

The Ceresco Messenger ~ Ceresco Baptist Church

Pastor's Pen ~ January 2017

In the year 2017 of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, with the assistance of your deacons, we have chosen 1 Peter 3:13-15 as our unison verse for the year.

1 Peter 3:13-15 King James Version (KJV)

¹³ And who is he that will harm you, if ye be followers of that which is good?

¹⁴ But and if ye suffer for righteousness' sake, happy are ye: and be not afraid of their terror, neither be troubled;

¹⁵ But SANCTIFY the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:

I have used the King James Version because of the word SANCTIFY in verse 15. SANCTIFY in this verse means to set apart Jesus in our hearts. I believe in order for us to share the love of Jesus with others, first we need to have a special place in our hearts for Jesus.

When we have Jesus in our hearts, two wonderful things will happen: First, we will have a hunger and desire for God's word, which will produce within us God's wisdom and knowledge. Second, we will want to share the good news of Jesus with others.

I believe the Church grows from the inside out. Meaning if we grow spiritually first within ourselves, then we will attract those on the outside of the Church walls. Keep in mind it will not be us who attracts - it will be the Holy Spirit within us who will attract others.

My prayers and hope for Ceresco Baptist Church is that we as individuals will SANCTIFY God (A place in our hearts). And by God's grace, God will SANCTIFY us (set us apart for His purpose).

Happy New Year and God bless, Pastor Gary & Phyllis Schooler

A New Year's Prayer

Lord, You make all things new, You bring hope alive in our hearts
And cause our Spirits to be born again.
Thank You for this new year for all the potential it holds.
Come and kindle in us a mighty flame
So that in our time, many will see the wonders of God
And live forever to praise Your glorious name.

Amen

God's compassion is new every morning

Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. I say to myself, "The Lord is my portion; therefore I will wait for him."

Lamentations 3:22-24 (NIV)

Ceresco Baptist Church ~ Administrative Council Meeting

Minutes ~ December 3, 2016 ~ 9:00 a.m.

Devotions - Roger "Christmas is about Jesus" & gave prayer

Clerks Report:

Minutes from September meeting were in Messenger. Annual Reports are due the end of January. Dennis Casey donated 15 steel chairs - need to send a thank you. Send thank you to Bob Beltz for the lights, protective sleeves, etc.

Treasurers Report: Mary Ivey

- 1 Report distributed -
- 2 Church financial records should be audited (request from Gary) - it's been 5 years - Joy motion to get price quote from Jerilyn Estep, 2nd by Dawn. Motion passed.
- 3 Dawn - \$50 has come in for the hymnals so far (in the in/out fund).
- 4 Mary & Dawn went to 5/3 and changed the church savings account from a commercial account to a business relationship savings account that doesn't charge so many fees.

Property Management Ministry Team: Rick Frey

- 1 Rick met with heating contractor to get new filters for our furnaces, having hard time finding some - odd filters on our furnaces.
- 2 Anti siphon faucet in baptistery has been taken care of. Walter's Plumbing did the work in the baptistery.
- 3 Sidewalk and bumper stops in parking lot are done.
- 4 Ceiling in Pastor's office - look at
- 5 Health department license renewal - Rick doing
- 6 Put some of excess silverware in boxes in cupboard.

Deacon Ministry Team:

- 1 Christmas families - hams due 12/18, gifts due 12/11
- 2 Wrapping gifts after family night potluck on 12/14.
- 3 Food baskets will be put together 12/18 after Sunday school
- 4 Dec. 20th families will get their food and gifts.
- 5 Handed out 2017 calendars to congregation. Still have some left if needed.

Worship Ministry Team:

- 1 New Hymnal has been selected. Accepting donations through Dec. 18th.
- 2 Mary Ivey choosing hymns for December
- 3 Special Music this month includes: Cerestrio on Christmas morning, Kathy/Joy on 11th, Youth Choir 12/18, Kathy/Joy on 25th.
- 4 Hanging of the Greens went well - thank you to all that helped!
- 5 Next WMT meeting is Jan. 2nd after taking down decorations at 5:30 pm.

