

Doubling Gap Church of God Beacon

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Standing in the GAP with the Gospel

FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR DON

“A Wild and Radical Faith”

John 1:1-18

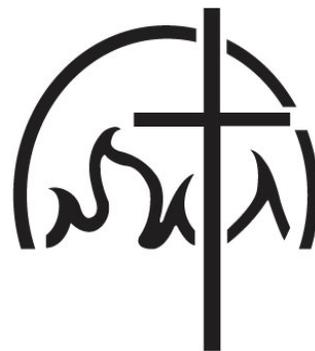
The incarnation, God becoming flesh, the Word walking among us, the Light that came into the darkness! Crazy, right? When Jesus took on human flesh becoming like one of us (Philippians 2:1-11), it was a wild and radical act on the part of God. To have the Creator, through whom all things came into being, become like one of His creation, that is just crazy talk, wild talk, and radical talk! And we're all thankful God took that radical, wild, and crazy step aren't we?!? Without this wild act from God, we would all still be lost. But where there was no way, God made a way... Jesus!

This advent season we will be looking at some of those participants in the 'first' advent and how they lived out lives of wild and daring faith. We will look at Mary, the mother of Jesus; at Joseph, the earthly father of Jesus; at Elizabeth and Zechariah and at the life of a dear 'older' woman, Anna. Each of these warriors of the Faith lived out their faith in ways that were amazing! In the eyes of those in their communities, however, they seemed to be a little crazy, a little too trusting in God, a bit too wild and daring for the common 'faith walker'. But isn't that what true Jesus loving, following, believing, trusting faith is like? Is it not the kind of faith that is daring, that is a bit on the radical side? Is it not living in such a way that the surrounding culture thinks we are crazy? Didn't people, even his own family, think that same thing about Jesus (Mark 3:21)?

I guess we could say to live like Jesus in today's culture, in today's world, is to live a life of wild, radical, and crazy faith! But the question each of us must ask ourselves is "Am I living that way?" And what exactly does that look like anyway? Well, to put it bluntly, it is to live like Jesus, with his compassion, his kindness, his mercy and his love for his Heavenly Father and for others. But that is impossible, crazy talk! Yes.. yes it is. But it is *Jesus* talk! He calls us to live that way 24/7. He calls us to deny ourselves, take up our cross and follow Him (Luke 9:23)! But what is truly wild and radical is that He gives us the Holy Spirit to help us do that very kind of crazy faith living He did (John 14:26; 15:26)!

So make plans this Advent season to join us on Sunday mornings for the Advent message; 'Crazy Faith Living'. See you Sunday!

Pastor Don



December 2019
Volume 19, 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.

Elders

Charlie Clouse
Shannon Kane-Vice Chair
Bill Fulton

Deacons

Carl Baughman-Chairman
Dawn Agar –Secretary
Sam Clouse

Deaconesses

Betty Clouse
Joann Varner

PRAYER REQUESTS FOR DECEMBER

Pastor Don

To live out what I teach!

Pastor Brian

For the country of Haiti, and its leaders.

Emily and I will (hopefully) be going to Haiti in February. Pray for our wisdom and discernment.

I will be speaking at a student chapel in January. Pray that I will bring the truth of the gospel clearly, that students would understand and come to know God better (or for the first time!)

Pastor Don's email 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 2, 12, 16, 26



SECRETARY'S OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Friday

9AM to 12 NOON

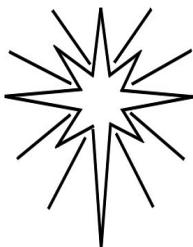
dgapsec@embarqmail.com

Sunday, December 22

10:00 AM

Christmas Cantata

Beautiful Star of Bethlehem



Invite your family and friends to hear the
message of God's love this Christmas sea-
son.

Tuesday, December 24

6:00 PM

Christmas Eve

Candlelight
Service



FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR BRIAN

Light the Night!

Well – it’s here again! The songs are playing on the radio; the stores are crammed with Christmas trees and gift displays; and our calendars begin to fill up with family get-togethers, holiday concerts, office parties, and church services. It’s easy to get lost in the busyness of the next several weeks. There are a few small traditions that I try to hold onto that keep me focused on the truth that our Savior was born – God didn’t just come near, but he came into our world to be with us, as one of us! John writes in the first chapter of his gospel, “The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.” Jesus literally moved into the neighborhood. And he came to shine a light into the darkness.

