

But they that wait upon
THE LORD WILL
RENEW THEIR STRENGTH
They shall mount up with
WINGS AS EAGLES



Mountain Messenger

January 2018

Newsletter



Pastor's Pen...

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.² He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters.³ He restores my soul... Ps 23:1-3 (NKJV)

The Psalm 23 is arguably the most memorized, the most quoted, and the most cherished piece of scripture in Western culture. Even the biblically impaired have heard somewhere, sometime, that "The Lord is my shepherd." Although most are associated with the 23rd Psalm because it is frequently used in funeral services, it has much more to say about how to live life than it does in how to draw comfort when you die.

Part of the power and enduring relevance of this psalm is the fact that it pulls no punches. Clearly, the author of these verses has experienced pain and loss and adversity. If Psalm 23 suggests simplicity of trust, it is a trust that lies on the other side of a life spent dealing with complexities of conflict and fear.

First, rest allows us to focus on the relationship. We can rest because the Lord is our Shepherd. The image of a shepherd is a powerful metaphor that speaks powerfully about our relationship with God. The image of a shepherd was easily understood by everyone who heard this psalm and that image carried over into the way that they understood their relationship with God.

I shall not want. Years later, the nation of Israel looked back on their experience with God in the wilderness and saw that God met their needs each and every step of the way. They did not want for anything. Like a shepherd caring for his sheep, they saw that they could trust God to care for them and so can we.

God can be trusted to meet our needs whether its in "green pastures", "beside still waters", or in the "valley of the shadow of death". To say that God is our shepherd is a confession of

faith and trust in God. It declares that we have to place our commitment and trust in him to guide us and provide for us through the course of our life.

He knows the difference between our needs and our greed's: Look at how we live our lives. To look at our lives from the outside, it doesn't seem as if we have placed our trust in God to meet all of our needs. We seem to be intent on doing it our way without little thought or faith in God to meet our needs. We try to cram into life and life only seems to give us less in return. Cramming more into our lives doesn't bring more meaning into it. It merely leaves no time for the things that are important.

The point of diminishing returns: Without taking time out to come apart, we live impoverished lives. Our most important relationships, with God and our families, are taken for granted and left wanting. We need to learn to come apart before we come apart at the seams.

Our ability to rest is important because it says a lot about our faith and trust in God. Rest reminds us who is in charge of the world and who is not. There is only one God and we're not Him.

Do you need to rest? Do you need some down time? During the winter months, let Him be your Shepherd. Let Him lead and guide you and you will find the rest that you need.



Pastor Steve

Helping People
Find and Follow Jesus



Wow! You packed a total of 399 shoeboxes this year!

A sincere "thank you" to all who participated, from folding shoeboxes, knitting caps and filling each box generously and from your heart!

In 2017, volunteers from McConnell received, counted, placed in cartons and transported to the regional collection center, over 1000 shoeboxes from our church and other churches in our local area. If you would like to learn more about opportunities to serve as Samaritan's Purse volunteers during the next National Collection Week, November 12-19, 2018, please let us know.



This team of McConnell volunteers then traveled on Monday, December 11th, to the Atlanta area processing center where teams are responsible for removing financial contributions from the shoeboxes, inspecting the gifts, sorting inappropriate items, working with filler items, separating boxes by age/gender and boxing shoeboxes in designated cartons to be shipped to the children of the Congo.



What a wonderful time we had with families in our community at our annual Cookies with Santa event! Thank you for baking cookies and coming out and sharing Christ's love with our community! We are looking

forward to a new year and new ways to help children find and follow Jesus! If you have ideas or would like to help in our Children's Ministry, please let me know.



Miss Betty

Children's Ministry

LOVING GOD ~
LOVING KIDS

Upcoming Events—Save the Dates



Zip Line

January 7th, 5:00 pm

Join us in the Family Life Center for a fun-filled evening as we kick off our 2018 Awana Clubs with the Zip Line! Lots of fun for all!



IF: HIAWASSEE

February 9th & 10th

This is your opportunity to be a part of this global women's gathering and see how God uses this event to change lives for eternity. Planning is underway and more details will be announced soon.



New to McConnell Mixer

Are you relatively new to McConnell and want to meet others who are also? Here's your opportunity to do just that at our new comers mixer in the Family Life Center on **Sunday, January 28th**, after the morning worship service. We'll have a simple meal ready for you to enjoy and time for you to get to know others! Just call the church office at 706.896.2281 to let us know you are interested!