Educational Ministry Team:

1. Next Youth Day is Saturday, December 17th, 10 am-2 pm
2. Need substitute teachers for Sunday school classes
3. Sharon Hadley will be the EMT Chair for 2017
4. New SS Classes - info in Messenger.
5. Kay Davis & Linda Cole will do Jr Church the 3rd Sunday of the month.

Ceresco Baptist Church - Administrative Council Meeting

Minutes - December 3, 2016 - continued

Pastor's Quarterly Report: Sept-Nov 2016

Visits : 22, Hospital : 1, Funeral : 3, Baptism : 3, Baby dedication : 1, Membership : 2, Bible studies : AM & PM, WMT meetings, EMT meetings, Deacon meetings, Bill Worthington (ashes) burial, Jade & Clint wedding & counseling meetings, Family nights, Food distribution, Annual ABC-MI gathering, MLG & MLGP meetings, Pumpkin carving night, Maplewood communion each month, First class of new kind of preacher (Northern seminary) 6 month class, one time a month for full day.

Office: preparing sermons, many phone calls, texts, emails and drop-ins. Met with Rick Frey regarding nominating committee.

Evening Bible Study – moving to Thursdays, resumes January 12th.

Pastoral Relations Committee:

Received letter from Ministers & Missionaries Benefit Board (MMBB) regarding 2017 compensation guidelines. PRC can review at their next meeting. Pastor is content with his salary package.

NEW BUSINESS/OPEN ITEMS:

Joanne – after church fire many years ago, there were old newspapers back to 1938. Is anyone interested in them?

Church historical documents are in the cabinet – should be organized. Need to archive the information at some point, maybe appoint a committee in the future to look into this.

Mary suggested to get 2 4-drawer locking file cabinets to put in the copier room for Treasurer records and Financial Secretary records. Rick will look into getting locks installed on 2 of the file cabinets we have.

Dec 11th at 4 pm, Fairfax Christmas service.

Motion by Mary, 2nd by Rick to close meeting. Dick closed in prayer.

Next Meeting will be Saturday, March 4, 2017

Sunday School Classes for 2017!

New **Sunday School Classes** start January 8th. Marcy Bonney will teach 3 & 4 year olds, Jeri Wood has kindergarten, 1st & 2nd grades. Sharon Hadley has 3rd-5th grades, Jacob Lewis has 6th-8th grades and Joy Sommers has 9th-12th grades. Adult class - no changes.

All Sunday School classes except the adults will end at 12 pm. At that time all attendees will go to the sanctuary for songs and Bible verses until 12:15 pm.

Other Information

Toddler Worship is on the 2nd & 4th Sundays of each month, lead by Phyllis Schooler.

Youth Choir Practice is on the 2nd & 4th Sundays of each month. Youth Choir will sing on the 3rd Sunday of each month, lead by Kathy Straub.

Junior Church will be held on the 3rd Sunday of the month, lead by Kay Davis & Linda Cole.

Let go of what has gone before and press on to what is ahead

Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 3:13-14, (NIV)

Do not be afraid about the future - instead, give everything over to God in prayer:-

Don't worry about anything, but in all your prayers ask God for what you need, always asking him with a thankful heart

Philippians 4:6, (GNT)



This prayer from Billy Graham, written for The Saturday Evening Post in 2008, is just as relevant this year.

Our Father and our God, as we stand at the beginning of this new year we confess our need of Your presence and Your guidance as we face the future.

We each have our hopes and expectations for the year that is ahead of us—but You alone know what it holds for us, and only You can give us the strength and the wisdom we will need to meet its challenges. So help us to humbly put our hands into Your hand, and to trust You and to seek Your will for our lives during this coming year.

In the midst of life's uncertainties in the days ahead, assure us of the certainty of Your unchanging love.

In the midst of life's inevitable disappointments and heartaches, help us to turn to You for the stability and comfort we will need.

In the midst of life's temptations and the pull of our stubborn self-will, help us not to lose our way but to have the courage to do what is right in Your sight, regardless of the cost.

And in the midst of our daily preoccupations and pursuits, open our eyes to the sorrows and injustices of our hurting world, and help us to respond with compassion and sacrifice to those who are friendless and in need. May our constant prayer be that of the ancient Psalmist: "Teach me, O Lord, to follow your decrees; then I will keep them to the end" (Psalm 119:33).

