



God's Word

For twenty years I have been with you, caring for your flocks...In fact, if the God of my father had not been on my side— the God of Abraham and the fearsome God of Isaac—you would have sent me away empty-handed.

Genesis 31:38-42
(NLT)

From the whole community of Israel, record the names of all the warriors by their clans and families. List all the men twenty years or older who are able to go to war.

Numbers
1:2-3b
(NLT)



Being Made Complete; Sufficient; Eligible for Service

How do we celebrate 20 years of anything? If it was marriage we'd get China or some other 20 year commemorative "thing". If it was a birthday, surely close friends and family would know how to celebrate. How do we celebrate 20 years of print ministry?

I went looking for biblical significance of the number twenty. Well, twenty is not generally considered to have an important symbolic meaning. Most references were found in the Old Testament.

Jacob waited 20 years for what was his, and for his freedom (Gen. 31:38-42). The Israelites waited 20 years to be freed from Canaanite oppression (Judges 4-5). Twenty is the age a man was eligible for military service (Num. 1:3). It's the youngest age at which a Levite was considered old enough for service (Lev. 27:3). A sufficient waiting period had to be completed for one to be found eligible for service. Twenty can be seen (or interpreted) as a waiting period for service, or even deliverance.

What does this mean for The Galilean in its twentieth year? What does this mean for Lolita? I *really* couldn't tell you! I've been trying to probe the mind and heart of God; it's not working. I do know a shifting is in progress. He knows the desire of my heart and that's what I am prayerfully expecting.

Folks! Something marvelous is on its way! Have you ever suspected a surprise was being prepared for you? You weren't really sure, so you try not to think about it too much. You don't want to be overly confident, yet you don't want to be disappointed. That's kinda where I am. I know something is being prepared for me; I just don't know what.

In your quiet times with the Lord, I pray that you have spoken the spiritual desire of your heart. God already knows, but, as I have discovered, with spiritual maturity comes a certain boldness. The boldness to tell the Lord what He already knows regarding your desire to serve Him and His people.

Hungry & Thirsty In Jesus' Name...





Sick, Shut-in and Prayer Requests and Prayer

Please call these names out during your personal prayer time; and in your intercessions ask the Father to bless these individuals and ministries in His own way and in His own time.

Bro. John Agee
Bro. Nathaniel Agee
Sis. Yolanda Allen
Sis. Ada Anderson
The Arnette/Cavanaugh
Family

Dea. David Ayers, Sr.
The Banks/Callahan
Family

Sis. Ethel Barksdale
Sis. Roberta Bass
Elder Dorothy Bishop
Bro. Atilol Bland
Dea. James W. Bland
Sis. Martha Bland
Bro. Shakespeare Bland
Rev. Peggy Brice
Bro. Russell Bradshaw, III
Bro. Larry Brown
Bro. Sherman Brown
Bro. William Brown
Sis. Mamie Bruce
Bro. Andre Callahan
Sis. Judy Callahan
Sis. Felicia Christmas
Bro. Shaun Daniel
Sis. Marcine Dillard
Bro. John/Sis. Susie Divers
Bro. Charlie English
Dea. Ashland Fortune & LC
Sheriff's Dept.

Bro. James Fox
Bro. Jamar Galdden &
Family

Sis. Holly Grooms
Bro. Robert Grooms

Bro. Franklin Hardy
Sis. Letia Harris
Sis. Marie Harris
Rev. Edna Holt
Kingdom Living Temple
Sis. Stacy Jackson
Dea. Duke Johnson
Pastor Lewis & Family
Sis. Rhoda Lewis &
Family

Bro. Walter Martin
Bro. Lamont Minor
Bro. William McKnight
The Morris/Lewis Family
Deas. Frances Parrish
Sis. Harriett Parrish
Dea. Roger Parrish
Sis. Audrey Perkins
Sis. Leatrice Price
Sis. Adeline Quarles
Bro. Lonnie Quarles
Sis. Mildred Quarles &
Family

Bro. Ted Richardson
Bro. Alfonza Scott
Sis. Mary Scott
Bro. Travis Shelton
Rev. Otis Spellman
Rev. Beulah Spellman
Sis. Charmeka Stewart
Sis. Doretta Trice
Dea. Chester Walker &
Family

Sis. Iesha White
Sis. Melvina White
Sis. Lorraine Winston

On the cover: Sunday, December 24, 2017—Annual Sunday School Christmas Program; our youngest participants taking a final bow after their Poems and Recitations. They were all exceptional!

