



# WALKERSVILLE EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

6204 BRADY ROAD, WAXHAW, NC 28173

JANUARY 2022

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## A note from the pastor...

Have you ever made a New Year's resolution? Was God, Bible reading, or attending church involved somehow? Did it have anything to do with getting rid of a bad habit or starting a good one? Did you keep it? Or did your resolution have something to do with eating, losing weight, or exercising? Did you buy some sort of exercise equipment (treadmill, stationary bike, elliptical trainer) with every intention to use it, only to realize that it was nothing more than a great place to hang your clothes?

Beginning the second Sunday in January, and continuing through February, we will consider passages from James. This is undoubtedly one of the most practical books of the Bible. If you wanted a place in the Bible to look for a good New Year's resolution, James would make a fantastic starting place...sort of. James is blunt and to the point. If you are offended easily, you might want to avoid this book of the Bible.

This letter from James is not sent to any one particular church, but rather to the "twelve tribes of the Dispersion". It is generally thought that these are those believers that left the church in Jerusalem as a result of the persecution that occurred following the stoning of Stephen.

The Letter of James almost didn't make into the Bible for a number of reasons. Perhaps the main reason was that there was no obvious message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. However, this letter assumes that the reader is already a follower of Christ, but, at least in some cases, is not living like a follower of Jesus Christ. As the leader of the church in Jerusalem, James writes to these believers with authority.

And so, in January we will look at what James has to say about faith and doubting (James 1:5-8), the source of temptation and sin (James 1:12-16), and the need for consistency between our faith and our actions (James 2:14-26). Finally, as if to end the month on a grand finale, we will consider James' teaching on controlling our tongues (James 3:1-12).

If any of us read through James and do not feel challenged, are we really reading it? Nearly everything in this letter continues to apply to us today, as followers of Jesus Christ.

Pastor Paul

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## Sermon Passages for January:

January 2: Epiphany: Matthew 2:1-12

January 9: James 1:5-8

January 16: James 1:12-16

January 23: James 2:14-26 faith & works

January 30: James 3:1-12

**Weekly Reminders:**

**Prayer Group:** Wednesday at 4:00 PM in the Youth Room

**Adult Choir Practice:** Sunday at 11:15 AM in the Sanctuary

**Bible Study with Pastor:** Wednesday at 3:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall

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**Walkersville's EPC Session Meetings Minutes**

Walkersville EPC  
Session Minutes  
December 16, 2021

The Session of Walkersville EPC met on December 16, 2021 in the Fellowship Hall. Elders present were Bob Stirton, Boyet Twitty, Betty Lou Mosley, Larry Schott. Clara McGee was excused.

Paul Rankin opened with prayer. There were no minutes from November due to the Clara McGee being absent.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Building & Grounds – Rick and Boyet trying to get in touch with company to fix window in sanctuary.  
Boyet is working on fixing swings on playground.  
Bob will work on getting WIFI into fellowship hall after first of year.

Christian Education – Advent devotional materials are on the table inside the front door  
Next meeting January 16

Congregational Care – Pray for the congregation and our church.  
Note the prayer list in the bulletin

Mission & Outreach – January mission will be baby bottle fund raiser for HELP Pregnancy Center.

Stewardship/Finance – Offering plates and communion plates will be left at rear door rather than passed around.

Worship - Elders will be needed at both Christmas Eve services.

(We encourage everyone to wear a mask when entering and exiting the Sanctuary. They are mask at the back of the church if you need one)

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Old Business – N/A

New Business – Nominating committee will meet January 23, 2022.

Session voted to give Sue Thorton and Layne Dewlen a Christmas gift.

Sign on Brady Road needs to be changed to reflect correct church times.

There being no further business motion to adjourn by Betty Lou Mosley and second by Boyet Twitty.

Boyet Twitty closed with prayer and meeting was adjourned.

Rev. Paul Rankin  
Moderator

Clara McGee  
Clerk of Session

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## **The Men's and Ladies Bible Study**

They meet on second Monday of every month at 7:00 PM, Men meet in Fellowship Hall and Women at the Manse.

