

Sanctity of Human Life Sunday

JANUARY 19, 2025

Boulevard Park Press

JANUARY 2025

THE NEWSLETTER OF BOULEVARD PARK CHURCH



Children's Christmas Program



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This monthly PAGE 2 column reminds us that a partnership takes two. We should all be active, on-going SENDERS partnering with the SENT.

Compiled and edited by Ellyn Roe

*Because the Press is published online, some of our global workers must guard their identities. If you need email addresses, contact ellynroe@comcast.net



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Boulevard Park Church

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Photo credits page 1: (banner)
pafamily.org; Christmas program –
Steve Roe (performance, top left);
Eva Lee Henderson (rehearsal)

PAGE 2: YOU AND YOUR GLOBAL WORKERS Twosomes Partnering with God around the World

Soccer Camp in December?? Really?

By Ellyn Roe

The Tigak tribe in Papua New Guinea is near the equator, so December, like ALL the other months, is warm. Okay, hot.

Lisa says, “We recently hosted two ladies for two weeks, one of whom is a college intern studying at Biola. She has a lifetime of soccer experience, so as part of her ministry requirement while she was here, we gave her some ideas of ‘events’ she could facilitate, and she chose to do a 4-day soccer day camp! It was not like a VBS where the Gospel was being presented, it was really more of just a fun experience for the children here, and she did a wonderful job. Our friend who came along with her did, however, speak a couple times to the children about teamwork. She used the passages in Scripture about how we are one body with many parts. All the parts of that body need one another . . . if one part suffers, the whole body suffers, and if one part rejoices, the whole body rejoices with it. The kids listened well and had a blast learning a new sport.”

Lisa also reported that she and Noe would be giving some of the soccer balls to each hamlet on their island and the two neighboring islands as a Christmas gift from them.



The two visiting ladies give instructions to Tigak soccer camp attendees and “coaches.”



Photo Credit: Courtesy of Martinez Family

Up and Running in Florida

By T. and S.S.*

Greetings from Florida! We were delighted to be with you all in October. We arrived back in Florida just in time for Hurricane Helene! Thankfully, our area was not hit hard by any of the hurricanes this Fall.

We’ve experienced many changes this year, but it was amazing to see God’s provision for us through these transitions. We are thankful to be serving with Ethnos360 (formerly New Tribes Mission) once again and consider it a great privilege to be serving those who are serving around the world, with the goal of seeing churches planted among the unreached.

Tim’s current ministry involves researching some of the missionary training classes he’s been teaching for many years, with the goal of improving both the pre-field training and the ongoing training of missionaries on the field. Sharon has joined the finance office team, serving missionaries around the world.

Living in Sanford, Florida, enables us to be able to help out Sharon’s Mom (Jerry Fitzgerald), who is residing in a nursing

home just a five-minute drive away from us. What a blessing to be able to visit and help her during this stage of her life.

We look forward to celebrating our first Christmas in our new home in Florida! And we rejoice in knowing that more people have heard the good news of Jesus Christ for the first time in their own language this year.

Thank you for your prayers and financial support! Thank you also for your part in expanding the reach of the gospel. (Watch some great mission videos here! <https://ethnos360.org/videos>)



At right: Tim and Sharon Simmonds, October 2024, at Tim’s sister’s wedding in England.

Photo Credit: Stuart from Portofino Photographic

The Former Things

By Pastor Bud

When life is difficult, and we are impatient for change, it is easy to long for “the good old days” when things were better. It’s like the Jews who witnessed the foundation of the second temple laid; some of the old men wept for “the good old days” (Ezr. 3:12-13). Maybe you’ve heard the expression that “the good old days” are the combination of a bad memory and a good imagination, and often this is true.

