



give thanks

# Boulevard Park Press

NOVEMBER 2020

THE NEWSLETTER OF BOULEVARD PARK CHURCH

## Now Thank We All Our God

Words by Martin Rinkart



Now thank we all our God  
With hearts and hands and voices,  
Who wondrous things hath done,  
In whom His world rejoices;  
Who, from our mothers' arms,  
Hath blessed us on our way  
With countless gifts of love,  
And still is ours today.

O may this bounteous God  
Through all our life be near us,  
With ever joyful hearts  
And blessed peace to cheer us;  
And keep us in His grace,  
And guide us when perplexed,  
And free us from all ills  
In this world and the next.

All praise and thanks to God  
The Father now be given,  
The Son, and Him who reigns  
With them in highest heaven,  
The one eternal God,  
Whom earth and heaven adore;  
For thus it was, is now,  
And shall be evermore.  
Amen.

## PAGE 2: YOU AND YOUR GLOBAL WORKERS Twosomes Partnering with God around the World

This monthly PAGE 2 column reminds us that a partnership takes two. We should all be active, on-going SENDERS partnering with the SENT.

Compiled and edited by Ellyn Roe

\*Because the Press is published online, some of our global workers must guard their identities. If you need email addresses, contact [ellynroe@comcast.net](mailto:ellynroe@comcast.net)



Tom and Judy Horton have much to be thankful for this Thanksgiving.

Theme verse – Phil. 4:13 – “I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.”

Key Words & Phrases – Through / Comfort / Peace / Hope / Faith / Love / Grace / Mercy / Restored Soul / Sound Mind / But God / Much more

### Landmarks along our Journey of 2019 and 2020

By Tom Horton

We have much to be thankful for, especially the major progress that Judy has had recently with her health that was devastated after stomach surgery in January 2019.

1. Holding hands & saying, “I love you” more than all our years combined
2. Christian Music
3. Family / closer & stronger
4. Friends / cards / prayers / visits > encouragement
5. Scriptures / Promises / sharing together in the Word.
6. JESUS!!! – greater reality and confidence
7. Prayer
8. Thankful & Grateful Spirit
9. Remembering God’s faithfulness
10. ABC’s on suffering
11. Dependence on the Lord’s healing (man treats > God heals)
12. Humbled / soul searching / waiting on the Lord
13. Greater empathy for those who struggle
14. The Hope of Heaven > gives additional purpose to struggles
15. That the Peace of God that passes all understanding is real
16. That the ministry of RCYM continues to grow

AND THANK YOU FOR YOUR PRAYERS AND SUPPORT!!!



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## Living on M\*\*

An ongoing series by C.H.\*

### Part 2: The Danger of a Silent Choice

Marketing teams and advertising firms spend billions of dollars each year to get you to care more and more about the things of this world. Most days we don’t even have a choice whether or not we will be reminded of the next new thing that will ‘finally fulfill us’. This wouldn’t be such a dangerous situation if God had instructed us to just settle down, get cozy, and set our minds primarily on this world. But, as it turns out, Jesus warns us that caring about the things of this world may be negatively affecting something that actually matters for eternity—our fruitfulness.

Recently a friend mentioned that one major issue in his life was exactly this— he was starting to feel choked up in the cares of this

See Living on M, page 5

\*\* Global Work, whether abroad or on home assignment



Photo: Annie Spratt on unsplash.com

# Interpreting the Bible Optimistically

By Pastor Bud

Have you ever heard the expression, “It’s as clear as mud”? Sadly, many approach Bible study with the same pessimistic assumption. In this month’s article, I want to encourage you to be positive as you approach Bible interpretation.

God, who created us as rational beings, also inspired men to write a message for us. He did not intend this message to be hidden or misunderstood. Although there exist certain challenges to interpreting an ancient book, like the Bible, I am committed to doing all I can to promote diligent study and optimism.

The Bible is a plain book. The redemptive story of God is progressive, culminating in the gospel of Jesus Christ. There is no ambiguity in what the Bible seeks to communicate. Under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, both learned, and unlearned men can understand its message. The Bible is not just for the intellectually erudite academics of the world; its message is for everyone. The meaning is open and transparent to earnest readers intent on discovering God’s message to humankind.

We can be optimistic when we study the Bible because God wants us to understand what He has written. The doctrine that teaches us about the clarity of Scripture is the doctrine of perspicuity. The following accompany such a doctrine:

- **It means that Scripture is clear enough to give light to the simple.**

*“The unfolding of Your word gives light; It gives understanding to the simple”* (Ps. 119:130). Whether by direct address or transferrable principle, the Bible is a lamp to our feet and a light to our paths (Ps. 119:105).

