

**PRAYERS**

**Richard** – Father of Valerie Brist – He has kidney issues

**Donna Melhoff** – diagnosed with advanced cancer

Several of our number have been sick with colds and flu.

**Congregation News:**

Next Sunday is Potluck. Please bring a dish to share for the meal. Also, plan to stay for the afternoon singing service.

**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:** Why is that the man who invests all your money is called a broker?

**Those Privileged to Serve**

**Sunday Morning Service:**

**1/13/19**

**1/20/19**

Bible Class	Tom Bright	Paul Darling
Announcements	Paul Darling	Paul Darling
Song Leader	Tom Bright	Paul Darling
Opening Prayer	Paul Darling	Paul Darling
Lord's Supper	Paul Darling	Colby Crawford
Closing Prayer	Colby Crawford	Colby Crawford
Sermon	Colby Crawford	Colby Crawford

<b>Bible Classes</b>	<b>Sunday Morning</b>	<b>Wednesday Evening</b>
Adult	Tom Bright	Tom Bright
Children	Colby Crawford	Linda McBrayer
Toddlers	Cindy Bright	
Babies	Anissa Crawford	

<b>Birthdays &amp; Anniversaries</b>	<b>Building Cleanup</b>
	McBrayer

<p><b>Aberdeen church of Christ</b>  <b>1801 S. Lincoln St.</b>  <b>Aberdeen, SD 57401</b>  <b>605-225-3621</b>  <a href="http://www.aberdeenchurchofchrist.net">www.aberdeenchurchofchrist.net</a></p>	<p><b>Bulletin Submissions</b>          If you would like anything added to the bulletin such as prayer requests, news, or events, please make submissions by Friday night to: <a href="mailto:tlbj@sbcglobal.net">tlbj@sbcglobal.net</a></p>
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# Aberdeen church of Christ

January 13, 2019

## Now

Jesus said in **Luke 6:21**, *“Blessed are ye that hunger now: for ye shall be filled. Blessed are ye that weep now: for ye shall laugh.”* Paul wrote, *“...behold, now is the acceptable time; behold, now is the day of salvation” (2 Cor. 6:2)*. Again and again God comes to us in His Word, telling us that now is the time to serve--a much needed antidote to human tendency to procrastinate. The truth about far too many of us is that in many vital areas of life, we wait too long.

We often wait too long to do what must be done today, in a world that gives us only one day at a time--without any assurance of tomorrow. While lamenting that our days are few, we act as though we have an endless supply of time. We do not!

We sometimes wait too long to discipline ourselves and take charge of our lives. We feed ourselves on the vain delusion that it will be easier to die to our sins and grow in Christlikeness...tomorrow!

We many times wait too long to be kind and generous. Too much of our giving is delayed until much of the need has passed and the joy of giving has been largely diminished. A magazine cartoon once showed two old women dressed in rags shivering over a meager fire. One asks, “What are you thinking about?” The other answers, “About the nice warm clothes the rich people will be giving to us next summer.” Do you give warm clothes in the summer--when they are not needed? How much better to help the cold and the hungry in the time of their need!

We can wait too long to be parents to our children--forgetting how brief is the time that we have to teach and train them. We can also wait too long to express our love for our parents, siblings and other dear ones.

We can wait too long to read God’s Word that is able to save us. **James 1:19** says, *“...and receive with meekness the engrafted word which is able to save your souls.”* We often wait too long to render obedience to the commandments of God found in the Bible.

God, too, is waiting--waiting for us to stop waiting and to begin to do now all the things which this day and this life have given to us. Some folks are always living in the past--always yesterday; while others are trying to live in the future--always tomorrow. Please don’t make that mistake. Live in the now--that’s all we have. We have just begun a New Year. NOW is the time for us to do!

## Old Paths for a New Year

2018 is history. Twelve months have passed since the last time we bid farewell to the Old Man of the past year, and we find ourselves once again standing at the threshold of another year. Looking in two directions, we reflect on the old year with its joys and sorrows, its successes and failures, and we look forward to the new year with its storehouse of opportunities and uncertainties. As we enter the new year, the words of Jeremiah come to mind: "Thus saith Jehovah, Stand ye in the ways and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way" (Jer. 6:13a). The faithful adhered to the plea. Unfortunately, there were those in Jeremiah's day, as there are in ours, who said, "We will not walk therein." Rebellion is not peculiar to modern man. Someone once noted:

The age of the path does not assure its being good, for sin and error are almost as old as mankind. The old paths must not be confused with just any old path. As many mistakes are made by blindly following an old path as by blindly striking out on a new one (my source on this quote was not provided when I recorded it in my notes).

There is a great temptation with every generation to consider tradition as equivalent to the "old paths." I have great admiration for the reformers and restorers of a bygone era, but they are not the authority and they do not determine the path in which we are to walk. For those of us living this side of the cross, the "old paths" are those trod by our Lord and His apostles, and clearly defined and marked by the inspired writers of the New Testament. It is a proud and egotistical generation that says, "We will not walk therein." On the other hand, it is faith which manifests itself in loyalty to God and Jesus that submits and obeys. Walking in the old paths will not be easy. It never has been. The further society moves away from God, the more the old paths will be ridiculed. Intellectual snobbery will seek to dispense with the "legalism" of the ancient gospel, and the old will be replaced with the "new." Change in doctrine will give way to the collapse of moral absolutes, acceptance of situation ethics, and even more relativism and political correctness.

As we enter this New Year, let us determine that we will walk in the "old paths." More than twenty-five years ago, brother Morris Thurman wrote the following advice:

The old paths will continue to be difficult to travel. They are steep, ever leading toward God; they are thorny, hedged about with the cares, riches

and pleasures of this life; and they are straight, narrow, and unpopular, traveled only by the few that find them. But stand, see and ask, that the old paths, the good way, may be found and walked, 'and ye shall find rest for your souls.

I wrote the following many years ago. I share it again with our readers by request:

### I am the New Year

I am the new year; three hundred and sixty-five days of unspotted, unspoiled, and unused time. I am a clean slate of opportunity, a reflection of what MIGHT BE rather than what HAS BEEN. My diary contains unlimited resolutions, once made in earnest and then broken in haste. I am the fresh breeze of opportunity that blows across the fields of yesterday's broken and forgotten promises. My features are a mystery, for no one can tell what is in store for tomorrow. Each day brings new insight to what I will be after I have completed my journey. I am the opportunity to achieve those things which for some reason or another were left undone in the previous year. To the financier, I am interest accumulated at a fixed percentage rate. To a student, I am that one step closer toward receiving an education. To the small child, I am another summer camp, Thanksgiving holiday, or Christmas wish. To a parent, I contain the joy of watching a child grow and mature. To the young, I am dreams and hopes dressed in daily determination. The youngster wonders why I do not come around more often; the aged wonder why I come so often. For some, this year will bring unparalleled opportunities. For others, it will bring disaster and ruin. To all, it will bring us twelve months closer to eternity.

### Welcome to our Assembly. . .

Whether you are a first time visitor or a long time member of this congregation, we are happy to have you with us this morning. For those visiting, please make yourself comfortable. A good deal of information about this church and its activities can be found on this sheet. We encourage and invite anyone interested to participate in the activities offered throughout the week. If you have any questions about the facilities, our worship service, or want more information about the church, feel free to ask anyone present. Someone will be glad to help you!