



January  
2009

## Make Your Joy Complete

Many of us have such an issue with the idea of joy, so much so that I want to provide for you once again the sermon from December 13. It helps me to read over things several times to get a better understanding. Maybe some of you are the same. Please have your Bible opened to John 15 as you read.

What is joy? Here is a description of joy from the Evangelical Dictionary of Theology:

Joy is a delight in life that runs deeper than pain or pleasure. From a biblical perspective it is not limited by nor tied to external circumstances. Joy is a gift from God, and like all of his other inner gifts it can be experienced even in the midst of extremely difficult circumstances. It is a quality of life and not simply a fleeting emotion. It is grounded in God himself and flows from him (Ps 16:11). Joy is not an isolated or occasional consequence of faith but rather an integral part of one's whole relation to God. The fullness of joy comes when there is a deep sense of the presence of God in one's life.

Henri Nouwen writes that "joy is the experiencing of knowing that you are unconditionally loved." It is enlightening to know personally and intimately that something you thought was true is actually true. For example: I can tell Judy that I love her and she will know that I told her. But until she knows that she knows that I love her through my actions, my words are meaningless. She must experience the knowing for it to be fully enlightening and rewarding.

Please read verses 1-11 of John 15. Notice how many times the word 'remain' is used. It is mentioned 11 times. This means it is very important.

The Greek word here means to abide (KJV), continue or dwell. The verb 'remain' in the Greek demands a continuous, ongoing action, never to stop. So, when Jesus says, "remain in me," he means for it to be a continuous, never stopping action.

This begs the question – how? How do we remain? We must attach ourselves to Christ as though we were a branch on a vine. Refer to verse 5

Again a question rises – how? How do we attach, How are we branches? Refer to verse 10.

If you ask me 'how can I be joyful?' I will point you to verses 10 & 11; for here is the path to joy. Our joy is directly connected to our obedience to the commands of our Lord. If we are obedient to the commands then we should be joyful.

Ahhh, but there is another question. Is our joy the ultimate end? Is OUR joy the primary objective of this text? No, the end objective, the target is not OUR joy. The objective of all of this is found in verse 8. Please read.

**The Father's glory** is the objective. If we are obedient to the commands of our Lord then we should bear fruit. If we bear fruit, the Father is glorified. And if the Father is glorified then we should be joyful. Our joy should be made complete in the glory of the Father.

Now, please note as you read the passage, nothing is said of OUR inner peace, OUR contentment. Nothing is said about OUR thoughts or OUR feelings. These personal desires are not a part of the discussion of being joyful. The only thing that matters is this: if God is glorified by our actions then we should rejoice and be joyful. When our actions bring glory to God then our joy should be complete. As we remain or dwell in our Lord we cannot measure the success of our joyfulness by our own thoughts and ideas. This would be idolatry. The goal of remaining in our Lord is to have a clear conscience before God that we have been obedient and faithful to him and to him alone.

Self-sacrificing obedience should be our first concern toward a joyful existence. And in our obedience fruit is born and God is glorified.

Once again – what is joy?

It is a quality of life and not simply a fleeting emotion. It is grounded in God himself and flows from him (Ps 16:11). Joy is not an isolated or occasional consequence of faith but rather an integral part of one's whole relation to God. The fullness of joy comes when there is a deep sense of the presence of God in one's life.

We can have that deep 'presence of God' in our lives when we consume ourselves totally and fully in him, remaining completely in him in all parts of our lives. Here at New Sterling our vision is 'to live the full spectrum of life in obedience to the complete counsel of God.' If we do this then I believe God will be glorified. If God is glorified, then come what may, our joy will be made complete.

To God be the Glory!

In His Service,

Pastor Tim



Sympathy is expressed to Mrs. Virginia Brady in the passing of her brother-in-law, Lee Davis.



Appreciation is expressed to Judy Watson with a love gift from the New Sterling congregation presented by congregational chairman, Scott Graham.

Thank you Judy for all you do for us here at New Sterling.

