

This week's news...



January 7, 2021

New Year's Resolutions

Dear Friend,

Some folks love 'em, lots of people make 'em, few people keep 'em!

Last year, I resolved to do three things:

1. Exercise every day: That one I kept — usually in the form of walking/jogging every morning. I missed two days when I moved (figured that was exercise enough) and a few days when it was raining relentlessly. Other than that, I kept at it.

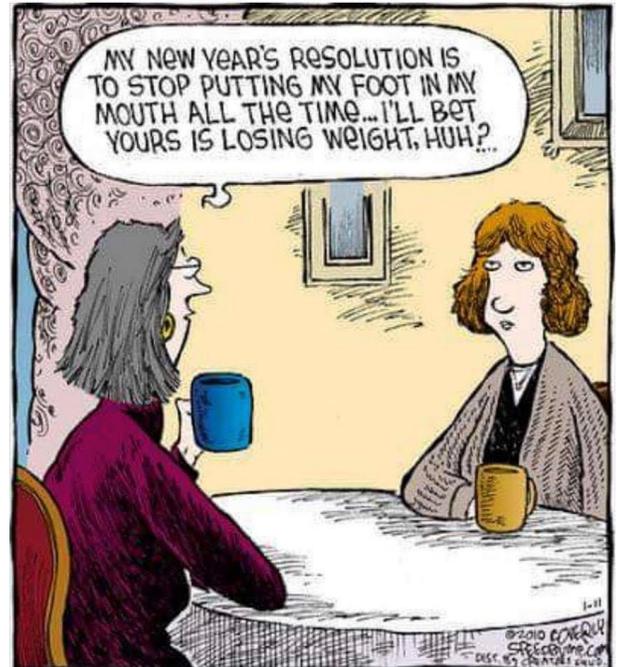
2. Limit my use of single-use plastic: That one is harder because so much is out of my immediate control and COVID didn't help. Whenever possible, I avoided single use, and if I had to use it, I tried to re-use it multiple times. I'm renewing my efforts in this area especially since Delaware has banned single-use plastic bags in stores.

3. Never show up empty-handed: This one I also kept — although at times I was reaching for something new! During the warmer months, I had three sets of friends that I saw regularly for dinners on decks, patios, balconies, and screen porches. Often I'd be over close to every two weeks, and as you can imagine, they are very good friends, yet I resolved to bring something every time. Consequently, my hosts received a lot of wine, chocolate, candles, books, and gadgets. On very rare occasions, I'd bring something to contribute to the menu — although my cooking strength lies in my discriminating taste in take-out!

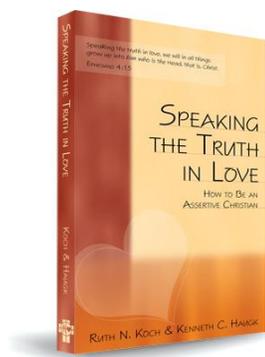
For 2021, I'm keeping the above and adding one: Treat everyone with kindness. Now, I think I'm a naturally nice person — but this year — especially in light of yesterday's violent insurrection — it's clear that we need an extra dose of kindness in America and I'm going to try to be a little extra nice — even and especially when I'm not feeling it!

If you're not feeling it — I'm offering this [video](#) by one of my favorite singers, [Harry Styles](#). Hope you enjoy it — and...

Happy New Year!



NEW ADULT ED OPPORTUNITY!



Join Nikki's class "Speaking Truth in Love: How to Be an Assertive Christian" on Wednesdays at 7 p.m. The class is based on a book of the same name by the Rev. Dr. Kenneth C. Haugk, founder and Executive Director of Stephen Ministries, and Ruth Koch. Books are available during the drive-through and cost \$12. (Help with the cost is available for those who need.) A description of the class is available in the most recent *Glad Tidings* (page 1). Find the syllabus [here](#) and the Zoom link [here](#). These sessions provide participants the opportunity to strengthen and improve their relationships with God and with others, all while developing a healthy love of self. This class is open to anyone both in the church and publicly. Contact [Nikki](#) with further questions.

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

A big thank you from the Stewardship Committee for the positive response to the Run with Perseverance stewardship campaign. Many people have increased their pledge amounts and people who have never pledged before have made the commitment to ensure a reliable budget for 2021. We still have high hopes for meeting our pledge goal for the year. If you have not yet pledged and can do so now, please use [this online form](#) or fill out [this PDF](#) and email it to [Kris Bean](#) or drop it off during the drive-through. The church counts on your support for the programs and missions that allow us to be Christ in the world. Thank you.



And here are updated numbers:

| | <i>Units Pledging</i> | <i>Amount Pledged</i> |
|--------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 2015 | 256 | \$698,844 |
| 2016 | 231 | 663,513 |
| 2017 | 210 | 606,051 |
| 2018 | 188 | 564,217 |
| 2019 | 165 | 488,058 |
| 2020 so far | 105 | \$367,347 updated 1/6/2021 |

NIKKI'S BIBLE STUDY IS BACK

Join Nikki on Thursday evenings at 6:30 for an in-depth study of **Revelation**. Here is the [Zoom link](#), and here is the [Syllabus](#).

