



Vol. 22, No 13 January 2014 A Newsletter to Inspire and Celebrate Oakland United Methodists

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Worship Service Time:

10:00 Worship 11:00 Koinonia

Sunday school Youth 9:00 a.m. Adult 11:15 a.m.





Ainslee Jo Hamilton Tenslee Jo Hamilton Baptized December 29, 2013 Parents Chris & Alyssa Hamilton



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As I was thinking about a new year apidly approaching, I realized it is

time to get out my 2014 United Methodist Calendar & Workbook, my daily planner. It is hard for me to stay focused in the present. I find myself looking ahead, always making plans for tomorrow, next week, next month. I think many of us do this to some extent. And although sometimes our busy schedules almost demand we plan ahead, I hope we don't take on the worries of those future days, as well.

Do you know the song, *One Day at A Time Sweet Jesus?* I don't know why, but as I was thinking of what to write for the January 2014 Newsletter, that song came to mind. So I went online to refresh my memory about the lyrics of the song. The chorus reads,

> One day at a time sweet Jesus That's all I'm asking from you. Just give me the strength To do everyday what I have to do. Yesterday's gone sweet Jesus And tomorrow may never be mine. Lord help me today, show me the way One day at a time.

When you think about it, living life one day at a time and asking Jesus for strength for today, is really a good way to begin our new year. And it is also scriptural. Matthew 6:34 reads, "So do not worry about tomorrow; it will have enough worries of its own. There is no need to add to the troubles each day brings" (*Good News Translation*). *The Message Bible* says it this way, "Give your entire attention to what God is doing right now, and don't get worked up about what may or may not happen tomorrow. God will help you deal with whatever hard things come up when the time comes." Aren't those blessed words to live by!

Corrie ten Boom, Holocaust survivor, is quoted as saying, "Worrying is carrying tomorrow's load with

today's strength – carrying two days at once. It is moving tomorrow ahead of time. Worrying doesn't empty tomorrow of its sorrow, it empties today of its strength."

I pray we will all advance into the new year trusting all of our days to God, and not miss out on the joy of the present moment because we are worrying about what tomorrow may bring. And always remembering

"God is our shelter and strength, a very present help in trouble.

Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change,

though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea,

though its waters roar and foam,

though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

The Lord of hosts is with us;

the God of Jacob is our refuge"

(Psalm 46:1-3, 7).

Wishing you a very Blessed New Year and God's gifts of Hope, Love, Joy, & Peace

In Christ's Service,

Pastor Karen

Mark Your Calendar

Melissa Drake, Field Outreach Minister, will share the message at our Sunday worship service on February 16. Following worship, we will share a meal together and under the leadership of Melissa, we will set our ministry goals for 2014. We hope you can join us for this special time in the life of our church.

Ecumenical Youth Group

The youth group had a busy December. On the 11th, the youth baked cookies and went shopping for gifts for the Oakland Manor residents. On the 18th, the youth put together cookie plates for Oakland Heights residents and went caroling at Oakland Manor and Oakland Heights.

Update from Mutare; Newsletter November 2013

Dear friends and family,

Greetings once more from Mutare, Zimbabwe!! Happy Thanksgiving! Yesterday I felt like a turkey on Thanksgiving morning after supervising (the word used here is invigilate) a three-hour exam in Human Resource Management in an extremely hot room. The feverish writing of the students must have contributed to the already scorching temperature.

Most people have jobs that, at least once in awhile, cause them to ask, 'WHAT am I DOING here?' Jane and I are blessed to be serving where those thoughts are far out-numbered by the opposite feeling... 'Thank you , Lord that You have called us to be here... and we are actually PAID for doing this???'

We are not allowed to invigilate our own exams, so usually have not a clue on how to help students with questions other than clerical issues. As a result, we have plenty of time during the exam to think about not only what we are doing, but also what the students are doing. We are exposed to the full spread of college majors, which gives us a better appreciation of the training and preparation going on here at Africa University.

Like many teachers, we are privileged to have frequent doses of positive reinforcement from former students who have gone on to use their training here to make an impact. Facebook and email both make it easy to keep in touch with graduates, and remind us of what we are doing:

Investing in Africa's Future!

Zimbabwe news

Yogi Berra once said, "Half the lies they tell about me aren't true." Zimbabwe is usually wrongly portrayed by the press as a very unsafe destination, and many people have not come as a result- even after reassurances from us and others that the situation here is OK.

