

The Connection

Monthly Newsletter of
South Point Community Church

December 2023 – January 2024 ~ Volume 74



A Word from Pastor Dave

“And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.” Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying (rapping), “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.” When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.” So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

(Luke 2:8-20, NIV)

December Dates

- 2nd Pastoral Team Meeting 8:30 am
- 3rd Worship Service 10:30 am
- 5th Celebrate Recovery 7:00 pm
- 6th Prayer at Church 10:30 am
- 9th Christmas Banquet 6:30 pm
- 10th Worship Service 10:30 am
- 12th Celebrate Recovery 7:00 pm
- 13th Prayer at Church 10:30 am
- 16th Men's Breakfast 8:30 am
- 17th Worship Service & Kids Program 10:30 am
- 19th Celebrate Recovery 7:00 pm
- 20th Prayer at Church 10:30 am
- 24th Christmas Eve Service 6:30 pm
- 26th Celebrate Recovery Meal 6:30 pm
- 31st Worship & Communion Service 10:30 am

Turns out there are quite a few words which mean more than one thing: I left my phone on the left side of the room – The baseball pitcher asked for a pitcher of water – The committee chair sat in the center chair – The crane flew above the construction crane – While they are at the play, I'm going to play with the dog – She will park the car so we can walk in the park.

From the context of the conversation, it's usually simple enough to follow along but every now and then this adds a touch of confusion or humor or sometimes even a little moment of thoughtfulness to the middle of a discussion. In the Bible the primary function of Angels is to carry God's message. In fact, the very word angel simply means messenger. Thus, in the Greek language the reader is left with the task of choosing, based on the context of the conversation, if this messenger is with or without wings and a halo. So, for example an "angel" can be a pastor (which means shepherd) who has been sent as a minister (which just means servant) of the gospel (which just means good news) with a message (which just means message). But in Luke chapter two these angels come complete with wings, halos and probably a few golden harps. The sky is lit; the shepherds are filled with a kind of holy fear they have not likely ever felt before. In response to the message, they dust themselves off and go to investigate.

What happens next is akin to my prayer for each of us this Season. As humble working folk they meet a baby; his name is Jesus (which means Saviour). This baby fills their hearts with a Gospel hope (which means good news).

They feel compelled to serve (which means minister to) their friends and family and acquaintances throughout Bethlehem by sharing this message (which means angel) with every soul willing to hear them. And thus, these rugged few, that smelled like sheep, finally stepped into their calling and became the first true Shepherds of Bethlehem (which means Pastors).

January Dates

1 st	Happy New Year's
2 nd	Celebrate Recovery 7:00 pm
3 rd	Prayer at Church 10:30 am
3 rd	Catalyst Meeting 7:00 pm
7 th	Worship Service 10:30 am
13 th	Pastoral Team Meeting 8:30 am
9 th	Celebrate Recovery 7:00 pm
10 th	Prayer at Church 10:30 am
14 th	Worship Service 10:30 am
16 th	Celebrate Recovery 7:00 pm
17 th	Prayer at Church 10:30 am
20 th	Men's Breakfast 8:30 am
21 th	Worship Service 10:30 am
23 rd	Celebrate Recovery 7:00 pm
24 th	Prayer at Church 10:30 am
28 th	Worship Service 10:30 am
30 th	Celebrate Recovery Monthly Meal 6:30 pm
31 st	Prayer at Church 10:30 am

Thank you for the hope you brought to all mankind when you stepped down into our world, guiding wise men to find you in the night.

As we enjoy crisp clear nights under the star-studded skies celebrating your birth in song and laughter, may the deep joy found in you continue to echo on through the years through us, your new creation.

Emmanuel, God with us, guide the many lost, confused, afraid and hopeless who are searching for light and truth. Could you, would you, use the miles and miles of twinkling lights of your followers encircling the world this Christmas to do just that?

High and lifted up one, wake up the world once again to the hope that can only be found in you.

