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From the Pastor's Desk



Greetings to you and peace from God our Father, and our Lord Jesus Christ.

Happy New Year!!!! I hope that if you have made resolutions that you are able keep them for a long time. I know I had the best of intention when I made resolutions to eat more healthy and to lose weight. Well, having the typical New Year's meal of pork and sauerkraut plus hog maw (and especially the skin!!!!) plus mashed potatoes, corn, and all the typical fare, my resolution to lose weight never lasted past noon! And, on top of that were all the cookies left over from Christmas enhanced by the new pies and other goodies for the New Year's dinner — NO CHANCE to keep the resolution! But, one thing I definitely learned from the classes in preparation for the gastric bypass—even though you may have a bad day today, put that behind you and make sure tomorrow is a good day! We can all overeat now and then, but we need to try to keep it to just one day. When we do overindulge day after day after day—that is when we get into trouble!

Of course, many of you are already aware that Blymire's will definitely be experiencing a change in the new year. On December 18 Lonnie Barnhart announced as the chair of the Search Team that they have made progress in the search for a minister. He shared that I have tenured my resignation as your Interim Pastor effective January 31, 2017. In following guide lines from our Conference, I will need to refrain from any activity with Blymire's church during the month of February. On Sunday, February 26, I will have a trial sermon and the congregation will vote on whether or not I will become your Designated Pastor. This simply means that I will serve for a designated period of time—5 years, and we will agree to certain goals I will work on in that period of time. I chose five years because that will put me late in my 60's and maybe (if my health holds out) I will be able to retire then and "take it easy." But, at the end of those five years if we are both agreeable to it, the contract could be extended for another period of time.

I can truly say that I am excited about this proposal and I am very humbled by the affirmation that I have received from this amazing faith family! From the first visit that Jeri and I shared in worship we have felt welcomed here! And, walking with you in our faith journey these two and a half years has been a very touching



January

experience. Quoting words from a beautiful song —

“Surely, the presence of the Lord is in this place!

I can feel His mighty power and His grace.

I can hear the brush of angel’s wings,

I see glory on each face.

Surely, the presence of the Lord is in this place!”

This is from a song written in 1977 by Lanny Wolfe (#219 in the Celebration Hymnal), but it SOOO describes what I have experienced here at Blymire’s church! I do feel a need to give you all a fair warning ... if I am approved as your Designated Pastor on February 26, that also means that Jeri will be here and doing Children’s Sermons frequently for those five years. So, that may either be a blessing or a curse to the vote in February. (Definitely, a blessing!)

If you have any thoughts about what goals we should address, PLEASE, let me know! I intend to focus on building up youth and young adult ministry and to work on what we may be able to do in conjunction with the Dallastown Schools.

I feel I need to acknowledge that not everybody will be in agreement with this plan so if you do feel any reluctance or dissatisfaction with this arrangement, LET ME KNOW!!!! Please talk to me about your thoughts and feelings!

Jeri and I are thrilled and excited about the journey of faith that is ahead!

God Bless!

With love, Pastor Lou Ann



SPECIAL SERVICES in JANUARY

January 1 - New Year’s Day

Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46

Sermon: "The Sheep and the Goats"

January 8 - Epiphany 1 - Town Meeting for 2017 Budget

Gospel: Matthew 3:13-17

Sermon: "Baptism—Once and Done?"

January 15 - Epiphany 2

Gospel: John 1:29-42

Sermon: "Baptism—Part 2—SPIRIT"

January 22- Epiphany 3

Gospel: Matthew 4:12-23

Sermon: "Off to a Running Start"

January 29 - Epiphany 4

Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12

Sermon: "Being Blessed"

SCHEDULE OF DUTIES for JANUARY

GREETERS:

January 1 - Nancy Taylor
January 8 - Janie Montgomery
January 15 - To be announced
January 22 - Gwen Wise
January 29 - Linda Eichelberger

GIFT COLLECTORS:

January 1 - Sandy Brown
January 8 - Rod & Linda Eichelberger
January 15 - David & Susan McDowell
January 22 - Curt Weber
January 29 - Lynz Leader

LAY READERS:

January 1 - Sandy Brown
January 8 - Steph Frey
January 15 - Nelson Leader
January 22 - Susan McDowell
January 29 - Lynz Leader

ACOLYTES:

