



# TIDINGS

## IT TAKES GRACE...

www.newfpc.com



### Inside this issue:

Strive Forward...	2
Kingdom Marriage	2
A Letter From...	2
Finances At A Glance	3
Is there Enough Evidence to Prove You Are Saved	3
Birthdays & Anniversaries	4
Calendar	4

Before we get on with the new year celebrations, can I say just one more thing about the end of 2017 and the Christmas we celebrated in the midst of a lot of grief in the world? Seems like I ran into a lot of people who just couldn't quite get excited about fa-la-las with so much sadness and negativity...even evil out there. Before we move on, I want us to consider one thing that helps bring light to the shadows: Think what it would be like if Jesus had never been born. All the glitter and hype would be a hoax and nothing more than a cruel joke. There would be no hope, no peace, no forgiveness, no eternal life, no Holy Spirit to comfort and guide us, no knowledge of God, and no possibility of

change (at least not for the better). One last time in this winter of emotion, focus on Jesus. It really did happen. The virgin birth, the angels, the shepherds – all true. As true as the piles of new socks and stacks of fruitcake that appear under our trees. Santa may or may not have come, depending on your imagination, but Christ has already come! Emmanuel – God with us!! It is all true. The miracle did happen. God came down, busting into our existence. He became one of us. Good news, everyone; God loves you so much that He sent His only Son, so that the darkness of our days would be lit up like the night skies were over the fields of Bethlehem... For unto us a Child is born;

unto us a Son is given. And the government shall be upon His shoulder. And His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The Almighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace! Somehow, I believe we ought to be entering a new year worshipping our Savior, praising our Lord, and looking for new ways to give Him glory. Shouldn't we be as quick as the shepherds to go find Jesus? And shouldn't we, having caught a glimpse of Jesus in the midst of our living, be as vocal as the shepherds in sharing what we have seen and heard? I pray that I will not forget this past Christmas; it sure would not have been the same if Jesus hadn't come... Blessings,

## SOMETHING NEW JANUARY 28TH @ 4:00PM

Have you ever wondered, in the middle of the sermon, why you can't just hit the pause button and ask a pertinent question? Have you ever come to the end of a good praise song or hymn, and wanted to ask what a particular word or phrase meant? Have you ever wondered, when we gather for worship, why we can't just have a conversation on a topic? Have you ever wondered, when we have prayer in worship, why we can't just talk to God – each of us, or maybe even all of us? Have you ever wondered why we can't "do church" at 4:00 on a

Sunday afternoon...in the gym...sharing a simple meal...singing to the Lord...learning more of God and His Word...dealing with questions of faith people really have? This isn't the way most of us were brought up "doing church." But suppose there are some folks out there who have given up on the way we have traditionally "done church." Imagine there are some beyond our walls with little background in theology, and yet are drawn to the notion of a God who loves them

and cares about them in the actual living out of their days. Would you take the time and spend the energy to create a worship space, and then invite people into that space, if it might be just the thing someone needs to come to Jesus (or maybe come *back* to Him)...? "I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some. I do it all for the sake of the gospel, that I may share with them in its blessings." [1 Corinthians 9:22b-23]

## STRIVE FORWARD & ENJOY THE JOURNEY

The end of one year and the beginning of another is time of reflections and anticipations. In our own family we celebrated the birth of our granddaughter Finlee in August. But we have seen many from our church go onto to their final reward. And from beginning to end we see the ups and downs of life. Paul tells us that he is looking forward and forgetting the past in Philippians 3. He is encouraging a group of believers to strive towards their goal. Good advice but we must see the whole picture, here don't we? As we go into a new year we must learn and consider the past, but we can't live there. We have a life to live and we do look forward to that final reward, but it's the journey as much as it is the destination. How we have lived each day and will live the next is a gift God has given us. And we have been reminded, especially this past year, that we don't know our days here. Only God knows, and He has called us to be a light while we shine here.

