



# January 2017 Newsletter

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## Bethel Wesleyan Church

Bethel Wesleyan Church exists to love our community and world with Christ's love, offering everyone His fulfilling way of life.

Volume 10 Issue 1

Jesus said, "I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full."  
John 10:10

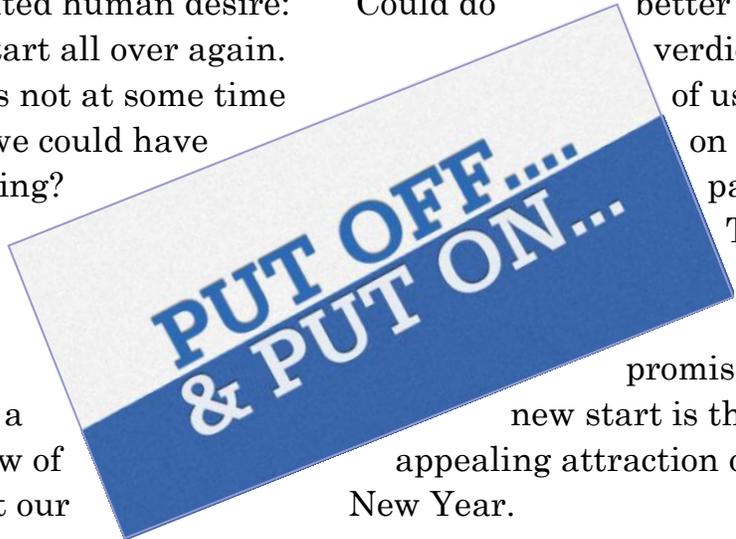
### PASTOR'S PEN

### PUTTING OFF THE OLD, PUTTING ON THE NEW

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At the end of December we often hear people say, 'I am putting off the old year and putting on the new.' It's a seasonal version of that deep-seated human desire: the wish to start all over again. Who of us has not at some time wished that we could have a new beginning? To have another opportunity at a day, a week or even a year? Very few of us can look at our

past without some sense of regret, some awareness that we could have done more that was good and less that was bad. 'Could do better' is the verdict most of us have on our past. This promise of a new start is the appealing attraction of a New Year.



*'You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness'*  
(Ephesians 4:22-24).

Yet there are problems with the hope that the New Year offers. For one thing, what we are does not conveniently end at midnight on December 31st, as if the passing of the year somehow wipes the stains off the slate of human nature. Indeed, much of the unease we feel when we look at our past is a result of the uncomfortable realization that yesterday's pattern is likely to be repeated tomorrow. 2016's mistakes will quite probably reappear in 2017. Far from being able to stride out bold and free into the landscape of the New Year, we find ourselves weighed down by hurts, habits and hang-ups. The New Year becomes not so much a source of new hope, but a cycle of repeated performance. In fact, many people are so aware of the certainty of their moral failure that the only resolution they can consider is to avoid resolutions!

Can we hope for a new life, whether at a New Year or at any other  
*(Continued on page 2)*

time? It is significant how little hope or help there is on offer. Biology coldly tells us that we are inescapably programmed by our genes to be what we are. The wisdom offered by psychologists and sociologists tells us that it is our upbringing or our culture that locks us into who we are. Reincarnation holds out the possibility of 'better luck next time'! Elsewhere in the religious systems of the world we find only a faint hope that God (or the gods) may – if we are good or lucky – overlook our mistakes.

If we survey the world of belief and knowledge we find the promise of genuine change is only to be found with one person, Jesus Christ. He offers new life in the fullest possible way. He deals with the past as God for us, giving forgiveness and in doing so preventing past failures from contaminating our future. He gives us encouragement for the future by offering us the gift of the Holy Spirit as God with us. We can travel unburdened and with God's presence into the future.

Interestingly, the origin of the wish to 'put off the old and put on the new' probably comes from something the Apostle Paul wrote to the church in Ephesus: ***'You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness'*** (Ephesians 4:22-24).



This New Year, with the assurance of God's help through the work of Jesus Christ and the power of His Holy Spirit, why not make this your resolution:

***'to put off your old self ... and to put on the new self?'***

We can't alter the past, but we can bring the past to the altar of God. So let's bring our past to God and embrace the future with Him into 2017 with anticipation and expectation for new beginnings and possibilities.

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## Join Us In January...



January begins new units for our kids' Sunday School classes where they will be learning about the life of Jesus and His ministry.

The adults will continue an in-depth study of Matthew that goes through February.

Join us in January as we ask, "What does Jesus cost?"