# News From New Sterling Women's Ministry



If you could not attend the Women's Ministries' Salad Supper and would like to join one of our Bible studies, please call Kim Brady or Judy Watson soon. We are preparing for our January Study and you don't want to be behind.

Also, has anyone seen or borrowed the coffee decanters from the kitchen? If so, would you please return them as soon as possible.

---

---

## WANTED!

**Now is the time of year to start fresh and maybe do something you have considered doing but just have not volunteered or you would just like to help out on Sunday mornings.**

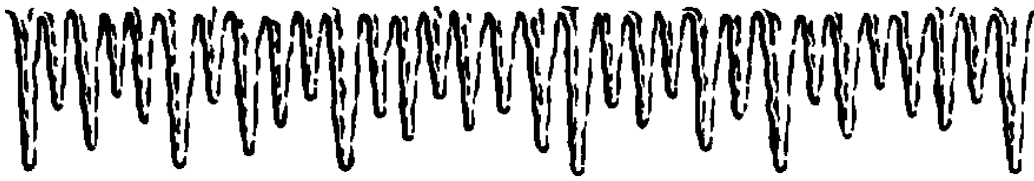
**If you fall into this area, we are asking for volunteers to sign up to help with the Nursery on Sunday morning during the Worship Hour and also sign ups to help with Children's Church.**

**We are in need to loving, willing adults to help care for our children during this time. The more volunteers we have, the less number of times you may have to stay during the year.**

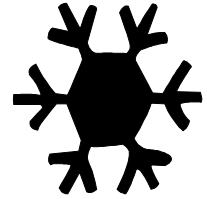
**So can you spare a few hours a year to help nurture and love on our children here at New Sterling? If so, please see Felicia Woodall (nursery co-ordinator) or Patti Gryder (children's church co-ordinator).**

**WE NEED YOU!!!**

# Coming Events



Jan 3	9:00 am	Knit Wits
Jan 4	9:15 am	Praise & Worship
	11:00 am	Worship Hour with celebration of our Lord's Supper
	5:00 pm	CE Committee
Jan 5	9:30 am	Golden Christian Circle
Jan 6	7:00 pm	Men's Bible Study
Jan 10	9:00 am	Women's Council
Jan 11	9:15 am	Praise & Worship
	11:00 am	Worship Hour
		Hope and Care Ministry
Jan 12		Evangelism Committee
		Property & Maintenance Committee
Jan 13	7:00 pm	Treasure Keeper
Jan 17	6:00 pm	Friendship Class New Year Dinner
Jan 18	9:15 am	Praise & Worship
	11:00 am	Worship Hour
		Missions Committee
		Youth Council
Jan 19	7:00 pm	Knit Wits
Jan 20	7:00 pm	Mary Martha Sunset
Jan 21	9:30 pm	Mary Martha Sunrise
Jan 22	7:00 pm	Men's Life Issues Bible Study
Jan 23	7:30 pm	Seekers Bible Study
Jan 25	9:15 am	Praise & Worship
	11:00 am	Worship Hour
Jan 26	7:00 pm	Experiencing God Bible Study
Jan 28	7:30 pm	Adult Choir
Jan 31		Elder/Deacon Training in Gastonia



## WOMAN TO WOMAN

Woman to Woman is not a discipleship program it is a relationship between two Christian women who desire to learn more about Jesus Christ and their witness as they live their lives as models of goodness to their husbands and children, to their extended families, church families and their work place no matter where that daily work place is. This relationship of Christian friendship and accountability is contracted for at least 6 months or longer. It is a relationship that will last for a lifetime no matter how long the formal mentoring meetings exist. This relationship is founded on the study of God's Word, prayer and accountability. The mentor/mentee relationship gives women a Christian friend whom they can confide in one who will hold them accountable and at the same time keep the secrets of their heart confidential. Woman to woman gives Christian women hope for someone with whom they can share day to day experiences with as they mature as a Christian woman. This relationship is beneficial and rewarding because it is God centered. Janet Thompson the author of Woman to Woman, states that Mentoring means using the wisdom that comes from life's experiences to help others who are encountering similar experiences in their lives. Christian mentors share how God guides and supports counsels and consoles, in both good and bad times. Christian women mentors are role models of what a mother, wife, student; single or divorced Christian woman looks like. Most people learn much better when they can see an example of what they are trying to learn. They need a visual pattern to follow.



