

The Rock

January/February 2024



Revelation 21:5 ⁵He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!” Then he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.”

We’re at the cusp of a new year. One fable of the new year is that if you are awake to greet the new year, your past is forgotten, and you get to start fresh with the changing of the calendar. Of course, we cannot erase our past and decisions made, good or bad, will revisit us no matter what the date on the calendar says. However, there is a promise God makes, that brings new meaning to starting over.

In final chapters of Revelation God gives St. John a glimpse of the future. A future where our past is just that. According to the vision John is given, the old heaven and old earth have melted away and a new, fresh, perfect heaven and earth have been created. Sin, death, and destruction are gone. War is no more. Disease, crippled limbs are whole and strong again. Struggles with the mental, emotional, and physical no longer limit our days. Quite literally, the imperfect in the new kingdom will once again be made perfect as God initially intended before sin corrupted our lives. It’s an intriguing promise.

Have you ever stopped and considered what this promise would mean in your future? But more importantly, since this promise won’t be fulfilled until the eschaton, how can we start this new year differently? What changes can we make to not repeat the mistakes of the previous year? Could it be spending more time in studying God’s word? Being more faithful in our prayer lives? Slowing down and spending more time with family? Agreeing to take on some responsibilities at church? Volunteering at a community service agency? Being a better, more loving neighbor? Being bolder in our witness to God’s love and grace?

Until Jesus returns and ushers in the new heaven and new earth, returning creation to how it was originally intended, what changes can we make in our lives to be more faithful in our life in Christ, and have fewer regrets when 2024 comes to an end? God’s promise of all things being new is a wonderful promise to ponder. Until then, with the help of the Holy Spirit, we can make changes that will renew our lives and improve our relationship with God and others.

May God richly bless you in this new year as we look forward to God’s promise of perfection in eternity.

Pastor Steve

New Year's Prayer

A Prayer for a Christ-filled Year

Heavenly Father, There is no one like you and there is no one above you. You are Everlasting God, Alpha and Omega, Beginning and End. No one can fathom your wisdom or exhaust your love or match your power. Your Word says you give and take away, and you plan our places and seasons. Thank you for giving me another year. At the start of this New Year, four things I ask:

First, reveal Christ to me. In all I will do this year, show me Christ. When I sit and when I rise, when I work and when I play, when I read your Scriptures and when I walk in your creation, when I fellowship with others and when I am still, show me Christ. Your word says Jesus is the image of the invisible God, so when I see Him, I will see you.

Second, let me experience you. I want a close relationship with you—Father to child. I want to know beyond my current knowing what you are like, to feel your touch, to hear your laugh, to feel your gaze upon me. I want to cradle in your arms as you hold me through eternity. Align my spirit, soul, and body in holy affection. Your word says that in Christ, I am a child and heir of God forever.

Third, form Christ in me. Use your word and your Spirit and your church and your disciplines, and whatever else you choose, to build up Jesus in me. I want to decrease, and Jesus to increase, so that Christ is easily and abundantly seen through my life. Perfect me in Christ so I realize I lack nothing, even through suffering and triumph, grief and joy, fellowship and loneliness, action and rest. Your Word says that to live is Christ and to die is gain.

And fourth, get glory through me. If there's a way for my life to bring honor to you, and give you great joy and reveal your inexhaustible goodness, then may my life speak of your majesty. I want to turn my glories over to you, not reveling in the admiration of man, but instead serving the purposes of God. And not from labored obligation, but from wholehearted joy. As you get glory through me, you will turn that glory over to your Son, who is now and forevermore reigning at your right hand. Your Word says that in all things, Christ will have the supremacy.

Heavenly Father, I dedicate this year to you. Do with it as you will, do in me what you may, do through me what you want. For your glory and the glory of Your Supreme Son, in Jesus' Matchless Name, Amen.

January Worship Assistants

Assisting Minister

Marla Cody

Greeters/Ushers

Bruce Kiser, Nathan Hester, Wade Carpenter

February Worship Assistants

Assisting Minister

Wanda Huffstetler

Greeters/Ushers

Martha Pruitt, Mala Cody, Trent Cable

Note:

The first two people listed are Greeters and the other is Usher. All three will act as Usher for Communion.

Substitutes for Greeters/Ushers: Nita & Dan Setzer, Hugh Carpenter and Brenda Carpenter. Please let them know on Saturday if possible if you are unable to be in church on Sunday.

Trent and Trendon Cable will act as Ushers when needed.

January 2024

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 4pm Council Mtg.	15	16	17	18	19	20 6pm Oyster Stew Dinner
21	22	23	24	25 Widow/ Widower's Lunch	26	27
28 5:30pm Youth Family Night @Bethel	29	30	31			

January Birthdays

- 6 Dan Setzer
- 8 Jimmy Johnson
- 11 Martin Paul Carpenter
- 13 Maggie Engle
- 13 Helen Rudisill
- 16 Hugh Carpenter
- 16 Sue Sellers
- 17 Tyler Carpenter
- 28 Pat Chapman
- 30 Jody Kiser



No January Anniversaries

Dallas High Shoals Food Ministry

Food collections for January are: Soup, Mac & Cheese, Green Peas, Canned Foods. All food items may be left in the Narthex.

Of course, personal hygiene products and all canned and boxed food items are always welcome.

Buddy Wilson Memorial Oyster Stew

Saturday, January 20 @6pm

Please sign up and list how many will attend and what side, dessert or drinks you will bring.