January 1 - Janie Montgomery
January 8 - Lonnie & Carol Barnhart
January 15 - David & Susan McDowell
January 22 - Curt & Ginny Weber
January 29 - Carl & Sharon Criswell

COFFEE SOCIAL HOSTS:

January 1 - To be announced
January 8 - To be announced
January 15 - To be announced
January 22 - To be announced
January 29 - To be announced

SOUND SYSTEM OPERATORS:

January 1 - Terry Doll
January 8 - Ed Adams
January 15 - Chase Matthews
January 22 - Wyatt Myers
January 29 - To be announced

LIGHTING OPERATORS:

January 1 - Greg Ness
January 8 - Joel Frey
January 15 - Greg Ness
January 22 - Sterling Boyd
January 29 - To be announced

CAMERA OPERATORS:

January 1 - John Sterling
January 8 - Greg Ness
January 15 - Todd Miller
January 22 - Terry Doll
January 29 - To be announced

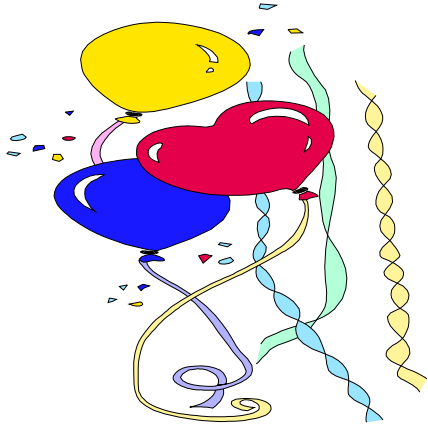
VIDEO OPERATORS:

January 1 - Sydney Brown
January 8 - Jeri Jones
January 15 - Judy Bishop
January 22 - Nelson Leader
January 29 - Nelson Leader

ALTAR GUILD: Jean McDowell & Barb Adams

DEADLINE FOR FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER: January 15

JANUARY
BIRTHDAYS



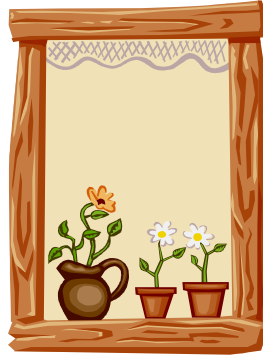
*May God
Bless You on
Your
Birthday!*

- | | | | |
|-----|-------------------|-----|-----------------|
| 1. | Jared Miller | 20. | Rick Sipe |
| | Todd Miller | 21. | Ed Adams |
| | Derek Troop | | Gwen Wise |
| 2. | Burl Gingerich | 26. | Cindie McKinsey |
| | Chet Wise | | |
| 3. | Keith Markey | | |
| 4. | Tracey Dilling | | |
| | John Sterling | | |
| 5. | David Roe | | |
| 7. | Nicholas Innerst | | |
| | Morgan Keller | | |
| 8. | Nancy Myers | | |
| 9. | Paige Barley | | |
| 11. | Damion Albright | | |
| | Steven Knickel | | |
| 12. | Tina Leader | | |
| 13. | Hannah Leader | | |
| 14. | Benjamin Barley | | |
| | John Herbst | | |
| 16. | Brooks Barley | | |
| 18. | Silvia Knickel | | |
| 19. | Danielle Marshall | | |

REMEMBER OUR SHUT-INS

Freda Berry
1240 South Pleasant Avenue
Dallastown, PA 17313
244-2282

Anita Spahr
36 West Main Street
Dallastown, PA 17313
244-7392



Peggy Luckenbaugh
Room 704B
Colonial Manor Nursing Home
970 Colonial Avenue
York, PA 17403



Remember
and pray for
Our Members
in the
Military

A1C Ness, Brandon
98950 East Harmony Lane
Tucson, AZ 85748



... to the **Sisters of Service** and everyone else who helped to prepare food, set up and clean up at our annual Church Christmas party.

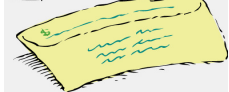
... to the **Sisters of Service** for organizing this year's Cookie Walk. Thanks also to everyone who helped setup and sell cookies, as well as those who donated home-made cookies and those who bought them.

