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# TIMBER RIDGE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

## NEWSLETTER

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January 2021

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!!**

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JAN 1 -	HAPPY NEW YEAR
JAN 3 -	WORSHIP SERVICE 11 AM
	PHIL WHITACRE'S BIRTHDAY
JAN 7 -	LINDA OATES' BIRTHDAY
JAN 10 -	WORSHIP SERVICE 11 AM
	COUNCIL MEETING FOLLOWING
	WORSHIP SERVICE (SEE ARTICLE)
	BRIAN BRILL'S BIRTHDAY
JAN 12 -	MOLLY MCVICKER'S BIRTHDAY
JAN 17 -	WORSHIP SERVICE 11 AM
JAN 21 -	GALEN AND JEANNIE SPAID'S
	ANNIVERSARY
JAN 23 -	JONATHAN BRILL'S BIRTHDAY
JAN 24 -	WORSHIP SERVICE 11 AM
	HOME MISSION OFFERING
JAN 27 -	GERALDINE LOY'S BIRTHDAY
JAN 29 -	ANGELA WALKER'S BIRTHDAY
JAN 31 -	WORSHIP SERVICE 11 AM
	MILLIE TRIPLETT'S BIRTHDAY

### CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

The Church Council will meet on January 10<sup>th</sup>, following the worship service, not only to present the usual reports of the various organizations of the church, but also to decide a date for the annual Congregational Meeting, which would normally have taken place on the 10<sup>th</sup>. The council will also be deciding about when to have our next Communion Service, which would have normally taken place on January 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**THANK YOU!**

Pastor Mike and family would like to extend a heartfelt thanks to the church body, the Sunday School, and everyone else who sent cards and delivered gifts this Christmas to him and his family. He says, "you continue to be a real blessing to all of us. Thank You!"

### BIBLE STUDY

The Bible Study has been cancelled at least through the month of January due to the pandemic!

### BACKPACK MINISTRY

The date for preparing backpacks is February 3<sup>rd</sup>. The church's rotation weeks are February 3, 10 and 17, but we will be preparing for all three weeks on the 3<sup>rd</sup>. We would appreciate volunteers and will be wearing masks and following social distancing.

We welcome any comments and suggestions.  
Alan & Ginger Brill, [alanbrill1@frontier.com](mailto:alanbrill1@frontier.com)  
(304) 856-3635

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### *PASTOR'S PEN*

#### **Being Great in 2021**

Well, the year 2020 is now behind us. However, we won't soon forget it. It was a year of surprises and trial as Covid-19 took over the landscape of countries worldwide. There was heartache and sorrow as many faced the loss of a loved one. Life kept moving, though, as people still celebrated anniversaries, birthdays, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. Granted, it often didn't look like other years, and some events were scrubbed from the calendar altogether. Maybe you want to say 'good riddance' to 2020. No matter what your take on all that's going on, the New year, 2021, has arrived. That means it's time for a change, time to make resolutions, time to put the old away and start something new. So, are you ready to be great in 2021?

When we're honest with ourselves, we know instinctively that we long to make a difference. Each of us has a deep-seated desire to have a purpose in life. And scripture agrees that it's true. God does have a purpose for each of us. The problem is, we often see life as a competition. We look around and see others who have bigger houses, fancier cars, and jobs that seem more meaningful. We watch celebrities on T.V. living in the limelight, and we wonder if our everyday life is enough. I hope you realize that this is not a new problem.

In Mark 9:33-37, Jesus asks His disciples a simple question. (I would encourage you to grab your bible and read that passage). The question He asks is: "What were you discussing on the way?" Jesus had just told them that He was on His way to Jerusalem, where He would be delivered into the hands of wicked men, killed, and then rise again from the dead. Then, while they were walking to Capernaum, the disciples began to argue about who was the greatest. It was an argument grounded in "the need" for purpose, the desire to make a difference in life. Those aren't harmful desires by themselves. However, as soon as each disciple began to measure their purpose against another, making it a competition, they showed their misunderstanding of what it means to be great. Jesus then had to sit down and teach them what true greatness looks like.

The good thing is - the picture Jesus paints is not complicated. "If anyone would be first, he (or she) must be last of all and servant of all." What does this mean? First, let me say that this passage does NOT promote the idea that you need to be a doormat. When Jesus says you must be last, He is NOT talking about letting everyone walk all over you. Instead, what Jesus is teaching is that your heart must be humble. Your attitude must be grounded in the fact that your standing with God is not dependent on how the world sees your accomplishments. Instead, you must look at the work that God has given you to accomplish and humbly accept that work. You must know the job God gave others to do is their work, not yours. Life is not a competition.

Do you want to be great in 2021? Then look for opportunities to serve those around you. It doesn't have to be extravagant either. Look at the example Jesus gave His disciples as He took on a servant's role and washed their feet. Some of the most significant work in 2021 will be accomplished in everyday conversations. The most remarkable work you could do will be done in phone calls you make, cards you write, and the way you quietly take care of one another.

Don't argue over who is the greatest. Jesus is the greatest! Follow Christ's example and live out 2021 by becoming a servant. Happy New Year!

~Pastor Mike