



Carols,

Boulevard Park Press

DECEMBER 2025

THE NEWSLETTER OF BOULEVARD PARK CHURCH

Cookies & Cocoa

AN ALL-CHURCH AND ALL-COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CAROL-SING

EVENT DATE SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6

FROM 2:00 P.M. - 3:30 P.M.

AT BOULEVARD PARK CHURCH



You are warmly invited to welcome the Christmas season with a very special afternoon of Christmas carols, cookies, cocoa and fellowship. Roger and Mary Cox and Josh and Priscilla Richins will lead caroling in the sanctuary, accompanied by Jo Ann Peterson. Afterward, we'll move to the Multipurpose Room for cookies, cocoa, coffee, and conversation.

Several of our youth will provide background music during the reception.

If you need transportation for this event,

please call the church office: 206-243-2600.

Consider bringing friends and neighbors, or offering to pick up someone from church who needs a ride. This is a great event for families to attend together. Kids are most welcome to come to this event, sing alongside their parents, and enjoy the cookies and cocoa.

P.S. If you could provide Christmas cookies and/or help to serve, please contact: peg_recker@comcast.net or call/text 206-919-2292.

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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

*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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December 2025**

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Boulevard Park Church

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The Press also is available on
the church website.

January Deadline: December 15
E-mail: bpcpress@bpcburien.org

Great News and A Big Prayer Request from the H.* Family

By C.H.*

The Afghan Bible study outreach is going really well. Just this week another one of the young men confessed his total belief in the Bible as the Word of God, and his faith in Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior. We are now planning his baptism celebration. Like almost all of the guys—this young man comes from a very simple subsistence-farming town in the remote mountains of Afghanistan. Until this study, he had no exposure to God's word...although very interestingly he did reveal that at sometime in the last few years he had a sense in his heart that one day he would be invited to a church or to be invited to study the Scriptures with someone!...certainly the fingerprints of the Holy Spirit's preparation in his heart. Let's pray that God would continue to glorify himself through the saving and worship of these young men!

Prayer requests (They are endless, but for now): In some ways we feel ready to plant a church here in the city. We are still lacking clarity on whether to focus more on refugees or local Indonesians (languages would differ based on our focus). As far as we know, there really isn't a single Gospel-preaching complementarian church in this entire city of over 3 million people. While we feel called to plant one, we are also wondering if this is the right time considering our newly expanded family (we now have 4 kids aged 5-and-under) and all of C's other work and ministry responsibilities. Pray for clarity and discernment regarding this process.

Love to everyone at Boulevard!

In the Joy of the Lord Jesus,
C & A (along with Bella (5), Lilly (3), Cedric (2) and
Cillian (2 months) (pronounced Kill-ee-an)



A.* teaching Sunday School. She has been working hard to teach both the students and other volunteer teachers about things like teaching from the Bible (not simply stories of morality), Gospel-centered lessons (not simply rule-following), and also classroom management (so that the children have a better chance of focusing and learning something new).

FROM CHAD TO LONDON TO SEATTLE TO ???

By K.D.*

Thank you for your prayers, as I have needed to leave Chad due to the American-Chadian visa issues. I have arrived safely in England, where I am able to do some work remotely...and I also am enjoying autumn leaves and socks and tea. I plan to come back to WA in December for a visit during the holidays and then return to Europe...and then make further decisions in January if the visa situation continues (possibly basing myself in Uganda).

I would appreciate ongoing prayers for:

- Trust and patience as we wait on the Lord for guidance and opportunities
- Resolution to the visa situation and the opportunity for Americans to return to Chad
- True progress between the two governments whenever they meet together
- Direction as I consider the future and where to work and wait as we see how this develops in the new year—considering various scenarios

Editor's Note: At Press time, we anticipate greeting Karen at BPC on Sunday, December 14. Get your hugs ready! ❤️



We put a piece of candy above the phone on a tripod to try to get the kids to look in the right direction.