We have been delighted to see many visitors

<u>Disciple Express</u>

here at AU this year, including a large group from Larry's home state of Iowa. The Iowans, and a group from upper New York, were here in July at election time, which was non-violent (although some disputed the results that saw President Robert Mugabe re-elected.) I believe that both groups had wonderful experiences here, but also gained a better understanding of the tensions under which we live during such times.

Campus news

A highlight of the long break was helping one of the Agriculture students succeed in jumping through all the hoops so that he could do a summer internship on a farm in Illinois. Theoneste is from Rwanda, but came to AU via the Tongogara Refugee camp not far from here. The Wright family were a good fit- hardworking yet fun-loving and generous, and they made him feel a part of the family. Theo came back to do his final year glowing, full of ideas, and even more determined to succeed. The Wrights, in turn, gained many new perspectives from Theo, and have the satisfaction of knowing that they have really made a difference.

We are looking for more such opportunities for next summer (May-July). The internship is for ten weeks. If you are at all interested in exploring the possibility of hosting one of our Agriculture students, please email me.

Theo is one of many at AU who would not be here without the help of scholarships. Because of the generosity of people giving to the Advance special and other funds, we were able to accept many first-year students who would otherwise be sitting at home now. We also help many others stay in school when they would have had to drop out otherwise because of changing family circumstances such as illness or death in the family, loss of jobs, etc. Thanks to all who have been part of this! (cont'd)

(Update from Mutare; cont'd)

FARM NEWS

We thank God for the wheat harvest this year which was by far the largest in many years due in part to previous investments made in the irrigation system. The farm manager continues to push to grow more corn/maize in the summer, and has opened up new fields. The hope is that we can extend the irrigation system to some of the new fields to cushion against the vagaries of the weather. Thanks to those who continue to help the farm to improve with this and other projects.

FAMILY NEWS

Michael, 14, is so happy to be taller than Carly, and able to borrow Larry's socks. Both he and Carly won medals in the provincial swimming competition held recently.

Carly has had a VERY full and successful year. One highlight was getting her SAT results and seeing that she beat both older brothers in Math! By the end of November she will be finished with high school exams here, and will start filling out college applications in earnest.

Pule had his picture on the front page of the Fargo paper in an article highlighting the fact that the city has become a mecca for 21 to 24year olds. He and Ben are as excited as we are for them to come to Mutare for Christmas!

Ben loves his new programming job in New York City, and has started doing triathlons.

ON THE WEB

We are on you-tube! Check out the video http://youtu.be/EO-yiwVYULc

Please pray

 For peace in neighboring Mozambique. A number of our students from there are not sure how they will get home for Christmas. After 20 years of peace, fighting is once more breaking out. • For joyful, meaningful and safe holidays for all as we prepare to celebrate Jesus' birth.

Many thanks for your prayers, thoughts, emails, cards and support!

Yours and His,

Larry and Jane Kies

Job Opportunity

Immanuel United Methodist Church

(www.immanueldsm.org) seeks a flexible selfstarter who enjoys taking on a variety of tasks and working with people to facilitate connections among a caring, Christ-loving group of people. Experience working with Microsoft Publisher and other Microsoft Office products, comfort managing financial records and skills in database management are required. Salary range is \$22-\$25k, 32 hours per week in the church office in Des Moines, Iowa. Interested? Please send a cover letter and resume to: sprc@immanueldsm.org no later than January 8, 2014.

Donna Anderson Assistant For Eric F. Turner Member of Staff Parish Relation Committee Immanuel United Methodist Church danderson@turnerlaw.com 515-245-9509

Remember the five simple rules to be happy:

- 1. Free your heart from hatred.
- 2. Free your mind from worries.
 - 3. Live simply.
 - 4. Give more.
 - 5. Expect less.

Have a nice day, unless you already have other plans.