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## **From the Worship Committee**

The Worship Committee will be including a Prayer List in the bulletin each week. If you wish to have someone's name listed in the church bulletin, please contact Debbie Rankin. Your request will remain on the Prayer List in the bulletin for one month. At the end of that time, the name you listed will be dropped from the Prayer List or you may ask Debbie to continue to list that person's name.

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## **A note from the Congregational Care Ministry Group...**

We have several friends who are suffering from injuries and other health problems who need our help through prayers, cards, phone calls, and visits. Please minister in some way to Robby Griffin, Phil Keys, Shelia Medlin, Larry and Audrey Schott, Clyde and Ruth Norwood, Travis Price, Troyanne and Mark Hinson, Rick Moser, Beth Simpson, Frank Rogers, Rachel Brody, Sheldon Medlin, Martha Allen, James and Francis Gordon, Sandy Brady, Linda and Phil Goodman, Wilson Pierce, Paul and Peggy Dvorak, Phil Mosley, Billy Thompson, Terry McManus, Wendy Rose, Clara and Jim McGee, Shirley Starnes, Reece Starnes, Rev. Steve Rembert, Mark and Nanci Beebe, Albert, Hazel, and Bo Starnes, Jenny Wilson, Bob and Brenda O'Kelley Lynn Dewlen, Karen Skirpol, Tim Morgan, Brody Keen, Sharon Barber, Randy Richardson, Robert Helms, Kaymon Carter, Frankie Norwood, Bill Cope, Claude Gamble, Geneva Desmond, Daniel McGuirt, George Huntley, Brittany Helms, David Rankin, Ray Phillips, Melody Carswell, Jeff Wren, Donald Beebe, Walt Venturo, Sue Haney, Silas Simpson, Pat Schlappich, Barb Salisbury, Tiffany Medlin, Bart Jackson and our missionaries in Haiti and through the world, Jennifer Corley, Janet Tyson, Pam Gordon, Jerry and Alice Griffin, Rudy Robinson, Ann and Grady Rose, Brice McCain, Cara and Larry Schott Jr. and Patty Outen.

We extend our sympathy to the families of Bruce Powell, Rodney McCain, Mildred Cook and Haskell Eargle.

Please continue to send cards and remember in prayer our church members who are in assisted living homes:

Robby Griffin, Lee Forest Group Home, 1209 Pelham Dr., Laurinburg, NC 28352

Travis Price, Brookdale Monroe Square, Room 44918 Fitzgerald St, Monroe, NC 28112-5679

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## **Food Pantry**

The food pantry at Prospect is always in need of donations to meet the growing need. Canned soups and non-perishable items are helpful. Please bring them to the back of the church and let's see how fast we can fill up the barrel

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## **The Congregational Care Committee**

Have you noticed Walkersville is sending birthday and anniversary cards to members and friends of the church? The Congregational Care Committee would like to extend this ministry by sending cards to your friends and neighbors who need pray encouragement or to be remembered on their special day. Please let Audrey Schott, 704-774-1691, know their name and address and she will make sure a card is sent.

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### **Christian Education Committee needs you:**

If you love God's word and want to see others love it too, then consider joining the Christian Education Committee. As we desire to see of the children, youth, and adults of Walkersville and the community grow in their knowledge and love of Jesus Christ and the Bible. The committee has bi-monthly meetings to coordinate and plan for up-coming events and to pray for our church. Help us as we pray and plan for Sunday School (Adult, youth & children), Advent, Bible Studies, Lent, Little Angels, CREW Time and special events like the Easter Egg Hunt, and a Children's Christmas.

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### **Good News and Praises**

#### **Happy Birthday and Anniversary**

##### **January**

Ashton Moser-3  
Bristol Batson-4  
Nolan Rogers-5  
Karen Trull-5  
Ben Bartel-9  
Nicole Mosley-11  
Cheyenne Hardy-13  
Justin Parr-18  
Ella Rogers-19  
Sue Stinson-24  
Gretchen Presson-26  
Nicole Medlin-27

#### **Thank you, Larry & Audrey Schott**

We would like to thank everyone for their prayers and calls inquiring about the condition of Larry and Cara as they have battled covid and pneumonia.

