



Christmas night after my family had left after a very busy, hectic day I sat down in front of our fireplace and in the silence I watched as the coals that were isolated from the main flames quickly burned out.

This made me think about how similar that can be with our own faith as the further we get away from God, the colder our souls become. Ronald Rolheiser calls this the “senility of the soul”, when we possess an aging, wonder-less, suppressed spirit. “Senility of the Soul” causes us to forget about the awe and wonder of Jesus' birth.

Sadly, this condition is true for many, especially at Christmas as the holiday has just become another day, an event, or season. In our world it is easy to become cynical, jaded, hopeless, and despairing. The loss of awe and wonder of the birth of Christ is tragic. But remember, the angels proclaimed great joy for all, so what's up with us when we fail to recognize the presence of God in our everyday lives? What will be different within us once the decorations have been put away...will our Christmas spirit be gone too? Choosing joy takes great effort at certain times in our lives. Like the coals in my Christmas fireplace, maybe you find yourself burned out, cold, and isolated.

If so, take some time to practice good soul care...spend some time with a child, laugh, listen to some great music, do something for someone else, forgive, start a new bible study, ask for help, pray...be open to how God is working in your life. I want to encourage you and remind you that there is hope in that tiny baby born so very long ago. You matter to God. As we look towards 2016, May you find renewal for your soul and your light for Christ shine brightly. Let's make this next year AWE-some and WONDER-filled together.

Pastor Amy



All youth and adults are invited to join Pastor Amy on Wednesday evenings beginning on January 13 for a new study, "Five Marks of a Methodist". This study will help us all grasp a clearer understanding of five specific character traits that confirm our identity as not just United Methodists but as genuine and fruitful followers of Christ.

During the six week study we will study the following principals; A Methodist Loves God, A Methodist Rejoices in God, A Methodist Gives Thanks, A Methodist Prays Constantly and A Methodist Loves Others.

This study will be an opportunity to grow in your faith whether your relationship with the Christ and the church is new or longstanding.

Come, learn, and experience fellowship as we Dine and grow in Discipleship at Dawson! If you'd like to order your own copy of the book, go to the Cokesbury website at <https://www.cokesbury.com/product/9781501800597/five-marks-of-a-methodist/> or also available on [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com). On Wednesday evenings the children will continue with their Deep Blue Kids program and studies.

"Are you tired? Worn out? ...Come to me. I'll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me - watch how I do it...I won't lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you'll learn to live freely and lightly."

Matthew 11:28-30 (The Bible - The Message version)

Pancake Breakfast

The Pancake Breakfast will resume on January 16th 8 - 10 A.M.



SUNDAY SCHOOL



**Classes for All Ages
AT 9:30 AM**

Tuesday Morning Bible Study

This group meets every Tuesday at 10 A.M. They have begun a study of the book of Acts. Everyone is welcome to join us anytime. Come grow with us!

Saturday Jan. 9th

We will be taking down the Christmas decorations. Please come help.

**Find & "LIKE" us on
Facebook
"Dawson Church"**



Church/ Sanctuary Clean Up

January 16th @ 10 AM

Please lend a hand

Leading Into the New Year

Brothers and sisters as we go into the new year let us consider our goals in Christ's body as we move forward. As a body we have seen the loss of many members in the last couple of years, yet we continue to have the same or even more needs in the body's work. Each and everyone of us have something to offer to the body's work. If we as individuals would each take on one small task this would go a tremendous way into helping us reach our goals. As things have been going though we have a handful of folks who are trying to do the whole body's work and as we all know this can lead to overload and not enough resources left to be about all the work that we are called to do.

Some of you are certain to be saying "I'm just a kid what can I do?" or I'm old and tired and given all my time already, what can I do now?" Let me repeat myself --- We all have something to offer!

For a few years now our custodial work has been done on a volunteer basis. But this is just too much to expect of one person. We are working to establish a volunteer base to make sure our custodial needs are being met. There are of course things that need done weekly, monthly, bi-monthly. Won't you please consider being a part of the the team!

Also, we need more folks to help with Sunday School/ Children's Ministries. These activities are important to the life, vitality and growth of the church as we must have something to offer all ages.

Friends we have a whole neighborhood around us with needs that we as a body can minister to and help fill. If we are all willing God will give us the strength and resources to accomplish many things. But we have to have the willingness and the want to be lead by Him. Often we all get so wrapped up in our personal situations and needs that we fail to see the needs around us.

Yes friends we have all lost much in this world, but we must remember who's children we are and what is required of us in the body. We must find new attitudes and new courage to take on the work that we are called to do. Its up to you. God still has a plan and a promise for us all, We are all on His team. With love and grace He will lead us and give us new strength. Join us! If you have questions or a desire to help out please talk to Pastor Amy, Don Clegg or myself. May God Bless each of us with a heart and hands for His work.

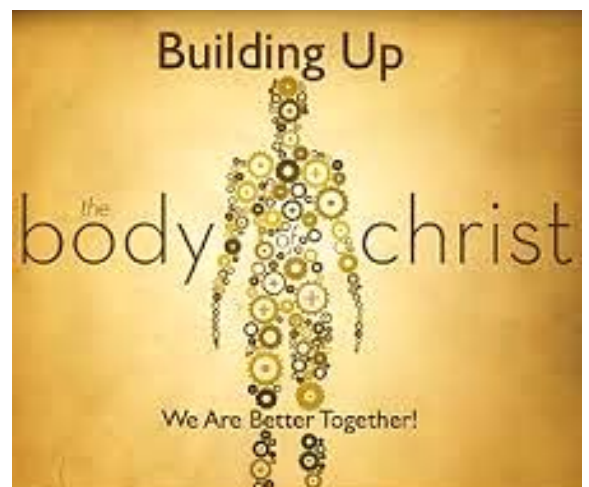
In Christian Love

Dulcie Guinty

Lay Leader

1 Corinthians 12:27-28

Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. And in the church God has appointed first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then workers of miracles, also those having gifts of healing, those able to help others, those with gifts of administration, and those speaking in differing kinds of tongues.



DawsonUMC

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*Happy
New Year*

I know the **PLANS**
I have for you says the
LORD
plans to **PROSPER**
YOU
AND NOT
TO HARM
YOU
PLANS
To Give You
HOPE And A
FUTURE
Jere 29:11

Behold
I MAKE ALL THINGS NEW
REVELATION 21:5
TRUE
BEGINNINGS

