



Tidings

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December 2018

SAMARITAN'S PURSE OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Thanks go out to the whole county, and especially to everyone who helped every night and all weekend during the shoe box drop off week that just ended. It was a very good effort by everyone. A total of 2,177 children around the world will have a nice Christmas gift (in addition to hearing the gospel story) because of generous people right here in Hopkins County! All totaled from all distribution points, millions of shoeboxes will be delivered world wide. Thanks to all of you who help represent the evangelistic effort of Samaritan's Purse to bring the gospel (and some Christmas joy) to children throughout God's realm! Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me!

Special Dates of Interest:

- First Sunday of Advent, *December 2, 2018*
- Second Sunday of Advent, *December 9, 2018*
- Third Sunday of Advent, *December 16, 2018*
- First day of winter, *December 21, 2018*
- Fourth Sunday of Advent, *December 23, 2018*
- Christmas Eve, *December 24, 2018*
- Christmas Day, *December 25, 2018*
- New Year's Eve/Watch Night, *December 31, 2018*

IT TAKES GRACE...

"This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners..."

[1 Timothy 1:15]

It wasn't supposed to be like this. I was moving along, mulching up leaves in my back yard, just as I have every fall for the past upteen years. Then, the same underground stump I've mowed over for all those years decided to raise its ugly head... and my mower caught it. The engine sputtered and died...after gouging the ground with its bent blade. So, not only did I bend the blade, but the ground around looked like it had been freshly plowed (instead of mowed). And that underground stump just sat there smiling at me...

So, I pushed the broken, dead mower to the driveway and call the repairman. Then the winter ice storm of the fall of 2018 happened... right on my lawn mower that has never sat outside overnight. (It wasn't supposed to be like this.) After a few days, they came for my mower. It's been three days now and I'm waiting...

Go back to God's good creation, all the way back to the garden and Adam and Eve. That was how it was meant to be. No sin – out in the

open or hidden. (No stumps at all – above or below the ground.) Then, at the one (only one) place to stumble, humanity chooses wrong (chooses against God) and gets terribly snagged by the notion of what? "I've always done it this way? It's too hard to go around; I'll be fine doing it my way? That's not fair; there should have been a fence around it if it's all that bad?" (It wasn't supposed to be like this.) So, in the end, we all are in a bad and desperate place... and it looks like the enemy has won.

But, wait; look over there toward Bethlehem. There's a rumor, actually an ancient word, that God isn't finished with us yet. God looked over the landscape and said, "It wasn't supposed to be like this." And since God is the only One who can do anything about it...He did.

Christmas really is as simple as Paul made it in his letter to Timothy: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. Read on in his letter and Paul even is willing to take ownership of being the worst of the sinners. I'm



not sure about that, only because I know me and you and lots of people (I'm just saying...). Bottom line, let's all be glad and celebrate Christmas with lots of joy (and smiles) on our faces, because there still are lots of stumps out there, both above and underground. The enemy would love to take us out. But, because of Christmas, God has taken us in, made the repairs, and sent us back out, fresh and clean. And that is the way it's supposed to be, at least from now on. Have a wonderfully blessed Christmas!
RevLon

YOUTH NEWS

Thanks to everyone who contributed to the Angel Tree Fundraiser! At the time of this article we have received \$920.00 for the children of our community. We are so blessed to have all of the support of our church family. That support helps our youth with our mission and their pursuit of a deeper and lasting relationship with our Savior and Lord Jesus Christ! Thanks so

much!

Christmas Break Road Trip: Our annual road trip during the Christmas Break will be the week after Christmas the 27th. We will send out an announcement in plenty of time.

2019 Summer Mission Trip: It's hard to believe but summer will be here before you know it. Our high school mission trip on June 22-29 is in Lith-

ia, Florida working with Beth-El Farmworkers Ministry. Cost for the trip is \$250.00 and registration, plus \$150 deposit, is due by February 9th. Please see Rob for more details and to get a form.

NEW LIFE

It's not even Thanksgiving as I write this for the December newsletter. And it reminds me of the rush to Christmas. Advertisers and marketing companies are quick to start the push to prepare for Christmas even before Halloween. It appears Thanksgiving is just being shoved to the side as a holiday worth the time of those that deem things worthy of our attention. Thanksgiving and Christmas used to complement one another, and it also started the season of packing on the pounds for the winter. Celebrating with family and friends is fun and it gives us time to just be with one another. Unless we allow it to be stressful.

The life we've been given, I believe, is to be lived with as little stress as possible. Yes, I know, that we have those times in our life and they sometimes can't be avoided. But aren't we told to trust and know that we have received new life in our Savior and Lord?

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!" 2 Corinthians 5:17.