Preaching Schedule

8:00 a.m.
January



7 - Rev. Dr. Sarah Slaughter
14 - Elder Brenda Smith
21 - Rev. Dale Bradshaw
28 - Rev. Kimberly Fortune

11:00 a.m. Sunday Morning

Elder Ruben Lewis, Jr.

Prayers of Peace

Our love and prayers of comfort go out to the families of Sis. Rosemary Quarles and Sis. Mildred Quarles.



Sis. Rosemary's sister, Diane Walker Folz, went to be with the Lord on December 19th.

The brother of Sis. Mildred (Miss Q), Richard P. Gardner, left his earthly home on December 25th.

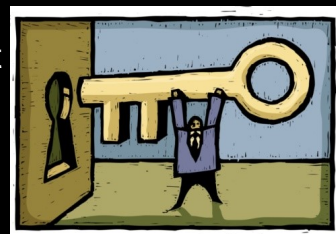
To both families, we pray peace in your mourning that can only come from God.

Trustees of the Month

Paul Bishop @ 540-967-0364

Robin Rucker @ 540-967-0672

Please contact for entry into the church after hours or for other church related



concerns during
January 2018.



January Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 2 Stephanie McKnight
- 5 Nareen Scott
- 8 Dana Quarles
- 9 Timothy Jackson, Sr.
Sylvester Williams
- 10 Ada Anderson
Willie Cantrell
- 11 Daniela Taylor
- 12 NyTrell Parrish
Mya Trent
- 14 Ethel Barksdale
Xavier Bishop
- 16 Brenda Parrish
- 17 Lisa Ragland
- 19 Victor Ragland
- 22 Travis Shelton
- 23 Deyon Jackson
- 26 Lola Shelton
Harriet Parrish
- 29 Marie Harris
Kyle Rucker
Paul Williams
- 31 Ke'Suan Smith



More Blessed to Give...

Gift bags were given to residents at Fluvanna and Louisa nursing homes. The bags included small blankets, socks, hats, scarfs, gloves and other personal items. Elder Brenda and myself delivered to Louisa.

It was such a joyful experience. The residents are so receptive; not just for the gifts, but the hugs, the prayers and companionship. Each time I go to the nursing home I am truly humbled.



This was a joint project by the GBCL Missionaries and Deaconess.

Robin Rucker
GBCL Missionary Ministry



Church Business Meeting



Plan on attending

Biannual Business Meeting

The **first Biannual Church Business Meeting of 2018** is scheduled for Saturday, January 13th at 5:00 p.m.

Please come out and: show your support for our church leadership, hear progress reports from our various ministries/auxiliaries, receive your own copy of the yearly budget, etc. This will be opportunity to ask those burning questions and to make those marvelous suggestions.

We look forward to seeing you all at the meeting!



MUSINGS FROM A SENIOR CITIZEN

Christmas; Never Over

The Christmas season is a time of contemplation and reflection. We think about the birth of the Savior of the world. We have vivid memories of the stories we have heard since childhood. We see the baby in the manger; we see the shepherds coming to worship; and we see the Magi traveling to visit the young child.

We put up our decorations and make things very festive. The lights represent the Light of the World. The crèche represents the place of His birth. When Christmas is over we pack up the decorations until next year. In doing so, we seem to pack Jesus away until the next Christmas season. Now, on to the next thing.

