



THE NEWSLETTER OF BOULEVARD PARK CHURCH

DECEMBER 2024

HERE I STAND

Tidings of Comfort and Joy

By Pastor Bud

It appears that after hearing that Mary was with child, Joseph was afraid to take her as his wife (Mt. 1:20). For that reason, an angel of the Lord visited Joseph in a dream saying, *“Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife; for the One who has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit.”*

Joseph was a righteous man; by definition, righteous men fear God. He would have rather experienced pain than sense God’s displeasure with him. Fearing God means living life in the presence of God, by His strength, and for His glory. Whatever darkness Joseph faced by the revelation that his betrothed was pregnant, his fear of the Lord was a fixed point in his life, causing him to repel unrighteousness. But now, the angel told him not to fear that taking Mary as his wife would offend God. In essence, the angel said, *“God knows you do not want to grieve Him; he knows you see no option but the dissolution of your betrothal. But the Lord has sent me to tell you that Mary’s child is not the fruit of her sin but of God’s Spirit. Marry her!”*

Imagine how Joseph must have felt when he woke up. If he had known Joachim Neander’s hymn, “Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of Creation,” he might have broken out into song, singing,

Praise to the Lord,
Who o’er all things so wondrously reigneth,
Shelters thee under his wings,
Yea, so gently sustaineth:
Hast thou not seen
How thy heart’s wishes have been
Granted in what he ordaineth?

Strictly speaking, Jesus’ birth was not supernatural but as natural as yours or mine. But his conception in the womb of a virgin was supernatural: the work of the Holy Spirit in Mary. People today may claim science and say that virgin births do not happen. Scientifically, they did not occur in the first century either. Joseph was well aware of that fact. But he knew something else. From childhood, he had heard and memorized the opening words of the Pentateuch, “In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth” (Gen. 1:1). God had brought the world into existence out of nothing. It was, therefore, not beyond the scope of His power to cause a virgin to bring a child into the world.

Joseph believed it. Although it must have been overwhelming to learn that God was doing such miraculous work in the young woman Joseph intended to marry, he trusted the report of the angel and would take Mary to be his wife.

Do you ever wonder how you would have reacted if you were in Joseph’s shoes? In one important sense, we are in his shoes. Joseph was challenged to believe that God had done this. So are we. He was challenged to welcome Jesus, who would save His people from their sins (Mt. 1:21). So are we.

The bad news of a pregnant fiance was, by important context, transformed into tidings of great comfort and joy. The coming of Jesus changed everything. The news of a Savior born of a virgin in a small town called Bethlehem is unique. Jesus was not the only baby born on that night. But, He was the only Savior born according to prophecy, through a promise made by God generations earlier, to destroy the works of the devil and

See *Tidings*, page 6

INSIDE

An Amazing Anniversary > page 2
Carols, Cookies & Cocoa > page 3

Christmas Joy! > page 4-5
Christmas Celebration for All! > page 6

January Women’s Connect > page 7

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



Photo Credit: M.H.*

Just returned from overseas ministry, D.H.* spots her husband at the Dallas airport.

Welcome Home, D.*

By Ellyn Roe

The Press is happy to report that two weeks ago wheelchair-dependent D.H.* returned safely to her Dallas home after an exhausting but fruitful three-week teaching ministry in a high-risk area on the far side of the world. There were many challenges: her broken foot, the climate, illness, persistently spicy foods, and unexpected airline issues, to name a few. But all were met by God's provision.

In the November Press you can see additional photos (blurred for security) of D. taken at the BPC Global Workers' Fest. Let's all ask God to nurture the teaching her ministry field received, and let's give thanks for God's kindness in meeting her needs.



**Boulevard Park Press
December 2024**

Published Monthly by
Boulevard Park Church

1822 S 128th Street
Burien, Washington 98168-2903

Phone: 206-243-2600

E-mail: Info@bppc.org

Website: www.bpcburien.org

Pastor: Bud Diener

Worship

Services: Sunday at 10:30 a.m.

