

Mountain Echoes



Newsletter of First Baptist Church of Gatlinburg
January 1, 2019

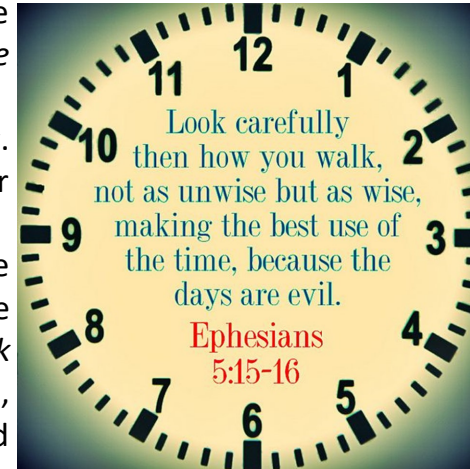
FROM OUR PASTOR

I seem to be almost painfully aware of the passage of time these days. And I know why. In fact, there are many legitimate reasons.

First of all, some important milestones have been passed in my family during December. On December 18th our only Grandchild, Brer, became a two-year-old. Next, Cheryl and I celebrated our 48th wedding anniversary on December 19 (I know what some of you are thinking, that I may have celebrated but you're fairly certain that Cheryl was in mourning). Then, on December 20, our oldest child, Barrett, celebrated his 43rd birthday. On all three occasions Cheryl and I made the usual remarks: *I can't believe how many years have passed, Where has the time gone?, and It only seems like yesterday that...*

Now, add to the above the annual occurrences that are taking place right now. Christmas has come and gone. We will enter the year 2019 in just a few days. No wonder the rapid passage of time has hit me like the proverbial ton of bricks!

To be made aware of time's passing is to be challenged to use our time wisely. The author of the hymn, *Softly and Tenderly*, acknowledged time's passing as he penned the words, *Time is now fleeting, the moments are passing...* The Apostle Paul instructs, *Look carefully how you walk, ...making the most of the time...* (Eph. 5:15-16). As Christians, these words should remind us to thank God for our time and challenge us to be good stewards of the time which God has allotted.



Speaking of transitioning from the old year to the new, let me remind you of our schedule at FBC Gatlinburg for the next couple of weeks. On December 30 we will have only the 11:00 a.m. worship service (no 8:45 a.m. service or Sunday School). There will be no Wednesday evening activities on January 2. We will return to our full schedule of Sunday activities on January 6. By the way, January 6 is the Christian day known as *Epiphany*. Epiphany, which means *revelation* or *manifestation*, is a joyous season when Christians celebrate the sending of God's light to the whole world. January 9 marks the resumption of our full Wednesday evening schedule beginning with our fellowship meal at 5:30 p.m.

May you know God's peace in 2019 as never before. I wish for you a blessed and happy new year. And may God help each of us to use this year of time to fulfill God's purpose in both our individual lives and our church.

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Special Thanks,

...to everyone who purchased the beautiful poinsettias for this year's Christmas season. They added so much beauty to our sanctuary during the Advent season.

STEWARDSHIP REPORT (\$10,379.82 needed weekly to meet budget)

December 2, 2018

General Fund	\$9,046.00
SCFM	\$390.00
Poinsettias	\$140.00
TN CBF Missions	\$145.00
LMCO	\$265.00
New Building	\$1,356.00
Offering Envelopes	\$2.00

December 9, 2018

General Fund	\$7,647.00
Meal for Many	\$1,100.00
Tools	\$10.00
TN CBF Missions	\$185.50
LMCO	\$340.50
Youth Trips	\$50.00
New Building	\$5,433.00
Offering Envelopes	\$2.00

December 16, 2018

General Fund	\$15,059.97
SCFM	\$70.00
Meal for Many	\$200.00
TN CBF	\$377.00
LMCO	\$477.00
New Building	\$1,0835.00
Offering Envelopes	\$2.00

December 23, 2018

General Fund	\$44,183.05
Mountain Hope	\$25.00
TN CBF Missions	\$370.00
LMCO	\$570.00
New Building	\$21,525.00

December 24, 2018

General Fund	\$997.33
Missions Committee	\$1,052.33
SCFM	\$150.00
TN CBF	\$526.17
LMCO	\$556.17

