



## WEEKLY SERMONETTE

By Jerry Cummings, Pastor of Living Hope Fellowship in Norton

In Philippians 3:13-14 we read, "Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended (arrived); but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead. I press toward the goal, for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus."

As we begin this new year it is a time of looking forward to what may lie ahead in the coming year. In this verse in Philippians, Paul talks about the priority of the future over the past. He especially emphasizes reaching forward (future) to reach that destiny which God has called us into. In order to reach the possibilities God has for us, the past must be put behind us. This is hard sometimes because the past is so certain and our future seems so **uncertain**. But the flipside is this: the past can never be changed, but the future is full of possibilities for change.

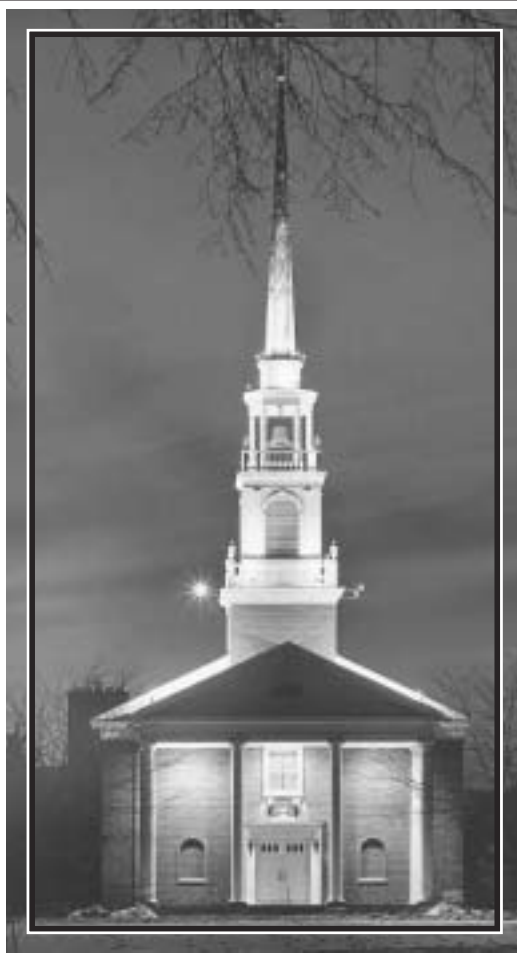
The past however, does have at least a couple of important aspects. First, the past must be remembered in the sense of learning from past mistakes. Also the past is important in terms of remembering how God has been faithful, and done great things. This reminds us to trust him with our future.

But when it comes to

realizing the purposes and possibilities for our future in God, we must position ourselves with our backs to the past and reaching for what lies ahead. In order to do this, sometimes there are things to be dealt with from our past. There may be the need for being forgiven and forgiving others, or being healed and set free of some

things from the past. But having done this, it is vital that we learn not to live in reaction to the past, but in reaching out for God's call forward. As a part of this we must learn not to judge the future by the past. God is a God who does new things, and goes beyond what we could ask or think. Furthermore, we cannot go forward to the prize if we are wasting our energy on longing for the things of the past. Paul did not look back either to his failures or successes. Doing either of these might jeopardize attaining to the destiny of God for one's life.

According to this scripture, our direction must always be forward. Paul not only forgot the past, but he "pressed" into the great purposes of God for his life. "Pressing" means that our direction is forward no matter what. These words from scripture are so appropriate at this time of reflection and resolutions. Maybe this year our resolve should be to set and keep a direction that looks forward in faith, hope, and purpose.



## A Haven for the Hungry

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
John 1:19-34	John 1:35-51	John 2:1-12	Titus 3:1-15	Ephesians 1:1-14	Ephesians 1:15-23	Ephesians 2:1-10

Scriptures Selected by The American Bible Society  
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## WILSONVILLE

By VELMA HOLTZE

Manuel Ruf was a surgical patient at Kearney last week. He had double bi-pass surgery on Wednesday.

Mary Palmer and Colleen Ballou were called to Lincoln Christmas morning because of the condition of their father, Leon O'Brein. They returned home on Sunday as his condition is some improved.

Ilene Ruf was admitted to the Cambridge hospital on Wednesday and moved to the Cambridge Manor on Saturday.

Several from this community attended Christmas Eve services at one of the Cambridge churches on Wednesday evening.

Christmas day dinner guests of Dean and Margaret Brown were Bob and Deanna Propes, Scott Propes, Kristina Felker and Anita Propes, McCook; Daryl, Melody and Brittany Brown, Ryon and Samantha Jones, Addison and Braden, Cambridge; Luke Brown, Kearney; Gary, Karen and Alicia Brown, Nick Brown, Wilsonville; and Ben and Mandy Brown of Lincoln, Neb.

Going to the home of Margene Holtze in Cambridge for dinner were her mother, Velma Holtze, her sister, Ivalene Simmons and James of Oshkosh and her brothers, Jim, Becky and Janene and Kenneth and Carla Holtze.

Arlee and Sue Bethel spent the day with their son, Rick and Kelly Bethel and family.