We pray for our nation and its leaders during these difficult times, and for all those who are seeking to bring peace and justice to our dangerous and troubled world. We pray especially for Your protection on all those who serve in our armed forces, and we thank You for their commitment to defend our freedoms, even at the cost of their own lives. Be with their families also, and assure them of Your love and concern for them.

Bring our divided nation together, and give us a greater vision of what You would have us to be. Your Word reminds us that "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord" (Psalm 33:12).

As we look back over this past year we thank You for Your goodness to us—far beyond what we have deserved. May we never presume on Your past goodness or forget all Your mercies to us, but may they instead lead us to repentance, and to a new commitment to make You the foundation and center of our lives this year.

And so, our Father, we thank You for the promise and hope of this new year, and we look forward to it with expectancy and faith. This I ask in the name of our Lord and Savior, who by His death and resurrection has given us hope both for this world and the world to come. *Amen*

January 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
New Year's Day Communion Sunday Deacon Sunday	New Year's Day (observed) Take down Christmas decorations	Bible Study 10:00 am W.M.T. Meeting 5:30 pm	Deacon Meeting 6:00 pm			
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
		Bible Study 10:00 am	Martha Circle Meeting 6:30 pm	Bible Study 6:00 pm		
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	Martin Luther King Day	Bible Study 10:00 am	Family Night Potluck 6:30 pm	Bible Study 6:00 pm		
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
		Bible Study 10:00 am	Information for February Messenger due by noon	Bible Study 6:00 pm		
29	30	31	Feb. 1	Feb. 2	Feb. 3	Feb. 4
		Bible Study 10:00 am		Bible Study 6:00 pm		

More than 80 percent of all church pastors should resign if ...

By GEORGE BULLARD

The commonly accepted criteria for pastors' leadership is that they bring a great vision with them when they become leader of a congregation, they know how to get people to follow their vision, and the results are a numerically growing, spiritually vibrant and missional significant congregation.

If all these things are not true for pastors, then all flawed pastors should resign. This could mean 80 percent or more of pastors need to resign.

The commonly accepted criteria is the standard

But what if this is not the criteria for a successful and significant pastorate? What if there is a different way to look at the issue of vision in congregations?

If you believe this is not the commonly accepted criteria for a successful and significant pastorate, then you do not read the articles I read – some of which claim a deep research base for what they are saying. You do not listen to the pastor search committees or staff parish relations committees with which I talk. You do not talk to the laypersons in congregations who are convinced if they had the right pastor with clear vision and decisive leadership their church would grow.

This standard is consistent. First, the articles I read say 20 percent or less of all senior or solo pastors truly get it about their role as the primary source, chief vision caster, and manager of the actions that make vision come alive in congregations.

Second, the assumption of many committees is that senior or solo pastors bring vision with them to congregational leadership, or the pastor is not a leader.

Third, many people in congregations expect their pastor have a clear vision for the future of the church, or the pastor is the wrong pastor and they need to look for another leader.

If this standard regarding pastors and vision is correct, then 80 percent of all pastors were not intended to be pastors. They misunderstood the voice of God speaking into their lives. They should consider another way to live out their ministry.

When the 80 percent of pastors attend conferences where they are told they are the key source of vision, they feel guilty and inadequate. When reading a book by a highly successful pastor who brags about having a dynamic and empowering vision for their congregation, they feel ashamed. When talking with a pastor search committee or a staff parish relations committee, they develop an elevator speech that provides a spin around vision that sells their leadership prowess in a positive way.

They do all this because they believe this viewpoint about vision is true. But is a terrible lie.

The terrible lie exposed

I personally agree this commonly accepted criteria or standard is a terrible lie that allows congregations to avoid their responsibility to be captured by God empowering vision. It also heaps guilt on the 80 percent of all pastors who do not get it about vision in the traditional way it is promoted by our success-oriented church and denominational culture in North America.

I contend our Triune God is the only appropriate source of vision for congregations – not pastors. God has an empowering vision for every congregation which they must discern and act on.

