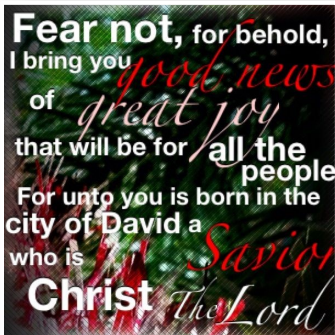




MAKING DISCIPLES FOR CHRIST- ONE HEART AT A TIME- ONE FAMILY AT A TIME

Jesus - The Reason for the Season!!!



Fear not!

On that first Christmas night, the angel said to the shepherds: "Do not be afraid" (Luke 2:10). What is there to fear from a baby? A baby is powerless, with no guile, no anger and no judgment, only needing from us without fearing we will not provide: simply trusting, and content to be resting in our arms. This is how God came. This is Christmas. This one child, and for a time, perhaps too brief, our fears are taken over by our love for this child, and he is able to change our hearts. ...

In Jesus, we are free to live life as fully and as joyfully as we will allow ourselves. For it is only we who hold ourselves back. God does not. For God has forgiven us in this baby and will not restrain us from living with sheer abandon, trusting in this gentle and gracious God, who keeps telling us: "Do not be afraid."

—Gary Westgard, *At Break of Day*

Light shines in the darkness

In Nepal, where blindness is prevalent due to under-funded medical care and a lack of eye doctors, ophthalmologist Sanduk Ruit has made it his mission to treat poor people. He's performed more than 130,000 cataract surgeries to restore sight, sometimes walking for a week with surgical equipment in tow to reach patients. Dr. Ruit also found a way for replacement lenses to be made locally for less than \$3 each, rather than buying them internationally for 100 times as much. The physician brings healing to remote villages and celebrates "big eye-opening festivals" with people who "were blind yesterday, and ... are seeing today."

At Christmas we celebrate the Word of God who came to live among us as Jesus, the light of the world. In countless ways since, God has brought light to those living in literal or figurative darkness.

We celebrate people, such as Dr. Ruit and the 650 doctors he has trained, whom God uses to cause "light [to shine] in the darkness" (John 1:5).

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR DEACONS AND ALL OTHERS INVOLVED IN THE PROCESS AS WE GO THROUGH THIS TIME OF PASTORAL TRANSITION!!!



INSIDE THIS ISSUE: [PAGE 2](#) DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS/HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO THE AUSTINS [PAGE 3](#) DECEMBER SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS AT A GLANCE/INSPIRED BY CHRISTMAS [PAGES 4&5](#) HEALTH NOTES: INFO ON DIABETES AND UPDATE ON COVID-19 [PAGE 5](#)-PUZZLE [PAGE 6](#) APPROACHING THE NEW YEAR [PAGE 7](#) TRUE WORSHIP [PAGE 8](#) PRAYER WARRIORS/YOUTH BIBLE STUDY SCHEDULE [PAGE 9](#) WORSHIP AND STUDY SCHEDULE [PAGE 10](#) ACTIVITY [PAGE 11](#) EVANGELISM AND GIVING [PAGE 12](#) CHURCH INFO/ISAIAH 9:6/ THE CHRISTMAS STAR IS SHINING/JANUARY, 2022 GNL DEADLINE.

Birthdays

D E C E M B E R

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 Audrey Jones	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15 Deloris Ezell Jeanie Gregory	16 Angela Fritts	17	18
19	20	21 First Day Of Winter	22	23 Nancy Beason DuJuan Burrell	24 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas Day Alexis Sanders
26	27 Eulalia Banks Brittany Marshall Sarah Toney	28	29 Francine Dow	30	31 New Year's Eve/Watch Night	

Best Wishes to Mr. and Mrs. Larry Austin. Married since 1971. They are Celebrating their Golden

(50th)

Wedding Anniversary

on

December

18th, 2021



December Dates

- ⇒ Second Sunday of Advent, December 5, 2021
- ⇒ Third Sunday of Advent, December 12, 2021
- ⇒ Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 19, 2021
- ⇒ First day of winter, December 21, 2021
- ⇒ Christmas Eve, December 24, 2021
- ⇒ Christmas Day, December 25, 2021
- ⇒ New Year's Eve/Watch Night, December 31, 2021



DECEMBER 2021

Inspired by Christmas!!!



