

Doubling Gap Church of God Beacon

50 McCrea Road
Newville, PA 17241
717-776-6092
www.doublinggap.org

Standing in the GAP with the Gospel

FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR DON 'Merry Christmas'

This December marks the 10th one in which I will be your Pastor and as such have an article in the Beacon section titled, "From the Desk of Pastor Don". So I went back and looked at my first December Beacon article and decided to reprint it this year. Surprisingly, not much has changed. Now, grab a cup of coffee or tea (the tea is for my wife!), sit back, and enjoy a reading from 'days gone by'!

"Merry Christmas!" Who would have ever thought that in this country that greeting would cause so much controversy? Employees being prohibited from uttering those 'bigoted' words! "How could you be so insensitive to the faiths of others!"; "Try to be more understanding that not everyone 'thinks' like you do!"... All to which I say, "Bah! Humbug!" How's that for Christmas spirit??!!

So what should our response be to a society that has 'stolen' Christmas? Should we picket those businesses that say 'Happy Holidays!'? Should we boycott those stores that prevent their cashiers from saying "Merry Christmas"? Should we storm the principal's office at the local school because they call Christmas break a 'winter recess' or list the annual Christmas program as a Winter Festival?

As to how the Spirit is speaking to you in those areas, I'll leave that up to the two of you to decide. But one thing I know that we all can do is to follow the advice of Peter...with a little help from your Pastor. In his first letter, the third chapter, in verse 15, he tells us to, "**Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.**" My little bit of help is in this: "**Always be willing to share with everyone, anywhere, and at any time, the reason for the season. And do this with gentleness, love, joy, and...enthusiasm!**" And if someone takes offense to that, smile, say you're sorry that they feel that way and offer to say a prayer for them this *holiday* season! Or is that too subtle??!!

Enjoy this time of the year! Embrace the 'reason for the season'! Don't stress out over the meals, gifts, gatherings, and hustle and bustle that comes to most during this time of year! Let God speak to you this Christmas! Let His love fill you to overflowing! And remember to greet all you meet with a hearty "Merry Christmas!"

Happy Holidays.....er...I mean...

Merry Christmas!!!

(no 'political correctness' needed here...or anywhere!)

Pastor Don

Elders

Charlie Clouse
Shannon Kane-Vice Chairman
Shane Reed-Secretary



Deacons

Carl Baughman-Chairman
Dawn Agar
Sam Clouse



December 2018
Volume 18, Issue 12

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Special points of interest:

Pastor Snyder will have office hours as shown on page 2. If he is unavailable, please leave a message and he will return your call.

In case of an emergency, you may call Pastor Snyder at home or on his cell. Numbers are found on page 2.

PRAYER REQUESTS FOR DECEMBER

Pastor Don

- For a time of focused celebration of Jesus this year
- For a time of rest for Tammy and I over the end of the year break from school.

Pastor Brian

- Speaking in chapel to our students in January
- New ministries in 2019
- Balance with family, school and church

Pastor's email address is:
doublinggap@embarqmail.com

OR

feedmandcs@yahoo.com

In case of an emergency you
may contact Pastor Don at home
or on his cell phone at:

Home: 776-1191

Cell: 278-7904

PASTOR'S OFFICE HOURS

FOR DECEMBER

Monday through Thursday

8AM to 12 NOON

Fridays "off" day.

Also appointments can be made .

Pastor Don will be unavailable on the
following days

December 4, 6, 13, 24



SECRETARY'S OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Friday

9AM to 12 NOON

dgapsec@embarqmail.com

Call for office hours between Christmas
and New Years Day



The Gift!

Join us on **Sunday, December 23rd** at **10 am** as we welcome Jesus through songs of praise by you the congregation and special pieces shared by children and adults. God's word will be opened and shared through speaking parts and monologues. If you would like to share in any of the speaking parts, please see Emily Ramsey. Please invite your family and friends as we search out to share "The Gift" with those around us. Begin your holiday week with Jesus our Savior!

WMT Dates

- No meeting in **December**
- **December 2nd**, practice following worship service
- The Gift Practices: **December 15th** and **December 22nd** at 9 am for anyone participating in the service
- **December 12th**, practice after Wednesday evening for 12/16
- **Next meeting January 8th at 7pm**



FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR BRIAN

You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus..."
(Galatians 3:26)

A few months ago, Emily and I started the process of establishing our will. Just recently the draft came in the mail, and at the top of the first page I read those words "The last will and testament of Brian Ramsey". You cannot help but feel strange in reading them, as you realize everything that follows is the summary of your life's possessions, put down on paper. The questions begin: "What do we have? What do we owe? Who will get it? How much will they get?" And so on, and so on. Through this process, I've been thinking a lot about our children, and their families. Looking ahead to the time when the Lord calls Emily or I home, we hope that our children will be grown, married, and have their homes and families established. That means that someone (Emily and I have yet to meet (and quite possibly that Micah or Addy have yet to meet!)) will be receiving some form of inheritance from us. They will receive part of our inheritance. *They don't even know it yet*, but they will be blessed by God through us.