One of the traditions I try to uphold each year is to be outside late on Christmas Eve, near midnight. As a teenager, I attended a midnight service on Christmas Eve, and at the end of the service, just at midnight, we would stand in the parking lot and the church would ring its bell, announcing the birth of Jesus for all to hear! Driving home, I turned off the radio, drove a bit slower, and enjoyed the brightness of the moon and stars, and the quietness of the world in those moments. (And, truthfully... I also enjoyed the heat in my car!) Even now, as we drive home on Christmas Eve after celebrating with our church family, I encourage our children to enjoy the silence and drink in the wonder of the night. I love the times when the night is clear and the moon and stars are out. The dark world is lit up by the brightness of the heavens... in more ways than just by moonlight! “The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world.” (John 1:9, ESV) Jesus stepped into the darkness of humanity and shined the light of God’s love and grace into our world. It’s not by accident that the first thing Jesus felt in this world was the rough wood of the manger, and the last thing he would feel was the rough wood of the cross. “The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness did not comprehend it.” (John 1:5, NASB)

There are a lot of people who will see the light of Jesus shine this Christmas, but will not comprehend it. They will be distracted by the busyness, by the materialism, by being entertained, by trying to please other people, by memories of times past, by the pain of past hurts and failures, by anger, or by their own traditions. *How will you help to shine the light of Jesus into their lives this year?* John “came as a witness, to testify about the Light, so that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but he came to testify about the Light.” (John 1:7-8) People are more open to the gospel story this time of year, more than any other. Don’t miss an opportunity to share the true meaning of this season with those you meet! And for those of us who struggle to get through this time of year – let the light of Jesus shine into our hearts, and remind us that He loved us enough to move into our neighborhood!

Praying the blessings of God’s peace and contentment on each of you this season!

~ Pastor Brian

DECEMBER'S GREETERS



- 1-John & Hazel Holtry
- 8-Ned & Jill Kerstetter
- 15-Shane & Jeannine Reed
- 22-Carl & Royetta Baughman
- 29-Chad & Sarah Baughman

DECEMBER'S WORSHIP NURSERY

- 1-Jenn Bolze & Sierra Rotz
- 8-Carley Miller & Heather Ocker
- 15-Justin & Stephanie Morris
- 22-NO Nursery
- 29-Katie Kane & April Hoover



****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)

**The ARKKIDS would like to wish
you and your family a very**

MERRY CHRISTMAS and HAPPY NEW YEAR!

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

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

- 1-Hanging of the Greens-No Junior Church
- 8-Lori & Nathan Chronister
- 15-Birthday Party for Jesus
- 22-Lori Chronister
- 29-Popcorn & Movie

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

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

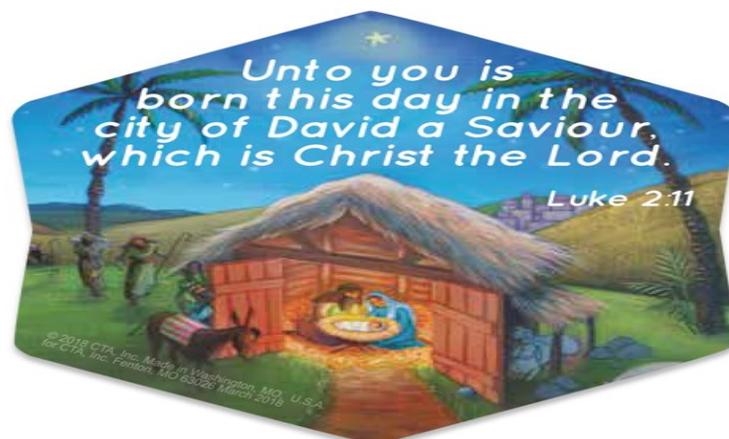
- 1-Hanging of the Greens-No Junior Church
- 8-Don Agar & Carrie Kimmich
- 15-Birthday Party for Jesus
- 22-Carrie Kimmich
- 29-Popcorn & Movie

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

- 1-Hanging of the Greens-No Junior Church
- 8-Shane Reed & Wendy Stuber
- 15-Birthday Party for Jesus
- 22-Cantata-No Jr. Church
- 29-Popcorn & Movie