Sunday School Lessons At-a-Glance

Unit 1-God Requires Justice

Unit 1: God Requires Justice

- ☐ Lesson 1 - December 5 – Justice and Obedience – Deut. 5:1b-3; 10:12,13; 27:1
- ☐ Lesson 2 - December 12 – Justice and Kindness – 2 Samuel 9:1-7, 9-12
- ☐ Lesson 3 -December 19 – Justice and Righteousness – Isaiah 9:2-7
- ☐ Lesson 4 - December 26 – Justice and Deliverance – Nahum 1:1-3, 6-8,12,13,15

Come back to Christmas

When January comes along, we can continue that sense of comfort and warmth that comes at Christmas by returning to the Christmas story, which gives us two great promises: God understands you, and God can redeem you.

I encourage people to make it a point to reread the Christmas story every month, and allow Christmas to be Christmas every month. We need to keep coming back to it.

—Max Lucado, *Publishers Weekly* interview

Where's your security?

When *A Charlie Brown Christmas* debuted in 1965, religious references were unheard of on television. Yet the show's climax features the Christmas story verbatim. As Linus begins reciting Luke 2, he's clutching his ever-present blue blanket. Yet, as pastor Jason Soroski points out, Linus drops it right as he utters the words "fear not" (Luke 2:10).

Soroski believes the timing is intentional and that "Peanuts" creator Charles M. Schulz sends a simple, brilliant message. "The birth of Jesus separates us from our fears," Soroski writes. It "frees us from the habits we are unable (or unwilling) to break ourselves. The birth of Jesus allows us to simply drop the false security we have been grasping so tightly, and learn to trust and cling to him instead."

Upside down?

Even amid increased secularization, God makes the core Christmas message known. Take, for example, the story of a "winter pageant" a mother attended at her son's grade school. Songs of reindeer, snow and Santa included one titled "Christmas Love," in which the youngest performers held up letters as the song progressed: "C," "H," etc.

When a little girl unknowingly held her "M" upside down, the older kids snickered and the adult audience smiled acceptingly. But as the song drew to a close and

all the letters were revealed, surprised recognition struck the Christians in the room.

"CHRISTWAS LOVE," read the string of student-borne letters. God's truth had penetrated the human clutter and confusion around Christmas — as it has power to do throughout our lives: "Christ was love." And of course, he still is.

To: Pastor Keith S. Hackett & First Lady Tanisha:

19"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." (Matt. 28:19-20)

THANK you for your Contributions to & Support of the GNL during 16 years of Pastorship!! Many Blessings on your new assignment as you continue to make disciples for Christ Jesus!

We Love and Appreciate You,
The GoodNewsletter Staff

Health Notes : Diabetes and COVID Update for December 2021

From the Nurses Ministry

Managing your Diabetes and Prediabetes (Healthy Eating for Everyone)

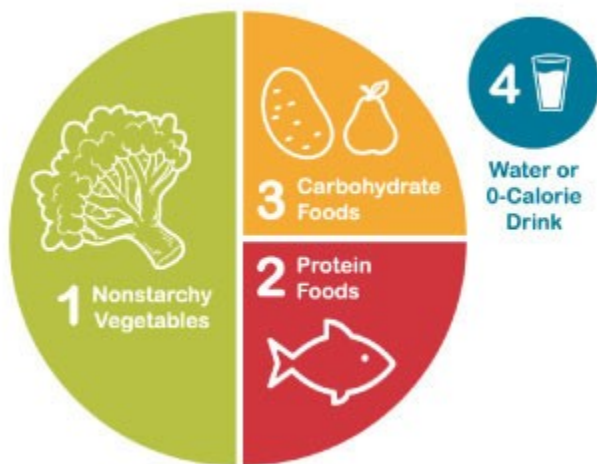
When you're managing diabetes and prediabetes, your eating plan is a powerful tool. But figuring out what to eat can feel like a hassle, right?

