



Ogden Dunes Community Church

The Dunes News

January 2016

www.ogdenduneschurch.org

The Pastor's Pen

You Can Take That To The Bank

Promises! How many have you made in your life? More importantly, how many of them did you keep? If you are like most people, you've felt the sting of those who made promises, but left you bruised and battered by betrayal when they failed to keep them. The results are often catastrophic and life-changing.

Isn't it comforting to know that God never breaks His promises? Not one! Not Once! Not ever! We can live our life knowing we have a God who loves us unconditionally; One who has promised us a better life, both here and eternity, if we trust Him and believe His Word as found in the Bible.

God made a bold and daring promise to Abraham. He said Abraham would be a "father of many nations." But then came the time God told Abraham to sacrifice his son. Abraham obeyed. But wait a minute. What about God's promise to him? Just before Abraham was about to plunge the dagger into the heart of his son, God stopped him at the last moment. The final seconds.

Why is God like that? Why does He raise the stake so high? Because He loves huge rewards! He loves to say WAIT! Why? Because the greater the trial, the greater the blessings, the greater the victory!

Claim 2016 as your year of fulfilled promises from God.

- He called you and He will never abandon you in your time of suffering!
- As He has blessed you in the past, He will do it again!
- He prospered you before...He will do it again this year!

But everything seems hopeless, you say. Your problems seem to be bigger than the promise of God. Everything is falling apart. Things are going from bad to worse. But look past the circumstances, look past the doctor's report. Set your eyes beyond the facts and see that God is greater than your problems and bigger than your

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needs.

Remember that faith sees what God can do long before He does it. **Even when you are not sure, Faith Believes Anyway.** If you can see the invisible hand of God at work, He will certainly, do the impossible for you.

You can take that thought to the bank! It's true! "God is not a Man that He would lie."

Believe God for the impossible for 2016!!

Have a Blessed New Year!

Prayer For The New Year
"Just One Request"

*"Dear Master for this coming year
Just one request I bring:
I do not pray for happiness,
Or any earthly thing —
I do not ask to understand
The way Thou leadest me,
But this I ask: Teach me to do
The thing that pleaseth Thee.
I want to know Thy guiding voice,
To walk with Thee each day.
Dear Master make me swift to hear
And ready to obey.
And thus the year I now begin
A happy year will be —
If I am seeking just to do
The thing that pleaseth Thee."*

New Year's Motto
"A Beauty A Day"

A college girl who, as she tacked the New Year calendar to the wall said:

"It is going to be beautiful year!"

"How do you know?" asked her roommate.

"Well," she replied, "a day isn't a long time, and I know it is going to be a beautiful because I am going to take a day at a time and make it so. I will see that every one of those 365 days gets at least one beautiful thing into it through my efforts."

Her New Year motto could have been, in the words of David, "So teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom." (Psalm 90:12)

PRIMETIMERS NEWS

There will be no Prime Timers meetings during January and February of 2016. Our next scheduled event is March 15, 2016. Happy peaceful safe Christmas time to all. See you in 2016. If more information is needed, call Judy Petrou at 763-2186.

DIDuKnow?

Communion

Communion will be served for the New Year on Sunday, January 3rd .



Annual Meeting

Our Annual Congregational Business Meeting will be held on February 28th 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 15th.



The Best Gifts

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.

ONGOING INCARNATION

When Mary gave birth to the Christ-Child, she participated in an act of divine creation that continues to this day. Christina Rossetti puts it this way—

“What can I give Him poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring Him a lamb. If I were a wise man, I would do my part. O what can I give Him? GIVE HIM A HEART!”

But wouldn't it be wonderful if we can intentionally give the gift of forgiveness and grace? Through Christ's incarnation, sacrificial death, and resurrection we have received a wholly undeserved gift. “For God demonstrates His own love for us in this—while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” (Romans 5:8)

Because God has given this Gift to us He calls “to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms.” (1 Peter 4:10)

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Community
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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.**

**January Refreshment
Schedule**

Sunday, Jan. 3	F,G,H,I,J
Sunday, Jan. 10	K,L,M,N,O
Sunday, Jan. 17	P,Q,R,S,T
Sunday, Jan. 24	U,V,W,X,Y,Z
Sunday, Jan. 31	A,B,C,D,E

Hostess

Jayne Mann
Carol Smith
Susan Mihalo
Judy Skafish
Debby Bailey

If your last name begins with the letters of the day, please consider bringing something to share for about 8-10 people. The Hostess will be responsible for preparing coffee, setting out refreshments, and cleaning up for that morning. If you are interested in volunteering to be a host /hostess for a future date, please call Sue Squire at 762-1428.



**Medicine for the
Soul**



The physician phoned one of his delinquent patients: "Mrs. Taylor," he said, "I am sorry to tell you this, but your check has just come back." "So did my arthritis," she replied. And hung up.

The Church finances were tight, so the pastor took time to emphasize that it doesn't matter what you give but that you give. As the plate was being passed, a little boy reached out into his pocket and pulled out a penny and a quarter. And guess what— he gave his penny because he decided that's what the preacher meant.