



A Resolution to Keep

Many people have the tradition of making resolutions for the new year. The resolutions may be that I will go on a diet to lose weight; I will exercise more; I will use my Fitbit that I got for Christmas; I will save more so that I can pay down the debt from Christmas shopping; I will be kinder to people; I will draw closer to the Lord...

How long are you able to keep those resolutions? According to the "Business Insider" website, 94% of respondents said that they were able to keep their resolutions for about one month. By the end of March, almost all of the people had gone back to their old ways.

Why do people make resolutions? The reasons may be that they want to be healthier so that they can live longer, they do not want to be stressed over finances, they want to treat other people better, they want to know more about this God that loves them ...

If you want to know more about the God who loves us, the Bible says that "for everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope." (Romans 15:4) With this in mind, I would like to invite you to join us for a Zoom Bible Study beginning on Wednesday night January 13 at 7 p.m. or Thursday January 14 at 2 p.m. for three weeks. We are going to be studying the Wesley Renewal Covenant. The book we will be studying is entitled *The Wesley Prayer Challenge: 21 Days to a Closer Walk with Christ* by Chris Folmsbee. There is a DVD we will watch together and a participant book for each person. The cost is \$15.00.

The Wesley Renewal Covenant is usually part of the worship service for New Year's Eve Watchnight, New Year's Day, or the first Sunday in January. The roots of this covenant began in 1663 by the Puritan pastor, Richard Alleine. Alleine published this covenant in the book *Vindiciae Pietatis* or in English, *A Vindication of Godliness in the Greater Strictness and Spirituality of It*. John Wesley read this book and was so moved by this covenant that he held the first renewal covenant service on August 11, 1755 at the French church at

Spitalfields in London. John Wesley wrote:

"It was an occasion for a variety of spiritual experiences...I do not know that ever we had a greater blessing. Afterwards many desired to return thanks, either for a sense of pardon, for full salvation, or for a fresh manifestation of His graces, healing all their backslidings."



John Wesley

The purpose of this service is for a person to commit their life to God. In order for them to make this commitment, it is advised that they prepare themselves with Bible Study and prayer.

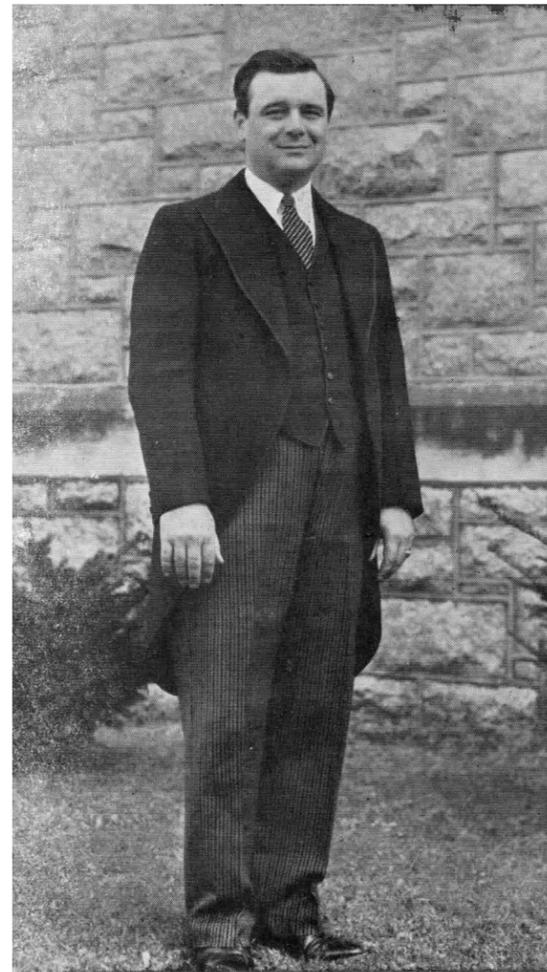
We will be having this Wesley Renewal Covenant service not on Sunday, January 3, but on February 7. Our worship services in the beginning of 2021 will focus on our preparation to commit ourselves to God. That will be a solid foundation to help us keep one resolution in the new year.

