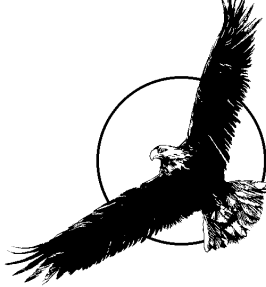


The VOICE of Faith



Speaking the truth in love
Faith Community Church
(an Evangelical Free church)

Volume 27 Number 1

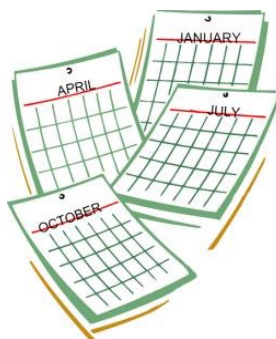
JANUARY 2018

The Trouble with Time

by Pastor Kevin Dick

Within a few short days we will be taking down 2017 calendars from our walls and putting up new 2018 calendars. Closing out one year and moving into the new year gives us time to reflect on the happenings of the past and a look forward to what is ahead. We have moments of flipping the pages of the calendar every month, but nothing quite like starting a new 12-month calendar.

What kind of feelings do you experience when starting a new year? We can anticipate new events in our lives or dread decisions which we know we must make. We can think in terms of being optimistic about the future and looking forward to the possibilities, or pessimistic and fearing what might happen.



Plenty of reasons are evident to foresee events ahead which cause us to feel angst about what lies ahead. Maybe you are worried about certain sectors of the local economy, the politics of Washington, DC, or, more personally, your own health needs. Doom and gloom can overwhelm us to the extent that we are paralyzed and want to give up.

But if we feel defeated and all is darkness and gloom, other reasons exist which offer optimism. For the believer in Christ, assurance is promised in Scripture that God is sovereign and in control. We don't have a crystal ball to predict what will happen, but we are certain of God's control over all local, national, and international events. All are governed by his hand.

How should we live in times like these? The apostle Paul, in three short verses in Ephesians 5:15-17, offers three answers how we should do it in 2018. Handling the both the optimism and the pessimism of upcoming days, Paul speaks to our need to be balanced under God's direction.

First, in Ephesians 5:15, Paul tells us to watch our step. "Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but a wise." To walk carefully means to live accurately

or precisely. The idea of walking on a narrow path along the side of a steep mountain is in view. No one wants to trip and fall, so we plan wisely our path knowing that God wants to be involved in all parts of our lives.

Second, Paul says in verse 16, we are to make the best use of our time. "Making the best use of the time, because the days are evil." The literal meaning of the word "time" is "to redeem" or "purchase". The thought is to actively take advantage of each opportunity to do good. Wisdom is vital in this age because the pathway of holiness is not always immediately clear. It is an absolute necessity to be grounded in God's Word.

Third, Paul says in verse 17, we must do God's will. "Therefore, do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is." The general intent of this verse is to apply what God has told us in Scripture how we can best live for him. We are simply called to live in his revealed plan.

So, in the days of 2018, there will be exciting days, amazing days, uncertain days, and frightening days. Moments of pessimism and optimism will capture our emotions. Most likely, all will be true at the same time. But we need to be reminded again and again, Jesus' words are still for us today, "**Let not your heart be troubled.**"

Prayer for a new beginning

Dear Lord, touch me with Your Spirit of Truth so I may be honest about my sins and failures. Forgive me for treating Your covenant lightly and at times ignoring it completely. Help me truly seek and know forgiveness for all the hurts I've caused, for harboring ill will and for any hardness of heart I may have. Please renew a right spirit within me that I may become more Christ-like and that my life may daily reveal Your love and light. In Your name, Amen.





CONGRATULATIONS!

Larry & Danielle Kruse proudly announce the birth of their son, **Colter Cy**, on November 28. He was 8 pounds 8 ounces and 20 1/2 inches long. He is welcomed by his siblings: Cole, Devynne, and Walker; his grandmother Deb Yearous; his Uncle Toad and Aunt Lacey Hollenbeck, and his cousins Emma, Sophie, and Ainsley. What a treasure!



If you have led an event, ministry, committee, board, etc., in 2017, please provide a written report to the church office by Sunday, January 7. A 2017 Annual Report will be provided to the congregation sometime in January before the Annual Meeting. A word document sent via email that can be "cut and pasted" is preferred, but not absolutely necessary.



A town Hall type meeting for the entire congregation will be held after the Sunday Morning Service on **January 14th**. Jeff LoCaste has completed his Assessment Report for Faith Church. He will be present to explain his findings and offer guidance for moving forward. This will not be a formal congregational meeting, but an opportunity for everyone, members and regular attenders, to hear a future pathway for the church. Jeff will allow time for questions and answers. Please make an effort to attend!



