



Englewood Communicator

Issue 12

December 1, 2019

Rob's Revelations by Dr. Rob Westlund

Merry Christmas!

Not to be a scrooge or "bah humbug" anyone's Christmas, but other than a merry-go-round where else do we use the word "MERRY"? We don't say merry Easter. We don't wish someone a merry birthday. The fact of the matter is that we reserve the word "merry" for Christmas. PLEASE KNOW I AM NOT SUGGESTING WE CHANGE MERRY CHRISTMAS. I am however wanting us to understand that our word HAPPY helps us understand the sentiment and intimacy surrounding the Christmas narrative.

Because of the Harry Potter movies we know that in England and other places they greet one another during Christmas with, "Happy Christmas." Every time I hear this it sounds odd to my ears. As I look at Luke's Gospel and how the narrative unfolds from Zachariah to the Shepherds there is happiness and joy abounding. To help us see the HAPPINESS of Christmas and have some fun in the process we are going to participate in some English Christmas treats. On December 8th we will have some English Minced Pies (tarts), on December 15th we will indulge ourselves with English Christmas Pudding, and on December 22nd we will celebrate with English Christmas Crackers.

The idea is to have fun doing something a little different and to highlight the theme of HAPPY in the Christmas services as we journey through the narrative in Luke. And so you won't be shocked along with these treats there will be coffee and hot chocolate in our lobby and possibly even in our sanctuary (with lids of course).

I hope you will take an opportunity to invite and bring your friends and family to enjoy the Christmas festivities with us. I hope the whimsical fun will encourage you to invite others to experience the true meaning of Christmas - Jesus, God's Son born in Bethlehem to redeem and rescue us by dying on a cross in Jerusalem 33 years later.

In Jesus,
Happy Christmas! (see it does sound strange)
Rob

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Special points of interest:

- * Seeker's Party, 12/8, noon
- * Adult Party, 12/10, 6 pm
- * Blood Drive, 12/12 from noon to 6 pm & 12/13 from 11 am to 4:30 pm
- * JOY Party, Rex and Denise Bissette's home, 12/14, 6 pm
- * Carol Sing, 12/15, 6 pm
- * Cantata, 12/22, 10:30 am
- * Christmas Eve Service, 7 pm
- * Praise and Thanksgiving Service, 12/29, 10:30 am

Christmas Food Bags and Children's Coats

The Mission Team will be collecting Christmas Food Bags for the migrant worker families in our community. Pick up a bag bundle (two bags paper clipped together, one with a grocery list, the other without). Purchase all the items on the grocery list and bring them back by Sunday, December 8.

They are also asking us to go by the Christmas tree in the church lobby and pick a tag with a child's name, age, and coat size. The coats can be new or gently used. Please attach the tag to the coats before you bring it back so we will know who it goes to!



Seeker's Christmas Party

The Seeker's Sunday School class will have a Christmas Luncheon on Sunday, December 8, at 11:30 am. Lunch will be provided. All you need to bring is a \$1 gift. If you have any questions, please see Frances Long.

Adult Christmas Party

The Adult Christmas Party is planned for Tuesday, December 10, at 6 pm in the church fellowship hall. You may purchase your tickets for \$15 from the table set up in the church lobby. There is also a sign-up sheet for us to provide cakes for dessert.

Blood Drive



Our next Red Cross Public Blood Drive will be held on Thursday, December 12, from noon to 6:30 pm and Friday, December 13 from 11 am to 4:30 pm. We need volunteers! Please sign-up on the sheet provided on the bulletin board in the church lobby.

JOY. Sunday School Party

The JOY. Sunday School class will hold their Christmas Party at 6 pm on Saturday, December 14, at Rex and Denise Bissette's home. Please bring your favorite snacks and a drink to share. We are also asked to bring a \$5 gift for Dirty Santa!

Carol Sing

We are having a special Carol Singing Service on Sunday, December 15, at 6 pm in the church sanctuary. You will be able to sing all your favorite carols and share in refreshments afterwards! Please bring 12 of your favorite Christmas treats (cookies, candies, etc.) to share in the refreshment time.

Christmas Cantata

This year's cantata "Call Him Jesus" will be shared on Sunday, December 22, during the morning worship service at 10:30 am!

