



"WALKING A LIFE OF PASSION AND PURPOSE FOR JESUS CHRIST"

Pastor Kirk Werner

2131 East Governor John Sevier Highway

Knoxville, TN 37920

(865) 573-8684

Volume 14, Issue 1, January 2017

Friends and **F**amily of **C**ross**W**alk,

One of my favorite books that I first read many years ago, is *Run With the Horses* by Eugene Peterson. In the book, he writes about a family of birds teaching the young to fly. Three swallows were perched on a dead branch that stretched out over a lake. *"One adult swallow got alongside the chicks and started shoving them out toward the end of the branch — pushing, pushing, pushing. The end one fell off. Somewhere between the branch and the water four feet below, the wings started working, and the fledgling was off on his own. Then the second one."*

The third one was not to be bullied. At the last possible moment his grip on the branch loosened just enough so that he swung downward, then tightened again, bulldog tenacious. The parent was without sentiment. He pecked at the desperately clinging talons until it was more painful for the poor chick to hang on than to risk the insecurities of flying. The grip was released, and the inexperienced wings began pumping. The mature swallow knew what the chick did not — that it would fly — that there was no danger in making it do what it was perfectly designed to do.

"Birds have feet and can walk. Birds have talons and can grasp a branch securely. They can walk; they can cling. But flying is their characteristic action, and not until they fly are they living at

their best, gracefully and beautifully."

"Giving is what we do best. It is the air into which we were born. It is the action that was designed into us before our birth...Some of us try desperately to hold on to ourselves. We look so bedraggled and pathetic doing it, hanging on to the dead branch of a bank account for dear life, afraid to risk ourselves on the untried wings of giving. We don't think we can live generously because we have never tried. But the sooner we start, the better, for we are going to have to give up our lives finally, and the longer we wait, the less time we have for the soaring and swooping life of grace."

In this new year, may we be about life as God intended. We do not know what this coming year holds but we do know from experience that we can be assaulted by some pretty intimidating forces. Brutal attacks that can wear us out. But as God's Word reminds us: **"He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint."** (Isaiah 40:29-31)

Your fellow sojourner in the faith,
Kirk

Messages for the Month

JANUARY **1**, 2017 – *Rev. Tim Rogers* – First Sunday after Christmas Day - **Communion**

JANUARY **8**, 2017 – *Matthew 3:13 - 17* - “*The Baptism of the Son of Man*” – 1st Sunday after the Epiphany

JANUARY **15**, 2017 – *Isaiah 49:1 - 7* - “*Chosen to Serve*” – 2nd Sunday after the Epiphany

JANUARY **22**, 2017 – *1 Corinthians 1:10 - 18* – “*Unity in Mind*” – 3rd Sunday after the Epiphany

JANUARY **29**, 2017 – *Micah 6:1 - 8* - “*The Creator's Court*” – 4th Sunday after the Epiphany

Our Staff

Pastor: Kirk Werner

Child Care Director: Linda Odle

Music Director: Joshua Jordan

Director of Children's Ministries:
Anna Baker

Class of 2017:

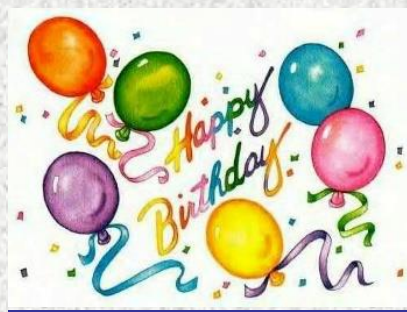
Maurice Briere, Greg Davis &
Lindsay Rosa.

Class of 2018:

Donna Carter, Matt Peterson &
Greg Waldrop



BIRTHDAYS



John Wilkerson – 3rd
Ricardo Gracia – 6th
Elliott Cecil - 16th
Bobbie Bales – 22nd
Judy Campbell - 30th



Jane and Ricardo Gracia – 1st



NURSERY SCHEDULE



Baby/Toddler Room with **Kassie Merrick or Courtney Scollard**

January 1: Debbie Lutton
January 8: Viv Hammond
January 15: Susan Fletcher
January 22: Chelsea Peterson
January 29: Sue Werner



Preschool Room with **Linda Odle:**

January 1: Matt Peterson
January 8: Brenda Clabo
January 15: Lindsay Rosa
January 22: Dawn Briere
January 29: Irving Rosa

If you **cannot** work *your scheduled time*, please swap with someone and if you *cannot find a substitute*, call Linda Odle at 690-9358 or 207-2623. **When you know you can't work in the nursery, please e-mail the date(s) to jlodle@comcast.net or put them in writing and give them to Linda Odle in the nursery. Thanks!**



Babies/Toddlers and Preschool Children

Will you give one Sunday morning occasionally to help care for our children? No lifting when you help with the preschoolers. No preparation either! Just come and have fun.

