

Even so, come, Lord Jesus!

— Rev. 22:20

Boulevard Park Press

JANUARY 2026

THE NEWSLETTER OF BOULEVARD PARK CHURCH

count your Blessings

When upon life's billows you are tempest-tossed,
When you are discouraged, thinking all is lost,
Count your many blessings, name them one by one,
And it will surprise you what the Lord has done.

Refrain: Count your blessings, name them one by one;
Count your blessings, see what God has done!
Count your blessings, name them one by one;
Count your many blessings, see what God has done.

Are you ever burdened with a load of care?
Does the cross seem heavy you are called to bear?
Count your many blessings, every doubt will fly,
And you will keep singing as the days go by.

When you look at others with their lands and gold,
Think that Christ has promised you His wealth untold;
Count your many blessings, wealth never buy
Your reward in heaven, nor your home on high.

So, amid the conflict whether great or small,
Do not be discouraged, God is over all;
Count your many blessings, angels will attend,
Help and comfort give you to your journey's end.

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

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

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Surrounded by Love and Prayers

By Karen Doerr



Even though this has been a hard season of uncertainty and challenges, I'm thankful for the chance to see many of you at church as I'm here briefly over the holidays. I would sure appreciate your ongoing prayers, as I walk this journey day by day and month by month. Recent U.S. decisions do not look hopeful for any change to the visa situation in the near future, but we know the Lord is sovereign even over these two presidents. I currently plan to return to England in January, where I have been able to do some of my work remotely from a similar time zone... and if the situation continues, I am considering eventually basing myself in Uganda as I continue to work and wait. Please pray for leading and wisdom as we make more decisions in the coming weeks and months, and as the situation affects more and more people and ministries. Thank you for your prayers and encouragement during this difficult season.

A group of women joined Karen Doerr at the home of Peggie Recker on Tuesday, December 16, to welcome Karen home for the Christmas holiday and to hear first-hand the changes that await her ministry in response to the political situation in Chad.

Photo Credit: Courtesy of Peggie Recker

Redo, Regret, or Renewal

By Pastor Bud

As another year turns and we find ourselves looking back as much as looking forward, many of us feel the quiet weight of reflection. We replay conversations, decisions, and missed opportunities. We think about goals we never reached and habits we meant to change. When we face the past, we usually land in one of three places: we wish we could redo something, we linger in regret, or—by God’s grace—we choose to renew our hearts and direction.

The apostle Paul understood all three options well. In Philippians 3, he opens a window into his own story, not to dwell on it, but to show us how the gospel reshapes the way we relate to both our past and our future.

Paul begins by listing his spiritual résumé. If anyone had reason for confidence in religious accomplishment, it was Paul. He had the right background, the right training, and the right zeal. Yet Paul makes a startling declaration: everything he once trusted in, he now considers loss compared to knowing Christ (Phil. 3:7-8). In other words, Paul does not ask for a redo of his former life, nor does he wallow in regret over it. He lets go of it.

This is important for us. Some of us wish we could redo past choices. We imagine how life might look if we had chosen differently. Others carry regret that feels heavier than it should—mistakes that continue to define us long after God has forgiven us. Paul shows us a better way. The gospel does not offer us a spiritual reset button to rewrite history, nor does it trap us in shame. Instead, it calls us to renewal.

Renewal begins when we stop trying to build our identity on our performance and place it entirely in Christ. Paul writes that he wants to “*be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own*” (Phil. 3:9). This is the freedom of the Christian life: our standing with God does not rest on what we did yesterday or failed to do last year. It rests on Christ alone!

From that foundation, Paul describes a life of forward movement. He admits he has not arrived. He is not perfected. But he presses on. He forgets what lies behind—not because the past does not matter, but

because it no longer masters him—and he reaches forward toward what lies ahead (Phil. 3:13-14). Renewal is not denial; it is direction.

This is where many of us need encouragement. Renewal does not mean instant transformation. It means daily reorientation. It means choosing, again and again, to pursue Christ rather than relive the past. It means trusting that God is still at work, even when progress feels slow. Renewal is often quiet, steady, and unseen—but it is real.