2024 is past and cannot be changed. If you are like me, some things happened this past year that I wish I could change, and I would change if I could. It’s not healthy to obsess over events you cannot redo or change. That is the message of the apostle Paul in Philippians 3:13-14, “*Brothers, I do not consider myself as having laid hold of it yet, but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.*”

But, we shouldn’t take Paul’s words to the extreme, which is the exhortation of James 4:13-15, “*Come now, you who say, ‘Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, and spend a year there and engage in business and make a profit.’ Yet you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow. You are a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away. Instead, you ought to say, ‘If the Lord wills, we will live and also do this or that.’”*

An important balance must be found. We must live today, seeking the will of God and not be paralyzed by yesterday or hypnotized by future dreams and expectations. Too many, while dreaming of the future and reveling in the past, let the present, which is all we have, slip away. Remember what Jesus taught in the Sermon on the Mount, “*But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness and all these things will be added to you. So do not worry about tomorrow; for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own*” (Mt. 6:33-34).

The preacher wrote in Eccl. 7:10, “*Do not say, ‘Why is it that the former days were better than these?’ For it is not from wisdom that you ask about this.*” God has graciously brought you today. It is not a mistake. From the beginning, He sovereignly declares our past, present, and future. The past, we cannot change, the future is yet unknown. The only thing we can effect is today. By grace, God’s mercies are new every morning and they never fail (Lam. 3:22-23). Strengthened by a new surge of forgiving and empowering grace, face each day in 2025 pressing on toward the upward call of God in Christ Jesus! Said another way, with good stewardship of each moment God gives you glorify Him, whether in little or great things.

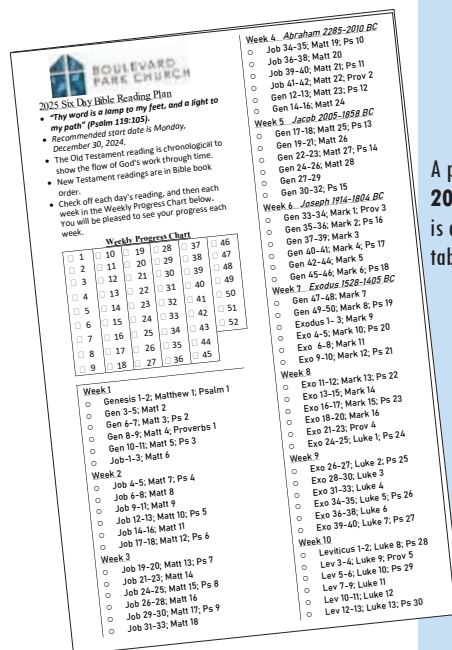
With the focus of our efforts clearly on His glory, we will not unduly revel in the past. Instead, we will praise God for making us adequate to participate in His glorious kingdom. A desirable future will neither hypnotize us. Instead, we will remember that the Lord’s sovereign will is essential to our future.

Join me in following Jesus, growing in our capacity to serve His purposes with every opportunity He provides TODAY and every day.

Pressing On for Jesus,
Pastor Bud

Even so, come, Lord Jesus!

— Rev. 22:20



Milestones

Births

Jonathon Michael Armstrong
December 11, 2024

Parents: Josh and Amanda Armstrong
Grandmother: Jan Armstrong

Lionel Douglas Barton
December 14, 2024

Parents: Hannah and Jacob Barton
Grandparents: Doug and Lisa Barton
Great-grandmother: Fay Barton

Baptisms

November 24, 2024

Shiloh Aviella Drost
Gabriella Virginia Shepperson

Deaths

Dee Secrest

November 13, 2024

mother of Royce Badley and
Denise Hawes

Gene Deda

November 22, 2024

husband of Jan Deda

Nancy Brown

December 9, 2024

wife of George Brown and mother of
Greg Brown

Ruth Maher

December 10, 2024

sister of Rae Weller

A printed copy of the
2025 Bible Reading Plan
is available at the information
table or from the church office.

INTRODUCING

Josh Richins, BPC Worship Director

Before you read the Press interview with Josh Richins, Doug Barton, the elder who oversaw the search committee for a new Worship Director, shares the story of how the committee first met him:

When the worship director search committee began looking for BPC's next worship leader, we did not know what to expect but we prayed that God would lead us to the person of His choice. Although we had posted the job in a couple of job-search sites, we did not receive any viable candidates. One day, God answered our prayers when the church received an email with a resumé attached. The cover letter told us that this person had heard that we were looking for a worship director and that he was interested. He had not seen the job postings or the job description. After going through a process consisting of several interviews with the committee, an interview with Pastor Bud, and a jam session with our worship team, we were convinced that Josh Richins was God's choice for the job. Josh will be joining us on Dec 29. Please welcome him as he begins the important job of leading us in worship each week.