I was hovering above the kids with A's phone (and candy), while A. lit the shot with a lamp. Teamwork! As for the scrape on Bella's arm, we recently got her roller skates. This may account for that.



Our Afghan Bible Study. We are currently studying chapter by chapter through Matthew. I prepare the Bible texts in both English and Dari.

and also classroom management (so that the children have a better chance of focusing and learning something new).



Feeling very welcomed by my hostess and her husband—AIM retirees in England who used to work in Chad.

My cozy new "office" in England.



All Photos: C.H.*

Photo Credits: Sally M.* and Peter M.*

The Glory of Christmas

By Pastor Bud

Every December, lights appear on houses, music fills the air, and people gather to celebrate what is, for many, the most wonderful time of the year. Yet amid the traditions, gifts, and gatherings, we must remember that Christmas is not merely a sentimental season—it is a celebration of the most profound truth in human history: *“The Word became flesh and dwelt among us”* (Jn. 1:14).

John opens his Gospel not with a manger or shepherds, but with eternity. *“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God”* (vs. 1). Before there was time, space, or creation, Jesus Christ—the divine Word—already existed. He is not a created being, not one among many gods, but God Himself, co-eternal and co-equal with the Father.

The Greek term *“Logos”* (“Word”) conveys the idea of divine reason and ultimate truth. John is telling us that Jesus is the full expression of God—His mind, His heart, His voice made visible and audible. To know Jesus is to know God (Jn. 14:9). This is why the Christmas story is not just about a baby’s birth, but about the incarnation of the eternal Son of God, *“Immanuel”* (Isa. 7:14), which translated means, “God with us.”

John continues, *“All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being”* (vs. 3). The baby lying in a manger was no helpless accident of history—He was the Creator of all things, humbling Himself to enter His own creation. The One who formed the stars lay beneath them; the One who made humanity became one of us.

And John says that *“in Him was life, and the life was the Light of men”* (vs. 4). From the very beginning, Jesus has been the source of all light—spiritual, moral, and eternal. Yet, verse 5 reminds us that *“the Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.”* This is the heart of Christmas: the light of Christ entering a dark and broken world. Our world remains filled with sin, confusion, and sorrow—but the light of Jesus still shines, offering hope that darkness can never extinguish.

Verse 14 is the hinge of history: The infinite became finite; the invisible became visible. God did not send an angel, *“The Word became flesh and dwelt among us.”* a prophet, or a mere messenger—He came Himself. The term *“dwelt”* literally means “tabernacled” or “pitched His tent” among us. Just as God’s

presence once filled the tabernacle in the wilderness, so now His presence is embodied in Jesus Christ.

This is the miracle of Christmas—the transcendent God taking on human nature, walking among sinners, feeling our pain, and bearing our burdens. In Jesus, God does not stand far off; He comes near. He enters our world to rescue us from within it.

John writes, *“We beheld His glory, glory as of the only begotten Son from the Father, full of grace and truth”* (vs. 14). The glory that once filled the temple is now seen in the face of Christ. In Him, divine grace and divine truth meet perfectly. He did not come merely to teach moral lessons or set an example—He came to reveal the heart of God’s love and to provide redemption for sinners.

Verse 17 draws the contrast clearly: *“For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.”* The law revealed God’s holiness and our guilt. But Jesus brought what the law could never give—grace to forgive and truth to set free. At Christmas, we see not just God’s majesty but His mercy. The baby born in Bethlehem came to bear the cross of Calvary.

In a world that often celebrates Christmas without Christ, John’s Gospel calls us to remember who this child truly is. He is the eternal Word, the Creator, the Light, the incarnate God, full of grace and truth. The wonder of Christmas is not found in gifts under the tree, but in God’s gift to the world—His Son, given for us.

