



Ogden Dunes Community
Church

The Dunes News

January 2014

www.ogdenduneschurch.org

The Pastor's Pen

The tradition of making resolutions for the new year dates back to ancient Babylon. It was connected then with the New Moon, which signaled the end of the winter season. It was in 153 B.C. when the Romans declared January 1 as the New Year.

Today, many of us will begin the New Year making resolutions. Here is an example of the great revivalist, Jonathan Edwards, his New Year's resolutions.

Be it resolved, I promise:

- To live with all my might while I do live.
- Never to lose one moment of time, to improve it in the most profitably way I can.
- Never to do anything which I should despise or think meanly of others.
- Never to do anything out of revenge.
- Never to do anything which I would be afraid to do if it were the last hour of my life.

As we face the tradition of "resolutions" as Christians, we should remember three important restrictions from Scripture:

First, whatever we promise must be genuine, truthful and from our hearts. The Bible says: "Let your Yes be Yes and your No be No or you will be condemned." (James 5:12)

Second, God takes our vows seriously. When you make a vow to God, the Bible says, "do not delay in fulfilling it. God has no pleasure in fools; so fulfill your vow. It is better not to vow than to vow and not fulfill it." (Ecclesiastes 5:4,5)

Finally, God's requirements for our lives are both simple and profound. "What does the Lord require of you? To do justly, to love mercy and to walk humbly with our God." (Micah 6:8)

Inside this issue:

- The Best Gifts of 2014
- What is Stewardship?

Special Points of Interest:

- ◆ Bible Class
- ◆ Weekly Prayer



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Here are a few suggestions that you can include in your resolutions for this year:

Resolve to

- Close your book of complaints and open the book of praise.
- Be content with what you have and don't pine for what you don't have.
- Enjoy the simple blessings of life and cease striving for artificial pleasures of the day.
- Maybe the best resolution we could make is one that King David made: "Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit in me." (Psalm 51:10)

It is my prayer that God will strengthen you to keep your vows for 2014, and in return "you will love the Lord with all your heart, soul, spirit, strength and might."

Have a Blessed New Year!
Pastor Sewdin

The Best Gifts for 2014

The best gifts are not those we buy, wrapped in colored paper and adorned with tinsel, but those we give from the treasures of our hearts and wrapped in the intangibles of grace and goodwill:

To little **children**—Smiles of encouragement and words of cheer as they step, a little bewilderingly, into the first experiences of life;

To **youth**—A helping hand in their quest for good romance and adventure, without which youth cannot live;

To **old age**—some opportunity for dreaming dreams;

To **life and the things of life**—Some measure of devotion which will enliven the common ways and ennoble the common tasks;

And to **posterity**—the legacy of a good name and good work well done.

PRIMETIMERS NEWS

Come join the Prime Timers Tuesday, January 21, at 12:00 noon in the Church fellowship room for their monthly program and luncheon.

The luncheon will be catered by Town and Country. Join us and bring a friend. We welcome guests and potential new members. Please honor your reservation. If you have any questions, call Karel Kearl at 763-6493.

DIDuKnow?

Communion

Communion will be served for the New year on Sunday, January 5th.

Congregational Meeting

A Congregational Meeting for the election of office will be held following the morning worship service on Sunday, January 12.

Annual Meeting

Our Annual Congregational business Meeting will be held on January 26, 2014 following the morning worship. All members are expected to attend.

Annual Reports

Annual Reports from Committee Chairpersons and Staff are due in the office, in digital form (email, MS Word, etc.) no later than January 6th .

I am your church envelope

I would like to talk with you, for
I am part of your church life.
I may be a complete stranger to you, but
I can help you be a better Christian.
I like to go to worship on Sunday, for
I help you to be Christ's partner.
I am very small, but
I am the keystone of your church program
I am a weekly reminder of your daily blessings.
I dare you to be as good to God as he has been to you.
I am only paper; but
I carry the full gift of a generous heart.
I am the only pocketbook you need on Sunday, and
I promise not to be a burden.
I am your chance to preach, for
I am a silent sermon of your devotion.

What is stewardship?

Stewardship is not just raising funds;
It's raising Christians.
Stewardship is not a matter of budgets;
It's a matter of faith.

Bible Class

Look out for a mid-week Bible Class starting in mid January with Pastor Sewdin.



Weekly Prayer

For those interested in praying for the church and/or the community, starting on Tuesday, January 7th at 10:00 a.m. we will begin meeting in the church parlor for weekly prayer.

Sermon Titles

Sunday, January 5	Unlocking The New Year
Sunday, January 12	Losing our Spiritual Thumbs and Toes
Sunday, January 19	Great Things Come in Small Packages (Part 1)
Sunday, January 26	Great Things Come in Small Packages (Part 2)

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**Ogden Dunes Community
Church seeks to joyfully
lead people to the
transforming love of
Christ.**

**The deadline for the next
Dunes News is Jan. 15th.**

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January Refreshments



After the 10:00 am. service, refreshments, including coffee, will be available in the Fellowship hall following worship. If your last name begins with the letter of the day, please provide snacks of your choice. The host/hostess for the day will set snacks and coffee out for everyone's enjoyment after the service.

Sunday, Jan. 5
Sunday, Jan. 12
Sunday, Jan. 19
Sunday, Jan. 26

K, L, M, N, O
P, Q, R, S, T
U, V, W, X, Y, Z
A, B, C, D, E

Hostess

Patty Harbaugh
Jill Wirth
Claudia Kleyweg
Judy Spornick

Please call Jeri Kris at 926-8451 to volunteer to be a host/hostess for later dates.

