, Flood Buckets, several advance specials and several other causes.

On the expense side, we were blessed with a warmer than usual winter, saving us quite a bit of money. We were also able to accomplish some long-postponed maintenance. We were able to do some much-needed repair to the roof and also the trim on the exterior of the building was painted. Also, I am sure everyone noticed the improved landscaping around the building. This was all accomplished through your generous giving and is a wonderful example of what can be accomplished by a caring, energized congregation!

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

Jim Morgan
Your Treasurer

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FROM THE YOUTH GROUP

Thank you to all who donated Christmas gifts (and money to buy gifts) for the Brown Memorial Christmas store. In addition, thank you so much to those who donated gifts for our BHUMC children. Donations for both events were so much appreciated. We couldn't do it without our BHUMC family and friends.

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR JANUARY:

Jan. 1 – Epiphany Sunday (White): Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14; Ephesians 3:1-12; Matthew 2:1-12

Jan. 8 – 1st Sunday after Epiphany/Baptism of the Lord (White): Isaiah 42:1-9; Psalm 29; Acts 10:34-43; Matthew 3:13-17

Jan. 15 – 2nd Sunday after Epiphany (Green): Isaiah 49:1-7; Psalm 40:1-11; 1 Corinthians 1:1-9; John 1:29-42

Jan. 22 – 3rd Sunday after Epiphany (Green): Isaiah 9:1-4; Psalm 27:1, 4-9; 1 Corinthians 1:10-18; Matthew 4:12-23

Jan. 29 – 4th Sunday after Epiphany (Green): Micah 6:1-8; Psalm 15; 1 Corinthians 1:18-31; Matthew 5:1-12

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COFFEE HOUR RESPONSIBILITIES:

January	Trustees
February	Staff Parish
March	Christians in Action
April	Friends in Faith and Fellowship
May	Choir
June	Finance
July/August	Congregation Signups
September	Church Council
October	Youth Group
November	Worship
December	United Methodist Women

USHERS FOR JANUARY:

Ushers – Jeffrey Morey, Jean Whitmore

GREETER:

Dawn Daggett

BELLEVUE HEIGHTS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
2112 SOUTH GEDDES STREET
SYRACUSE, NY 13207
Phone; 315-475-0011
Email: bellevueheights@cnumail.com
Website: bellevueheights.org

Dear Members and Friends,

It is a joy for us to offer you other opportunities for giving financially to BHUMC.
Here is how you can give:

1. Download the free **JOYFULLY2UMC** app on your smart phone, find *Bellevue Heights United Methodist Church* and give.
2. Send text to **315-939-1207** and follow instructions.
3. Go to the church's website: **bellevueheights.org** click on the link **Make a Donation** and follow the instructions.
4. **Check** - payable to Bellevue Heights United Methodist Church
5. **Cash**

For questions or more information see finance team.

Thank you, Finance Committee

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JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES



Congratulations to:

Mary and James Stoddard 01/02/2004
Gloria and Ray Brunner 01/10/1981

Please notify the church office, either by email or phone, of any necessary changes.

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SPAGHETTI DINNER & AUCTION

COME ONE, COME ALL:

WHO: Bellevue Heights UMC Circle of Concern
WHAT: Spaghetti Dinner and Auction - Silent & Live
WHERE: Bellevue Heights' Fellowship Hall
WHEN: Saturday, February 25, 2017
 Dinner at 5:30 PM; Auction Preview at 6:30 PM
 Auction from 7:00-9:00 PM

You will be receiving a call for a donation of a basket, food, craft or a service. Thank you.

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BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK UPDATE

Thanks to the kindness of our new partner, Robinson Memorial Presbyterian Church, our two churches will be feeding another thirty students at Delaware School starting in the second week of January. Robinson Memorial's Mission Team donated \$3,000 to the program. Their church is as excited as we are to be making a difference to children in Syracuse. If you are interested in sponsoring a Delaware student for \$100/year for three years, or just giving a one-time donation, call Jeanie Brown at 478-6188 or Steve Mattice at 487-6414. Thank you.