Serving God, Serving Others

Each year, the **Nominating Committee** is tasked with recruiting servants for standing committees, such as Benevolence, Hospitality, Long Range Planning & Missions; in education as Sunday School teachers in preschool through senior adult classes; programs such as Awana, PEAK Kids and Vacation Bible School; Ministry Teams ranging from Audio-Visual, English as a Second Language, First Touch, Greeters, Scholarship, Welcome Center, Welcome Cart Teams and many more! If you know that you'd like to serve on a specific committee or ministry team, please let us know. If there are openings in that area, we'll try to accommodate your request. If you'd like to serve somewhere but just don't know what opportunities are available, please let us know that also! Our desire is to help you find a place of service where you can connect with others. It's easy to volunteer – just call the church office and leave your name and number and the office staff will pass this info on to the Nominating Committee. We work throughout the year and the new slate of Servants in Ministry volunteers begins on September 1, 2018.



- **Change in Date/January Deacon's Meeting**
We'll meet Monday, January 15th instead of January 22nd, 7:00 pm in Family Life Center, Room 219.
- **Quarterly Church Conference**
Sunday, January 28th, following the evening service.
- The **Hope Room Clothes Closet** is closed Tuesday, January 2nd & Thursday, January 4th. They will re-open on Tuesday, January 8th, 1:00 pm.
- **Phonetree Notifications**
During the winter months, should a decision be made to cancel services and activities due to inclement weather, we'll notify you via our Phone Tree System. If you've had a recent change in your preferred phone number for these notifications, please let the church office know so our records can be updated. If you are not receiving these calls and would like to, please let us know that as well.

servants in ministry

SUNDAY SERVANTS - 1.7.18

INFANTS & 2 YR OLDS, 3 & 4 YR OLDS

K. Clark, K. McRoberts, L. & M. Avery

GREETERS - Team # 5 **SECURITY** - C. Nicholson

FIRST TOUCH - R. & J. Cole

WELCOME DESK - J. & J. Armstrong

WELCOME CARTS - Capt. - B. McDaniels, B. Grimsley,
J. Jessup, J. Batye

SUNDAY SERVANTS - 1.14.18

INFANTS & 2 YR OLDS, 3 & 4 YR OLDS

C. Therrel, M. Thomson, L. Shook

GREETERS - Team # 5 **SECURITY** - C. Nicholson

FIRST TOUCH - P. & B. Turner

WELCOME DESK - G. Gooding & B. Cooley

WELCOME CARTS - Capt. - J. Hedden, R. Thomson,
G. Boyd, T. Bouma

SUNDAY SERVANTS - 1.21.18

INFANTS & 2 YR OLDS, 3 & 4 YR OLDS

L. Corn, B. McDaniels, D. Fain

GREETERS - Team # 5 **SECURITY** - C. Nicholson

FIRST TOUCH - B. & J. Crowder

WELCOME DESK - L. Shook & D. Heard

WELCOME CARTS - Capt. - R. Parkman, R. Peterson,
D. Dermody, B. Keilholtz

SUNDAY SERVANTS - 1.28.18

INFANTS & 2 YR OLDS, 3 & 4 YR OLDS

S. Adams, M. Nicholson, F. Ayers

GREETERS - Team # 5 **SECURITY** - C. Nicholson

FIRST TOUCH - J. & M. Dolvin

WELCOME DESK - J. & D. Harrison

WELCOME CARTS - Capt. - B. Cone, G. Denton, J. Hyatt,
S. Berkstresser

January ushers

Balcony usher: D. Wilson

Morning service: H. Smith - Head Usher

J. Armstrong, H. Bailey, R. Bartlett, M. Bleckley

Evening service: H. Smith - Head Usher

J. Dolvin, G. Wright

our deepest sympathy

The entire McConnell Church family extends our Christian sympathy to Phyllis Miller & Barb Helm at the death of their mother, Bobbie Kelley; to Kathy Potts, at the death of her sister-in-law, Linda Shook; and to Mary Anne Wagener, at the death of her brother, Carl.

Happy New Year!

Just a reminder that the Church Office is closed on Monday, January 1st. We'll re-open on Tuesday, January 2nd at 8:00 am.

Current Resident or

84 Church Street
Hiawassee, GA 30546
Helping People Find and Follow Jesus



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