As we begin a new year and look forward to it let's try and maintain an attitude of joy and celebration. You have probably already exper-

rienced it a lot as we've gone through the most popular holidays of the year. So just keep it going! Don't let the darkness hide the light that is living in you! Be the difference makers, be the joy givers and the life lovers. Make the most of what you've been given and live this life to the fullest! Allow this love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control, this Fruit of the Spirit to guide you in all that you do and say in 2018. It's a gift, be grateful for it and allow it to shape your character. Be an encourager instead of a complainer, be a giver instead of waiting to receive, be compassionate instead of critical and allow truth and grace to flow from your life as easily and naturally as breathing is. Have a great 2018 and thanks for all the blessings you've poured into Denise and me over the past year. Your generosity, encouragement and support are amazing and we love you all so very much!

Galatians 5:16-17, 22-26, "So I say, let the Holy Spirit guide your lives. Then you won't be doing what your sinful nature craves. 17 The sinful nature wants to do evil, which is

just the opposite of what the Spirit wants. And the Spirit gives us desires that are the opposite of what the sinful nature desires. These two forces are constantly fighting each other, so you are not free to carry out your good intentions." "But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!

24 Those who belong to Christ Jesus have nailed the passions and desires of their sinful nature to his cross and crucified them there. 25 Since we are living by the Spirit, let us follow the Spirit's leading in every part of our lives. 26 Let us not become conceited, or provoke one another, or be jealous of one another." Amen! God is so good, all the time! And all the time, God is good!

In Christ's Love,

Rob

Romans 12

## KINGDOM MARRIAGE

We will be having another marriage enrichment series this winter. The material we'll use is a video/participant guide format titled "Kingdom Marriage," by Tony Evans. It is a really good series that focuses in on: Finding God's Purpose for Your Marriage, Honoring the Covenant of Marriage, Embracing the Unity of Marriage, Loving Your Wife, Respecting Your Husband, and Rekindling Your First Love.

Tony Evans covers topics we have looked at before, but adds another dimension throughout in finding and following God's place in each of our marriages – and as he leads the

videos with precision and grace, he also adds just enough humor. Our time together will be Sunday afternoons, beginning January 14, running through February 25. (We will not meet on January 28.) The time will be from 5:00 – 6:30, with a shared meal. (On Super Bowl Sunday we will meet immediately after worship.)

As we have advertised these series in the past, we will not delve into anyone's deepest relationship issues. What we gain from this time is a tune-up rather than an overhaul; a time of enjoying the presence of others and remembering again how we might best navi-

gate our marriages in love and grace.

The only expense will be a \$6 easy-read participant's guide, and couples will be asked to sign up for providing portions of our simple meals. If you've not been a part of these series in the past, and you think this is not for you, I'd encourage you to think about that again. If not for you, maybe it would be good for your spouse, your kids, or grandkids to know that you are willing to invest in the one relationship of your life that is seen by God as permanent. Let me know if you have any questions, or if you'd like to be on the list of couples participating. Blessings, RevLon.

## A LETTER FROM OUR LIVING WATERS COVENANT PARTNERS IN SAN DIEGO BUENA VISTA:

Dear brothers, the holy people of God in Kentucky, United States, receive a cordial greeting from the Getsemani Presbyterian Church of San Diego Buena Vista. By this means, as a Church, we express our heartfelt gratitude to each one of you, brothers and sisters, who with great love for Christ were willing to give us, without deserving, their resources and support these months. Especially for the Water Purification Plant and also for the drilling of the well and its equipment for

the extraction of water. Thankful we are before our Great God for all of you and we implore our Lord to grant you more and more blessing, grace, strength, and passion for the work of Christ. THANK YOU!

We recognize once again in our lives, the demonstration of the grace of God through you and this example also encourages us to give of grace what we have received of grace. Neighbors and other people who previously could not have

access to purified water, today is a reality. And also, God has opened many opportunities for us among water customers, to lead them to Christ. To God be the glory!

We said goodbye to each other, hoping to see each other again, God willing. May the peace, love, and faith of God the Father and of our Lord Jesus Christ be always with you.

