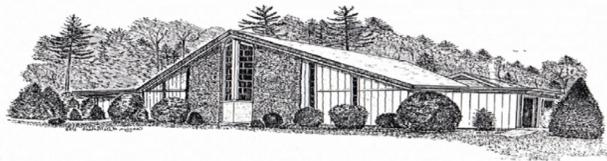


THE PINECREST



PRECENTOR

FEBRUARY 2019

From Our Senior Pastor -

Dear Pinecrest Family,

Well it happened again. The year changed. It's no longer 2018, it's 2019. Do you know what that means? It means that all of my checks and papers are going to have the wrong year on them for a while. I'm going to continue to write 2018 for the next few months until I finally figure things out.

In light of the changing calendar year, I thought I'd share a few of my thoughts about "Change" that are based on Scripture:

Change can be hard but change is inevitable. We are told in 1 Corinthians 15:51 that "...we shall all be changed." It is impossible to go throughout this life without experiencing some changes. We live in a finite world. One day we write 2018 and then the next day we write 2019. One day gas costs us \$0.25 and then the next day it costs us \$2.50. One day we are taking care of our children and the next day they are taking care of us.

Change can be hard but that doesn't mean it is always a bad thing. In fact it can be quite good in certain circumstances- especially when it comes to spiritual change. Scripture tells us in 1 Corinthians 5:17 "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come." Christ by his Holy Spirit can bring about change in us. Isn't that wonderful? We do not have to be trapped in our sins or always doing the things that we used to do. Once we are alive in Christ, we can begin to truly serve God and bring glory to his name.

Change can be hard but there is one thing that never changes: Our God. As we are told in Psalm 90:2 "Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God." Unlike us and our world, God is infinite and eternal. Unlike us and our world, God has never changed and will never change. Even as we change and this world changes around us, we can continue to depend upon God, His Word, and His promises.

I hope you experience many good and wonderful changes in 2019, but whatever the changes may be, I hope we all look to and trust in our God who never changes.

Rev. Rhett Carson

Intercessory Prayer

Martha Byrd's sister, Mary
Stella Blevins
Sharron Morton
Vivian Wyatt
US Government



Book of Remembrance

The following have contributed towards the General Fund or other fund as noted below:

In Memory of Mr. Fred Ansel from Mrs. Martha Pegram Warren.

In Honor of Mr. & Mrs. George Lamb, Mr. & Mrs. Andy Scott, Mr. & Mrs. William Stanley and Mr. J R Waugaman from Mr. & Mrs. Jim Brice.

Thank you

Thank you all so much for all the wonderful cards, goodies, and gifts that were given me this Christmas season! I am grateful for each and ever one of you and I pray that this new year is full of blessings for each of us!—**Melody Burrell**

To my church family at Pinecrest, Thanks for the white sox. It was a real blessing. God bless you for your generosity. Pinecrest has been more than gracious to Blue Ridge Prison and Jail Ministries, and me, over the years. Christmas was marvelous for me. The Chaplain and I went through the Henderson County Detention Center passing out 150 Christmas bags with toiletries, white sox, and bags of M&M's. (I figure we left the poor detention officers with 150 inmates with a sugar high!!)

Thank you so much for your part in sharing the love of Christ. It was a blessing for me as my legs had prohibited my doing 'cell to cell' but I've been doing physical therapy and really improving. I do appreciate you and covet your prayers. In His Wonderful Love—**John Andrews**

Thank you so much for the wonderful words of kindness and Christmas gifts in the last month. I feel so blessed to be a part of such a thoughtful and loving congregation here at Pinecrest. As we move into 2019, I am praying that I can give forward as much kindness as I have received from you all. - **Christian Beamguard**

The Carson family would like to once again thank our Pinecrest family for the generous and thoughtful gifts you have given to us this year especially during the celebration of the birth of our new daughter Katie Jo and the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ this Christmas. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts!- **Rhett & Kathy Carson**

Stewardship Article of the Month

Prosperity

God promises prosperity for those who give. That's worth repeating: God promises prosperity.

One man gives freely, yet gains even more; another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty. A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed. (Prov. 11:24,25)

God promises prosperity. I don't fully know what this means. Granted the gift of our eternal life is more prosperity than we deserve. For believers, eternal prosperity is guaranteed and not contingently promised to us as a result of our giving or tithing. I'm expecting that the promised prosperity is earthly, tangible and measurable. I believe God wants us to accept this prosperity and not to shun it. I'll surmise that God's prosperity plan is different for each of us. Yet, if God has planned it, it's beyond our imagination. It's beyond my understanding. I'm convinced that the prosperity planned for each of us will result in God's glory.

