

Ogden Dunes  
Community  
Church

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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.**

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**January Refreshment Schedule**

		<u>Hostess</u>
Sunday, Jan. 1	U,V,W,X,Y,Z	Sue Squire
Sunday, Jan. 8	A,B,C,D,E	Kathy Thomas
Sunday, Jan. 15	F,G,H,I,J	Jill Green
Sunday, Jan. 22	K,L,M,N,O	Lauren DeFauw
Sunday, Jan. 29	P,Q,R,S,T	Jeri Kris

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.



**THERE ARE NO DO-OVERS IN REAL LIFE...RIGHT? WRONG!!**

You can't erase the mistakes of the past but God can do better. He can use those mistakes to transform your life and give you an incredible destiny. Remember:

- Sarah as a Doubter
- Moses was a Murderer
- Rahab was a Harlot
- Peter as an Apostate...

and yet God transformed their lives in a big way. **THINK OF WHAT GOD CAN DO WITH YOUR LIFE!!!**



Ogden Dunes Community Church

**The Dunes News**

January 2017

www.ogdenduneschurch.org

**The Pastor's Pen**

Once A Hillbilly, Always A Hillbilly?

Do you remember Jed Clampett on The Beverly Hillbillies Show? What made the show interesting is that Jed and his family had been delivered from their past—a life of poverty in the Ozarks. Unfortunately, though Jed had “struck it rich” and moved into a mansion in Beverly Hills, he and his family continued to live in their hillbilly ways. Their location had changed but their mindset remained the same. The Clampetts’ past devalued both a valuable present and an invaluable future as far as their lives were concerned.

In this New Year, we can compare it to the Clampett’s experience. The mistakes of 2016 are behind us. Our failures, missteps—whether intentional or unintentional — are behind us. We are granted the privilege of a new page. A new year. A new slate. Untarnished. Without any blot. A clean heart. A fresh start. But we have to avoid making the mistakes of the Clampetts’.

The same was true for the Israelites who escaped from 400 years of Egyptian slavery. They left Egypt but Egypt had not left them. They stood on the precipice of a glorious tomorrow but because they chose to focus on the challenges they would face in the Promised Land, they grumbled and complained, wanting to go back to their past instead. They whined, choosing to look at life through their rearview mirror rather than focusing on the promise ahead.

When God delivered the Israelites from Egypt, He delivered them from their past and into their future — A Promised Land. Yet, because they chose to focus on yesterday, they missed their tomorrow. As a result, they wandered in the wilderness for 40 years before God could disconnect them from their past.

Many of us may fear that we have blown it. We have missed our opportunity. We have failed. Our fear that someone else has messed up our hopes to succeed. Yesterday is real for us. As a result, we can't get into our tomorrows because we are still carrying baggage from the past. Life has a way of throwing curve-

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**Inside this issue:**

- “A New Leaf”
- The Best Gifts

**Special Points of Interest:**

- ◆ Throwing Out The Old
- ◆ Sandpiper Pre-school Open House



But it is not too late. The Past is a cancelled check. It cannot be changed. But the future is ahead of you. There is hope. Don't allow the past to determine the future. Add God into the equation of your life and He will be your Constant Companion this coming year.

Have a Blessed New Year!  
Pastor Sewdin

### Throwing Out The Old

#### "A New Leaf"

*He came to my desk with quivering lip -  
The lesson was done.  
"Dear Teacher, I want a new leaf,"  
he said,  
"I have spoiled this one."  
I took the old leaf, stained and blotted,  
And gave him a new one all unspotted,  
And into his sad eyes smiled,  
"Do better, now, my child."*

*I went to the throne with a quivering  
soul —  
The old year was done.  
"Dear father, hast Thou a new leaf for  
me?  
I have spoiled this one."  
He took the old leaf, stained and  
blotted,  
And gave me a new one all unspotted,  
And into my sad heart smiled,*

Those inventive people, the Italians, have a custom. As midnight on New Year's Eve approaches, the streets are clear. There is no traffic; there are no pedestrians; even the policemen take cover. Then, at the stroke of 12, the windows of the houses fly open. To the sound of laughter, music and fireworks, each member of the family pitches out old crockery, detested ornaments, hated furniture and a whole catalogue of personal possessions which remind them of something in the past year they are determined to wipe out of their minds.

#### Sandpiper Preschool Open House



Please join us on Saturday, January 21st from 10:00a.m.— 2:00 p.m.. Meet the teachers and learn about our programs. Applications for the 2017-2018 school year will begin being accepted on that date. For more information call 219-775-4100.

### PRIMETIMERS NEWS

There will be no Prime Timers meetings during January and February of 2017. Our next scheduled event is March 21, 2017. See you in 2017. If more information is needed, call Judy Petrou at 763-2186.

## DID u Know?

### Communion

Communion will be served for the New Year on Sunday, January 15th .



### Annual Meeting

Our Annual Congregational Business Meeting will be held on February 26th 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)