January Calendar of Events

January	Daily
<u>Reading</u>	Guide

			1	Ephesians 1.1-23
Sun, 5th	9:00 a.m.	5	2	Ephesians 2.1-22
	10:00 a.m.	•	3	Ephesians 3.1-21
	11:00 a.m.		4	Ephesians 4.1-32
	11:15 a.m.		5	Ephesians 5.1—6.4
	5:00 p.m.	Hispanic Service	6	Matthew 2.1-23
Wed, 8th	6:30 p.m.	Jr. & Sr. High Youth Group	7	Mark 1.1-20
	•	.	8	Mark 1.21-45
Sun, 12th	9:00 a.m.	Sunday school/Women' Study	9	Mark 2.1-28
	10:00 a.m.	Worship	10	Mark 3.1-19
	11:00 a.m.	Koinonia	10	Mark 3.20-35
	11:15 a.m.	Adult Bible Study		
	5:00 p.m.	Hispanic Service	12	Mark 4.35—5.20
			13	Mark 5.21-43
Wed, 15th	6:30 p.m.	Jr. & Sr. High Youth Group	14	Mark 6.1-29
			15	Mark 6.30-56
Thu, 16th	7:00 p.m.	Ad Board Meeting	16	Mark 8.1-26
		Curdey, eshe sl/Marray? Chudy	17	
Sun, 15th	9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m.	Sunday school/Women' Study	18	Mark 8.27—9.13
	11:00 a.m.	•	19	Mark 9.14-32
		Adult Bible Study	20	Mark 9.33-50
		Hispanic Service	21	Mark 10.1-31
	0.00 p		21	John 17.1-26
Wed 22nd	6:30 p.m.	Jr. & Sr. High Youth Group	22	Acts 6.1-15
	•			
Sun, 26th	9:00 a.m.	Sunday school/Women's Study	24	Acts 7.1—8.3
	10:00 a.m.	Worship	25	Acts 9.1-43
	11:00 a.m.	Koinonia	26	Acts 17.1-34
	11:15 a.m.	Adult Bible Study	27	Acts 18.1-28
	5:00 p.m.	Hispanic Service	28	Acts 19.1-41
			29	Acts 20.1—21.16
Wed, 29th	6:30 p.m.	Jr. & Sr. High Youth Group	30	Acts 21.17—22.16
			31	Acts 22.17—23.11

From the District Office

"Dear friends, let's love each other, because love is from God...God is love. This is how the love of God is revealed to us: God has sent his only Son into the world so that we can live through him." (I John 4:7-9, CEB)

Our prayer for you this Holy Christmas, as we ponder the deep mystery of the Incarnation of God in Christ; the advent of One who will be called The Prince of Peace; the celebration of the Word made flesh is that you will **Pause, take a deep breath** and remember the very first Christmas gift, the gift of the child born in the manger of Bethlehem.

Jesus Christ personifies God's love.

The bottom line of our relationship with the Word made flesh is LOVE. Love is what Christmas is all about: God coming to the world in love, in the person of a child.

In the birth of a baby, the Word of God from the creation of the world becomes known to us, not in the power of the sword or the words of hatred, not in the things that divide humanity or destroy creation.

The arsenal of God's love is forgiveness, sacrificial love and the refiner's fire of God's Holy Spirit. Stop and welcome this new life into yours this Holy Season.

Blessed Christmas!

Incarnate God; in You love has come to us as baby Jesus. Help us share Your love with all of creation, in Christ's name. Amen.

Brian K. Milford, DS

Disciple Express

OAKLAND UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 2014 Officers and Ministry Participants

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

Pastor **Council Chairperson** Lay Leader Lay Member to Annual Conference **Recording Secretary** Treasurer **Financial Secretary** Membership Secretary Children's Education Co-chair Adult Education Co-chair **Missions & Evangelism Chair Finance Chair** Memorials Chair Staff/Pastor Parish Relations Chairs **Board of Trustees Chair** At-Large-Members

Karen Hoff **Barb Schorsch** Merlin Jones Dick Merkle Veva Larson Dick Merkle Lisa Rollins, (Sue Duhachek & Norma Bolton) Norma Bolton Leigh Bell Kristy Rieken & Lynelle Jeppesen Mischa Martens **Terry Gleaves** Lyle Bentley Bernie Bolton/Marty Rieken **David Applegate Gloria Gleaves Skip Applegate** Louise Merkle

Pam Ehmke, Krisy Tieken & Lynelle Jeppesen

Kristy Rieken & Lynelle Jeppesen, Co-chairs

SPECIAL TASKS

Communion Steward	Sharon Jones
Riverside Church Association Laity Reps	Mardell Peek
Historian/Membership	Norma Bolton
Church Audit	Joan Shanno
Church Secretary	Sheryl Sindt

