



New Basel Church
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echo
New Basel Newsletter

JANUARY 2023

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

So now that the holidays are over, I hope that everyone has had a chance to relax for a bit and exhale; to recover from all the stresses of Thanksgiving and Christmas and to settle back into a more comfortable routine. The beginning of January is a wonderful time, when the fond memories of children opening presents with glee and of sumptuous feasts with loved ones still glow warmly in our hearts, but still before our credit card bills arrive detailing the extent of our extravagance. It is now that I would like to ask a question. Now, when the shock of the readings from our bathroom scales has worn off somewhat, and while the lingering dismay motivates the vow “never again!” It is now that I would like to ask, “Have you been a good and faithful steward of the gifts that God has given you? Have you behaved as God would have you behave? Have you spent as God would have you spend?”

At least part of stewardship refers to financial resources, and at least part of being a good steward of the financial resources you have been given relates to **credit card debt**. The average American pays around \$2000 per year to their credit cards, and 1 person in 4 takes all year to pay off what they spent for Christmas last year. Credit cards enable us to purchase extravagant gifts we should not, and we waste money on interest rates. This is not good stewardship.

Another part of stewardship refers to the spiritual gifts we have been given. Spiritual gifts are things like leadership, service, and faith. For a more complete list,

see Romans 12, 1 Corinthians 12, and Ephesians 4. Spiritual gifts are not given to people for private benefit; they are for the betterment of the **believing community**. This means that if you are not using your gifts in your church, you should be! Share spiritual gifts with others.

This also applies to sharing money. Christmas seems to focus more and more on consumerism. The commercials suggesting that we buy a new car in order to ‘save this Christmas’ are some of the worst offenders. But being a good steward of our gifts means that we **avoid extravagance and luxury**, and that we place other’s needs ahead of our wants. As Randy Alcorn put it, “God prospers me not to raise my standard of living, but to raise my standard of giving.”

Sharing money is related to tithing, but it’s not the same. Tithing is the Old Testament command to return 10 percent of flocks and crops to God. Since we are no longer under the Law, we have Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit, and the priesthood of all believers. We have also been blessed with living in the greatest and wealthiest country in the world, besides the countless blessings we encounter every day. So are modern Christians supposed to tithe? "Let each one do just as he has purposed in his heart; not grudgingly or under compulsion; for God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Cor. 9:7). God leaves the decision up to you!

Make good decisions, and be a good steward.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Jamie

New Basel Church Council
Monday December 5, 2022

Called to order at 7:03 p.m. by President Kenny Chamberlin

Present:

Elders: Kenny Chamberlin, Nicole Shrack

Deacons: Holly Bethe, Mitch Cromwell, Francis Anderson

Trustees: Drew Snitker, Gary Foltz, Austin Murphy

Pastor Jamie opened with a Devotion

Holly Bethe made motion to approve the minutes. Drew Snitker seconded. Minutes were approved

Communications:

St. Jude's Hospital asking for donations

Salina Rescue Mission asking for donations

MAF asking for donations

Samaritan's Purse asking for donations

The HOPE Center asking for donations (local to Abilene)

Reports:

Financial Secretary and Treasurer:

Holly Bethe gave the Financial Secretary's report for November.

Holly Bethe gave the Treasurer's report for November

Mitch Cromwell made motion to accept Treasurer's report. Francis Anderson seconded the motion.

Pastor's Reports:

Work Summary for 11/7/22- 12/5/22

Worship- Preached and/or led Sunday worship 4 times

Administration Meetings- 1 Church Council

Pastoral Care- 6 phone visits, 1 Pastoral Visit, 3 home visits

Other- 1 Cross Talk video conference, 1 Planning Meeting, 3 Volunteer Reading (RCGS)

Incoming Calls- Kent (Scripture content/application), Abilene Termite (schedule), Brian's Plumbing (schedule)

Vacation Days

This Month:0

YTD: 14

Milage: 71 miles

Professional Development Days

This Month: 0

YTD: 14

Professional leave January 2-6th

Elders-

Pam O'Neal reported 39 took Communion on December 4th.

Deacons:

None

Trustee:

Austin Murphy- Brian's Plumbing replaced the facets in the basement bathrooms

Old Business:

Christmas Eve Program- everything is in order

Benevolent Funds:

\$1400 to Hollaway Family

\$500 to The Hope Center

\$500 to Neighbor to Neighbor

\$300 Salina Rescue Mission

\$300 St. Jude Children's Hospital

New Business:

M/S/C to pay bills that were presented. Mitch Cromwell moved we pay the bills. Austin Murphy seconded the motion.