Paul wrote to the Galatian church to correct and encourage them on a few things. In Galatians 3:26-27, he reminds them "You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ." A few verses later, he concludes "If you belong to Christ, then you are... heirs according to the promise." Did you catch that word – "heirs"? In case you missed it, Paul says it again in 4:7, "...God has made you also an heir." You and I... we are HEIRS to the KINGDOM of God!! We who believe in Christ as our savior are SONS (and DAUGHTERS) of God!! *Do you know how completely freeing that is?!* Everything that God has – love, forgiveness, mercy, grace, redemption, purpose, joy, peace, self-control, wisdom, understanding, discernment, and so much more – it is all for you and me!! Accept it! Embrace it! Live it!! And come together regularly with your true brothers and sisters – your co-heirs in Christ – to celebrate it!! *"When the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, that we might receive the full rights of sons."* (Gal. 4:4)

Praying for you!

~ Pastor Brian

DECEMBER'S GREETERS



- 2-Cliff & Connie Cornman
- 9-Sharon Hostetter & Tammy Cornman
- 16-Mike & Tricia Raudabaugh
- 23-Ken & Linda Ryan
- 30-Paul & Joan Stouffer

DECEMBER'S WORSHIP NURSERY

- 2-Denise & Logan & Lacie Logan
- 9-Carley Miller
- 16-Amy & Izabella Howell
- 23-No Nursery
- 30-April Hoover & Heather Ocker

**If you are unable to fulfill your duties as a GREETER or NURSERY attendant,
PLEASE contact someone else on the schedule to change with you.



ACTS OF RANDOM KINDNESS KIDS (ARKK)

"Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ." 1 Corinthians
11:1

ARKK WILL BE BREAKING FOR THE HOLIDAYS.

THANK YOU FOR ANOTHER GREAT YEAR
OF SPREADING KINDNESS TO OTHERS!
We will meet again the last Sunday in January 2019.



ONGOING COLLECTION REMINDER: Keep bringing in those aluminum soda tabs and glossy magazines for the Ronald McDonald House in Hershey. ARKK will be collecting these items indefinitely.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Melisa Lucas at 717-713-4244 (cell) or email at actsofrandomkindnesskids@gmail.com.

ARKK WILL BE BREAKING FOR THE HOLIDAYS.

THANK YOU FOR ANOTHER GREAT YEAR

JUNIOR CHURCH 1 (AGES 3-5) TEACHERS & HELPERS

*Meet in Room #4 in the CE Wing at 10:00 am

2-Birthday Party for Jesus
9, 16, 23-Lori & Nathan Chronister
30-Movie & Popcorn

JUNIOR CHURCH 2 (Kindergarten, 1st, 2nd Grade) TEACHERS & HELPERS

*Meet in Room #2 in the CE Wing at 10:00 AM

2-Birthday Party for Jesus
9-Don Agar & Maycey Davis
16-Don Agar & Gracie Chronister
23-Carrie Kimmich & Ayden Reed
30-Movie & Popcorn

JUNIOR CHURCH 3 (3rd, 4th, 5th Grade) TEACHERS & HELPERS

2-Birthday Party for Jesus
9-Shane Reed & Sharon Barrick
16-Shane Reed & Wendy Stuber
23-Christmas Cantata-Sanctuary
30-Movie & Popcorn

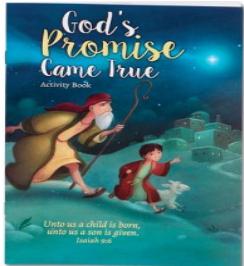
**When you are assigned to be a helper, PLEASE be in the Junior Church room by 9:50. If you cannot be a helper on the Sunday you have been assigned, PLEASE let Carrie Kimmich know (658-6339) so a replacement can be obtained if necessary.