Respectfully,  
Respectable Consistory

## November 2017 Finances At-A-Glance

November		YTD	
Income	\$ 81,039.05	YTD Income	\$ 402,618.30
Expense	<u>\$(21,234.90)</u>	YTD Expense	<u>\$(300,047.83)</u>
Net	\$ 59,804.15	YTD Net	\$ 102,570.47
Undesignated		YTD Undesignated	
Income	\$ 76,341.00	Income	\$ 342,601.55
Expense	<u>\$(18,821.34)</u>	Expense	<u>\$(220,898.48)</u>
Net	\$ 57,519.66	Net	\$ 121,703.07
Designated		YTD Undesignated	
Income	\$ 4,698.05	Income	\$ 60,016.75
Expense	<u>\$(2,413.56)</u>	Expense	<u>\$(79,149.35)</u>
Net	\$ 2,284.49		

## IS THERE ENOUGH EVIDENCE TO PROVE YOU ARE SAVED?

James 2:14, [NIV](#): "What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them?"

This verse begins a controversial passage, one often misunderstood. Here, James will begin to make the case that genuine faith in Christ results in genuine change in the actions of believers. On the surface, it's really not such a radical idea. Human beings tend to act on what we truly believe. Those who believe God is right and good and powerful will most naturally obey Him. Those who believe God has called them to meet the needs of others will most naturally look for ways to do that.

The controversy comes with what appears, at first glance, to be a contradiction with the teachings of Paul and the other New Testament writers. Paul says in Ephesians 2:8–9, "For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast." James's question in this verse seems

to be questioning whether or not a person can be saved without works.

That, however, is not what James is asking. It's crucial to note that, in the original Greek, James uses the phrase *hē pistis* for "that faith." The word *hē* is important, because it narrows the scope of what James is referring to. In this case, it points back to what was said in the phrase just before. James specifies a person who "says he has faith but does not have works." James then questions whether or not *that* faith—one which does not result in good works—can save. This is why most translations translate this as "this faith," or "such faith."

It will become clear in the following verses that James's point complements what Paul says. James never suggests that we are saved by our works. This verse does not question the saving value of faith. Rather, it questions the saving value of "so-called-faith," or a mere belief which doesn't produce good works. James's criticism is specifically aimed at a belief in God which does not cause a

changed life.

It's essential to see the full context of what James has to say here. He is not questioning all definitions of "faith." He is not disputing that faith alone saves. He is not claiming that works save. James is most definitely saying that a faith which saves, by its very nature, is something which produces works. As later verses will show, works are *evidence* of salvation, not the *source* of it.

Two critical verses for understanding this point are James 2:19 and James 2:26. There James clearly describes how mere mental "belief" is not the same as saving faith, and that a faith without works is as dead as a body without breath.

When Jesus says "Follow Me", he doesn't mean to walk behind Him, He means do as I do.

With Great Love,

Pastor Pete

4 <sup>th</sup>	Cheryl Lane	14 <sup>th</sup>	Suzanne Henley
5 <sup>th</sup>	Madeline Stocke	17 <sup>th</sup>	Angie Crawford
	Floyd Gordon	19 <sup>th</sup>	Bob & Marge Wilkerson (A)
	Melissa Agin	21 <sup>st</sup>	Mike Ladd
6 <sup>th</sup>	Tem & Julie Major (A)	24 <sup>th</sup>	Pete Phelan
7 <sup>th</sup>	Mike Bourland	26 <sup>th</sup>	Dick Peyton
9 <sup>th</sup>	Jim Hendrix	27 <sup>th</sup>	David Thomas
	Claudia Arnett	28 <sup>th</sup>	Logan Taylor
12 <sup>th</sup>	Haley Cope	29 <sup>th</sup>	Paula Milligan
	Kaleb White		Larry & Suzanne Wilson (A)
13 <sup>th</sup>	Leslie Major		



# January 2018

Sun      Mon      Tue      Wed      Thu      Fri      Sat

	1 	2	3 5:15 Fellowship Meal 6:00 Activities 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	4	5	6
7 10:15 Ordination/Installation of elders 3PM We Can Dance (Electric Slide)	8	9 6PM Session Meeting	10 5:15 Fellowship Meal 6:00 Activities 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	11	12	13
14 5-6:30 Marriage Enrichment Class	15	16	17 5:15 Fellowship Meal 6:00 Activities 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	18	19	20
21 5-6:30 Marriage Enrichment Class	22	23	24 5:15 Fellowship Meal 6:00 Activities 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	25	26	27
28 4:00 PM Q&A Worship	29	30	31 5:15 Fellowship Meal 6:00 Activities 7:00 Choir Rehearsal			