... to all our **generous hosts and hostesses for this year's Progressive Dinner**: Nelson and Marti Leader, Carl and Sharon Criswell, Pastor Lou Ann, Diana Myers, Janie Montgomery, Beth March, Ginny Weber and Carol Barnhart. The food was delicious and the fellowship wonderful.

... to **Marti and Nelson Leader** for organizing the concert by the Dallastown chorus and string ensemble.

... to **everyone who donated items** for Helping Hands for the Homeless and to the **TEENS** for distributing them.

Offering Envelopes



Our offering envelopes for 2017 may now be picked up from the Welcome Table in the Gathering Room. Anyone who requested envelopes last year will automatically be given them again this year. If you did not use envelopes in 2016, but would like some for 2017, please see Pastor Lou Ann so we can record your number.

Using offering envelopes helps to ensure the privacy of your donations and also makes it easier for us to keep track of what you have given for tax purposes.



TOWN MEETING

On Sunday, January 8, there will be a Town Meeting immediately after the worship service to discuss and approve the budget and the members of the Coordinating Ministry Team for 2017. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend!

FINANCIAL REPORT

Undesignated General Fund

Red Brick Chapel

Cemetery

Month-2016	Income	Expense	Income	Expense	Income	Expense
January	\$7,887.33	\$8,395.21	\$549.65	\$151.88	\$451.20	\$0.00
February	\$14,123.82	\$8,677.36	\$1,249.27	\$181.00	\$0.73	\$1,095.00
March	\$9,627.13	\$11,746.85	\$522.60	\$413.84	\$0.64	\$2,324.23
April	\$8,812.60	\$7,989.95	\$503.95	\$123.18	\$0.48	\$325.00
May	\$11,191.79	\$8,122.81	\$1,002.85	\$2,056.78	\$0.40	\$1,485.00
June	\$8,631.06	\$12,019.11	\$1.97	\$402.36	\$0.24	\$2,214.08
July	\$9,481.53	\$7,228.27	\$502.06	\$69.11	\$6.10	\$2,255.00
August	\$10,605.11	\$9,943.73	\$1,072.21	\$117.33	40.62	\$2,135.38
September	\$8,222.30	\$12,162.42	\$593.59	\$417.79	\$0.32	\$2,719.08
October	\$11,295.55	\$11,278.13	\$678.28	\$74.16	\$0.14	\$935.00
November	\$9,114.38	\$8,107.25	\$503.24	\$226.53	\$800.31	\$1,965.00
December						
Total	\$108,992.60	\$105,671.09	\$7,179.67	\$4,223.96	\$1,261.18	\$17,452.77

Balance of Undesignated General Fund @ December 1, 2016

\$6,936.24

Balance of Red Brick Chapel Fund @ December 1, 2016

(Includes \$42,215.73 Endowment)

\$68,550.97

Balance of Cemetery Fund @ December 1, 2016

(Includes \$708,659.15 CD's, Trusts, UCC Foundation))

\$717,600.33

Financial Assistance Given through Hand of Hope Fund - 2016

	#	Total	Monthly	Available
	Families	\$\$\$	Donations	Balance
Beginning				\$ 361.26
January	2	\$ 50.00	\$ 80.31	\$ 391.57
February	2	\$ 75.00	\$ 95.47	\$ 412.04
March			\$ 96.41	\$ 508.45
April	3	\$ 75.00	\$ 82.46	\$ 515.91
May	2	\$ 50.00	\$ 95.29	\$ 561.20
June	5	\$ 500.00	\$ 91.32	\$ 152.52
July	2	\$ 50.00	\$ 106.13	\$ 208.64
August	1	\$ 25.00	\$ 78.28	\$ 261.93
September	1	\$ 50.00	\$ 93.66	\$ 305.59
October	1	\$ 50.00	\$ 123.07	\$ 378.66
November	1	\$ 50.00	\$ 76.41	\$ 405.07
December				
Total	19	\$ 975.00	\$ 1018.81	



MEN'S GROUP



Join the men of Blymire on Tuesday, January 10, at 7:00 PM at the church. Bring a friend to the meeting. As always we have an open discussion on joys and concerns. We will be discussing potential guest speakers for future meetings. Come join us for a time of sharing. REMEMBER ALL MEN ARE WELCOME.



FAITH KIDZ will be meeting every Wednesday in January from 6:30-8:00PM. We will continue with Fruit of the Spirit lessons and making gifts for the shut-ins.