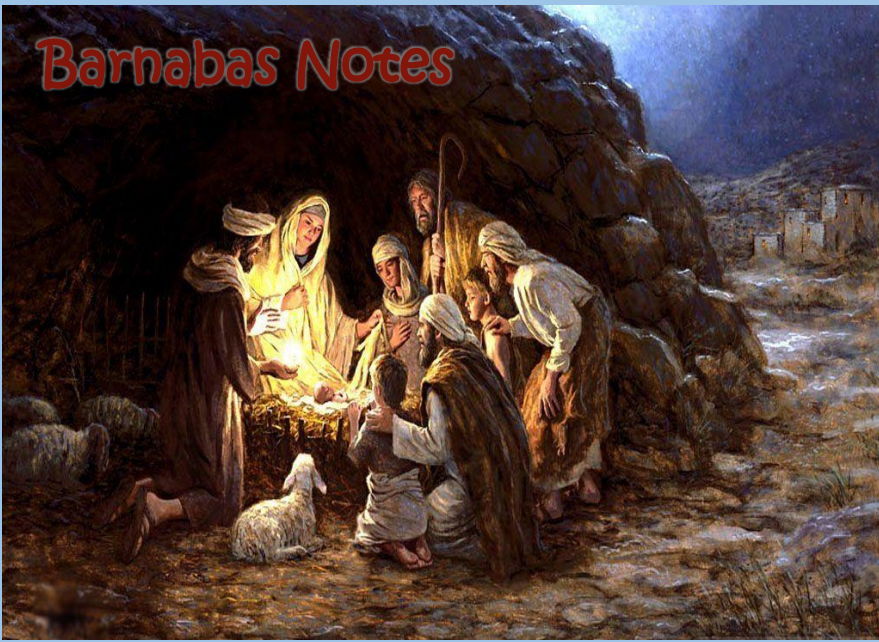
In Jesus name we pray.

"In his name the nations will put their hope."

Matthew 12:21



Barnabas Notes



Christmas – New Year 2023

As we enter the final month of 2023, I would like to encourage everyone to get ready to celebrate. Yes, get ready to celebrate the birthday of our King. Because, as we read the words of the song “’Twas The Birthday Of A King”, we can get a glimpse of that glorious birth and the excitement surrounding His arrival.

*In the little village of Bethlehem there lay a child
one day, and the sky was bright with a holy light
o’er the place where Jesus lay.*

*Alleluia, O how the angels sang,
Alleluia, how it rang.*

*And the sky was bright with a holy light,
’Twas the birthday of a King
Humble birthplace but O how much God
gave to us that day.*

*From the manger bed what a path has led
what a perfect holy way*

*Alleluia, O how the angels sang,
Alleluia how it rang.*

*And the sky was bright with a Holy light,
’Twas the birthday of a King.*

So rejoice, and sing out, shout it out, that the real reason that we celebrate Christmas is because it is CHRIST our KINGS BIRTHDAY! We have so much to be thankful for. Our Salvation is the most important. “For God so loved the world, He gave us His only begotten Son. So that whoever would believe in Him should not perish but have everlasting life”. He did not come into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through Him.” John 3:16-17.

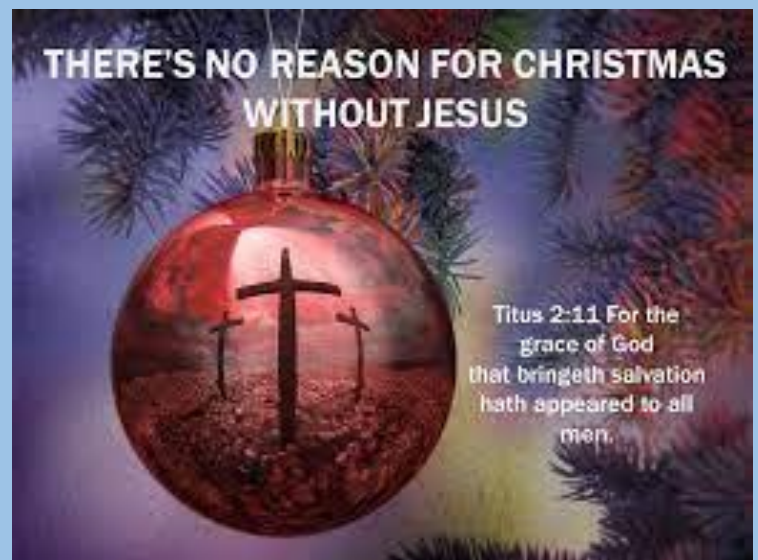
Those of us who have accepted Jesus into our lives and made Him King of our lives have a bond with our Saviour who is also our friend. He knows us by name for we are His, and we can be assured that “He will never leave us or forsake us.” Deut. 31:8. Celebrate JESUS celebrate. He’s not just getting older. He’s getting better. That’s because as we spend more time in fellowship with His followers we become closer and closer to Jesus and the way in which He wants us to live our lives.