One key to feeling your best lies in the food you eat. Most importantly, remember that eating well and adding activity to your daily routine by moving more are important ways you can manage your health even if you don't have diabetes or prediabetes.

There's no single "magic" diet for diabetes, but you can follow a few simple guidelines to find out what works for you to help manage your blood sugar.

INTRODUCING THE DIABETES PLATE METHOD

The Diabetes Plate Method can be used whether you are diabetic or not. With this method you can create perfectly proportioned meals with a healthy balance of vegetables, protein and carbohydrates – without counting, calculating, weighing or measuring.



To start out, you need a plate that is not too big – like no more than 9 inches across.

Fill half your plate with non-starch vegetables that are lower in carbohydrate so they do not raise your blood sugar very much. Examples include asparagus, broccoli, cauliflower, cabbage, carrots, celery, okra, green beans, peppers, salad greens, squash.

Fill one quarter of your plate with lean protein such as fish, chicken, lean beef and cheese. Examples include chicken, turkey, eggs, salmon, cod, shrimp, lean beef, lean pork, cheese and cottage cheese. Plant-based sources of protein: beans, hummus, nuts, tofu.

Fill one quarter of your plate with carbohydrate foods like grains, starchy vegetables, beans and legumes, fruit, yogurt and milk. Limiting your portion of carbohydrate foods can help keep blood sugars from rising too high after meals. Include: Whole grains such as brown rice, bread, pasta. Starchy vegetables such as squash, green peas, potato, sweet potato. Beans and legumes such as kidney, pinto and garbanzo beans. Fruits and dried fruit.

Choose water or a low calorie drink such as unsweetened tea or coffee, sparkling water, flavored water or sparkling water without added sugar, diet soda, etc.

COVID-19 UPDATE

You don't know for certain, but you suspect a friend or family member is hesitant to get the COVID-19 vaccine - or you feel like you owe it to them to encourage them to get the vaccine. Pressuring a person to get the vaccine most often does not work.

A few tips: First, ask permission to share information. Share your experience and help them to find their own reason to get vaccinated (to protect family, friends, children and get back to "normal"). Offer to assist in scheduling an appointment if needed.

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

Kentuckians ages 5 and older can now get a COVID-19 vaccine!

Who should get a booster shot?

If you received a Pfizer or Moderna series:
 65 years and older
 Age 18+ who live in long-term settings,
 have underlying medical conditions or
 work or live in high-risk settings.

If you received a J&J vaccine:
 Age 18+

When should you get a booster shot?

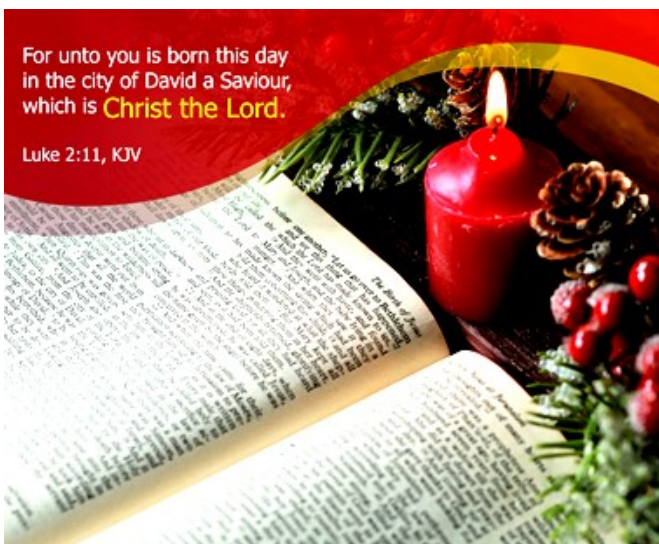
At least 6 months after Pfizer or Moderna
 At least 2 months after J&J

Go to www.govstatus.egov.com/ky-covid-vaccine for more information.