Christmas Eve Service

There is no better way to start your Christmas celebration than in worship to the One you celebrate! Bring the whole family to the Christmas Eve Candlelight Service on Tuesday, December 24, at 7 pm. This traditional service is a wonderful way to slow down and meditate on Emmanuel. . . God with us.



Praise and Thanksgiving Service

On Sunday, December 29, we will have our annual Praise and Thanksgiving Service at 10:30 am. There will be no Sunday School, Coffee time, or Children's Church on that day. You will have an opportunity during the service to share what God has done in your lives this past year and for what you are thankful.

We Need You!

We also need someone who could coordinate putting together meals for those who have spend the night in the hospital. You would have a volunteer list to call to put together the meal.



Stocking Stuffers!

If you missed the Stitches of Love wash cloth sale during the Thanksgiving Breakfast, you can still get in on the great gift deals! See Frances Long or Maria Bryant!

Greeters

12/1 Richard and Karen Rose
12/8 Rusty Bryant and Rex Bissette
12/15 John and Jean Feagans
12/22 Betty Smith and Pat Harper
12/29 Phil and Leona Briggs

Ushers: head ushers Leon and Greg Bissette

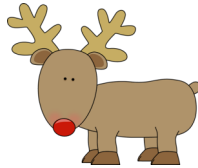
12/1 Ellen Henson and Johnny Brown
12/8 Mary McMillan and Bob Carlson
12/15 Richard and Karen Rose
12/22 Kevin Lewis and Buck Young
12/29 Ricky Pitt and Wink Hardesty

Soundboard

12/1 Jeff Slack and Caleb Chesis
12/8 Denise Bissette and Cierra Devine
12/15 Yvonne McLeod and Leona Briggs
12/22 Jeff Proctor and Caleb Chesis
12/24 To be announced
12/29 Jeff Slack and Cierra Devine

Children's Church

12/1 Ginny Hodges
12/8 Indy Chesis
12/15 Jill O'Brien
12/22 Ellen Henson and Ashley Lanham
12/29 No Children's Church



Backpacks

12/2 Anita Stander and Hope O'Keefe
12/9 Yvonne McLeod and Kay Owen
12/16 HOPE University and Rachel Westlund

Elders of the Month: Denise Bissette and Buck Young

Birthdays

1 Rex Bissette
2 Joan Brennan
7 Charlie Harris
9 Harvey Hardy
12 Mac McLeod
19 Cora Brown
27 Karen Rose
28 Florence McKeel
30 Grace Leggett
Johnny Long

Anniversaries

16 Dan and Janet Jordan
Pat and Jill O'Brien
22 Christine and Calvin Anderson
30 Jeff and Lori Slack

Thank You!

To the EPC members: Thank you for allyou have done for me in the last months. The call, card, visits, and food have been wonderful and very helpful. Most of all thank you for your prayers. They were felt and answered. God Bless All of You, Sadie Bissette

Thank you so very much for the wonderful Christmas Shower. I loved every minutes of it, it was good to put names and faces together! You have been most generous to Dennis and me. We continue to thank you for your prayers, thoughts and Christian spirit. We will remember you often, especially every Christmas. Thanks again for the ornaments, lights, angels, snow people, Santas, lanterns, money and gift cards, and the many other decorations. We love it all and you, too!

Dennis and Lana Hollifield

Thank you to all our church family for the cards, phone calls, food and prayers provided during Doug's recent surgery. We also thank God for the outpouring of love and grace you showed us on the Sunday that Doug blacked out. We were truly humbled by ALL the acts of kindness we received and the peace that we felt through His Spirit at work. We love each and every one of you, and we so thankful that we have such a wonderful family at EPC!

Doug and Cindy Batchelor

I would like to thank everyone for your prayers and concerns, the cards and telephone calls and for the food during my recent surgery. How blessed we are to be a part of such a caring church family.