Paul also reminds us where our ultimate hope lies. “*Our citizenship is in heaven,*” he writes, and we eagerly await a Savior who will one day make all things new (Phil. 3:20-21). That future promise gives strength for present faithfulness. We live in the tension of what is and what will be, knowing that renewal now is a foretaste of complete restoration later.

As you reflect on your own life, ask yourself: Am I longing for a redo, stuck in regret, or wanting renewal? The first two keep us looking backward. The third lifts our eyes forward—to Christ, to grace, and to hope.

God is not finished with you. The same grace that saved you is the grace that renews you. Today, press on—not because you are strong, but because Christ has taken hold of you. And that makes all the difference!

Pursuing Jesus together,
Pastor Bud

We will acknowledge
the 2026 Sanctity of Life
Sunday at BPC on January 18.



Milestones

Births

Apollo Norwood

December 1, 2025

Parents: David and Sarah Norwood

Grandparents: Rob and Nancy Norwood

Wells Leon Davis

December 11, 2025

Parents: Alissa and Nick Davis

Grandparents: Pam and Gary Stariha

Baptisms

December 14, 2025

Kaitlin Lippo

Joyce Rowland

Deaths

Trudy Lindberg

December 9, 2025

wife of Jim Lindberg

Jim Lovall

December 16, 2025

Pat Jorgensen

December 22, 2025

Please Note:

A printed copy of the
2026 Bible Reading Plan
will be available in the new year
at the information table or from
the church office.



BPC's 2025 Children's Christmas Program



A Prosperous New Year

By Jon Recker, Elder

“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.”

– John 10:10

If you ventured into any shopping mall over the last month, you probably heard plenty of familiar Christmas music, including the Spanish-language song, *Feliz Navidad*. In this old holiday standby, Jose Feliciano wishes us both *Feliz Navidad* (“Merry Christmas”) and not just a “Happy” but a *Próspero* (“Prosperous”) New Year.

Desiring others to prosper is a common and laudable sentiment. During diplomatic negotiations, Thomas Jefferson assured the Choctaw Indians that “By living in peace, we can help and prosper one another.” Ronald Reagan encouraged voters that “America can only grow if you grow, can only prosper if you prosper.” Even on *Star Trek*, Mr. Spock’s standard greeting was “Live long and prosper.”

Scripture also addresses this longing for prosperity, and the word “prosper” or its variants occur in dozens of passages. Unfortunately, false teachers often misinterpret these scriptures to create an alternate theology in which God promises Christians material prosperity – money, health, comfort, and acclaim – if we just *say* or *believe* the right things. Popular figures such as Joel Osteen, Paula White, and Creflo Dollar impress audiences by quoting cherry-picked scriptures about prosperity, while ignoring their essential context.

By preaching what “itching ears” want to hear (II Tim. 4:3), some have accumulated large followings. But they do so only through terrible hermeneutics, disregarding key considerations such as *to whom* God’s words were originally addressed and *what*, specifically, He promised. Such teachers are “depraved in mind and deprived of the truth, imagining that godliness is a means of gain” (I Tim. 6:5).

A desire for worldly comfort is natural, and we don’t need to feel perpetually ashamed if we were at some point led astray by false teachers. But we should always be sharpening our skills in biblical

interpretation so that we can identify and correct erroneous doctrine.

Those promoting “prosperity theology” often try to shift the burden of proof onto skeptics, demanding that we prove why God’s promise to a particular person at a particular time does *not* automatically apply to all believers now. Yet this interpretive approach is backwards. Such teachers are guilty of adding to the words of God and will be justly rebuked as liars (Prov. 30:6).

When confronted with doubtful claims about how God intends for us to “prosper,” an excellent test is to compare the claim with other clear teachings from scripture. According to the hermeneutic principle of *analogia scriptura*, the Bible never contradicts itself. Therefore, as William Tyndale wrote, we can use the “plain and manifest places of the Scriptures” to guide our interpretation of less-clear passages.