**CHILI
COOK-
OFF**

On Sunday, February 5, we will be holding our fifth annual Chili Cook-off. It will begin immediately after the worship service. There will be no Sunday school that day. Prizes will be given for the best tasting chili, the hottest but still eatable, and the best theme. Past winners are asked to please bring back the trophies they won last year.



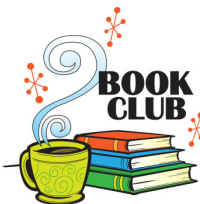
TEENS will hold their regular meeting on Sunday, January 8, at 6:30 PM at the church. We will going on a retreat at River Valley Ranch the weekend of January 27-29.

BOOK SALE



The annual Book Fair is returning the end of January, so now's the time to start collecting the books you've read and bring them to church. They may be placed in boxes in the Gathering Room by the windows. The Book Fair will run from January 29 through February 26.

In addition to books, you may also donate DVD's and CD's. PLEASE do not donate magazines or musty-smelling books. We're looking forward to a great book fair.



Our Women's Book Club will hold their next meetings on January 10 and January 24 at 10:00AM in the Gathering Room. We are currently discussing the book Small Great Things by Jodi Picoult. New members are always welcome to join us.

Life Line Screening

On Monday, January 30, representatives from Life Line Screening will be visiting our church to provide screenings for heart disease and osteoporosis. For only \$139, you will receive the following: **Carotid Artery (Plaque) Screening**—ultrasound scan of the carotid arteries that screens for buildup of fatty plaque—a leading cause of strokes.

Heart Rhythm Screening (Atrial Fibrillation)—a quick and easy test using EKG electrodes placed on the arms and legs to identify the presence or absence of an irregular heartbeat.

Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Screening—ultrasound screening for an abdominal aneurysm (enlargement) that could lead to a ruptured aorta.

Peripheral Arterial Disease Screening—evaluates for peripheral arterial disease (PAD) in the lower extremities, which increases the risk of heart disease.

Osteoporosis Risk Assessment—ultrasound screens the heel for bone mass density. Osteoporosis is painless and silent in its early stages. (extra cost of \$10 for this test)

Pre-registration is required for these tests. Call 1-888-653-6450 to register.

EMMANUEL'S CLOSET

January 2017



Christmas Project

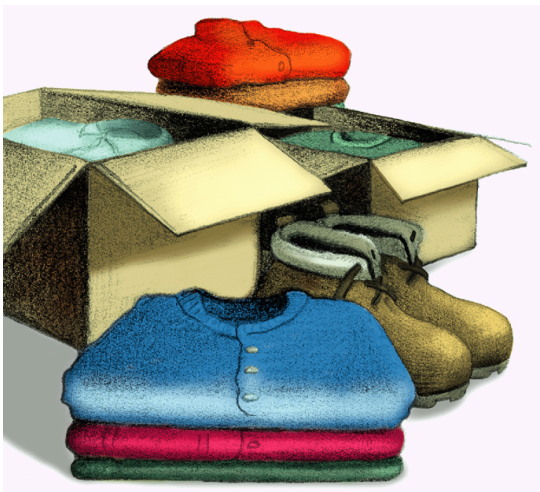
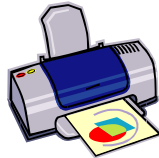
We would again like to thank everyone who bought a Christmas gift for one of the children at Emmanuel's Closet.

We gave gifts to a total of 98 children and teens. This may have been the only gift some of those children received for Christmas. They were distributed on December 10th and 17th.

In addition to the gifts, in December we also gave out extra bags of holiday food and certificates for perishable food to our clients to help provide them with a good Christmas dinner. Thank you to everyone who donated food or extra funds to help buy them.

Cartridge Recycling

Don't forget to bring in your empty printer cartridges and place them in the box in the Emmanuel's Closet cart in the Gathering Room. Thank you for your support of this project which will not only raise money for those in need, but also help to keep our planet "green."



E.C. Continuing Needs

Juice
Cereal
Peanut Butter/Jelly
Spaghetti Sauce
Boxed Dry Pastas
Helper Meals
Dessert Items
Condiment Items
Canned Tuna/Meats
Canned Broth
Canned Fruit/Vegetables
Coffee/Tea
Deodorant, Soap, Shampoo
Toothpaste, Toothbrushes
Toilet Paper, Tissues, Paper Towels
Dish Washing Liquid
Laundry Detergent
All-Purpose Cleaners
Baby food, formula, diapers, etc.
Children's books/toys
Small household items

Please, NO Expired Food Items

We are now accepting fall and winter clothing. They should be clean, in good repair and unstained.



