



December 2015 - January 2016

Volume 43 Issue 6



Christmas Cantata

**FEATURING THE SANCTUARY SINGERS
AND CHILDREN'S CHOIR**

Sunday, December 13, 5:00 pm



Harvest Festival Beard Contest



Darlene Myers & family at the loss of **Lester Myers**.

Jean Knott & family at the loss of **Larry Knott**.

Pete Dickens & family at the loss of **Joe Dickens**.

Youth Secret Pal Fellowship
Sunday, December 13, 12:15 pm



Meet your Secret Pal and new ministry leaders. Also, this is an opportunity to adopt a Youth for the coming year.



Christmas Eve
S E R V I C E
7:00 PM



Use the Church Christmas Card Mailbox to share your Christmas greetings with Church Family. The money you save on stamps could be given toward the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions. **Remember**, we have several of our church family on the mission field. The mailbox is located in the Multi-Purpose Room Lobby.



Thank you, Church, for your great response to the call for filled shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child! We collected a total of 144 shoeboxes! (This includes the 50 boxes assembled by the AWANA ministry.) Let's continue to pray that God would use those shoeboxes to bring the love of Jesus to children around our world.

The Most Important Half Hour of My Week



My official responsibilities as one of the associate pastors of Westminster Baptist Church are all children's ministries, family discipleship, and young adult ministries. In addition I provide oversight for local evangelism, frequently counsel others, try to run our social media, and preach several times a year. As you can see, my week is divided by more responsibilities than I could name. For this reason I try to run a tight schedule and I often have to make decisions based upon priorities of importance. One might wonder then, what is the most important task that I seek to accomplish every week.

Most weeks I work on **Young Adult Life Group** discussion material, though that is certainly important it is not the most important part of my week. On Mondays I visit members of our church, and that is a great joy, but that is not my chief priority. Every Tuesday I write our children's curriculum which is vital to my ministry, but even that is not the most important slot in my schedule. The most important part of my schedule occurs at home with Danielle and the kids. It happens when Danielle and I do our nightly devotions together, when we pray with the kids each night, when I review the Sunday School lesson that night with J, but most of all it happens on Thursdays at the dinner table.

Every Thursday night when we've finished dinner, we stay a little while at the dinner table and have our family worship time. When the kids are older we hope to do a brief family devotion each day. At the kids' age we have decided we will have a 30 minute family worship time every Thursday. We always begin by singing a few worship songs together (J always asks for The Rizers). Next we study our NorthStar Points (though we review them other days as well). After J has sufficiently said her points I lead a short Bible study Next we do another worship song picked by Danielle before closing in prayer for each of the family members.

J has thoroughly enjoyed the habit and is always excited for our little family worship service. We don't do this with the kids because we are a ministry family, but because we are a Christian family and this mentality is a biblical mandate. I can make far more of an impact through those Thursday evenings than I ever could in any other ministry responsibility. Even more than a pastor over our church, I am the primary pastor of my family, just as every Christian father is the primary pastor of his family. What the kids get on Sundays from their Sunday School teachers or even one day from the sermon though vitally important will make less of an impact than those Thursday evenings. Further, our family devotions prepare our children to better benefit from both Sunday School and equip them to one day become part of our worship service at a young age.

All of us can disciple our children and I know men who are infinitely more intentional about discipling their kids than I am. How we disciple our kids will take different forms, but if it is assumed it will always be neglected. Discipling our kids is far more than doing family devotions, but certainly is no less than doing family devotions. I want to challenge every Christian parent to be intentional and start doing family devotions at least once a week.

Family discipleship is a forgotten discipline and frankly it is the biggest solution to the problem of our kids dropping out even if it is hard. I pray that our church at WBC grows in passion for family discipleship and so I pray the same happens at your church.

