



The Newsletter

January 2024

*Glorify God in all we do,
Grow with Him daily &
Go with Him to share His love.*



January at a Glance

1. No Bible Classes/Youth Groups
- 5: 10:10am Sunday School Resumes
- 5-11: Pastor Brian will be gone
- 8: Bible Classes and Remnant resumes
- 12: Installation and Ordination of new Elders and Deacons
 - Round 3 Cooking Competition: Chili!!
- 13: 6:00 pm Elder & Deacon Meetings
7:00 pm Full Consistory will meet
- 20: 9:30am: Faith Bible Study will meet
 - 3:00pm: Patience Bible Study will meet

*Sundays:

- 9:00 am Praise & Worship Service
- 10:10 am Sunday School for 3yrs-Adult
- 10:10 am Coffee Fellowship Time
- 6:30 pm Fellowship Bible Studies

*Tuesdays:

- 8:30 am Quilting Chicks will meet

*Wednesday Evenings:

- 6:30-7:30pm 1st-5th gr. Bible Classes
- 6:30-7:30pm MS Remnant will meet
- 7:30-8:30 pm HS Remnant will meet

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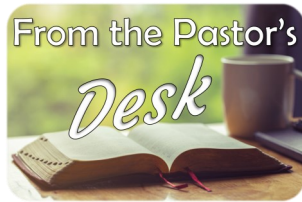
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The Church is a School of Life

Since I've arrived here at First Reformed, one of my main goals has been to cast a vision for our church as a spiritually healthy place for people to meet the Lord Jesus, come into a personal relationship with him, grow in a consistent and reliable way, and ultimately learn how to share what they've learned with anyone who wants to know. You see, God's whole rationale for calling the church into existence is so that it can be a school of life. That is, a place where anyone who wants to can come and learn from Jesus, in a community context, how to live their lives as Jesus would live their lives if he were in their place.

Where do I find the scriptural support for that assertion? Well, it's in many places in the Bible, but we see it quiet clearly in Matthew 28:16-20, a passage we refer to as the Great Commission. I wonder if you've thought about those words very often?

Jesus starts by saying, "All authority in heaven and earth has been given to me." That's who we're working for. Those are the resources he makes available to his helpers to accomplish the task. We're not resource-poor. We are promised all the help we need.

"Therefore..." Jesus says. Whenever you see the word "therefore" in scripture, you need to pay attention. The writer is about to present a conclusion based on what he's just said. In this case, Jesus is saying, "I've got power over everything in heaven and earth for the express purpose of accomplishing the task I'm about to give you. You can do this because this is something we are doing together." Most of our translations give the next word as "go." I think it's better translated as "as you are going...."

This presents making disciples as something of a by-product to the normal living of our lives with the Lord Jesus, and eventually people noticing that we're different and asking you about it. I think that's a really important point. We've made evangelism this awkward, stand-alone thing where we approach strangers with free Bibles and maybe gospel tracts. Basically we've turned evangelism into the systematic bothering of people who don't particularly want to be bothered by people who don't particularly want to be doing the bothering. That's why nobody evangelizes. And I don't blame them. Think about how you feel when the Mormons or the Jehovah's Witnesses show up at your front door or pigeonhole you in some public place to push their religion. I bet you don't like it much. Me either. And so I don't want to participate in anything like that myself.

"All authority in heaven and earth has been given to me, therefore, as you are going make disciples....." Notice Jesus didn't say, "make Calvinists." Nor did he say, "make Reformed People" or, "make Presbyterians" or even, "make Christians." He said, "make disciples." What is a disciple? This is a super important point that we are very confused about in our day. Currently, the gospel has become so obscured that we think you can be a Christian without being a disciple. There's no encouragement to think that way in all of scripture. A disciple is an apprentice. A disciple is someone who is living and learning in an interactive relationship with a Master Teacher. The goal of that interactive relationship is to be able to do the things the Master Teacher does when it is appropriate to do so. Discipleship isn't merely getting together once a week for a Bible study, though Bible study is a wonderful and necessary thing. Discipleship is about changing the human heart, because that's where all of our actions originate from. (Luke 6:45)

"All authority in heaven and earth has been given to me. Therefore, as you are going, make apprentices, teaching them to obey all that I have commanded you...."