To get assistance with scheduling an appointment, please call 855-598-2246.

Text your zip code to GETVAX – 438829 to receive three vaccine locations near you. Text VACUNA – 822862 for Spanish.

Resources: www.diabetes.org; <https://govstatus.egov.com/kycovid19>



Puzzle!

Starting in the lower-left corner, help the wise men follow the ✦ path that leads to baby Jesus.

Now unscramble these words to discover what gifts the wise men brought Jesus.

LD OG NCAKNRIENFSE RYHMR

Answer: gold, frankincense, myrrh

THE NEW YEAR APPROACHES

LET US PRAY AND LOOK FORWARD JOYFULLY!!!

A prayer for new beginnings

In his book *Awed to Heaven, Rooted in Earth* (Fortress Press), Walter Brueggemann writes in an Epiphany poem:

... this is a time to be born.
 So we turn to you, God of our life
 God of all our years,
 God of our beginning....
 We dare pray that you will do for us
 and among us and through us
 what is needful for our newness.
 Give us the power to be receptive,
 to take the newness you give
 There is a time to be born, and it is now.
 We sense the pangs and groans of your newness.
 Come here now in the name of Jesus. Amen.

How fitting that the Epiphany season and the new year coincide! Epiphany reveals a new King, the beginning of his ministry, his new disciples, his first healings, his "new teaching — with authority" (Mark 1:27). We, too, experience newness, now and year-round. But newness can be tough. So we trust that God, who "[makes] all things new" while banishing "mourning and crying and pain" (Revelation 21:4-5), walks with us in this new year — and always.

Published in: [January 2019](#)

A New Year poem

Another fresh new year is here ...
 Another year to live!
 To banish worry, doubt, and fear,
 To love and laugh and give!

This bright new year is given me
 To live each day with zest ...
 To daily grow and try to be
 My highest and my best!

I have the opportunity
 Once more to right some wrongs,
 To pray for peace, to plant a tree,
 And sing more joyful songs!

—William Arthur Ward

“

God of Love,
 You are with us in every
 transition and change.

As we enter into this new era with
 excitement and even some anxiety,
 we recall your deep compassion,
 presence, and abounding love.

We thank you for the gifts, talents
 and skills with which you have blessed us.

We thank you for the experiences
 that have brought us to this moment.

We thank you for the work of others that
 gives breadth and depth to our own work.

Be with us as we move forward, rejoicing
 with you and supporting one another.

We ask this in your Holy Name.”

JOSEPH P. SHADLE



To 2022

“

May the Lord make my
 New Year a happy one...

Not by shielding me from sorrow
 and pain, but by strengthening
 me to bear it if it comes.

Not by making my path easy,
 but by making me sturdy enough
 to tread any path.

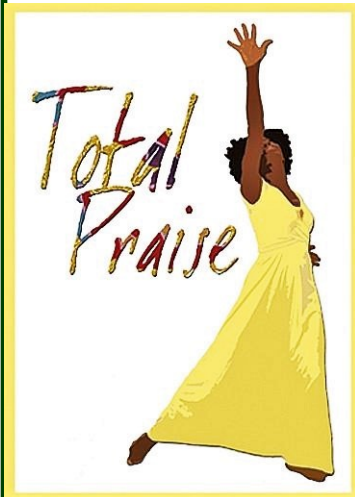
Not by taking hardship from me,
 but by taking all cowardice and fear
 from my heart as I meet hardships.

Not by granting me unbroken
 sunshine, but by keeping my face
 bright even in the shadows.

Not by making my life always
 pleasant, but by showing me where
 men and His cause need me most
 and by making me zealous to be
 there and to help...

God, make my year a happy one.”

FROM GUIDEPOSTS MAGAZINE



True Worship The Highest Praise

By: Denise L. B. Zellars

This quarter our Sunday school class focused on praising and worshiping God. The two terms are not synonymous (*they are not the same*). As disciples, we praise God for the good acts of His mighty hand. And we worship Him because of Who He Is. Praise and Worship is then our response to a Sovereign, Awesome, Holy, Just, Righteous, forgiving and Loving God.

