



The

Relator

January 2018

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

Volume LXX – EDITION 5



Cosma's Corner

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

I am honestly not sure how we have decided that the next year can be better or the best if we just begin fresh and new; but I do know that a year, a day, an hour, a minute, even a second can make a difference. A single thought can make a difference ... that is why Christ told us to take every thought captive. The difference usually goes one of two ways ... positive or negative ... good or bad ... that's bad (slang for awesome) or that is bad (slang for awful). So it makes sense to want to begin fresh and new because bad could become good and good could become better and better can become best. Good, better, best never let them rest until your good is better and your better is best.

Sometimes we seem to want to reinvent ourselves. When

things go bad, whether inflicted by consequence or by self, you want to be that other person with all of that life that you covet from the outside or you just want to be less of you and more of them.

However, most of the time I believe we don't want to reinvent ourselves we just want to start fresh. We want to make all things new. We even sell "newness" in a bottle to make your vehicle smell like new again. Still, we really do not prefer to just mask the effects of the ruins that lie around us, but we instead truly desire to just start over. I was always terrible at video games, but the games I excelled at were always the games where I could accumulate lives because 3 lives or even 9 lives was not enough for me. Multiple lives meant multiple attempts at those levels or scenarios that were most difficult for me. I could just reset. Wouldn't it be nice to have a reset button? Maybe ... but you know why I needed so many lives in the video game? Sometimes it was because of lack of skill or simple eye-hand coordination or simply put it was because I repeated the same mistakes. Other times I learned from my mistakes but just created, it seems, new ones. I was good at making at least something new.

That is where we are in life ... with one life we have to live. Give me many lives and that just means more lives that I have to ruin. Maybe ... just maybe ... eventually I would know how to live life with the appearance of success but at what cost.

It cost God everything to make my life new. Christ Jesus, his one and only son, fulfills the words of the Lamentations of the prophet. Christ is the love that consumes us so we are not consumed by the terrors of life. Christ is His compassion that never fails. Christ is the fulfillment of the faithfulness of God in His first and His second coming. How often does He show us this power of His will and love? Answer: Every Morning.

Morning is the beginning ..., the beginning of that moment ... the beginning of that thought ... the beginning of that second, minute, hour, day, year. It is the time when you decide ... are you going to let Christ make things new.

I am so glad that even though I cannot go back and be that father, son, husband, man that I should have been; instead, I can start fresh because every day God is faithful to make all things new.

I Do Not Need to be Reinvented (God made no mistake when He made me). I just need to be renewed. I am a new creation at baptism and a renewed person every day through repentance. You are given that new Christian smell everyday! A living sacrifice & pleasing aroma to our Father in Heaven! You are all the you God ever wanted. God's compassion and passion for you is new every day!

**From One New Life to Another
Happy New Year!**

Monthly Newsletter Published by Phillips Christian Church, Salem, Ohio

reflections..

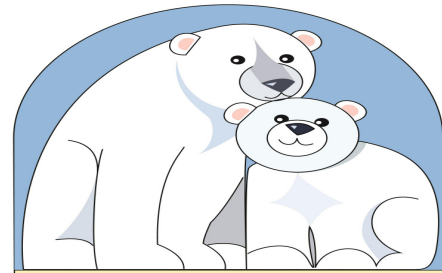
For the New Year

Hold fast to your faith (Hebrews 4:14)
Assemble with the saints (Hebrews 10:25)
Pray earnestly every day (1 Thessalonians 5:17-18)
Pray for great blessings (Malachi 3:10)
Yield not to temptation (1 Thessalonians 5:22)

Neglect not your talents and opportunities (Galatians 6:10)
Examine yourself daily (2 Corinthians 13:5)
Work diligently for the Lord (1 Corinthians 15:58)

Yield your members to righteousness (Romans 6:11, 16)
Exercise yourself in godliness (1 Timothy 4:7)
Aim for a perfect, mature faith (Hebrews 6:1)
Redeem the time (Ephesians 5:15-16)

—Gus Nichols



JANUARY CALENDAR

Jan 7th ... 8:00 am Trustees Meeting

Jan 14th ... 8:00 am Elders Meeting

Jan 21st ... 8:00 am Board Meeting



Perfect Attendance (December 2017)

Family FUNday School

Beverly Evans, Ben, Kim & Eli
 Fowler, Robin Janofa, Carol Kelly,
 Gavin Kelly, Grant Kelly,
 Carl & Judy Merriman,
 Cody Opsitnik, Missy Opsitnik,
 Gail Phillis, Jr., Mike Phillis,
 Rorie Reiter, Brenda Schmidt,
 Jack & Bonnie Vincent,
 Marty Shinn