Christmas, then, is not just about remembering a birth long ago; it’s about responding to the Savior who still offers life today. John 1:12 declares, *“But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name.”* That is the true joy of Christmas—that through Jesus Christ, we can be adopted into the family of God.

As we celebrate this season, may our hearts echo the words of Charles Wesley’s hymn: *“Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail the incarnate Deity! Pleased as man with men to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.”*

This Christmas, let us behold His glory, receive His grace, and proclaim His truth—the Word made flesh, our Savior and our King.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Bud

Milestones

Birth

William Declan Buckley
November 6, 2025

Parents: Daniel and Abigail Buckley
Great-grandparents: Skip and Pauline Kulle

Death

Heidi Kimmel
November 19, 2025

wife of Todd Kimmel

Service Ministry

Lisa Bowen
Women’s Ministry Director
Celebrating 8 years of Ministry at BPC

As of November 8th, we joyfully recognize Lisa Bowen for her eight years of faithful service as our Women’s Ministry Director. Through her dedication, wisdom, and Christ-centered leadership, Lisa has encouraged spiritual growth, fostered community, and inspired countless women to walk more closely with the Lord. We thank God for her ministry and the lasting impact she has made for His glory and the good of His people.

Other Ways to Give

By John Siedenburg

Last spring I attended a webinar hosted by the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability (ECFA), an organization that promotes financial integrity among Christian nonprofits. The hosts noted that while most donations to churches and Christian nonprofits are made electronically or by check, most American wealth is actually held in assets like real estate and securities. This creates a mismatch between how wealth is accumulated and how it is typically donated. The webinar encouraged organizations to inform donors about less traditional options for giving appreciated assets.

Later in the fall, I shared a Press article reminding readers that BPC had transitioned this summer from its previous electronic giving processor of ten years to Planning Center, our new online giving platform. While preparing that article, a few church members encouraged me to write a follow-up explaining some additional ways to give beyond the traditional forms of donation.

In response to these prompts, I'd like to outline three alternative ways to give and explain how each can benefit both donors and our church.

Benefit comparison chart

Aspect	Appreciated Securities	Donor-Advised Fund (DAF)	Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD)
Eligible donors	Any individual holding appreciated investments >1 year	Any individual or family	IRA owners age 70½+
Tax deduction	Fair Market Value (FMV) of securities (up to 30% of AGI)	FMV of contributed assets (up to 30% of AGI for securities; 60% for cash)	No deduction, but excluded from taxable income
Capital gains taxes	Avoided on appreciated amount	Avoided when donating appreciated assets to the DAF	Not applicable (from IRA)
Impact on Adjusted Gross Income (AGI)	Reduces AGI via deduction	Reduces AGI via deduction	Reduces AGI by excluding distribution
Timing flexibility	Gift and deduction occur immediately	Immediate deduction, grants can be distributed later	Must be transferred directly from IRA each tax year
Donor advantages	- Avoid capital gains tax - Deduct FMV - Support charity without using cash	- Centralized giving - Invest funds for growth - Simplify recordkeeping	- Satisfies RMD - Lowers taxable income - Tax-efficient for retirees
Charity advantages	- Receives full FMV value - Avoids capital gains taxes - Simple to liquidate	- Receives cash grants - Reliable, flexible funding source	- Receives direct cash transfer - No processing of complex assets
Best for	Donors with appreciated investments	Donors seeking long-term, flexible giving	Retirees with IRAs seeking tax-efficient giving

Definitions

- **Appreciated Securities.** *Donation of publicly traded stocks, bonds, or mutual fund shares that have increased in value since purchase.* BPC holds an account at Morgan Stanley. You can transfer shares from your brokerage account to BPC's account.
- **Donor-Advised Fund (DAF).** *A charitable account established with a sponsoring organization where donors contribute assets, claim an immediate deduction, and recommends grants to charities over time.* Technically, the sponsoring organization owns the donated assets, but the advisor (you who set up the account) advises the sponsor how to distribute the funds. I have set up a DAF myself with Charles Schwab and found it quite easy to initiate the grants to several organizations including BPC.
- **Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD).** *A direct transfer from an Individual Retirement account (IRA) by individuals age 70½ or older to a qualified 501(c)(3) charity, up to \$100,000 per year, which counts toward a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD).*

[Refer to Benefit comparison chart below left.]

