

PRAYER CONCERNS

Brenda Cook, Pat's daughter-in-law and wife of her son, Heath, recovering from severe stroke.

John Cook, oral chemotherapy for CLL.

Sarah Greer, Sandra Rummell's daughter-in-law, chemo and radiation treatments for lymphoma.

Joyce Hunt, receiving treatments for cancer.

Rosemary Sipes, facing mental acuity challenges.

Joy Sorenson, recovering at home following surgery to repair a broken hip.

Joan Tripp, the Lovett's daughter, chemotherapy, cancer has re-occurred, and her condition has greatly worsened; special prayer requested.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

January 4—Jack Maddox and Gale Wilson;

6—Tom Dixon and Timmy Eazor;

7—John Anderson and Bill Beason;

8—Tom Eazor and Florence Woodward;

9—Alan Griswold; 10—Sally Maddox;

11—Charlie Ellis; 12—Bobbie Brown, Wayne Hyatt, Jack Mowat; 14—Sam Boyd, RoAnne McNutt, Vickie Smith, and Mary Karr Williams;

16—Kathy Cox, Sherry Jolly, Alan McCrory;

18—Giselle Strasburger and Paul Westbrook;

19—Roger Jolly, John Shaw,
and Jeff Wardsworth;

20—George Bradshaw and Elmer Perry;

22—Churek Leneschmidt and Bruce McKinney;

24—Sharon Shellenberger;

25—Dwight Patterson;

28—Nancy Sherfey; 30—Susan Hyatt

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

January 4—Buddy and Mary Gregg (26)

January 4—Wolfgang and Germaine Richter (60)

January 10—Barrie and Tillie Flitcroft (49)

January 11—Dick and Judy VanderWeide (56)

January 13—Bob and Mary Cassano (39)

January 17—David and Anne Gallup (3)

January 18—John and Bonnie Bittle (21)

January 20—Tom and Sheron Neff (35)

January 22—Jack and Bonnie Dailey (49)

January 26—Dick and Phyllis Laughridge (60)

January 26—Etchy and Elizabeth Yountz (38)

January 31—Royce and Karen Mosely (52)

Jan

January 31—Royce and Karen Mosely (51)

A NOTE OF THANKS FROM DIANA McCARTHY AND THE WOC

Dear Women of the Church and Congregation:

On behalf of the WOC Board, I am happy to announce that 2017 was a very good year for the Women of the Church. As a result of your support for our programs and fund raisers in 2017, we exceeded our projections for charitable contributions for the year. Along with our ongoing missions, such successful fund-raisers as the Spring Fashion Show, Easter Lily and Poinsettia sales, the Men's Night BBQ, and the Annual WOC Christmas House Walk, will enable us to donate a total of \$8,100.00 to numerous community agencies that serve the citizens of our county.

Some of those agencies that will benefit are Hickory Nut Gorge Outreach, Hospice of Rutherford County, Hands of Hope for Life, the Cancer Research Center, and our beloved fire departments in the area.

We are so very grateful for all those who served and worked on these events, and for your generous support. We hope all of you had a meaningful Christmas and will have a blessed New Year.

Diana McCarthy

President, WOC

FROM THE NEW WOC BOARD ABOUT OUR JANUARY 15 WOC LUNCHEON

Susan Gibson, the new WOC President, would like to invite all the women of the congregation to be present at noon on Monday, January 15, for our first WOC luncheon of 2018. For food, you are asked to bring a pot luck dish to share.

Our speaker will be our own Mary Hayman. She will be sharing in regard to her extreme passion for prayer. Please be here to hear her and to encourage her. The sign-up sheet will be on the WOC bulletin board in the fellowship hall. Please sign up right away. Thank you.

Reflections...

We have just come through a very eventful year, filled with ups and downs, successes and failures, joys and sorrows. In many ways, it is one of the best years we have ever shared as a family of faith. Some wonderful new members have enriched and strengthened us, our attendance has grown, we have subscribed our annual budget with room to spare (for the 22nd year in a row), many new people have stepped up to share the ongoing work of the church, and lots of other good things have happened.

To be sure, we have known sad times as well, as we still see “those angel faces smile which we have loved long since and lost a while.” I personally have lost some very dear persons—my brother Dean and our daughter-in-law, Lynn; my mentor and friend since 1963, Marshall Walker; and my very best friend in the ministry, Rev. Earl Hendrix, in Inman. I have also felt the pain of your own losses—beloved spouses, family members, friends, special people in your lives. We have truly “wept with those who weep and rejoiced with those who do rejoice,” for we are family.

