

January News 2021...

From the Pastor's Pen"

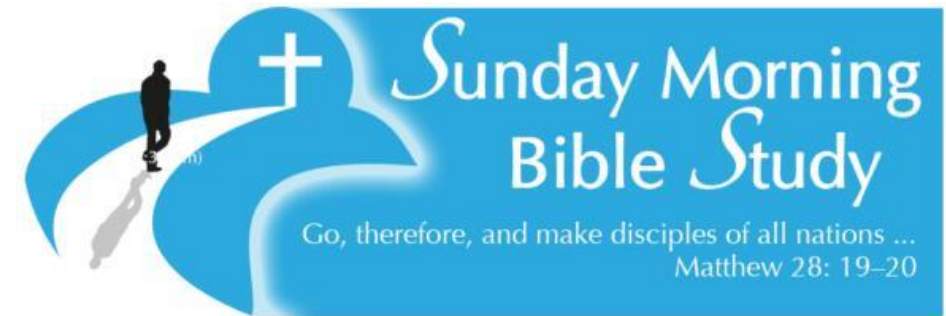
Well, here we are in 2021. I can't say I will miss 2020, but I am looking forward to a New Year. Messages for the first quarter will be on the basics of our Christian faith. Walking and living out our faith in the world and before others.

Peter reminds his readers in 2nd Peter 1:1-12 of the principles of their faith.

We also will be looking at the basic qualities, and how we attained them, and what it means to live for Jesus in a crazy world. So, come and reignite that fire in your soul, and your love for God our Savior, as we journey together back through the basics.

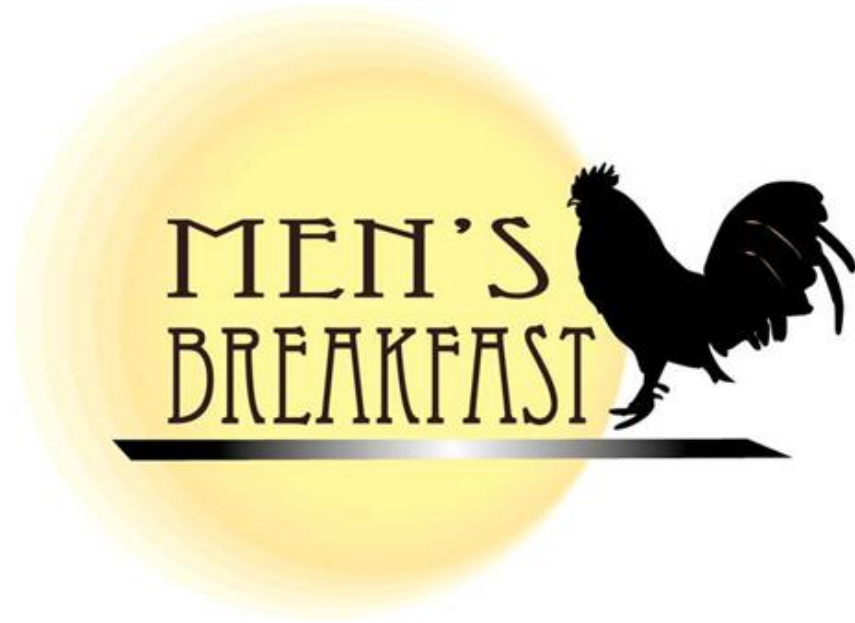
Matthew 28: 20 "Teaching the to observe all that I commanded you, and lo I am with you always, even to the very end of the age."

Pastor Charlie Carver, Jr.



Our Bible study on "You'll Get Through This" came to a close on the last week of December. Pastor Charlie has started a Bible study on the book of Ecclesiastes which addresses the questions we all ask ... "What is the meaning of life?" The first week got off with lots of laughter. Come and see what all the excitement is about.

A new rotation of teaching schedule has been drawn up for our Children's Sunday morning Bible study class and Children's Church. If you do not have your packet, please check the resource table in the church office. There are still some teaching packets awaiting pick-up. If after checking you still have any remaining questions, please speak with or see Tanya Becker. Her telephone number is on the back of every weekly bulletin.



THE MEN'S MINISTRY BREAKFAST IS SCHEDULED FOR THE SECOND SATURDAY MORNING OF EVERY MONTH. THE COOKS WILL START AT 7:00 A.M. AND BREAKFAST WILL BE SERVED AT 8:00 A.M.

THE NEXT MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY 13TH

WE HOPE TO SEE EVERY STCC MAN THERE. PLEASE BE SURE TO INVITE A NEIGHBOR OR A FRIEND TO COME ALONG WITH YOU.

AN OLD AFRICAN PROVERB: YOU ARE ONLY AS HAPPY AS YOUR SADDEST CHILD.
HMMM.....WORTH PONDERING?

Missions



BLESSING MILLIONS OF CHILDREN *in the MIDDLE OF A PANDEMIC*



DEAR FRIEND,

As we look forward to Christmas, our nation and our world are still reeling from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Many are desperately looking for comfort and peace, and we want to do all we can to help them find eternal hope in our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. I'm thankful that God has given us a simple yet powerful way to do this—by packing shoebox gifts

for Operation Christmas Child, sending them overseas in the Name of Jesus, and handing them out to millions of children through our global church network.

After a year when travelers were banned from entering more than 100 countries to prevent the spread of COVID-19, our Operation Christmas Child team has been working hard to make sure we can safely collect and deliver shoebox gifts. We praise the Lord for how He is opening doors for us. Shoebox gifts





Children's Sunday Bible study class and Children's church schedule for the months of September and October.

January 2021

3rd - Wanda

Alex & Dana - Sunday School

10th - Rick & Jackie

17th - Carla

Tami - Sunday School

24th - Nick & Jenny

31st - Kayla

If for any reason you find you cannot teach on your assigned Sunday, please make arrangements to switch Sundays with one of the other teachers and let Tanya Becker know.

