

## “THE CALL”

NEWSLETTER OF THE BEAVERTON  
CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN  
DECEMBER, 2018

### ***PASTOR’S RAMBLINGS***

My "Ramblings" for December is a pondering that began well over two years ago, and has been visited many times since then. It has been quite an internally disquieting one. It involves a condition that I believe affects the Church today, and I ponder just how much it affects me.

It came to mind anew while shopping in mid-October. I saw shelves lined with Christmas items. Although I lamented the fact, I wasn't really surprised. The secular world sees Christmas as a great commercial opportunity. Two and half months Christmas sales, followed by a month of after Christmas sales.

As I walked through the aisles I began to wonder how the Church, individual Christians, and myself viewed Christmas, the Birth of Christ. Sadly, I think for many the view is very much influenced by the commercialization.

Again, my pondering goes back well over two years ago when I began an earnest study of "The Knowledge of the Holy" by A.W. Tozer. I have read the book many times, however, this time I'm not reading it, I am studying with an open spirit, mind and heart. Tozer writes, *"The Church has surrendered her once lofty concept of God..." "With our loss of the sense of majesty has come the further loss of religious awe and consciousness of the divine Presence. We have lost our spirit of worship and our ability to withdraw inwardly to meet God in adoring silence."* (page 5)

When I think of all that is happening, Christmas Eve service, Advent, Birthday Party for Jesus, family events that will occur in December, decorations, and so many other things to celebrate the birth of Christ. What a busy time!

But wait! Think for a moment what we are celebrating. The God of

creation, He Who created all things, not with herculean effort, but simply by saying the word. *"Then God said, 'Let there be light' and there was light!"* (Genesis 1:3) God who spoke to Moses, *"I AM WHO I AM!"* Without beginning, without end. Simply "I AM." (Exodus 3:14).

God who revealed Himself to Isaiah. *"In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His robe filled the temple..."* (Isaiah 6:1).

God who possess all knowledge, all power, all goodness, and many more divine attributes, came in the Person of His only Begotten Son, to the earth on the night so long ago. God who knows every thought and intent of every human heart, came to earth in the Person of His Son.

When we attempt to realize the magnitude of what happened that night, how can we but stand in awe of what occurred that night so long ago! This same God who came to earth when He would no longer be upon the earth in the Person of His Son, by His promise, filled every heart that accepted Him with the presence of His Holy Spirit. (John 14:16-17) He also promised a place in His Father's house of eternal joy for all who would believe in Him. (John 14:1-3)

We lack that sense of awe and wonder of One so majestic because in Tozer's words, *"We have lost our spirit of worship and our ability to withdraw inwardly to meet God in adoring silence."* (page 5)

Each time we celebrate Christmas, each time we celebrate Easter, each time we come together for worship, we must take the time to sit, or kneel, and wait silently upon God. (Psalm 27:14) Taking the time to renew our relationship with Him, to renew our sense of awe and wonder at His majesty. We cannot fully comprehend Him, nor begin to understand what He does, but He can renew our sense of wonder and praise as He communes with us.

Take the time this Christmas season to renew your sense of awe and majesty of who God is! He will richly bless the time you spend with Him.

Shalom, Pastor Bill



## **CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE**



A Christmas Eve service will be held at 7:00 p.m.

Join family and friends to be blessed by a time of song, reflection, scripture, and prayer.

### ***What are your prayer requests?***

*gathering of friends*

*time for instruction*

*prayer for each other*



Join Us

Sunday

December 2

7:00 p.m.

### **“GIFT” THE BABY PANTRY**

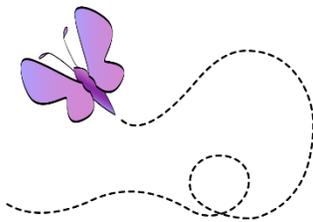
*During the month of December you may place your gift of young children’s clothing beneath the Christmas tree in the narthex. All donated items will be taken to the Baby Pantry in Beaverton to help families with youngsters. Monetary gifts may be given for diapers as the Pantry is able to purchase diapers at a discounted rate. Clothing in sizes 0 to 6-6X is very much appreciated.*





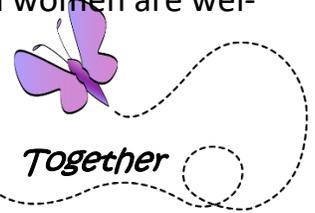
## HEIFER, INTERNATONAL

Time is growing short to finish our four months of giving to Heifer, International. The goal to raise \$5,000 will buy an "ark" filled with animals to benefit people in 3<sup>rd</sup> world countries. Place your donation in the outreach cup or in the offering plate, designated for Heifer; and most importantly, pray for the donors and those who will receive the gifts.



### ***Women's Fellowship***

The women held their monthly meeting on Wednesday November 7th. On November 29<sup>th</sup> the women traveled to Pride and Country in Saginaw for lunch and shopping. The next monthly meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 5, at 10:30. On December 12<sup>th</sup> the women will hold their annual Christmas potluck at 12:00 noon. All are welcome to attend. Please join us for Bible study at 9:00 each Wednesday and the monthly Fellowship meetings and outings. All women are welcome.....a good time to connect, study, pray.....and laugh!