Tuesday Morning Bible Study with Doug

Tuesdays at 8:00 a.m. on Zoom, Doug hosts an informal conversation about the scripture that will be the text for the following Sunday's sermon. The text for **Tuesday, January 12 is 1 Samuel 3:1-10**. Here's the [Zoom link](#).



PORCH BIBLE STUDY

Watch for information about this winter's Porch Bible Study. Meetings resume on January 19. Contact Deb Nussbaum for information: debranussbaum1987@gmail.com

CONVERSATIONS ON RACE - AN UPDATE FROM RACHEL DAVIS

Sunday Morning Seekers

"Learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression; defend the fatherless, plead for the widow." Isaiah 1:17.



Every Sunday morning since mid-October members of our church meet on Zoom with one goal in mind: to seek justice and correct the oppression that is apparent in American culture. Inspired by the poem [Invitation to Brave Space](#), by Micky Scott Bey Jones, this group fosters an environment of curiosity and courage as we grapple with individual implicit racial biases and discuss the responsibility of our congregation for dismantling structural racism.

One of our early realizations is that the best way to overcome our own biases is to reject stereotypes and base our thinking on personal experiences with people who look different than ourselves in order to gain a deeper understanding of their lives. It quickly became apparent that most of our White participants have limited opportunities to form authentic relationships with people of color because our neighborhoods, workplaces, and social circles, including our congregation, are quite homogeneous. Conversely, our Black and Latina participants are often the only non-white people in otherwise all White spaces.

Our current big question is: **What can we do to create more diversity in our spaces? How can we welcome more Black and Brown people into our church and into the larger community?**

If you identify as White, please pause for a moment and notice how you feel. If the idea of more Black and Brown people makes you feel tense, ask yourself why that is. Dig into the root of the discomfort. Does it stem from a bad personal experience? Is it based on negative stereotypes or assumptions? Is it rooted in implicit bias that you didn't even know you had? No matter how you answered those questions, you are not alone. And you are invited to seek out the answers with us on Sundays mornings.

Our group includes people of various ages and ethnicities, and we desire to welcome church and community members of all ages, ethnicities, and genders into our "Brave Space" on Sunday mornings from 9-9:45.

This week's Sunday morning discussion will begin with reactions to this video: [Race vs Religion - Uncomfortable Conversations with a Black Man](#).

Each week's resources are linked in the weekly email newsletter and on the [Adult Ed](#) page of the website. Questions? Email Becky Bryan, rebeccabryan@me.com.

THIS WEEK'S MUSICAL OFFERING FROM MARK

He Leadeth Me, arr. Larry Shackley

Joseph Gilmore was preaching at a mid-week prayer service on the topic of the 23rd Psalm. He wrote later, "I set out to give the people an exposition of the 23rd Psalm, but I got no further than the words "He leadeth me." Those words took hold of me as they had never done before. I saw in them a significance and beauty of which I had never dreamed...At the close of the meeting a few of us kept on talking about the thoughts which I had emphasized; and then and there, on a back page of my sermon notes, I penciled the hymn just as it stands today, handed it to my wife, and thought no more of it. She sent it without my knowledge to the *Watchman and Reflector* magazine, and there it first appeared in print December 4, 1862."

[Listen here](#)

He Leadeth me; O blessed thought!
O words with heavenly comfort fraught!
What'er I do, where'er I be,
Still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me.

[HEARTS OF] GOLD, FRANKINSENCE AND MYRRH: GIFTS FROM THE DEACONS

"For it is in giving that we receive." St. Francis of Assisi

In December, members of our Care and Share Committee and our Deacons decided to spread a little extra Holiday cheer. This brilliant idea was proposed by Kelly Stout, who serves as one of our Deacons. Several volunteers delivered small gift bags with homemade Christmas cookies, chocolates, hot cocoa packets and a poinsettia to our members of our church family born before 1945. (If we somehow missed you or someone you care about, please let the church know!)

Although the pandemic has been hard on all of us, it has been especially hard on our older church members. After the deliveries were made, many of our volunteers shared wonderful stories about the excitement on the faces of many of our Holiday Cheer recipients. In addition, the volunteers were grateful for having the chance to participate in this project because of the internal joy they experienced when delivering these small packages. Due to COVID, no one was able to go into anyone's home but the front door conversations were truly priceless.

What a wonderful gift it was to spread this cheer, but all the volunteers agreed that by giving we received more than we could have anticipated.

Rebeca Silva de Foote

ADVENT GIVING BACK

Thank you to all who donated to our Caring Hearts drive! Because of your generosity we were able to collect \$660. Thank you so much for making these families' holidays brighter.

ADDITIONAL THANK-YOUS

FROM THE WOMEN'S PRISON MINISTRY: To the people who donated note cards, note pads, and calendars, to be included in the Christmas bags we assembled for the women at the Camden County Jail, thank you. Whenever the women at the jail thank us, we always remind them that our church knows of them, prays for them, and supports this mission. So we also thank the Deacons and the entire congregation as well.

