

(Cont from page 1) It is the kind of hope that breeds faith that leads to action. “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.” Faith and hope are closely related. What one hopes for (earnestly expects), for which faith is the substance (faith puts flesh on the skeleton – makes it real), provides the spark for action. We see that by faith, “he who plows should plow in hope, and he who threshes in hope should be partaker of his hope” (1 Corinthians 9:10). And we learn from Galatians 6:9 that we must not “grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.

In Romans 4:13-25, God promised Abraham that he would be the father of many nations. Yet, how old was Abraham? According to Genesis 17:17, Abraham was 100 and Sarah was 90. Genesis 18:11 goes so far as to say that Sarah was past the age of child-bearing. Yet, in Romans 4:17, Abraham believed in a God who “gives life to the dead and calls those things which do not exist as though they did.” In verse 18, Abraham, “contrary to hope, in hope believed.” In verse 19 Abraham (not being weak in faith) did not even consider his own body (though already past the physical ability to produce a child). Thus, he did not waver at the promise through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith in God (verse 20), and, as such, in verse 21, he became fully convinced.

We do not serve a “just struggle to get by and hope for the best” kind of God. The Jehovah God we serve today is the same God who guided Abraham. We serve a God who can do “exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think” (Ephesians 3:20).

As such, Biblical hope causes Christians to be transforming and triumphant in the face of tragedy and trial. 2 Corinthians 4:8-9 reads, “We are hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed.” Christians can display an “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me” attitude (Philippians 4:13). We can [rejoice] in hope, [be] patient in tribulation, [and continue] steadfastly in prayer (Romans 12:12), knowing that we have hope beyond this life which serves as an anchor for our souls (Hebrews 6:19). If you have lost hope or are on the verge of losing it, it is my prayer that you will think on these things.

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### —Snippets—

—**Reminder: Bethany Allison is asking for support for her missionary trip to Tanzania in 2015. Your help is greatly appreciated. Envelopes are on the table for your convenience.**

—**100 lotions and 144 pen & pencil sets were sent from West Side to ladies of India via Mark Reynolds.**

—**Collection of Box Tops for Midwestern Children’s Home continues.**

—**Farewell to the young people who were home for the holidays: Bethany, Kristin, Kassandra, Brittany & Caleb and so long to Norma P. and Norma H. who are our latest snowbirds, off to Florida Godspeed to each of you.**

### Ladies Singing

**All ladies are invited to join in songs of praise at West Side on January 11th at 2:30. Girls’ Year Round Song Leaders will lead and finish up their commitment to their project of year round participation. To all who have so faithfully supported the girls with their presence and their encouragement, thank you for your dedication. Come prepared to lead, to request your favorite hymn and to enjoy fellowship and the goodness of singing together to the Lord.**



# WEST SIDE WINDOW

Volume 21, Issue 1

January 4, 2015

## Think on These Things: A Path Called Hope

By Jim Palmer

*“But for him who is joined to all the living there is hope, for a living dog is better than a dead lion” (Ecclesiastes 9:4).*

The economy has faltered. The stock markets have crashed. By some estimates, more than \$6 trillion of wealth has been lost in the equity markets. Companies continue shedding workers like trees shed leaves in the fall. Atheists think Christians are stupid. Terrorists (and now, pirates) just want us dead. It’s sort of a bleak picture.

Yet, in Psalm 55:22, David could declare, “Cast your cares on the Lord and He will sustain you.” 1 Peter 5:7 reiterates, “Cast all care on Him because He cares for you.” Philippians 4:6-7 reads, “Be anxious for nothing but in everything with prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God which surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.” Easier said than done, right? Oftentimes, when times get tough, tight, or tenuous, we forget to follow through. But the passage really sums up the attitude of peaceful contentment (not complacency) a Christian can enjoy. The difference between contentment and complacency is that complacency means, “Why bother?” while contentment means, “Why worry?” It’s not that Christians are in any way exempt from trials or cares; it’s that the avenue on which we can address our struggles is a path named Hope.

What does it mean when we say, “He has lost heart”? It means one has lost hope; he is sick at heart and life has become empty and pointless. In Acts 27:20, during Paul’s voyage to Rome, a storm arose at sea and the crew saw no sun or stars for days. As a result, “all hope was given up.” Nevertheless, in verse 22 Paul encouraged the crew to “take heart.” He told them that hope remained.

Hope is the prescription for a sick, sad, disappointed heart (Proverbs 13:12). True hope comes from the Scriptures. Romans 15:4 reads, “For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope

On this verse JB Philips commented, “For all those words which were written long ago are meant to teach us today; that when we read in the Scriptures of the endurance of men and of all the help that God gave them in those days, we may be encouraged to go on hoping in our own time.”

This hope is more than just wishful thinking. It is a Romans 8:24-25 brand of hope: “For we were saved in this hope, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one still hope for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with perseverance.”

