

Maupin Avenue ARP Church

## Happy New Year

Isn't it "In with the new and out with the old"?

This year that applies to even how we say the New Year.

How will you say 2010?

Is it two thousand ten or is it twenty ten? Just as Columbus sailed the ocean blue in fourteen ninety two, for me it will be twenty ten and on for the rest of the century that is left.

That marks a small change from the last decade, but one that will be said many times for next nine decades left in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

The way we say time is important, not just because 2010 might sound better as twenty-ten rather than two thousand ten, but because it marks a significant person in all of time as we know it.

Rare is it that time would begin over again but in fact 1BC and 1AD mark the

change of recording due to the birth of Jesus Christ of Nazareth.

Years before the birth of Christ are identified using the abbreviation B.C. ("Before Christ"). Years after the birth of Christ are identified using the Latin abbreviation AD ("Anno Domini", that is, "In the Year of the Lord"). The wonder is that Christ marks each and every day we refer to as time in our calendar. Due to His being in our time we say "In the Year of our Lord" (AD) and will continue to say it until He returns. It is as if time stood still and began anew.

When we wish one another "Happy New Year" we are in fact wishing them the blessing of another "Year of the Lord." And with that blessing is the promise of hope for salvation, the

"Word" made flesh, the "Light of all life."

And each day our Lord, by His Spirit, dwells within and among us giving to us His inexhaustible grace upon grace and truth, each day in the "Year of our Lord" God makes Himself known to us by how we record time. The Gospel of John says it in this way in chapter 1:18.

"(Before Jesus came into the world) no one had ever (completely) seen God, the only (unique) God, (but) He (Jesus) who is at (God our) Father's side, He (Jesus) has made God known (to the world by His coming)."

Happy New Year is really "I wish you a Merry Christmas" for the New Year. And I Do!

Happy New Year in Christ Our Lord,

Pastor Randy

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## MAUPIN'S CORNER

### THINGS TO BE THANKFUL FOR IN 2009 AND THINGS WE ARE HOPEFUL FOR IN 2010

We are thankful for our church family. We have grown together in so many ways, and have reached out to those in spiritual and physical need to bring Jesus to those He loves.

We have been blessed by being Christ's Church in the community of Salisbury and Rowan County.

We are blessed to have become welcoming neighbors in our surrounding community, accepting those who Jesus brings into our family as our own.

We have been blessed to return to our roots as a church in Fulton Heights, a community that got its start in the early 1900's just as Maupin Avenue did. And so to become the cover of the first ever Fulton Heights Neighborhood 2010 calendar marks a beginning of what was our beginning back in 1926.

Because we have reached out and welcomed in those who are new, we have changed dramatically as a church and will continue to. With a welcoming spirit growth comes, ministries are kindled, lasting friendships are made and all that is new for Christ's sake is being built on the Maupin saints of the past and the present.

Without the "Little White Church on the Corner" there would be no Maupin of 1939 when our current church was built. But if we had not continued to reach out to the community and neighbors in the 20's and 30's then 1939 would never have been thought possible.

Our hope and purpose as the church is this:

"To proclaim not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, and ourselves as servants to each other and the world for Jesus sake."

As we reach out for Jesus to others we will continue to grow and change. Relationships will begin and deepen. We will be held to a different standard because those around us know we are here and very much alive.

The blessings of 2009, most recently like the "community dinner" that was served on Christmas Eve which physically and spiritually ministered to those in need and richly blessed us who served; and following the great attendance of almost 70 people who came to worship at our second "Christmas Eve Candle Light/ Communion Service," these blessing will continue to shape our worship and lives as we continue to reach out and welcome, without fear of change, those who Christ brings to us.

At the Christmas Eve Community Dinner, the very first guest we served, when seated asked one who came to serve to pray over him and his meal and give thanks. And so during the prayer and fellowship that followed we lived out the truth of 2Cor. 4:5 and proclaimed Christ as Savoior and ourselves as servants for His sake.

If we had served no one other than this gentleman in this way on Christmas Eve, it would have been worth all the effort.

**How can we practically be hopeful for 2010?** It all begins in the area of relationships and so here are a few things to think about in how we treat each other, reach out and worship together:

1. Be out front inviting others to do new things with you. **Do not be demanding** by nature, have hopes and standards, but always show the other person you care first about them.

## CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

2. Be in control of what ministry you are responsible for but **be confident in Jesus and the Holy Spirit** that “He who began the work in you will bring it to completion.” God owns “all the cattle of every hill” and He has unlimited spiritual and physical resources. In our weaknesses He is made strong. Don’t feel you must control it all, but do feel you must mentor and empower others to do the ministry with you. You only grow in Christ as you do ministry, and doing ministry implies equipping and training others in ministry. That is “God’s method” of ministry; any other quickly becomes “our way.”
3. Always keep your eyes open for this one. When you look at a person or a circumstance what do you see? **Do you see potential, or do you see a problem?** What is your consistent perspective in this area of relationship? If you first always “critically” see the others problem then you might possess a critical spirit. People will always run from those who first see the worst and not the best in others. A critical spirit repels but one that first sees the potential catches and keeps the ear of their friends and listens to solutions when needed.
4. **Don’t walk past people to get your job done.** “People never care how good you are at things or care how much you know until they know how much you care about them.” I spoke to someone over the holidays about his successful career. He managed a team of people who was responsible for the maintenance and logistics at a very important armament that has been the backbone of our country’s last five military engagements. Over a 30 year career he spoke about how the first 20 prepared him with the smarts to lead this team successfully but said, “I was solely successful because of the relationships I built with people for the first 20 years, and continued the last 10 of my career”.

**Colossians 3:12-14** tells us to “Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. <sup>13</sup>Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. <sup>14</sup>And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.”

5. **Keep your attitude a positive attitude.** How can we not be positive as Christians with the “Hope we have in us?” the negative, half empty glass kind of person has much the same effect on people as the person with a critical spirit. Life in itself presents difficult enough circumstances on the best of days. People always need a lift up so practice a consistently positive attitude. Attitude, despite of your circumstance, is always a choice.
6. **Next be willing to forgive easily.** Love, the most important part of relationships, will not readily last unless we can forgive. As grace has been given you, give unto others. God has forgiven us and we, by our new nature, must be redemptive. In future newsletters this year I want to speak about what it means to forgive and what it doesn’t mean. What it will do for you and those with whom you have relationships. How if you cannot correctly forgive, you may never truly love. Quite often this is the missing ingredient that breaks the bonds of our relationships.
7. Be happy but not selfish with all you have. **Love others.** When pressure comes who do you think of first? In the tough times love each other first. Love others first, that is the way God loved us, and always will.

As we are thankful for the blessings of 2009, let us in our relationships live hopefully with one another and grow in the ministries Christ wants for our church family in 2010.

May 2010 be the year of outreach in ministry with the Gospel that is the same today as it has always been. The Gospel Outreach that saves, loves and meets the needs of others through the gifts of ministry given us by the Holy Spirit as we serve one another and the world for Christ’s sake.

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## MAUPIN'S CORNER

### CRABBY OLD MAN

When an old man died in the geriatric ward of a nursing home in North Platte, Nebraska , it was believed that he had nothing left of any value.

Later, when the nurses were going through his meager possessions, they found this poem. Its quality and content so impressed the staff that copies were made and distributed to every nurse in the hospital. One nurse took her copy to Missouri .

The old man's sole bequest to posterity has since appeared in the Christmas edition of the News Magazine of the St. Louis Association for Mental Health. A slide presentation has also been made based on his simple, but eloquent, poem.

And this little old man, with nothing left to give to the world, is now the author of this 'anonymous' poem winging across the Internet.

#### Crabby Old Man

What do you see nurses? . . . . . What do you see?  
What are you thinking . . . . . when you're looking at me?

A crabby old man . . . . . not very wise,  
Uncertain of habit . . . . . with faraway eyes?

Who dribbles his food . . . . . and makes no reply.  
When you say in a loud voice . . . . . 'I do wish you'd try!  
Who seems not to notice . . . . . the things that you do.  
And forever is losing . . . . . A sock or shoe?

Who, resisting or not . . . . . lets you do as you will,  
With bathing and feeding . . . . . The long day to fill?  
Is that what you're thinking? . . . . . Is that what you see?  
Then open your eyes, nurse . . . . . you're not looking at me.

I'll tell you who I am. . . . . As I sit here so still,  
As I do at your bidding, . . . . . as I eat at your will.  
I'm a small child of Ten . . . . . with a father and mother,  
Brothers and sisters . . . . . who love one another.

A young boy of Sixteen . . . . . with wings on his feet.  
Dreaming that soon now . . . . . a lover he'll meet.  
A groom soon at Twenty . . . . . my heart gives a leap.  
Remembering, the vows . . . . . that I promised to keep.

