

THE MESSENGER

A monthly publication of Zephyr Christian Church

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ZEPHYR CHRISTIAN CHURCH

SHARING THE LOVE AND
JOY OF JESUS

Hebrews 13:15 “Through Him then, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that give thanks to His name..”

New Message Series for January - "One On One With Jesus" - we will be looking at personal interactions people had with Jesus in the Gospel of John.

Christmas Blessings



PRAYERS & PRAISE

- ◆ **FLORIDA RESIDENTS** - recovery from hurricane
- ◆ **NORTH CAROLINA RESIDENTS** - recovery from hurricane
- ◆ **Adrian** - recovery from hip surgery (Jaimi W.'s mom)
- ◆ **Billy M.** - cancer/dementia (Cherie')
- ◆ **Dale & Curtis** - Dale using walker and slowly moving (Fern)
- ◆ **Ellen Annis** - health concerns
- ◆ **Meenu Arya** - cancer (friend of Wernetta family)
- ◆ **Shelli Candy** - brain tumor/comfort
- ◆ **Brynlee Beagel** - Praise the Lord! Operation went well!
- ◆ **Norman Budd** - cancer (Marti Bontrager's friend)
- ◆ **Katherine Ferrell** - dementia (Michele Danella's mother)
- ◆ **Dave Gorton** - passed away (Jo Uber)
- ◆ **Happy Reed** - growth in heart/upcoming surgery
- ◆ **Mickey Roberts** - cancer (M. Danella's brother-in-law)
- ◆ **Katherine Robles** - health concerns
- ◆ **Michael Roque** - cancer (John Roque's dad)
- ◆ **Sue Sabatucci** - Praise the Lord, cancer in remission!
- ◆ **Phil & Pam Smith** - eye/comfort/strength
- ◆ **Denise Stewart** - lungs/emphysema
- ◆ **Mike** - kidney stones, covid , family too (Cherie' Osborne)
- ◆ **ZCC**- Praise the Lord for all blessings that we have received since the storm!

Birthdays:

- 2 - Karol Perkins
- 6 - Mark Thomas
- 13 - Bea Mielke
- 16 - James Miller
- 16 - Phil Smith
- 18 - Cathy Cochran
- 21 - Jackson Dobbs
- 21 - Jennifer Huston
- 29 - Bruce Brandt

Anniversaries:

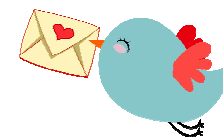
- 9 - Jackson & Christi
- 30 - Rich & Chris



January

SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 HAPPY NEW YEAR!	2	3	4
5 Worship Gem Estates 10AM	6	7	8 KidZCC Night 5:30 - 7PM Genesis Center	9	10	11 Men's Breakfast Legacy CC 9AM
12 Worship Gem Estates 10	13	14	15 KidZCC Night 5:30 - 7PM Genesis Center	16	17	18
19 Worship Gem Estates 10	20	21	22 KidZCC Night 5:30 - 7PM Genesis Center	23	24	25
26 Worship Gem Estates 10	27	28	29 KidZCC Night 5:30 - 7PM Genesis Center	30	31	



Letter from Member

To my church family, what a journey this has been. I am in remission. It's really hard to find the words to thank all of you. I am so grateful for each one of you. Thank you for the cards, the encouraging words, all the hugs and especially your prayers. Thank you to the Women's Sewing Group for the beautiful quilt. Thank you Jon and Linda for visiting when I was in the hospital. I am blessed to be a part of this church. I love each one of you. - Sue Sabatucci

Dear Zephyr Christian Family,

I shared much of this information in my last report to the Elders but thought it might be helpful to share it with the congregation as well. There are some interesting new developments with church outreach and growth.

Let me start by sharing the bad news – Boomers are leaving the church! Boomers are those born between 1946 and 1965 so I'm one of them. For many years Boomers have been the backbone of the church, but Boomers are leaving the church now. Why? Several factors – they are aging so attendance is more difficult; their kids left the church, so they feel less anchored; their spiritual views have changed; they are unwilling to put up with church friction and conflict. How this affects churches is that sometimes this affects giving since Boomers are the wealthiest segment of our population, and many of these people served in ministries but are no longer serving making ministry vacancies.

Now for the good news – church growth is happening among young people! Gen X are those born between 1966 and 1980; Millennials are those born between 1981 and 1996. Those two groups are the only adults attending church more following the COVID pandemic. This doesn't mean that the majority of them are attending church, but it does mean that these two generations are turning to the church instead of away from the church.

But here is a hard reality – the reason these different generations are identified and have names (like Baby-Boomer, Gen X, Millennial, Gen Z, etc.) is because the circumstances in which they grew up caused them to see the world differently and to have different priorities. So, each generation has unique characteristics. Boomers tend to be competitive, work-focused, and money-motivated; Gen X want a work-life balance, they often prioritize experiences over money (they will spend their last dollar to go on a trip, or put an expensive dinner on a credit card) and have a strong independent streak; Millennials grew up with technology so they want constant communication, they expect to be part of the team, and are motivated by their core values. Just as it is sometimes difficult to bring these generations together in the workplace, it is also sometimes difficult to bring these generations together in the church. Some churches make the decision, "We will just seek to minister to one generation and forget all the others." However, I don't think that is what God wants of the church and it is not what we see in the New Testament church – what we see in the New Testament church is a desire to minister together because the church had a united mission; they were able to fellowship and minister together because they showed a lot of grace; and they were able to be the church body because they saw the unique benefits of each other.

Okay, I must stop there but next time I'll share more about what is happening in church outreach and growth.

Sincerely,

Jon