THANKS FOR CARING!



HEALING HEARTS INSPIRATIONS

January
2017

REMINDER

There will be no Healing Hearts
activities in February.
Stay in. Stay warm!

PROVERBS FOR ABUNDANT LIVING

In life we are to encourage and build up each other; not to discourage and tear down one another.

In life we are to add, not subtract; to multiply, not divide.

In life we are to leave an enduring impression; not a careless dent.

In life we are to smooth out the rough roads along the journey; not create new potholes.

In life we are to sing a joyful song; not just drone a groan.

In life we are to leap in faith; not to limp with doubt.

In life we are to open our hands to those in need; not to clutch our hands in fists of distrust.

In life we are to be messengers of peace, signs of joy; not Chicken Little portents of gloom-n-doom.

In life we are to show up, stand up, step forward and speak up; not to cringe in fear, choosing to sit down, to step back, allowing the voices of silence to speak so loudly.

In life we are to be wacky, weird, and wonderful in our own unique God-given way; not to be staid-n-proper lemmings, stuck on life's treadmill.

In life we are to reach, to stretch, and to soar; not to slink in fear, held back by mistrust and doubt.

In life we are to realize: "I am a remarkable Somebody!"; not listen to other's jabs: "You're a Nobody, an Everybody, an Anybody."

Brian Cavanaugh



"As a new year begins, many of you engage in the old habit of making new resolutions for the new year. Make this habit a tool to pledge more than good intentions, but to set goals and life-guidelines that will make you a better human being, not merely somebody thinner or richer. Make goals to increase your tolerance, your compassion and openness towards your fellow human beings. This special date can become a starting point for a wonderful new attitude to life - something that will improve you from the inside-out - and, as a result make a difference in the lives of those around you.

11:11 Progress Group

EVENING PRAYER ON A SNOWY DAY- A Concord Pastor

Good evening, good God!



So busy are we about so many trivial things... Perhaps that's why you spent the late afternoon blanketing us with snow, slowing our steps, hitting our *pause* button and grinding the traffic of our business to a halt. I needed that, Lord. I needed to be inconvenienced, interrupted, slowed down- *stopped* -by the pure, soft beauty of your presence, settling gently, flake by flake; dressing me and my world in a garment of pure grace..

Let your snow fall upon my upturned face, Lord: as a child catches snow flakes on the tongue let me taste the sweetness of your advent... Am I too old, Lord, for making angels in the snow? Then send a snowy angel to make of me what you will...

Even as the snow chills my limbs let your touch melt my heart and draw me inside to where the fire of your love burns for me always, crackling, bright and warm... Remind me, Lord, of those who are burdened by the weather and empty my purse and pockets in support of those who serve and shelter them...

Later, Lord, the snow will slow and stop and our pace will quicken once again... Even then, keep us mindful of these moments when the blanket of your presence stills and warms our hearts close to you.



I would like to thank all of the members of Healing Hearts for their most generous Christmas gift. It is indeed nice to be appreciated, ladies! I'd also like to say thanks for another year of the wonderful support and friendship you extend to me and to one another. Each one of you plays an important part. Thanks for being one of our Healing Hearts.

Kathi Sterling

CHRIST HAS COME...WHAT NOW?

Stepping from the throne, He has removed his robe of light and wrapped himself in skin: pigmented, human skin. The light of the universe entered a dark, wet womb. He whom angels worship was birthed into the cold night, and then slept on cow's hay. Then what?

Mary didn't know whether to give him milk or give him praise, but she gave him both since he was, as near as she could figure, hungry and holy. Joseph didn't know whether to call him Junior or Father. But in the end he called him Jesus, since that's what the angel had said and since he didn't have the faintest idea what to name a God he could cradle in his arms.

Don't you think their heads tilted and their minds wondered, "What in the world are you doing, God?" Or, better phrased, "God, what are you doing in the world?"