By the GRACE OF GOD and with all the prayers they are on their way to recovery. Prayers are still needed as they still have a long way to go.

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### ***A Special Christmas***

©Linda Goodman 12/1983

My very favorite Christmas was in 1983, when we were living in Bay City, Michigan. Phil and I had just gotten married that May, and our daughter, Melanie, was eleven years old. It was our first Christmas as a family.

Not far from us was the tiny village of Frankenmuth. Visiting that scenic little town was like taking a trip back in time. After 25 years of living in the mild winter climate of Portsmouth, VA, Melanie and I were having our very first white Christmas.

For the first time, I was able to buy Melanie everything on her Christmas list (not always a good idea). For myself, I had asked only for a plush, fluffy robe to keep me warm during the cold winter. I got what I asked for, but its color was PURPLE! That was not like Phil at all, as he likes muted colors. I had fantasized the robe as being emerald green or turquoise. I must admit that I was rather miffed, as Phil knew what my favorite colors were. Still, my mother had taught me to appreciate whatever gifts I was given, and I made a fuss over that robe like it was the most beautiful thing in the world.

I'm glad I reacted as I did. After my faux demonstration of delight, Melanie shouted, "Dad let me pick it out!" Purple, I recalled, was *her* favorite color. I had once told her that purple was the color of kings.

"You're a queen now!" she exclaimed.

I wore that robe until hot flashes began to visit me, just 11 short years later. The robe is still hanging in my closet. Whenever I see it, I remember how blessed I am to be married to a man who loves my daughter as though she is his very own and treats her with tenderness and great respect. Phil adopted Melanie on October 31, 1984, when we were living in Baltimore.

I would love to hear about your favorite Christmas.

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## NEW

by Layne Dewlen

There is no reason to try to inform anyone that there is a new year staring us in the face, it's a well-known fact understood by all. Have you ever wondered why there is this big hoop-la every year for January 1? What's so exciting about it? It happens every year, "same time, same station." For some, I understand it's the time to make a new resolution, ....which they promptly break the first chance they get. It may be for some, maybe for many, the idea of a new beginning, a new starting point. Of course, the truth is, it's just a different number you need to remember to put on your checks.

Maybe there is something down deep inside of us that needs new beginnings. I'm not a philosopher, but it does seem that this may be the answer to the question. It seems humans get themselves into all kinds of difficulties from which they cannot extricate themselves, and then look for a way to get a new start. Voila! A new year! Old things have passed away, and behold all things have become new. At least for the early hours of January 1, then reality sets in again.

Of course, the problem lies inside of each one of us. What we were on December 31 is what we are on January 1, try as we may, we can't change the inner us. That's the reason all the best intentions fall apart every year. What's the answer? What is a person to do? I'm glad you asked.

It seems that even saintly Paul had the same problem. (Isn't it strange how we humans haven't changed in all these years?) Could it be that Paul was thinking of his new year resolution when he said in Romans 7:18, "...to do is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not." I can't say for sure he was thinking about his new year resolution, but his problem is the same that all of us share, saint and sinner. Resolutions didn't work for Paul because he says in verse 21 of the same chapter, "I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me," and for the same reason they don't work for us.

Thankfully, Paul found the true answer and wrote it down for us. His answer is the only one that works for saint and sinner alike, and is found in chapter 8 verses 1 and 2. "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death."

So, my friend, whether you be saint or sinner, the answer is not in a new resolution, the answer is giving ourselves over to Jesus Christ totally, finding victory over this flesh, and newness of life in Christ, (Romans 6:4). He will change us from the inside to the outside, which is the only way that change will work, and is what we cannot do for ourselves. He, and only He, through the power of His Holy Spirit, will make us into what we ought to be, ...and desire.

Maranatha!