Saturday was the day Jane Ransdall and family and Mike and Lori Unger of North Platte; Mr. and Mrs. Steve tenBensel and family, Minden; and Eric and Leah tenBensel and son, Cambridge, gathered at their parents, Paul and Joanne tenBensel's home.

Also celebrating on Saturday at the Kenneth and Carla Holtze home were their children Rhonda, LaVerne Banzhaaf, Kayla and Krayton and Brad and Renee Holtze, Josh and Drew of Cambridge and Kendra and Russell Hoagland, Travis and Jake of Hastings and Velma Holtze.

Another dinner on Saturday was at the Kendall and Virginia Rice home when their children, Bart and Sherri Rice and family of Loomis, Steve and Peg Rice and boys and Scott and Jan Rice and Virginia's brother, Mr. and Mrs. Howard Hail of Fargo, N.D. gathered for the day.

A pre-Christmas dinner on the 24th was held at the home of Brent and Colleen Ballou. Attending were the Brad Schwartz family, Kearney; Lindsay Martin, Chicago; Michael Martin, Indiana; and Matthew Martin, Kansas, and Adeline Ballou. The Martins had arrived on Wednesday morning and left for their father's home at Clay Center. on Christmas morning.

Justin and Jolene Miller and family, Cambridge, Lyndzee Claus, Arapahoe and Brian Holtze spent Christmas evening at the home of Jim, Becky and Janene Holtze.

Harold and Pat Yost spent Christmas in Fair Oaks, Calif. They visited with Pat's aunt Alice Yoho, aunt Sally and Paul Burton, and uncle Willis Cullison and wife Bernie. Several of Pat's cousins were present also. On Christmas Eve she visited with a former classmate from San Juan High School, Joya McNeely. Following Christmas her son Doug Shepherd, wife Shelly and grandchildren Scott and Kelsey visited in Wilsonville.

On Christmas Eve, Delbert and Laurie Laws' daughter Shelly Anderson with her husband Rick and son Austin came for supper and their Christmas get-together. On Christmas day the Laws' joined Dan and Mary Alice Cook and Bob and Connie Holliday for Christmas dinner in McCook. After dinner the three couples gathered in the Laws' home for an afternoon of fun and fellowship. On Friday the Laws traveled to

Elwood to spend the day with their daughter and family. Shelly prepared the turkey and all the trimmings.

Lisa and Marc Bauer, Ellie and Will of Moorhead, Minn., arrived at her parents, the Joe Kassons, on Dec. 21. Kurt and Kim Kasson, Macy and Micab of Almena, Kan., joined them on Tuesday. Joining the group on Tuesday evening were Larry and Mary Alexander of Cambridge, the Jerry Alexander family and the Buck Sales family of Bartley.

Christmas eve was special for the family when Ellie Bauer was baptized by her uncle Kirk Kasson, minister at Almena, at the Baptist-Christian Church. Paternal grandparents, Gene and Sharon Bauer, uncle Jeff and aunt Jenee and cousins, Blair and Katy of Pleasanton and Kendall and Virginia Rice were also present. After the reading of scripture Kurt and Ellie, with guitar accompaniment, led the group in singing several choruses. Ellie then sang "Away in a Manger" in Spanish. After the baptism all enjoyed a soup supper.

After enjoying Christmas day together on Friday, the Bauers left for his parents at Pleasanton and the Kasson family returned to their home.

Dean and Margaret Brown were guests at Bob and Deanna Propes' Christmas party on Dec. 20.

Dorothy Best, who formerly lived in Longmont, Colo, many years after leaving Wilsonville, moved a little over a year ago to a retirement home in Arizona to be close to her only daughter. She has suffered a stroke earlier this fall affecting her right side. She is showing improvement and may be able to return to her apartment soon.

Georgia Seybold tells of her graduation from college last May and her husband, Dick, after all these years of married life, is adjusting to having a career woman for a wife. As for their boys — Dave, a battalion commander, has not been sent overseas yet and Brian's unit has been told to prepare for duty in January.

Marlen and Beverly Lewis report the arrival of their first grandson, Grant Matthew, on Sept. 8. Grant belongs to Judy who was born while her daddy taught school here in the mid 60s.

Lola Wycoff Nicholson Grill, 84, of Lebanon, Ore. has had poor health with several surgeries this past year. She also reports the arrival of her 15th great-great-grandchild as well as the golden wedding anniversary celebration of her daughter, Elaine and husband. Elaine was one of the twins born in 1937 while Clifford and Lola lived in Wilsonville.

From Rev. Don and Carol Morton comes word that they have moved his mother from California to a care home in Parachute, Colo. where the Morton's live. Carol is still recovering from a broken ankle, which she received in September.

Waymon Lomax, 83, Washington, still very active including many practices for Christmas music for the church choir.

DeeLee and Odessa Treat are now moved into their home at Gothenburg. They had planned to be in Omaha at their daughter, Carlene's, for the college graduation of Carlene's daughter on Dec. 19.

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