Pastor Tony-



Let's Give a Little Jesus



A few weeks ago, I was raking leaves in my front yard. It was sunny and brisk - a perfect fall day for such a task. I'm one of those people who loves to rake leaves the old-fashioned way. No leaf blowers or vacuums for me. I like the exercise and feel quite blessed that I'm physically able to rake up huge piles of leaves that I can run and jump into (when no one is looking of course). The hardest part is all the stooping and standing required to fill those brown paper bags that are as tall as I am. My hamstrings were already feeling it from the previous day's effort. Just as I dragged the fourth heavy bag of leaves into the garage, my neighbor pulled his pickup truck into my driveway. "You know, I can ride my mulching mower up here and have all those leaves gone in about 20 minutes. It's going to rain tomorrow." "Oh, that's OK", I replied. "I really don't mind the work." What I was really thinking was, "Am I crazy? I have at least 16 more bags to rake up." My neighbor looked rather disappointed. I was stealing a blessing he wanted to give.

It's that pride thing again. Does anyone else struggle with this? I thought about our women's Bible study of Isaiah coming to a close. I've always understood Isaiah to be a book of prophecy. Events within a few hundred years of Isaiah's time are foretold as well as events that will happen at the end of this present age at Jesus' triumphant return. However, it doesn't take long reading Isaiah to realize that the people of Israel in Isaiah's time weren't much different from people in our country today. They had turned from God, filled with arrogance that they could rebuild their nation without God's help. God's prophet Isaiah warned that there will come a time when *"the arrogance of man will be brought low and human pride humbled; the LORD alone will be exalted in that day."* (Isaiah 2:17).

While Isaiah's message to Israel is filled with judgment for a disobedient nation, it is also filled with hope and restoration for God's people who choose to obey Him. This message to Israel is as relevant to our country for the very same reasons. New Testament Scripture reiterates the importance of obedience. We are told not to deceive ourselves by simply hearing the Word of God, but to act on it. And if we don't forget, and do what God asks, our work will be blessed. (James 1:22-25). It's about surrender - letting go of pride and humbly serving others. This pleases God.

My thoughts raced ahead to the holidays... such a wonderful time of year celebrating our Savior's birth. It's the season of giving. Is there no better time to serve others to show how much we care about them? My fondest memories of Christmas have nothing to do with presents under the tree, but the warm sharing and worshipful times with family and friends, or that grateful nod from a stranger when offered a hot drink. Our long to-do lists are proof that we're trying hard to make the holiday special. Yet what people will remember most are the heartfelt moments of laughter, a thoughtful deed, a warm embrace, a tearful remembrance... those occasions when people give of themselves for no other reason than to bless someone in a special way. These gifts are free and from the heart.

And speaking of gifts from the heart, those leaves... my neighbor mulched them up in short order. I was so thankful and felt truly blessed.

In His Word, Christ tells us the two greatest commandments are to love God and love people. *"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'"* (Matthew 22:37-39)

May our lives reflect the light of Jesus, not only at Christmas, but all the year through. In the words of Lisa O. Engelhardt's poem, "Let's give a little Jesus...For Jesus, the Messiah, is the Greatest Gift of All."

-Cindy Bryson



Coming in January - Bible Study of Isaiah

Our Sisters in Scripture Bible study continues:
"Be Comforted - A Study of Isaiah"

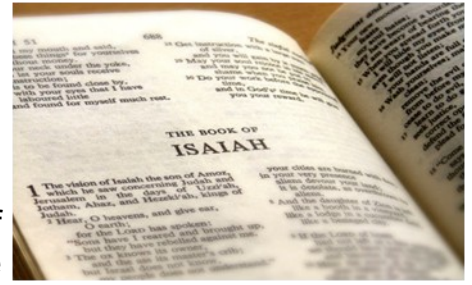


Photo: Trounce/Wikimedia Commons

The book of Isaiah contains one of the clearest expressions of the gospel in all the Old Testament. It provides us with the most comprehensive prophetic picture of Jesus Christ and includes the full scope of His life: the announcement of His coming; His virgin birth; His proclamation of the good news; His sacrificial death; and His return to claim His own. The book stands as a testament of hope in the Lord, the One who saves His people from themselves.

Nancy Rictor will continue our study of Isaiah on Thursday mornings, January 14 - March 3, at 9:30 - 11:00 am, in room 108. Don't hesitate to join us even if you missed the fall study. After summarizing key points from the earlier chapters, Nancy will pick up with chapter 24. This is a lecture format followed by group discussion. (No video or lesson book will be used.) There is **no cost**; handouts will be provided. Please sign up at the **Women of Grace** table. Friends are always welcome!