Press Staff

Editor: Eva Lee Henderson

Reporters: Ellyn Roe

Photographer: Jessica Sneesby

Proofreader: Peggie Recker

The Press also is available on
the church website.

January Deadline: December 15

E-mail: bpcpress@bpcburien.org

An Amazing Anniversary

By Mark and Joanne Mackey

At the end of October, a great event was celebrated in Zaporizhzhia, Ukraine — the 30th anniversary of Zaporizhzhia Bible Seminary (ZBS). The celebration took place during a difficult time, as heavy shelling in the city began in September and continues until now. Bombs have exploded in the neighborhood where the original ZBS building was located. Nevertheless, the ZBS leadership led a beautiful celebration honoring our Lord's faithfulness. Alumni, local pastors, church members, friends, and the ZBS faculty and staff attended the celebration and enjoyed tea and cakes in the Seminary library after the church service.

We extend our thanks to Boulevard Park Church for your faithfulness in this ministry during all these 30 years!



Anniversary choir

Photo Credits: D.P.*



At right: ZBS faculty with thank you plaques from current administration.



Carols, Cookies & Cocoa

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

SAVE THE DATE SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7

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

AT BOULEVARD PARK CHURCH



You are invited to welcome the Christmas season with a very special afternoon of Christmas carols, cookies, cocoa and fellowship. Steve Roe will lead and Jo Ann Peterson will provide piano accompaniment for our carol-sing in the sanctuary. Afterward, we'll move to the Multipurpose Room for cookies, cocoa, coffee, and warm 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.

Be sure to invite your friends, neighbors, co-workers, and family members. 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 let Peggie Recker know. Contact: peg_recker@comcast.net or call/text 206-919-2292.

Milestones

Deaths

Dee Secrest

November 13, 2024

Gene Deda

November 21, 2024

husband of Jan Deda

FREE GIFTS FOR CHRISTMAS? Shop early!

There are wall decorations and books awaiting you in the Conference Room (302). These items on the floor, against the walls, are leaving the church. Please help yourself to those you would like, and thank you!

— Church Staff

Tending the Flock

Christmas Joy!

By Doug Barton, Elder

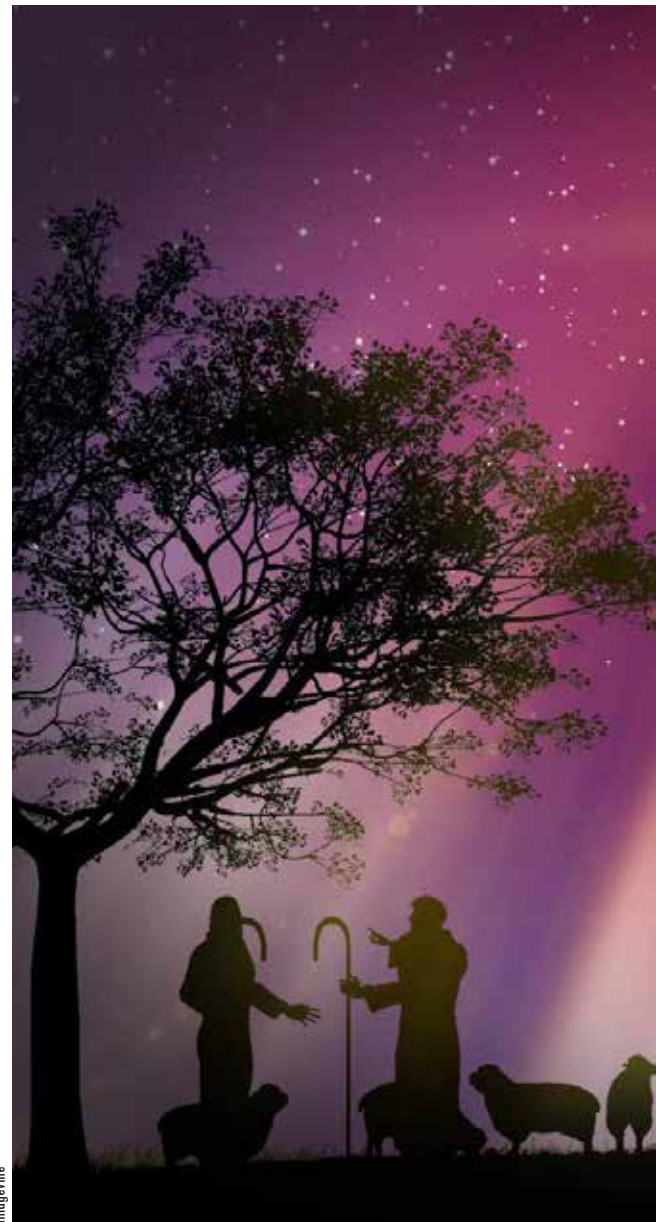
It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas! Well at least at my house it is. My favorite rendition of this song is by Michael Bublé. I danced with my daughter to that song at her wedding in June of 2023. So, if you ask me the age-old question of how soon you should start listening to Christmas music my answer is, "It is never too soon." And what about how soon you can decorate? Well, I will just say that I had two Christmas trees up on November first, and had made the first batch of Christmas cookies and put up Christmas lights on the house the first week of November. And if not for my wife and daughter's insistence that I hold off, I would have started sometime in October. Yes, I am one of THOSE people. It truly is the most wonderful time of the year.

