

THE REMINDER

BELLAIRE CHURCH OF CHRIST, 31 DECEMBER 2017

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Next **Sunday, January 6th**, will be our **monthly singing and prayer service** at 1:30. Please make plans to attend!
- We still have people traveling, keep in mind and prayer all those who are going and coming!
- Continue to pray for **Bob Stark** as he recovers from his recent heart transplant. He and **Erma** are staying in an apartment near St. Luke's for the time being.
- **Sharon Alexander**, still recovering from back pain, is in Dallas with her daughter **Holly Ann**, who just had a major surgery. She is recovering well, thanks to God.
- **Johnny Martinez** continues to struggle with his health and is receiving regular dialysis treatments. Pray for him and **Dora**!
- **Deb Haley** will be having a permanent pain pump installed on January 19th. Pray for strength and relief!
- Remember those rebuilding from Harvey: **Banks, Benthalls, Guzmans, Haleys, Starks, Stechs, and Washington**.
- Please continue to pray for **Bethany Moon** and (former member) **Lauren Underwood**, who are both expecting.
- Keep praying for on-going health concerns: **Bob Stark, Deb Haley, Mike Flinn, Janice Kimbrough, Jan Cooper, Curby Stech, Laura Claburn, Anna Miekle, and Pat Butler**.
- **Sermon Title: Mighty God**

WHO ARE WE?

A group of God's children, striving to maintain the organization, doctrine and worship as taught in the New Testament

ELDERS

Brian Haley
Mark Mann
Mike Pharris

DEACONS

Scott Clanton
David Haley
Mitchell Howell
Dan Kimbrough
Jesse Knapp
John Moon
Alex Morolez
Gregory Williams

EVANGELISTS

Daniel Broadwell
Steve Garrett

CONTACT US

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DIRECTORY UPDATES

Email:
danieljady@gmail.com

SCHEDULE

Sunday:

9:30 AM Worship
11:00 AM Bible Study

Wednesday:

7:30 PM Bible Study

SERVICE

Welcome - D. Broadwell
Song Leader - N. Lovinggood
Opening Prayer - J. Martinez
Lesson - S. Garrett
Communion Talk - B. Ward
Announcements - M. Mann
Closing Prayer - H. Banks

BIBLE CLASSES

Isaiah (Auditorium)

- Daniel Broadwell

Parables (Back Room)

- Alex Morolez
- Justin Seale

Classes for children

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New Year, New You? Not so fast...

God loves making old things new. That has been His goal since man first sinned and brought death and corruption into the world. In Isaiah 42, when God is anticipating the coming of the kingdom of Jesus, He says, *“Behold, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare.”* In preaching the gospel of Jesus, Paul says in 2 Corinthians, *“If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.”* And finally, in Revelation 21, the beautiful picture of the eternal kingdom, God announces from His throne, *“Behold, I am making all things new.”* Our God makes old things new, and among those ‘things’ are you and me.

Being December 31, the phrase ‘New Year, New You’ comes to mind. Perhaps you’ve heard or seen this on advertisements or thought about it in connection to a goal that you’d like to make for 2018. Please don’t misunderstand me, the turning of the calendar can be a helpful opportunity for recommitting ourselves to good habits. But, I believe there can also be a danger in seeing January as the season for resolutions.

The calendar does not make us new. The book of Ecclesiastes tells the bitter truth about the passing of time. *“A generation comes and a generation goes, but the earth remains forever...there is nothing new under the sun.”* (1:3,9) As the years go by, the world doesn’t change much, and neither does human nature. As a race, people are no different now than they were in the days of Noah, Solomon, or Jesus. And as individuals, our natural tendency is to resort to the same old attitudes and habits that we’ve always had. So, banking on one more new year to bring about a great personal transformation is nothing more than wishful thinking.

We do not make ourselves new. ‘Nothing will change on it’s own,’ we might say, ‘you have to make it happen.’ This, of course, is true, but still misleading. We cannot simply will ourselves to the kind of newness that God wants us to have. This, I think, is one reason why our resolutions fall short more often than not—we are trying to achieve transformation by will-power alone. But even if we could by our own volition implement all the changed habits we desire (and presumably some people do), it would still not make us new or whole.

God makes us new. Human effort is limited and flawed because we are imperfect. As Paul famously says, *“all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.”* (Romans 3:23) Therefore, our old, sinful self has to be killed and buried (in baptism), so that we can be raised to *“walk in newness of life.”* (Romans 6:4) But that critical event is not the end, rather the beginning of our transformation. God gives us His Spirit, who, dwelling in us, *“gives life to [our] mortal bodies.”* (Romans 8:11) It takes effort on our part, no doubt, in order to be that new creation that God so desires, but it is an effort of submission—an active surrender to the ways of God. *“Present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God...and do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove the will of God, good, acceptable, and perfect.”* (Romans 12:1-2)