However, it is my hope the pastor is among the first – if not the very first person – in congregations to be captured by God's empowering vision. They can then use their preaching, teaching, leadership and interpersonal relationships, as well as their own missional engagement, to cast vision.

I believe if the pastor, plus staff and laypersons equal to at least 21 percent of the average number of adults present on a typical weekend for worship, are not also captured by God's vision, the congregation does not have vision.

More than 80 percent of all church pastors should resign if ...

By GEORGE BULLARD [Continued]

Vision cannot happen by the pastor pushing the congregation forward. It can only happen because the congregation allows God to pull them forward.

God calls people to be pastors who have various gifts and skills. God does not call only pastors who get vision in the traditional ways our society says leaders get vision.

Congregations must discern God's vision for them, own it deeply, and act on it passionately. In this process, pastors are not called on to be the source, crafter, or owner of congregational vision. Pastors are called on to continually hold up God's empowering vision, cast it before the congregation, and be an example of vision fulfillment in word and deed.

Is it possible that a 100 percent of pastors can do this if we unchain them from the vocational prison that says pastors – rather than God – are the source of vision?

Martha Circle Minutes, December 7, 2016

Martha Circle ladies met Dec. 7th at the church with eight present: Gretchen, Joanne, Pam, Kathy, Darlene, Veronica, Viviana, Joy.

Devotions by Gretchen, reading "Devotions from the Heart" based on 2 Corinthians 5:17, on changes.

Secretary/Treasurer Report - checking balance around \$1,050 after outstanding transactions. Read a thank you from Friendship House.

Missions - Darlene read letter from Rick & Anita Gutierrez from September. They plan to be at Ceresco Baptist in the fall of 2017. Passed around a newsletter from them too.

White Cross - Joanne/Pam - Received our information from Pat Wentworth. Only a few items have been requested for Racetrack Ministries in Ohio - are we interested? Motion by Joy, 2nd by Darlene to pass on the Racetrack Ministries. Would prefer to help local or at least in Michigan. We will still do roller bandages for White Cross.

Maplewood - do a project making adult bibs for them. Will make some bibs at our January meeting. Make sure we have a sewing machine on hand! Ask for some good used towels in the January Messenger.

Sunshine - Pam. Sent cards to new baptism people, baby Casey, sent flowers to Joy and to Gretchen. (Thanks from Joy & Gretchen!) Sent a card to Phyllis.

Old Business

- The 2 bake sales have gone well. Next one is Dec. 18th - instead of taking orders, we will just bring baked goods for the sale.
- Christmas Families - still have some families that have not been taken yet. Motion by Darlene, 2nd by Joy to donate \$100 to Christmas families, motion passed.
- Quilt top from the Mead's - need to get backing and tie it.

New Business -

1. Send Christmas card/gift to Angela Sommers. Motion by Darlene, 2nd by Joanne to send \$25.
2. Motion by Darlene, 2nd by Joanne to send \$25 each to international missionaries Gutierrez and Niles.
3. Motion by Darlene, 2nd by Kathy Straub to donate \$25 to RMMO.

Love Gift \$9.14

Devotional \$11.00

Bible reading for January:

1 Thessalonians 5:12-22

Slate of Officers for 2017

Ceresco Baptist Church

OFFICERS

Expires

Lay Moderator	Roger Sommers	2017
Assistant Lay Moderator	Rick Frey	2017
Clerk	Joy Sommers	2017
Treasurer	Mary Ivey	2017
Assistant Treasurer	Ruth St. John	2017
Financial Secretary	Dawn Frey	2017
Assistant Financial Secretary	Marcy Bonney	2017
Membership at Large	Pam Kirkland	2017
Membership at Large	Joanne Henley	2017
Deacon Ministry Team	Gretchen King	2019
	vacancy	2019
	Roger Sommers	2018
	Jenny Markos	2018
	Linda Chisholm	2017
	Justin Casey	2017
	Olive Derrick	Emeritus
	Bessie Ivey	Emeritus

MINISTRY TEAM INFORMATION

Property Management Ministry Team Members

Rick Frey, Chair

Bob Beltz

Rick Bonney

Justin Casey

Bud Halder

Ed Kirkland

Art Ruthruff

Roger Sommers

Worship Ministry Team Members

Mary Ivey, Chair

Heather Casey

Lindsey Casey

Gretchen King

Kathy Straub

Joy Sommers

ANNUAL REPORT

REMINDER

Annual Reports for the calendar year 2016 are due to Joy Sommers by January 31, 2017. If you were the chair of a Ministry Team or a Committee, you are required to submit a report! Thank you!