Women of Grace "Souper" Bowl

Saturday, January 23, 2016
(snow date, January 30)

1:00 - 4:00 pm
WBC Fellowship Hall


Ladies, escape the cold and come join us for a fun afternoon of fellowship as we warm up with a delicious lunch buffet of soup, salad, and breadsticks. Afterwards, we will play Bunco, an easy dice game that requires no skill whatsoever, but is full of laughs. Please sign up at the Women of Grace table, and invite a friend!

We ask that you bring a donation of coffee, tea, or hot chocolate to support New Life for Girls.



In case of bad weather, church cancellations will be announced on WMAR TV Channel 2 or the Church answering machine. If your Sunday school class has an email notification system, please contact Pastor Larry with the email contact.

December

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 7:00pm Deacon's Meeting	2 6:00pm Children's Choir 6:30pm Youth 6:45pm AWANA; Preschool Choir 7:30pm Mission Friends	3 1:00pm Silver Sages' Christmas Luncheon 7:00pm 318 Men's Bible Study	4 10:00am WOG Prayer Ministry 6:30pm Young Adult Life Group	5 9:00am Decorate the Church 4:00pm Youth Progressive Dinner
6 Lord's Supper 8:30am Traditional 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am MOSIAC 5:00pm Sanct. Singers 7:00pm Mission Program	7 7:00pm Praise Team; W.I.S.E. Meeting	8 8:30am Silver Sages' Breakfast (Baughers)	9 6:00pm Children's Choir 6:30pm Youth 6:45pm AWANA; Preschool Choir 7:30pm Mission Friends	10  7:00pm Women of Grace Craft Night	11	12 8:00am UPWARD Basketball
13 8:30am Traditional 9:45am Sunday School 10:45am BP Screening 11:00am MOSIAC 12:15pm Yth Secret Pal Fellowship 5:00pm Christmas Cantata	14 7:00pm Praise Team	15 10:00am Women on Mission 7:00pm Administrative Team Meeting	16  6:00pm Caroling & Dinner	17	18 10:00am WOG Prayer Ministry 6:30pm Young Adult Life Group	19 8:00am UPWARD Basketball 1:00 - 4:00pm Reeb Open House
20 8:30am Traditional 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am MOSIAC	21 7:00pm Praise Team	22 10:00am Heart to Heart	23	24  7:00pm CANDLELIGHT SERVICE	25 Merry Christmas! Merry Christmas!	26 
27 8:30am Traditional 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am MOSIAC	28 7:00pm Praise Team	29	30 	31		

Heart to Heart

*"No one cares how much you know
until they know how much you care . . ." Romans 1:8-15*

Our GROW ministry is changing its name to, **Heart to Heart**. We meet once a month on the fourth Tuesday at 10:00am to write cards and pray. We have an awesome group, but could use a few more people to get involved. We send birthday cards, cards of encouragement, sympathy and more. It's such a blessing for us to receive a note of thanks letting us know our contact note or card was received just when they needed it the most. We send cards for birthdays, sympathy, encouragement and more

If you remember reading about Paul - he never had been to Rome, but he prayed for them. What you will find with **Heart to Heart** is that truth and love flows from one heart to another. It doesn't start in the head, but in the heart.

This is an great way to connect with others and let them know how much we care. Watch for upcoming **Heart to Heart** events and get involved.