The lessons tend to highlight singing and dancing as we offer praise to our Creator. Oftentimes, there seem to be a rather “denominational style” when it comes to praising Him. Before joining Greater Salem, I would, on rare occasion, visit with my Catholic and non-denominational friends. It was always rather quiet, but the two were unique. While one had music, the other did not. Next, I would visit with other Baptists, and our Apostolic and Pentecostal brothers and sisters, too. Singing, dancing, shouting and many forms of musical instruments can be seen and heard in worship, more so, with the latter two denominations.

Which style of worship is acceptable and pleasing to our Good Lord? To know what is acceptable and pleasing to God, one would have to know *Him*—His Character. We should know that all praise offered up from God's children is acceptable—IF and only IF, it is done in Spirit and in Truth. In **John Chapter 4 verses 23 and 24**, Jesus says to the Samaritan woman at the well, *“Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. God is spirit, and His worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth”*.

Praising and Worshiping Him is not limited to the Church House, but the Church House is still pretty important, and should always be treated with respect and thought of as a place set apart from the world to gather as God's Holy children to worship together and to invite those who do not know Christ. (**See Hebrews 10:25, And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another –and all the more as you see the Day approaching**). We should not get caught up on who sings and shouts the loudest, nor who has certain instruments. There is diversity in worship.

We will find that there are endless ways to praise and worship our Infinite and Holy God. There should be no “style” though, as we submit to our Heavenly Father. One may sing, others may shout, some might stomp their feet and even dance. There are those that praise and worship God through reading and preaching or teaching His Word; while some may write an encouraging article, prayer or poem to glorify Him. This diversity is pleasing to God because God cannot be placed in a box and accept only one form of praise, whether it be singing, or dancing. One can praise and worship God by lifting holy hands, saying Amen/and Hallelujah to His Word. This is true diversity in worship when done in spirit and in truth.

God's diversity is not the world's definition of diversity. Such as, the black and white racial issues, man/woman, adult /child. There is only one race and that is the human race (**See Galatians 3:28, There is neither Jew, nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus**).

What is most pleasing to our Heavenly Father, though? He tells us in His Word (**See Romans 12:1-3**). All of God's creation is commanded to Praise Him (**See Psalm 148:1-10**).

Is Hallelujah the highest praise? Anyone can say Hallelujah, but what is the condition of the heart? Oh! Lord have mercy, and only our Good Lord knows. He is merciful and gracious, and He gives His greatest two Commandments in **Matthew 22:36-40**. “Teacher, what is the greatest commandment in the law?” Jesus replied: *“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”* This is impossible to do without a relationship with Him, Right? We should know that we can do nothing apart from Him (**See John 15:1-17**).

Therefore, a relationship with Him and obedience to His Word is what pleases God most. If we follow **His** greatest two commandments, our response to Him is true **Praise and Worship!** *The ultimate and highest Praise!*

Blessings,

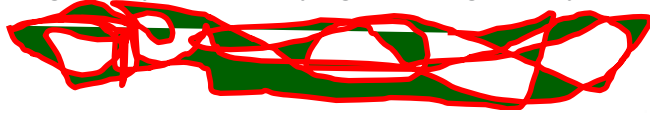
-Denise

Prayer warriors

After tragedies, natural disasters and terrorism, people now commonly turn to social media to request prayers. Although it can feel "jarring" to see "so many references to the divine in spaces normally reserved for vacation photos," writes journalist Eleanor Barkhorn, it's a modern-day version of the New Testament's reminders to pray constantly and in all circumstances.

Over the years, churches have encouraged members to pray through letters, phone chains, prayer breakfasts and prayer groups. "With that context in mind," Barkhorn writes, "Facebook shouldn't cheapen prayer any more than the Postal Service or the telephone does."

Russell Moore of the Southern Baptist Convention says, "Asking for prayer via Twitter or Facebook is no different than calling someone and saying, 'We should really pray for this.' ... Social media can be a tremendous force for good in alerting people to things they can be praying about right away."