Happy New Year!
Pastor Dave

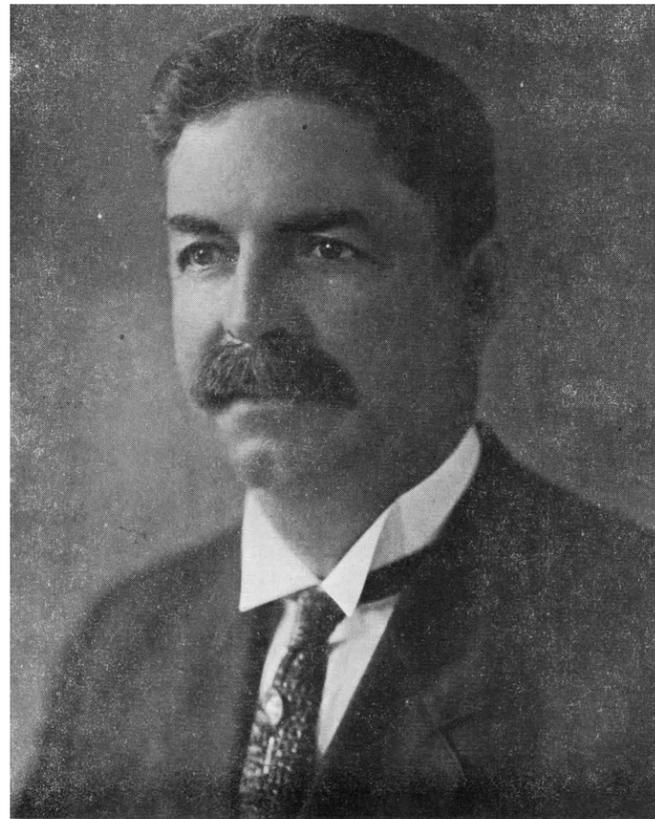
A Thank You from JoAnn and Pastor Dave

As we close this year, JoAnn and I want to say thank you. We thank you for your prayers. Your prayers lifted us during this crazy year. Thank you for thinking of us throughout the year. We received numerous cards, gifts, Facebook messages, and telephone calls for our birthdays, get well wishes when we were sick, Pastor appreciation and Christmas cards and gifts. We are looking forward to enjoying the many gift cards!

Thank you for using your talents for the Lord. The ministry of Zion would not have been successful without you. The Apostle Paul said it so eloquently, "I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." (Philippians 1:3-6)



Zion's pastor, Rev. J. B. Dickerson, looking quite natty in 1945. Should we suggest that Pastor Dave get a cutaway coat, a waistcoat, and pin striped trousers?



Levi B. Phillips—Zion's Chair of the Board of Trustees 1919-1945. And you thought that today's term of office is long! At least he didn't have to deal with faulty air conditioning compressors.

Zion United Methodist Church
612 Locust Street
Cambridge, MD 21613

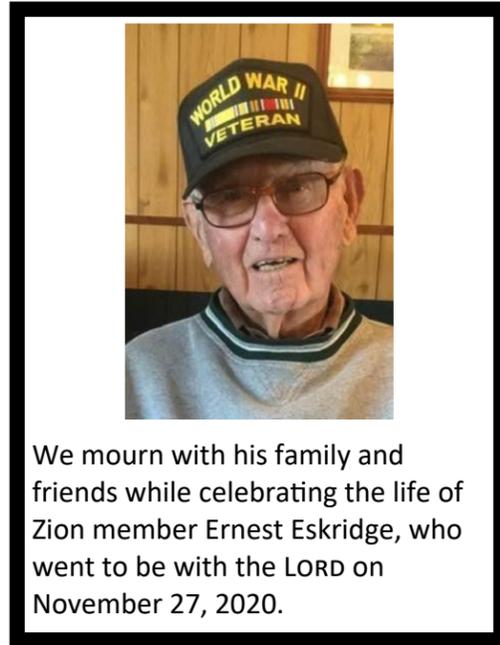
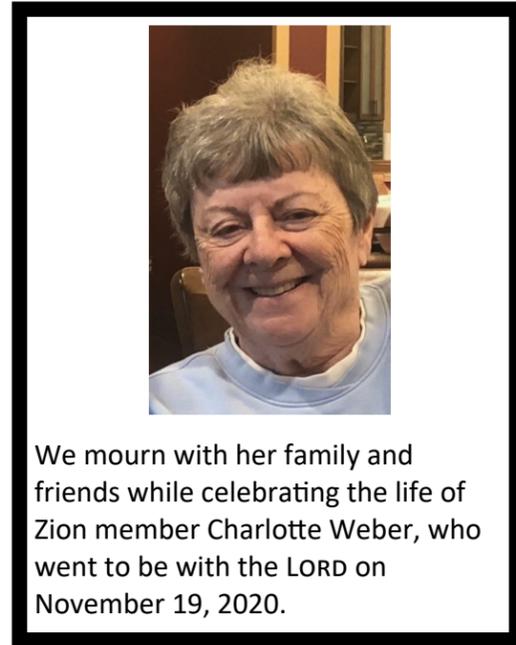
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Salvation Army Angel Tree 2020

Pastor Dave helps load Angel Tree gifts into the Salvation Army truck. He reports that this large truck was almost half full after all of the gifts from Zion were loaded. The Hattie B. Skinner Circle thanks everyone who participated either by buying gifts or by making a donation. All 25 angels were fulfilled! Your support and generosity are greatly appreciated!





ANNIVERSARIES
in January

2-Morgan & Katie Tolley
27-Bruce & Ellen Rindfuss

BIRTHDAYS
in January

1-Susan Willey	17-Edwin Howard	26-Diana Brooks
6-William Davidson	17-Angela Meekins	26-Alyssa Nantt
6-Dickie Lowry	17-Guy Willey	27-Susan Thomas
8-Olivia Davidson	22-Dean Price	28-Cian Harp
10-Suzanne Meritt	23-Kenny Thomas	28-Shirley Spedden
11-Dalaney Mackert	24-Madison Dukes	29-Tina Blades
11-Debbie Yost	24-Sutton Dukes	
12-Robert Collison	25-Jacob Robinson	



During 2020, Zion members continued to support the Salvation Army's homeless shelter and the Cold Weather Shelter with meals. These photos are of the delivery on December 1.