God's Prosperity Promises Are about Him, Not You

We know that trusting in God is the right thing to do. But on the other hand, it must be wrong to trust in God's promises of prosperity. I'm assuming that something is wrong because sincere, mature Christians seem to be so reluctant to talk about prosperity as a fruit of Christianity. On the rare occasion when main line Christians talk about it, it is in soft terms, with caution never to broach the nefarious territory of the Prosperity Doctrine Prophets.

It should be so simple to accept. God promises prosperity to those who trust Him and commit to him according to their means. There are many scripture verses that say this. In fact, there are too many to ignore or try to interpret otherwise. However, sincere, mature believers approach this simple proclamation with suspicion. The whole premise smacks of the TV evangelists pleading for money on the promise that God will multiply offerings so as to make rich folks out of all donors. God is contorted into a personal wealth machine. All we have to do is put one dollar in one slot and collect ten dollars from another slot. Prudent believers flee from such an idea. Surely our God of Love and Righteousness is of better mettle.

It is popular to construe that prosperity promises are not in terms that we mortals value, but in heavenly values. After all, the Lord has given us eternal life. What kind of prosperity can ever top that? To think in terms of hard assets, in terms of treasures, is mere greed and

a distortion of the nature of God. Perhaps God's promises are more spiritual values like world peace, friendship, happiness, and such. They are promises of valuable things for us, but not necessarily bankable things. Yet, the scriptures with promises of prosperity can't be edited away. They seem so straightforward, so emphatic, so convincing. Malachi says,

"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this", says the Lord Almighty, "and see if I will not open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it. I will prevent pests from devouring your crops, and the vines in your fields will not cast their fruit," says the Lord Almighty. "Then all the nations will call you blessed, for yours will be a delightful land," says the Lord Almighty. (Mal. 3:10-12)

Upon reading this, even a sincere believer is prone to believe that God is referring to crops and land and bankable things—not just promising a delightful land in the hereafter. Prosperity is what God promises, but that's not what even our own casual observations show us. If this promise be true, why aren't all Christians rich? Sure, there are some very affluent Christians. There are some who are down right rich. But when we look into their riches, they have gained their stature very much like many non-believers. They inherited their wealth, or they were fortunate enough to be at the right place at the right time, or through persistent hard work they gradually accumulated their riches. They are certainly blessed, and must confess such. Yet, their fortunes are not so different than other rich folks that had no idea of God's promises. For most of us, the floodgates of heaven don't show any sign of opening. We've read the promises, and, yes, we are blessed in more ways than we can count. We know so many non-believers just like us who are also blessed, but, we suspect, have never given to the Lord in accordance with our own standards. So, we believe our own eyes. We won't admit to contradicting God's word, but we will shape it to our own observations. So our best defense is to simply choose another part of the Bible to dwell on and ignore any thoughts of God's promised prosperity.

God has a pretty clever system here. In so many words He promises us prosperity. If we don't take Him up on the deal, then our lack of trust has diminished his promise. If we believe His promise, we will surely receive His blessings, but we risk finding out that His...

...continued on page 4.



Food & Clothing Focus

Food Pantry Needs: Canned Chili, instant grits, canned tuna, instant oatmeal, mixed beans, canned vegetables, individual fruit cups, coffee, and tea. (We can store meat, milk, fresh produce and other items in our walk-in cooler and freezer so do not hesitate to donate cold/frozen foods.) Personal care items are always needed as well such as: Shampoo, Soap, Toothbrushes, Deodorant, Disposable razors, Maxi-pads, and Diapers.

Clothing Closet Needs: There is a great need for new underwear and socks, in all sizes for men, women, and children. Other needed items include: Men's and boys winter shoes, blankets, pillows, sheets, towels, and wash cloths.

United Way's 211 of WNC: An information line linking people to health and human services in Henderson, Buncombe, Madison, and Transylvania Counties. Whether you want to find help or give help, the referral specialists who answer your call will identify the right resources for you. 211 is free, confidential and available 24/7 to speakers of all languages. Dial 211 on your phone or visit nc211.org.

Pinecrest Calendar & Recurring Events

Sundays

New Worship Times

10:00 am Worship
11:00 am Sunday Morning Bible Study

Weekly Meetings & Events

Monday 4:00 pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal
Tuesday 2:30 pm Sonshine Small Group—
2nd and 4th week
Wednesday 6:00 pm Evening Worship
7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal
Thursday 12:00 pm Sunday Bulletin Deadline
7:00 pm Men's Bible Study—
1st and 3rd week
Saturday 9:00 am Men's Prayer Group