To help, please contact Ms. Linda in the nursery or call 690-9358 for more information. Right after the service a **FREE CD** of the complete service is available for you.

*Your Prayers are needed for The
Good News Club at New Hopewell
Elementary*



Public School starts back January 9 and the After-School Good News Club starts back **January 11**. Will you pray for the Good News children? When you sign the **sign-up** sheet in the **back** by the kitchen, you will be sent a copy of the children's prayer request. *These children need your prayers.* Please print your email clearly.

Thank You



SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS:



CrossWalk Café

We will not be having Cafe' in January since it falls on New Year's Day. *The next Cafe' will be February 5, 2017* — it's *Chili Cook-off* time. Yes, this is your opportunity to break out that secret recipe that will amaze your friends and demonstrate your culinary skills!



THANK YOU...KUDOS...APPLAUSE!!!

The session would like to say THANK YOU to all families for your service on the **Refreshment Ministry Team**. When you join the church, you are assigned to this team, as we feel it is a ministry that all can participate in. You are paired with another family and given one month (every 1 1/2 – 2 years) to provide Sunday morning refreshments. Most teams take two weeks each; others share in the entire month. *It is up to you. Please remember that you are NOT responsible for providing breakfast for everyone.* This is just a light refreshment to have with coffee or juice. (Coffee is provided by the church.) *What the teams provide is their gift to the church in service to our Lord.* Be sure and show your gratitude... We are certainly grateful to each of you!!!

**The teams are posted on the bulletin board for the year and printed 3 months ahead in the newsletter, so that you can plan ahead.*



Sunday Morning Refreshment Schedule

January 2017

Debbie & Dale Lutton 744-8952
Donna & Rhett Carter 454-9536

February 2017

Lisa & Brad Brummett 748-9517
Lindsay & Irving Rosa 588-6454

March 2017

Linda & Jim Odle 690-9358
Gwen & Greg Davis 577-0561



CrossWalk family, if you see a need to replenish coffee supplies such as coffee, hot/cold cups, paper towels, kitchen dish soap or men's/women's room supplies, *please let us know* by; (1) **noting what is needed on the bulletin board in the kitchen for refreshment supplies** and (2) **noting on the rest room listing in the rest rooms** so that supplies can be replenished **before they are completely out**. If you have questions, please contact *Judy Campbell* or *Sue Werner*. Thank you!



Coming in February: A Valentine Dinner for the Ladies



Saturday, February 11, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. the men of CrossWalk will be providing dinner for the ladies. Sign-up sheets will be posted beginning January 8th and you need to sign up by February 4th. *Entertainment will be provided by **Rusty Spargo and Kirk Werner** or as they are known in some circles “the Righteous Brothers.”*



Check out our website!

Have you checked out our website lately? It's a great way to introduce people to our church. Navigate through the site and see pictures of various activities. There are photos of **JAM** (Jesus and Me children's ministry), church events, a calendar of events, and the weekly messages are catalogued in the media section. This is a helpful tool in keeping informed and a good resource to refer to your friends. The web address is www.crosswalkepc.org.



Church Cleaning Committee

Jan 4 – Jan 7 – Mike & Karen Walkup
Jan 11 – 14 – Rhett & Donna Carter
Jan 18 - 21 – Rhett & Donna Carter

PLEASE!!

If you use the church during the week, please, be sure to take your trash with you when you leave – especially food waste.



What is Epiphany?

The Feast of the Epiphany, or **Manifestation** (revelation) of **Christ to the Gentiles**, is observed on January 6th. Epiphany comes from a Greek word meaning “showing forth, appearance, manifestation, revelation.” The Feast of Epiphany proclaims the good news that Jesus revealed God to all humanity.

At Christmas the church celebrates the birth of Jesus, when God entered fully into the human experience. The Feast of the Epiphany takes the Christmas proclamation a step further, when the divine revelation in Jesus was revealed to the world as the magi came from the east.

