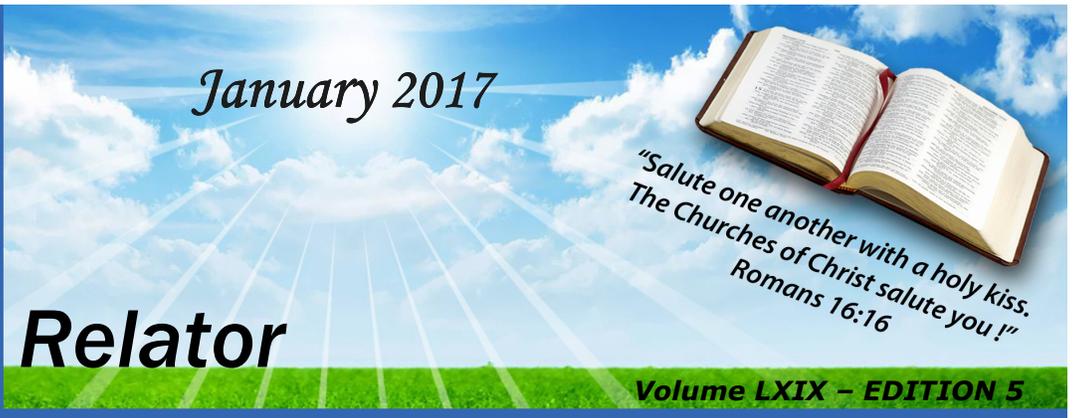




The Relator



January 2017

"Salute one another with a holy kiss.
The Churches of Christ salute you!"
Romans 16:16

Volume LXIX – EDITION 5



Cosma's Corner

Have you heard about the man who moved into a retirement community to spend the rest of his life there? It wasn't long until he had made a number of friends among the other residents.

There was one lady he was especially attracted to, and she was attracted to him, also. So they spent a lot of time together. Finally one evening he proposed, asking her to marry him.

The next morning he woke up remembering his proposal, but he couldn't remember her answer. So he went to her & said, "I'm really embarrassed. I proposed to you last night but I can't remember if you said 'Yes' or 'No.'"

"Oh, thank goodness!" she replied. "I remembered saying 'Yes' but I couldn't remember who asked me."

Sometimes I feel that way about New Year's resolutions. I tell myself, "This year I'm going to

turn over a new leaf. I'm going to exercise regularly & lose weight. I'm going to do all kinds of things to improve myself physically & spiritually." But then somehow I forget. Maybe you have that problem, too.

So I have a suggestion for a New Year's resolution that we ought to be able to remember. It is kind of broad & very general, but here it is: let's promise ourselves & God that we will make a change for the better. In 2017, as God's people, as His church, let's make this one simple resolution we're going to make a change for the better.

And to change for the better is to put our faith in the best.

A few years ago a lady committed suicide, leaving behind this note. "I decided that unless life was worth living I would just quit living."

How do you feel about your life? Is it worthwhile? Or, let's change the question. What would it take for you to feel that your life is worthwhile? What would have to happen to make you feel really positive about your life?

If you won the lottery, would that do it? If your marriage suddenly was all patched up, would that do it? If your kids began to make you proud, or if you got a promotion, would that do it? What would it take for you to really feel positive about your life?

Now if that's the way you're thinking then you'll probably never feel really positive about life because all the little pieces that must come together to make you positive about life will probably never be there.

Philippians 3:12 -14 ... But before you read this you need to realize that Paul is in prison, chained to a Roman guard, under horrible conditions. Yet despite that, he writes these wonderfully positive words,

"Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me.

"Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind & 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."

You see life is not about having all the perfect pieces perfectly in place. Instead, life is about having a perfected faith in a perfect Savior and Lord and waiting to live a new life in that perfect place.

From One Forward Thinker To Another
HAPPY NEW YEAR!

reflections..

Undaunted

The year just past was wracked with violence, racism and political rancor. We long to fix these problems, but how? We may feel as frustrated as the church board member who spouted, "We've already tried prayer. It didn't work!"

Those words might resonate today, yet things aren't always what they seem. We can't see God behind the scenes crafting a new reality, but Scripture promises it. And though our prayers won't undo earthly death, they surround the grieving with strength and love. We can't "solve" sin, but our prayers can bring communities together and spur us to look out for one another.

The Jewish Talmud states, "Do not be daunted by the enormity of the world's grief. Do justly now. Love mercy now. Walk humbly now. You are not obligated to complete the work, but neither are you free to abandon it." In this new year, may we be undaunted in doing what we can. It might not seem like much, but things aren't always what they seem.

'Stitches and Giggles'

Merry Christmas everyone! We had a great Christmas in Michigan. On January 5 we will be meeting at noon to 2 . Bring a cover dish and we can eat and do our projects! Big thanks to Marty And Brenda getting those fleece blankets together for Red Sands. They really appreciated them! If United is off school we won't be having it -Robin Heestand

J January Calendar

Jan 5th ... 12 noon – 2:00 pm Stitches & Giggles will meet. Please bring a covered dish and a project to work on or just come for the fellowship. If United is closed because of the weather, we will reschedule.

**Jan 8th ... 8:00 am Elders Meeting
... 8:00 am Trustees Meeting
(NOTE DATE CHANGE)**

Jan 15th ... 8:00 am Board Meeting



Inclement
Weather
Policy

REMINDER

If United Local is closed on a Tuesday due to bad weather, there will be no Bible Study or Groups.