A lady recently shared a story about her granddaughter. The granddaughter enjoyed playing with the baby in the manger located on a table in the living room. She did this every Tuesday during the Christmas season when her grandmother babysat her. She would cuddle it and carry it around the house. On this particular day, her grandmother explained to her that it was time to put the decorations away. She further explained that the baby Jesus would be put away in the box. The little girl asked "Why"? Her grandmother explained that it was because Christmas was over. The little girl asked, "why do we have to put Jesus away"? This provided an opportunity for some introspection. Why should Jesus be put in a box until the next Christmas? The grandmother made a decision to keep the crèche on the table. For more than twenty years, this particular decoration has had a place in the living room for the entire year.

As I listened to her tell the story, it gave me a chance to think about my own behavior. Am I guilty of the same thing? Is Jesus in my thoughts and affections from the time I rise until the time I go to bed? Or do I put Jesus aside until I need Him? Do I just call on Him when I have problems? Or do I praise Him every day? Do I recognize that He is the source of my strength? Is He the center of my joy?


Let us not put Jesus in a box or set Him aside until we need Him. Let us keep Him at the front, the back, and the center of our lives. If we have to pack Him away, let it be in our hearts. Let us celebrate Christmas and everything it represents. Keep Him alive every day of the year. Do not let Christmas be a season, but let it be your way of life.



Following Him-
M.C.B.S.
Columbia, Virginia

January 2018



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Happy New Year!	2	3	4 Servant Leadership Education 7:00pm	5 Bible Study 9:00am 7:30 pm	6 -10:00am Gospel Chorus
7 Holy Communion	8 Bible Study 7:00pm	9 Bible Study 1:00 p.m.	10 Prayer Service 7:00pm	11 Servant Leadership Education	12 Bible Study 9:00am	13 -10:00am Senior Choir
14	15  Martin Luther King, Jr.	16 Bible Study 1:00 p.m.	17 Prayer Service 7:00pm	18 Servant Leadership Education 7:00pm	19 Bible Study 9:00am 7:30 pm	20 -10:30am Men's Chorus
21	22 Bible Study 7:00pm	23 Bible Study 1:00 p.m.	24 Prayer Service 7:00pm	25 Servant Leadership Education 7:00pm	26 Bible Study 9:00am 7:30 pm	27 -Noon YPU
28 Youth Sunday	29 Bible Study 7:00pm	30 Bible Study 1:00 p.m.	31 Prayer Service 7:00pm	1 Servant Leadership Education 7:00pm	2 Bible Study 9:00am 7:30 pm	3 -10:00am Gospel Chorus

Other Important Dates

January 13 - 8:30 am

Building Ministry Meeting

January 13 - 5:00 pm

Church Business Meeting

January 15 - MLK Holiday

Church Office Closed

January 21 - 11:00 am

Installation of 2018

Officers

✓ If your Ministry has not done so, PLEASE submit your 2018 officers to the church office.

Installation of Officers will be Sunday, January 14th during 11:00a.m. worship.

✓ The 2017 Contribution envelopes will soon be moved to the hallway near the classrooms and will remain only until the last Sunday in January (1/28).

Please join us for Sunday School **most** Sundays at 9:30 a.m.



SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS (Adult)

Unit 1: The Early Church Proclaims Faith in Christ

Jan 7 **"A Sincere Faith"** **Lesson focus:** *Remain faithful in all circumstances.*
Daniel 1:8-16 (Daniel Offers a Test), 17-21 (Wisdom from God)

Jan 14 **"A Bold Faith"** **Lesson focus:** *Boldly serve God alone.*
Daniel 3:19-23 (Into the Fire), 24-28 (After the Fire)

Jan 21 **"Prayer for an Obedient Faith"** **Lesson focus:** *Believe that God hears and acts when we pray.*
Daniel 9:4-8 (Prayer of Confession), 15-19 (Prayer of Intercession)

Jan 28 **"A Strong Faith"** **Lesson focus:** *Be strong in the Lord Who knows the future.*
Daniel 10:10-14 (The Angel Reassures Daniel), 15-19 (The Angel Strengthens Daniel)

*If you know your Bible, Sunday School needs you.
If you don't know your Bible, then you need Sunday School.*

Lessons from **ECHOES: Comprehensive Bible Study - Faith in Action: Studies in Daniel and the New Testament**; Volume 30, Number 2; 2017. Cook Communications Ministries (David C. Cook)



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