The new year is looming. Soon the bells will be ringing in 2018... Soooooo, what do you want to do with *your* next year? New Year's Resolutions? Possibly, but don't limit your thinking. If your ultimate goal in one area can't be accomplished in just one year, what can be that leads you to your final accomplishment? A year from now, when you look back – what do you hope to see? Who have you grown into? Where are you on your life's journey?

Those three questions should prompt you to look at who you are and where you are right now. Stagnant or 'marking time' is never a status to encourage. You are a very special person that the Lord has placed you where you are and what you are doing... so, again, who and where? And even more important, what growth do you see and where are you on your journey?

I really don't make accusations but some of my questions can pinch. And yes, I am talking to myself as I ask the questions. Always remember that the Lord has confidence in you no matter how many times you feel you have failed. He never sets us up for failure but He does provide us with tests along our way to discover what needs to be learned and to help build our confidence that ... we can. Look at your less than perfect outcomes not as failures but as new information to lead to success.

The times are 'white unto harvest' – don't miss your opportunities because the world in which you live needs your witness.

Be encouraged!

*Editor's note: Carolyn has just published her 10th book! It is entitled, **Be an Overcomer**. It can be purchased at www.amazon.com Great read; great challenge; great encouragement.*

You can read more of Carolyn's thoughts at <http://yourthoughtsandbeliefs.blogspot.com/>



ANNUAL MEETING
Sunday, January 28,
after the worship service and
followed by a potluck lunch



Held

by Dorothea
Horsfall

Lord,
I need You
to hold me close
Your arms
to encircle me
and to press me up
against Your chest
to feel your heartbeat
knowing that I am safe
secure in Your love
There is nothing
that can touch me
without Your knowledge
I am safe and secure
in the arms of my Love
He holds my future...
and yours



The Peacemaking Church

A small group study, entitled "The Peacemaking Church" is being offered on Tuesday evenings at 6:45 all this month beginning on the 2nd. Pastor Kevin leads the study already in progress as a follow up to his preaching series on Conflict Resolution and Reconciliation. If you have questions, contact Pastor Kevin. Sign up at the Information Center or call the church office.

A New Year Resolution

"Let us not judge one another anymore, but rather resolve this: not to put a stumbling block or a cause to fall in our brother's way."

Romans 14:13



One Way Club and The Bridge/ youth kids packed **40 boxes** for Operation Christmas Child at their packing party on November 15th. More than **\$400.00** was collected from One Way Club penny jars, donations from families of One Way Club and our Faith

congregation. **Thank you to everyone for your generous gifts.** Many children will be blessed because they receive a shoebox and get to hear the message of hope they have in Jesus.



Free Fitness Class!!

Revelation Wellness PdC will be offering a free 6-week **Fresh Start** class beginning Monday, January 8th! We will meet Monday and Thursday mornings at 8:15 am, in the church gym. This session will be focused on learning proper form and technique for weight training and cardio exercises. Bring hand weights and a mat if you have them. Call Carrie Lessard 608-412-2275 for more information.

Can't wait to see you there!!

Date	Theme	Lesson
Jan 3	No Meal	No Family Night
Jan 10	Bring a Friend	Esther became queen
Jan 17	Beach Party	God saved His people through Esther
Jan 24	Crazy Feet	Nehemiah heard news of Jerusalem
Jan 31	Favorite football team	Jerusalem's walls were rebuilt



Sanctity of Human Life Sunday

January 21

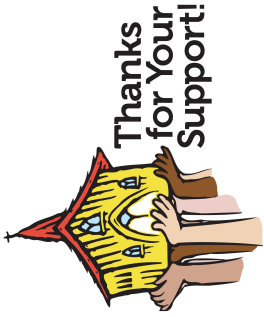
God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it..."