When we think about that last part... the part about teaching the apprentice-in-training... we usually think in terms of "teaching them that they ought to do all I have commanded, but aren't really expected to actually do so. Because grace. Or something." That's assuming that we've thought about it at all, which is not readily apparent.

Since a disciple is one who is in the process of learning from the Master to do what the Master does, then it only makes sense that Jesus means something like, “....teaching them in such a way that they learn to actually do all that I have commanded. They become capable of completing that task.” We’re not just teaching people that they *ought* to change. We are also teaching them *how* to change. And how can we teach someone in such a way that they are able to routinely do all that Jesus has commanded if we don’t have the ability to do that ourselves? You can’t teach people how to do what you don’t know how to do yourself! So the Great Commission presupposes that we ourselves have made some progress along the path of apprenticeship to Jesus. It presumes that we are at least becoming the sorts of people who can “do all that [he] has commanded,” and are sharing our knowledge and experience with others who are not as far along the path as we are.

And here we get to some very good news. Becoming more like Christ is not automatic. You don’t pray to receive Jesus on one day and find that you wake up Christlike the next day. It requires effort on our part. That effort is, of course, assisted by grace. The good news is that there are reliable, repeatable ways of changing in our depths so that what comes out of us is sweet and kind and good. These are witnessed to in the Bible, and they have a long history of success in the church. These activities, when empowered by the Spirit, change us into the likeness of Christ on the inside, so that what comes out of us naturally is good. These are things like fasting, solitude, meditation on, and study and memorization of the scriptures, forms of prayer you probably haven’t tried before, secret acts of service, worship, right use of the Lord’s Supper, and others.

The mission of First Reformed is for her members to become the sorts of people who are intentionally and systematically pursuing spiritual transformation into Christlikeness, and who are sharing that journey with others who want to know, inviting them to come and experience life with Jesus for themselves. That’s really our only purpose. If we try to make this church about anything other than that, we might be able to create some buzz and excitement around town for a few months, but nothing more will be accomplished, and the church will eventually peter out and die.

But if we become apprentices who are inviting others to become apprentices, this congregation will flourish. It will become a genuine place of life-giving blessing. That is what I want for you. The real question is, what do you want for yourselves?

Blessings,
Pastor Brian

FRC invites you to join together for the first annual

fRC Men's Cooking Competition



-- Round 3--

January 12:

“It's Starting to Get Chili in Here”

-- Round 4--

February 9: *“Fresh Wind”*

(bean dish)





Stewardship & Giving

Offering Summary through December 28:

- **General Fund: \$370,898.25**
Budget: \$443,532.29; 83% of budget
- **Benevolent Fund: \$30,119.81**
Budget: \$68,275.23; 44% of budget
- **Building Fund offerings to date: \$2985**
Building Fund - Parsonage Updates Off.: \$6750
Kitchen Updates Offering: \$5000

Average Monthly Offering Needed:
\$42,650

Total Benevolent/General Offerings through 12-28:
\$41003.20

*Total Ben/Gen offering does not include
"Special Monthly Offering" donations as they
are technically not part of the estimated budget.*

Faith In Action for January:

Layettes for the Center of Hope



This month we are
collecting items that
a new

Baby or New Mom
might be in need of.

We only ask that all
donated items must
be NEW.

Special Offering for January



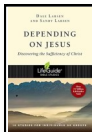
Osceola Communities Express

*God is not a God of confusion,
but a God of Peace... 1 Corinthians 14:33 (NIV)
Seek His Peace.*

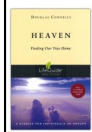


Trivia Time!!

1. Who were the disciples who argued about sitting on the right and left hand side of Jesus?
2. On what day of creation were the sun, the moon, and the stars created?
3. Paul and Barnabas had an argument over a certain man traveling with them on their missionary journey. What was that man's name?
4. What were the names of the two spies who spied Canaan Land and gave a favorable report?
5. What Bible character was renamed Israel?
6. What preacher was mad because his preaching caused a whole city to repent?
7. On what day of creation were the sea creatures and fowl created?
8. Who saw Satan fall from heaven?
9. Who had a wrestling match with God and won?
10. Which came first, "Thou shalt not kill" or "Thou shalt not seal"?