(Cont. on page 4)

### SERVICES

Sunday Bible Study —  
9:30 am  
Worship — 10:30 am &  
6:00 pm  
Wed. Bible Study —  
7:00 pm

### MINISTER

Michael Gors

### ELDERS

Mike Gors

Gary Reynolds

Larry Reynolds

Todd Stults

### DEACONS

Don Allison— Fellowship  
Kendall Clark- Benevo-  
lence  
Jim Clark-Visitation  
Lowell Huffman-Media  
Volker Jaromin— Com-  
munication and Ad-  
vertising

### MISSION WORKS

Russia & India  
Mark Reynolds

Memphis School of  
Preaching  
Armand Wine  
Ronnie Gootam

Southeast Institute of  
Biblical Studies  
Preaching  
Caleb Taylor

New Hampshire  
Laconia Church of  
Christ  
Shane Belanger

# WORSHIP FOR January 4, 2015

## MORNING WORSHIP

Announcements: Gary Reynolds  
 Song Leader: Jerry Hoyt  
 1st Prayer: Kendall Clark  
 Scripture: Jimmy Clark  
 "Col. 3:1-4"  
 Sermon: Mike Gors  
 "Out with the Old, In with the New"  
 Closing Prayer: Jim Clark  
 Sound Room: Jonah Stults

## COMMUNION SERVERS

West Side— Outside: Sean Bobo  
 Inside: Richard Messer  
 East Side— Inside: Bill Winemiller  
 Outside: Jim Clark

## AFTERNOON WORSHIP AT 1:00

After morning worship, a carry-in and devotional in the lower level. Followed by:

- Quarterly review by the Elders
  - Presentation by the Deacons on their prospective plans and duties
- Song Leader: Jerry Hoyt

### **GROUP 1 DUTIES, JAN 4 & 7**

Group 1 is responsible for all activities in the month of January.

Communion Prep: Kista & Elayna Reynolds

## Remember in Prayer

- Angie Dick**, recuperating from gall bladder surgery.  
**Bob Allison**, chemo treatments. Father of Don Allison.  
**Brett Rutherford**, missionary. Lesions on brain.  
**Doug & Sally Anderson**  
**Herb & Betty Smith**  
**Howard Goodman**, Heart and respiratory issues complicated by flu. Due to be released from St. Vincent Hospital this past Friday.  
**Jim Witty**, Doing well after surgery on ear. Able to drive again.  
**Jerry Anderson**, Uncle of Doug Anderson. Heart blockage  
**Judy Schuck**, Radiation treatment for cancer. Charlene's cousin  
**Kristi Tesmer**, Thymus removed. 3rd cancer surgery. Daughter of Shirley Durnal  
**Lanier Bailey**, Elder at Towne Acres. Heart attack. Patient at Reid Hospital in Richmond with placement of three stints.  
**Linda Bigler**, brain cancer.  
**Les & Sara Bonham**, brother and sister-in-law to Pat Kidd. He has Alzheimer's Disease and she has cancer.  
**Margaret Goodman**, Recuperating from long lasting asthmatic bronchitis  
**Mark Reynolds, Mindy, Abby & Corrine**, Will be In India until Jan. 17th  
**Rosemary Summers**. Stroke. Appreciates cards.  
**Rodney Lawson**, Lung Cancer. Now residing at Signature Health Care, formerly Muncie Health Care on North Walnut Street. Cousin of Kathy Harper.  
**Sandy Crawford**, Cancer and shingles. Wife of close friend to Kendall Clark  
**Sandy Phillips**, improving in strength.  
**Shawna Schock**  
**Kennedy Zade**, MRI scheduled. Dorothy's granddaughter.



## Remember our Shut-ins with Cards, Visits and Prayer:

- Bill Gaw-Westminster Village  
 Evelyn Vannatter-Elmcroft  
 Forrest Hurst—Elmcroft  
 Lana Blanchard-Albany Health Care  
 Vada Zeek-Willow Bend

### *Midweek Bible Study*

*January 7th*

- Devotions:** Larry  
**Song Leader:** Jimmy  
**Prayer:** Mike

### Attendance for the Week of Dec. 28, 2014

Sun. Bible Study	70
Sun. Worship am	118
Sun. Worship pm	68
Wed. Bible Study	52

## Happy Birthday

to

- Don G—Jan 10  
 Debby P—Jan 11  
 Rick—Jan 11  
 Keesha C.—Jan 11  
 Charlene—Jan 14



## What is Happening today?

**Jan. 4,** West Side's *New Year Carry-In* and afternoon devotional  
 At 1:00 in the lower level.

*This afternoon's program at Bethel Pointe has been cancelled.*

*No evening services today.*

## Looking Ahead



**Jan. 7,** Men's Breakfast at IHOP. 8:00a

**Jan 7,** Women's Breakfast at IHOP. 10:00a

**Jan 8,** Ladies Deep Bible Study for Dec. at 7p

**Jan 8,** College & high school Devotion at Towne Acres. 7p

**Jan. 10,** Bible Bowl at 7:00p

**Jan. 11,** Good Samaritans will meet right after AM worship

**Jan. 11,** Ladies Singing at the building at 2:30 p

**Jan 18,** Boys' Song Leading at 3p

### *Ladies Deep Bible Study Schedule* *for January*

- Jan 11th, Ladies In-Depth Bible Study for December will meet at 7:00p.
- January 29, the class will be back on schedule. 7:00p
- All further classes will be held on the last Thursday of each month. All women & young ladies welcome.