On December 18, Sergeant Kelly from the jail wrote, *"I handed the bags out at noon lock in time. The women wanted me to let you know that they are very thankful. They really appreciated the bags - I think this year more than ever before. I would also like to thank all of you for sticking by us through this tough time."*

FMSC THANK-YOU – A special thank you to all who recently supported the Feed My Starving Children (FMSC), Lynch Creek fundraiser. Together, we raised over \$530, providing approximately 2,120 meals for those in desperate need. Your kindness and support helped to feed kids around the world. To learn more about the life-saving work being done by Feed My Starving Children during these difficult times, visit www.fmsc.org.

AND ONE MORE – Together, the Deacons, Mission Committee, and the Haddonfield Council of Churches were able to fulfill the Christmas wishes of 17 families this year—two more than last year! Your support of the Deacons Offering and the church's budget throughout the year made it possible for these families to have a happy Christmas. Thank you.



YOUTH GROUP NEWS!

After a few weeks off, Virtual Youth Group is back! This week we are going to meet virtually on Sunday from 5-6 p.m. to play AMONG US. Be on the lookout for the game code to join on Sunday. Contact [Gabrielle Heimerling](#) if you are interested or have questions.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

This week we focused on the Wise Men and Epiphany, but the real star of Sunday School was the video that Pastor Doug highlighted during the children's message. The link is below and it is also included in each of the Sunday School lessons. I loved this short film so much and hope you will too. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=96kl8Mp1uOU>



ST. WILFRID'S OPEN DOOR CLINIC

2020 ROUND-UP:

- 3,681 bags of food were given out in the 41 weeks of weekly distribution last year, that's over 90,000 pounds of food and dry goods!
- 91 bags of food were given out last Saturday (1/2/21)

Thank you for your caring!

Current Needs:

- Winter coats/jackets - (in last 4 weeks, 200 coats/jackets have been given out), hats, mittens/gloves, socks and more socks for cold feet, and blankets
- Brown Trader Joe's or Whole Foods bags and regular grocery paper bags, toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, and always diapers and wipes
- And of course-peanut butter, tuna, and pasta/Mac n cheese.

Donations of current needs may be dropped off at the FPC drive-through on Sunday between 11 and 12 or any day of the week in the bin behind Grace Episcopal Church. If anyone can help pick up food at Food Bank on Fridays, please let Rose Guthrie know: intrepidrose@hotmail.com



Any questions, please call Jill Mascena-856-428-7342 or visit the website. opendoorcliniccamden.org

Report from December 21 2020:

It was 25 degrees Saturday morning at 8:30. Maybe twelve to fifteen of our patrons had queued up on the icy sidewalk on Dudley Street to receive a foodbag, forty-five minutes before the opening of the Open Door Clinic. 80 year old Mrs. Salazar, who lives across from St Wilfrid's put on her Uggs, and marched in the street to the Clinic. She had handwarmers to give to the volunteers who would be serving outside in the cold. As the day progressed, two adolescent you ladies in line were wearing only sweatshirts. Asked if they needed jackets, they looked at each other sheepishly: they spoke no English. Those adjacent to them spoke to them: "chaquetas, chaquetas:" (jackets, jackets). They shook their heads, yes. We got them each a new, fashionable, puffy jacket. And we found gloves for others, having absolutely no idea where they came from.

Gifts: Ana is a sixty some years old Spanish speaking mother of a 38 year old severely disabled daughter. Ana has been a regular attendee of the Open Door Clinic over the past 8 or so years. She and her daughter are part of the family. She gave the volunteers a boxes of Ghirardelli Chocolates, and a Christmas card as Christmas gifts. A week later, and we are still overwhelmed.

MISSING OUR BELL CHOIRS?



Enjoy this video about how our Malmark Bells are made. Did you know we have two sets of bells? The Malmark set was purchased a few years ago to be used especially by the beginner choirs. As you can see in the video, they are made and serviced locally. Our older set of bells was made by the Whitechapel company in England. Sadly, Whitechapel went out of business in 2017 after 450 years of manufacturing bells.

[View video](#)

And, for a throw-back treat, here are our own Kirk Ringers, under the direction of Peter Leibensperger, playing "Joy and Delight" by Brenda Austin on Pentecost 2018.

[View video](#)



WEEKLY CALENDAR

- Jan. 7 - 6:30 p.m. Nikki's Bible Study
- Jan. 10 - 9 a.m. Conversation on Race
- Jan. 10 - 10 a.m. Worship
- Jan. 12 - 8 a.m. Doug's Bible Study
- Jan. 13 - 7:30 p.m. "Speaking the Truth in Love" class
- Jan. 14 - 6:30 p.m. Nikki's Bible Study
- Jan. 17 - 9 a.m. Conversation on Race
- Jan. 17 - 10 a.m. Worship



Thank you to all the families who participated in our at-home Advent Festival. Above is a sampling of some of the family ornaments that were brought in for our community tree.



The first ever Youth Group Gingerbread House contest was a delightful success. Congrats to our winners Finn, Cameron, and Connor, whose houses are pictured above.