February 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3 10am Cemetery Mtg.
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11 4pm Council Mtg.	12	13	14 Valentine's Day	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22 Widow/ Widower's Lunch	23	24
25	26	27	28	29		

February Birthdays

1 Matt Cox
1 Tony Trudnak
6 AJ Gould
10 Sue Carpenter
11 Jaxon Martin
15 Libby Carpenter
17 Harold Cabiness
18 Brett Raynor
21 Claudia Carpenter
25 Trent Cable
25 Mack Harmon
26 Terry King
26 Annette Poole

February Anniversaries

5 Harold & Gail Cabiness
11 Gerald & Pat Chapman



Valentine's Day, also called Saint Valentine's Day or the Feast of Saint Valentine, is celebrated annually on February 14. Originating as a Western Christian feast day honoring one or two early saints named Valentinus, Valentine's Day is recognized as a significant cultural, religious, and commercial celebration of romance and romantic love in many regions around the world,... [wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org)

Dallas High Shoals

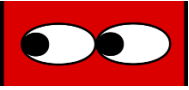
Food Ministry

Food collections for February: Canned Pinto Beans, Canned Meats, Canned Pork & Beans.

Of course, personal hygiene

products and all canned and boxed food items are always welcome.





Looking Ahead



2024

- January 14, 4pm Council Mtg.
- January 20, 6pm Buddy Wilson Memorial Oyster Stew Dinner
- January 25, 11:30am Widow/Widower's lunch @ BBQ King, Lincolnton
- January 28th, 5:30pm Youth & Family Night
- February 3, 10:00am Cemetery Committee Meeting
- February 11, 4pm Council Mtg.
- February 22, 11:30am Widow/Widower's lunch @ Hillbillies, Lowell, NC



Let Us Pray – It's Something We Can All Do

You may recall that last year we formed two groups - a Women's and a Men's prayer group at Bethel. These groups will resume meeting weekly to pray together on Wednesday, January 10. We will pray for our pastor and his family, our church, our community, and our world. We will also pray over the church prayer list and for individual needs. In fact, whether you are a member of a prayer group or not, you are always welcome to come or request prayer when you have a particular need or concern. Please call Nita, Terry, Libby or Dan.

The Women's Prayer Group will meet on Wednesdays at 9:30 AM and the Men's Prayer Group will meet on Wednesdays at 6:00 PM. Both groups will meet in the Educational Building and you are invited to join in even if you have not participated before.

If you cannot participate in a Wednesday prayer group, we invite you to partner with us in prayer by making time to pray on Wednesdays and agreeing with us.

To help guide your prayers, the Women's group will be emailing out a prayer format and scripture focus each Tuesday.

If you would like to receive this weekly prayer email, please sign up in the narthex. If you would like to participate in a Wednesday group, there is also a place to sign up for that.

Thank you for supporting the prayer ministry at Bethel. Prayer changes things!

Bethel's Prayer Groups Wednesdays in 2024

Women's Prayer Group-Wednesday 9:30-10:30 AM

Men's Prayer Group-Wednesday 6:00-7:00 PM

Both groups will meet in the Educational Building



2024 Widow/Widower's Lunch @11:30am

January 25, BBQ King, Lincolnton

February 22, Hillbillies, Lowell

March 28, Chick-Fil-A, Lincolnton

April 25, Pizza Inn, Lincolnton

May 23, Court Street Grille, Lincolnton

June 27, Country Kitchen, Dallas

Join Us for Youth & Family Fun Nights! Youth & Family Nights in 2024

Bethel will host the following
Youth & Family Nights:
1/28 @ 5:30: 3/17 @ 5:30
9/29 @ 5:30: 12/15 @ 5:30

Antioch will host the following
Youth & Family Nights:
Feb (date TBD): May (date TBD)
Oct (date TBD): Nov (date TBD)

As usual, kids of all ages and their parents are invited to attend for dinner, a short study time / lesson, and a craft / activity.

We will take field trips in April and August, likely to sing at nursing home(s). Is anyone interested in leading a short Bible study / devotional for participating adults at Youth & Family Nights? We'd like to start offering something for adults who attend Youth & Family Nights in 2024. Please be praying about this and see how God may lead you to help. Please see Kimberly Carpenter if you're interested in helping.

Cemetery Committee Meeting

Date: February 3 @ 10 am

Discussions include:

- 1) Amendments for interment of cremains
- 2) Consider addition of Columbarium
- 3) Discuss needed contract work to repair broken headstones, leveling and moving footstones.
- 4) Schedule work day to clean concrete plot markers of dirt and overgrowth.

Dan Setzer

Historic Church Committee

If you would be willing to serve on the Historic Church Committee, please let Pr. Steve or Robert Carpenter know. We would like to set up a plan for 2024 to begin some additional restoration on the church and need your help in putting together a plan. Thanks to the many who have continued to support our Building fund to finance this restoration. Please consider being a part of this important endeavor.

Tithes/Offerings

If you are not able to attend church, you may mail your tithes/offerings check to:

Wanda Huffstetler
3535 NC Hwy 27 West

The Rock Newsletter

Please email any announcements, recipes you would like to share or articles of interests to Donna Setzer at:

donnalsetzer@gmail.com

Also please send all updated b'days/anniversaries and changes in phone numbers, addresses, email address, etc.

I get the birthday and anniversary dates from the last Congregational Photo Directory, please check to be sure your info is correct, if it isn't correct let me know.

Thank you!

Please add the following changes to your address book:

Barbara West

Terrace Ridge Asst. Living
1251 Hudson Blvd.
#311
Gastonia, NC 28054

Vincent Chester

203 Fulton Street
Kings Mountain, NC 28086

Reverend Steven King

Email: steven@pastorstevenking.com

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