Faith Bible Study, will meet on **Monday, January 20 at 9:30 am**. We will be studying lesson #5, "Help Within Hostility" in our study book *Depending on Jesus*. Scripture will be 2 Corinthians 4:7-18. Leader and Hostess at to be determined. All are invited! If you would like to join, please let us know! Hope to see you there!



Patience Bible Study, will meet on **Monday, January 20 at 3:00 pm**. We will be studying lesson #6 "Welcome to the Party," in our book *Heaven: Finding Our True Home*. Scripture for the lesson is Luke 14:7-24. Barb will lead and serve as hostess. Come for a time of fellowship and learning.

6:30 pm Sunday Evening Fellowship Bible Study Opportunities!

****Message Discussion and Application Bible Study****

*FRC Fellowship Hall

****Digging into God's Word****

This group is currently studying the book of **Genesis**.

FRC Fireside Room

All ages, singles and couples are invited to attend. Come, join a group and let's grow together!



Three Bible Reading Plans are available on the Book Table.

Want to start a new Bible Plan in 2025? Three choices await you on the Book Table...

1. Read through the Bible in two years - gives you more time to think through the passages.
2. Read through the Bible in one year - Daily readings from the Old and New Testaments
3. Chronological read through - helps you to walk through the scriptures in historical order.

Consistory Meeting Highlights December 9, 2024

- MMSA to split the Christmas Eve offering equally between BEECIN Family Crisis Centers, and Upper Des Moines.
- The Consistory will be meeting with Classis on January 13.
- ARC Roundtable discussions will be held on January 5 and 26th to discuss our denominational affiliation.
- Installation and Ordination will take place on January 12 during the morning worship.

January Celebrations

~~Birthday's~~

1 Jan Harskamp Brenda Wassman	12 Lynn Schram Alexis Hulstein	27 Brady Block Donna Smidt
5 Sandy De Vries	14 Mim Ernst	28 Jon Elser
7 Tracee Brouwer Ashley Heronimus Alan Julius	17 Brayden Bruxvoort	29 Ken Tjaden
8 Angie Buysman Robert Groen	18 Janice Groen Tanya Dykstra	30 Karen Honken
9 Marcia Oldenkamp	20 Kathy Runia	31 Tony Bevers
	24 Jayden De Boer	
	25 Kalie Fuoss	
	26 Rhonda Riebeling Brian Sayler	



I have found
THE ONE
Whom my soul Loves
SONG OF SOLOMON 3:4

~~Anniversaries~~

19 Joel & Kathy Verdoorn	59 years
20 Jim & Jena Ver Steeg	13 years
26 Cole & Kayla Hoekstra	17 years

If you would like to be included in our Birthday and Anniversary Calendar and do not see your name, please contact the office (sibleyfrcoffice@gmail.com or 754-2783) and let us know your dates! We would love to recognize YOU on your special day! Thanks

Praise and Worship Greeters

- 5: E: Mim Ernst
C: Paul Feldkamp
W: Gene and Renae Groen
- 12: E: Bob and Janice Groen
C: Ed and Jan Harskamp
W: Bill and LaDonn Hartzell
- 19: E: Dwayne and Janice Heikes
C: Dan and Maureen Heilman
W: Burt and Jan Henrichs
- 26: E: Derek and Ashley Heronimus/family
C: Ken and Sandy Heronimus
W: Melissa Hisek/family

Worship Service Nursery

- 5: Sandy Heronimus & Sandy Lamfers
12: Chelsey Alexander & Alexis Van Diepen
19: Megan Ackerman & Chelsea Hulstein
26: Heidi & Grace Saylor

Fellowship Coffee Servers

- 5: Larry and Rhonda Riebeling
12: Ted and Eileen Schutte
19: Dave and Lesa Stofferan
26: Jim and Pauline Van Engen

Library Volunteers



- 5: Janice Runia
12: Pauline Van Engen
19: Marcia Van Ruler
26: Alfreda Verdoorn

Willing Hands Group



**November:
Group #1**
will be responsible for
services during the month.

Co-chairpersons are:

- Diane/Arnie Langstraat
- Gretchen Bartelson

Children & Worship during the service



Leader

- 5: Deb Kusters 19: Deb Kusters
12: Deb Kusters 26: Deb Kusters

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BE A
Prayer
WARRIOR

Our Missionaries

Dr. Bernadeth Kelly &
Adrian Bobb
Sayuri Kist—Okazaki
Brian & Donna Renes
J.J. & Tim TenClay
Rowland & Jan Van Es
Grace Covenant Ministries
Jeff and Chelsea Lampen

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.