Note that each option offers potential tax advantages. When consulting your tax professional, consider asking how each choice could affect your current and future tax situation, including impacts on capital gains, required minimum distributions, and your overall charitable giving strategy.

I'm reminded of 2 Corinthians 9:7 which says, "Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." In that light, when evaluating if one of these giving tools is right for you, consider how you would use the tool. Instead of asking the question, "How can I give money with it costing me less?", consider reframing the thinking to: "How can I give even more generously given these beneficial tax provisions?"

Thank you all who give so faithfully in various traditional and non-traditional forms. If you have questions about any of the above ways to give, feel free to reach out to me or Pete Wagner. We would be happy to assist.

Salt and Light

Dear Congregation,

The church's primary mission is to make disciples and to teach them to observe all that Jesus commands.

When peer pressure, cultural nudging, and governmental coercion presses His children to violate scripture's clear teaching and commands, His children must not comply.

Earlier this year the Washington State Legislature removed rights of parents with children in public schools – among them are rights to review materials, to receive important notifications about their child, to opt out of objectionable activities, and to be informed of the child's healthcare decisions and of the medical procedures offered to that child.

God has established parents as the realm of authority over their children (Ephesians 6:1-3, Colossians 3:20, Exodus 20:12), and He prohibits the government from exceeding its God-given authority over citizens (Matthew 22:21). Paul made three legal appeals when he was treated unjustly (Acts 16:37-39, 22:25-29, 25:12).

There is an initiative IL26-001 that has been written to reestablish the rights of the parents of public-school children – rights lost due to recent legislative action. In recognition of clear scriptural teaching and our duty to shepherd parents and children here at Boulevard Park Church, we ask that you prayerfully consider signing the petition for initiative IL26-001 entitled "Strengthen Communication Between Parents and Schools", and if it should become a ballot measure in the future – to vote yes.

On a separate but not unrelated topic, biological males are allowed to compete in girls' sports in the State of Washington and laws that originally created opportunities for women and girls are being erased.

As shepherds of the church, we believe it is right to protect women and girls in the Lord, especially those here at Boulevard Park Church (Acts 20:28). We also believe that the current introduction of males into spaces rightly intended exclusively for female students is a subversive attack on females as well as the created order of male and female (Genesis 1:26-27) by destructive ideologies "raised up against the

knowledge of God" (2 Corinthians 10:5).

There is an initiative IL26-638 that has been written to require policies prohibiting male students from competing with or against female students in certain athletic activities that are intended for female students only. We encourage you to prayerfully consider and sign the petition for Initiative IL26-638 entitled "Protecting Fairness in Girls Sports", and if it becomes a ballot measure in the future – to vote yes.

We are not suggesting faith be placed in the initiative process. If history is our guide, the measures may not pass, and if they do pass, extremely effective forces will work to subvert either ballot measure.

While history can be a helpful secondary guide, it is not our ultimate guide – God's Word is our supreme and final authority in faith and life, and the church, like Ezekiel, is called to speak God's words "to them whether they listen or not" (Ezekiel 2:7). Our attitude in all such matters should align with Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, "If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the furnace of blazing fire; and He will deliver us out of your hand, O king. But even if He does not, let it be known to you, O king, that we are not going to serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up." (Daniel 3:17-18).

Since the time when God first established governments, a citizen's opportunity to vote for an initiative has been a rare gift. An initiative directionally aligned with God's Word is even more rare – a gift that should not be cynically buried but rather gratefully stewarded. Regardless of outcome, this is a clear opportunity for believers to be a salty preservative, a city on a hill, a light to the world (Matthew 5:13-16).

