



"Astounded and perplexed, they asked one another, "What does this mean?" But others mocked them and said, "They are drunk on new wine!" (Acts 2: 15-16)



This morning, our online discussion of Acts was reflecting on the amazing events of Chapter 2, God's great gathering of followers on

Pentecost. People heard about God's Wonderful Acts in their own language and witnessed the Spirit fall on believers, like tongues of fire. Crazy, unordinary, surprising stuff!

I was struck by the two reactions quoted above. The former, a response of curiosity, wonder, and awe. It invites new knowledge and deeper wisdom. The latter, a response of judgment and carelessly tosses any teachability aside. One is open and the other, closed.

In this New Year, I invite you to stir up new levels of wonder, awe, and investigation into the world of God's Spirit. With a curious, child-like trust, take Jesus' hand, and explore a new reality filled with surprises and joy. Who knows, you may just discover your own Pentecost!

Happy New Year,  
*Scott* ❤️

### KEEPING YOU INFORMED:

- **Potluck!** 6 pm, Friday, **Jan. 19, 2024**, Rod & Connie Buxton's house (38686 S. McKenzie Pt. Rd., D.I. Questions? 906-493-5555). Bring a soup to share. Spread the word!
- **Bible Discussion Groups** (*No Bible knowledge necessary and the community is welcome*):
  - *Wednesdays*, 10-11am, On-line discussion of the book of Acts. Email the Church for the link.
  - *Thursdays*, 1:30-3. Discussion of Genesis in the Church Library.

### Reaching Out !



Winter is here and we've been **helping families** get through some financially challenging times through our Benevolent Fund.

Let folks know that our **skate lending program** will be back again this

winter. Have people drop by during Office Hours or call the Church for an appointment.

Scott, John, and Diane from the Worship Team led carols at the Clinic's **Lights of Love** in Dec.

Our 2023 **4th Quarter Missions Focus** supports the 2024 Missions Trip to rural Romania (see below). Collection will be Sundays, **Dec. 31** and **Jan. 7**:

**2024 MISSIONS TRIP CAN DRIVE!** The Romanian Mission Trip will be from the 3rd - 17th of October 2024. Cost will be around \$2200.00, which includes airfare, food and lodging. We will also be taking project money. This is money for paint, wood, windows, digging tools or any needed supplies. I have started a pop can drive, All cans {refundable and redeemable} need to be drained and bagged. We will take glass, cans and plastic. The Lighthouse Church and Northwoods Restaurant will let people drop off bags there. I'm checking into other drop off places. I've announced this at Lions, Homemakers and Senior Lunch and will continue to do so. It will also be in the Drummond Island Digest. I'm also thinking of a Yard sale. It's a real possibility. All of you can help even if you can't go to Romania. Bring in your cans and save your items for a yard sale in late Summer or Fall. Thank You Yours In Christ, Shirley Hollister 517-425-2836 or [ahappyheart46@yahoo.com](mailto:ahappyheart46@yahoo.com)

### 3 Things We Can Give to God This Year

As we enter into a new year, here is something to remember: When it's all said and done, we have three things we can offer God—our  
(over)



**treasure**, our **talent**, and our **time**. Each of these is given to us by God, and each of them should be given back in generous portions.

First, there is our **treasure**. I urge you to commit yourself to give faithfully and generously to the Lord in this coming year. [Jesus](#) said, "Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also" ([Matthew 6:21](#) NKJV). Whenever we put our money into something, we develop a vested interest in it. It makes sense to us that we would place our treasures where our hearts are. If we love reading books, or being entertained, or the latest technology, we spend our treasure on those things. And if our heart's desires change, that changes where we put our treasure. But it works the other way too: Where we put our treasures, our heart will follow. Do you want your heart to be in the things of God? Then put your treasures in the things of God! Develop a vested interest in God's kingdom.

The second thing we can give to God is our **talent**. God has gifted each believer in different ways. Everyone has something to offer for the work of the kingdom. [Romans 12](#) says, "Just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a special function, so it is with Christ's body. We are all parts of his one body, and each of us has different work to do" (NLT).

Finally, there is our **time**. Let's say that one day your phone rang and it was the president of the bank that you use. He told you that an anonymous donor who loved you very much had decided to deposit 86,400 pennies into your bank account each and every morning. At first, maybe that didn't seem like a lot. But then you figured out that it was \$864 a day. At seven days a week and 52 weeks a year, those pennies add up to almost \$315,000 each year! But the bank president added one thing: "The anonymous giver said you must spend all of the money on the day you receive it! No balance will be carried over to the next day. Each evening the bank must cancel whatever sum you failed to use! Remember, what you don't spend is lost."

That may sound like fantasy, but here's the reality: Every morning, Someone who loves you very much deposits into your "bank of time" 86,400 seconds, which represent 1,440 minutes, which of course equals 24 hours each and every day. God gives you that much to use each day. Nothing is ever carried over on credit to the next day. There is no such thing as a 27-hour day. It's called time, and you can't escape it. Time is ticking away right now. The Bible tells us to "redeem the time"—to make sacred and wise use of every opportunity.

Offer God your treasure, your talent, and your time. Live this next year as if it were your last, because it could be. Make those minutes count! - Greg Laurie

(From: <https://www.crosswalk.com/devotionals/new-year-devotionals/new-year-devotional-january-22.html> )

### January Birthdays

25. Mark Wenger

26. Diane Grefer

(If we don't have your birthday or anniversary, let us know!)

### ***Pearls Of Wisdom "Who I Am In Christ"***

*I am the apple of my Father's eye..  
See: Psalm 17: 8*

- Ruth Wise

**ARTICLES FOR THE FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER ARE DUE TO THE CHURCH OFFICE BY TUESDAY, JAN. 23rd (Email, if possible.)**



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