

January



January 12



MEETINGS

Staff —Mon., Jan. 6, 9:15am

Effie Ford Circle— Wed., Jan. 22, 10am

Ad Council—Thurs., Jan. 16, 7pm

UMM--Sat., Jan. 18, 8am

Finance Mtg.—Thurs., Jan. 23, 7pm

Administrative Council will meet Thurs., Jan 16 at 7pm, in the FLC. We will be setting the calendar for 2020. All committees or ministries must have a representative present to have dates approved and put on the calendar.

COMMUNICATOR

Pastor's Message...

Happy New Ear!

As we come into the New Year, I can't help but recall a funny story that my mother told me about myself. It seems that a day or two after the New Year when I was about three years old my mother was bathing me and suddenly, I started crying uncontrollably. When she finally got me calmed down, she asked me what was the matter? I told her that everyone had been saying happy new ear and I didn't want a new ear. Mom holding back her laugh explained that it was happy New Year not happy new ear. She said I was greatly relieved by the news.

Two things contributed to this confusion, first the fact that I obviously was still having trouble with the English Language and secondly I had been privy to a lot of recent conversation about my cousin who was a couple years older than I and who was born without an outer ear and had undergone several surgeries to make a new ear.

The other day, after I recalled this funny story from my childhood, I began to wonder what might happen if we were able to start the New Year with a new ear of sorts.

Every January 1st we all make resolutions for a whole multitude of things to try better ourselves. Some of these things include diets, better work habits, more time with the family, better hygiene habits and the list goes on.

What if we made a resolution to go into the New Year with a new ear? No, I am not talking about getting plastic surgery or buying hearing aids. I am talking about new spiritual ears. That is tuning our ears once again fully to God.

In Romans 10:17 Paul reminds the church in Rome about how important listening is to the development of their faith when he says, "Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ."

Most of us have been so busy going through life worrying and thinking about so many things that we can't possibly hear God's still small voice calling us. There are so many things shouting at us for our attention that we have begun to grow deaf to that which we really need to be listening to.

We need to be listening to the voice of God

because he has the ultimate plan for our lives and the life of his church. When we become deaf to God's guidance our lives become hard stressful and just plain no fun. When we as a church community become deaf to what God wants to do with his church, we start replacing his will with our own thoughts and desires and this can be a death blow to the church.

Now I know that none of us want our lives to be burdensome or God's church to fail but how do we retune our ear to what God is trying to tell us how do we get a new ear for the New Year? Well, we need to spend more time in prayer and not just reading a litany of concerns or needs but listening to God as well. We need to spend more time reflecting on the scriptures and listening for God's voice in them. It's really about relinquishing control and putting God back in control where he belongs. After all who knows better what is right for us and the church, than the one that created us.

I think I know what my New Year's resolution is going to be will you join me? Happy New Ear! Your friend and Pastor

Steven



Phone: 770-428-0511  
 Fax: 770-428-0468  
 E-mail: [clumc@countylineumc.org](mailto:clumc@countylineumc.org)

We're on the web!  
[www.countylineumc.org](http://www.countylineumc.org)



**BABY SHOWER!!**

Pastor Steven and Jeannene's daughter, Holly, is expecting a baby boy in February. The women of the church will be hosting a baby shower in her honor on January 12 during the fellowship lunch after the 11 a.m. service. Holly will not be able to attend since she is now on bed rest. However, we will celebrate this precious gift that is about to join their family!

Holly's Baby Shower Wish List:



- Sleepers and Onesies
- Newborn and 3-6 months
- Baby boy outfits 3-6 months
- Bibs
- Huggies Newborn diapers and wipes
- Playtex baby nurser bottles with drop in-liners
- Newborn gift set
- Baby Dove Complete Care Essentials gift carton
- Graco Slim Spaces compact baby swing (Humphry)
- Crib Mattress
- Stroller/infant car seat
- Graco Modes Click Connect Travel System



Welcome Jan Stedman, new pianist/accompanist! We feel Jan will make a great addition to our ministry and staff here at County Line. Please welcome Jan to our church family!