I want to give a special thanks to the search committee: Peggie Recker, Suzanne Sneesby, Randy Boyd, Julia Barton, and John Seidenberg for all their hard work, time, and dedication they put into finding our next worship leader.

– Doug Barton

Now, some questions from the Press:

Josh, where did you grow up and where did you go to school?

Snohomish, WA. I went to Snohomish High School and afterwards attended Edmonds Community College. At EDCC I received my A.A. and a certificate in Digital Music Production.

Around what age did you begin to appreciate music and begin to study it?

I began to appreciate music at a pretty young age. I'd always ask my parents to play particular records on the record player when I was very young and was not allowed to touch it. I picked up the guitar at 12 years-old, following a suggestion from my father. I took guitar lessons until I was 16 years-old. I took band classes in middle school and high school as well as playing guitar in the school jazz band. At EDCC, I took music theory courses as well as private lessons on composition with my music professor.

Which instrument(s) do you play? Other jobs where you use your music.

Guitar is my primary instrument, but I would also consider myself a decent bass player and mandolin picker! When I produce music, I use a keyboard, but I'm not that confident performing on keys/piano. As of now, all jobs that I do include performing, writing/producing, or teaching music.

Introduce us to your wife, Priscilla. Where did you meet? What are her interests? Neighborhood where you live?

Priscilla and I met while we both worked for Lakeshore Clinic in Bothell. She was a receptionist in the clinic and I worked off-site at a business office. Funnily enough, we both attended Snohomish High School at the same time, but hadn't actually met during that time. Priscilla is a great listener/fan when it comes to music, but her instrument of choice would be the radio/Bluetooth. Priscilla is a nail artist and has done great work for friends and family. Priscilla is a very generous and caring person. She is the best dog mama I could ever ask for. (Still no kiddos in our life, yet!) We currently live on the border of South Park and Boulevard Park. I'm not exactly sure which neighborhood we fall in.

Tell us a bit about your other employment when you're not directing our worship half-time.

Outside of Boulevard Park Church I work at NW University and with a company called Lessons in Your Home teaching private music lessons. During the MLB regular season, I run sound at T-Mobile Park for Mariners games. I also do a bit of freelance audio production and audio engineering from home and a handful of local studios.

Tell us about teaching music – where? what instruments? Age range of students? Are you open to new students?

I teach at NW University, with Lessons in Your Home, and I also have a few students that I have gotten on my own outside of a corporation. I teach primarily guitar, but also bass, mandolin, beginner banjo and beginner piano. As of now, I am open to new students.

What do you enjoy doing in your free time? Interests, hobbies. Things you do together with Priscilla?

In our free time Priscilla and I enjoy walking/playing with our dogs and taking them on hikes. I still perform around town on a pretty consistent basis, so we both enjoy playing and attending concerts/shows. Lately we've gotten very interested in cooking meals together at home and finding new recipes. We also enjoy catching up on TV shows together and going to the movies.

What do you look forward to in leading our worship and music?

I'm elated to work with a new worship team that is close to home and part of my local community. I hope to help out a worship team that hasn't had a musical director for some time now. I also am looking forward to deepening my relationship with Christ through this journey.

Continued on next page

Thailand Team Update

Cookies and Carols Delivered

By Peggie Recker and the Thailand Team

Our Thailand Team reached out with a very special Christmas gift to over twenty members of our BPC family who are home-bound or have difficulty getting to church. Many in our congregation generously sponsored the Team to bake for each one a plate of delicious, homemade Christmas cookies. On Sunday afternoon, December 15, the cookies and a special ornament were delivered to their doors accompanied by the girls singing Christmas carols especially for them.