YOUTH BIBLE STUDY SCHEDULE

Youth Ages 6-8 Bible Study

Classes will meet every 1st and 2nd Wednesday @ 7:00 - 7:30P.M.

Topic: Fruit of the Spirit

Teachers: Sis. Lynn Fleming and Sis. Mona Fleming

Zoom Link: [https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fus05web.zoom.us%2Fj%2F4825671779&data=04%7C01%7C%7C978dafd4e00a4734b3f908d982c8e3c5%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C637684621588447581%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWlloiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6IjEhaWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&data=cSE38%2Bzb6cnntQWSsT2r%2F8ZpybBvwqoDuluDD3W9kio%3D&reserved=0?pwd=NlhZ3B1cEFKYXVhYzB3N3ZSzdKUT09.](https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fus05web.zoom.us%2Fj%2F4825671779&data=04%7C01%7C%7C978dafd4e00a4734b3f908d982c8e3c5%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C637684621588447581%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWlloiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6IjEhaWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&data=cSE38%2Bzb6cnntQWSsT2r%2F8ZpybBvwqoDuluDD3W9kio%3D&reserved=0?pwd=NlhZ3B1cEFKYXVhYzB3N3ZSzdKUT09.PassCode%208420)

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Ages 9-12 Bible Study

Classes will meet on Wednesday, October 6th and Wednesday,

October 13th. Classes will meet every 1st and 2nd Wednesday @

7:30-8:15 P.M.

Topic: Fruit of the Spirit

Teachers: Sis. Renita Ennels

Students are invited to Join by Conference Call:

freeconferencecall.com. The meeting ID is "theclass" or by dialing

425.436.6355 Access Code: 10092020

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Ages 13-18 Bible Study

Classes meet on Saturday, October 9th and Saturday, October

23rd.

Classes will meet every 2nd & 4th Saturday in October @ 5:00 P. M.

Topics: Psalm 91:God Rescues & Fruit of the Spirit

Teachers: Deacon Theron Exum and Deacon Stefan Dennison

Opportunities to Be in the Presence of God through the Study of His Word, Prayer, and with Regular Worship while maintaining Social Distance!!!

- ⇒ *Sunday Worship services are held in the sanctuary and streamed online on Facebook live at 11:15 A.M. and then made available for viewing later on the Greater Salem Website: greatersalembaptist.org or the Greater Salem Facebook page.*
- ⇒ *The weekly Bible study will be held live in the Sanctuary and continue on Facebook Live every Wednesday except the 4th Wednesday at 6:00 PM and can be viewed later on the Greater Salem website or Facebook Page. **The number and access code are: (978)990-5000 - 703263#.***
- ⇒ ***On Wednesday nights after bible study, we now have an in-person prayer service at 7:00 PM. Although it is not shown on FB LIVE, those who are watching bible study on FB LIVE and anyone else can call in to join us for prayer service during that time. **The Dial-in number is 605-472-5736. Access code: 2239663. Online meeting ID: aagrsalem-Host Pin is 6620.*****
- ⇒ *You can join in the weekly Sunday School class in-person in the Sanctuary or via conference call at 10:00 AM on Sundays. Just call (978)990-5000 and when prompted enter the access code: 721799#. Online meeting ID: Host Pin is 3405*
- ⇒ *Wednesday's Noon Day Prayer Service meets in person each week in the Church Sanctuary .*
- ⇒ *The Women's Ministry's Bible Study classes will resume once the schedule is determined. All women, ages 18 and over are welcome.*
- ⇒ *Men's Bible Study is being held In-Person in the sanctuary and by Conference call on the 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th Saturday of each month at 10:15 AM. **The dial-in number is (605-468-8738. The access code is 5398693. Online Meeting ID is gsbc1009 and the host pin is 3405.***
- ⇒ *Rev. Dan Hall and Sister Mary Stoddard will be leading the weekly Friday Bible Study via conference call at 11:30 am. The conference call information is as follows: Dial (978) 990-5000 and when prompted enter Access Code: 703263#*
- ⇒ *Tithes and offering can be delivered to the church on weekdays between 10 AM and 2:00 PM. They can be given to the Deacons on duty (587-8869) or placed in the mail slot (after hours). You can also send them to Greater Salem Baptist Church at 1009 W Chestnut Street, Louisville 40203. Call 587-8869 if you need someone to pick-up your tithes and offerings. **Online Giving can be accessed on the church Website through VANCO. Vanco Online Giving is on the GSBC website, greatersalembaptist.org under the HOME/Give heading. Click on the link and follow the simple step-by-step Process.***
- ⇒ ***For details on Youth Classes please see page 8.***
- ⇒ *If you'd like to take the Lord's Supper, you can do so on every first Sunday of the month. It will be served by the Deacons on the parking lot as well as in the Sanctuary. Please drive through to be served. (As always, remember to maintain a proper Social Distance)*
- ⇒ *You can get a paper copy of the GoodNewsLetter on the first Sunday or via mail by contacting the church at 587-8869 and leaving your name and address.*