What *not* to take into the new year

- **Self-help books** — Trust in God first; don't turn to him as a last resort. (See Proverbs 3:5-6.)
- **Tape measure** — Consider only God's standards; don't compare yourself to other people. (See Luke 18:9-14.)
- **Rearview mirror** — Don't live in the past. You'll miss out on what God is doing in your life now. (See Philippians 3:12-14.)
- **Gavel** — Stop wasting time judging others. Instead, pray for them, help them and team with them. (See Luke 6:37-38.)
- **Life vest** — Don't be overly cautious spiritually. Peter experienced Jesus in a real way because he dared to step out of the boat. (See Matthew 14:22-33.)
- **Garage-door opener** — We think we're networked but often isolate ourselves. God intended for us to live in community with one another. (See Hebrews 10:23-25.)
- **Handcuffs** — Don't offer excuses about why you can't help out. God can do amazing things through — and despite — us. Just follow him, with no excuses. (See Mark 6:35-44.)

—Gregg McCaslin



*Jan 1 ... Cindy Sawman
 ... Milissa Opsitnik*

Jan 5 ... Carolyn Reiter

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

**Happy
New
Year!**



3rd .. Lynn & Brenda Schmidt

16th .. Joe & Crystal Phillis

PCCRelator@hotmail.com

to submit relator content/reports and ideas

A simple act

Traditional thank-you notes are rare in this age of texting and social networking. But California lawyer John Kralik set out to change that. On January 1, 2008, at a low point in his life, Kralik vowed to send one note of appreciation to a different person every day for one year.

Although it took him a bit longer to reach the 365-note mark, Kralik's intentional focus on gratitude changed his life. "I saw how much I had been blessed by so many people in different ways," he says, "and acknowledging their blessings seemed to make them multiply."

After Kralik documented his experiences in *A Simple Act of Gratitude* (Hyperion), people wrote to share how the effects of gratitude rippled out. By the beginning of 2012, having written his 860th thank-you note, Kralik said he'd learned that "gratitude is a path to the peace we all seek."

"Big Thank You from the Cosma Fam"

Thank you all so much for your constant care and support over the past year for my ministry and my family. You have been so gracious over this past year with your gifts ... your gifts of cards, your gifts of food, your gifts of money, your gifts of compassion and caring, and most relevant to our ministry together, your gifts of yourself ... making yourselves available and using your multitude of talents and time for the work of PCC and the work of the kingdom. We thank our God every day for you! Now let's make all things new in others lives by multiplying ourselves and each of us leading at least one person to Christ in 2018. Our Challenge meets our collective compassion in Christ ... this we can accomplish because Christ would never ask us to do something we could not do.

In His Service,
Sheldon Cosma

I would like to thank Lucy Cosma, Kristy Dennison and Emma Jenkins for their devotion to Wednesday night bible study. Please join us at 7:00 every Wednesday night! -**Dorothy Faloba**



Wednesday Night
**Youth
Bible Study**



Dear Phillips Christian Church,
Thank you so much for helping out with the
Thanksgiving Giveaway! It was greatly appreciated.
Sincerely,
Betty Whiteleather
United Schools Community Outreach,



Thanks to the board for providing a new LED motion detector light in the carport and for the LED lights in the hallway.

"Thoughts of thankfulness for the special gifts God gives..."

Dear Friends,

We look forward to the Relator each month. Thanks for sending it. We are enjoying our retirement. Bob is recuperating from a stroke. He is back to walking and doing as he pleases. Right arm and hand need therapy.

We thought we would have a White Christmas but, the sunshine is helping. We had 8-10 inches of snow last weekend!

Merry Christmas from the "snowy south"!

Bob & Nancy Parish

"'Tis the season for feeling really grateful for wonderful people like you."

Thank you for all the prayers, visits and cards that have been received since Tom has been ill. We are still just going day by day.

Love,
Tom and Linda Miller



\$250 PCC Donation to Leetonia Schools!

There was \$250.00 given to Leetonia Schools along with a bag of gloves and mittens for the needy for Christmas. Thanks to all of you for donating!