# Power Kids ~ Supernatural!



**Miracles, heaven, angels, and spiritual warfare** are part of a supernatural, spiritual world all around us. It's big, and it's invisible. We can learn about it from the Bible, but we will always have way more questions than answers. We can be okay with that when we trust God is infinitely bigger, greater, and more wonderful than our human minds can understand. He made this entire Universe, both physical and spiritual, and He's in control. **POWER KIDS** will be learning about this supernatural world this January!

## January 8:

### MIRACLES

KEY VERSE - Jeremiah 32:17 NLT -

"O ... LORD! You made the heavens and earth by your strong hand and powerful arm. Nothing is too hard for you!"

## January 15:

### HEAVEN

KEY VERSE - Hebrews 13:14 NLT -

"For this world is not our permanent home; we are looking forward to a home yet to come."

## January 22:

### ANGELS

KEY VERSE - Hebrews 1:14 NIRV -

"All angels are spirits who serve. God sends them to serve those who will receive salvation."

## January 29:

GOD WINS (SPIRITUAL WARFARE)

KEY VERSE - Ephesians 6:13 NLT -

"... put on every piece of God's armor so you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil..."

**POWER KIDS** is for ages 3 years through 5th grade and meets every Sunday at 10:45 am in the Children's Wing (behind worship area). Parents are asked to assist and/or encouraged their children in using the restroom in preparation for **POWER KIDS**.

**POWER KIDS** will end each week at 12:15 when parents are able to sign their children out.

On January 29<sup>th</sup>, **POWER KIDS** will join the adults for opening worship and a Children's Time with Pastor Doug before going to **POWER KIDS**.

[POWER KIDS staff](#) will have a meeting on Monday, **January 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30 pm.**

## Campaign 429 Challenge



If you look up "29er" on Google the 29er bicycle appears numerous times as the top result. Therefore, the 29er bicycle has become the inspiration for a special **Campaign 429** challenge to be received on January 29, 2017.

What we are looking for on that day is 29 increments of \$29 (29 x \$29 = \$841) per wheel (\$841 x 2 = \$1,682) for a **grand total of \$1,682** to go towards completing **Campaign 429**.

*Are you up for the 29er Challenge? Let's work together to fill both wheels!*

# Mission Moment

**Sherri Dodson**  
**Tohono O'odham Nation**  
**in Sells, Arizona**



Dear family and friends,

On December 30, 2008, the drive started to move from Maryland to Arizona, specifically the Tohono O'odham Nation. I enjoy thinking about it every time Christmas and New Year comes around. I am enthusiastic about being here and sensing His purpose in it as much as any time since arriving. . . .

I've been surprised how much I'm enjoying school. The instructors, the interactions in the classes, getting to know the other students, and the learning have been energizing. I just completed two more classes in this fall semester and will continue with two new classes in January. I'm at peace and satisfied in going to school part-time and continuing with life and

ministry outside of school. God is making a way and continues to affirm His leading and purpose in pursuing the schooling as a way to step it up in the work here.

I remain blessed to be with the other eight staff and twenty-eight or so clients of the day program. *I have been* freshly moved with a sense of purpose in being with them – to pray, to be His witness, and to skillfully serve. . . .

Many of you are already aware of some of the outcome of the God-orchestrated trip to Chinle, AZ for a Beth Moore conference. Through the generosity of a supporting church, about 20 ladies from the Tohono O'odham Nation were able to make this trip. It was impacting on each woman. They have continued to share what God has done – and continues to do – in their lives. We have been able to get together a few times since then to encourage one another and pray. We look forward to meeting again after the first of the year.

We get together as a field once a year to talk about the business side of our ministry. This year's meetings opened great dialog of where we are as a field. We recognize the clarity we need to effectively move forward. I came away from the meetings sensing it was about the best we've had and a heart to be praying specifically for God's leadership. I'm grateful to serve on our Executive committee through this coming year. ***Please pray with us that we continue the needed dialog to move as needed in His plans for us and contend as one for the faith of the gospel*** (Phil. 1:27, NIV).

It is challenging to be reminded that no harvest can come where seeds have not been planted. The account of Jesus' birth moves us to make room in our hearts for Him, and as the shepherds, glorify and praise Him for the things we have seen and heard (Luke 2:20). Please pray that we will plant Gospel seeds . . . every day.

I always wish my correspondence with you happened more often. None of these things would be happening without your support and involvement. I see your names on the financial gifts given and when sending out updates such as these. I think of you. Beyond a thank you, please share with me the sense of purpose in these days and being part of what God is doing. We serve Him together.

May we seek God and hear what He is saying. May we be blessed in serving Him and emboldened in making Jesus known. His second advent will come. May He find us watching and making ready a people prepared for Him (Luke 1:17, NIV). . . .