Mentoring is not just for an older woman to disciple a younger woman. As you apply Titus 2 to mentoring we try to show women that a mentor can be a more mature Christian than her mentee but not necessarily older in age. These relationships can also be between two women who are both equally mature in their Christian walk but contract to walk alongside each other to deepen their relationship with each other and with God. Many have been greatly rewarded through their experiences as women, mothers and wives. As Thompson says a woman to woman ministry has to first be centered in prayer. Our ministry at New Sterling progresses very slowly and is Holy Spirit led because it is not ever to become about numbers or become a program that New Sterling could put in a pamphlet. Woman to Woman is not about how many we can get done in a given period of time. It is about prayer and the Holy Spirit leading us as women to be involved in the spiritual growth of our sisters in Christ.

How do you get involved? Simply pray, pray and ask the question: Am I ready for mentoring? Pray this and in time your answer will come. Then when your answer comes, if it is yes I want to get involved, simply tell a Woman to Woman representative about your desire and they will begin praying for God to partner you with a mentor. Our prayers are for the Holy Spirit to guide us to the specific partner for a mentee.

### WOMAN TO WOMAN REPRESENTATIVES:

Judy Watson

Kim Brady

Kitzi Emery



# Shoe Box Packing Day with the Youth



On December 6 our youth had a shoebox packing day.

They had tables full of donated toys, books, hygiene items, and candy to pack in boxes for Operation Christmas Child. They packed 66 boxes total. **THAT'S AWESOME!!**



(Picture to the left)

The youth had 30 boxes donated from Samartian's Purse. They had so many donated items left over they had to buy more boxes!!



(Picture above) While waiting on the extra boxes to be delivered the kids made their own gingerbread houses and cookies to snack on.



(Picture to the left)

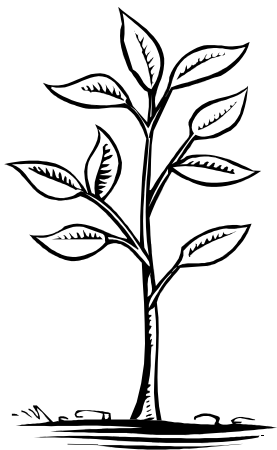
The youth really enjoyed making the boxes for different ages and making the unique for boys and girls.



(Picture above) In each box the youth put a special note for the child receiving the gift.



## We all Need a Tree!



I hired a plumber to help me restore an old farmhouse, and after he had just finished a rough first day on the job: a flat tire made him lose an hour of work, his electric drill quit and his ancient one ton truck refused to start.

While I drove him home, he sat in stony silence. On arriving, he invited me in to meet his family. As we walked toward the front door, he paused briefly at a small tree, touching the tips of the branches with both hands.

When opening the door he underwent an amazing transformation.. His face was wreathed in smiles and he hugged his two small children and gave his wife a kiss.

Afterward he walked me to the car. We passed the tree and my curiosity got the better of me. I asked him about what I had seen him do earlier.

'Oh, that 's my trouble tree,' he replied 'I know I can't help having troubles on the job, but one thing's for sure, those troubles don't belong in the house with my wife and the children.. So I just hang them up on the tree every night when I come home and ask God to take care of them. Then in the morning I pick them up again.' 'Funny thing is,' he smiled,' when I come out in the morning to pick 'em up, there aren't nearly as many as I remember hanging up the night before' .