So, as we go through this season let's remind ourselves of why we should be so thankful and full of joy and peace. Let's remember that Jesus brings us into a new way of looking at and expe-

riencing all that life has to offer. Take advantage of being with family in whatever capacity that may be and cherish the memories that you make and revisit. May we be generous with what God has given us so that we reflect His glory to those around us. Let your attitude be guided by gratitude and not by stressful situations that try and distract you from Him and His goodness. And more that anything let us all share how good God is to send His only son, our Savior and Lord, to the people He created and loves in spite of how much we have rejected Him. May our time of celebrations always remind us of the new life we have been given in Christ Jesus!

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. He

was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God. The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth." John 1:1-14

Merry Christmas! God is good, all the time!

In Christ's Love,

Rob

Romans 12

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP—7:00PM

Our tradition continues this year as we gather to hear the sounds of Christmas—the favorite carols and Scriptures that re-tell the coming of Christ.

This has become a staple in the season for our own church family and many in the community, also, as we share communion with Christ and one another conclude the ser-

vice in candlelight.



October Finances At A Glance

		YTD	
Income	\$17,406.71	YTD Income	\$269,883.44
Expense	<u>-\$26,704.85</u>	YTD Expense	<u>-\$279,634.39</u>
Net	-\$9,298.14	YTD Net	-\$9,750.95
Undesignated		YTD Undesignated	
Income	\$13,222.44	Income	\$224,825.94
Expense	<u>-\$21,131.99</u>	Expense	<u>-\$211,286.13</u>
Net	-\$7,909.55	Net	\$13,539.81
Designated		YTD Designated	
Income	\$4,184.27	Income	\$45,057.50
Expense	<u>-\$5,572.86</u>	Expense	<u>\$68,348.26</u>

Congregational Meeting—DECEMBER 2 AT 9:00AM

Congregational Meeting



The Session has called a meeting of the congregation to accomplish two goals:

1. The budget prepared for 2019 will be presented and reviewed.
2. The slate of nominees to serve as trustee and elders of the Session will be presented and voted on. Alan Johnson has agreed to serve as trustee for the class of 2021. The following have agreed to serve as elders for the class of 2021: Mike Hofmann, Billie Ann Bevels, Larry Wilson, and Teresa Griffith.

Talent/No Talent Show—DECEMBER 12 AT 6:00PM

Our annual Talent/No Talent Show will be filling up with entries soon. Contact the church office or RevLon to get signed up. It is a fun night of intentionally comic or serious talent. Over the years we've had some wonderful singers dancers, musicians, comedians, and musical improve. The slots have been filled by individuals and group performances.

Whatever you've got, we want to see it and hear it! Really!



MESSIAH CONCERT—DECMEBER 2 AT 6:00PM

Rehearsals have been going well. For nearly six decades now, Madisonville has been treated to the community presentation of Handel's Messiah. Once again, it will take place in our sanctuary on December 2 at 6:00PM, with a reception, following in the gym. As in the past, there will be several from FPC involved in the

concert. Come show your support and be blessed to hear this wonderful, biblically basked musical performance.



CAROLING—DECEMBER 16 AT 3:00PM

Caroling is such a great way to get into the Christmas season. It is also a way you can be a blessing to those in our church family who are homebound or residing in places of assisted living. The larger the crowd the better; it will allow us to sing with and visit everyone on our list by breaking up into more groups.

After we finish our caroling,

we'll gather for some warm fellowship and refreshments.



CHRISTMAS CHOIR CANTATA—DECEMBER 16 AT 10:15AM

Our choir has been working very hard (as usual) on making this year's cantata a terrific and blessed experience for us all. They will be leading our worship with their

presentation of "We Sing Noel."



BIRTHDAY PARTY FOR JESUS—DECEMBER 23 AT 9:00AM

By December 23, the last Sunday before Christmas, we all are ready to just give a little sigh and sit back and relax for a few minutes. Come enjoy the fellowship together over a donut and a cup of coffee or hot chocolate. There will be an activity for the kids to take

part in.



Microsoft



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*"To know Jesus as Savior and Lord
and to make Him known"*

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

- 4th Pat Lorton
- 10th Shirley Michael
- 14th Cheryl Bushong
- 19th Rob Wilson
- 20th Dakota Miller
- 21st Carroll & Delores Steinfeld (A)
- 24th Michael & Connie Skultety (A)
- 25th Paula & Burl Milligan (A)
- 26th Tom McLean
- Larry Peyton
- Ed Moore
- 31st Calvin & Teresa Griffith (A)

December 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 9:00AM Congregational Meeting 6PM Messiah	3	4 6PM Session	5 5:15 Fellowship Meal 6:00 Activities 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	6	7	8
9	10	11	12 5:15 Fellowship Meal 6:00 Talent/No Talent Show 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	13	14	15
16 10:15AM Christmas Cantata 3:00 Caroling	17	18	19 No Activities	20	21	22 
23 Birthday Party for Jesus—9:00AM	24 Christmas Eve Worship—7:00PM	25	26 No Activities	27	28	29
30	31					