PRAY FOR GOD'S PEOPLE

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Janice Runia | 16. Karen Stevenson |
| 2. Marlin and Kathy Runia | 17. Dave and Lesa Stofferan |
| 3. Brian and Heidi Sayler;
Grace, Levi, Elijah | 18. Pray for our College Students |
| 4. Pray for our College Students | 19. Pray for our Church |
| 5. Pray for our Church | 20. Bob Tiedeman |
| 6. Eric Schiphoff | 21. Ken and Sharalyn Tjaden |
| 7. Hugh Schiphoff | 22. Greg Tracy; Lindy |
| 8. Ellen Schram | 23. Chad Megan Travaille;
Lawrynn, Margaret, Gracie |
| 9. Lynn Schram | 24. Randy and Kelli Van De Berg |
| 10. Jennie Schram | 25. Pray for our College Students |
| 11. Pray for our College Students | 26. Pray for our Church |
| 12. Pray for our Church | 27. Duane and Pam Vande Hoef |
| 13. Ted and Eileen Schutte | 28. Paul Vander Linden |
| 14. Verlyn and Donna Smidt | 29. Harold and Shelia Van Der Sloom |
| 15. Kevin and Nancy Soat | 30. Helen Vander Veen |
| | 31. Collin and Lexi Van Diepen;
Theodore, Lincoln |

<u>College Students:</u>			
Grace Beavers	Marissa Ackerman	MacKenzie Beyer	Carter Brouwer
Michael Block Jr.	Halle Block	Teddy Van Gelder	Andrea Leusink
Ella Bruxvoort	Tayler Bremer		
Aiden De Zeeuw	Madison Brouwer		
	Regan Crichton		
	Keegan De Zeeuw		Dalten Bremer
	Makya Dykstra		Natalie Klaassen
	Maverick Elser		
	Jared Kruger		
	Emma Langstraat		
	Matthew McDougall		Grant Brouwer
	Gannon Rockman		Ryan Van Marel



Education Schedule:

Please remember the following Weather Cancellations Procedure: If there is NO school, or school is released early due to inclement weather, there will be NO WEDNESDAY Night activities.

Sunday School 3 yr - Adult:

- No Class on December 22 & 29

◇ Wednesday Bible Classes (1st-5th grades):

- No Class on December 25 & January 1

◇ MS and HS Remnant Youth Group:

- No Youth Group on December 25 & January 1

College Addresses

Andrea Leusink

BVU Box 2461
610 W. Fourth Street
Storm Lake, IA 50588

Carter Brouwer

2013 Fox Run Trail
Brookings, SD 57006

MacKenzie Beyer

610 W 4th Street
Storm Lake, IA 50588

Ted Van Gelder

617 Jackrabbit Ave
Brookings, SD 57007

Grant Brouwer

1235 SE University Ave
Apt. #205
Waukee, IA 50263

Marissa Ackerman

#313 Caldwell Hall
Box 2805
Brookings, SD 57007

Halle Block

1343 SW Prairie Trail Pkway
Apt. #302
Ankeny, IA 50023

Madison Brouwer

901 Rose Street
Apt. #244
Vermillion, SD 57069

Keegan De Zeeuw

812 University Street
Box #173
Pella, IA 50219

Makya Dykstra

1631 4th St NE
Apt 115
Watertown, SD 57201-8797

Maverick Elser

612 S. 16th Street
Ames, IA 50010

Jared Kruger

410 Campus Drive
Apt. 4
Calmar, IA 52132

Emma Langstraat

Meadows South
#120C
Brookings, SD 57007

Matthew McDougall

Room #701
IA Lakes Comm. College
3200 College Drive
Emmetsburg, IA 50536

Gannon Rockman

3099c Nest Ave.
Sheldon, IA 51201

Ella Bruxvoort

405 5th Street
Sibley, IA 51249

Aiden DeZeeuw

Stalnaker Hall
2875 University Ave.
Des Moines, IA 50311

Michael Block Jr.

