



The

# Tidings of Peace

Peace Presbyterian Church

January 2016



## *Cleaning House for 2016*

Last week I threw out worry, it was getting old and in the way;  
kept me from being me; I couldn't do things God's way.

I threw out a book on MY PAST (didn't have time to read it anyway)  
and replaced it with NEW GOALS, started reading it today.

I threw out hate and bad memories, remember how I treasured them so?  
Got me a NEW PHILOSOPHY too, threw out the one from long ago.

Brought some new books, too, called I CAN, I WILL AND I MUST.  
threw out I might, I think and I ought. Wow, you should've seen the dust.

I ran across an old friend I hadn't talked to in a while.  
His name is GOD the Father, and I really like His style.

He helped me with the cleaning and added some things himself.  
Like PRAYER, HOPE, FAITH AND LOVE.

I also found a special thing to place at the front door.  
It's called PEACE. Nothing gets me down anymore.

It's looking good around the place,  
for things like Worry and Trouble there just isn't space.

It's good to do a little house cleaning, It sure makes things brighter;  
maybe you should try it yourself. Be blessed and be a blessing to someone else.

# Thoughts from the Editor

Judy Kirk

I woke up the other morning, mulling over thoughts for the January Tidings. Suddenly an old saying came to mind: "These are the times that try men's souls." Then I wondered who said that and went to my computer. It was Thomas Paine in his pamphlet *The American Crisis* about the American Revolution. I learned some things about Paine I didn't know: he was staunchly anti-slavery, one of the first to advocate a world peace organization, and social security for the poor and elderly. But his radical views on religion destroyed his success. When he died, only a few came to his funeral.

The truth is, these *are* times that try our souls. Lately, I feel like there's an elephant in the room ... and that elephant is fear of the future. This elephant is getting in my way. And I bet it's getting in your way, too. Then two articles for January Tidings came in. One from Pat Wilson, who submitted "Cleaning House for 2016" and Bernie Becker's story about fear. I wasn't alone in my thoughts. Yes a new year does hold promise ... and I've included in this issue an old holiday poem I wrote many years ago. Hopefully, our January Tidings holds everything you need for a very Happy New Year!

## Happy Birthday

Josh Meyer	1/1
Lois Newman	1/2
Eileen Unze	1/3
Lee Tomlinson	1/5
Charles Koehler	1/11
Janet Armajani	1/12
Eunice Goodrich	1/14
Alexander Staib	1/15
Charles Leefeldt	1/18
Ruth Jack	1/19
Scott Volk	1/27
Hadley Howard	1/28



## Angels

Shirley Carlton, Myrna Knight's friend from England, adds to our thoughts about angels with this poem she found in a Christmas card.

*Sometimes we feel that we are all alone,  
as life brings us challenges to overcome  
and hardships to bear.*

*But when we least expect it, help appears.*

*It may be a kind word from a stranger  
or a phone call at just the right time,*

*and we are suddenly surrounded with the loving grace of God.*

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### January Fellowship Activities

Robin Councilman

- Wednesday Dinners resume on January 6, at 6:00 PM.
- The craft group will meet on Saturday, January 9, 1:00 - 3:00 PM.

### Reclamation Ministries Activities

- Epiphany Service on Wednesday, January 6, at 7:00 PM in the Sanctuary.
- A women's 12-step group will begin on Wednesday, January 13 at 7:00 PM. Free child care included. For more information contact Barb West.

# Conquering Fear

By Bernelda Becker

As we entered the banquet hall to celebrate our annual retiree Christmas gathering I looked across the well-dressed crowd, and could not help but think about the shooting of a similar gathering in California only a few days prior. What if? No, not in this crowd! I steered my husband to a table near the exit door. Several of the young men carrying in huge trays of servings were dark skinned. We were a Caucasian crowd. Were any of them carrying a grudge? Thus I caught myself succumbing to fear.

Three days later we attended our annual Weinachtfest potluck. I felt safe. The feeling of camaraderie prevailed as we placed our crock-pots of ethnic foods on the serving table and greeted one another. Again, we were a Caucasian crowd. An accordion player roamed among the tables singing Christmas songs, encouraging sing-a-longs. Ah! Peace on earth, and good will to men.

Three months ago, a young relative e-mailed me, asking for information about our common ancestors—our Wurttemberg Germans who had settled in South Russia (now Ukraine) some two hundred years ago, and then resettled in the United States to take advantage of the Homestead Act. She and her husband were going to Russia to do a short teaching stint in a Russian seminary, and they planned to take time out to visit the villages where our ancestors had lived. Naturally, I was thrilled to give her what information I had, along with the warning to contact certain men whose names I provided that spoke the language and could safely transport them to the villages. Again—FEAR. The Ukraine has been

in a state of unrest. Yesterday I received an e-mail telling me they are home in Lodi, safe and sound. Lodi—in California? Are they safe and sound? I can't help but wonder after recent happenings. [They did get to see the villages. She sent pictures of the formerly beautiful church in which our great grandparents were married. The church is no longer beautiful—but falling apart in neglect and abuse. Why did our ancestors leave the good lives they had built in South Russia one hundred years ago? Fear. There were threatening changes taking place around them, and America was the land promising peace and freedom.]

It is time to remind ourselves of the steadfast promises Scripture gives us regarding fear. Many years ago, when going through a very difficult time, I took 2 Timothy, 1:7 as my life verse. *“For God has not given us a spirit of fear but of power and of love and of a sound mind.” (KJV).*

Another verse I often repeat when tempted to fear is Isaiah 41:10 (KJV): *“Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed: for I am thy God; I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.”*

I want to close with a quote from a blog entitled “33 Verses about Fear and Anxiety to Remind Us: God is in Control” by Debbie McDaniel, a pastor's wife. “Be assured, God is with you in whatever you face, in the turmoil and struggles, amidst the anxious thoughts and the worries of life. God is there, strengthening, helping, and He holds you in His hands.”

# Welcome In

Judy Kirk

I am the New Year. I hold all the promise of a first kiss, endless opportunities and miracles yet untold. Enjoy each day as it comes, not all will finish the trip. Pack light, your material needs are few.

Bring hopes and dreams, for I am the path of new beginnings. Bring friends who are faithful, traveling alone can be difficult.

Bring smiles and laughter, you will need them for the days there is no sun. Bring flexibility, you may end up where you didn't plan to be. Bring faith, the doubters can wear you down. Bring generosity, others may come unprepared.

Live honestly, it allows you to look in the mirror. Set aside time for play, children have always understood priorities. Weep when you need to, it washes away sorrow. Teach what you know, we are here to learn. Give back, it balances the world. Listen to the words of others, God often speaks through strangers. Look forward, the future radiates more light than the past. Love passionately, it fuels the body.

I am the New Year, 365 uniquely wrapped gifts filled with untold surprises and I am yours. Rejoice!

## Our Mission Statement

Peace Presbyterian Church  
is an inclusive church community  
where all God's people find  
hope, love, support,  
and spiritual growth.



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