WORSHIP

EX-Officio:	
Paraments	Robin Jefferson
Chancel Choir Director	Veva Larson
Organist/Accompanist	Marsha Sauser
Praise Team	Merlin & Sharon Jones, Veva Larson
Greeter, Usher Coordinator	Sheryl Sindt
Sound Technicians	Trevor Jefferson, Jim Johnson,
	Merlin & Sharon Jones
Projector	Robin Jefferson, Jim Johnson, Trevor Jefferson
CHILDREN'S EDUCATION	Leigh Bell, Chair; Sheila Applegate, Lisa Pierson,

ADULT EDUCATION

MISSIONS/EVANGELISM

Mischa Martens, Chair Cathey Grosvenor, Leslie Cleaveland, Pam Ehmke

STEWARDSHIP/FINANCE

2014 Connie Gardner
2015 Debbie Rollins
2016 Jerry Pierce
Member-at-large
Ex-Officio Adm. Council Chair
Financial Secretary
Treasurer

Terry Gleaves, Chair; Teresa Schnack

Bud Beedle Mary Waggoner Barb Schorsch Lisa Rollins Dick Merkle

MEMORIALS

Lyle Bentley, chair; Debbie Rollins; Janice Harris; Joyce Henry; Mary Galitz; Jean Blackburn, Craig Hummel, Terry Haines, Carolyn Mc.Junkin

STAFF/PASTOR PARISH RELATIONS

2013 Bernie Bolton, Co-Chairs2014 Marty Rieken2015 Bev ZuchPaul Rollins2016_______Ex Officio:_______Lay Leader:Merlin JonesLay Member to Annual Conf:Dick MerkleBOARD OF TRUSTEES_______

2014 Dave Applegate, chair 2015 Grant Henry

Ex-Officio:

Gene Gleaves & Carol Wilson

Church Custodian:

Dick Kates

TEAM OF LAY LEADERSHIP (NOMINATIONS)

2014 Lindsay Henderson2015 Lori Nisley

2016 Marsha Beedle

Dick Cleaveland Cyndy Haines Norma Bolton

Transforming The World

As I have been in the district meeting with pastors and preachers, checking out churches and worshiping with church folks,

I have been encouraged. I'm encouraged because I've seen a lot of people called United Methodists doing some really good things for their community and bringing some good news to a world that seems to only hear bad news.

I'm also encouraged because all the good work isn't done yet!

In The Externally Focused Church, the reading this month for HCI, authors Rick Rusaw and Eric Swanson challenge the church to put energy into getting our congregations out in the community, so that the good news we have isn't trapped inside the church walls. They recommend meeting intentionally with community leaders and residents to ask what their hopes and dreams are for their town and neighborhoods. So far they have never heard anyone yet say, "'Well, we'd really like to see more drug use, more liquor stores, an increased dropout rate, plummeting test scores, more homelessness and [more] pollution.""1 Instead, they often find that the hopes and dreams of the community intersect with God desires for healthy communities as found in Isaiah 65: public celebrations and happiness; public health for children and the aged; housing for all; food for all; family support systems; absence of violence.²

Where the desires of God for the community intersect with the dreams and hopes of the city this is the unique place for the church to step out in service! This is the place where we quit talking about our mission statement: "To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world" and we start living it, working with our community leaders, organizations and residents, helping our communities to be better, safer, healthier places than they were before. Service in our communities not only transforms our places and structures, but also our relationships with the people who actually live in our neighborhoods. This fall, as pastors and congregations begin to work on their ministry plans and goals for the upcoming year, every UMC in the Iowa Annual Conference will be asked to identify one ministry focus outside the walls of the church building and then be able to share within our cluster conferences how the world is better because of this ministry focus. In other words, have our disciples been out transforming the world in a real, tangible way? Is it good news for the town that the church exists?

As a possibility to get this process started, perhaps your congregation might seek out seek out the leaders of your community and existing organizations: the volunteer fire department, the school superintendent and teachers, city council, local pre-schools, the county sheriff's office, social workers, librarians, and ask: "What are your hopes and dreams for this community?"

Then, follow up with the more powerful question: "How can we partner with you, support you, or offer a supplement so that your work of making the community better might go farther?"

Imagine what kinds of relationships might spring up or be strengthened if we disciplely folks—as the project of entire congregations!-- went intentionally out of our way to become partners with our communities. Imagine what kinds of good news we might share, just by caring enough to care about the good work that is already happening. I look forward to walking with you as we continue to live into the mission of making disciples and transforming the world.

