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BEAR, BELIEVE, HOPE & ENDURE

There are a number of passages dedicated to the portrayal of love in the Bible, but none are as famous as Paul's words in 1 Corinthians 13. I was particularly moved by the final thoughts on the practice that Paul shares: [Love] "bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things—love never fails." Those are some STRONG verbs! Based just on that part of the passage it's hard to walk away with any idea other than that love is about the strongest thing that humans have to experience and offer! After all, love never fails!

Carol is one of our MHBC neighbors just down the road on Main Street. You may have seen her at one time or another—caring for the retaining walls along the sidewalks, or working at the hill and drainage space across from J&J Auto. Carol has a gift for outdoor beautification, and shares it with her neighbors. But recently, Carol's home got to the point where it was condemned. There are structural issues and livability issues that have to be addressed, and until then, she can't live in the house.

When she found out, one of our neighbors stepped up to help. Hannah Wright is a member of the Wright Construction family/company that built the new apartments behind the church. They own a number of rental units in the community, and have been invested for some time in trying to build it up. When she found out about Carol's needs, she reached out to us to help with the project, and enlisted the help of other contractors, electrical supply companies, WSET, Kingdom Builders, and others—ALL who are pulling together to get Carol's house back to code.

Things have only been going for a week or so, but in that time, we've had a number of volunteers over for cleanout, and a number of others working to address the needs of the home. Contractors are pulling together to do hard work—all on their own time/dime—all to help a neighbor. As you can imagine, that kind of thing isn't easy. There is a lot to BEAR and ENDURE in work like this out in the cold! But it's work that will also help someone BELIEVE and HOPE for a better future. THAT is the kind of love that we celebrate at Advent and Christmas. THAT is the kind of sacrificial and communal love that will never fail: especially when it's guided by the light of Christ.

If you would like to be part of a volunteer effort to this end, please reach out to me and I will keep you up to date with when opportunities arise. In the coming weeks, we will take a love offering as a church to support the work, but if you'd like to give to the Go Fund Me now instead, it is called: **Carol's Return: A Community Effort** . I hope that you plan to join us for this final Sunday worship service before Christmas! **-Josh**

SUNDAY MORNING

9:45 AM - SUNDAY SCHOOL

11:00 AM - MORNING WORSHIP

SPECIAL ELEMENTS

Rev. Josh Beeler's sermon: "Love"

Micah 5:2-5

Chancel Choir - Have You Heard? Pt. 2

Sanctuary Bells



DEACON OF THE WEEK

Dec. 22 J.C. Fore & John Grieser

DEACONS SERVING DECEMBER 22

J.C. Fore Josh Grieser
Carl LaFerney Caren Jefferson
Cary Murphy Irene White

DEACON OF THE WEEK

Dec. 29 Cary Murphy & Irene White

DEACONS SERVING DECEMBER 29

Allen Ashwell Nancy Campbell
Luke Hamel Jerry Mayberry
Lesley McPhatter Sharon Walters-Bower

DECEMBER 15, 2024 OFFERINGS

Budget Envelopes.....\$ 8,437.00
(Weekly Budget Needs \$9199.06)
Plate Offering.....\$ 208.00
Designated Offering.....\$ 458.00
TOTAL DEPOSIT..... \$ 9,103.00
Find Us Faithful.....\$ 230.00

DECEMBER USHERS

Brad Burchette & R.J. Pugh

IN THE HOSPITAL

Mary Ellen Bryant - Lynchburg General



ACTEENS MISSIONS MAILBOXES

The Acteens Missions Post Office is open! Mail Christmas cards to active church members and shut-ins. A donation box is beside the mailboxes on the table in the main hallway.

CHRISTMAS CHEER BASKETS

Experience the joy of providing Christmas meals to local families!
Dec. 19 - 9 a.m. sort the food items
Dec. 20 - 9 a.m. pack food boxes
Dec. 21 - 10 a.m. deliver food boxes to families so they will have Christmas dinner!

POINSETTIAS

Special envelopes are available if you wish to place a poinsettia in the sanctuary. The cost is \$10 and it is a great way to give in honor of someone and contribute to the CBF Global Missions Offering.



FELLOWSHIP

CHRISTMAST EVE SERVICE

Carols, Candlelight and Communion
7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY EVENING FAMILY MINISTRIES

All programs will resume on Jan. 15

OFFICE CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

The office will be closed from December 24-27 and there will not be a Communicator that week.

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