FEBRUARY 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 9:00 am Men's Prayer Group
3 10:00 am Worship 11:00 am Sunday School	4 4:00 pm Handbell Practice	5	6 5:30 pm 1st Wed. Dinner & Program 7:00 pm Choir Practice	7 7:00 pm Men's Prayer Group	8	9 9:00 am Men's Prayer Group
10 10:00 am Worship 11:00 am Sunday School	11 4:00 pm Handbell Practice	12 12:30 pm Circle 2—Library 2:30 pm Sonshine Group 7:00 pm Deacons Meeting	13 1:15 pm Circle 3—Library 6:00 pm Evening Worship 7:00 pm Choir Practice	14 7:00 pm Circle 5—Library	15	16 9:00 am Men's Prayer Group
17 10:00 am Worship 11:00 am Sunday School Precentor Deadline	18 Youth Event 4:00 pm Handbell Practice	19 1:00 pm Circle 4—CV 6:30 Session Meeting	20 6:00 Bible Study 7:00 pm Choir Practice	21 9:00 am Precentor Mailing 3:00 pm CE Meeting 7:00 pm Men's	22	23 9:00 am Men's Prayer Group
24 10:00 am Worship 11:00 am Sunday School	25 4:00 pm Handbell Practice	26 2:30 pm Sonshine Group	27 6:00 Bible Study 7:00 pm Choir Practice	28		

Circle News

Circle 2~ Meets the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 12:30 pm in the church library.

Circle 3~ Meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 1:15 pm in the church library.

Circle 4~ Meets the third Tuesday of the month at 1:00 pm at Carolina Village.

Circle 5~ Meets the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm in the church library.

If you are interested in joining a circle, please contact one of the circle leaders: Jeanie Bennett, Ruth Anne Gibson, Susan Sanders, or Kathy Carson.

February Birthdays

2 Christine McMurray	18 Eleanor Muller
5 Julia Anne Gosnell	22 Andy Scott
6 Sue Brogi	23 John Myslik
7 Jim Voris	Martha Scott
13 Gary Letchworth	25 Virginia Baker
Julia Clark	27 Brice Molton
14 Tommy Harper	Karla Reese
15 Bill Stanley	
Sonja Tonnesen	
16 Glenn Anderson	
17 Edna Arnott	
Lee Isaacs	

If your name or family members name is missing and you'd like to have it included in future publications, please call the church office at 828-692-0063.

...promise really was for world peace, and we are no better off than any of our fellow believers. We were chumps. We would have done just as well buying that new plasma TV instead of tithing.

Tell me that something else is going on. I think there is. I must say that this just doesn't sound like the Righteous and Loving God I know. If you are in anyway reluctant to embrace God's promises, I suggest we look at this in a different light. We may be missing something that could possibly change our entire relationship with the Lord.

To be continued next month

Excerpt used with permission from
Glen Smotherman, author of
Steward Shipp of Peachtree Corners

Volunteers Needed

Our church secretary will be away on vacation March 13th-19th and we need volunteers to occupy the church office in her absence. If you are interested, please call the church at 828-692-0063.



The *Precentor* deadline for

submissions is **Sunday, February 17th.**



Youth Event

On February 18th we are planning a youth event. This event is still in the planning stages so check with Christian Beamguard in the near future for more details.



Take part in the Souper Bowl of Caring

Super Bowl LIII is Sunday, February 3rd, 2019! On the day of the Super Bowl, and several weeks before it, congregations, youth groups and other charitable groups around the country are encouraged to donate canned soup and other food items in support of children and individuals in desperate need. Please bring a can of soup or an extra dollar or two for the Souper Bowl Collection on Sunday, February 4th!

1st Wednesday Covered Dish and Presentation

Tacky Night

On Wednesday, February 6th, Pinecrest will have a fun-filled evening of games, laughter, and fellowship. Go through your closet and pick out some of those old (now) tacky clothes and let's see who can be the tackiest! There is a sign-up sheet in the atrium so please let us know if you can attend and what you will bring.

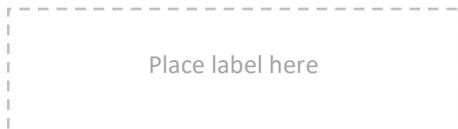
Financial Statement as of December 2018

<u>Contributions</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Surplus</u>
\$37,596	\$32,241	\$5,355

YTD Financial Statement

<u>Contributions</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Surplus</u>
\$392,767	\$380,622	\$12,145

PINECREST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
POST OFFICE BOX 421
FLAT ROCK, NC 28731
(January 2019)
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



PINECREST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Associate Reformed Synod

1790 Greenville Highway, Flat Rock, North Carolina

For the Glory of God, Pinecrest Presbyterian Church exists to produce fruit for God's kingdom by rooting people in God's word, growing them in their faith, and helping them branch out with the gospel in their homes, communities, and the world so that all may know that Jesus is Lord.

Come Worship with us:

Sunday Morning Worship Service: 10:00 AM

Sunday School: 11:00 AM

Wednesday Evening Bible Study: 6:00 PM