Patsy Hinson

December 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 SS, 9:15 am Fellowship, 10 am Worship w/ Communion, 10:30 am First Sunday of Advent	2 Prayer Service, 6:30 pm Missions Team, SAN, 7 pm	3 HOPE U, 5-8 pm	4 CORE, HI, 6:45 am Congregational Care Team, LIB, 10 am	5 Small Group, YB, 10:30 am Stitches of Love, YB, 11:30 am	6	7 HOPE, 10:30 am to 2 pm Singing Christmas Tree Outing
8 SS, 9:15 am Fellowship, 10 am Worship, 10:30 am Second Sunday of Advent	9 Prayer Service, 6:30 pm	10 Adult Christmas Party, 6 pm	11 CORE, HI, 6:45 am	12 Small Group, YB, 10:30 am Blood Drive, FH, noon o 6 pm	13 Blood Drive, FH, 11 am to 4:30 pm	14 JOY Christmas Party, Rex and Denise Bissette's home, 6 pm
15 SS, 9:15 am Fellowship, 10 am Worship, 10:30 am Carol Sing, 6 pm Third Sunday of Advent	16 Prayer Service, 6:30 pm Staff Christmas Party, Briggs' home, 6 pm	17 HOPE U Christmas Party, 5-8 pm	18 CORE, HI, 6:45 am	19	20	21
22 SS, 9:15 am Fellowship, 10 am Worship w/ Cantata, 10:30 am Fourth Sunday of Advent	23 Prayer Service, 6:30 pm	24 Church Office Closed Christmas Eve Service, 7 pm Christmas Eve	25 Church Office Closed Christmas Day	26 Church Office Closed	27	28
29 Praise and Thanksgiving Service, 10:30 am	30 Prayer Service, 6:30 pm	31 The church will be open until 3:30 pm for gifts to be posted to 2019 New Year's Eve	<div> Key FH Fellowship Hall SAN Sanctuary HI Hampton Inn YB Youth Building LIB Library </div>			

Financial Info for November

	November		
	Actual	Budget	Difference
Tithes and Offerings	\$22,698.59	\$27,949.47	(\$5,250.88)
Other Income	<u>79.00</u>	<u>262.08</u>	(<u>183.08</u>)
Total	22,777.59	28,211.55	(5,433.96)
Expenses	<u>21,644.01</u>	<u>26,988.24</u>	<u>5,344.23</u>
Total Income (Expense)	\$ 1,133.58	\$ 1,223.31	(\$ 89.73)

	Year to Date		
	Actual	Budget	Difference
Tithes and Offerings	\$262,223.85	\$307,444.57	(\$45,220.72)
Other Income	<u>1,303.88</u>	<u>2,904.88</u>	(<u>1,601.00</u>)
Total	263,527.73	310,349.45	(46,821.72)
Expenses	<u>281,404.31</u>	<u>311,487.20</u>	<u>30,082.89</u>
Total Income (Expense)	(\$ 17,876.58)	(\$ 1,137.75)	(\$ 16,738.83)

PLEASE NOTE: You have until the end of the workday (3:30 pm) Tuesday, December 31 , to get in any gifts that you want included on your 2019 Giving Statement.

Gifts

A gift was given in honor of all those who helped with preparations, for the prayers and for the encouragement for Yannick and K.B. McLeod's wedding by Mac and Yvonne McLeod

Memorial Gifts were given in memory of Sterling Harris by John and Jean Feagans, Virginia Harris Kurth, Wallace and Susan Lea, Bruce McRoy

Staff Christmas Love Offering

It is difficult to believe that the holidays are upon us once more. Christmas is such a wonderful time of year – one that gives us the opportunity to contemplate our blessings and to honor those we love. Our church family has truly embraced the opportunities for ministry that God has led through our doors and placed in our hearts. We pray that He is pleased with our love and with our spirit of giving.

It is in this same spirit that we hope our church family will honor our faithful staff members with a Christmas Love Offering. We are blessed with a staff that is effective and efficient in the order and care of God's house, and who truly seek to be faithful servants to God and to all whom He has called them to serve.

Please place your designated gift in the offering plate by **Sunday, December 15** (marked clearly for "Staff Love Offering") . We will give the staff their gifts on Sunday, December 22. If you have any questions, please see Karen Rose. Merry Christmas, Your Elders



**May God bless you and your family
as you celebrate Jesus Christ this
season!**

Your Staff,
Dr. Rob Westlund, Pastor
Mary Ruth Johnson, Director of Music Ministries
Leona Briggs, Office Administrator
Diana Gay, Nursery Attendant and Custodian

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Web: www.inglewoodpres.com