Perhaps God said- "Watch me speak your language, sleep on your earth, and feel your hurts. Behold the maker of sight and sound as he sneezes, coughs, and blows his nose. You wonder if I understand how you feel? Look into the dancing eyes of the kid in Nazareth; that's God walking to school. Ponder the toddler at Mary's table; that's God spilling his milk.

"Can anything make me stop loving you?" You wonder how long my love will last? Find your answer on a splintered cross, on a craggy hill. That's me you see up there, your maker, your God, nail-stabbed and bleeding. Covered in spit and sin-soaked. That's your sin I'm feeling. That's your death I'm dying. That's your resurrection I'm living. That's how much I love you."

Max Lucado



Revelations for January from “Bly Mire” Mouse

Did you have a MERRY CHRISTMAS???? I certainly did. Mire and I were up very late Christmas Eve because we had to assemble some of the little one’s gifts after we got home from our Christmas Eve Service. I am glad that Mire is mechanically inclined because even with the directions I have a difficult time! It may have been because of all the beautiful music running through my mind. I SOOOOO love the music of Christmas! And how awesome was all the music we heard at church from the School String Ensemble and the Choral Ensemble on Dec. 15th followed by our Christmas Eve Cantata on the 24th!!!! WOW!

Now, New Year’s — 2017. Another change of year. It is hard to believe!!!! I already have heard of changes that are coming to the church and I have been hearing a lot of excitement about an announcement by the search team — Pastor Lou Ann has resigned as Interim Pastor. I was kind of confused as to why people were excited about this because I would think it is a sad time when someone resigns. But then I heard the rest of the announcement. She will have a trial sermon on February 26 for the congregation to vote if they want to call her as Designated Pastor. This means she (and Jeri) will be able to stay for quite a while if the congregation approves. Mark your calendars to attend that Sunday!

I was also glad to get a reminder about the New Year Communion service. Normally we have communion on the first Sunday but since the first Sunday is the First of January, we will not have our first communion on the first Sunday. We will instead have PAJAMA SUNDAY on the first Sunday which is the First of January. And, since many of you stay up late to celebrate New Year’s Eve, the worship team invites you to sleep in until the last minute, then rush out the door to join in worship at 8:45. You don’t even have to change or brush your hair! Just come as you are — but pajamas at least are required! Then, on JANUARY 8th we will have our communion service and that will be followed by our Town Meeting. MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!

I also listened in on a Worship Team meeting and they will be offering something new. On THURSDAY, JANUARY 19th, you are invited to come to the church at 7:00 PM. Pastor Lou Ann will offer a personal time of ANOINTING FOR HEALING and/or PERSONAL PRAYER for anyone present. This will not be a worship service but it will be a time for laying on of hands and, if you would like to join Pastor Lou Ann in offering prayer for others, please attend! If you have any questions, I am sure she will be glad to answer them!

But there is a bigger change coming — to the kitchen!!!! Work will begin after New Year to update the kitchen so the use of the kitchen will be minimal for a month or so. A new sink, stainless steel counters and a new stove are in the plans!!!! WOW — sounds great! Thanks to the Men’s Group and S.O.S.!!!!!!

Mire and I do wish you all a HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!! We hope you feel the loving arms of God surrounding you every day! We pray for healing for all who battled illness in 2016. We pray for strength for all who may be struggling in any way!

God Bless us all!

Your faith-friends, BLY and MIRE and family!



MASON JAR nightLight

Because Jesus is the light of the world, his followers don't need to fear darkness or life's dark times. Make this nightlight to remind you of Jesus' light and presence.



What you need:

- Work area with good ventilation
- Mason jar
- Clear glue that works on glass
- Paintbrush
- Glass stones
- Tealight candle
- Lighter
- Adult supervision

What you do:

1. Starting at the top of the jar, brush glue on a small section.
2. Press glass stones onto the glue in rows. Let dry.
3. Continue gluing stones, in small sections, until the entire jar is covered.
4. When dry, place a candle inside. Light with adult help.



Light OF THE World

In a world full of sin and darkness, how can we find our way?
Discover Jesus' answer in John 8:12, NIV.

*Directions: Use the key to fill in the missing vowels.
Then read the completed Bible verse.*

KEY:



" _ _ M T H _ L _ G H T _ F

T H _ W _ R L D. W H _ _ V _ R

F _ L L _ W S M _ W _ L L N _ V _ R

W _ L K _ N D _ R K N _ S S."

J _ H N 8:12, NIV