



'Tis The Season To Be...

...**Jolly!** Jesus said that He came to give life and give it more abundantly (John 10:10). Go against the flow! Don't complain or grumble! Spread joy! Act joyful. Put up that tree and help decorate it, without complaining. Cover it with all the trimmings. Do it just the way your spouse likes it. Don't complain and grumble.

...**Kind** This world does not need more grumbling, grouchy, negative, pessimistic, sarcastic, "sky-is-falling" people. We need more kind people. Be a peacemaker. Christian friends, we are to exude kindness, even toward those who do not expect it. (Eph. 4:32) Kill them with kindness. Shock them. Go the extra mile.

...**Tenderhearted!** Hard hearts are everywhere you look. There is bitterness. There is harshness. There is abuse and neglect. Christian folks are called to be tenderhearted (Eph. 4:32). Stop and help a person that does not look deserving. Be nice to the store manager who has been rude to you.

...**Forgiving!** Forgiveness is divine! Humans hold grudges and get even. "One of the keys to happiness is a bad memory." — Rita Mae Brown. God forgives. 'Tis the season to forgive. Forgive that Christian brother or sister who hurt you...and yes, we have hurt each other. (Eph. 4:32) "To be a Christian means to forgive the inexcusable because God has forgiven the inexcusable in you." — C.S. Lewis

...**Daring!** We play it safe too often. We are prone not to take risks! We pray for safety. I want us to pray more for courage. Sign up for a mission trip. Venture outside of your comfort zone! Go somewhere you are not comfortable going! Be strong and courageous (Josh. 1:9). For the sake of Jesus, try something you've never tried before. Go to a LIFE Group. Invite someone to your house.

...**Generous!** We are never more like God than we are when we give! Give cash. Give blankets for homeless folks. Give your time! Give your skills. Give PJ's for kids! We simply cannot out-give God. I am ecstatic to tell you that we just surpassed the \$20,000 matching gift challenge for our "Debt Reduction Challenge!" (2 Cor. 9:6-7). In 2017, increase your contribution by 17 cents a week, or \$1.70 a week, or \$17.00 a week, or \$170.00 a week.

...**Grateful!** Count your gifts. (Col. 4:2) Name them one by one. I am counting my gifts, and I'm up to 658. Gift # 645 for me was that I can balance my checkbook. Gift # 647 for me last Monday was the sound of the trash truck coming down my street. Gift # 656 was that my car died as I pulled into the repair shop. Gift # 657 was that my car was repaired for free.

'Tis the Season - Dan the Preacherman

Our Mission

Meet others where they are and together be transformed into the image of Christ.



From Daniel's Den

People Died So That We Can Read God's Word In Our Language!

It is the sad but wonderful truth!

Even if you only barely know the names two guys that lived 600 years ago, John Wycliffe and William Tyndale, you owe them a huge debt of gratitude! They suffered abuse, persecution, humiliation, scorn and even death, so that we could read the Bible in English. Amazing! What a gift they have given us!

Gift number one from Acts 1 was that the Holy Spirit flowed out upon the first century church; and then God's spirit guided the first century prophets to flawlessly write down the words of God in their original letters. It is no wonder that at least one scholar called the book of Acts the "hub of the Bible."

Gift number two is that God saw that those holy words were perfectly duplicated and preserved. They were subsequently translated into our language (and into over 1,900 languages and dialects around the world). Wow! Just wow! What a gift! We have the Bible, Old Testament and New Testament, to guide us in our understanding of God. We have a love letter from God. We have a blueprint to instruct us on how to do life.

And even more amazing than the careful preservation of the word (which is a gift), and the magnificent translation of that word (which is another gift), is that we have even more from Him. The word became flesh. Though our world does not completely get this notion, the biggest deal to celebrate at this time of the year, the most amazing gift of all is that the word became flesh! (John 17:1-14).

The word of God was born in a manger in Bethlehem. He lived among us and modeled what He wanted us to understand from His written word. Thanking God for revealing His word in a person,

-Dan the Appreciative Preacherman



Dan Cooper
aka
"Dan, Dan,
the Preacherman"

We have a
love letter from
God.
We have a
blueprint to
instruct us on
how to do life.



Dave Perine
Shepherd

Shepherd's Voice

Fresh Start

If you're like me, you have more to do than there are hours in a day. My observation after being in the business world for over 30 years: as information technology has progressed, more productivity is expected in the same amount of time. And it's spilled over into our personal lives. God gave us a finite amount of time in a day, and I can't help but wonder what He thinks about our efforts to squeeze more into it than He has made possible. Another observation I've made is that we've reprioritized what's important. Rest, recreation, and refreshment, or Sabbath in biblical terms, is not valued. We've become human "doings" instead of human beings.

