



Volume 31
Issue 1



Words from the Path.

By Pastor Ben Murphy



HAPPY NEW YEAR

Every month for nearly 20 years, I have composed the words that are the heading for my monthly contribution to the/a newsletter: **Words From The Path!**

I can recall sitting in my office back in the early 90's in Jasper, Alabama and contemplating a title or heading for my contribution to the newsletter, or at that time, I actually was writing every week in the weekly bulletin, as it were. One of the thoughts that have been concurrent with me since

becoming a Christian in 1970 is that we are all walking on a path. It is a path to somewhere. It may be the path to destruction, or it hopefully is the path to eternity with the Father of all. We are traveling on a path every day of our lives. My first thought was to write about life as I saw it from the path of life. Then I remember thinking that these words are coming from the pastor of the church, so, words from "the pastor" would be fitting. So I just decided that if I would form a little bit of a "lisp," I could connect the two and the heading could come from "the path" as I was walking it, or from the "Pathter" of the church. May not make sense to you, but it worked for me and has been working for many years. I can remember one particular Sunday that I didn't include "words" in the bulletin and one of the parishioners said with low countenance, "I miss my *words form the path!*" Thanks Solon Jones and, if you're out there, I have never forgotten that, and therefore I enjoy the challenge each time that I sit down and prepare to write.

Speaking of "lispings," I heard a story recently of a farmer who called the sale barn and said that he had 2,025 pigs for sale and he wanted \$100.00 for the lot of them. The purchaser was really excited about such a transaction in his favor and agreed on the possible transaction. The farmer pulled up in front of the sale barn in a beat up, old

pickup truck. The purchaser said, "Where's the rest of the pigs. Are they coming later on a semi?" The farmer said, "Nope. They're in the back of the truck just like I thaid! Two thows and twenty five pigths!"

Can you imagine, this is the way that I choose to enter a new year as I view it from the path! Another corny joke! But as I watch the daily activities taking place in the world, many times is just seems like just another corny joke. Surely, people can't be serious in the things they say and do. As I watch the morning or evening news, I have to chuckle at times and say to myself, "They can't be serious." But alas, many of them are.

I can't believe how many young people in our country have turned out to be so anti- this country! They mock at the sight of the flag and they seem to gag at the singing of The Star Spangled Banner. And of the many who "attempt" to sing the National Anthem at high-dollar sporting events, they make a travesty of music. (Who ever thought of trying to make "see", as in "Oh say can you see...." A three syllable word!) Many look on war as not a means to protect us from losing our freedom but as an affront to their spoiled-brat life styles! I was intrigued recently at a particular holiday function as the group sang "My Country Tis of Thee" and then

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NEWSLETTER

Articles or information to be published in next months newsletter are due by the third Sunday of the month. Please call or email if your address/phone number has changed, or to add/remove someone from our mailing list.

TO ALL SINGERS & MUSICIANS

If you are on the monthly music schedule to sing in either the a.m. or p.m. service and find you cannot do so, it is your responsibility to find a replacement. In addition, would you please notify the church office of such a change. Our thanks to each of you who serve.

The Ministries & Program Council

WHEN THERE IS A DEATH IN THE FAMILY

If there is a death in your immediate family, (Parent, Sibling, Spouse, Child) or in the family of a church member, please notify any member (See Below) of the benevolence committee so the church may send flowers and for food preparation when applicable.

The Benevolence Committee

Mona Orr— Chair

Phyllis Belcher

Sue Ellen Fleming

Diania Murphy

Charlotte Rice

Sunday School News

Congratulations to Ray Hall, Alice Livesay, Janet Mize, and Charlotte Rice for having perfect attendance during the Fall Quarter!



Sunday School



Congratulations to Missy Hall; the winner of the Sunday School drawing for the month of November!

Men At Work

SPECIAL THANKS



Above, Carroll Dale sends a bucket of tools up to Danny Mullins as Ron Large and Dennis Orr look on.

A very special thanks to the Men of The Church of God for coming out on a cold, wet, Tuesday evening for a called work night. The project was to install the final projector on the back wall of the sanctuary for the benefit of the choir. We appreciate the work of Danny Mullins, (up in the air in picture), Carroll Dale, Dennis Orr, Doug Fleming, Ron Large, Bill Rice, Paul Ison, Pastor Norb and Pastor Ben. The work of erecting the scaffolding and work platform takes a lot of man power. The job of "squirrel" (climbing) was done by Danny and Carroll. Thanks to all the men for their help and a job well done!

Bible Quiz



In John 8:12 (NRSV), Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will"

Choose the phrase that correctly completes this sentence.

- A. never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.
- B. never walk alone.
- C. be my companion always.
- D. sit at my right hand.

Answer: A (See John 8:12, NRSV.)



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Pastor 's Cell: 276-275-1171

Office Hours: Monday - Friday

10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.



Men's Fellowship
Breakfast

Saturday, Jan. 10th
 at 8:30 a.m.

Conference room
 of Food City
 in Wise.

Wise First Church of God



Sunday:

Sunday School 10:00

a.m. Morning Worship Service

.11:00 a.m. Evening Worship Service.....

..... 6:00 p.m. Wednesday:

Youth Meeting 6:30

p.m. Adventure Club Choir Practice

. 6:30 p.m. Adventure Club

.... 7:00 p.m. Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

Important Dates:

January ~2009~

- 1 New Year's Day! (office closed)
- 6 WCG Meeting
- 7 Ministry & Programming Council Meeting
- 10 Men's Fellowship Breakfast
- 14 Finance Council Meeting
- 18 Singspiration, p.m.
- 21 Christian Education Council Meeting
- 25 Birthday / Anniversary Dinner, p.m.

February

- 3 WCG Meeting
- 4 Ministry & Programming Council Meeting
- 11 Finance Council Meeting
- 14 Men's Fellowship Breakfast