208 8th St. SW
Unit 103
Orange City, IA 51041

Grace Bevers

Beede Hall
Room 227-2
702 E. Cherry Street
Vermillion, SD 57069

If your student will have a different address for the 2024-2025 school year please let the office know.

Sportsmen's Devotional

Today's Photograph . . . A Season To Dream On The Ocqueoc River, MI



Bible Study Verse

John 14:2-3

My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. (NIV)

Thoughts

One of the things that keep me going during the long Northern Michigan winter months is planning. I enjoy the winter activities, but I also enjoy sitting by our fireplace with an outdoor's magazine in hand just daydreaming about possible adventures that I could take with my family.

I'll check out new hiking trails, equipments needs for various adventures, and the costs of possible trips. You get the idea, basic daydreaming. What happens when I am doing research like this is a feeling of anticipation that wells up in my soul. I just love putting these trips together and the thought of going is just about as exciting as actually taking the trip. The anticipation makes the cold winter months just fly by!

Action Point

Jesus is going to come back some day - could be very soon or later on. No one really knows the day or the hour. However, the timing shouldn't matter. We should eagerly be looking forward to the day that He comes back to claim what is rightfully His. Will he do it? Yes, he will.

Don't be caught off guard. Live your life anticipating His return! We only have a limited number of days on this Earth - make them count for eternity.

Sportsmen's Tip of the Day

When planning a trip, see if you can find a way to double dip on the experience to get more for your money. Many "fishing camps" in Canada will also have bear hunts, moose hunts, or bird hunts in the late Summer or early Fall. Instead of just taking a fishing trip, why not wait until late August to do both? Fish in the morning and hunt in the afternoon! Now that's a great way to spend a day!!!

Trivia Time Answers:

1. James and John (Mat. 10:2; 20:20-24) **2. Peter, James, and John** (Mat.17:1-3) **3. The fourth day** (Gen 1:14-19) **4. John Mark** (Acts 15:37-39) **5. Joshua and Caleb** (Num 14:6-9) **6. Jacob** (Gen 32:28) **7. Jonah** (Jonah 3:1-5; 4:1) **8. the 5th day** (Gen 1:20-23) **9. Jesus** (Luke 10: 17,18) **10. Jacob** (Gen 32:24-30)

Hello First Reformed Church,

I would like to write about Wednesday December 18th, 2024, if I may. This was a night that was full of awe and wonder. Most of all it was full of the Holy Spirit moving in mighty ways! It was the night of the annual Christmas Caroling at FRC, also it was the annual Remnant Youth Group Evangelism/Prayer Night. This night is where the students go out and they pass out cards with gift cards inside of them and the students pray over the recipients. Now in the years past we would travel to Worthington and pass out gift cards at Walmart, Hyvee, and Fareway, but this year the Holy Spirit did something in one of our founders of this event. He stirred them to think, "What about those in our community right here?" When they called me to tell me about this idea, I had no choice but to respond with, "You know what? Let's give this a shot!" After some prayer and discernment, the only logical way of doing this was going to be during Caroling night. With that being said, the students teamed up with members of FRC and went around town caroling and passed out cards and prayed for the shut-ins, widows, and widowers. Now if you think this ends here, I'm sorry but you are very wrong!



During the night the students were a little bit hesitant about doing this. Even though they did it before with strangers, that was the problem it was done to strangers, here these are people they know and probably see pretty often. It wasn't until the first student stepped up that the rest of the students wanted to have a turn. It was one of the most beautiful sights. Especially at the nursing homes and assisted living home, seeing the students talking with and mingling with members of FRC and residents there. It was beautiful seeing laughing, smiling, and just joyful conversation. When we went out to the other members in the community, we saw how comfortable students were getting with the songs, praying for their fellow brothers and sisters in Christ, and overall just being obedient to the call that God has placed on the hearts of our youth group. We actually had students who were asking for more houses after they were done to go and pray for people and sing for them. It is quite amazing to see what God does when we commit to being obedient to the Spirit's leading. We witnessed tears, smiles, and as I said before, just plain joy from people who may have a difficult time finding that during the holiday season. God is so good, and we cannot wait to see what He does next with our youth group event. If you have any further questions about Evangelism Night, or any of the other youth events please let me know. Thank you all so much for taking this time to read my article and if you ever need a hug this big ole teddy bear has one for you!