The Board of Elders
Boulevard Park Church

NOTE: If you missed the opportunity on Sunday, November 23, to sign the petitions for the initiatives, they are available on the counter in the church office.

Calendar Events

DECEMBER 2025

REGULAR SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9:00A Adult Sunday School
9:15A KIDS & Youth Sunday School
10:30A KIDS Church
10:30A Worship In Person and Live Stream

Sunday December 7

Second Sunday in Advent
9:15A Prayer Meeting
10:30A Worship/Communion
2:30P Transform Burien

Sunday December 14

Third Sunday in Advent

Sunday December 21

Fourth Sunday in Advent

Monday, Dec. 1, 15, 22, 29

6:00P Men's Bible Study
7:00P GriefShare

Wednesday, December 3, 10

6:00P Wednesday Night Dinner
6:30P KIDS Adventure Clue
6:30P Youth Group
6:30P Worship Rehearsal
6:40P Adult Bible Study

Saturday, December 6

2:00P Carol-Sing & Cookies

Monday, December 8

11:00A Ladies Fellowship Circle

Tuesday, December 9

9:30A MomLife

Thursday, December 11

3:30P Care Partners

Friday, December 12

7:00P Christmas Worship/
Church Sanctuary

Wednesday, December 17

9:30A Ladies BSO Bible Study

Saturday, December 20

8:00A Men's Breakfast (off site)

Wednesday, December 24

7:00P Christmas Eve Service

Thursday, December 25

Christmas Day
Church Office Closed

Friday, December 26

Church Office Closed

Right Now, Counts for Eternity

By Paul Clements, Elder

Scripture Reference: 1 Timothy 1:17

“Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.”

The title of this article is from a quote from the noted theologian, Dr. R.C. Sproul. When I first encountered this citation, it caused me to reflect on our perception of time and how our lives are shaped by awareness, or lack of awareness of it. Time is a concept that affects us all, but few of us can put together a meaningful definition.

I have now passed my biblically allotted “three score and ten years.” As a natural consequence of this epiphany, I find myself looking more in the review mirror than through the windshield of life. Having now retired from full-time work, I have more control over my daily schedule. I mistakenly believed that this would naturally slow the pace of life and allow me to casually stroll into my retirement years at a comfortable pace. I had thought that time would, in effect, slow to match my expectations. Unfortunately, this is not my experience. Days flip by faster than the dollar sign on the gas pump. Holidays seem to roll by so fast that they seem to stumble into each other, and years seem to blend into an endless continuum of increasingly blurred activities. Sonny Bono’s 1960’s song asserted that the “Beat Goes On,” implying, of course, that the drumbeat of time is relentless and goes on despite our efforts to impede it. But my experience tells me that the beat not only goes on, but the tempo accelerates, each and every day. Worst of all, I seem to be unable to do anything about it.

All this has me reflecting not just on the subject of time, but also upon God’s relationship to time. How does God view time? If God made time,

is He subject to its constraints? How is His relationship with time different from our own experience? The May 2025 issue of *Table Talk* magazine addressed this issue in article entitled “God’s Divine Eternality.” It reads in part:

“Our Creators eternity, or eternity as it is sometimes called, concerns God’s relationship to time. Time is exceptionally difficult to wrap our minds around; but defining it is much harder. We can at least say that it involves a succession of moments and can mark the beginning and end of things in creation such as days, months, years, and lifespans. We know what it is like to experience change over time, to relate to the world in terms of yesterdays, today, and tomorrow.