A big "thank you" to all who participated in Christmas Eve services (morning and evening). What a wonderful celebration of Jesus' birth! Also, to everyone who helped make this season great. To the carolers who visited the shut-ins, those who contributed to the Christmas Basket, the decorators and to all who just took the time to be kind to one another and to strangers alike. **THANK YOU!!!**

PRAYER LIST

"Sometimes all it takes is one prayer to change everything" – copied

OUR SHUT-INS

Bess Staubs

Pat Kalbfell

Wanda Huston

Ada Bailey

Nita Floor

SERVING IN THE MILITARY

Joe Phillis

Joel Newburn, Poland

Kyle Stephenson & Family, Germany

Our Nation,

Our Congregation,

Lost Souls

Nathaniel Davis (immune system problems)

Bill Wiley (health issues, herniated disc, neuropathy left leg, back surgery home continuing to recover)

Debbie Ketchum (deaths in her family including her son who was on hospice care at her home)

Nick Cosma (suffered a fall, in, Copeland Oaks/Crandall Medical Center, for rehab)

Jean Fluharty (cancer numbers have lowered, continuing treatment)

Mary Lou Eberhart (health problems)

Steve Singer (blood condition)

Bill Bohannon (back problems)

George Faull (pray for strength)

Northeast Ohio Bible College

Horner Family at the death of their daughter, Tabby

Elizabeth Thatcher (health problems)

Zac Carter (facing lung surgery, starting chemo)

Baby Elijah (making small improvement in heart function)

Jim Webber (heart problems, doing much better)

Mandy Fitch (dialysis; needs kidney transplant)

Loni Grisez and her Family

Tom Miller (Caprice Health Care)

Dorothy Miller (Essex III, cancer)

Mary Long (COPD)

Richard Kelly (recovering from heart surgery)

Gladys Laughlin (health problems)

Winter Gift

"God ... does great things beyond our knowing. He says to the snow, 'Fall to the earth'; likewise to his heavy, drenching rain. He shuts up all humankind indoors, so that all people may know his work" (Job 37:5-7, NABRE).

Snow, ice and cold can make winter a hassle. "Snow days" due to a blizzard may thrill students but usually inconvenience parents. But now and then, winter blankets the earth so heavily that it seems to quiet everything. We're granted permission to hunker down at home, snuggle close with family or pets, enjoy a book or movie, make cocoa or cookies, and rest. It's like a surprise sabbath — the gift of grace-time — when no one's expected to get out the door or the driveway.

Perhaps indeed, as Job declared, God sees fit on such days to put our busyness on hold and shut us all indoors so we pause and remember his work — his place — in our lives. Praise God for snow days!

—Heidi Mann

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Sheldon Cosma, Minister

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Church: 330-332-4467

Email: phillipschristianchurch@hotmail.com

SERVICES:

SUNDAY

9:00 am ... Sunday School

10:00 am ... Worship

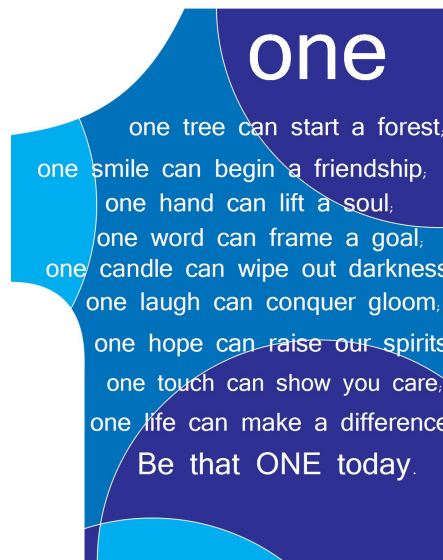
WEDNESDAY

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



www.phillipschristian.org



A child sat at his grandmother's feet as she embroidered. Looking up, he saw a mishmash of threads and ugly knots but no discernible picture or words. "Nana," he said with concern, "that's not very pretty."

"Come up here," Grandma invited, "and look at it from this side. You have to see it from my perspective."

"Oh!" the boy exclaimed then. "It's beautiful!"



Seeing the world from our human, earthly viewpoint, we can't grasp the masterpiece that God is completing. But when we finally see it from his perspective, we'll discover that the threads and knots all contribute to a beautiful work of art. That work won't be finished until

Jesus returns, but in the meantime, may God grant us an occasional glimpse of the work in progress — from God's side!

Resolve to revitalize

Church revitalization is a hot topic, and ideas for congregations can bring fresh energy and meaning to personal and family life, too. Consider the following tips:

- Have a clear vision. It's easy to go along day to day without considering what you're moving toward. Beyond the everyday routine, what bigger vision does God have for you? This year, take specific steps toward living that out.
- Ask questions. What gets you excited — even passionate? What issues or situations break your heart? What are you good at? Resolve to use a talent or something you enjoy to help heal hurts.



- Balance history with innovation. Honor your past as God's gift that makes you who you are, but be open to change. Dare to step out in faith for the sake of your life's mission. Try something new in the spirit of the God who's always doing a new thing (Isaiah 43:19; Revelation 21:5).

The best way to revitalize a church might be to revitalize the lives of its individual members!