PUZZLE



What's in a name?
 An angel told Joseph what to name Mary's baby. Solve the puzzle to discover the name's meaning.

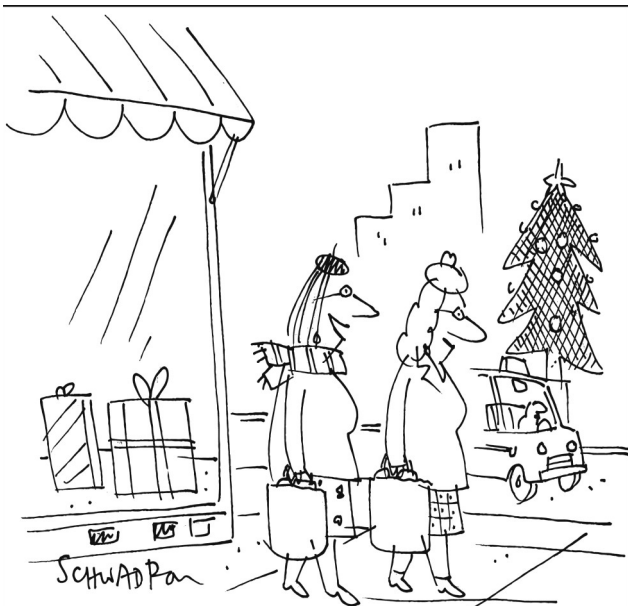
Directions: Begin at the circled H below and follow the arrows. Circle every other letter, and then place them in order to complete Matthew 1:21.

"S_e w_ll _ _ve b ir_ _
 to _ s_n, and _ _u a_e to
 gi_e i_ the _ _me J_ _us,
 b_c_u_ _ he ill s_e his
 _ _op_e f_o_ t_ ir s_n_."

MATTHEW 1:21, NIV

START HERE

A I N G F I P **H** S C I B E J H A



"I decided to give everyone on my list a 3-D printer and let them make their own gifts."

Bible Quiz

In Matthew's genealogy, which woman is *not* mentioned as Jesus' ancestor?

- A. Tamar
- B. Rahab
- C. Mary
- D. Ruth
- E. Sarah
- F. Bathsheba



Answer: (See Matthew 1:1-17.)

SIMPLE SYMBOLS

Create personalized initial ornaments for family and friends.



What you need:

- Small twigs (various shapes and sizes)
- Hot glue
- Yarn
- Scissors
- Adult help

What you do:

1. After gathering twigs, arrange them to create uppercase letter shapes. Cross, bend and break twigs, as needed.
2. Glue "letters" together at the intersections.
3. Cut an arm-length of yarn and wind it around twigs to add color to each letter.
4. Create a loop of yarn and tie it to the top of the ornament for hanging.

Christian Symbol



EVERGREEN

—These trees, which keep their green leaves year-round, are symbolic of Christmas, eternal life and God's everlasting love. In the Bible, evergreen trees are called the "cedars of Lebanon," suggesting growth (Psalm 92:12), height (Amos 2:9), fragrance (Hosea 14:6) and steadfast faith.