The Team includes: **Carly Siedenburg, Julia Barton, Kara Siedenburg, Amelia Harder, Lauren Recker, and Katie Siedenburg.** Please be in prayer for them as they plan and prepare to go to Thailand next summer to assist our Global Worker, Makin Yee, with a soccer camp she is organizing for local girls. Each of these BPC girls is well-prepared to help Makin; they have helped for at least a couple of summers with our church soccer camp. Pray that they will be very effective in sharing God's love and the good news of the Gospel during the camp.



Some of the Thailand Team while serving a meal at BPC's Mission Fest in October. The team will continue to do service projects and raise funds for their trip to Thailand in summer 2025.

Can you share a personal worship experience which impacted you and influences your approach to leading worship?

At a younger age I took guitar lessons with the worship director at my church. That certainly has had a lasting impression on my views of worship and the type of people that can take on that role. I cannot discount the years that I was in the worship band at Westgate Chapel. I've seen and felt what God

Hear from the girls some of the the blessings flowing on delivery day:

[When we] went to Gillihan's place, we sang to multiple neighbors and many people sang along. They joined in walking along the floor with the small group and ended with the whole floor singing.

Miki asked for [all] our names so she could pray for us.

A lady in memory care kept repeating how blessed she was and how she was so glad her church did caroling. Very happy we remembered her and came to check up on her.

Many people kept singing along with us and wanted us to sing more songs.

One lady didn't want cookies but was very excited when we came to visit her anyway and brought her a poinsettia.

Overall, people were very blessed and appreciative of the thoughts and intentions behind the cookies. This gave us practice for Thailand and was good encouragement to serve others with positive intentions and to share the Gospel.

can do for people during intense moments of worship.

Is there anything else you'd like to tell us? How can we encourage you as our Director and to help you get to know us?

Come say, "Hi!" I don't bite and I'm not shy. I'm happy to talk to any and all congregants who wish to speak with me. So, come say, "Hello." I'm looking forward to meeting all of you.

New Church Officers

The installation and ordination of these recently-elected church officers will be on Sunday, January 12.

Deaconess

Fay Barton
Daphne George
Lisa Jones
Emelita Moore
Lori Neumann
Sharon Nickells

Trustee

Larry Bretz
Dave Huck
Annette Lowen
Randy Sneesby
Sarah Struble
Dave Will

Deacon

Don Bowie
Wayne Eickert
Bruce Lindquist
Anthony Moore
Steve Nickells
Dan Nordblad
Jim Shoe

Elder

Paul Clements
Jon Recker

Calendar Events

JANUARY 2025

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

January 5, 12, 19, 26

9:00A Adult Sunday School

9:15A KIDS Sunday School
Youth Sunday School

10:30A KIDS Church

10:30A Worship in person
& Livestream

Sunday, January 5

9:00A Prayer Meeting

9:15A KIDS & Youth Sunday
School

10:30A KIDS Church

10:30A Worship in person
& Livestream

Sunday, January 12

10:30A Installation of Church
Officers

Sunday, January 19

Sanctity of Human Life
Sunday

Wednesday, January 1

Happy New Year!
Church Office Closed

Saturday, January 4

9:00A Christmas Decorations
taken down.

Tuesday, January 7 & 21

6:30P Women's Bible Study

Monday, January 13

11:00A Ladies Circle

Tuesday, January 14 & 28

9:30A MOMLife

Wed., Jan. 8, 15, 22 & 29

9:30A Women's BSO Bible Study

6:00P Wednesday Night Dinner

6:00P Youth Group

6:40P Adult Bible Study

Saturday, January 11

10:00A Women's Connect

Wednesday, January 15

Press Articles Due

Saturday, January 18

2:00P Memorial for
Nancy Brown

Saturday, January 25

8:00A Men's Breakfast

Thursday, January 16

6:30P CarePartners

Tending the Flock

Circles and Lines

By Jon Recker, Elder

New Year's Day is usually a low-key holiday for me. After the busyness of Thanksgiving and Christmas, I am content just to watch a little football, eat any leftover cookies, and fold up the artificial tree. But as the years pass, with their mysterious property of accelerating as we get older, I find increasing significance in the ritual of replacing the kitchen calendar each January 1.