Blessings,

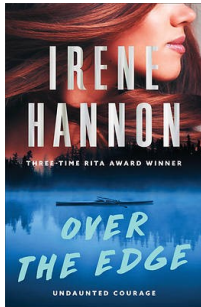
Josh

Dad Jokes with Josh:

My wife left a note on the fridge this morning. It said, "This is not working, goodbye."
..... I opened the fridge, it worked just fine.

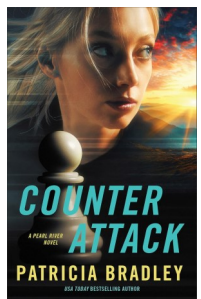
Disclaimer: This is only a joke; this is not real life!

From the library--



We have two mysteries to tell you about this month: The first is **OVER THE EDGE** book #2 from the “Undaunted Courage” series by Irene Hannon.

“Someone is on a relentless campaign to destroy her credibility—if not her life!” Trauma survivor Lindsey Barnes hasn't fully recovered from the ordeal that almost took her life, and now she's in the middle of another crisis. Not only is she the sole witness in a high-profile murder case, but it also appears someone is trying to cast doubts on her mental stability. Police detective Jack Tucker doesn't know what to make of her story, especially when her elusive enemy leaves no evidence behind to lend credence to her claims. Yet the more he gets to know the appealing personal chef, the more he's convinced someone is targeting not only her sanity but her life. And unless they can figure out who is behind the campaign to undermine her credibility, a murderer could slip away—leaving more than one body behind.”



The second book is **COUNTER ATTACK**, book #1 in a “Pearl River” Series, by Patricia Bradley. “No sooner has Alexis Stone been sworn in as an interim chief deputy for Russell County, Tennessee, than a serial killer dubbed the 'Queen's Gambit Killer' strikes again--this time in her hometown. Pearl Springs is just supposed to be a temporary stop along the way to Alex's real dream: becoming the first female police chief of Chattanooga. But the killer's calling card—a white pawn and a note with a chess move printed on it—cannot be ignored. Pearl Springs chief of police Nathan Landry can't believe that his high school sweetheart Alexis (he refuses to call her Alex) is back in town, and he can't help wanting to protect the woman he never stopped loving. But as the danger mounts and the killer closes in, can Nathan come through on the promise he makes to himself to bring a killer to justice before it's too late?”

There are many more books just waiting for you. Visit the library soon.

~~Jeannette Juffer

From: Pastor Colas, Haitian Minister

I greet the Iowa Church in the name of Jesus our Savior. May God always keep the church firm under His power, He who created the heavens and the earth.

I thank the church for its generosity towards us in Haiti, especially the Lagosèt church. I want to thank with all my heart and spirit for the gifts the church always sends to me. I did not know Miss Kelsey, nor the church in Iowa except for Elleson; but God, who knows all things, brought us together to give us His blessings.

That is why, both I and the church, will not [be discouraged](#) in the Lord. Therefore, I want to inform the Iowa Church that I am sick. I have severe physical depression and feel pain all over my body.

By God's grace, when I went to the hospital for tests and analysis, they discovered that I am positive for H. pylori. The doctor prescribed Amox, Omeprazole, Gastrogel, and Biomoxa. I am currently taking these medications, and I am starting to feel better. I am sending a prayer request to the church, just as it has helped me financially, so I ask that they remember me in their prayers.

Thank you!