The eve of the Feast of the Epiphany (Twelfth Night) marks the end of the Christmas celebration. The Epiphany, January 6th, is followed by a period of “Sundays after the Epiphany”; the length of the Epiphany season varies in length from four to nine Sundays, depending on the date of Easter that year. *The Last Sunday of Epiphany is celebrated as Transfiguration Sunday.*

During the season of Epiphany we remember and recognize Jesus as God by many people: the magi, John the Baptist, Jesus' disciples, and Christians in every age, including our own. It is a time for rededicating ourselves to our own ministries and our missionary task – to continue the spread of Jesus' light in the world.



Jesus' Great Prayer for Unity

By Barbara Lardinais

Jesus walked on the earth in perfect unity with his Father's will. He did whatever he saw the Father doing and he destroyed the works of the enemy everywhere he ministered. *He was God made flesh.* Can it get any better than that? Yet, Jesus prayed a prayer at the end of his earthly life that has yet to be answered.

At his last supper with his disciples he prayed a prayer for all who would believe in him: **"that they may all be one; even as Thou, Father, art in Me, and I in Thee, that they also may be in Us; that the world may believe that Thou didst send Me."** (John 17:21)

It would seem that in the very beginning of the church there was that unity Jesus prayed for. As they waited for the Holy Spirit to fall on Pentecost, Acts 1:14 tells us: **"These all with one mind were continually devoting themselves to prayer."** However, before the rest of the New Testament books were written, we hear of lots of factions and divisions and doctrinal arguments. Letters to the different churches were often written to address conflicts.

And in the centuries after that? How many ways have Christians sub-divided themselves? How many denominations and splits do we have? How many doctrinal positions abound on basics such as communion and baptism and the use of the gifts of the Holy Spirit?

So what's up? Did Jesus miss it somehow in his prayer? Should we slip this one under the rug and forget he ever uttered it? NO WAY. Jesus' prayer for unity is truly one of the great prayers of the Bible. It holds a particularly honored spot because it was himself, the great I AM who spoke it. And make no mistake - this prayer will be answered.

At least twice in his prayer Jesus repeated himself by emphasizing WHY unity is important. In Verse 23 he pressed again what he said only a few sentences before: **"that the world may know that Thou didst send Me, and didst love them, even as Thou didst love Me."**

In truth, unity is a tool for evangelizing. Unity promotes the gospel more than we can understand.

That's probably one of the big reasons the early Christians were said to be turning the whole world upside down. (See Acts 17:6) But here is another thing about unity: unity is hard!

The very root of our fallen rebellious and selfish nature discards unity. To top things off, there is one who is in perfect agreement with our disagreements. Satan fans any flames of disunity that he can find. He has also read the scripture and he knows the prayer. He knows that when unity occurs, his kingdom suffers. His strategy is to bring disharmony, suspicion and bickering.

Jesus never uttered a prayer that will not ultimately be answered. The answer is on the way and since it has taken so long so far, we can surmise it will be an answer beyond what we can think or imagine. It's a GREAT PRAYER and it will have a GREAT ANSWER.

First of all, there is a visible church and an invisible church. True disciples of Jesus Christ reside within all the different denominations and traditions and cultural distinctions present in Christianity. Beyond doctrinal distinctions there is a deeper conviction which resounds in believers everywhere: **"This I command you, that you love one another."** (John 15:17) Every time love triumphs, unity trumps disunity.