Assurances that Christians are “guaranteed” material blessings are quite obviously incompatible with the *teachings* and *experiences* of Jesus and the apostles. At the Last Supper, Jesus repeatedly warned the disciples to expect *persecution*, not comfort (John 15:18-20, 16:2-3, 16:33, 17:14). Letters from Peter (I Peter 1:6-7), Paul (II Tim. 3:12), and James (James 1:2-3) encouraged believers to rejoice in *trials*, not in riches or health. And most of the apostles suffered exile (Rev. 1:9) or death (John 21:19, Acts 12:2, II Tim. 4:6) for the sake of Christ.

Yet every one of them did *truly* prosper, for while they may have experienced poverty, sickness, and insults on earth, they had stored up “treasures in heaven” (Matt. 6:19-21) as faithful followers of Jesus. And He calls each of us to do likewise – to set our minds “on things that are above, not on things that are on earth” (Col. 3:2). So as we begin a new year, I pray that you will prosper – spiritually and eternally – by surrendering your life fully to Jesus Christ. For when we do so, our eternal prosperity is guaranteed (I Peter 1:3-5).

Celebrations!

January Birthdays

- 1 Lynda Eck
- 5 Lilly Hall
- 8 Edmund Faulkner
- 10 Staci Knight
Sheila Richardson
- 11 Greg Heintz
- 12 Kelly Graham
- 13 Josh Richins
- 15 Katie Siedenburg
- 17 Carrie Hilstad
Sylvia Thompson
Jeanne Whalen
- 18 Jean Rose
- 19 Doug Barton
Bud Thorne
- 23 Tim Simmonds
Vicky Steiner
- 24 Christabelle Hall
Tony Teeler
Rachel Wagner
- 27 Serena Hale
Wayne Rainey
- 29 Diane Siedenburg

Early February BDs

- 1 Anita Coffman
Donald Ellefson
- 4 Debbie Bryce
- 7 Sherry Clemons
- 8 Elijah Wagner
- 12 Donna Lightfoot

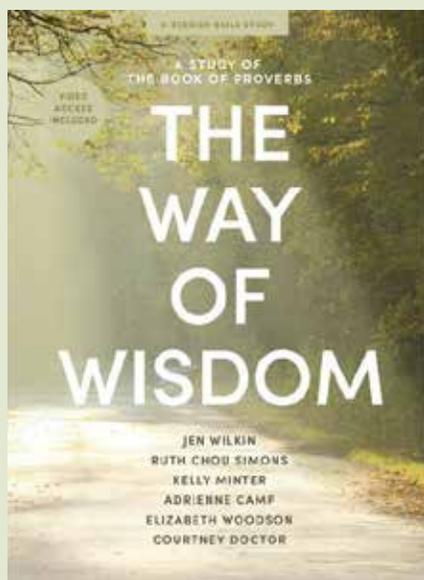
If your birthday is not listed, and you would like it to be, please contact the church office.



BOULEVARD PARK CHURCH

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*Reaching Our
World for Christ*



Women's Ministry

*“The fear of the Lord is the
beginning of wisdom.”*

Proverbs 9:10

More profitable than silver. Better than gold. More precious than jewels. The book of Proverbs describes wisdom as one of the greatest treasures of life, more valuable than anything else we should desire. But do we seek the wisdom of the Lord as fervently as we pursue other goals? Do we approach Scripture as relevant and applicable to the situations we face at home, at work and in our communities? In ***The Way of Wisdom***, we join six Bible teachers and walk with them through the book of Proverbs.

As you consider wisdom principles on everyday topics like words, work, friendship, marriage, parenting, neighborliness, money management, leadership influence and more, you'll discover the wisdom found in the book of Proverbs as an invitation to steadily walk in God's way, and in His world.

Ladies, you are invited to join us for this 8-session study, beginning

Tuesday, January 20, in Room 435 from 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Study books will be available the first evening. Suggested donation is \$20.