Much love to you all,

Sherrie Dodson

# The Great Date Night ~ Saturday, Feb. 4



**Saturday Feb 4**  
**THE GREAT DATE NIGHT**  
**with MARK CABLE**  
singer songwriter funny guy

Give yourself  
or a couple you love  
the gift of a  
Great Date Night

**EARLY BIRD** \$65 couple  
**After Jan 15** \$75/ couple

Dinner, Laughs, Dessert, Quality Time and CHILCARE Included  
Register at [www.dentoncamp.com](http://www.dentoncamp.com) or call 410.479.3316

Denton Wesleyan Camp  
Denton MD  
Doors open 5  
Dinner at 5:30



The Great Date Night  
Saturday, Feb 4  
Crowder Center, Denton  
Wesleyan Camp  
Doors Open at 5:00 pm  
Dinner served promptly  
at 5:30 pm  
\$65/Couple by Jan 15  
or \$75/Couple after  
Jan. 15 thru Jan 27  
Includes Dinner, Concert,  
and Childcare  
Register online at  
[www.dentoncamp.org](http://www.dentoncamp.org) or  
by calling  
410-479-3316

## Early Bird Registration \$65/Couple Due by Jan 15

\$75/Couple after Jan.15 thru Jan 27

### A New Year With The Lord

A new year is about to unfold  
With new opportunities to explore  
Doors will open for new experiences,  
New adventures with the Lord

Remember not the former things,  
The things of this past year,  
The Lord will do new things in us,  
Much more than we are aware

For He will make a way for us  
As we put our trust in Him  
And He will guide our every step  
By His presence we have within

What God has placed within our hearts,  
We find we'll be able to do  
If we look for the opportunities,  
We'll see the door to go through

We mustn't let anything hold us back  
But rise up and take our place  
And be all that God wants us to be  
With a fresh touch of His grace

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### Goldsboro Bethel Wesleyan Church

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E-mail:

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#### Sunday Services

**Discipleship Classes 9:45 AM**

**Morning Worship 10:45 AM**

**Power Kids 10:45 AM**

**Pray Together 4:00 PM**

**Coming to FAITH in Christ**  
**FORMING Christ-like Character**  
**FORWARDING Christ's Mission**

# January 2017



Bethel Wesleyan Church exists to love our community and world with Christ's love, offering everyone His fulfilling way of life.

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

**1 New Year's Day**



**Singspiration**  
10:30-11:30 am  
(No Sunday School)

**2**  
**Morgan Harrington**  
**Taylor Richard**  
**Virginia Jones**

**3**

**4**

**5**

**6**

**7**

**8 Resume Sunday Schedule**

Prayer Time 9:15 am  
Sunday School 9:45  
Worship 10:45 am  
Praying Together 4:00 pm

**9**  
**Christopher Leach**

**10**  
**Sydney Thompson**

**11**

**12**  
**Cheryl Jones**  
**Pastor Doug Morley**

**13**

**14**

**15 Regular Sunday Schedule**

Assimilation Meeting following Worship

**Early Bird Registration for The Great Date Night Due!**

**16**

**17**  
**JOY**  
Luncheon at Denton Wesleyan 11:30 am

**18**

**19 Jonathan Thompson**  
  
At BWC 2:00 pm  
LBA Meeting 6:30 pm

**20**

**21 Travis Gary**  
Men's Breakfast at New Life Wesleyan 8:00 am  


**22 Regular Sunday Schedule**

Prayer Time 9:15 am  
Sunday School 9:45  
Worship 10:45 am  
Praying Together 4:00 pm

**23 Kevin Covey**  
**Hazel Korell**  
**Mark Reichart**  
**POWER KIDS**  
Staff Meeting 6:30 pm  
Newsletter Info Due

**24**

**25**

**26**  
**Phil Lovell**  
**Logan Rash**

**27**

**28**  
**Harry Richard, Sr.**

**29**  
**Addison Jones**  
Campaign 429  
Special Offering



**30**

**31**  
**Harry Richard, Jr.**

**Looking Ahead**  
**Sat. Feb. 4 5:00 pm ~ The Great Date Night!**  
**at Crowder Center, Wesleyan Camp, Denton**

**Sun. Feb 5 ~ Super Bowl Party at New Life Wesleyan in Greensboro**

January Greeters Schedule: 8th - David & Barbie Semans, 15th - Larry Gary & Nikki Brown, 22nd - David & Mary James, 29th - Howard & Sandy Fitzcharles

Fruit Providers: 8th - Virginia Jones, 15th - Paul McMullen, 22nd - Aimee Walters, 29th - Michele Covey