

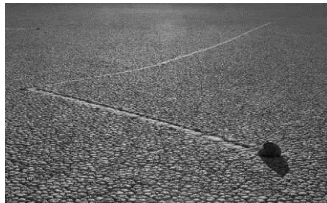
New Basel Church  
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[www.newbaselchurch.org](http://www.newbaselchurch.org)

**echo**  
New Basel Newsletter

**FEBRUARY 2022**

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In Death Valley, California, an area known as the Racetrack Playa has captured people's interest for years. The playa is a flat lakebed some three miles long and extremely flat.



Every now and then, rocks on the surface of the lakebed leave tracks, as if they

moved! As it turns out, these sliding stones are driven by strong wind when the surface of the ground is slightly wet. Catching these stones in the act, though, has been devilishly tricky, and it seems no one has actually been able to see them actually moving. Some have referred to them as 'living stones.'

In his first letter, Peter also refers to 'living stones,' but in a much different context. The recipients of that letter, a young Christian community living in what is now modern day Turkey, were having difficulty. They were facing opposition and hardship due to their faith in Jesus, and some were teetering on the edge of turning away from the faith.

Peter, who was also known as 'The Rock', wrote to encourage these people and told them a couple of really remarkable things that we still find encouraging and instructional today. "You, also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ." (1 Pet 2:5) There is a lot in this little verse worth exploring.

First, Christians back around the year 60, when this was written, did not have temples of their own. Jesus' resurrection was only 30 years prior, so Christianity was still in its infancy and they didn't have the massive temples (or even modest church buildings) like their Gentile friends who worshipped Aphrodite, Zeus, and the like. Nor did they have anything that rivaled the Jewish temple in Jerusalem. The reason this was such a problem was that up until then, people thought God, or gods, met people at their temple! Temples were where gods dwelt, and a city that had a temple was protected and purified by that particular god. Peter, however, shows that *we* are God's temple. When God wants to meet a city, protect a people, or purify a nation, he starts with *us*!

Further, Peter calls them and us a holy priesthood. This means that, in addition to being little mobile temples everywhere we go, we also perform the functions of a priest and should conduct ourselves accordingly, living holy and dedicated lives. We are to offer God praise, and also to lead others to do the same.

As Christians, we are living stones, to be used by God.

As we are built into little mobile spiritual houses, we allow God to speak to others through us, and to protect and purify a nation. Be holy, as God intends!



Grace and Peace,

Pastor Jamie

**New Basel Church Council**  
**January 2022**

Called to order at 7:05 p.m. by President Kenny Chamberlin

**Present:**

**Elders:** Kenny Chamberlin, Nicole Shrack, Pam O’Neal

**Deacons:** Holly Bethel, Francis Anderson, Mitch Cromwell

**Trustees:** Dwight Kamm, Austin Murphy, Gary Foltz

Pastor Jamie opened with a devotion

Minutes were approved

**Communications:**

Shiloh Ranch Ministries: Thank you for benevolence donation

Area Abilene Food Bank Thank you for our October donations and monetary as well

St Jude’s asking for donations

Neighbor to Neighbor: Thank you for benevolence donation

Salina Rescue Mission: Thank you for benevolence and a review of 2021 service they have been able to provide.

Community Foundation Grant was given to the New Basel Church

Christmas Card from Emily and Robby Haynes with a brief update on their family

Larry and Janice Haugh requesting to transfer their membership to New Basel

**Reports:**

**Financial Secretary and Treasurer:**

Pam O’Neal gave the Financial Secretary’s report for December.

Holly Bethel gave the Treasurer’s report for December.

**Pastor’s Reports:**

See attached Pastor Report

**Elders-**

Pam O’Neal reported 13 took communion on January 2nd.

**Deacons:**

None

## **Trustee:**

Possible insurance claim from wind damage on the west peak. Shingles missing on the roof. Kenny is going to talk to the church's insurance provider about the damage.

Kenny Chamberlin talked to Ron Pryor about doing the electrical work to connect the AC to the Parish Hall.

## **Old Business:**

Insurance renewal- Kenny Chamberlin will meet with our insurance provider to update.

New Basel Church's Christmas Eve Service raised \$753 for St. Jude.

Annual meeting meal: A-G ½ dozen double sliced sandwiches

H-Q Salad or side dish and R-Z dessert

## **New Business:**

M/S/C to pay bills that were presented. Pam O'Neal moved we pay the bills; Gary Foltz seconded the motion.