---

Please be in prayer for:



Betty Thorne  
Swanie Snyder  
Betty Godfrey  
Meldirene Pope  
Carroll McNeely  
Ruth Foy

Edith Reese  
Norma & Johnsie Jenkins  
Doris Ingram  
Faye Walker  
Lelia Pearl Pope  
Dorothy Dancey

For a blessed 2009. May we “live the full spectrum of life in obedience to the complete counsel of God”

Your clear guidance for those who are searching for your will in their lives

---

**REMINDER: It is still not too late to sign up to serve on a committee.  
Your help is needed!**

# Sunday School Class Tree Trimming



On Sunday November 30 the Sunday School classes helped trim the tree in the fellowship hall with their homemade ornaments. Refreshment were provided after by the Friendship class.



# Ordination and Instillation of Officers



Davis Brady, Frank Emery and Jimmy Winters were reinstated as elders



Jeremy Brady was ordained by Pastor Tim with the help of the Elders.



Michael Pope, Andy Gray, Jeremy Brady and Tra Watson were installed as deacons.

## New Church Officers:

Congregational Chairman: Jeff McNeely

Treasurer: Dawn Keller

Financial Officer: Craig Pugh

Cemetery: Lynn Jenkins



The **youth** went Christmas caroling Dec. 17. they visited **Florence Brookshire, Virginia Brady, Mabel Brady and Sarge**. Jingle Bells, Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer and We Wish You a Merry Christmas was a major hit..... The **Jr. and Sr. Highs** had a pizza progressive dinner and lock-in at the church November 20-21. After the dinner the girls has a night of beauty with facials and pedicures. The guys had boys night, playing video games. Before going to sleep they had their ritual of hide and go seek!!.....The **New Sterling Youth** had a shoe box packing day Dec. 6. They packed 66 boxes total. 15 kids helped pack the boxes with 8 adults assisting. They also made ginger bread houses and decorated cookies to snack on (see picture on page 14).....

On December 13, **Ken and Jeanette Hauck, Eddie and Lori Compton, Dylan Deal, Brian and Taryn Setzer, Kent Clarke, Casey Clarke, Derek Winters, Davey Winters, Chase Sharpe, Craig and Susan Pugh, Adrian Jarrett, Ed Donahoe, Adam Donahoe, Jacob McNeely, Kortney Hauck and a friend** went to Charlotte to help pack shoe boxes for Samaritan's purse. The boxes that night went to Iraq, Ukraine, Moracco, or Pakistan. New Sterling had 99 boxes total.....**Lauren and Leah Gryder** were both named MVP for their respective tennis teams. **Lauren** finished 12-2 and was named "All Conference" at Davie High. **Leah** went undefeated in conference play and finished 2nd in the conference tournament at Ellis Middle School. **Congratulations!!!!!!**.....**Clifton Mauney** helped **Memaw (Muriel Jenkins)** and **Pepay** deliver meals on wheels recently while **Pepaw (Lynn Jenkins)** rang the bell of the Salvation Army.....The West Iredell Ruitan Club had 4 from New Sterling ringing the bell—**Lynn Jenkins, David Sides, Dale Massey and Jimmy Winters**.....I think we also saw **Jeff McNeely** in front of Walmart ringing also. I am sure there are many others who volunteered but were not "spotted" by the news snoops..... **Brent Mauney** has officially enlisted in the United States Air Force. He is scheduled to leave for San Antonio, Texas to Lackland Air Force Base for 8 weeks of basic training on February 24.....**Ruth Foy** had surgery on December 26 to repair a rotator cuff in her shoulder. I hear from a very good source that she is an excellent patient.....**Dylan Hartness** recently had to spend overnight in the hospital for a respiratory infection.....**Stacy Mrazek's** mother, **Cindy** broke her leg the day before Christmas.....**Robert Fulbright** has injured his elbow and has missed church for several Sundays.

In God's economy, nothing is wasted—not one flicker of hope, not a single act of kindness, not one imponderable "Why?" And in the darkest pit of despair, when God gives us the light to take only one step at a time, His message to us is still simply:

Trust Me.

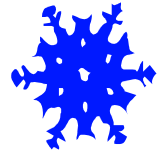
Barbara Johnson

"I Don't Suffer from Insanity—I enjoy every minute of it!!!

