

*The Kedron Connection*

**Kedron United Methodist Church**  
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*Volume 17*

*January 2018*

*Issue 1*

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*From Our Pastor*

2 Corinthians 5:17: 20

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, that person is a new creation: the old has gone, the new is here!"  
"We are therefore Christ's ambassadors...."

It seems fitting to have this scripture for the January of The New Year 2018. The context in this bible chapter is the reconciling work of God upon us! As a result we are now "ambassadors" for Christ to others.

Our Ambassador status will have us setting up our "Consulate" wherever we are, not just within our church building. We may be in a "foreign country" (our current non church goers, unconverted, and "nones and dones!"). There are always others who just wonder what we are about on Sundays (and the rest of the week!). Sometimes better to show them instead of telling them!

We always have our "work cut out" for us. And we are encouraged to do the work in relationship. We have neighbors, fellow employees, students, and associates. We encounter strangers, visitors, and those passing through our lives all the time. And you always have those family and friends who seem just "stuck" in their search for meaning and purpose in life. "Stuck in the middle with You," as the song goes!

Much of the time....the work of being an "ambassador for Christ" will simply be in ongoing relationships with deeds outweighing words. Unless you simply tell your story of "becoming new" in Christ!

There's the rub! A few of us will have a more dramatic story of a sudden conversion but most will have a lengthy story of "moments" which have added up throughout a lifetime. And those moments of your life take time to be shared with the person you are witnessing to through the relationship! Often the best moments are shared as though you are simply telling someone "where to go to get a good meal, a kind word, or a map to something better." One beggar telling another beggar where you got the best Bread."

YOU do make a difference in people's lives! Or rather God is making a difference in other lives THROUGH you as you share bits and pieces of your life story in Christ and His Body the Church. And one critical step toward that sharing is....LISTENING to their story. A good ambassador learns the language of the country they are serving in. Listen in to what you are hearing as you "serve." Something New might just be happening in that "old world" of someone!

Blessings in 2018~~~~+

Pastor Barry

## **Epiphany Sunday**

January 7 is Epiphany Sunday. In remembrance of gifts being brought to the Christ Child, we will bring baby gifts or cash donations to morning worship. These will be given to Miriam's Promise. This group supported by the United Methodist Church in our area is a crisis pregnancy agency and adoption agency.

## **Fellowship Supper**

There will be no First-Wednesday Fellowship Supper in January or February. We plan to resume the gatherings in March.

## **Men's Breakfast**

The January Men's Breakfast will be Saturday, January 6. Breakfast will be served at 7:00 a.m. in the fellowship hall.

## **Choir Notes**

Let's plan to practice briefly after worship services in January, not on January 14. We can discuss a practice schedule.

## **Handwork Ministry**

The Handwork Ministry meets the third Wednesday of the month at 10:00 a.m. to knit and crochet. The group will meet on Wednesday, January 17 at the home of Ernestine Clark, 2414 Gauphin Lane, Smyrna. Thanks to all who helped with the group's project to help children at Christmas.

## **Bible Study**

The Bible Study led by Rev. Travis Perry continues. The group meets at the home of Lytle Hodge on Tuesdays at 10 a.m. The address is 507 Hazelwood Drive, Smyrna.

## **Laity Meeting**

The Rutherford County Laity Fellowship is scheduled to meet on January 22 at Fellowship UMC, 2511 Highway 99, Murfreesboro. The meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. with dinner.

## **Administrative Council**

Our first Administrative Council meeting of the new year will be on January 14. We will begin at 1:00 p.m.

## **Food Bank**

You may bring food donations for the Nourish Food Bank to the church the first and second Sundays of the month. Place the food items on the pew in the narthex. The food will be delivered to our local food bank. The suggested item for January is soup. All non-perishable foods are accepted and appreciated.

## **Bucket Offerings**

In January our bucket offerings at Sunday morning worship will be donated to our local food bank. The need is great.

## **Thank You**

Many thanks to all who helped with our Christmas activities at Kedron.

## **Who Said This?**

"By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace"

--NRSV

(hint - Book of Luke)

**Matthew 1:21** spoken by an angel of the Lord was the quotation in the December newsletter.

## **Happy Birthday to:**

Katelyn Patterson	January 11
Shannon Stacey	January 11
Myron Palmer	January 15
Lynn Lee	January 22
Shana Stacey	January 24



Kind words can be short and easy to speak, but their echoes are truly endless.

- Unknown

## Epiphany

To journey  
not knowing  
but trusting  
following  
searching  
seeking  
wondering  
hoping  
daring  
believing:  
such is the stuff  
of faith.

