



## STANDING ON THE EDGE

Happy New Year! Yes, I know it's early December. Yes, I know we are still a month out from the descent of the giant crystal ball in Times Square signifying the change of the calendar year. Of course, I'm aware that we haven't even celebrated Christmas yet! Still, I want to say Happy New Year! And, of course, as Christians we know that the calendar we follow, the liturgical or church calendar, is slightly different from the chronological calendar that we use to determine when to go to the doctor or when to make the house payment or when to pay the IRS or when to go to school or to work, or even exactly when to drop the giant crystal ball! That liturgical year began last Sunday, November 27<sup>th</sup>, the First Sunday in Advent. And, of course, the purposes of the calendars are different – one deals with time and the other deals more or less with timeless things, e.g., the birth of Christ and the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ, things that we believe have a kind of universal significance that overshadows the IRS, the car payment, the doctor, and so on. So again, Happy New Year to you at the beginning of the New Year that may be the primary New Year for us Disciples!

***“How come we don't make New Year Resolutions at the beginning of the liturgical year like we traditionally do at the beginning of the calendar year?”***

Now, having wished us all a happy new year, I want to move on to a question that came to my mind as I mentally contrasted the two New Years discussed here. That is, **“How come we don't make New Year Resolutions at the beginning of the liturgical year like we traditionally do at the beginning of the calendar year?”** Maybe it's just not our habit so we don't even think about it. I will confess that it wasn't on my radar screen last week. Was it on yours? But could it be that more than

## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS



- 3<sup>RD</sup>: BLAKE BOLLING**  
4841 Nelms Lane NE  
Roanoke, VA 24019  
540-400-8957
- 3<sup>RD</sup>: CAROL MICHIE**  
4700 Grassy Hill Rd.  
Boones Mill, VA 24065  
540-397-6500
- 3<sup>RD</sup>: BRAXTON NICHOLS**  
110 Ikenberry Road  
Boones Mill, VA 24065  
540-580-9449
- 15<sup>TH</sup>: OLIVIA MICHIE**  
4700 Grassy Hill Rd.  
Boones Mill, VA 24065  
540-397-6500
- 15<sup>TH</sup>: MICHAEL SIMS**  
419 Valley Drive  
Durham, NC 27740  
rose41ws@gmail.com
- 23<sup>RD</sup>: JONI BISHOP**  
jjjbishop@fuse.net
- 25<sup>TH</sup>: SAMANTHA DAVIS**  
P.O. Box 145  
Boones Mill, VA 24065  
540-238-3166
- 29<sup>TH</sup>: GEORGE MARSHALL**  
12 Crestwood Drive  
Boones Mill, VA 24065  
540-334-3969

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oversight is going on with us? Maybe we sense, or maybe we just know, how really important the liturgical New Year is and so, in an attempt to not trivialize it, we don't make resolutions. After all, we likely all have violated a resolution or two just days or weeks after making them. And if we haven't had that experience ourselves, we at least know all the jokes about not keeping our New Year resolutions, don't we?

Pat has a series of tiles on her wall at work that come to mind as I write this. They are an adaptation and illustration of a poem by Guillaume Apollinaire:

## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS



**30<sup>TH</sup>: ROGER MIDDAUGH**  
418 Dugwell Road  
Boones Mill, VA 24065  
540-597-7581

**30<sup>TH</sup>: DIXIE SHEARER**  
60 Taliaferro Street  
Rocky Mount, VA 24151  
540-352-8020

**30<sup>TH</sup>: JOE ROBERTS**  
2513 S. Clearing Road  
Salem, VA 24153  
540-330-0452

**HAPPY  
BIRTHDAY  
Y'ALL!**

***"Come to the edge," she said.  
"We can't, we're afraid!" they responded.  
"Come to the edge," she said.  
"We can't, We will fall!" they responded.  
"Come to the edge," she said.  
And so they came.  
And she pushed them.  
And they flew!***

And here is the connection I make to our New Year: I believe God says to us all the time, but especially as we begin this new season, "Come to the edge of your future with me, people of God." And our response is that we are afraid of the unknown and that we will possibly get hurt. God insists. We cave. God gives us a little shove forward and we fly! What a step of faith this would be but what a reward there would be! Don't hesitate, O people of God. Let's come to the edge of this New Year making one resolution, an important one, but only one resolution: that is that we will trust and follow God even when the way is unknown and the outcome seems uncertain. If we don't, we will never know we can fly. Again, Happy New Year! May it be a blessed one full of life and adventure because we trust God is leading us over the edge!

*Pastor Joe*

## **DON'T FORGET!!!**

- Throughout Advent our children are learning the meaning of Advent and lighting the Advent Candles and singing special music each week under the direction of Faye Evans. Please join us for worship as we await the coming of God into our world.
- Linda Moore reminds us that we must re-sign up every year for the church to benefit from our Kroger Plus Card purchases through the Kroger Community Rewards Program. **It doesn't affect our fuel discounts, etc. It does get the church a few extra dollars every year!** You simply go to <https://www.kroger.com/account/communityrewards/enroll> and "connect" your card to Boones Mill Christian Church – our # is 82675. Thanks!
- Our current plan is to have a brief devotional time at 11:00 AM on Christmas morning rather than a normal worship service as we will have just celebrated Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion the evening before. We will have coffee, juice, and donuts.

# BMCC December 2016



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
<b>SECOND ADVENT 4</b> ELDERS @8:15 STUDY @ 9:15 AM WORSHIP @ 10:30 AM DISTRICT IV ADVENT SERVICE @ 4:00 PM IN MARTINSVILLE	5	6	7 CHOIR PRACTICE 7:30 PM	8	9	10
<b>THIRD ADVENT 11</b> STUDY @ 9:15 AM WORSHIP @ 10:30 AM	12	13	14 CHOIR PRACTICE 7:30 PM	15	16	17 NO FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST THIS MONTH!
<b>FOURTH ADVENT 18</b> STUDY @ 9:15 AM WORSHIP @ 10:30 AM	19	20	21 CHOIR PRACTICE 7:30 PM	22	23	24 CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE 6:30 PM
25 CHRISTMAS MORNING DEVOTIONAL 11:00 AM	26	27	28 CHOIR PRACTICE 7:30 PM	29	30	31