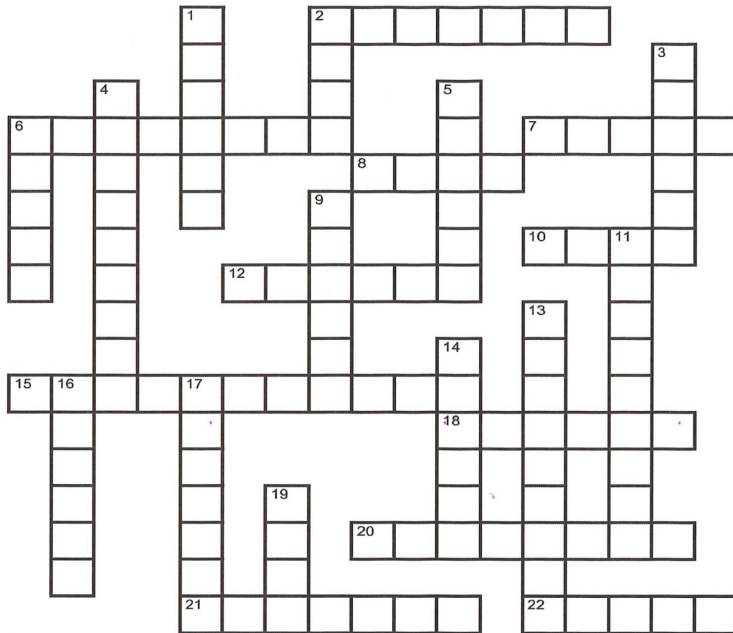


Across

2. Knitted top.
6. Snowstorm with winds.
7. Month that winter ends in.
8. When the air moves.
10. A sudden blast of wind.
12. Shake from the cold.
15. Tells you how cold it is outside.
18. Rather cold.
20. Month that winter starts in.
21. He might have a carrot for a nose.
22. Keeps you neck warm.

Down

1. Turned into ice.
2. It goes downhill fast.
3. A short coat.
4. What bears do in the winter.
5. Opposite of summer.
6. Shoes for snowy days.
9. Frozen trickle of water.
11. Ice crystal.
13. December 25th.
14. Area around the North Pole.
16. Used to warm a room.
17. Winter hand warmers.
19. Temperature (in Celsius) at which water freezes.



Arctic, Blizzard, Boots, Chilly, Christmas, December, Frozen, Gust, Heater, Hibernate, Icicle, Jacket, March, Mittens, Scarf, Shiver, Sled, Snowflake, Snowman, Sweater, Thermometer, Wind, Winter, Zero

New Years Word Ladder

Make your way from **FIRE** to **WORK** by changing just one letter on each step to make a new word! There are 6 steps in this word ladder.



F I R E

□ □ □ □

□ □ □ □

□ □ □ □

□ □ □ □

□ □ □ □

W O R K

Made up of flames.

Without hope.

Having courage to do something.

I took _____ of my sick friend.

Seeds are in the apple _____.

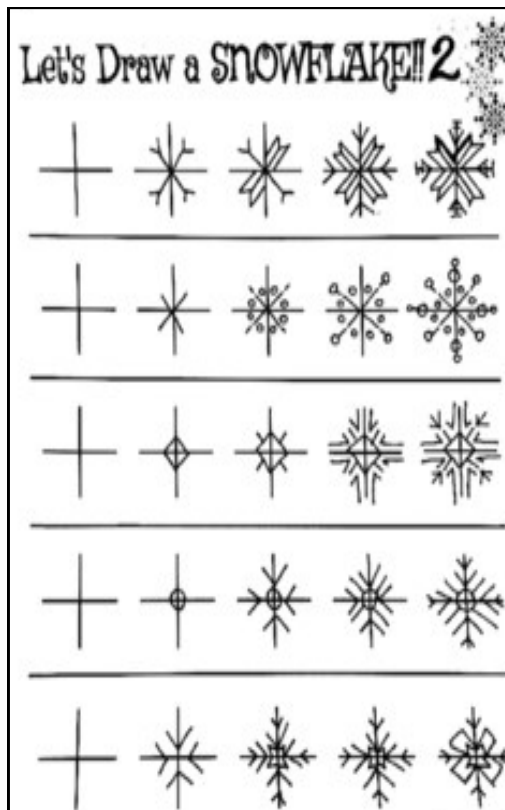
An item used to seal a bottle.

Completing tasks.

New Year's Resolutions

T	E	V	A	L	U	A	T	E	U	A	M	E	W
D	M	E	V	A	R	B	O	A	V	B	E	E	I
E	I	G	O	A	L	I	A	S	N	D	R	E	N
T	A	T	B	A	E	T	T	E	G	R	A	T	C
E	L	H	J	E	A	C	H	I	E	V	E	P	O
R	C	T	E	V	Y	R	E	V	O	C	S	I	D
M	O	G	C	O	E	S	O	P	R	U	P	H	T
I	R	N	T	R	R	E	A	C	H	E	O	O	H
N	P	E	I	P	A	I	L	B	E	H	E	P	U
A	F	R	V	M	P	O	S	I	T	I	V	E	R
T	O	T	E	I	M	E	A	N	I	N	G	T	E
I	C	S	U	E	L	B	A	N	I	A	T	T	A
O	U	P	L	A	N	R	E	S	U	L	T	S	G
N	S	A	I	A	S	A	T	T	I	T	U	D	E