Memorial Committee purchased more Bibles for the pews; Pastor Jamie has them. The memorial committee will get them ready for the church pews.

Church Spring Cleaning will be discussed next meeting

“Popcorn ceiling repair”: the ceiling in the hallway and basement are flaking off. Repair will need to be done. At this point council tabled discussion till after our annual meeting

New Basel Church council passed to accept Larry and Janice Haugh's transfer. Holly Bethe moved we pass and Francis Anderson seconded the motion

Pastor Jamie/ New Basel Church received a letter from Robert Lee Briggs, inmate from the Segwick County Adult Detention Center. He is being transferred to Larned and will be there for several years.

Gary Moved that we do not participate with any correspondence with Robert Lee Briggs. There was discussion after the motion. Pastor Jamie explained that if anyone walked into the church, we have an obligation to teach them about God, however his motive was to seek out romantic companionship. After discussion a verbal vote was taken to not reply to his request.

## **Upcoming Events:**

January 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting Report Due

January 21<sup>st</sup> ECHO articles due

January 30<sup>th</sup> Annual meeting

February 6<sup>th</sup> Communion

February 7<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting 7pm

## **No Other Announcements:**

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m. by praying the Lord's Prayer in unison.

Nicole Shrack, Secretary

New Basel Church, Abilene, KS

Pastor's Report to Church Council - Pastor Jamie Bonnema

1/3/22

Work Summary for 12/6/21 - 1/2/22

**Worship** - Preached and/or led Sunday worship 4 times, Christmas Eve Service, 1 Funeral

**Administration Meetings** - 1 Church Council, 1 Funeral Planning Meeting

**Pastoral Care** - 2 Pastoral Visits (McAdams, Shouse), 2 Home Visits (Schrader, Snitker), 4 Phone Visits (Bethe, Fox, Kilian, Reiff)

**Other** - 1 AV Consultation (1.5 hrs)

Calls Taken: 2 (L Johnson: wreck notification, T Johnson: Worship Planning)

Vacation Days Taken: 5

Mileage: 45

To Do: Christmas Eve offering goes to St Judes

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♥ Happy Valentines Day ♥

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Eunice Pryor  
Elaine Bethe  
Naoma Foltz  
Harold Provance  
family of Don Reiff

Dwight Meuli  
Kelly Schrader  
Tammy Anderson  
Judy Lauer

# FEBRUARY

## Happy Birthday

2<sup>nd</sup> Janet Chamberlin  
 6<sup>th</sup> Duncan Reiff  
 10<sup>th</sup> Bob O'Neal  
 13<sup>th</sup> Nichole Taylor  
 13<sup>th</sup> Gary Foltz

15<sup>th</sup> Lynn Barten  
 16<sup>th</sup> Rick Hoffman  
 19<sup>th</sup> Deanna Stalder  
 21<sup>st</sup> Jennifer Barten  
 Austin Smiley  
 22<sup>nd</sup> Ron Pryor  
 24<sup>th</sup> Justin Beetch  
 Kayce Reiff  
 28<sup>th</sup> Ila Beemer

### March Birthdays

1<sup>st</sup> Shaila Miller  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Cecil Schrader  
 Carolyn Graves  
 3<sup>rd</sup> Marvel Meuli

5<sup>th</sup> Clayton Gfeller  
 6<sup>th</sup> Keenan Reiff  
 8<sup>th</sup> Kialyn Anderson

New Basel Women's Fellowship  
 Rada Fundraiser



Knives  
 Gift Sets  
 Utensils



Dip Mixes  
 Soups  
 Much More



Direct on-line link:

<https://radafundraising.com/?rfsn=3243470.7fdb15>

Accepting online orders anytime.  
 Thank you for your support!

## Greeters, Acolytes, & Ushers for February

### Greeters

### Acolytes

6 <sup>th</sup>	Dwight & Marion Kamm	Austin Smiley
13 <sup>th</sup>	Lynn & Julie Kauffman	Axie Shrack
20 <sup>th</sup>	Greg & Jolene Beemer	Blake Murphy
27 <sup>th</sup>	John & Peggy Meuli	Benson Smiley

February Usher: Kenny Chamberlin

*Thank you to Chris Bethe for being the January Usher*

Nothing can  
 separate us  
 from the love  
 of God.  
 Romans 8:39



\*\*\*No Sunday School February 27th