Upcoming Events

December 7 & 8

Drive Thru Live Nativity

6:30-8:30 pm



December 24 6:00 PM



*Christmas Eve
Candle Light Service*

Women's Ministry

Next Meeting

March 4, 2019 at 7:00 PM

"A Blessed Christmas" Dinner
at
Doubling Gap Center

December 3, 2018 6:30 pm

*don't forget your item for the Church of God home-(papers are on the table in the narthex)

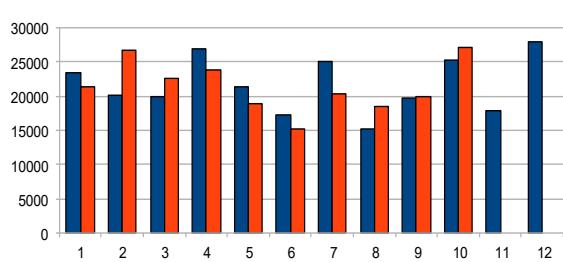


Christmas is just around the corner. We will once again be purchasing gifts to give to needy families. If you are able, please take and ornament from the tree in the narthex, purchase the item on it, wrap the gift, be sure to attach the original ornament tag from the tree to the package and return it no later than Sunday, December 16th. If you have any questions, please see Joyce or April Smith

OCTOBER'S INCOME & ATTENDANCE CHARTS

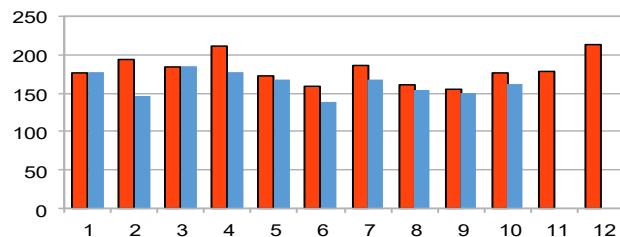
INCOME

■ 2017 ■ 2018



ATTENDANCE

■ 2017 ■ 2018



TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance as of October 1, 2018	\$49,196.02	Morrow's Furniture (Mission Fund Purchase)	\$40.00
DEPOSITS	\$27,063.27	Building Fund Transfer (Sept. & October)	\$6,000.00
		Barrick's Electrical Service (LED Lights)	\$243.75
		Dice Office Equipment (Copier Contract)	\$364.21
		Ace Chem-Dry (Carpet Cleaning)	\$1,000.00
		Perry Pest Control (Quarterly Pest Control)	\$200.00
		Doubling Gap Youth Group (Fourth Quarter)	\$500.00
		Last Days World Outreach (Carolina Relief)	\$915.00
		Waste Connections of PA (October Trash)	\$106.29
		Right Now Campaign (Monthly Service)	\$129.99
		Mirelle Associates (Sept. P/R & Tax Service)	\$80.00
		IRS (Sept. FIT,SS,Medi)	\$822.40
		PA Dept of Revenue (September SIT)	\$161.06
EXPENSES			
Donald C. Snyder (October Salary)	\$2,880.30	Cumberland County Tax Bureau (3rd Quar-	\$190.34
Donald C. Snyder (October Housing)	\$1,682.16	Sherry Koppenhaver (Sept. Cleaning)	\$400.00
Donald C. Snyder (September Travel)	\$189.00	Erica Shaffer (Youth With a Mission)	\$500.00
Brian L. Ramsey (Dir of Disc/October)	\$436.20	From Benevolent Fund to Mission Fund	\$1,068.00
Royetta G. Baughman (Secretary/October)	\$1,185.25		
The Board of Pensions (November)	\$459.21	From Benev. Fund to Miss.Trip Fund	\$300.00
Eastern Regional Conf (Ret Pastors Ins)	\$80.00		
ERC (September Tithe)	\$1,693.00	Pleasantville Church of God (Benevolent	\$300.00
Eastern Regional Conference (MTI Program)	\$450.00		
Eastern Regional Conference (20:20 Initiative)	\$1,200.00	Newville First Church of God (Paw Packs/	\$160.00
Eastern Regional Conference (Prayer Retreat)	\$30.00	Entrust (Ginters-Sept./Oct.)	\$145.00
Eastern Regional Conference (Quizzing Reg.)	\$60.00	Send International (Books-Oct.)	\$70.00
ERC (PULSE Retreat)	\$60.00	Camino Global (Yinglings-Sept.Oct.)	\$190.00
Our Daily Bread	\$50.00		
Blue Mountain Blooms (Altar Flowers)	\$36.00	TOTAL EXPENSES	\$26,796.81
Saylor's Market (Nursery Supplies)	\$14.88		
Saylor's Market (Food/Fruitbelt Workers Visit)	\$30.48		
Sheetz (Gas for Van)	\$76.00		
Sheetz Gift Card -(Pastor Appreciation)	\$60.00		
Weis Mkts. (Gift Card-Pastor Appreciation)	\$500.00		
Dollar General (Gift Card - Pastor App.)	\$50.00	Balance October 31, 2018	\$49,462.48
Schmankerl Stube Bavarian Rest. (Pastor App.)	\$76.00		
Corner Store (Fall SS Curriculum Materials)	\$333.59		
1863 Escape Inc. (Pastor Appreciaiton)	\$119.95		
Sight & Sound Theatres (Pastor Appreciation)	\$100.00		
Bill Fulton (Gas for Mowers)	\$61.05	Building Fund	\$223,218.80
Shane Reed (Gas for Van)	\$60.00		
Christianbook Distributors (Live Nativity)	\$349.45	(CD \$102,465.77 & Checking \$120,753.03	
Churches of God Publications (Gems)	\$162.00		
Adams Electric Cooperative (September)	\$261.00	The following is a breakdown of the major funds available within the general treasury:	
Century Link (September)	\$165.25	Live Nativity Fund	\$3,450.00
		Mission Fund	\$3,424.50
		Mission Trip Fund	\$9,727.12

Bulletin Board

December, 2018



We will have regular Sunday morning classes for adults and children on Sunday, 12/23.

