

One Thing to Do in 2025

By: Dan Jenkins

Paul saw Christians as being athletes for Jesus. They were competing in the arena while they were surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses (**Heb. 12:1**). They were individuals in a race which must be run according to rules (**2 Tim. 2:5**). They were fighters/boxers who were not just “punching into the air” but had precise blows planned for the enemy (**1 Cor. 9:24**). Like Paul, they intended to run the race and finish the course, knowing that a crown awaited them (**2 Tim. 4:7**).

As we look ahead for the new year consider how Paul described the Christian’s race and how it should be run. “Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on . . . one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus” (**Phil. 3:12-14**). Herein lies the key to a successful life and a successful new year.

The success in the race involves dealing with the past. We all struggle with the past. Some never overcome the guilt of past mistakes, but the godly live knowing the magnitude of the His grace and casting all those concerns on the One who cares for them (**1 Pet. 5:7**).

Others struggle with the successes of the past and are filled with pride. Paul did not see himself as one who had reached perfection (maturity). He who brought the gospel to

Europe and throughout Asia Minor did not glory in what had been accomplished. How foolishly many glory in what they have done for Him today!

How do you deal with the past? With its mistakes and accomplishments? Two words answer the question—*forget it!*

The success in the race involves dealing with the future. How did Paul deal with the unknown future. Look at his words. “I press on.” He also uses the expression “reaching forward,” which in the original Greek indicates the forward lean a runner gives as he approaches the finish line! Such an effort demanded the supreme exertion of energy. The past means nothing and the entire focus is on the prize promised by the Lord. Jesus has run the race and has finished it! He is waiting at the finish line to crown us.

Your race involves dealing with 2025. All this church has ever accomplished is past. *The race has not been finished!* Let us work together as never before and reach that finish line together. “Therefore my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord” (**1 Cor. 15:58**).

Opportunities Come But They Do Not Stay!

By: Selected

A new year lies before us with so many opportunities for us to glorify our God. We should rejoice that the Creator of the world could ever consider that our feeble actions could do anything to enhance His glory. When we consider the grandeur of heaven we have nothing to bring or nothing to give which could add to His majesty, but this is not the way He views it. How wonderful it is that He provides us with opportunities to magnify His divine nature.

Opportunities become challenges. They often appear only for a short time and unless we respond readily, that opportunity may never come again. Go to Gethsemane and see sleeping disciples missing the opportunity to watch and pray with the Lord. While they slept, Jesus was in agony needing their support. That opportunity passed for they had failed to meet the challenge.

The parable of the five foolish virgins found in Matthew chapter 25 has the same message. When the midnight cry came announcing the arrival of the bridegroom, there was just the one opportunity for the virgins to honor his arrival. When they made a second attempt to honor him, the door was shut and the Lord said to them, "I do not know you." Throughout this year there will be passing opportunities for us to glorify God.

The point we are trying to make is this. Opportunities come but they often do not stay! They are tied to times and dates and each of them presents a challenge to us to seize the opportunity. How tragic it is that while we spend time doing important things

we miss those which are truly important! In the next two weeks we will have our Ladies Day and a week after that Keno Shrum from House to House Heart to Heart will be speaking to us. Our new minister Cody McCoy and his family will be arriving between mid January and February and let us not forget our February Youth Winter Retreat just to name a few!

So throughout this year be aware of those opportunities and the challenges which accompany them. It was tragic the five foolish virgins were not prepared. It was tragic that the disciples slept when He prayed and needed them the most. How much more tragic it will be if we fail to meet the challenges He provides for us in 2025!



Please sign up to open/close the building, prepare communion, and host youth devos for 2025. The sign up sheets are on the bulletin board in the hallway.

Upcoming Events

TODAY: Monthly potluck after morning worship with a 12:45 pm service to follow.

TODAY: Brief men’s meeting after the potluck lunch.

Ladies Tuesday Bible Class will resume Jan. 7, 2025.

Jan. 12: Youth Devo after evening service.

Jan. 18: Midtown will host our Ladies Day. Registration begins at 8:30am. Food sign up sheet is in the hallway.

Jan. 26: Keno Shrum from House to House Heart to Heart will be speaking.

Feb. 7-9: Midtown will host our Youth Winter retreat for grades 6-12th. Please visit our website to register.

Area events:

Area events/details are posted on the bulletin board in the hallway. Please check them out.

Prayer List

Prayer Requests:

Rick Bass will have a mri on January 13.

Jerri Rosales will have a pet scan on January 9th and get those results back on Jan. 23.

Allen Clifton had a mri on January 2.

Joyce Faires will have knee replacement surgery on Jan. 7.

Letty Randle’s mom who has a broken arm.

Ferman Rosales’ cousin, Jacob, who lost his house from a tornado.

Les Daltry who is ill.

Members

Jeff Cannady, Les Daltry, Jerry FitzSimmons, James Hicks, and Veronica Serenil.

Service Roster

Week of January 5, 2025

Sunday Morning

Scripture Reading..... Ferman Rosales
Song Leader Doug Jobs

Opening Prayer..... Dan Fielder
Closing Prayer.....James Cammock

Lord’s Supper & Offering

Bread..... Bryant Siegel
Cup..... Ken Dorries
Offering..... Lupe Escojido
Assist..... Steve Randle
Assist.....Mike Atkinson
Assist..... Willie Fossati

Sunday Evening

Song Leader Jeff Cannady

Opening Prayer..... Bryant Siegel
Closing Prayer..... Clifton Rutherford

Lord’s Supper & Offering.....Bryant Siegel/
Lupe Escojido

Wednesday Evening

Adult ClassMark FitzSimmons
Song LeaderLuke FitzSimmons
Devotional Mark FitzSimmons

Other

Prepare Communion for Jan.....

Congregational News For This Week

Birthdays

Elana Carroll.....Jan. 7
Richard Hill.....Jan. 11

Please get with Kelly Cannady if you would like a picture for the pictorial wall directory.

If you have any prayer requests, upcoming events to be announced, or updates/corrections please contact our secretary, Nina Siegel, at (361) 573-0030 or email office.midtownchurch@gmail.com

Our Elders

Mark FitzSimmons
Ron White

Our Deacons

James Cammock—Evangelism
Lupe Escojido— Benevolence
Doug Jobes—Safety, Men's Encouragement &
Winter Youth Retreat
Kevin Sheeran—Worship Organization
Bryant Siegel—Education and Finance

Weekly Reading

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.
2 Corinthians 5:17 NKJV

Service Times

Sunday Morning Bible Class.....9:00 A.M.
Sunday Morning Worship.....10:00 A.M.
Sunday Evening Worship.....5:00 P.M.
Wednesday Bible Class.....7:00 P.M.

Attendance Records

Week of December 29, 2024

A.M. Bible Class.....65
A.M. Worship.....85
P.M. Worship.....60
Wednesday Worship.....42

Financial information is located on the bulletin board in the hallway.

Supported Works

John & Carla Moore *Bible Land Passages*

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midtowncoc.org

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