Genesis 1:27, 28

January 2018

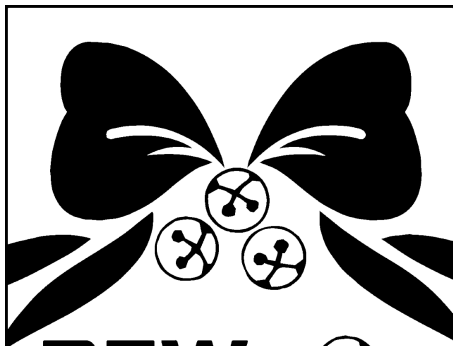
Faith Community Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
	6:30 PM Prayer Time	6:45 PM Peacemaking Church class	Bulletin Deadline 6:15 PM NO MEAL OR CLUBS			
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Annual Reports Due! Community Needs Fund Communion 10:15 AM Worship Service	8:15 AM Fresh Start Fitness 6:30 PM Prayer Time 7:30 PM Elder Board meeting	6:45 PM Peacemaking Church class	Bulletin Deadline 5:45 PM Family Meal 6:15 PM One Way Club, Bridge & Youth	8:15 AM Fresh Start Fitness 6:30 PM Trustee Board Meeting		
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
10:15 AM Worship Service 12:00 PM Town Hall Meeting	8:15 AM Fresh Start Fitness 6:30 PM Prayer Time	6:45 PM Peacemaking Church class	Bulletin Deadline 5:45 PM Family Meal 6:15 PM One Way Club, Bridge & Youth	8:15 AM Fresh Start Fitness		5:30 PM Guys Night Out
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Newsletter Deadline 10:15 AM Worship Service 12:00 PM Guatemala Meal Fundraiser	8:15 AM Fresh Start Fitness 6:30 PM Prayer Time	6:45 PM Peacemaking Church class	Bulletin Deadline 5:45 PM Family Meal 6:15 PM One Way Club, Bridge & Youth	8:15 AM Fresh Start Fitness		
28	29	30	31			3
Food Pantry Sunday 10:15 AM Worship Service 12:00 PM Annual Meeting 2:00 PM Potluck Lunch	8:15 AM Fresh Start Fitness 6:30 PM Prayer Time	6:45 PM Peacemaking Church class	Bulletin Deadline 5:45 PM Family Meal 6:15 PM One Way Club, Bridge & Youth	8:15 AM Fresh Start Fitness		“I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End,” says the Lord, “who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.” Revelation 1:8



JANUARY VOLUNTEERS

Date	Church Cleaning	Fellowship Time	Greeter	Ministry Highlight	Nursery	Trustee Duties	Ushers
7	Part One: Jones Part Two: Saylor	Chad & Shelly Gruber	Bob & Sharon Meier	None	Allison Miller Diane Slotman	Bob Meier	Cody Saylor Alan Olson Todd Elfstrom John Goree
14	Part One: Collins Part Two: Grob	Peggy Dick	Bob & Sharon Meier	Men	Rachel Peak Sarah Aspenson	Bob Meier	Cody Saylor Alan Olson Todd Elfstrom John Goree
21	Part One: Peak Part Two: Irish	Donna Lorenz	Bob & Sharon Meier	Women	Amy Olson Peggy Dick	Bob Meier	Cody Saylor Alan Olson Todd Elfstrom John Goree
28	Part One: Slotman Part Two: Mathre*	Allison Miller	Sharon Meier	Children & Youth	Katherine Lein Bob Meier	Bob Meier	Cody Saylor Alan Olson Todd Elfstrom John Goree



NEW YEAR'S NOISE-MAKERS

Ring in the New Year with these fun noisemakers!

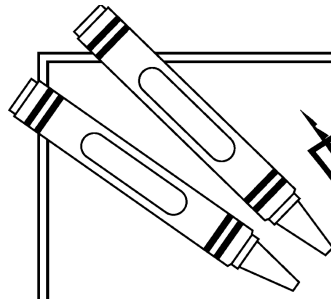


What you need:

- Wooden craft sticks
- Metallic paint (gold and silver)
- Paint brushes
- Jingle bells (gold and silver)
- Hot glue gun
- Metallic ribbon
- Scissors
- Adult help

What you do:

1. Paint half the sticks gold and half silver. Let dry.
2. Glue three bells to each stick.
3. Cut a six-inch piece of ribbon for each stick. Tie a bow and glue it to the noisemaker. Celebrate!



PUZZLE

A NEW CREATION



The apostle Paul says everyone who believes in Jesus becomes brand new.



Directions: Cross out every third letter. Then write the remaining letters in the blanks to complete 2 Corinthians 5:17, NIV.

T H I E R O E F Q O R X E I D F A M N Y A O N
 S E I L S I T N C V H R K I S D T T B H E W N E
 Q W C D R E Y A T M I O C N H F A S W C O R
 M E G T H W E O F L D X H A S S G Z O N L
 E T J H E W N E Q W I D S H R E R O E

----- , -----
 ----- , -----
 ----- : -----
 ----- , -----
 ----- ! 2 CORINTHIANS 5:17, NIV

The old has gone, the new is here! 2 Corinthians 5:17, NIV



JANUARY BIRTHDAY

20 COLE KRUSE



What do I need to know?

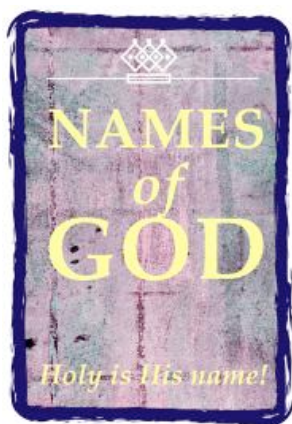
by Sharon Meier

I can't for the life of me remember what I said to him! I have tried to reconstruct the conversation, but have failed miserably. All I know is that he suddenly burst into tears, so I got him some tissue, sat back down, and waited until the storm calmed. As a former member of a violent street gang, sitting in a place where could be seen, he was very vulnerable to being reported as "soft" to other gang-bangers. However, he was simply overcome and helpless in those few moments. When I asked if he wanted to talk about it, all he told me was that I had just answered a question that had bothered him for years. I reined in my wild curiosity: it was none of my business, but I couldn't help but wonder what that question was...and what the answer was. But he didn't tell me, so it remains a mystery.

