



the Reminder

January 14, 2018

The Beatitudes offer us a new 'Attitude'

By Reverend Troy Benton

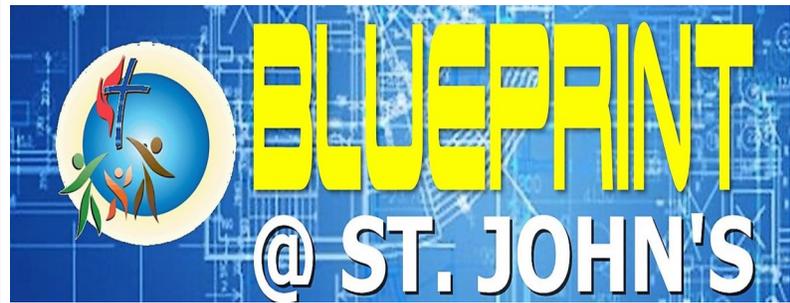
The two easiest things to do after a new year kicks off is to reject new opportunities and attitudes, or return to old habits and attitudes. Living in the world, I understand completely the struggle to gain personal, corporate, church, and organizational success over these challenges. Life can be lethargic, long-suffering and plain not fun. Here is the good news: as Christians, we are called to purpose far more than pleasure, and living with purpose we will discover a pleasure that will outweigh all other feelings. In other words, taking on the challenge of neither rejecting or returning to unhealthy and dysfunctional attitudes, but finding renewal for living by taking on a new attitude is the key to new day living.

We have begun our New Year focus by proclaiming that in 2018 we will embrace the opportunity for a "Fresh Start". Step one could not be more important! Offering ourselves in personal and community ways to embrace a new attitude, changes the entire landscape of our living for now and beyond. It was at a strategic moment in the development of Christianity that our leader, Jesus Christ, made nine monumental declarations of how a person and people live their best lives. The declaration by Jesus in Matthew 5 is the power that all our possibilities are tied to the perspective of the attitude we carry!

Beginning this week, I invite you to join us as we consider these nine declarations in ways that may change how you live, love, and leave a legacy forever! There will be no avoidance of the labor, love, or leadership required by us. Remember, Christianity is not a vacation, but rather an eternal vocation that leads us to victory! There will also be no hesitancy to claim the strength and success gained when we shift our sentiment in word and deed by embracing the teaching of the Savior for our lives. Excitement in sharing these teachings doesn't begin to describe the level of eagerness I hold for this season of learning through our time in scripture and worship. Here are just a few of the message themes:

- "An Attitude...when you're at the End of Your Rope."
- "An Attitude...when you seek to be a Person of Peace."
- "An Attitude...when you've lost what is most Dear to You."
- "An Attitude...when you seek to be a Person of Peace."

As we have named this season offering us a "Fresh Start", I ask you to join me and bring others as we consider one of Jesus' most profound teachings, *The Beatitudes!*



BLUEPRINT Returns January 17

A year ago, a door opened for our church to be creative in reaching three major segments of our city and the community at large:

- Students at SIUE and the other colleges/universities in the Edwardsville area and Metro Area.
- Persons and families who cannot or will not attend Sunday worship times for various reasons.
- Those in our immediate neighborhood who may not be aware of us, but seek worship and connection with God through Jesus Christ.

Since January 2017, a team has been praying, thinking, dreaming, planning and working to prepare an experience that is creative, technology-driven, while relational and tactical to equipping everyone with answers and tools for living faith. The name for this experience was branded, and "BLUEPRINT" came into being.

Since we formalized this experience on Wednesdays, we have seen the beginning of students, young families, and seekers of all ages worship in this 45-minute service. Excellence, enthusiasm and exalting Jesus happen in ways that allow everyone to feel joy and hope. Using our smart devices during this time, as well as our minds, our faith, and our hope, gives worship and fellowship an opportunity for connection with God and others. The time is intentional, and so is every other element of the experience!

BLUEPRINT begins again on January 17, 2018, at 6:30 p.m. The most straight-forward, simplest, and action-packed gospel in the new testament, the book of Mark will be our focus, and we will discover a model for living from the life of Jesus to help us gain a blueprint for life to make each day better! YOU ARE ENCOURAGED TO JOIN US for worship and music, timely messages, and creative caveats to God that will enhance you. Join us for BLUEPRINT!

ST. JOHN'S UMC
7372 Marine Road
Edwardsville, IL 62025
(618) 656-1853
thenewstjohns.com

Worship Services: 9 a.m. or 11 a.m.

OUR PURPOSE: to lead people into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ.

OUR VISION: to be a beacon of faith and service, focusing our passions and gifts to reflect Christ's love to the world.