This particular holiday is both recurring and unique – recurring in that we celebrate “New Year” at the same time every year (imagine that!) but also unique because each new year marks the end of an era. When the clock strikes midnight, 2024 is gone forever. To borrow from geometry, we could say that humans experience the passage of time as both circles and lines.

While a pessimist might find the cyclic repetition of years depressing, I believe it represents a grace from God. The stars and planets, whose predictable behavior is reflected in our calendar and seasons, “declare the glory of God” (Psalm 19:1). And annual holidays provide us regular reminders to worship Him (Ex. 12:14).

No less significant is the unstoppable progression of our days. God, who is without beginning or end (Psalm 90:2), created human beings who can perceive the passage of time. In doing so, the eternal God reminds finite man of two essential truths: He is sovereign, and He has a plan for us.

When the atheist considers human history and his own brief participation in it, he generally concludes that life is without ultimate meaning. Thus we might as well “eat and drink, for tomorrow we die” (I Cor. 15:32). But scripture reveals just the opposite. God created man to live with Him forever, and only because of sin are we subject to death (Gen. 2:17).

While our sin justly separates us from

God, in His sovereignty He even provides the means by which we may be reconciled – the sacrifice of His own Son in our place (II Cor. 5:21). The sending of Jesus was not a panicked reaction to God's original plan going awry. Rather, God “chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before Him” (Eph. 1:4).

God elected to reveal and execute His plan of salvation *over time*, a story which unfolds from Genesis through Revelation. Christ was born of a woman “when the fulness of time had come” (Gal. 4:4). He was glorified on the Cross when “His hour had come to depart out of this world” (John 13:1). And He promises that He will return at exactly the right time: “Yes, I am coming soon” (Rev. 22:20).

So Christians have no reason to despair the inexorable march of years. Rather, as we see God work out His perfect plans we set our minds “on things above, not on earthly things” (Col. 3:2). And this is not just an intellectual exercise! As our minds focus more and more on eternity with Christ, our lives reflect an increasing passion to serve Him, to obey Him, and to glorify Him.

When Paul gazed down the line of years into eternity future, he could not wait to get moving. He pictured pursuit of Christlikeness as a race toward a definite goal. “But one thing I do, forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus” (Phil. 3:13-14).

So as a new year begins, let us thank God for freeing us from the tyranny of passing time. And let us renew our commitment to live lives pleasing to Him, knowing that “the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever” (I John 2:17).

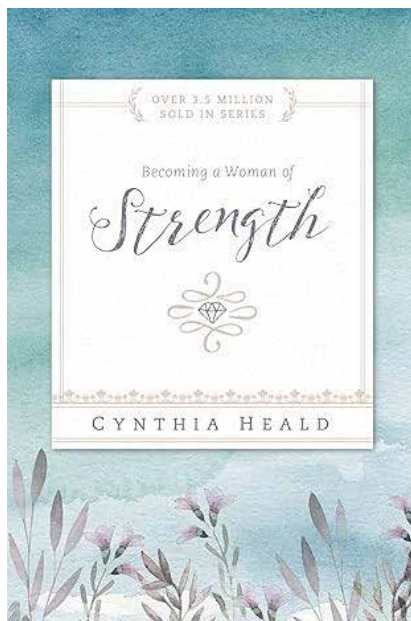
Grow Stronger in 2025!

A New Bible Study for Women on Wednesday Mornings

Beginning on Wednesday morning **January 8, 2025**, 10 a.m.-noon at church, Mary Cox and Ellyn Roe will co-facilitate a 12-week Bible Study for women, using Cynthia Heald's *A Woman of Strength*, 2022 edition. "When encountering the difficulties and obstacles of life, we can find comfort in God's desire to strengthen and equip His children. As you study the Scriptures and discover God's truths, you will be encouraged..." (adapted from the publisher).

The "homework" for each chapter can be done in an hour per week, and since there is no video for this book, there will be plenty of time to discuss thoroughly and share our hearts. It's okay to miss some classes if other commitments arise—come when you can. The class will conclude on March 26.