Christmastime has become the season of doing instead of being. Gift giving, decorating, holiday parties, etc., things that we should be enjoying, instead have become obligations. It's a good thing this time of year comes at the end of the year, because we have New Year to mark a fresh start.

I want to encourage you to take the New Year as an opportunity for a fresh start to recommit to what's important; better yet, to what God thinks is important.

As we dive into the holidays, I want to encourage you to take a deep breath and enjoy the best part of the holiday season: Jesus, family, and friends. Let's also remember that God gives us what we need and not necessarily what we want. He only gives us the amount of time we need; not how much we want... we'd never survive our own schedule! If He gave the Jews what they wanted, Jesus would have arrived as a warrior king to save a nation, not a defenseless baby born to save our souls.

I also want to encourage you to take the New Year as an opportunity for a fresh start to recommit to what's important; better yet, to what God thinks is important. What's that, you say? Let Him tell you in His Word. Recommit to Him (Deut. 11:1). Recommit to your family (Joshua 24:15). Recommit to serving (1 Peter 4:10). Recommit to worship (Heb. 12:28) and Bible study (Matt. 4:4). Recommit to giving (Luke 6:38). And remember that every day can be a fresh start. ***The faithful love of the Lord never ends! His mercies never cease. Great is his faithfulness; his mercies begin afresh each morning.*** - Lam. 3:22-23 NLT

In Christ, **Dave**

Coming Up on Wednesday Nights

December 14th: 5:30 pm - Wednesday Night Meal, 7pm - Adults- new Bible class begins, *Proverbs*, taught by Mike Grove in the chapel. Also, Barnabas Ministry, & ministry meetings. Children- Puppet show in the auditorium. Teens- FLC.

December 20th: *Celebrating the Greatest Gift of All!* 6 pm - refreshments in the FLC. 7pm - Devotional service in auditorium.

December 28th: No Midweek Meeting - spend time with family and friends! (See *Shepherd's Voice* on opposite page.)

January 4th: 6pm -Wednesday Night Meal. 7 pm Lift up your voice and sing! Everyone meets together in the auditorium.

Birthday Card Shower for Anne!

Anne People's 90th birthday is coming up December 20. Let's shower her with birthday wishes... Mail your card anytime between now and December 17 so that Anne will receive our cards by her actual birthday. Let's all bless this sweet sister with dozens birthday wishes. Her address is:

Room # IL 206
255 Possum Park Rd.
Newark, DE 19711



Happy Retirement!

Congratulations to Julie Church on her retirement! Rowan University threw a party in her honor this past Friday. Many blessings to you Julie in this new phase of your life!

Opportunity to Serve Abroad



Need for a homeschool secondary school teacher in Japan!

A devoted missionary family serving in Japan has need of a junior/senior high teacher to come serve with their team. The purpose would be to help homeschool the children of team members -- IN

ENGLISH! They are seeking a committed Christian. Please pass the word! Kindly contact Garth or Diana Hutchinson for more information, or email the family directly. Thank you! Chad and Jennifer Huddleston: cjfamily@b-1.jp



Family Promise®

**Our Next Family Promise Host Week
is January 22nd - 29th.
Volunteers needed!
Sign up in the lobby!**

Welcome New Babies!

Congratulation to Jeff and Janice Raively on the birth of their latest grandchild! Their daughter **Kristy** had a baby boy, **Roman Anthony Furfari**, on November 21st. Roman was 7lbs.-10 oz. Mommy, Daddy, and baby are all doing fine!



Congratulations to Kareem and Sara Lazarus on the birth of their daughter, **Jazmyne Elizabeth Lazarus!** The baby was born last Tuesday night, and weighed in at 8lbs.-10 oz., 22" long. Everyone is doing well. We look forward to welcoming this Little Bundle of Joy into our church family!

Christmas Party Cancelled

The Children's Christmas Party scheduled for today has been cancelled due to a lack of participation.

Bible Studies Schedule for December

Tuesday Morning Women's Bible Study will meet on December 13th at 9:45 am, and will be off on December 20th and 27th. The study will meet again on January 3rd.

Monday Night Men's Bible Study is taking a winter break for the rest of the month. The study will resume in January.

New Guest Folders



You will soon be seeing our new Guest Folders placed under some of the seats in the auditorium for the easy access of our guests. We ask that you and you children refrain from using the folders and inserts as scratch paper. Thank you so much in advance for your cooperation!