Actually, that experience was an answer to prayer! I had recently begun asking God to use me however He wanted whether I was aware of it or not, whether I ever found out or not. It seemed like a good prayer at the time, but I was dismayed to find I didn't really like being left in the dark! I like information; I like to know; I like it more than I realized; I like it way too much! So, I've been thinking that this was a very good thing for me. Not only do I *not* need to know someone else's business, I don't need to know God's business. He can do whatever He wants without consulting me, reporting to me, or asking my permission! I just need to show up for duty, do the best I can, and then go on to the next thing. One thing I do know, however, is that "He who has begun a good work in [me] will carry it on to completion..." (Philippians 1:6)

Keep up with the Wisconsin branch of Prison Fellowship by visiting the following site:

<https://www.facebook.com/PrisonFellowshipWisconsin>



JAH

God who rides upon the heavens

"Sing unto God, sing praises to His name; extol Him who rides upon the heavens by His name JAH, and rejoice before Him."

Psalm 68:4

JAH, the Lord most vehement

Peppered Moths Again ...and Again

"... because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools."

Romans 1:21-22

Every so often, we need to return to the topic of peppered moths, which we have featured a number of times before. Previous *Creation Moments* have explained why Peppered Moths are not an example of evolution, and how, in the 1980s, it was found that the famous photos showing light and dark moths on light and dark tree trunks had, in fact, been staged. The moths do not normally settle on the trunks, so the photos were taken by gluing dead moths on to the trees.

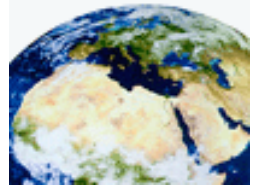
What we want to note at the moment is that teachers continue to perpetuate the peppered moth myth. One evolutionist has stated that this is because the concept of what happened to these moths is easy to understand, and more recent studies have suggested that the population of dark moths is indeed higher in urban areas than that of light moths.

As creationists have often pointed out, this is not really the point, because, even if the accounts were correct, this is not an example of Darwinian evolution, as no new genetic information has been made. It is, however, an example of bad experimental technique, led by a desire to prove a particular outcome, rather than genuine investigation.

It is disturbing, therefore, to look at that portion of the BBC's website, where they publish notes for high school students. An up-to-date science review page for students, with the heading "Evidence for Evolution", once again publishes the faked moth photos. For us, this constant re-publication of error aptly illustrates the paucity of evolutionary science.

~ written by Pastor Paul Bartz
and taken from
www.creationmoments.com

Creator's Corner



Dave & Joyce Johnson

serve the Lord around the world with Next International leading construction teams to help others in ministry.

Email: dave@nextinternational.org



Food for Thought

- ❖ Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that. ~ Dr Martin Luther King
- ❖ If we don't ask for forgiveness when we wrong someone, we lose our moral authority; the debris of sin begins to accumulate in our hearts, choking our conscience... Others know when we sin against them, and if we don't make it right, it hurts our reputation as well as God's. ~ Pastor Max Anders
- ❖ Wherever you are, be all there. Live to the hilt every situation you believe to be the will of God. ~ Jim Elliot
- ❖ Faith never knows where it is being led, but it loves and knows the One who is leading. ~ Oswald Chambers
- ❖ Faith involves trusting in the future promises of God and waiting for their fulfillment. ~ R C Sproul
- ❖ It's time to begin righting the story of your life. ~ David Jeremiah
- ◆ The object of a New Year is not that we should have a new year. It is that we should have a new soul and a new nose; new feet, a new backbone, new ears, and new eyes. Unless a particular man made New Year resolutions, he would make no resolutions. Unless a man starts afresh about things, he will certainly do nothing effective. ~G K Chesterton

mission

**The mission of our church is to
glorify Christ,
proclaim the Gospel,
reach the lost,
and train and instruct
Christians in the faith
for service and daily living.**

The Voice of Faith newsletter is a publication of Faith Community Church (an Evangelical Free church). Editor is Sharon Meier. Sunday Worship is at 10:15 a.m. Website is www.faithchurchpdc.org
Visitors are very much welcome!



Faith Community Church
1110 E. Cass Street
Prairie du Chien, WI 53821

If you wish to mail this, fold it in half, tape the open sides, and place a postage stamp here.