OUR CORE VALUES: knowing, loving, and serving God.



To submit something for the Reminder, please email it to Lynette Nelson at lynettenelson@thenewstjohns.com by **Tuesday at 4 p.m.**

Ganta Mission Station Update

This Christmas was celebrated with a three-day camp called, "No room In the Inn/Lock In", for children from 3 to 18 years old, to provide a safe environment for the children of the Ganta Community where they could have fun and enjoy Christmas, instead of just being in the streets. The 120 children who attended the camp heard the birth story of Christ through songs, bible verses, drama and craft projects focusing on Peace, Hope, Joy, Love and the Light that was brought to the world by Jesus' birth. The camp ended with the children going around the city of Ganta singing Christmas carols in hospitals to patients and staff.

On December 16, 2017, the Gipo Vocational Training Institute put out their first graduates: 29 students from five trade areas: Agriculture (8), Building Construction (3), Auto Mechanics (10), Electricity (2), and Home Economics (6). The school is a two-year program offering a diploma in vocational skills and it aims for the students to "be productive, self-supportive, and sustainable; the students acquire these vocational skills, to provide livelihood opportunities in transforming their lives and their community." All of the graduates were presented with a starter kit as gifts at the graduation. The school administration is proud to announce that 85% of the graduates were employed by institutions where they served as interns.

Many thanks to everyone for their spiritual and financial support over the past many years to make this dream and vision of providing vocational education training for our young women and men a reality. We're sure that we can count on you for continued partnership and support. Thank you for being our partners in mission and ministry, please continue to support us with your prayers and financial donations for our ministry in Liberia.

Book Group

The St. John's UMC Book Group will discuss the popular novel, "Big Little Lies," as the first book for 2018. The book combines humor, mystery, and a look at human nature as the author leads us on a search. We read almost immediately that someone is dead, but who and how? As we learn about the interesting characters whose lives are intertwined, little lies people tell keep you guessing and wondering throughout the book. Join us for potluck, fellowship, and interesting discussion on Sunday, January 28, 2017, at 5:30 p.m. at the home of Jeri Lampman. Please RSVP if you are planning to attend to Jeri by text message at (618) 531-3183 or jerilampman@att.net.



First Look

This month the First Look Students are learning about "Watch This". As many of you know, this age group says this many times a day before they show you something really cool. However, we aren't going to be focusing on the cool stuff we can do, but on some of the AMAZING things Jesus did. There are 3 key points we will be reinforcing all month with these students.

1. The memory verse: "With God all things are possible" Matthew 19:26
2. The Bottom Line: Jesus can do anything
3. The Basic Truth: Jesus wants to be my best friend forever

252

This month the 252 Students are leaning about "Work It Out". They will be learning, "How do you pray to God", "Who can you talk with about God", and "How can you live for God". As the students begin to answer these questions, they will learn about 2 key points.

1. The memory verse: "Training the body has some value. But being godly has value in every way. It promises help for the life you are now living and the life to come" 1 Timothy 4:8
2. The Life Application: Commitment, making a plan and putting it into practice

College Scholarships Available

For the 2017-2018 school year, forty-three Illinois Great Rivers Conference students received over \$80,000 in scholarships and loans from the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry. Partial funding for the various scholarships are derived from Special Sunday offerings, United Methodist Student Day, World Communion Sunday, Native American Sunday, as well as major gifts, annuities, and endowments. Any student who is a member of the United Methodist Church is eligible and encouraged to apply for the Fall 2018 GBHEM scholarships now until March 7, 2018, at gbhem.org/scholarshipapplication. Student loans are also available as an option and information can be found online at gbhem.org.

Shop for St. John's

Did you know that you can help St. John's Missions just by shopping? We receive a percentage of your purchase price every time you shop at Schnuck's, IF you get a Schnuck's eScrip card and designate "St. John's United Methodist Church" when you register it. Pick up your card with instructions at the Servant Center!

Giving Envelopes

The 2018 Giving Envelopes are now available to pick-up. They are located alphabetically by last name on the table in the back of the Ministry Center. If you will not use your envelopes please return them to the church office or contact Allen Biesemeyer at (618) 656-5158.

Trivia Night for Houston

Play trivia for a good cause! St. Luke's UMC in Maryville will host a Trivia Night on Saturday, January 20, 2018, to fund their upcoming mission trip to Houston, Texas. Let's get a table together from St. John's to show our support! To play or for more information please contact Michelle Babb at michellebabb@thenewstjohns.com

Restore Décor Event

Restore Décor will for their first ever community celebration and private sale on Saturday, January 27, 2018, from 6:30 p.m. until 9:30 p.m. at the Wildey Theater. Tickets are \$50 per person and includes hors d'oeuvres, drinks, music, and the opportunity to purchase unique Restore Décor furniture pieces and décor items. More information at wildeytheatre.com or faithcoalitionedwardsville.com.