– Donald Schmidt

The magi brought gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Here is a list of gifts that we might offer to Christ, by sharing them with others:

- a firm handshake to a shaky soul
- a kind word to a lonely person
- a warm smile to the disheartened
- a sincere concern for someone troubled
- a feeling of compassion for the neglected
- a comforting thought for the bereaved
- a respect for the dignity of others
- a defense of the rights of individuals
- a word of witness to help a seeking soul

– Source unknown

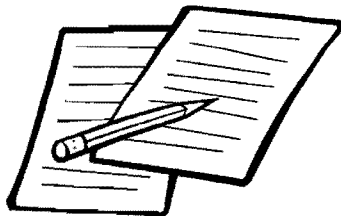
### An epiphany

“I bring thee gold,” said the first wise man in the church school nativity play.  
“I bring thee myrrh,” said the second.

The third wise man paused. Finally,  
“Here, Frank sent this.”

## Make a List

Make a list of things that are hard for you that Jesus could help you do. (Example: Share my toys with my little brother.)



## January Calendar

Tuesday, January 2:

10:00 a.m. Bible Study

Saturday, January 6:

7:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast

Sunday, January 7:

Epiphany Sunday

8:45 a.m. Sunday School

9:30 a.m. Worship Service

Miriam's Promise gifts

10:30 p.m. 20 minute Choir Practice

Tuesday, January 9:

10:00 a.m. Bible Study

Sunday, January 14:

8:45 a.m. Sunday School

9:30 a.m. Worship Service

1:00 p.m. Administrative Council

Tuesday, January 16:

10:00 a.m. Bible Study

Wednesday, January 17:

10:00 a.m. Handwork Ministry at  
Ernestine Clark's home

Sunday, January 21:

8:45 a.m. Sunday School

9:30 a.m. Worship Service

10:30 a.m. February newsletter  
information due.

10:30 a.m. 20 minute Choir Practice

Monday, January 22:

6:30 p.m. Rutherford County Laity at  
Fellowship UMC

Tuesday, January 23:

10:00 a.m. Bible Study

Sunday, January 28:

8:45 a.m. Sunday School

9:30 a.m. Worship Service

10:30 a.m. 20 minute Choir Practice

Tuesday, January 30:

10:00 a.m. Bible Study



**Kedron UMC 2018 Administrative Council**

Chairperson: Larry Fraley

Vice-Chairperson: Mary Vanderkooi

Recording Secretary: Fay Fraley

Lay Leader: John Vance

Lay Member to Annual Conference: Danny Fraley

Trustee Chairperson: to be elected

Finance Chairperson: Wayne Lee

Treasurer: Naomi Lee

Assistant Treasurer: Mary Vanderkooi

Financial Secretary: Sue Harris/Lynne Lee

District Steward: Danny Fraley

Pastor-Parish Relations Chairperson: Linda Lee

Charge PPR Chairperson: Linda Lee

Church School Superintendent: Jim Pressley

Membership Secretary: Naomi Lee

Nurture and Membership: Ernestine Clark/Lytle Hodge

Outreach Ministries: John Vance

Witness/Evangelism: Tom Root

Children's Ministry Coordinator: Dee Rouse

Youth Ministry Coordinator: Doug Rouse

Disaster Response Coordinators: Mike/Debbie Harris

Martin Methodist College Rep: Mary Vanderkooi

Church Historian: Miranda Rhodes

Newsletter: Fay Fraley

Website: John Vance

Worship Chairperson: Sue Harris

Usher Coordinator: Danny Fraley

Acolyte Coordinator: Ernestine Clark

**Kedron UMC 2018 Administrative Council**

Greeter Coordinator: Danny Fraley

Members at Large: Ruth Kitchen, Jane Rainey,  
Sunya Sprinkle, Shana Stacey

Pastor: Rev. Barry Culbertson

**Kedron UMC 2018 Committees**

Committee on Lay Leadership:

Term expires 12-31-18

Fay Fraley

Lynn Lee

Term expires 12-31-19

David Lee

Linda Lee

Term Expires 12-31-20

Debbie Harris

Mary Ellen Vance

Pastor (Staff) Relations:

Term expires 12-31-18

Teresa Palmer

Tom Root

Term expires 12-31-19

Linda Lee

Lynne Lee

Term expires 12-31-20

Mike Harris

Miranda Rhodes

Trustees:

Term expires 12-31-18

Shannon Stacey

Arnold White

Term expires 12-31-19

Sue Harris

Doug Rouse

Term expires 12-31-20

John Vance

Finance:

Term expires 12-31-18

Lytle Hodge

Wayne Lee

Term expires 12-31-19

Travis Perry

Tom Root

Term expires 12-31-20

Dee Rouse

Mary Vanderkooi