*Continuing the work of Jesus. Peacefully. Simply. Together*

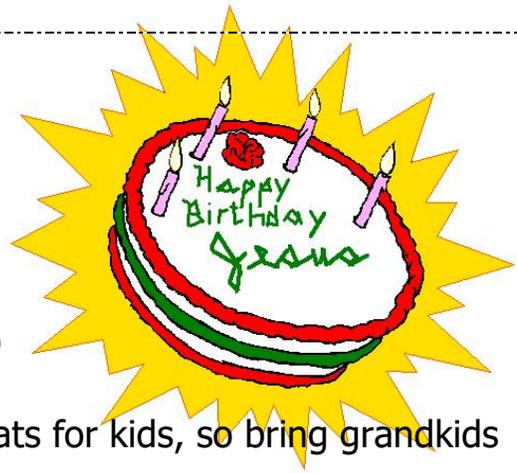
***Keep the story of Christmas alive all year long!***

*"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."*

*Isaiah 9:6*



## BIRTHDAY PARTY FOR JESUS



On Sunday, December 16<sup>th</sup> there will be a potluck with cake and ice cream provided to

celebrate Jesus' birthday. We will have treats for kids, so bring grandkids and friends. Please come join in the Christmas fun. And don't forget, BASICS will be revealed that day after a long year of secrecy!

BASIC

BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN CHRIST

### ITEMS OF INTEREST: \*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\* **Outreach cup offerings for Sept., Oct., Nov., Dec.** are designated for Heifer, International

\*\*\*\*\* **Birthday Sunday**, December 2, worship service

\*\*\*\*\* **Prayer meeting**, Sunday, December 2, 7:00 p.m.

\*\*\*\*\* **Bread and Cup communion**, Sunday, December 9, during worship

\*\*\*\*\* **Joy Club play**, Sunday, December 9, 4:00 p.m., Methodist Church

\*\*\*\*\* **Board Meeting, December 11, 7:00 & 7:30 p.m.**

#### NEW MEMBERS INCLUDED

\*\*\*\*\* **Women's Christmas luncheon**, Wednesday, Dec. 12, 12:00 noon

\*\*\*\*\* **Birthday party for Jesus**, Sunday, Dec. 15 following worship

\*\*\*\*\* **Vet's dinner**, Sunday, Dec. 16, 6:00 p.m.

\*\*\*\*\* **Christmas Eve service**, Monday, Dec. 24, 7:00 p.m. (new time)

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**FUNERAL DINNERS**—a ministry of this church.

*Any one of these ladies or Pastor Bill may be contacted when there is a need*

*Claudia Whitmer: 989-435-7632*

*Peggy Hillman: 989-435-9290*

*Sherry Garvin: 989-435-0350*

*Peggy McKimmy: 989-435-3467*

## Worship Leadership December

### **Date: December 2**

Worship Leader: Rick Painter  
Music Leader: Glen Blades  
Special Gift: Nancy  
Nursery Care: 1 Adult & 1 Youth  
Greeters: Jane Raymor  
Deacons: Leta Painter & Glen Blades  
Closer: Dan Bergman

### **Date: December 16**

Worship Leader: Sherm Fassett  
Music Leader: Glen Blades  
Special Gift: Puppets  
Nursery Care: 1 Adult & 1 Youth  
Greeters: Braelynn, Darby, Cayden, Grace  
Deacons: Amy Burns & Sherm Fassett  
Closer: Dan Bergman

### **Date: December 30**

Worship Leader: Sandy Sprague  
Music Leader: Becky Phillips  
Special Gift: Dan Bergman  
Nursery Care: 1 Adult & 1 Youth  
Greeters: Jane Raymor  
Deacons: Leta Painter & Glen Blades  
Closer: Dan Bergman

### **Date: December 9**

Worship Leader: Kathy Merrill  
Music Leader: Amy Burns  
Special Gift: Choir  
Nursery Care: 1 Adult & 1 Youth  
Greeters: Greg Wirt  
Deacons: Lana Blades & Bob Phillips  
Closer: Dan Bergman

### **Date: December 23**

Worship Leader: Matt McKimmy  
Music Leader: Sherm Fassett  
Special Gift: Choir  
Nursery Care: 1 Adult & 1 Youth  
Greeters: Ward Simpson  
Deacons: Joanne Fassett & Dan Whitmer  
Closer: Dan Bergman



## **MAKE SUNDAY SCHOOL PART OF YOUR REGULAR WORSHIP**

### *Sunday School News*

Sunday School classes begin at 9:15 a.m. on Sunday mornings with “Get your worship on,” music and a short message. There are several classes available, and everyone, young and old, is encouraged to attend.

**Preschool - Kindergarten** – Teacher, Becky Phillips

**1st - 7<sup>th</sup> grades** - Teacher, Joanne Fassett

**Adult** – Teacher, Tom Prager – Study of 1 and 2 Timothy

**Adult/Teen** – Frances Chan’s book Forgotten God. Crazy Love, another book by Frances Chan will be the next study. If you are interested and need a book please contact Sherry Garvin or Peggy McKimmy.