

The Broadfording Church of the Brethren Fellowship

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Remembering and Celebrating

by Pastor Len Smith

We read in Psalm 115:12 A *"The Lord remembers us and will bless us"* Certainly, the year 2014 was a year of celebration for this congregation to remember for many years to come.

For the second time in twenty years we celebrated a mortgage burning service on January 12, 2014. This time it was for our 2007 addition. Then on July 27, 2014, we celebrated not only the 35th anniversary of the congregation's reorganization, but also the 30th anniversary of the dedication of our 1984 worship facility.

There were also other celebratory events such as our spring Friendship Sunday on April 27th and our fall Homecoming Sunday on October 26th with our revival services conducted by Rev. Tracy Wiser. We enjoyed several Sunday morning presentations from the Cearfoss Drama Connection and special music throughout the year. Also especially noteworthy was our September 14th new member recognition meal for twenty-one individuals who became new members from 10-13-13 through 9-14-14.

We certainly also praise the Lord for our increased Sunday worship attendance in 2014 averaging 123 compared to 120 in 2013. Our 2014 offerings met 99% of our 2014 projected budget for local expenses and mission outreach. We have so much to be truly thankful for.

2014 was also a time for us to remember seven church members who passed on into glory:

February 3rd – Hazel Angle, August 5th – Evelyn Funk, August 22nd – Winnie Gourley,
August 31st – Todd Hoffman, September 2nd – Betty Bastian, October 26th – Jane Wolford,
and November 29th – Charles Wasson.

Every one of these church members is missed by their loved ones and friends who still retain those precious memories of how their lives touched them.

I too laid another loved one to rest who was not a member of this congregation in 2014 when I conducted services for my father, Donald Ray Smith, in Salisbury, North Carolina on April 30th. I have sincerely appreciated your prayerful support.

But as we begin another new year, it is extremely important for us not to just consider past spiritual celebrations or dwell on our personal losses. I believe that the Apostle Paul was inspired by God to write some helpful advice for us in Philippians 3:12-13. *"Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heaven ward in Christ Jesus."*

May each one of us prayerfully consider worthy celebratory spiritual goals for 2015!

