

LEADING OUR WORSHIP			
<u>December Chairman:</u> David Pahman		<u>Greeters for the month of December</u> Neal & Kathy Pollard	
<u>Sunday Morning</u> Opening Prayer Song Leader Lord's Supper Prayer Scripture Reading Announcements/Prayer MPR Security Building Lockup Bus Driver	<u>December 31st</u> Harold Nicks Clint Harbison Darrell Dubree Caden Hammer David Pahman Nick Dubree Andy Wright Jon Paschal	<u>January 7th</u> Charles Plemons Phil Hartnady Dave Eubank Tommy Williams John Gott Jon Paschal Dave Steeves Stephen Pitcock	Elders Kevin Eubanks John K. Gott Jim Humphrey David Pahman Russell Simpson Deacons Josh Adkins Derek Depp Andrew Gott Barrett Hammer Derek Johnson Michael King Justin Lohden Mike McGuire Greg Neville Stephen Pitcock Smith Sexton Randy Simpson Jeremy Waddell Roger Watt Rick Wheat Andy Wright Ministers Hiram Kemp Neal Pollard Secretary Linda Matthews
<u>Serving at the Table</u> Chad Stackpole Perry Lawrence Dwight Sutton Nat Medlen Todd Childress Justin Lohden <u>Alternates</u> Chase McNabb Mack Pugh	<u>A/V Room</u> 12/31 Kason & Jon 1/7 Kyle & Randy 1/14 Bradley & Jon 1/21 Bryce & Randy 1/28 Kason & Jon	<u>Ushers</u> Greg Neville Grant Wilson <u>Prepare Communion</u> Ken & Linda Matthews <u>If unable to serve call</u> Wayne Moyers 270-779-2410 or Dale Wiley 270-901-7356	
<u>Sunday Evening</u> Announcements Song Leader Scripture Reading Closing Prayer MPR Security Building Lockup	<u>December 31st</u> Stephen Pitcock Dennis Hogan Brady Neville Luke Lohden Nick Dubree Andy Wright	<u>January 7th</u> Roger Johnson Mike Lents Cooper Dillingham Tom Evans Jon Paschal Dave Steeves	
<u>Wednesday Evening</u> Announce/Prayer Song Leader Devotional MPR Security Building Lockup	<u>January 3rd</u> Greg Neville Eric Wheeler Travis Harrison Jon Paschal Darrell Dubree	<u>January 10th</u> Josh Adkins Andy Wright Wayne Moyers Nick Sugalski Derek Johnson	Light of the World WNKY-NBC TV Sundays 6:30 & 10:00 AM With Hiram & Neal Or: WVBS Online

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The Weekly Communicator



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NEAL AT THE CROSS

The Religion Of Resolutions

Neal Pollard

Have you ever wondered about the origin of New Year's resolutions? I have. If they are to be trusted, the folks at the History Channel denote the Babylonians, nearly 4,000 years ago, as the founder of such culture-wide determinations. It was as part of a 12-day religious festival known as Akitu. Later, at the prompting of none other than Julius Caesar, the Romans, again as a nod to a god—Janus, the two-faced god who looked backward and forward—observed the advent of a new year with the intent of improving areas of their lives in need of such.

Sarah Pruitt, author of the piece, claims that Christians, since early times, have approached the new year to rededicate themselves to Christ. Pruitt seems to be indicting so many today who observe this holiday in a purely secular fashion, and wonders if such humanistic emphasis is why so many resolutions fail (<https://www.history.com/news/the-history-of-new-years-resolutions>).

It is noteworthy that the history of making resolutions is so closely tied to religious devotion. Perhaps this is because we, as human beings, recognize our innate inadequacy. Paul, feeling it necessary to defend himself against unnamed critics of his work, wrote, "Such confidence we have through Christ toward God. Not that we are adequate in ourselves to consider anything as coming from ourselves, but our adequacy is from God, who also made us adequate as servants of a new covenant..." (2 Cor. 3:4-6a).

Paul, so accomplished as a Christian, preacher, leader, mentor, missionary, and more, was always striving to do more for Jesus. He was not trying to earn God's love and approval. Whether looking back at his successes or failures, Paul, in his love for his Lord, wanted to serve Him more effectively. He told Philippi that he pressed on (Phil. 3:12), "forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead" (Phil. 3:13). He advised the conscientious Christian to follow his example (Phil. 3:15-16).