****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.**

Drive thru Live Nativity
December 6 & 7 6:30 -8:30 pm



Women's Ministry

Next Meeting

March 2, 2020 at 7:00 PM

"A Shepherd's Christmas"
Dinner at
Doubling Gap Center

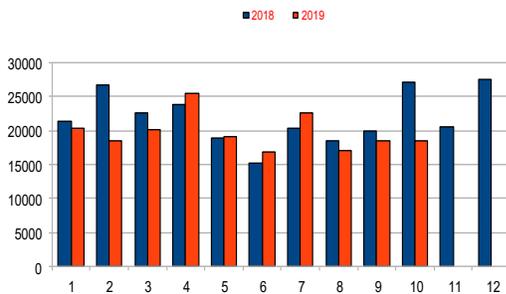
December 9th, at 6:30 pm



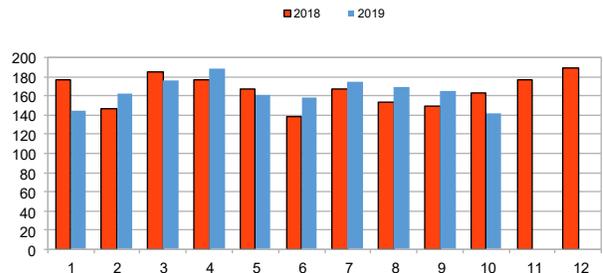
Christmas is just around the corner. We will once again be purchasing gifts to give to needy families. If you are able, please take and ornament from the tree in the narthex, purchase the item on it, wrap the gift, be sure to attach the original ornament tag from the tree to the package and return it no later than Sunday, December 15th. If you have any questions, please see Joyce or April Smith.

OCTOBER'S INCOME & ATTENDANCE CHARTS

INCOME



ATTENDANCE



DISCIPLESHIP

Bulletin Board

December 2019



Bobby Baker	Standard Lesson Quarterly	Room 9
Charlie Clouse	“Power of Love” by David Jeremiah,	Room 8
Leilani Reeder	“I Give Up” by Laura Story	Room 10
Adam Cohick	Gospel of Mark” by Francis Chan,	Room 5
Mike Bolze	That the World May Know” by Ray Vander Laan	CE Wing
Preschool – 1 st Grade	Cliff & Connie Cornman	Room 11
2 nd – 3 rd Grade	Carl Baughman & Alan Dewalt	Room 13
4 th -5 th Grade	Shane Reed, Tammy Cornman, Dawne Dewalt	Room 14
6 th – 12 th Grade	Emily Rosenberry	Room 7

Weekly Adult Groups

“The Book of Judges” Some of the most exciting and intriguing stories from the OT appear in the book of Judges. We’ll begin a new study, starting December 4. We meet at 7 on Wednesday evenings for prayer & bible study. Open discussion, question-and-answer style. Come join us!

“Gospel of Mark”, by Francis Chan Men’s Bible Study, 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month, 7:00 at the church.

Ladies Bible Study has concluded on Wednesday nights until January.

Family Life’s Weekend To Remember

Hershey Lodge	Feb. 14-16, 2020
Poconos	March 20-22, 2020
Poconos	March 27-29, 2020

Cost is \$175 per person, plus lodging. Check www.familylife.com/weekend-to-remember for available discounts!

Mission Board Update

December's Mission Moments

- 1-Hanging of the Greens**
- 8-Meet the Need/Angel Tree**
- 15-Birthday Gift for Jesus**
- 22-Cantata**
- 29-Praise & Testimony**

Fruitbelt Camps

We will be visiting the camps on Sunday November 24 and December 15, leaving the church at 3:00 pm. See Carl for additional information.

Paw Pack Program

Our church is collecting the following items:

- Small packs of goldfish (1 oz bags)**
- Snack Pack Pudding (4 oz non refrigerated type)**

Next Mission Board Meeting

January 2, 2020 at 7:00 PM

*Pray
for
Haiti*



Check these out on



RightNow Media is a free resource our church provides to you. *Check out one of these this month!* Unsure how to use RNM? Contact Pastor Brian or the church office, and we'll get you started!

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**“Abraham”, with Mindy Ferguson.** A 9-part study on the person and character of the most important biblical patriarch – the man who would become the forefather of the Jewish nation. This series focuses on the person of Abraham, and what we can learn about God through Abraham’s life. Watch as Abraham learns to trust God more fully – with each mistake he made. Each video is approximately 30 minutes long, and there are FREE downloadable study guides for EACH session! This study is ideal for either personal or small-group study. Grow deeper in your faith and understanding of God as you delve into the life of Abraham. There are *also* two other character studies – Moses and Peter.

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“Who Needs Christmas”, with Andy Stanley. Thousands of years after the shepherds watched their flocks by night, and wise men followed a star, you may be asking “Who needs Christmas?” As it turns out... we all do. Each video in this 3-part series is between 20 and 30 minutes long. FREE downloadable video guides contain discussion questions, perfect for personal reflection or group study.

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**“Nine Attributes of a Man”, with Vince Miller.** Ten sessions, on nine attributes that will empower you to become the man God wants you to be. Topics include “Willing to Sacrifice”, “Lives Purposefully”, “Deliberately Produces Growth”, and others. Optional study guide can be purchased for about \$10.

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“The Christmas Experience”, with Kyle Idleman. A 6-session study that examines the Christmas story in detail, from the perspective of the cast of characters. You'll never read the Christmas narrative the same again after viewing this series!