There will no Wednesday services on Wednesday, 12/26

We will have regular Wednesday evening services on Wednesday, 1/2

Sunday Morning Adult Discipleship Groups

“Power of Love” by David Jeremiah Leader: Charlie Clouse

“Work as Worship” by J.D. Greear Leader: Leilani Reeder and Nicole Ginter

“Standard Lesson Quarterly” Leader: Bobby Baker

“The Bible: God’s Voice to Mankind” Leader: Adam Cohick

“Promised Land” by Ray Vander Laan Leader: Mike Bolze

There are also discipleship groups for children and youth on Sunday mornings. Contact Pastor Brian or Pastor Don for information on Sunday School nursery services.

Wednesday Adult Groups at 7 pm

“Book of Acts” Pastor Brian is leading a bible study on the Book of Acts
Meeting in the sanctuary

“Believing in Jesus” by Lisa Harper Ladies bible study
Meeting in Room 10

Coming Events

Live Nativity: Friday, December 7 and Saturday, December 8 6:30-8:30 pm

Christmas Eve Services: Monday, Dec. 24, 6:00 pm

Mission Board Update

Mission Moments

2-Gesse School & Church
9-Angel Tree
16-Ingathering-Birthday for Jesus
23-Christmas Program-The Gift
30-Testimony & Praise

Faith Promise 2018

Check out the mission bulletin board each month and see where the Faith Promise money is going.

Paw Pack Program

We (as a church), here at Doubling Gap are committing to give \$160 per month to the paw pack program and to collect the following items:

Small packs of goldfish (1 oz bags)

Snack Pack Pudding (4 oz non refrigerated type)

Next packing date for our church is Wednesday, December 19 at Newville First Church of God.

**Next Mission Board Meeting
January 3, 2019**



Parents' Corner

December, 2018

Serving Together as a Couple

(Part 1 of 5)

By Susan Mathis

<https://www.focusonthefamily.com/marriage/daily-living/serving-together/serving-together-as-a-couple>

When my husband, Dale, and I counsel premarital couples, we encourage them to intentionally start serving together, right from the start. In our book [Countdown for Couples: Preparing for the Adventure of Marriage](#) (Focus on the Family, 2008), we talk about the importance of having a "servant's heart" toward each other – and to everyone.

The apostle Paul put it this way: "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others" (Philippians 2:3-4). This passage encourages us to have a servant's heart, to have an unselfish determination to serve others. And when couples choose to unselfishly serve others together, they experience peace, contentment and a deeper bond that strengthens their marriage. This is easier to do with God's help, of course, since selfless behavior doesn't always come naturally for many of us. But where do we start?

Thankfully, there's a promise in Acts 1:8 that tells us how we can accomplish this: "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Practically speaking, you can consider your "Jerusalem" to be your local church, "Judea" is your neighborhood, "Samaria" is your community at large and "to the ends of the world" is a call to support and serve missionary efforts across the globe. Adopting this perspective makes fulfilling the Great Commission quite doable.

Serving as a couple has benefits that go beyond bonding, contentment and peace. There's a sweet intimacy that comes with working together on a service project or giving together to those in need. Couples who embrace God's call to serve others experience an added closeness, and there are special moments and memories that naturally come when you do things together.

Moreover, participating together in ministry opportunities – whether in your church, neighborhood, community or the world – can also help you to grow in your faith as a couple. Working side-by-side to fulfill the Great Commission – in whatever capacity – deepens your spiritual intimacy like little else can. Being the Lord's witnesses by serving, giving, encouraging, caring and loving as Jesus loved is rewarding beyond words.

But in the end, it's not really about you, is it? It's about them – the poor, the needy, those who need a touch from God. Serving others strengthens the infrastructure of your church, your neighborhood, your community and the world. It transforms lives – theirs and yours – and brings people together. Whenever you serve others, you become the hands and feet of your Savior. You change lives.

As you consider the ideas in the following articles, remember that it's not about duty or the amount of projects you do. It's about demonstrating the love of Christ to those around you. It's about being unselfish, considering others better than ourselves. Do this, and you will be His witnesses, during the holiday season and all through the year.

(Next Month: “Serving Together Through Your Local Church”)