Christianity is not a religion of annual intention. It is the religion of daily determination (Luke 9:23). January 1 is an ideal time to reflect, review, and resolve, but is far from the only time. In a significant sense, each new day for us involves a resolve within ourselves to deny self and dedicate to the Savior. As I have done every year of my adult life, I will again set out objectives and goals, physically, financially, and familial. Yet, the most important will involve my faith.

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As always, these will need review, not just in January, but throughout the year. In my prayers today, I prayed for every Christian who resolves to conquer a sin problem, reach a lost soul, be more active in their local congregation, and any other noble aim for the Master. If you make some such specific resolution and would honor me with the privilege of partnering with you in prayer about it, please email me (mrnealpollard@gmail.com) and let me know. Then, let me know how it goes and especially tell me about your success. May God bless each of us with the resolve to be more faithful in our relationship with Him.

Sermon Notes

How to Glorify God in 2024

Hiram Kemp

Introduction:

- The new year gives an opportunity to _____ our _____.
- We can decide to _____ for _____ or for _____.
- Let us make this _____ the _____ we _____ for _____.
- Do you want to _____ God in _____? Here are some _____ to do _____.

I. _____ Your _____ (Num. 30:1-2; Eccl. 5:4-6)

II. _____ of _____ (Psalm 32:5, 38:18)

III. _____ Souls (Romans 1:14-15; 1 Corinthians 9:19-23)

IV. Be a _____ (Ezra 7:10; 2 Timothy 2:15)

V. _____ the _____ (Galatians 2:10; James 1:27)

VI. Less _____, More _____ (Philippians 4:6-7)

VII. _____ the _____ Church (Galatians 6:16; Ephesians 6:24)

VIII. _____ in the _____ (1 Corinthians 1:31; Galatians 6:16)

P.M. Sermon: “Walking Into 2024” (Neal Pollard)

Remember in Prayer

Doris Phelps, Andrew Wilson, and Stacy Alley as they recover from recent surgeries. Devin Garrett, Sherry Grise, Teresa Hoggard, Gail Duley, and Malaika Ballard, as they continue treatment for cancer
Ronnie Cosby now in SKY Rehab and his wife, Patty, staying with a daughter
Those listed below and all others who are not physically able to attend worship services:

Addy Smith	Georgia Hudson	Judy Wheat	Pat Hodges
Beverly Dunning	Harold & Diane Brantley	Jean Simmons	Renetta Hardcastle
Beverly Grimes	Irvin Abney	Laverne Furlong	Shirley McIntosh
Charlie and Ann Wolfe	Jim & Barbara Jones	Lee Swetmon	Shirley Miller
Delford Johnson	James Tabor	Linda Tillman	Shirley Mills
Doris Phelps	Jan Painter	Margaret Breedlove	Tammy & Allen Dotson
Dot Mann	Jan Wright	Martha Gallaher	(friends of the Garrisons)
Edith Riley	Jenny Gott	Mary Lois Hughes	Helen Vanzant
Gail Duley	Joyce Ennis	Nicks Daniel	Virginia Darmondy

Announcements and Events

Welcome New Members!

Levi, Brenda, and Jonathan Word

3547 Cemetery Road, 42103

Levi: 270-392-8980

Brenda: 270-791-4367 - Brenda.word1204@gmail.com

Jonathan: 270-392-4301 - jondavidword69@gmail.com

- The total contribution for **December 31st** will go toward the building project.
- January 5th** - Friday Night Singing & Fellowship from 6:00-8:00 pm
- January 9th** - Ladies Class at Kathy Pollard's house at 7:00 pm
- January 12-14** - Evangelism University, Savannah, TN, for grades 9-12
- February 9-11** - Young Adult Retreat at Big Reedy. Hiram is the speaker. The cost is \$50. A sign-up sheet is posted on the MPR bulletin board or see Alicia Pennington.

Attendance/Offering	12/24/23	Schedule of Services
Bible School	227	Morning Bible Class.....9:30 AM
Morning Worship	332	Morning Worship.....10:30 AM
Evening Worship	130	Evening Worship.....6:00 PM
Wednesday Evening	190	Wednesday.....7:00 PM
Offering Today	\$14,165	BUDGET.....\$14,246