-Barbara Lambert

January 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Welcome 2016!				 1 New Year's Day 10:00am Shepherd's Table 6:30pm Young Adult Life Group	2 8:00am UPWARD Basketball
3 Lord's Supper 8:30am Traditional 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am MOSIAC 6:00pm Sanctuary Singers	4 7:00pm Praise Team	5 6:30pm UPWARD Practice 7:00pm Deacon's Meeting	6 6:00pm Children's Choir 6:30pm Youth 6:45pm AWANA; Preschool Choir 7:30pm Mission Friends	7 Noon Silver Sages' Luncheon Bullock's 6:30pm UPWARD Practice	8	9 8:00am UPWARD Basketball
10 8:30am Traditional 9:45am Sunday School 10:45am BP Screening 11:00am MOSIAC 6:00pm Sanctuary Singers	11 7:00pm Praise Team	12 8:30am Silver Sages' Breakfast 6:30pm UPWARD Practice	13 6:00pm Children's Choir 6:30pm Youth 6:45pm AWANA; Preschool Choir 7:30pm Mission Friends	14 6:30pm UPWARD Practice	15 10:00am WOG Prayer Ministry 6:30pm Young Adult Life Group YOUTH REBOOT - SKYCROFT, 15-17	16 8:00am UPWARD Basketball
17 8:30am Traditional 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am MOSIAC 6:00pm Sanctuary Singers	 18 Church Office Closed 7:00pm Praise Team; AWANA Leader Meeting	19 10:00am Women on Mission 6:30pm UPWARD Practice 7:00pm Admin Team	20 6:00pm Children's Choir 6:30pm Youth 6:45pm AWANA; Preschool Choir 7:30pm Mission Friends	21 6:30pm UPWARD Practice	 22	23 8:00am UPWARD Basketball 1:00 - 4:00pm WOG "Souper" Bowl
24 8:30am Traditional 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am MOSIAC 6:00pm Sanctuary Singers	25 7:00pm Praise Team	26 10:00am Heart to Heart 6:30pm UPWARD Practice	27 6:00pm Children's Choir 6:30pm Youth 6:45pm AWANA; Preschool Choir 7:30pm Mission Friends	28 6:30pm UPWARD Practice	29 6:30pm Young Married Couple's Life Group	30 8:00am UPWARD Basketball
31 8:30am Traditional 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am MOSIAC 12:30pm Children's Worker Training 6:00pm Sanctuary Singers						



**Christmas Caroling
and Dinner**

**Wednesday, December 16
6:00 pm**

WMU Mission Moments

Do you pickup a water bottle or get a glass of water from the sink and think nothing of it? Our missionaries in many areas can't do that.

The preschoolers of **Mission Friends** have a project for this year and they need your help. They will be collecting money for Pure Love, Pure Water. This project helps our missionaries around the world have pure water to drink in areas where the water is not fit to drink. The jar on the **Welcome Center** will be used for this ministry until the end of the year. So far we have collected \$75.



We will be making bags for the men at the Rescue Mission for Christmas. You may get a bag from me and fill it, or bring items in and put them in the Mission Barrel. **The following items are needed: large white bath towels; white wash clothes; soap; shampoo; comb; deodorant; toothbrush; large toothpaste; and white socks.**

Our food pantry is in need of **soups, yams, gravy, tuna, dish detergent, soap, mac & cheese, and toilet paper** to help fill Christmas baskets. Place your donated items in the Mission Barrel.


We will be serving at **Shepherd's Table Soup Kitchen** on New Year's Day, and will be giving out hats and gloves. **Hats and gloves are needed** - place in the Mission Barrel.

-Mary Reeb



Christmas Open House
At the home of Irvin & Mary Reeb
701 Glen Drive, Westminster

Saturday, December 19
1:00 - 4:00 pm



Mission Program

Sunday, December 6
7:00 pm

Rick Hancock
MMBA, Director of Missions

Join us as we review and celebrate our missional efforts of 2015 and cast a vision for the coming year.

2015 LOTTIE MOON CHRISTMAS OFFERING®

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS • NOV. 29 – DEC. 6



BECAUSE OF WHO HE IS

... AND **BECAUSE YOU GIVE**, IMB HELPS CHURCHES SEND MISSIONARIES TO THE BILLIONS **WHO HAVE YET TO HEAR.**



PRAY » GIVE » GO » SEND »

imb.org

OUR GOAL: \$7,000.00

Everlasting Hope

*Women of Grace
Spring WEEKEND RETREAT
April 1-3, 2016*

Mark your calendar and signup TODAY!

"Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen." (ESV) Hebrews 11:1

MEN of WBC, shop for Christmas and plan now to treat your wife to WBC's, Women Of Grace Spring Retreat.... **Everlasting HOPE**. Gift certificates now available, customized for part or all of the retreat cost. So, arrange for a wonderful present that will have Everlasting benefits for her, you and your family. Contact Barbara Willet to obtain your personalized (Christmas, Birthday or any other special occasion) certificate available.