Teachers:

Tanya - 217.622.1583

Sue - 217.299.2394

Gail H. - 217.416.4103

Bethie - 217.523.3494

Pam - 217.454.1118

Venita - 217.622.8987

Wanda - 217.415.2791

Dana - 217.622.0299

Rick & Jackie - 217.585.6690

Tami - 217.306.5576

Carla - 217.364.5051

~ Tanya Becker



If you haven't attended an In-House service lately, you've missed out on a sign-up sheet and a handout regarding your preference in receiving a copy of your Record of Giving to STCC during 2020.

Please read and then let me know your preference at your very earliest convenience so that you may receive a copy by January 31st.

You may also direct an email to me at our church email address at southtower1350@gmail.com and the office will forward your response to me; or call the church office at 217-364-5225 and leave a voicemail message. That will be forwarded to me as well.

If you would like to have a copy of your 2020 Giving Report for tax purposes, please complete and drop in the offering bin. Thank you!

Name: _____

Please email to me at: _____

I prefer hand delivery on Sunday morning.

~ Dana Lyons



Cracked Pots Women's Ministry



Our Women's Ministry meets every third Saturday of the month at noon for a potluck luncheon in the kitchen's fellowship area of our church located at 1350 South Tower Road, Dawson, IL 62520. All women are welcome. You do not have to belong to, or even attend, church to be welcomed into our group.

We are a group of women dedicated to the Lord Jesus Christ's service in being his hands and feet. We will do whatever He asks of us, and He asks in various ways. Mostly through you.

Our first meeting of 2021 kicks off on January 16th at noon. We're asking anyone who wishes to join us to bring a side dish to accompany our main entrée of fried chicken. Also, if your dish is homemade, please jot down your recipe and bring it. Our Women's Ministry is working toward composing our very own church cookbook. Our goal is to have it ready to be published sometime in 2021. We would like to include your recipes. In fact, you don't have to attend our meetings to have your favorite recipes included in our cookbook just be sure to submit them to Pam Stone or any other lady who you know attends (but we sure like to see you from time to time).

We will be forming our 2021 Calendar of Events at this meeting and we need your input. We are in need of some fresh ideas to place on our "to do" list this year. So come. Let's enjoy food, fellowship, planning and a devotion together from noon until 1:30 this Saturday.

~ Venita Lyons

An excerpt from...

Wishing You A Happy New Year!

December 30, 2020

There are a lot of unsettled issues in so many aspects of our lives. We need a reset and a re-commitment to a "new normal." Well thought out resolutions with some accountability built-in can be helpful.

There are some lessons that we can learn from all the adversities of change, loss, and isolation. We still need to invest time and effort in strengthening our relational connections. We are always stronger linked to each other! We have had a lot of time to think about what's important and have been convinced that we can do with a lot less! The chaos of an election year has given us opportunity to think about the kind of world we want for our children and grandchildren. There is a lot of work that needs to be done with public health issues, social justice and what will contribute to "a more perfect union!"

This year has been a tough one for sure as we have tried to deal with the COVID-19 Pandemic. Popular author and activist, Marianne Williamson, reminds us that in "Every ending comes a new beginning. Through the grace of God, we can always start again." We are ready to turn the corner from the negatives of this past year and look forward with great anticipation to a better if not entirely new normal in 2021. We need that new beginning! Let's remember that God is still in control and promises, "I am making everything new!" (Revelation 21:5).

May each of you experience God's infinite blessings throughout 2021! Wishing You Happy New Year!!

Mike Keppler, retired pastor,
active churchman and
doting grandparent.

Contact: drmikeppler@gmail.com

to read Mike's full article click on the link below:

<http://www.mjkministries.com/2020/12/wishing-you-happy-new-year.html?m=1>



Just in Case You Missed This Last Month: it's worth the read no matter you age...

I asked one of my friends who has crossed 70 & is heading to 80 what sort of changes he is feeling in himself?

He sent me the following very interesting lines, which I would like to share with you

#1 After loving my parents, my siblings, my spouse, my children, my friends, now I have started loving myself.

#2 I just realized that I am not "Atlas". The world does not rest on my shoulders.

#3 I now stopped bargaining with vegetables & fruits vendors. A few pennies more is not going to burn a hole in my pocket but it might help the poor fellow save for his daughter's school fees.

#4 I pay my waitress a big tip. The extra money might bring a smile to her face. She is toiling much harder for a living than me

#5 I stopped telling the elderly that they've already narrated that story many times. The story makes them walk down the memory lane & relive the past.

#6 I have learned not to correct people even when I know they are wrong. The onus of making everyone perfect is not on me. Peace is more precious than perfection.

#7 I give compliments freely & generously. Compliments are a mood enhancer not only for the recipient, but also for me. And a small tip for the recipient of a compliment, never, NEVER turn it down, just say "Thank You"

#8 I have learned not to bother about a crease or a spot on my shirt. Personality speaks louder than appearances.

#9 I walk away from people who don't value me. They might not know my worth, but I do.

#10 I remain cool when someone plays dirty to outrun me in the rat race. I am not a rat & neither am I in any race.

#11 I am learning not to be embarrassed by my emotions. It's my emotions that make me human.

#12 I have learned that it's better to drop the ego than to break a relationship. My ego will keep me aloof, whereas with relationships I will never be alone.

#13 I have learned to live each day as if it's the last. After all, it might be the last.

#14 I am doing what makes me happy. I am responsible for my happiness, and I owe it to myself. Happiness is a choice. You can be happy at any time, just choose to be!

I stole this, and I don't know who to credit it to, but thank you!