Parents' Corner

December 2019

Holiday Stress Between Parents and Young Adults

By Joannie Debrito

<https://www.focusonthefamily.com/parenting/holiday-stress-between-parents-and-young-adults/>

Mom's Perspective. Does this sound familiar? Tonya's college daughter, Alisha, calls home to say, "Hey Mom, I'm coming home for Thanksgiving and Christmas. I'm looking forward to spending some time with you and Dad and hanging out with my friends." Tonya is really excited and her mind quickly drifts from the request to the planning. She has a lot to do. There are meals to plan, rooms to prepare and gifts to buy. Tonya realizes she will have to rearrange her schedule in order to get everything done. However, the idea of spending quality time with Alisha makes it all worth it. Tonya daydreams about the great ways she and Alisha will pass the holiday time they'll have together. She's unprepared for the holiday stress that often occurs between parents and young adults when they return home.

Daughter's Perspective. On the other side of the phone line, Tonya's daughter is thinking of all of the plans she made before she called home. She chatted with numerous friends and made plans for every day of her holiday vacations. She figures she'll sit at her family's Thanksgiving table for about 30 minutes. Then she'll rush off to join friends for chocolate fondue, cappuccinos and an afternoon of watching movies. She has already planned a Christmas getaway with her former youth group members. Just after Christmas gifts are opened, she and her friends will retreat to her youth pastor's cozy little cabin for a few days. After that, she plans to head home so her mom can wash her clothes before she goes back to college. Sounds fun and completely reasonable, right? Well, yes if you're Alisha and no if you're Tonya. It looks as if the two of them are going to need to work together to resolve their differences.

Holiday Stress: Differences Explained. Alisha values her family but she is still trying to find her way in life. Making connections with friends is essential. She is trying to figure out what she wants to do and where she wants to be. Alisha is questioning how she wants to live during the next part of her life. All of this is good and normal. Tonya doesn't feel good at all; she is disappointed. After all, the family traditions have been a favorite part of everyone's life for a long time. Why wouldn't Alisha want to be a part of them? And why wouldn't Alisha want to spend most of her time with Tonya and her husband? They've known her so much longer than her friends and they have so many memories, so much history together.

These differences in perspectives cause conflict between Tonya and Alisha. But they may need to find a way to celebrate the holidays with less stress.

Work Together to Resolve Time Management. The truth is that parents and young adults can work together to resolve holiday stress. This typically begins with time management. Things can get tricky, as seen in the previous example. The solution is to talk with one another before holidays about expectations for how time will be spent. Plans should be made with mutual respect for one another's schedules and preferences. Parents need to recognize how important it is to their young adult kids to maintain relationships with their friends. They'd be wise to resist the tendency to equate time with value. Young adults may spend more time with friends than with parents during a holiday visit. However, that doesn't mean that relationships with friends are more valued than those with parents. Young adults may simply have more in common with their friends. They share similar ideas about how to occupy their time. At the same time, young adults need to understand their parents are focused on long term relationships with them. The friendships of today may fade quickly while those parent-child relationships are likely to last a lifetime. Therefore, time spent with parents during the holidays provides opportunities for young adults to remember family traditions. They may also want to express gratitude for memories past and make some new memories.

Work Together to Define Boundaries. A lot of holiday stress between parents and their young adult children is related to boundaries. As parents and kids stop living together, they begin to redefine how much time and space they need. Most feel comfortable with a little more private space and increased space between themselves and others. Therefore, when they come back together, they need to discuss these questions:

- How much time would we like to have alone and uninterrupted?
- Which parts of the house will we have "open to the public"?
- Are there parts of our home reserved only for family members?
- Which parts are to be reserved for our privacy?
- When are parts of our house available or not available for use?

It is helpful for parents and young adults to work together to resolve boundary issues. Some simple steps such as making "Do not disturb" signs for doors can be very helpful.

Work Together to Resolve Money Issues. Holiday stress between parents and young adults may also relate to finances. Both parties likely have different levels of income and differing views about how money should be spent. Therefore, parents and young adults need to work together to resolve issues related to holiday spending. For example, both parties may agree to a maximum spending limit for gifts. Or, they may decide to provide hand-made gifts for a reasonable cost for supplies. Beyond gifts, both parties need to agree on who will pay for what in regard to other expenses. Those may include event tickets, travel expenses, food and other holiday items that cost money.

Holiday Stress: Acknowledge That Change is Hard. For Tonya and all parents facing this new season in life, it is important to acknowledge the feelings of loss. The changes that occur when young adult children leave home can feel painful. That pain can return when young adults come home for holidays and don't engage much with their parents. However, relief will come if they work together to resolve time, boundary and money issues. Then, they will both enjoy the time they have together and make good memories for the future.

