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# TIMBER RIDGE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

## NEWSLETTER

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December 2018

*Merry Christmas and  
Happy New Year*

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DEC 2 -	SUNDAY SCHOOL 10 AM
	WORSHIP SERVICE 11 AM
	DECORATE SANCTUARY
	STUART SZELMECZKI'S 6 <sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY
	CRYSTAL SPAID'S BIRTHDAY
DEC 7-	PEARL HARBOR DAY
DEC 8 -	TOYS FOR TOTS PARTY & TOY DRIVE
	RURI-TEEN CLUB 6-8 PM (SEE INSERT)
DEC 9 -	SUNDAY SCHOOL 10 AM
	WORSHIP SERVICE 11 AM
	FOOD DRIVE ENDS
	APPRECIATION DINNER (SEE ARTICLE)
DEC 11 -	SHELVA SWITZER'S BIRTHDAY
	JEANIE SPAID'S BIRTHDAY
DEC 14 -	TOYS FOR TOTS CAMPAIGN ENDS
DEC 16 -	SUNDAY SCHOOL 10 AM
	WORSHIP SERVICE 11 AM
DEC 17 -	SUSAN CLARK'S BIRTHDAY
DEC 22 -	BETTY WINGFIELD'S BIRTHDAY
DEC 23 -	SUNDAY SCHOOL 10 AM
	WORSHIP SERVICE 11 AM
	CANDLELIGHT SERVICE 7 PM
	(SEE ARTICLE)
DEC 25 -	CHRISTMAS DAY
DEC 27 -	STEVEN SZELMECZKI 'S BIRTHDAY
DEC 30 -	SUNDAY SCHOOL 10 AM
	WORSHIP SERVICE 11 AM
	HOME MISSION OFFERING
	FIFTH SUNDAY LIGHT LUNCHEON
	JANET FRIES' BIRTHDAY
JAN 13 -	RURITAN HOLIDAY PARTY (SEE ARTICLE)

### CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

Our annual Candlelight Service will be held on Sunday, December 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7 pm, followed by light refreshments in the basement of the Parish Hall. Please remember to bring a favorite finger food and invite a friend or neighbor. We have had a tradition of placing poinsettias in the Sanctuary for the 11 am service on December 23<sup>rd</sup> and then leaving them for the evening service at 7 pm.

### APPRECIATION DINNER

The Ladies Fellowship will be hosting an appreciation dinner, for all of those who have participated throughout the year on various church events, on Sunday, December 9<sup>th</sup> following the worship service. Everyone is welcome, but we would appreciate your signing the attendance sheet in the back of the church no later than Dec 2<sup>nd</sup> if you plan to attend.

### RURITAN HOLIDAY CELEBRATION

The Capon Valley Ruritans will be holding their annual Holiday Party for Senior Citizens on Sunday, January 13<sup>th</sup> at 2 pm at the Ruritan Park in Yellow Spring. There will be refreshments, entertainment and door prizes. This is something you do not want to miss!

### ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Mark your calendars for the Annual Congregational Meeting to be held following the worship service on Sunday, January 13<sup>th</sup>.

We welcome any comments and suggestions.  
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Page 2

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### PASTOR'S PEN

#### Missions, Home, & Christmas

It's been a few years since I went overseas on a mission's trip. However, in some ways it's kind of like riding a bike. It doesn't take long to get back in the swing of things! All you have to do is put your feet to the peddles, pay attention to where you're going, and follow the example of Jesus.

Of course, if you're going to be peddling, it's going to be hard work. This is especially true when you're peddling uphill! Mission work is often like peddling uphill. This is partly true because it goes against the flow of what society sees as the personal goal for life. For many, life is not about serving others. Nor is life about sacrifice. Instead, life is about fulfilling one's own dreams and desires. This can make mission work seem like peddling uphill. Submitting to the will of the group can be challenging. Working with strangers can lead to conflict and disagreement. What you thought was going to be a nice bike ride through the countryside may turn into a grueling uphill sprint on a mountain that reaches about the clouds. The good thing is, for those God has called to the mission field, peddling uphill above the clouds often leads to exhilarating views of God at work in the world. This is one aspect of mission work that you can experience as both a short-term or long-term missionary.

One way you get to experience the exhilaration of being part of the mission of the church is the opportunity to worship with God's people from other countries. We often think there's a lot that separates us from one another. In reality, we are more similar than we are different. Peddling uphill can be a challenge but the benefits from the workout are well worth the effort.

Just because the view can be exhilarating doesn't mean there aren't any obstacles though. And you will need to watch where you're going if you're going to avoid crashing and burning. It is a well-known fact that cultures put different values on various human traits and customs. In Uganda it is not polite to stand on the furniture. So, using a chair as a step stool would not be appreciated. Also, offering someone a drink could mean that food is on the way. If you don't plan on offering food then you should wait for your guest to ask for a drink (this is the opposite of what we might consider polite in America). My point is, you must consider the cultural context of the people you are ministering to when you are working on a mission. You will be more winsome and have a better chance of success while ministering in their context instead of yours. Learning about cultural norms and expectations may require attention to detail and a willingness to adapt to an unfamiliar lifestyle. But adapting to an unfamiliar lifestyle is exactly what Jesus did when he came to earth.

Mission work is **exactly** what Jesus did when He came to earth to show us the love of God. God is the Great Missionary and Jesus came to do the work of His Father. The great thing about this missionary zeal of the Godhead is that it allows us to follow His lead wherever we are. We don't have to travel to far-away places to share the gospel with others. Yes, traveling may provide us with a larger view of the church in the world, but the variety in God's body can be seen locally as well. So this Christmas season, I hope you are able to look for opportunities to be a missionary wherever you are. You may have to peddle uphill a bit, you may have to keep a careful watch for obstacles, but as you follow the example of Jesus, I pray you will see the world from the height of God's vantage point.

Merry Christmas!

~ Mike