But I also recognize that not everyone agrees with me on this. During the holiday season there is more traffic and crowds at the mall, the weather is cold and blustery... and I am struggling to find faults with Christmas time. But seriously, I know for some, Christmas does not bring happy memories and can even be a difficult time. So rather than focus on the tinsel and lights on the trees, let's focus on what Christmas really means. I hope that by doing that, we can all agree and find joy in the glorious story of why we celebrate Christmas.

Charles Spurgeon once said that he wished we celebrated Christmas more than once a year so that he could preach more often on the incarnation.

Linus explains the true meaning of Christmas to Charlie Brown by quoting the story in Luke chapter 2. *"And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. And the angel said to them, 'Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the*

heavenly host praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!' When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another 'Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.' And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured up all these things,



ImageLine

pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.”

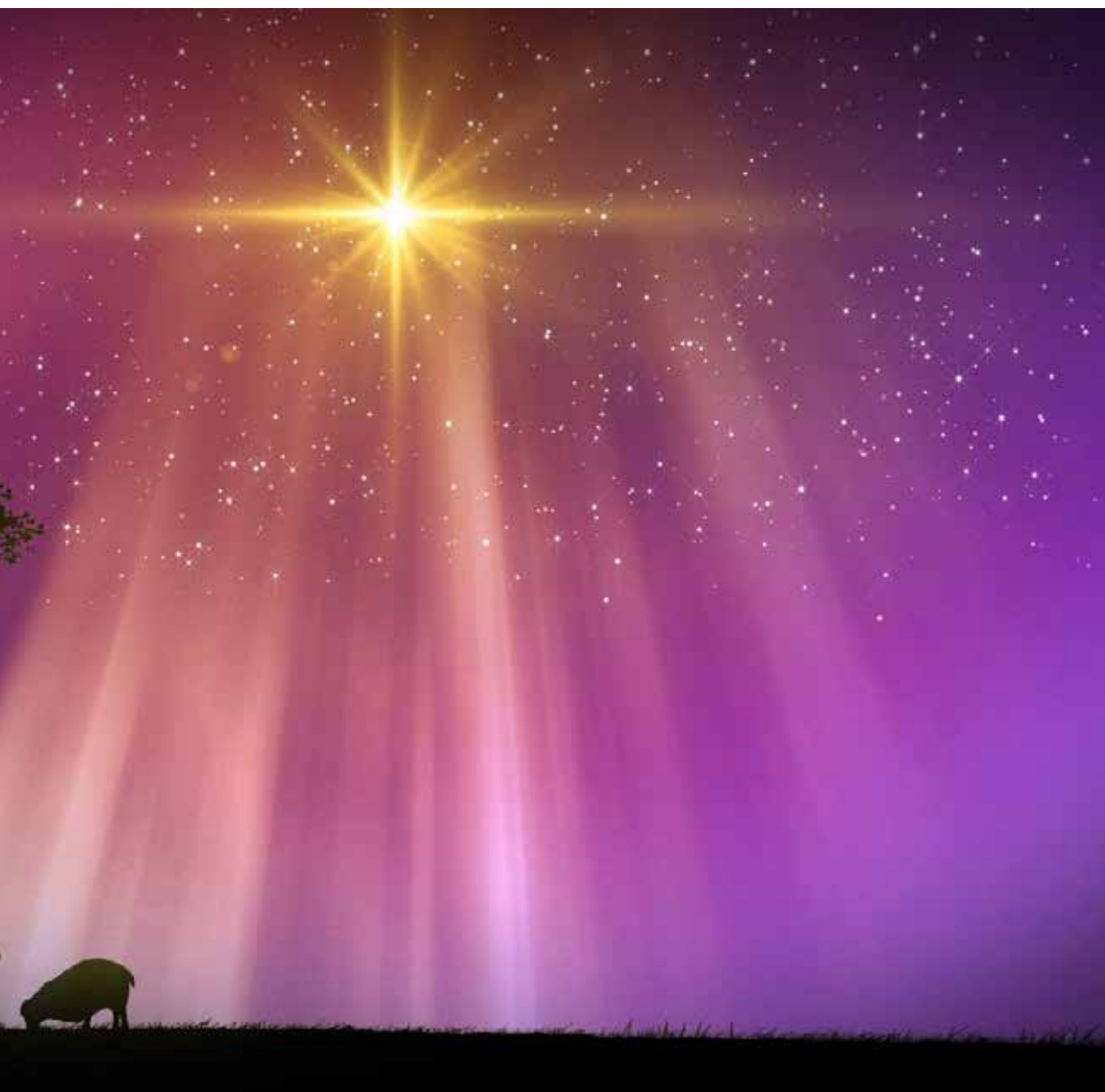
Christmas is all about the incarnation of Christ. Put aside the Christmas trees, twinkling lights, decorations and traditions. We celebrate the amazing truth of the Son of God coming to earth as a baby. God becoming flesh and dwelling among us (John 1:1).