**Mission Opportunity—Quilts for Disaster Relief**

—There is excitement in the air! Wednesday, January 8 at 10am there will be a meeting of a new group! Anyone interested in helping make quilts for disaster relief is invited to the home of Betty Vollenweider, 1202 Mount Tabor Church Rd., Dallas, 770-445-7689. We will plan to meet on the first and second Wednesday of each month. You don't have to be able to sew to be a part of this group, seamstresses, designers, pressers, etc. are needed. So come be a part of this new ministry!

**Our Staff...**

- Pastor** Rev. Steven Riddle (ext. 102)  
[steven@countylineumc.org](mailto:steven@countylineumc.org)
- Admin. Assist.** Sherry Wiman (ext. 101)  
[sherry@countylineumc.org](mailto:sherry@countylineumc.org)
- Custodian** Linda Lamine
- Financial Admin.** Mary Paris  
[finadmin@countylineumc.org](mailto:finadmin@countylineumc.org)
- Music Director** Ted Brown  
[theodoreebrown@bellsouth.net](mailto:theodoreebrown@bellsouth.net)
- Pianist** Jan Stedman
- Weekday Director** Vicki Jenkins (ext. 105)  
[vicki@countylineumc.org](mailto:vicki@countylineumc.org)

**WEEKDAY MINISTRIES...**

Staff Workday—Jan. 2  
 MLK Holiday—Jan. 20





Women's Bible Study will start the year with a study by Priscilla Shirer, "Discerning the Voice of God" on January 9th. Through 7 sessions, discover

how to recognize when God speaks. We will gather at 9:45 a.m. with the study beginning promptly at 10 a.m. The books are \$11. Sign up sheets are at both entrances to the sanctuary. If you have questions about ordering a book, contact Lynda Teague, [lrteague@att.net](mailto:lrteague@att.net) or 770-424-2260. If you have questions about the study, contact Diane Alred who will be leading the study at [dianealred@hotmail.com](mailto:dianealred@hotmail.com) or 404-797-3369. We hope you can join us for this exciting study.

UMW will host a baby shower for Pastor Steven's daughter, Holly, on January 12 during the fellowship dinner following the 11 a.m. service.

Effie Ford Circle will meet Wednesday, January 22 at 10 a.m. in the Conference Room. We will be making our final plans for our trip to Murphy-Harpst where we will serve lunch and celebrate January birthdays with the children. We will also begin planning for our women's retreat in April. All women of the church are invited to attend this meeting. If you have questions, contact Lynda Teague at [lrteague@att.net](mailto:lrteague@att.net) or 770-424-2260. We look forward to seeing many of you there!



**April 24 - 26, 2020**

Mark your calendars! We will be traveling to Blueridge for some food, shopping, and relaxation!



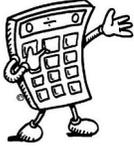
## FINANCE COMMITTEE UPDATE

\*\*\*\*\*  
**FINANCIAL REPORT:** The church's finances each month continue to fall short of the budgeted revenue amount. Thankfully, November expenses were \$1,388.00 less than November revenue. Therefore the YTD deficit was reduced. The YTD deficit (revenue less expenses) as of November 30, 2019 is **(\$23,078)**. Based on the December weekly giving, December should end in the positive thereby reducing deficit, but not eliminating it completely. The church's end of the year finance report will be in the February newsletter. We thank those who stepped up and included the church with your Christmas gifts.  
 \*\*\*\*\*

			
<b>December Giving:</b>		<b>As of 11/30/19:</b>	
12/1	\$8,150	2019	
12/8	\$3,454	Budget	\$300,000
12/15	\$3,772	Year-to Date	
12/22	\$6,904	11/30/19:	
12/24	\$3,896	Funded	\$229,597
12/29	\$1,859	Unfunded	\$70,403
Dec			
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$28,036</b>	FLC	
		Mortgage	\$219,669

If you have any questions about the finance reports, please contact Deborah Bentley, Finance Committee Chairperson

**Mark Your Calendars!** The Sager Brown Mission Trip was a great success so we have already set the dates for next year! Make plans to attend September 27--October 2, 2020!



## FINANCE COMMITTEE UPDATE

**Electronic giving** is a convenient way to provide consistent financial support to our church. Please visit our website ([www.countylincumc.org](http://www.countylincumc.org)) click on the Stewardship and Giving tab, then scroll down to the **DONATE NOW** icon and click on the button to set up your online recurring giving. Please contact the church office if you have any questions about the online giving.