The New Year is coming up real fast. It can be a time of new beginnings. Life is the only game which has no pause, no resume, and no restart. In Matt. 6:34 we are instructed to live one day at a time.” Therefore, do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.” Here’s another song to help us understand.

*One day at a time sweet Jesus,
that’s all I’m asking of You
Just give me the strength to do every day
what I have to do
Yesterday’s gone sweet Jesus,
and tomorrow may never be mine
Lord help me today, show me the way,
one day at a time*

Have a very Merry Christmas and
A Happy Happy New Year!

~ Barnabas.



Ingredients

- 3/4 C unsalted sweet cream butter softened
- 3/4 C packed light brown sugar
- 1/2 C molasses
- 1 large egg
- 3 C flour
- 2 tsp ground ginger
- 1 tsp cinnamon
- 1/2 tsp ground nutmeg
- 1/2 tsp all spice
- 1/2 tsp kosher salt
- 1 tsp baking soda
- 1 tsp pure vanilla extract
- 1 container white sanding sugar
- 1 bag chocolate stripped Hersey Kisses



DIRECTIONS:

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees and line two baking sheets with parchment paper
 2. In a large bowl, mix together your flour, ginger, cinnamon, nutmeg, allspice, baking soda, and salt.
 3. Using another bowl or stand mixer, beat together the brown sugar and butter until light and fluffy. Mix in the molasses, egg, and vanilla extract.
 4. Now, you will add in the dry ingredients gradually until the dough forms.
 5. Pour your sanding sugar into a bowl and form small balls of cookie dough then roll them in the sanding sugar.
 6. Place the cookie dough balls on the prepared baking sheets, then bake for 8-10 minutes.
 7. Pull from the oven and allow them to cool for 2-3 minutes before adding a Hershey's kiss into the center.
 8. Allow them to cool completely before serving.
- Makes 24 servings.

December Birthdays

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 st Giovanni | 14 th Aki |
| 10 th Connie | 24 th Vincent |
| 12 th Evan | 27 th Keith |
| 12 th Owen G. | 30 th Greg |
| 13 th Eric | |



January Birthdays

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| 8 th Marilyn | 21 st Mary |
| 8 th Penelope | 22 nd Lorraine |
| 11 th Trevor | 23 rd Bonnie |
| 15 th Rendy | 29 th Jamie |
| 15 th Jim | 30 th Laura G. |

Ladies Christmas Worship & Craft Night





I have been incredibly blessed! I know that statement sounds like a common Christian cliché, so I'll go one step further by emphasizing how ridiculously blessed my life has been! Of course, any level of prosperity is a relative subject, varying, according to every individual opinion; but every day, I marvel as to why God arbitrarily chose to bestow upon me such undeserved good fortune.

Many people (arguably most) judge ones' prosperity with regards to material possessions. By those standards, I can attest to acquiring every material possession I ever wanted, often in multiple examples, even to this day. This includes ownership of not just one, but two homes, one of which is the subject of this story.

Affectionately, and sometimes regrettably dubbed "the estate", the home in which I presently reside is a large property with several spacious garages; which I need to conveniently house and maintain my stable of classic cars and hobby vehicles... but more on this later

This leads me to discuss another type of prosperity with which God has so richly blessed me. I feel that one's individual talents are even more valuable than one's material assets. I think the apostles used to refer to such talents as "gifts of the Holy Spirit" (at least, that's how I refer to them).