So why did Christ come? Galatians 4:4-5 says, *“But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.”*

Before the foundation of the world, God knew we would need a Savior to save us from our sin and planned to send His Son Jesus to come as a baby, taking on human

flesh, to live a perfect sinless life, to fulfill the law for us which we could never fulfill ourselves. He became the perfect lamb, led to the slaughter to die for our sins. His blood paid the price of our sins. He was raised from the dead, defeating death once and for all so that all who call upon the name of Jesus will be saved to the glory of God. That is the Gospel, the glorious message of Christmas.

I would encourage you to read through the book of Luke during the month of December, one chapter a day. Start with the story of Christ’s birth and end on Christmas Eve, with Christ’s triumphant resurrection, the fulfillment of our redemption. This truly is, as the angel said, ***“Good news of great joy that will be for all people.”*** Let’s focus on the perfect gift of Jesus and may that bring you great joy this Christmas season.



Calendar Events

DECEMBER 2024

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

December 8, 15, 22, 29

9:00A Adult Sunday School

9:15A KIDS Sunday School
Youth Sunday School

10:30A KIDS Church

10:30A Worship in person
& Livestream

Sunday, December 1

9:00A Prayer Meeting

9:15A KIDS & Youth Sunday
School

10:30A KIDS Church

10:30A Worship in person
& Livestream

Sunday, December 22

10:30A KIDS present Christmas
story during worship
service

Monday, December 2, 9, 16

6:00P Men's Bible Study

7:00P GriefShare

Wednesday, Dec. 4, 11, 18

9:30A Women's Bible Study

6:00P Wednesday Night Dinner

6:00P Youth Group

6:40P Adult Bible Study

Saturday, December 7

2:00P Carols & Cookies

Tuesday, December 10

9:30A MOMLife

Thursday, December 12

1:00P Memorial Service

for Dee Secrest

Monday, December 16

11:00A Ladies Circle

7:00P GriefShare

11:00P Press Articles Due

Thursday, December 19

6:30P CarePartners

Monday, December 23 & 30

6:00P Men's Bible Study

Tuesday, December 24

7:00P Christmas Eve Service

Wednesday, December 25

Christmas Day

Church Office Closed

Tidings, continued from page 1

give life to those dead in their trespasses and sins. It is why we sing:

O Holy night! The stars are brightly shining,

It is the night of our dear Savior's birth.