Insurance Renewal will increase

Christmas Eve offering will go to Abilene Hospice

Annual Meeting Meal A-G dessert, H-Q½ dozen double sliced sandwiches, R-Z Salad or side dish

Confirmation Class will start January 15th. Easter Sunday the confirmands will then be baptized.

Pam O'Neal moved we adjourn. Gary Foltz seconded.

Upcoming Events:

December 11th Children's Christmas Program

December 23rd ECHO articles due

December 24th Christmas Eve Service 7 pm

December 25th Christmas Day

January 2nd Council Meeting 7pm

January 8th Annual Reports Due

January 22th Annual Meeting (after noon meal)

No Other Announcements:

Meeting adjourned at 7:54p.m. by praying the Lord's Prayer in unison

Nicole Shrack, Secretary

Women's Fellowship

New Basel Women's Fellowship met at the home of Janis Haugh on December 11th at 12:00 PM for a luncheon that Janis had prepared for us with Ila Beemer providing the dessert. There were eight ladies and Pastor Jamie and Larry Haugh present.

After an enjoyable meal, Janis led us in a fun game. We had all brought a dozen cookies with us and Janis read a story about how Santa had lost his bag and every time she used the word "left" or "right" in the story you passed the cookies to the person on that side of you. When the story ended you got whosever cookies were in front of you.

Janis had Peggy Meuli opened the meeting with devotions about an invitation to a birthday party for Jesus.

Everyone said that they had read the minutes in the Echo.

Peggy gave the treasurer's report. It was moved and seconded to approve the treasurer's report. Motion carried.

For new business Pastor Jamie said that a family at Rural Center could use a meal for Christmas to help out with expenses for the family. Peggy moved that we buy food for a meal for a family for Christmas. It was seconded and carried.

Clema moved we buy a popcorn machine that sits on the counter for the church to use. It was seconded and carried.

Janis announced that our next meeting will be January 18th and will be the election of officers.

Further announcements will be coming as to hostess and lesson leader in the near future.

Carolyn Beetch, Secretary



Prayer Requests

Elaine Bethe
Naoma Foltz
Harold Provance
Dwight Meuli
Cecil Schrader

Judy Lauer
Kelly Schrader
Tammy Anderson
Rodney Anderson
Judy Barten

Sunday School Christmas Party



Crafts



Games



Cookie decorating

**Youth Sunday School and
Confirmation Classes begin
January 15th.**

The Pastor Parish Relations Committee would like to remind members of the congregation if you or someone you know would like a visit or a phone conversation with Pastor Jamie, please notify him in person, via email: newbasel@tctelco.net, or by phone: (785) 479-5501.



Thank you for all the cards, letters, and gifts that I received at Christmas and throughout the year. Thank you also to Pastor Jamie for your visits. I really appreciate everyone's thoughts, prayers, and concerns.

Elaine Bethe

JANUARY

Birthdays

2nd Travis Beetch
 6th Jessie Hoffman
 12th Dalton Provance
 15th Gene Hoffman
 19th Carolyn Beetch
 Jen Reiff
 27th Benson Smiley
 28th Adalynn Haynes
 31st Randy Barten
 John Robson



Anniversary

January 25th - Seth & Judy Lauer

Upcoming February Birthdays

2nd Janet Chamberlin
 6th Duncan Reiff
 10th Bob O'Neal

Movie Night
 "Amazing Grace" will be shown at the church January 8th at 5pm.



Greeters, Acolytes, & Usher for January

	<u>Greeters:</u>	<u>Acolytes:</u>
1 st	Francis & Clema Anderson	Molly Hunnicutt
8 th	Gordon & Sara Hunnicutt	Devin Kamm
15 th	Kevin & Stacy Smiley	Austin Smiley
22 nd	Austin & Jessica Murphy	Farah Rothchild
29 th	Mitch & Kara Cromwell	Owen Cromwell

January: Chris Bethe

Thank you to Larry Haugh for being the December Usher



The Annual Church Meeting for New Basel will be held on **Sunday, January 22nd**. There will be a meal and then the meeting following service. Please bring the following if your last name ends in:

- A - G: Bring a dessert
- H - Q: Bring 1/2 dozen Double slice sandwiches
- R - Z: Bring salad or side dish