At Twenty-Five, now . . . . . I have young of my own.  
Who need me to guide . . . . . And a secure happy home.  
A man of Thirty . . . . . My young now grown fast,  
Bound to each other . . . . . With ties that should last..

At Forty, my young sons . . . . . have grown and are gone,  
But my woman's beside me . . . . . to see I don't mourn.  
At Fifty, once more, babies play 'round my knee,  
Again, we know children . . . . . My loved one and me.

Dark days are upon me . . . . . my wife is now dead.  
I look at the future . . . . . shudder with dread.  
For my young are all rearing . . . . . young of their own.  
And I think of the years . . . . . and the love that I've known.

I'm now an old man . . . . . and nature is cruel.  
Tis jest to make old age . . . . . look like a fool.  
The body, it crumbles . . . . . grace and vigor, depart.  
There is now a stone . . . . . where I once had a heart.

But inside this old carcass . . . . . a young guy still dwells,  
And now and again . . . . . my battered heart swells.  
I remember the joys . . . . . I remember the pain.  
And I'm loving and living . . . . . life over again.

I think of the years, all too few . . . . . gone too fast.  
And accept the stark fact . . . . . that nothing can last.  
So open your eyes, people . . . . . open and see.  
Not a crabby old man . . . . . Look closer . . . . . see ME!!

**Remember this poem when you next meet**

**an older person who you might brush aside**

**without looking at the young soul within.**

**We will all, one day, be there, too!**

# JANUARY 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 10:00am-Sunday School 11:00am- Worship 5:30pm-Youth Night	4  <i>Pastor's day off</i>	5	6  <i>Dinner 5:15pm Bible Study 6:00pm Choir Practice 7:00pm</i>	7	8	9  <i>Combined Cir- cles meet 8:00am</i>
10 10:00am-Sunday School 11:00am- Worship/ Children's Church/ <u>Communion</u>	11  <i>Pastor's day off</i>	12  <i>Deacons meet 6:30pm</i>	13  <i>Dinner 5:15pm Bible Study 6:00pm Choir Practice 7:00pm</i>	14	15	16
17 10:00am-Sunday School 11:00am- Worship/ Children's Church	18  <i>Pastor's day off</i>	19	20  <i>Dinner 5:15pm Bible Study 6:00pm Choir Practice 7:00pm</i>	21	22	23
24 10:00am-Sunday School 11:00am- Worship/ Children's Church	25  <i>Pastor's day off</i>	26  <i>Health/Prayer teams meet 7:00pm</i>	27  <i>Dinner 5:15pm Bible Study 6:00pm Choir Practice 7:00pm</i>	28	29	30
31 10:00am-Sunday School 11:00am- Worship/ Children's Church						

## Youth Night

Starting this month, Youth Night will be held on the first Sunday of each month (instead of every-other-Sunday). The remaining Sundays of the month will be Children's Church. All youth are invited and encouraged to attend Youth Night. Field trips and different activities are in the planning stages for the future...

The Deaconate will meet Tuesday, January 12 at 6:30pm.

The Health Team and Intercessory Prayer Teams will meet Tuesday, January 26 at 7:00pm.

## January Birthdays

Jan 5	Lenora Ridenhour
Jan 5	Debra Rookard
Jan 10	Sara Dwyer
Jan 12	Lillie Dickert
Jan 13	Eddie Lesslie
Jan 15	Gabriel Shaw
Jan 18	Reid Dickert
Jan 21	Shane Layman
Jan 22	Gale Spry
Jan 28	Ruth Coley
Jan 29	Mary Ruth Harrill

## Women of the Church

The combined circles will meet Saturday, January 9 at 8:00am for breakfast and monthly meeting.

## Congratulations!

**Michael Ranson**, son of **Dallas and Angie**, and grandson of **Evelyn Cvechko** won two awards for Art. His art has been on display at Dan Nicholas Park, Waterworks Gallery and Landis Elementary School. Michael is an 8th grader at North Rowan Middle School.

**Abbie Ranson**, daughter of **Dallas and Angie**, and granddaughter of **Evelyn Cvechko** was named to the AB Honor Roll. She is a student at North Rowan Elementary School.

**Bill Fisher**, Past Governor of North Carolina District West Civitan, was presented an Honor Key by the Granite Quarry Civitan Club at their annual Christmas Party on December 4. This is the highest honor award presented by a local club.