MISSING WEDDING CARD

Visitors left a wedding card for Justin and Rebekah Guy at our church building on the Sunday morning of their wedding day (Nov. 6). They remember giving it to a man who was standing at the door, but they cannot remember who it was. Justin and Rebekah never received the card. I am guessing that one of us stuck that card in a Bible or a coat pocket and forgot about it. If you know anything about a card that was left for Justin and Rebekah, please be sure that they get it or leave it in Dottie's office. And please let me know. **-Dan**

ALSO MISSING: If you happened to pick up a heavy weight gray cardigan sweater at the church building, please return it to Annette's office. Thank you!

Our Schedule

Sunday
9:00 am Bible Classes
10:00 am Worship
Wednesday
5:30 pm Meal
7:00 pm Bible Classes

Office Hours

Tuesday - Friday
8:00 am - 5:00 pm

Last Week

Bible Class	125
Worship	220
LIFE Groups	149
Wednesday	57
Contribution	\$10,595.00
Fiscal YTD Goal	\$239,476.00
Contribution YTD	\$209,772.00
Budget Deficit	(\$29,704.00)

Ministers

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Dave Perine davidt.perine@comcast.net

Dwight Thompson 609-561-8561-home, 609-287-0109-cell
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Elder on Call for December: Dwight Thompson

Serving Us Today

Nursery	TBA
Kids For Christ	Manny Vander Vennen
Jr. Worship	Brian Mansdoerfer
Greeters: Front Entrance	Anthony & Gwen Phillip
Greeters: Back Entrance	Linda Prenger & Joe Marshall
Information Center	Jackie Fenton
Ushers	Horatio Fenton & Harold Pearl
Shepherd's Call	Mike Lazar
Song Leader	Garth Hutchinson
Communion	Derrick Busch

LIFE Group

LIFE Group	Location	Contact
Ageless	Mychajlowcz's at noon	908-294-4056
Beginning Anew	Church Bldg. at noon	856-589-1500
Brook Besor	Durham's, Thursday at 7pm	856-589-2280
Circle of Sisters	Sbaraglia's Monday at 7pm	856-419-0544
E.H.S.	Church Bldg. rm B4 at noon	856-589-1500
Family of Teens	Church Bldg. FLC at noon	856-589-1500
Hammonton	Ashton's at 4pm	609-561-8371
Men's Bible Study	Winter Break	856-217-3956
Paracletes	TBA: Call for info.	856-449-9656
Solid Gold	Highttowers at 6pm	856-769-2789
Teens	Church Bldg. FLC at noon	856-589-1500
Vineland	H. Pearl's at 6pm	856-839-0051
Women in the Word	Church Bldg. Tuesday at 9:45 am	856-589-1500
College	Church Bldg. rm B2 at noon	609-226-4031
Young Professionals	Call or text for time & location	347-922-2248
Young Married	Call or text for time & location	856-899-9466

Wednesday Night Meal: Chicken Patty Sandwiches

Cooks: Harriet, Judi, and JoAnn

This Week's Prayer Requests

Praise: Praise for new babies!

Prayers Requested:

Beverly Steiner recovering from hip replacement surgery.

John Grillo being evaluated for possible surgery to repair the bone in his leg. He has important testing on Friday, which will reveal whether there is enough healthy bone to be able to do the surgery.

Dottie Grillo is experiencing extreme pain in her back and legs. She has an appointment with an orthopedic doctor on Dec. 13.

Paul Kauffmann, medullary sponge kidney disease. Will be having surgery on one kidney, and then the other. Date TBD.

Dawn Alter, JoAnn Ruhland's niece, also has medullary sponge kidney disease. Will be have surgery for the second time.

Barry, friend of Jerri Manfre, being treated for leukemia. He will be in Cooper Hospital undergoing treatment for at least a month.

John Goodman has been struggling with congestive heart failure. Please pray that the latest medication the doctors have given him will clear it up.

Glynn Durham, dealing with the affects of chemo.

Jayne Schofield scheduled for an epidural on December 30th to relieve lumbar pain.

Paul Stanford has begun his wintertime travels.



**SIGN UP NOW
TO PREPARE A**

Wednesday Night Meal

**Cooks are needed for
January, February and March!
Sign up now in the FLC.**



Wednesday, December 21st:

**Special Wednesday night program.
No Wednesday Night Meal.**

Sunday, December 25th:

**No Bible classes. Worship Service at 10 am.
Casual attire. Children ages 0-12 years are invited to come to church in their pajamas!**

Wednesday, December 28th:

No Midweek meeting. Spend time with family and friends!

Sunday, January 1st.

No Bible classes. Worship at 10 am.



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