Melissa Drake Field Outreach Minister



¹ The Externally Focused Church. Eric Swanson & Rick Rusaw. Group: Loveland. 2004. Pg 56-58 ² The Externally Focused Church. Eric Swanson &

NURSERY

5th

VOLUNTEERS

Joan Shanno



ACOLYTES

- 12th Lindsay Bentley
- 19th Carol Wilson
- 26th Lisa Pierson



	Gene & Gloria Gleaves Terry & Cyndy Haines e lighters Camryn Pierson & Emma Ehmke	
12th	Marvin & Carolyn Clark Larry & Lucia Kinnison	
Candle	e lighters	
Canan	Eric Duhachek & Anna Duhachek	
19th	Lyle & Peggy Bentley	
Condle	Craig & Lisa Hummel	
Candle	e lighters	
	Calvin Duhachek & Sarah Jones	
26th	Dave & Sheila Applegate	
	Paul & Debbie Rollins	
Candle lighters		
	Kristian Martens & Grace Gleaves	

KOINONIA

5th Bolton Family



- 12th Terry & Cyndy Haines Family19th Joni Houser & Teresa Schnack
- 26th Mary Waggoner

5:00 p.m. Hispanic Worship Service			
	Host	Nursery	
5th	NEED	VOLUNTEER	
12th	NEED	VOLUNTEER	
19th	NEED	VOLUNTEER	
26th	NEED	VOLUNTEER	

Sunday School Teachers

	Pre K	K-1st	2nd-4th	5th-7th
5th				
12th				
19th				
26th				

Youth Sunday school is in need of volunteers to teach a class or music. Please contact the church office if you are interested in helping!

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Way, Ashley
- 3 Johnson, Emily
- 4 Bane, Kristy
- 5 Ewalt, Jamie
- 5 Applegate, Brent
- 6 Finnegan, Kolton
- 8 Wilson, Gerald
- 9 Blanchard, LaVinna
- 11 Roller, Cale
- 12 Gleaves, Evan
- 13 Danker, Larry
- 14 Cleaveland, Brad
- 15 Shiffer, Jessie
- 15 Thompson, Marv
- 15 Woodward, Dave
- 15 Gambaiana, Kim
- 15 Harris, Claire
- 17 Bentley, Greg
- 19 Danker, Ryan
- 19 Duhachek, Eric
- 20 Henry, Fred G.
- 21 Hummel, Craig
- 21 Schwarte, Jacob
- 23 Allensworth, Rachel
- 24 Pierce, Jerry
- 25 Cleaveland, Justine
- 27 Palmer, Claire
- 27 Kinnison, Brody
- 28 Danker, Judie
- 28 Bentley, Lindsay
- 30 Hildebrand, Don
- 31 Forrester, Tammy
- 31 Cleaveland, Dick





ristie Copenhaver, John & Mary

ou Copenhaver's daughter; **Jared Myers**, son of Robert Ayers and Sid & Tami Skank; **Sonja Husz**, Niece of Butch Velda Husz; **Lucas Smith**, Addie Mae's grandson; **rian Thornton** from Avoca; **Tyler Clark**, Marvin & arolyn Clark's grandson; **Brad Grosvenor**, Cathey irosvenor's son stateside, and other area service men nd women. **Landen Pedersen**, son of Tab and Lorie ederson.

you have a loved one in the service and wish to have nem listed on our prayer list, please contact the church ffice.

owa Annual Conference in June

re you interested in learning how the Methodist hurch of Iowa decides on the actions they take for the oming year? Do you have strong ideas about what you /ould like to see happen in the conference churches? If ou have any interest at all in how the Conference perates, you could be a delegate to the Annual conference in June representing the OUMC.

There is an allowance set aside for expenses to be in Des Moines for 3 or 4 days. There is some free time to have for yourself. For more information please contact Pastor Karen in the church office. (482-5530)





Thank You!

ANGEL TREE



Many thanks for your support of the Angel Tree Mission project.

We appreciate you helping to provide gifts for families in need.

Sunday Scholl Christmas Program

A great big thank you to all who helped to make the Sunday School Christmas program so memorable. The children did a wonderful job of telling us the Christmas Story through narration and song. Special thanks to Leigh Bell, Chair of Children's Education Committee, Pam Ehmke, Children's Music Director, and Sue Duhachek, Assistant, for helping the children prepare for the Christmas program. We are blessed!