Last year had its own special challenges for Jenny and me. I had major abdominal surgery in January, as my *rectus abdominis* muscles had torn apart and separated and had to be stretched back together to the tune of about five inches. That convalescence was slow going, and about the time I was more or less recovered, I contracted influenza. Like a fool, I thought I could whip it by simply outlasting it, but about the time I was having fewer flu symptoms, the flu devolved into pneumonia. I wound up in the hospital, went into severe atrial fibrillation and congestive heart failure, and was rushed into ICU, where I was very quickly administered some rather potent medications. Afterwards, my primary physician, looking at the paper work from St. Luke's, commented, “Are you aware that you came within a few seconds of dying?” It was a scary episode. I am glad I didn't know how close I was to expiring.

Since then, having been out for four Sundays for the abdominal surgery and another three Sundays for flu and pneumonia, I have not felt free to take much vacation time, so Jenny and I have tried to stay close to home and close to you during 2017.

Here comes January again, and I have to have some minor surgery on Wednesday of this week. Dr. Lowry at Morganton Eye Physicians will be performing blepharoplasty on my eyelids. They have begun to sag so severely that it has greatly impaired my peripheral vision.

On two recent occasions I have almost pulled into the path of rapidly-moving vehicles approaching from my right. Dr. Lowry feels that we need to correct that problem. He also tells me that for a couple of weeks I will look like I have been in a barroom brawl. I have never been in either a barroom or a brawl, but it sounds serious, and I am much too vain to have you see me looking so disfigured. I will be taking a few days before returning to the pulpit.

I will, in fact, be at home in Gowensville and will be available to you should you need a pastor's presence. I will be sure to wear large sunglasses so as not to gross anyone out. I will be reading some good books and making some plans for us all going forward. Pray that I will not act like a scaredy-cat when Dr. Lowry starts toward me with a scalpel. If you need to reach me while I am away, the best number to call will be our land line at home, (864) 468-4678. Please do not hesitate to call. I always want to be there for you, even when it is necessary to take some time out for minor surgery. Please be here next Sunday to hear young Barrie Flitcroft and to enjoy our wonderful bell choir. In the meantime, I promise to stay in touch. You are our family, and we love you dearly. Be in church on Sunday! EC

A NOTE OF THANKS

Dear Chapel Family,

My family and I would like to thank all of you for your thoughtfulness during our time of grief. My wife, Lynn, went away so suddenly, having only been diagnosed with Stage 4 lung cancer the second week in October. The days between then and her death were spent in Duke University Medical Center, Carolinas Medical Center, and the Union County Hospice. She left us so very quickly.

My dad has told me of all your expressed concerns and of the prayers you have lifted up for her. My children, grandchildren, and I cannot thank you enough for your cards and letters and for the beautiful floral arrangement provided by your elders and congregation. As Dad has told me often, you truly are a "special church," sharing the love of Christ with those who need it.

Please continue to lift me and mine up in your daily prayers. Again, thanks for all you have done to ease our pain.

-- Phil Chapman

MEN IN MINISTRY BREAKFAST FOR THE LADIES SET FOR FEBRUARY 10

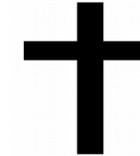
Ladies, you will recall, hopefully, that the men were all set to honor you during their December Men In Ministry breakfast, but bad weather prohibited that event. We still want to honor you, so we have chosen to do it on Saturday morning, February 10 (the Saturday before St. Valentine's Day) at 10:00 a. m.

Chef Mike McCarthy and his merry men will provide a delicious breakfast for all those present. The pastor will lead us in a brief Bible Study about Miriam, the Prophetess and sister of Moses. There is no charge, ladies, for breakfast. The men will foot the bill and will wait on you. Just sign up and show up!

Volume XXX

January 3, 2018

Number 1



**PLEASE BEGIN THE NEW YEAR
IN CHURCH THIS SUNDAY**



**THE CHAPEL RINGERS WILL PLAY SEVERAL
CHRISTMAS SELECTIONS AS WE BRING
THE SEASON OF ADVENT AND EPIPHANY
TO A WONDERFUL CONCLUSION.**



**BARRIE FLITCROFT WILL BE BRING US AN INSPIRING
MESSAGE FROM THE WORD OF GOD.**

**Please Be In Your Place on
Sunday.**