- **It means that Scripture is clear in the essential matters.**

*“And that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus”* (2 Tim. 3:15). The overall message about which the Bible was written to

communicate is clear and understandable. Philosophical sophistication is not necessary to grasp the overall message of truth. The Westminster Confession of Faith, ratified in 1647, says of Scripture, *“All things in Scripture are not alike plain in themselves, nor alike clear unto all: yet those things which are necessary to be known, believed, and observed for salvation are so clearly propounded, and opened in some place of Scripture or other, that not only the learned, but the unlearned, in a due use of the ordinary means, may attain unto a sufficient understanding of them”* (WCF Ch. 1, section 7).

- **It means that biblical obscurity stems from man’s sinfulness, not the Scripture’s lack of clarity.**

Jesus indicated that a lack of biblical understanding was not the result of ambiguity on the part of the Scriptures. Rather, lack of clarity was laid at the feet of those who willfully suppressed its truth in unrighteousness. Jesus often responded to insincere questions with statements like, *“Have you not read...”* (Mt. 12:3; 19:14; 22:31; cf. Mt. 21:42), or *“You are wrong because you know neither the Scriptures nor the power of God”* (Mt. 22:29).

The earnest student of Scripture can be optimistic about finding truth in its pages. For this reason, *“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth”* (2 Tim. 2:15). Such a disciplined study of the word first comes from the heart. David expresses it best when he says, *“O how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day. Your commandments make me wiser than my enemies, for they are ever mine. I have more insights than all my teachers for Your testimonies are my meditation. I understand more than the aged, because I have observed Your precepts... From Your precepts I get understanding; therefore I hate every false way”* (Ps. 119:97-100, 104).

## Milestones

### Birth

**Madelyn Amaris Sneesby**

October 2, 2020

Parents: Aaron and Sarah Sneesby

Grandparents: Randy and Suzanne Sneesby.

Super-proud uncle: Ryan Sneesby (aka BPC drummer)

## Upcoming Events

Daylight Saving Time Ends at 2 a.m. on November 1. Turn clocks back one hour.

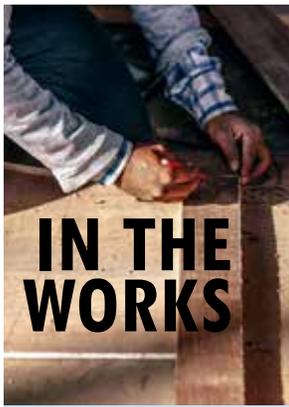
Sunday, November 1, 2020  
The church nursery re-opens.

Sunday, November 15  
Operation Christmas Child – filling Christmas Boxes for children overseas. Lunch will follow.

November 26-27  
Thanksgiving Holiday – church office is closed

Saturday, December 19, 5-7 p.m.  
Journey Thru Christmas – BPC parking lot

Thursday, December 24 at 7 p.m.  
Christmas Eve Service



**IN THE WORKS**

## Renovation Update

# Phase 1 Has Started

By Todd Neumann, BPC Phase 1 Liaison

Renovation of the MPR bathrooms has started! By the time you read this status report the demolition should be complete which includes the concrete removal necessary for our new ADA-compliant family bathroom's plumbing. New framing and mechanical-electrical-plumbing work are soon to follow. The remodel is scheduled for completion in early December.

Occurring soon are other adjacent projects including new MPR carpet, lighting and north wall renovation.



### Missing In Action

Have you seen a large box with a water fountain in it? It's a strange question but the one that was supposed to go alongside the one in the MPR is missing. If you have seen it, please call the church office. Thank you.

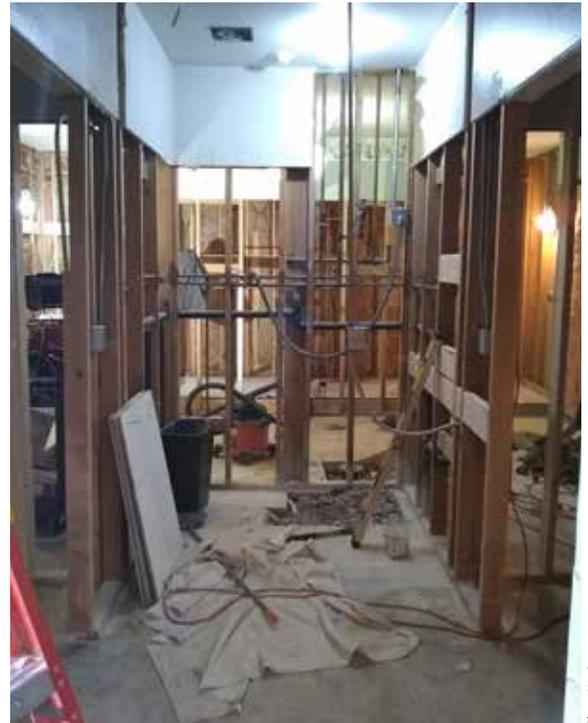


Photo: Lisa Bowen

Work has started on the MPR bathrooms.