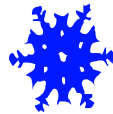


# Winter Wonderland Riddles

1. What do snowmen have for breakfast?
2. Why are snowmen so popular?
3. What do you get by putting ice in your father' bed?
4. Why didn't Frosty the Snowman get married?
5. What bites without any teeth?
6. What do snowmen wear n their heads?
7. What do snowmen eat for lunch?
8. Where do snowmen go to dance?
9. What do you have in December that you don't have in any other month?
10. What is born in winter, dies in summer and hangs from its roots?
11. Where do polar bears vote?



(Answers on page 15)



The Harlan, KY Mission Trip is planned for July 5-11, 2009. If you are interested in going this year, please contact Ken Hauck prior to January 31. We must have our reservations made in February.



# Comedy Corner



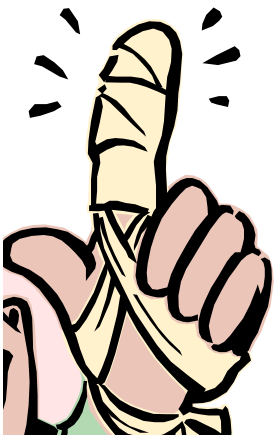
## AT THE DOCTOR'S OFFICE

A gorgeous young redhead goes into the doctor's office and said that her body hurt wherever she touched it.

'Impossible!' says the doctor. 'Show me.'

The redhead took her finger, pushed on her left shoulder and screamed, then she pushed her elbow and screamed even more. She pushed her knee and screamed;

Likewise she pushed her ankle and screamed. Everywhere she touched made her scream.



The doctor said, 'You're not really a redhead, are you?'

'Well, no' she said, 'I'm actually a blonde.'

'I thought so,' the doctor said. 'Your finger is broken.'

---

2009 Yearbook and Directory:  
Please help update any address and telephone information for the new 2009 directory as well as any other information for the yearbook. Please place the information in either the offering plate or in the mail-boxes.

Let your light shine! Deliberately choose to look for joy in every step of your journey through life and to share it with others. When you do, you will be blessed with happiness no matter what your circumstances are.

Taken from Barbara Johnson  
"I Don't Suffer From Insanity....  
I enjoy every minute of it!!



# ***Twas the Night Before Christmas***



*The children sang and played the parts of angels, wise men ,shepherds, Mary and Joseph and grandchildren.*



*Daniel Pugh was the inn keeper*

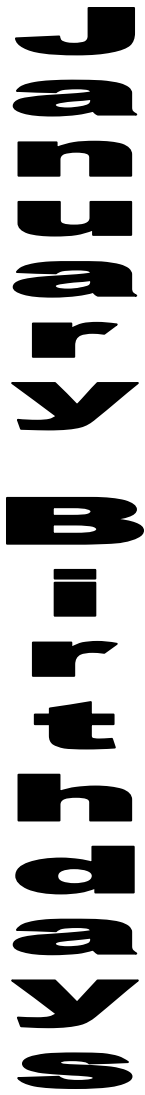
*Tony Harper was Grandpa*



*Jared Hauck and Madison Winters were Mary and Joseph*

*CS sang "Gloria" and "O Holy Night"*





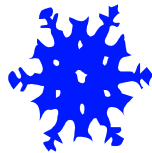
- 4 Garrett Deal
- 8 Lori Compton
- 9 Doug Gryder
- 13 Stacey Mrazek
- 16 Gary McNeely
- 18 Harold Moose
- 18 Sarah Watts
- 19 Madison Winters
- 22 Bobby Lail
- 24 Johnsie Jenkins
- 26 Clifton Mauney
- 28 Todd Fulbright
- 29 Harold Sherrill
- 31 Bradley Fulbright
- 31 Tim Donnelly



---

Answers from page 10

- 1. Frosted Flakes
- 2. They're just so cool!
- 3. A popsicle
- 4. He had cold feet
- 5. Frost
- 6. Ice Caps
- 7. Icebergers!
- 8. A snowball
- 9. The letter D
- 10. An icicle
- 11. The North Poll



Church Sign:

If you ain't fighting the Devil, he's  
done got you!