Long lay the world in sin and error pining,

'Til He appeared, and the soul felt its worth.

A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices,

For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn;

Fall on your knees; O hear the angel voices!

O night divine, O night when Christ was born!

O night, O Holy night, O night divine!

Joseph must have known that the tidings of comfort and joy delivered by the angel that night would change everything. It did change everything, and it continues to change us in unfathomable ways even today.

I pray that the tidings of comfort and joy are more to you than a nostalgic Christmas carol. Instead, I pray they are salvation, hope, and eternal life.

Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift,

Pastor Bud



A Christmas Celebration for All!

During the worship service on **Sunday, December 22**, we'll hear the Christmas story read from Luke 2 as our children share acting and songs to focus all of us on the truth of God's Word. Participants will be nursery babes and toddlers, preschoolers, elementary-age kids, as well as helpers from our Youth Group. Parents are welcome to accompany their reluctant or non-walkers up to the front and join the group finale.

Our church family is blessed to have so many families with younger children and we look forward to all ages rejoicing together in worship to celebrate God's wonderful gift to us, Jesus Christ our Savior.

If you'd like more information about your child's participation, please contact Ellie Roenicke at ellieroenicke@gmail.com.

Thailand Team and Christmas Cookie Outreach

By Peggie Recker

As you may have learned from our recent Missions Fest, several of our young women will travel to Thailand next summer to assist our Global Worker, Makin, with a sports camp for girls. Each member of our BPC team has participated as a coach or assistant for the last couple of years at our summer Sports Camp and is very able to coach the sports. Most importantly, each one is eager to share the Good News of the Gospel.

We have an opportunity to support the Thailand Team in **A SPECIAL CHRISTMAS OUTREACH**. Our BPC family includes

several dear folks who find it increasingly difficult, if not impossible, to worship in person with us. To show that we love and miss them, on December 15, after church, our Thailand Team ladies will personally deliver a generous plate of their home-baked Christmas cookies to them.

If you'd like to participate in this outreach, you may sponsor one of these very special deliveries (suggested cash donation of \$20) by signing up after church on Sundays, December 1 or 8, or at our all-church carol-sing on Saturday, December 7.



Women's Ministries



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

BOARD GAMES and PUZZLES!

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!



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.

Celebrations!

December Birthdays

- 5 Randy Sneesby
- 7 Jael Nagy
- 8 Micah Harder
- 11 George Brown
Sharon Nickells
Carmel Walder
- 13 Julia Barton
Roma Erdahl
- 17 Robin Sheppard
- 18 La Ruth Christiansen
- 21 Roger Cox
Bennet Faulkner
- 23 John Siedenburg
- 25 Bud Diener
- 28 Carolyn Parish
Beverly Rene
- 29 Bonnie Johnson
- 30 Nancy Brown

Early January BDs

- 1 Lynda Eck
- 5 Lilly Hall
- 8 Edmund Faulkner
- 10 Sheila Richardson
- 11 Greg Heintz
- 12 Kelly Graham

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

Please note:

The Women's Connect Event scheduled for December 14, has been cancelled so we can join the Carols, Cookies & Cocoa Event on Saturday, December 7, at 2 p.m. Please plan to attend.



Christmas at BPC

As Advent begins, Christmas decorations throughout the church remind us of the gift of our Savior, whose birth we celebrate. Many thanks to Linda Huck and Sharon Nickells for their thoughtful planning and joyful displays.



BOULEVARD PARK CHURCH

1822 S 128th Street
Burien WA 98168-2903

*Reaching Our
World for Christ*



Heroes of the Old Testament

PRISCILLA SHIRER
KELLY MINTER
BETH MOORE
JENNIFER ROTHSCHILD
LISA HARPER



***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