Whether you are new to BPC, new to Bible Study, or an "old hand" at both, you are welcome to join us for Wednesday morning worship in song, Bible study and prayer. Books may be purchased for \$10 at the first session, January 8; complimentary copies are available if your finances are tight. To facilitate our purchase of books for you, please RSVP ASAP to Mary Cox or Ellyn Roe. (Emails and phone numbers are in the church directory.)



Celebrations!

January Birthdays

- 1 Lynda Eck
- 5 Lilly Hall
- 8 Edmund Faulkner
- 10 Sheila Richardson
- 11 Greg Heintz
- 12 Kelly Graham
- 15 Dan Kent
Emrys Kowallis
Katie Siedenburg
- 17 Carrie Hilstad
Sylvia Thompson
Jeanne Whalen
- 18 Jean Rose
- 19 Doug Barton
Bud Thorne
- 22 Shawn Will
- 23 Tim Simmonds
Vicky Steiner
- 24 Christabelle Hall
Rachel Wagner
- 27 Serena Hale
- 28 Annette Conroy
- 29 Diane Siedenburg
- 31 Pat Jorgensen

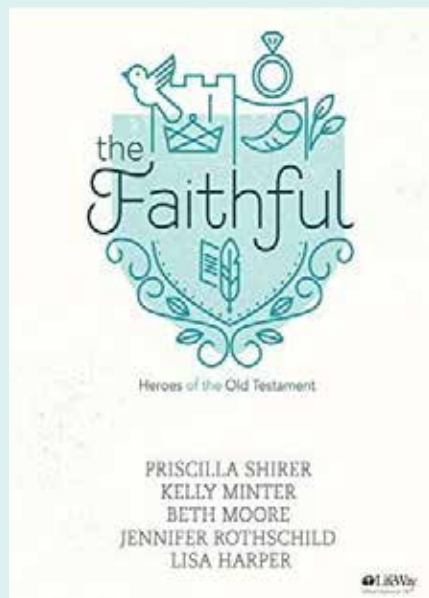
Early February BDs

- 1 Anita Coffman
Donald Ellefson
- 3 Aidan Conroy
- 4 Debbie Bryce
- 5 Scott Boone
Jim Buck
- 7 Sherry Clemons
- 8 Elijah Wagner

If your birthday is not listed, and you would like it to be, please contact the church office.

Tuesday Evening Bible Study for Women

*Now faith is the reality of what is hoped for,
the proof of what is not seen.* Hebrews 11:1



In *The Faithful* we will explore pivotal moments in the lives of five of our Old Testament predecessors. Borrowing from previous studies by Priscilla Shirer, Kelly Minter, Beth Moore, Jennifer Rothschild and Lisa Harper, we'll see how God used the lives of ordinary people for His glory and the good of His people. We will have a chance to strengthen our faith as we walk alongside Gideon, Nehemiah, Esther, Hosea and Malachi as they chose to obey God, no matter what the circumstances.

Ladies, please join us for this new study beginning

**Tuesday, January 7, at 6:30-8 p.m.
in Room 431**

Questions? Contact Lisa Bowen at 206.3554.0339 or by email at lisabowen@bpcburien.org
Study books available the first evening. Suggested donation: \$20



BOULEVARD PARK CHURCH

1822 S 128th Street
Burien WA 98168-2903

*Reaching Our
World for Christ*

WANTED: Greeting Card Faces

A missionary friend of Joanne Mackey who is working with a medical clinic in Uganda would very much appreciate the fronts of used and/or no-longer-wanted greeting cards. They should be only the ones with no personal messages inside the front. Please place your card fronts or cards in the square, gold-colored box on the bottom shelf in the library. Again, your donations are very much appreciated. Thank you.



Saturday, Jan. 11 at 10:00 am to
whenever the puzzle is done, upstairs in
Room 431!

If you have a game you want to play, feel free to bring it. There will be different board games available, as well as a puzzle for anyone to work on!



Ladies! Come and join us for our **January CONNECT** activity:

BOARD GAMES and PUZZLES!



Bring your lunch, and we'll provide the drinks and dessert!

If you're not a game player or don't like puzzles, just come for the time to connect and visit with your friends!

Hope to see you there!

Questions? Contact Lisa Bowen at
206.354.0339 or at
lisa.bowen@bpcburien.org.