- Jan 1 ... Cindy Sawman
... Milissa Opsitnik
- Jan 6 ... Bill Snyder
- Jan 10 ... Sherry Huston
- Jan 13 ... Grant Kelly
... Gavin Kelly
- Jan 21 ... Pat Kalbfell
... Travis Mitchell
... Emily Cosma
- Jan 27 ... Debbie Splitstone
- Jan 28 ... Betty Lou Davis
... Aulden Walling
... Verna Kelly
- Jan 29 ... James Davis



- 3rd .. Lynn & Brenda Schmidt
- 16th .. Joe & Crystal Phillis

Dear Phillips Christian Church,

Thank you so much for the beautiful flower arrangement & all of your support on the passing of our beloved mother.

What we will remember when we look back, are the times when kindness made a difference in our lives.

Thank you for caring.
The Cook Family

A Thank You from the Cosmas:
Thank you so much for all the gifts, cards, and gifts of money from our PCC family during the 2016 Christmas season and all year long! We truly have been blessed by your generosity as you have been blessed by God.

In His Service,
The Cosmas+

Some people have a special touch for bringing happiness to others.

Thank you very much for the Giant Eagle Gift Card!

Kathleen & Anna McQuiston

May the Joy and Peace of Christmas be with you now and throughout the New Year.
May God give you all a blessed Christmas and New Year!
In Christian Love,
Marlene Webber



Thank you to everyone for the cards, prayers and flowers during the loss of my sister, Paulette Cook,
May God Bless You,
Robin Janofa

Phillips Christian Carolers,

It was a real treat when your group sang to me. I appreciate all of you who took time to travel this far.. I also appreciate Robin & Ken for their effort in bringing you.

I miss Phillips because my family attended there for many years. In fact, my husband, Dean, was one of the three men who signed the mortgage for our current building. (The other 2 men who signed the mortgage were Don Huston's father and Harold Astry). It was nice to meet your minister, Sheldon! A Blessed Christmas to you!

-Maxine Vincent



Phillips Church,

Clyde and I want to thank all the folks who came caroling at our house! It was a wonderful experience that we didn't expect! We also want to thank all who sent us cards while we weren't feeling well.

Here's wishing everyone a healthy & happy Christmas.
May God Bless & keep us all in his grace.

Clyde & Nita Floor



Little Angels: Missy Opsitnik

Curious Kids: Marty Shinn,
Cody Opsitnik

Teens: Mike Phillis

Homebuilders/ Loyal Sons & Daughters: Sheldon Cosma, Gail Phillis, Tom & Linda Miller, Bob Shinn, Brenda Schmidt, Robin Janofa, Beverly Evans

December Perfect Attendance



Pray for them in **2017!**

Our Congregation, Our Nation, Lost Souls,

Unspoken Needs Of Our People

Nathaniel Davis (immune system problems)

Bill Wiley (health issues)

Maxine Vincent (cancer)

Mary Lou Eberhart (health problems)

Steve Singer (blood condition)

Suzanne Holloway (lung cancer)

Mary Lou Hartzell (throat cancer)

George Faull (pray for strength)

Northeast Ohio Bible College

Elizabeth Thatcher (health problems)

Donald Barnhart (hip problems and kidney disease)

Beverly Evans (had tests to determine amount of nerve damage)

Baby Elijah (born with heart defect, improving slowly at home)

Zac Carter (leg amputated; finished chemo round; still at St. Jude's)

Jim Webber (CHF, heart virus, pacemaker & defibrillator)

Margaret Greier

SERVING IN THE MILITARY

Joe Phillis; Joel Newburn, back in the US; Kyle Stephenson; Paige Wyss;

Matt Bartel, 5th Deployment to Iraq

OUR SHUT-INS

Jim Dorsey, Essex II; Bess Staubs; Pat Kalbfell; Dorothy McFadden;

Martha Crookston, Crandall ;

Wanda Huston, Allay Senior Care Center, 131 Pendleton Street, Lisbon Ohio 44432;

Ada Bailey (444 ½ Ohio Ave, Salem, OH 44460)

PHILLIPS CHRISTIAN CHURCH

35459 SALEM GRANGE RD

SALEM, OH 44460

Sheldon Cosma, Minister

Contact us: Phone: 234-567-7273

Church: 330-332-4467

Email: phillipschristianchurch@hotmail.com

SERVICES:

SUNDAY

9:00 am ... Sunday School

10:00 am ... Worship

WEDNESDAY

7:00 pm ...Adult Bible Study & Youth Group

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



www.phillipschristian.org

Happy New Year 🎉 Happy New Year 🎉 Happy New Year 🎉

Lessons from a snowman

- It's okay to wear white well after Labor Day.
- Simply hanging out in your front yard can be fun.
- Accessories don't have to be fancy or expensive.
- We're all made mostly of water.
- You know you've "arrived" when a song is written about you.
- So what if you're a little bottom-heavy?
- Don't get too much sun.
- Sweating too much can be disastrous!



Free refills

God's kingdom is like free refills at a restaurant.
Wait – *what?!*



Jesus used common, everyday items to explain the kingdom of God; we can too! The kingdom is like free refills. Still thirsty after one soda or coffee? Get another – no charge. In fact, the kingdom of God is better than free refills because you don't even have to pay for the first glass.

It's like having a parent buy you a favorite meal when you're young. You sit back and savor it without the price crossing your mind. That's okay, because the generous giver loves you and wants to be with you.

Sure, that's simplistic, but so are Jesus' parables. Overanalyze them and they may fall apart. But ponder the single point each makes, maybe get a chuckle and an *a-ha!* out of it, and that parable has done its job. So grab another free refill – of your beverage and of God's love!

–Heidi Mann