Not to blow my own horn, but I was born with a fascination of illustrating people and things. Since the earliest grades of school, unbeknownst to me, teachers would collect various artworks and drawings of mine to show their classes in subsequent years (perhaps as an example, so as to raise the bar of their expectations?). Then, in high school, I never took art, but in my final year, grade 13, I took a biology class; my final grade highly dependent upon a major project, requiring the illustrating of a dissected piglet. To my surprise, the teacher refused to return my technical illustrations, so as to utilize them in future classes. Once again, I realized that there was some unique ability lurking inside of me. Now, back to "the estate". Like God, blessed Adam,

with infinite pleasures in Eden, he also gave Adam, the designated responsibility of maintaining that garden. Maintenance, uugh!... The regrettable part of material blessings on earth. It just so happened that my largest garage, actually a pole barn, needed repainting; its metal exterior walls having been weathered through its forty years. I could conveniently hire this job out, taking the easy route. However, I am a DIY'er, always confident that I can do as good a job, or better, than a comparable "professional".

So.... I could simply repaint the barn in a fresh coat of its original color. But being an artsy-fartsy type, that would seem a waste of a vast, blank canvas towering before me. Therefore, I decided that this was an opportunity to "brush up" on those painting skills, long abandoned since entering the working world decades ago- one wall at a time.

Again, being an artsy-fartsy, there is no limitation of possibilities that can be expressed onto an open "canvas". After weighing countless ideas and sketches, as well as suggestions from friends over the course of several months, I finally decided my potential subject. Then, after several more weeks of sketching and planning, I created a finished, refined sketch, approximately 10" x 16" in size.

What a relief to get that accomplished! That was the hard part. Now, the easy part was to just duplicate that drawing onto the steel barn wall... or so I thought. Not having done such a project in a long time, I'd forgotten the complications of transferring a 10" x 16" pencil drawing onto a 15' x 30' wall, and then adding colour to it as well - not to mention dealing with the additional factor of uncontrollable early autumn weather!

Fortunately, I managed to accomplish the feat just before the arrival of uncomfortable seasonal weather. If anyone knows an artist, you'll know that they are often dissatisfied with their end results; always realizing improvements that could have, or should have been done, in hindsight. That same self - scrutiny plagues me as well, and I guess the impending poor weather forced the completion of the work before I was completely satisfied (probably a blessing). Oh, well, Que, sera sera, my mom used to say, "don't be so fussy all the time!"

The best part is, the finished product isn't something that will just be seen by friends, family, or classmates. I don't think it will go unnoticed at all... in fact, I think it will be hard to miss (LOL). Hopefully, God's purpose for my "spiritual gift" is to bring joy to, and put a smile on to the face of everyone who drives by and enjoys it.

Mark T.

Ministry Highlight

This month, we would like to highlight our Sound and Media volunteers. We are so thankful for their attention to detail and the time they give each week to make sure that everything sounds and looks good during our services. We could really use some new volunteers in these areas. Please see below for a description. Training is provided. If you would like to learn more about these ministries and what is involved or try one out one Sunday, please let me know (226-347-0033, tracy@southpointcc.ca).

SOUND

Sound team members make a huge difference in our services by combining efforts of the worship and media teams and Pastor in a sound mix that is clear and pleasing to the congregation. They are responsible for set up, testing and continual adjusting and mixing of all sound equipment during practices and services. We are looking for adult and student volunteers who are willing to work closely with our Worship teams to help them sound their best. Training is provided.

MEDIA

Our volunteers that work at the media desk ensure that all of the lyrics are ready for worship Sunday morning. They also make sure that all of the slides and videos that are needed for our Sunday morning service run smoothly

by following the provided worship planner. We are looking for volunteers who are willing to work closely with the sound and worship teams to help make our service visually appealing. Training is provided.

TIME COMMITMENT

One weekly evening practice from 6:45 – 9:00 pm
One Sunday Morning from 8:30 am until the end of the service



Christmas Parade