“God’s relationship to time, however, is far different. He is, as today’s passage tells us, the “King of the ages,” or “King eternal,” as some translations put it (1Tim1:17). This means that God has no beginning or end. There was never a time when the Lord did not exist and there will never be a time when He will not exist. As we noted in an earlier study, God is (Ex. 3:14). He has no beginning or end, but being eternal, He is the Alpha and Omega, the beginning, and the end (Rev 1:8). Francis Turrentin, the seventeenth century Reformed theologian who worked in Geneva about hundred years after John Calvin, writes that God “is the beginning without beginning because while he is the beginning of all things, he himself has no beginning. He is the end without

end because (since He is the end to which all things are referred) he can have no end.”

“God, in fact, is the creator of time itself. To live in time, as we do, is to experience change, including growth, and decline. Since the Lord cannot change (Mal 3:6), He does not live in time. Every moment is always immediately present to Him. He sees all time and is Lord over time all at once.”

In my years in the heavy construction industry every contract I worked with included the term, “time is of the essence.” This term was used to impart the importance of a contractor understanding the schedule and the related liquidated damages that would be assessed if the project were not complete within the allotted time. As with construction contracts, I have come to a renewed awareness of the ironclad constraints time has on our lives. The older I get the more I come to understand that to us, “time is of the essence.” In my reflection of this engaging magazine article, I come away with four takeaways.

1. God does not change.
2. Every moment is immediately present to God. He sees all time at once, the past, the present, and the future.
3. Time is of the essence. Each of us only has a finite amount of time. It is not endless.
4. Right now, counts for eternity.

This all reminds me of the old hymn by C. Smith. The first stanza goes like this:

*“Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
most blessed, most glorious, the
Ancient of Days,
almighty, victorious, thy great name
we praise.”*

Children's Ministry

Activities Update

By Jedidiah Thangthat

Monthly Programs

1. Sunday Programs: We held 4 Sunday School sessions and 4 Kids Church gatherings in October. Sunday School attendance ranged from 15–24 children, including Nursery and PreK. Kids Church averages 14-20 kids weekly. Overall, we had between 39 and 47 kids and volunteers participating each Sunday.

2. KidLife (2nd & 4th Tuesdays): KidLife met twice in October. October 14th had 13 kids and 15 volunteers, and October 28th had 28 kids and 13 volunteers.

3. Adventure Club (Wednesday nights): We held 5 sessions in October, averaging 11 kids and 7 volunteers each week. After a couple of months of adjustment, the program has found a good rhythm. Special thanks to Kelly S. for her dedication and invaluable help in making Adventure Club a success.

[See photos on this page.]

Trunk or Treat

Despite the heavy rain, Trunk or Treat was a huge success! About 250 people attended according to our greeting team, and 49 volunteers served joyfully and faithfully. Families enjoyed a fun, safe evening together. Thank you to all who helped represent Christ so well and made the night such a blessing!

[See photos on page 8.]

Prayer Requests

Please continue to pray for everyone involved in our Children's Ministry to serve with wisdom, love, humility, patience, and a deep passion for discipling children. Ask for unity and strength among volunteers and leaders as we prepare and serve together.

Praise God for providing enough volunteers for our Children's Ministry and for blessing us with a successful Trunk or Treat event despite the heavy rain! (Lord willing, we are considering hosting it indoors in the MPR next year. We will see.)



Photos: Jedidiah Thangthat

Celebrations!

December Birthdays

- 5 Randy Sneesby
- 6 Jo Ann Peterson
- 8 Micah Harder
- 11 George Brown
Sharon Nickells
Carmel Walder
- 12 Miesha Hartley
- 13 Julia Barton
Roma Erdahl
- 17 Robin Sheppard
- 21 Roger Cox
Bennet Faulkner
- 23 John Siedenburg
- 24 Barb Fletcher
- 25 Bud Diener
- 28 Carolyn Parish
- 29 Barry Dubnow
Bonnie Johnson

Early 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

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



BOULEVARD PARK CHURCH

1822 S 128th Street
Burien WA 98168-2903

*Reaching Our
World for Christ*



Photos: Jeddiah Thanghorat

Wet and Wild!

Trunk or Treat, Friday, October 31, 2025