WOMEN of all ages... start planning now to join us for our Weekend Retreat in SPRING 2016.

Retreat information flyer and registration forms can be found at the Women of Grace table.

Everlasting HOPE, an engaging time of fellowship, will include time with God, and uniting women of all ages in a beautiful setting close to home at Middle Creek Christian Conference Center in Fairfield, PA. Join us along with Guest Speaker Debbie Perrine and Worship Leader Lynne Hasenei.

Cost \$190.00, includes two nights in a beautiful lodge,
six delicious meals, snacks, beverages and special indulgences.

Any questions???? Contact... Barbara Willet, Retreat Coordinator. 443-375-2757

Wanted...Help promoting this event and inviting many to join us!

Contact Barbara, to see how you can share HOPE with others.



Thank you for all of the love, help, prayer and support during our move and then the passing of Tony's grandfather. We are so blessed to be part of such a loving church. **Pastor Tony & Family**

"We want to thank the entire church family for all your prayers, cards, delicious meals, and help during my (Pastor Larry's) recuperation from shoulder surgery. I also wish to thank Pastors Glen, Tony and Vernon, who did a lot of "filling in" for me during the process. The shoulder is coming along very well, with the range of motion still improving every week with physical therapy. Also Dianne wishes to thank the church for your thoughtfulness (and sympathy? J) at her "BIG" birthday this year - she received nearly 65 cards from the church family! Thank you!" **Pastor Larry & Dianne**

Just knowing that in countless ways our family and friends are with us makes the way easier. Thank you for the flowers honoring our mother, Lucille Kemper. **The Kemper family - Ruth, Mary, Ann & Cathy**

Dear Church Family, I wanted to let all of you know how much Duane and I have appreciated your out pouring of kindness during my illness, surgery and treatment. The cards, calls, visits, meals, flowers, and sunshine basket lifted my spirit, but it has been all of your prayers that have had the greatest impact on me and my family. Many thanks to each of you! **God Bless, Vikki**

Thank you for your generous donations to AWANA for Operation Christmas Child. AWANA packed 50 shoeboxes for distribution. The entire church was able to send 144 boxes to the ministry.



Some "Bride of Christ" Thoughts

Over the last several weeks in our series of messages entitled "The Bride of Christ" I have emphasized the idea that we have a new identity in Christ Jesus. Just like a bride who takes on her husband's identity by taking on his name, so we take on the name "Christian" to identify ourselves with Christ. Just like a bride and groom must live in unity, having common purposes and goals, so too must the Christian's life be lived in unity with Jesus; and we must clearly understand that since we believe that Jesus is God, His goals and purposes must not bend to ours, but vice-versa! We must submit utterly to Him if we are to identify with Him as our "Bridegroom" and as our Lord.

And so a few simple questions emerge that each follower of Christ should consider if we take seriously our relationship to the Bridegroom, Jesus Christ. Please ask yourself the following:

Do I understand that I have a new **IDENTITY** in Christ? 2 Corinthians 5:17 (NIV) says "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!"

Have I identified myself with Christ by seeking to **HONOR** Him in every aspect of my life? Am I putting away my old sinful and self-centered, pre-salvation identity in exchange for a new identity that serves to glorify God?

Have I identified myself with Christ's **MISSION** to share the gospel with this world and therefore have I made sharing the gospel my personal mission?

Have I identified myself with Christ's **EXAMPLE**, and therefore have I chosen to live a life of sacrificial service to others?

Have I identified myself with Christ who said to the Heavenly Father, "Not my **WILL** but Thy will be done"?

Our lives are a constant battle between the "old self" and the "new, and we each have choices to make. We can pretend that it makes no difference how the Bride of Christ lives. We can pretend that it is OK for the Bride to have roving eyes, seeking adulterous affairs with other suitors, willing to follow them in whatever direction they may lead away from the Bridegroom. Obviously such discrepancy between profession and practice, cannot be acceptable to the Bridegroom. Instead we are called upon to live each day in faith, to entrust our souls to the Bridegroom, and to faithfully follow Him. The choice is ours. May the choice be to the glory of God.

-Pastor Larry

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