PLAN	WIN	ATTITUDE	MEANING	DETERMINATION
OBJECTIVE	FOCUS	IMPROVE	BRAVE	PURPOSE
TARGET	DISCOVERY	STRENGTH	GOAL	ACHIEVE
POSITIVE	HOPE	EVALUATE	RESULTS	PROCLAIM
			ATTAINABLE	REACH

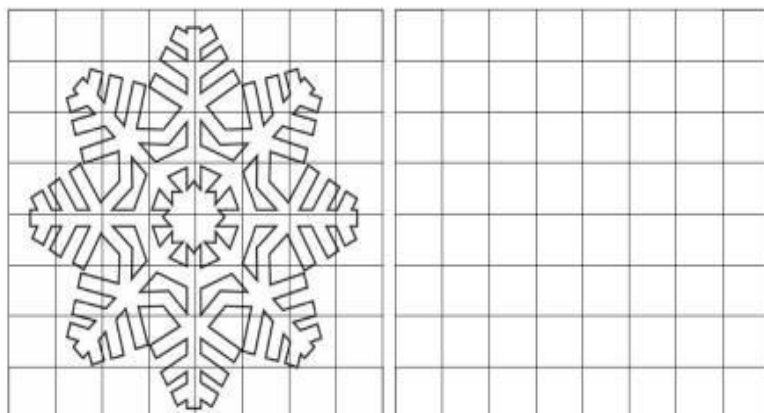


Snowflake Sudoku

Solve the Sudoku puzzle below by filling in the blank spaces with numbers between 1 and 9. Make sure no numbers appear twice in the same row, column or 3x3 square

7	3			9			4	
	1	8						5
5		4			1			
8			9		5			
	5		4	3	6		1	
			1		7			2
			6			1		9
3						7	2	
	9			7			8	6

Copy the Snowflake





Random Musings Devotional

By Brenda Sandbulte

I am an HGTV fan - dare I say, an obsessed fan. I can name all the shows, their hosts, and their styles. I know the difference between a craftsman house and a mid-century modern. Rebecca and I used to devour the show "Trading Spaces," and I think that might have had something to do with her love of interior design.

I don't know what it is about design shows that attract me. I can't say my living room is anything like Ben and Erin's Napier's design (my favorites). Look at my kitchen? No fancy backsplash or vent hood. I have double sinks in the bathroom (I learned that's a plus), but no on-suite for the master. I think it's the before and after pictures. (Sometimes I'll skip the entire show and only watch the last ten minutes for the BIG REVEAL!) There's something about taking a room, gutting it, tackling its issues, and then rebuilding it into this lovely new living space.

We've all sung "Don't build your house on the sandy land, don't build it too near the shore. Oh, it might look kind of nice, but you'll have to build it twice, oh, you'll have to build your house once more...So build it on the Rock.." (I hope that song is now stuck in your head as it is mine.)

Our lives, like our homes, are ones constantly being built and then renovated. There will always be paint peeling - literally and metaphorically. Then this morning as I watched Bargain Block, I realized that God was asking me about my own renovation plans.

Maybe your prayer room needs a little updating (we have a Ladies' Retreat for that). If you look closely, maybe your attic (thoughts and attitude) needs a good cleaning and that space could be refocused. The bedroom - maybe that could use a little attention instead of taking it for granted. (Okay that thought hit a little too close to home.) You get the idea.

God, the Ultimate Architect and Designer, crafted you. You are beautifully and wonderfully made. (Psalm 139: 14) That being said, we weren't created to just stagnate. We all need a little renovation. As long as we remodel with the right blueprints. (I feel like I'm killing it with these metaphors!) Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation, the old has gone, the new has come! (2 Corinthians 5:14)

In order to be like Jesus, we constantly need to adjust our attitudes and actions. We are sinners, He was not. Our floorboards will creak, His foundation is Rock solid (see what I did there).

So as the next HGTV show is set to come on, I am reminded that I am a work in progress, and this Old House could use a little sprucing up. I plan to go from "Fixer to Fabulous".