**January Roster**

**Committee of the Month: Christian Education**

**Mission of the Month: Help Pregnancy Center**

**Nursery Workers:**

- Jan 02 Debbie Rankin and Serenity Johnston
- Jan 09 Rhonda McManus
- Jan 16 Mark and Nanci Beebe
- Jan 23 Jessica Johnston
- Jan 30 Debbie Rankin and Serenity Johnston

**Prayer Chain**

If you have a prayer request that needs to be communicated through the prayer chain, please contact Clara McGee at 704-709-7125 or Gloria Norwood at 704-843-2352. They will ensure that the word gets out! Also, if you have not been receiving prayer chain calls and would like to be added to the call list, please let Clara or Gloria know this as well.

**Newsletter Information**

If you have information to include in the newsletter, please send it to Harvey Hess by the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month. You may email the information to [harveyhess@bellsouth.net](mailto:harveyhess@bellsouth.net) or by phone or text to 704-516-6503. Thank you!

**Session Members, Prayer Chain Contacts, and Committee Information**

2022 Session		
Elder	Phone	Term
Paul Rankin	814-279-5055	Pastor
Clara McGee Clerk of Session	704-709-7125	Class of 2023
Larry Schott	704-774-1691	Class of 2024
Bob Stirton	704-361-4888	Class of 2024
Boyet Twitty	704-351-0833	Class of 2022
Betty Lou Mosley	704-764-3339	Class of 2023

Prayer Chain – Call to Activate	
Clara McGee	704-709-7125
Gloria Norwood	704-843-2352

2021 Church Committees		
Committee	Chair	Clerk
Building & Grounds	Russell Mosley	Bob Stirton
Christian Education	Debbie Robinson	Gloria Norwood
Congregational Care	Bob McCain	Tammy Mosley
Fellowship		
Missions & Outreach	Clay Murray	Betty Lou Mosley
Stewardship	Fran Griffin	Betty Lou Mosley
Worship	Marsha Stirton Frances Gamble	Sue Thornton

# January 2022

							<sup>1</sup> New Year's Day
<sup>2</sup> Epiphany Sunday 9:00-9:45 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship Service Holy Communion 11:15 AM Adult Choir Practice	<sup>3</sup>	<sup>4</sup> 7:00 – 9:00 PM Square Dancing	<sup>5</sup> 3:00 PM Bible Study 4:00 PM – Prayer Group	<sup>6</sup>	<sup>7</sup>	<sup>8</sup>	
<sup>9</sup> 9:00-9:45 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship Service 11:15 AM Adult Choir Practice	<sup>10</sup> 7:00 PM – Men's Bible Study in Fellowship Hall 7:00 PM – Ladies Bible Study at Manse	<sup>11</sup> 7:00 – 9:00 PM Square Dancing	<sup>12</sup> 12:15 PM Operation Reach Out Meal 3:00 PM Bible Study 4:00 PM – Prayer Group	<sup>13</sup>	<sup>14</sup>	<sup>15</sup>	
<sup>16</sup> 9:00-9:45 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship Service 11:15 AM Adult Choir Practice 11:15 AM Christian Education Meeting	<sup>17</sup> <u>M L King Day</u>	<sup>18</sup> 7:00 – 9:00 PM Square Dancing	<sup>19</sup> 3:00 PM Bible Study 4:00 PM – Prayer Group	<sup>20</sup> 5:00 PM Session Meeting Chicken n' Dumplings Prep Day	<sup>21</sup> Chicken n' Dumplings Prep Day	<sup>22</sup> Chicken n' Dumplings Day	

<p style="text-align: right;">23</p> <p>9:00-9:45 AM  Sunday School  10:00 AM  Worship Service  11:15 AM  Adult Choir  Practice</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">24</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">25</p> <p>7:00 – 9:00 PM  Square Dancing</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">26</p> <p>3:00 PM Bible Study  4:00 PM – Prayer Group  5:30 PM Little Angels</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">27</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">28</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">29</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">30</p> <p>9:00-9:45 AM  Sunday School  10:00 AM  Worship Service  11:15 AM  Adult Choir  Practice</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">31</p>					