Missions Meal

Plan to eat lunch at St. John's on Sunday, January 28, 2018, for the annual Missions Meal from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. There will be a variety of soups, salad, desserts, and drinks. Cost is \$9 for adults and \$3 for children 3 years old and older. All proceeds benefit the missions of St. John's.

JustPeace Church Event

This month we will begin our consultation process with JustPeace, Inc. JustPeace Center for Mediation and Conflict Transformation, is a United Methodist organization that has been secured to work with our church to help us better understand our current challenges and to chart a strong path forward. The JustPeace Center provides professional services designed to equip laity and clergy with information, processes and skill building to address differences and conflicts constructively in order to strengthen congregational well-being and vitality.

The first weekend for this consultation group to be with us will be January 26-28, 2018. Times for groups will be listed in next week's reminder. An internal team for this phase has been selected and will help guide the process. They include Dustin Davis, Jan Denby, Dr. Julia Kalb, Jeri Lampman, and Dr. Hazel Loucks.

Your participation is critical! Look for sign-up next week, as we hold sessions to share, learn, and help us be a stronger church that lives out healthy communication, conflict resolution, and healing more effectively. Learn more about JustPeace at justpeaceumc.org.

- Staff Pastor-Parish Relations Committee

Revival with Dr. Terry Tekyl

Dr. Terry Tekyl was a speaker at the 2017 Illinois Great Rivers Annual Conference. As lay delegates, we agreed that his message was the most powerful one given. As a congregation, we are continually looking for ways to have a personal relationship with Jesus. Prayer continues to be an important and faith-filled way to do that. We invite you to attend one or all of the upcoming Revival Services to be held at St. Matthew UMC in Belleville to hear the powerful message from Dr. Terry Tekyl.

- Sunday, January 28, 2018, at 8:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.
- Monday, January 29, 2018, at 7:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, January 30, 2018, at 7:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, January 31, 2018, at 7:00 p.m.

If you are interested in attending please contact Jodi Henderson at (618) 656-4353 to coordinate transportation.

Blessings, Tom Finley and Jim & Jodi Henderson

Prayer Praises & Requests

- Prayers for Cindy Antley, as she continues to struggle with health problems.
- Prayers for Marilyn Hungerford and her family, as they mourn the loss of her brother and celebrate his life.
- Betty Richards requests prayers for her friend Pat who has been diagnosed with breast cancer.
- Mary and Bill Pierce request prayers for Marilyn, the wife of Bill's golf partner, George. She is in the hospital with kidney failure.
- Health to everyone in our congregation.
- All unspoken praises and prayers of our congregation.

Upcoming Birthdays

January 15	Lucas Cooper Charlotte Wieggers
January 17	Trevor Schissel Rance Olliges
January 19	James Hudson
January 20	Brad Eastman Tim Stremming



Sunday School	Amplify and Intensify meet each week in Rooms 201 & 202 at 10:05 a.m. Come join us for good discussions over donut holes!
Amplify & Intensify	Bring a friend or two and plan to join us for fun and fellowship.
	January 21: Youth Group @ 6 p.m.
	February 4: Youth Group @ 6 p.m.

What's Happening This Week @ St. John's

Sunday, January 14

8:30 a.m.	Coffee Fellowship	FH
9:00 a.m.	Traditional Service	MC
10:05 a.m.	Sunday School	Various Rooms
11:00 a.m.	Contemporary Service	MC
4:30 p.m.	Board of Trustees	Room 127

Monday, January 15

*Martin Luther King, Jr. Day - *Church Office Closed**

7:00 p.m.	Al-Anon	Youth Room
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Tuesday, January 16

10:00 a.m.	UMW Faith Circle	Room 105
6:30 p.m.	SPRC	Room 203
7:30 p.m.	Children of Hope	Room 105

Wednesday, January 17

2:00 p.m.	Organist Practice	MC
6:00 p.m.	Winter Patrol	
6:30 p.m.	BLUEPRINT	MC
7:30 p.m.	Al-Anon	Room 105
7:30 p.m.	Choir Practice	Choir Room

Thursday, January 18

8:30 a.m.	Open Walking	MC
9:30 a.m.	Study Group	Room 105
6:30 p.m.	Praise Band Practice	MC

Friday, January 19

10:00 a.m.	Outreach Team	Room 126
8:15 p.m.	Narcotics Anonymous	FH

Saturday, January 20