Reports can be emailed to:

Cerescobaptist@gmail.com

CHURCH ATTENDANCE

October

2 ~ 52

9 ~ 65

16 ~ 44

23 ~ 45

30 ~ 46

November

6 ~ 49

13 ~ 52

20 ~ 45

27 ~ 47

December

4 ~ 36

11 ~ 30

18 ~ 33

24 ~ 43

25 ~ 43

Happy Birthday

- Jan 2 Alexandria Hamaker
- Jan 3 Margaret Pray
- Jan 4 Avery Goodman
- Jan 4 Elise Kidder
- Jan 7 Olivia Gary
- Jan 11 Richard Schlee
- Jan 13 Bob Beltz
- Jan 13 Amelia Schooler
- Jan 18 Sam Henley
- Jan 18 Christin Berry
- Jan 18 Brian Gary
- Jan 19 Jean Clark
- Jan 20 Gary Schooler
- Jan 23 Paul Mead
- Jan 24 Chelsea Kilbourn
- Jan 25 Emily Ivey
- Jan 25 Bryan Davis
- Jan 28 Harlynn Casey
- Jan 28 Brad Kidder
- Jan 28 Diane Burrows
- Jan 29 Ava Marni Bene
- Jan 31 Bailey Davis
- Feb 4 Nicole Thomas
- Feb 5 Nadine Coats
- Feb 9 Chris Sorell
- Feb 18 Glen Cary
- Feb 23 Hailey Latshaw #10
- Feb 23 Mike Hatton
- Feb 24 Rocho Kidder
- Feb 25 Kelcie Collins
- Feb 26 Gretchen King

Happy Anniversary

Jan 2 John & Ruth Paschen

CERESCO BAPTIST CHURCH APPROVED BUDGET FOR 2017

PASTOR'S SALARY	\$28,300
SOCIAL SECURITY	\$2,622
AUTOMOBILE ALLOWANCE	\$1,600
CONVENTION	\$350
CONTINUING EDUCATION	\$1,200
HOSPITALITY	\$100
BOOKS AND MISC EXPENSES	\$200
M&M RETIREMENT	\$4,915
PULPIT SUPPLY	\$400
MISSIONS (ABC ABOVE SPEC GIVING)	\$2,400
FOOD BANK OF S CENTRAL MI	\$200
CHARITABLE UNION	\$200
MACS	\$200
CAMP LAEL	\$125
LAKE LOUISE CAMP	\$125
WORSHIP SERVICE COMMITTEE	\$200
MUSIC	\$100
BULLETINS & OFFICE EXPENSES	\$600
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION	\$600
MAINTENANCE/EQUIP REPLACE/	\$2,000
CUSTODIAL	\$5,400
KITCHEN & BATHROOM SUPPLIES	\$500
INSURANCE & WORKSMAN'S COMP	\$4,200
UTILITIES (CONSUMERS TELE REFUSE)	\$5,500
MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSE	\$400
DUES AND LICENSES	\$1,200
BUDGET FOR 2017	\$63,637

Educational Ministry Team Members

Sharon Hadley, Chair

Linda Cole

Kay Davis

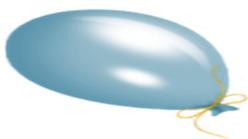
Gretchen King

Pam Kirkland

Phyllis Schooler

Joy Sommers

Jeri Wood



Ceresco Baptist Church

PO Box 35

Ceresco, MI 49033-0035

(269) 964-9669

Pastor Gary Schooler

(517) 990-5883



Church Schedule

Sunday Worship

9:45 am

Sunday School

11:15 am

Bible Study

Tuesdays at 10 am

Thursdays at 6 pm