FROM THE EVANGELISM MINISTRY FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

2 CORINTHIANS 8:1-15

GIVING AND EVANGELISM

BY MEAGAN HILL

When institutions and organizations want to construct a new building, they often invite their supporters to purchase a single brick. The bricks are inscribed with the supporters' names, and they serve as a reminder that many people contributed a small part to make a larger project possible.

Today we will consider how financial generosity is an important way that we participate in evangelism. Our reading gives us the specific example of the members of the Macedonian church who "gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability" (v. 3) to support the Jerusalem church. Though we may only have the equivalent of "two very small copper coins" (Mark 12:42) to give, we are contributing to something much larger: the work of the church in the world. Our gifts allow gospel ministers and evangelists to preach the gospel without distraction (1 Tim. 5:17-18), they send gospel labors to faraway places, and they maintain the ordinary ministry of the local church so that it can extend an invitation to people in our communities.

We may be tempted to approach our financial gifts with a grudging attitude, carefully measuring how little we can get away with giving and how much we can keep for ourselves. But the Macedonians encourage us to think differently about giving. These Christians saw the oppor-

tunity to give as a privilege. In fact, they "urgently pleaded" (v. 4) with Paul for his permission to give!

The Macedonian Christians knew that giving was a way for them to share in the work of the gospel, and so it was something they greatly desired. They wanted to imitate Christ, who "though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich" (2 Cor. 8:9).

APPLY THE WORD

Sharing our financial resources with our local church and other Christian ministries is an important way to participate in evangelism. Let's strive to imitate the Macedonians, who "welled up in rich generosity" (v. 2). Review your financial giving—are you regularly giving to support missionaries or Christian organizations?

Megan Hill serves on the editorial board for *Christianity Today* and is a regular contributor to CT Women and The Gospel Coalition website. She is the author of *Praying Together: The Priority and Privilege of Prayer: In Our Homes, Communities, and Churches*, and a graduate of Grove City College. She lives in West Springfield, Mass., with her husband and four children.

From: <https://www.todayintheword.org/issues/2018/2/devotions/20/>

February 2018

If you are interested in evangelism and want to talk to someone about this, you can contact the Church office at 502-587-8869 and speak with Deacon Merrill or any member of the Evangelism Team!!!

The GoodNewsLetter is available online at greatersalembaptist.org



Opportunities to be in the presence of God through the study of His word and In the Center of Prayer (See Pages 8 & 9 for updated schedule of in person and online audio or video opportunities)



The Star of Christmas Is Shining

The star of Christmas is shining;
It's shining for all to see.
Follow it's light to the Savior;
Find Him, in faith bow the knee.

He's no longer in a manger;
Nor upon a cruel tree.
Death could not keep Him in a grave;
His love won eternally.

A Christmas wreath hangs from the cross;
A bow on the manger bed.
An evergreen tree is now standing;
Below the star up ahead.

In Jesus we live forever;
Our sins are all washed away.
God gave us a gift from heaven;
That astounding Christmas day.

The star of Christmas is shining;
From pages of love and truth.
The greatest gift ever given;
Was written in blood for you.

Susan Y Nikitenko
December 14th, 2012

Greater Salem Baptist

1009 West Chestnut Street
Louisville KY 40203

Office Staff

Monica Little

Lenette Dennison

Telephone Number

502-587-8869

Email:

aagsalem@bellsouth.net

Office Hours

Monday through Friday

09:00 am to 02:00 pm

Saturday 10:00 am to 2:00 pm

See page 9 for online schedules



MAKING DISCIPLES FOR CHRIST
ONE HEART AT A TIME - ONE FAMILY AT A TIME

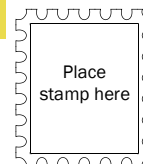
From:

Watch Night Services -Friday, December 31, 9 -10:00 PM

Greater Salem Baptist Church

1009 West Chestnut Street

Louisville, KY 40203



Deadline for the January 2022 GNL
12/19/2021