COAT COLLECTION

Brianna Skank will be collecting coats this season to give to those in need. You can bring your coat donations to the Oakland UMC or you can give them to Brianna.



NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION

The Baggage Carrier

A woman is loaded down With bags of shame and guilt.... A beautiful man goes to her and says, "Here, let me take these for you." An old man is burdened With bags of sin and embarrassment. The same beautiful man goes to him and says, "Here, let me take these for you." All around the world this man goes Taking baggage from everyone in need But He never gets overloaded with baggage Himself. Why? Because He discards them and mentions them no more. Let Jesus take your baggage. Let Him take your hand. Your baggage He'll forget. Your hand, He'll never let go of.

Author Lucinda Berry Hill ©

The Gift of Happiness

A 92-year-old, petite, well-poised and proud man, who is fully dressed each morning by eight o'clock, with his hair fashionably combed and shaved perfectly, even though he is legally blind, moved to a nursing home today.

His wife of 70 years recently passed away, making the move necessary. After many hours of waiting patiently in the lobby of the nursing home, he smiled sweetly when told his room was ready.

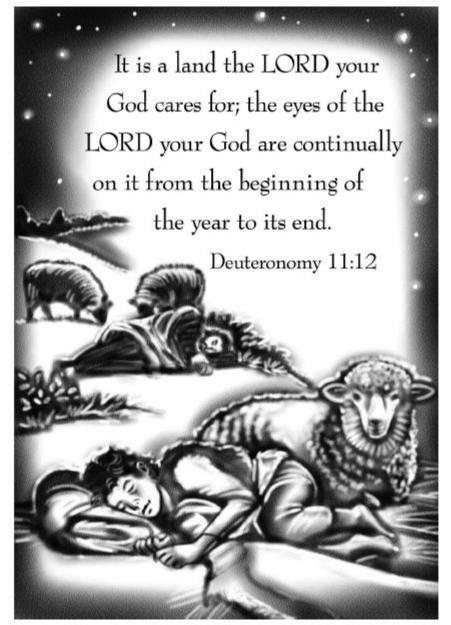
As he maneuvered his walker to the elevator, I provided a visual description of his tiny room, including the eyelet sheets that had been hung on his window. I love it,' he stated with the enthusiasm of an eight-year-old having just been presented with a new puppy.

Mr. Jones, you haven't seen the room; just wait.'

'That doesn't have anything to do with it,' he replied. Happiness is something you decide on ahead of time. Whether I like my room or not doesn't depend on how the furniture is arranged it's how I arrange my mind. I already decided to love it.

It's a decision I make every morning when I wake up. I have a choice; I can spend the day in bed recounting the difficulty I have with the parts of my body that no longer work, or get out of bed and be thankful for the ones that do.

Each day is a gift, and as long as my eyes open, I'll focus on the new day and all the happy memories I've stored away.. Just for this time in my life. Old age is like a bank account. You withdraw from what you've put in. So, my advice to you would be to deposit a lot of happiness in the bank account of memories!







<u>Disciple Express</u>

OAKLAND UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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"We invite all persons to be a part of our Community of Faith by participating in worship, education, fellowship and Christian service."

Disciple Express

BIBLE TRIVIA Answers for December

- 1. He was demon possessed Matt 17:14-18
- 2. He touched their eyes Matt 20:30-34
- 3. In the temple Matt 21:14-16
- 4. His resurrection

- He pool at Bethesda John 4:46-54
- 6. Eutychus Acts 20:9-10
- 7. Aeneas Acts 9:33-34
- 8. Philippi acts 16:16-18
- 9. Dorcus Acts 9:36-41
- 10. Lysra Acts 14:8-10

BIBLE TRIVIA with hints

- Who made an ax head float on the water?
- 2 Kings 2
- Who (2) walked on the Sea of Galilee? Matt 14
- 3. What did Moses do to heal the bitter waters of Marah? Exodus 15
- Who was healed of leprosy after dipping seven times in the Jordan? 2 Kings 5
- What judge wrung out a bowlful of water from a fleece in answer to prayer? Judges 6

- 6. What river was turned into blood? Exodus 7
- Who healed Jericho's water supply by throwing salt into it? 2 Kings 2
- 8. Who turned water into wine? John 2
- Who died when the parted Red Sea became unparted? Exodus 14
- When the Israelites in the wilderness complained about lack of water, where did the water come from? Exodus 17; & 20