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Deadline for February
Newsletter is
January 25- looking for articles
Church office - 228-2800
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THOSE WHO WAIT UPON THE LORD

After starting a new diet I altered my drive to work to avoid passing my favorite bakery. I accidentally drove by the bakery this morning and as I approached, there in the window were a host of goodies. I felt this was no accident, so I prayed ... "Lord, it's up to you, if you want me to have any of those delicious goodies, create a parking place for me directly in front of the bakery."

And sure enough, on the eighth time around the block, **there it was! God is so Good!**



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 10:00 Worship	4 10:00 Quilting 6:00 Happy Hearts	5	6 7:00 Parish Council	7	8	9
10 10:00 Worship	11 10:00 Quilting 6:00 Happy Hearts	12	13 2:00 UMW	14	15	16
17 10:00 Worship	18 10:00 Quilting 6:00 Happy Hearts	19	20 2:00 PW	21	22	23
24 10:00 Worship	25 10:00 Quilting 6:00 Happy Hearts	26	27	28	29	30
31 10:00 Worship	Please be There maybe	Aware that Changes.				



By Leonard E. Smith

Sometimes you have to reach bottom before you look up to see God at work. Back in 1973, I was out of work again and depressed — actually very depressed. My wife and I had a son, an apartment, a car, and lots of bills to pay. I had also made myself unemployable as a high school teacher with just too much Jesus talk in class. I guess I was naive to think that talking about Jesus was more important than teaching Latin or English literature.

One morning I was reading the Bible and came to Isaiah 52:7: *“How lovely on the mountains are the feet of Him Who brings good news, announcing peace, proclaiming news of happiness: your God reigns.”* My heart began pounding in my chest because, through what I read, God spoke to me: “You’re going to get through this, and you will be fine. In fact, you’ll do very well.” I just felt the dark cloud lift off me. I picked up my guitar and, in a few minutes, *Our God Reigns* was born! I had one verse and the chorus. It wasn’t so much that I wrote it as I received it!

**How lovely on the mountains are the feet of Him
Who brings good news, good news
Announcing peace, proclaiming new of happiness
Our God reigns, Our God reigns!
Our God reigns! Our God reigns! Our God reigns!**

A couple of months later, a traveling evangelist visited our church, heard the song, and taught it as he went from church to church. It took me three more years to complete the other verses that made this Scripture chorus into a hymn that went around the world.

After the three big Christian music publishers passed on publishing my song in the late '70s, I decided to keep the copyright and establish New Jerusalem Music to manage my songs, as well as the songs of our friends and my son, Daniel C. Smith, of the group Danielson Family. The decision to create my own music company worked out incredibly well over the decades. This was the fulfillment of His promise all those years ago when He told me that I would do very well. I know we really do have a Good Shepherd who is guiding us, closing doors, and opening doors.

Every one of us has experienced disappointment and failure and had our hearts broken. But we don't need to be bitter about it. If we look closely, we'll see how God worked it out for our good. Over time, we become more understanding, more patient, and kinder to others who have been overlooked and forgotten. We must not forget that suffering is the very thing God uses to refine and strengthen us. Jesus set the pattern that crucifixion comes before resurrection. I would never have taken up learning how to play the guitar in seminary in the '60s if I hadn't been so desperately lonely for so long. And I would never have started writing Scripture songs

if I hadn't so deeply needed the comfort of the Psalms of David, who also knew something of loss and pain and heartbreak. Looking back, I'm grateful I was fired from that last teaching job. It proved to be the door God closed before He opened a new door for me. That open door has allowed me to enter into a wonderful new world. Thank you, Lord, for being such a good, loving, kind, faithful Shepherd. I know I'm in Your good hands and that will never change.

There was a preacher who fell in the ocean and he couldn't swim. When a boat came by, the captain yelled, "Do you need help, sir?" The preacher calmly said "No, God will save me." A little later, another boat came by and a fisherman asked, "Hey, do you need help?" The preacher replied again, "No God will save me." Eventually the preacher drowned & went to heaven. The preacher asked God, "Why didn't you save me?" God replied, "Fool, I sent you two boats!"

Lucy Maude Montgomery in her classic, Anne of Green Gables book said, "Isn't it nice to think that tomorrow is a new day with no mistakes in it yet?" It has become one of my most favourite quotes but also one I remember every New Year's Eve. The New Year begins with great fanfare and excitement; a New Year full of promise and expectation AND a New Year with no mistakes in it...yet.

United Parish Building Fund

Martha Gravseth - Linda & David Kyle
Marlys Kippen

United Parish Memorial Fund

Martha Gravseth - Sharon Marquardt
Floyd Hunking - Sharon Marquardt

Presbyterian Church

Gladys Nehring, Martha Gravseth,
Floyd Hunking, Cecile Maly (Turner)
Kary, Cathy Jose - Shari Turner
Cecile May Kary - Linda & David Kyle

A graphic with the words "Thank You" in a colorful, bubbly font. "Thank" is in purple, blue, and green, and "You" is in yellow, orange, and red.

Thank you for thinking of me at Christmas.
The gift card will come in handy.
Merry Christmas to all.

O.D. Herbel

Thank you to everyone who brought mittens,
gloves, scarves, hats and socks for the Cheer
box.



Thank you to those who took part in
readings for the Advent Wreath.

Thank you to everyone who helped with the
Christmas Eve Service.

Hopefully next year everything will be back
to normal or better than this last year.



January Birthdays

04 – Mary Elise McKay
05 – Haylie Moore
08 - Noel Sand
09 – Amy Sand
10 – Trevor Wettlaufer
11 – Lori Witteman
12 – Mark Gregg
19 – Brad Knudson
22 – Marie Faye Sand
25 – David Reinholz



Anniversaries

1 – Jim & Linda Berube
26 – Dennis & Evon Gravseth

A New Year Prayer for Wisdom

God, Give me wisdom from your truths, fill me with a desire to faithfully follow after you, more than any other thing. Thank you that you are far greater than whatever I may face in the day.

Thank you that your presence goes with me and that your joy is never dependent on circumstances, but it is my true and lasting strength. I ask for your peace to lead me and for your grace and goodness to cover my life this day. Let your Spirit and power breathe in me and through me again, fresh and new.