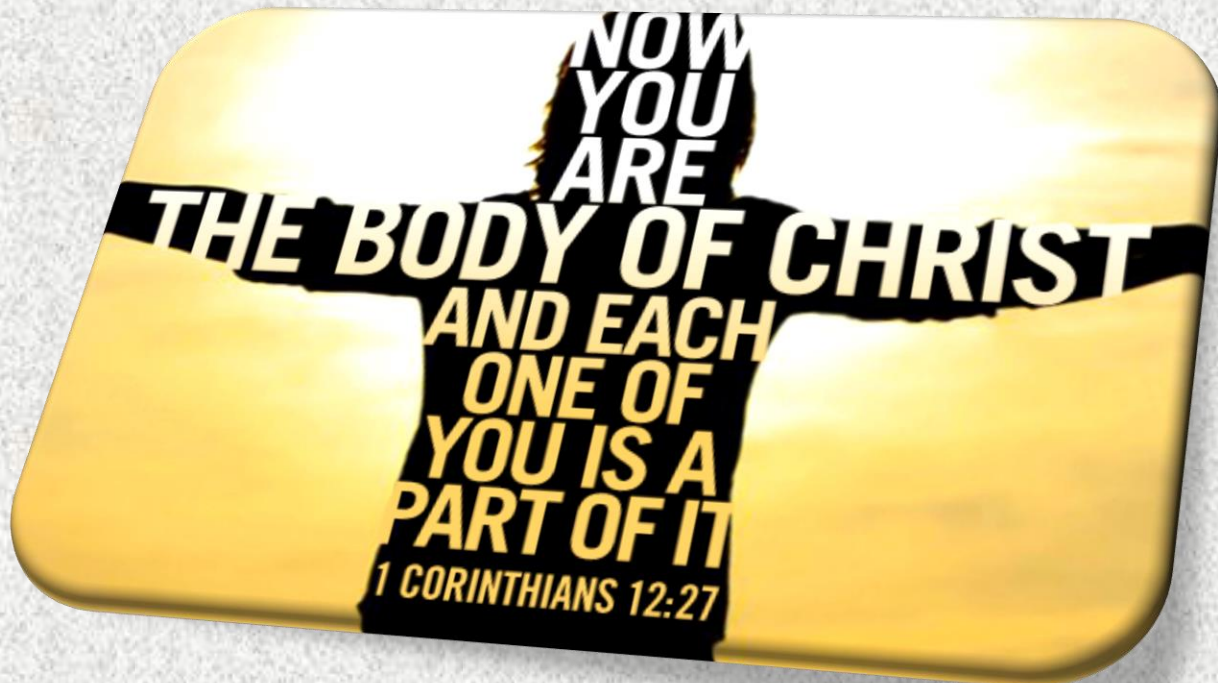
Incredibly, for over two thousand years there has continually been a stream (even if sometimes a small one) of the great unity Jesus prayed for. It is present during great revivals when believers band together to present the gospel. It is present when people pray together even if they are from different churches. It is present when Christians decide on joint missionary endeavors and give to mission projects other than their own.

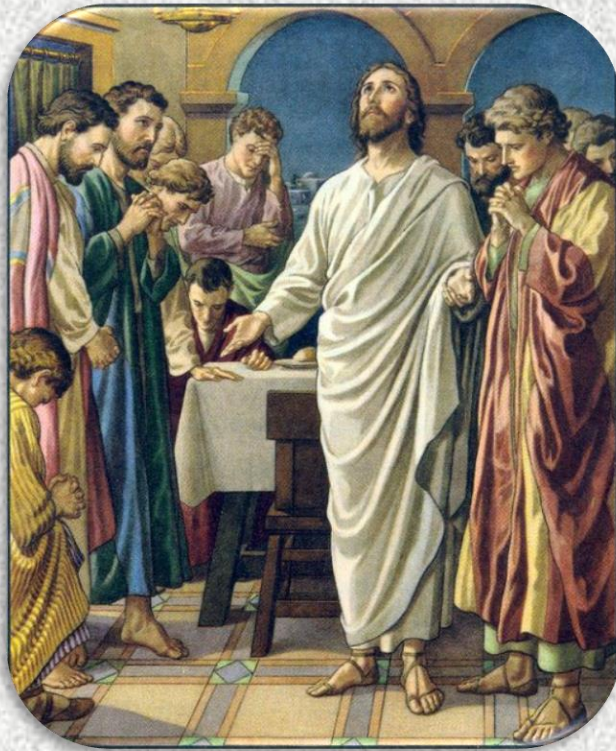
We do not yet see the visible and the invisible church of Jesus Christ becoming one. But the time must be close because the Second Coming of the Lord is fast approaching. The final great outpouring of the Holy Spirit is imminent. What will make the world turn in unprecedented numbers to call on the name of the Lord?

According to the prayer of Jesus, unity is a key. It is what will make the world realize who he is and why he came. It will testify about him and cause people to accept his love. Many feel we are in the

generation where **"this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world for a witness to all the nations, and then the end shall come."** (Matthew 24:14) If you desire to be on

planet earth when Jesus' prayer is finally answered in full, could there be a greater cause to unite around?





Happy New Year!