## Our Amazing Staff

By Teresa Diener

While you probably know **Pastor Bud** stays busy, busy...in counseling, leadership meetings, study and preaching, doing online videos during these COVID times, caring with such love for his wife especially during this past year of cancer, loving his kids and grandkids (who think he is an hilarious grandpa), living out the gospel through his love for people and his character, and more; there are also many things that our other ministry staff do that you might not know.

Our worship director, **Conor Malis** along with his wife, Natalie, lead the young adult community group weekly. They also work with our youth leading small groups and music. Conor carefully and prayerfully selects what songs we will sing together, while also carefully reading through lyrics alongside scripture to make sure we are singing truth. He maintains a list of those people with ongoing illness and who is checking up on them. He gives the

music team and media team opportunities for conferences and growth in their ministry. He is in regular contact with other worship leaders as they learn from each other. He has been recording new songs and sending them to the congregation so we can learn before we sing them together. He also has pitched in with the children's ministries' outreaches. And so much more...like keeping up with his 49ers!

**Nate Kowallis**, Director of Youth Ministries, and his wife Erryn, have pioneered many ways of connecting the youth during this pandemic time. They have led devotions online, played group games by Zoom and other links, they found safe ways to begin meeting together, and went on hikes during the summer. He sends updates to all the youth parents almost weekly and to the youth leaders as well. He pitches in with the children's department often. He also finished his Bachelor's degree in Ministry

world (... referring of course, to the parable of the soils.) He connected Jesus' parable, found in Matthew 13, Mark 4 and Luke 8, with his care for and preoccupation with the news and politics in this world as a means for hour-to-hour, day-to-day *entertainment*; he was being choked.

Of course Christians care about the suffering we see around the world—and the news does an excellent job displaying it. But we can't forget eternal suffering. My friend confessed that he was sensing the entangling power of the cares of this world which was choking out his potential for producing the wonderful multi-fold fruit of those plants in the good soil. His energies were becoming drained by the cares of this world, rather than living fruitfully for the age-to-come. Hearing him say this caught me off guard and hit me square between the eyes.

It caught me off guard because I had never really paid attention to Jesus saying that the weeds consisted of the cares of this world. I had always automatically associated the weeds with worldly riches—for he does include that as well. But I had never directly applied the caring about the things of this world part.

And it hit me square between the eyes because I realized that I, too, am in danger. I am especially prone to this type of choking at this particular season of my life. Being back in America and not having the daily strict schedule of language school and discipling Indonesians, I have noticed an increase

in my discretionary time and I have been drifting towards caring—that is, caring in such a way that I am wasting precious energy by reading or scrolling through content that the world cares so much about. I see the weeds starting to grow and Lord knows the silent choke will soon follow.

Frothy games and news are produced to entertain us without end. This is a modern-day choking-out. We must prayerfully take out our machetes and beat back the weeds because we are jealous for eternally important fruit in our own lives and the lives of others. In other words, we need to not care about certain things in the world which are produced merely with entertainment value, but we need to care more about certain things in the world which are directly tied to Jesus' kingdom coming here as it is in heaven— like pre-born babies being saved, God being honored, and a message of faith and repentance being clearly communicated to all, great or small.

To whatever extent Covid has disrupted your normal work/life rhythms, or if you are finding yourself with a flexible schedule in your season of retirement, please join me in remembering how Jesus warned us 2000 years ago about the danger of our fruitfulness getting choked out by caring too much about the things of this world. Our hope in Christ assures believers that God has ordained good works that we are to walk in, but a weekend alone with our Bible and the pruning shears may be a good place to start.

Leadership this past year while working here full-time and loving his sweet family!

And aren't our women blessed? **Lisa Bowen**, our Women's Ministry Director, is in constant contact with so many of our women. Don't you love her handwriting? She directs the MOMlife group that is meeting this year every other Tuesday. She leads Bible studies, counsels women, leads retreats and events. And she does it all with the best laugh! You also might not know that she has been working on certification as a Biblical Counselor; she has finished all the "bookwork", including a 30-page paper on theology, and now will do a 50-hour practicum.

**Lisa Siedenburger** is one busy lady. As our director of KIDS ministry, she leads a great team of volunteers. She works with many

people and departments and heads up some of our biggest outreaches. During this pandemic, her team has been providing take-home boxes for families with Bible study lessons, videos, crafts, and goodies. The families are invited to a Sunday night Zoom meeting to check in. She also supports the Awana ministry and MOMlife. Over the summer she (and the amazing Kelly Siedenburger) oversaw the VBS Staycation that was so much fun. There is also a pre-service kids program going on in the MPR before the service starts on Sundays. Whew!

These are only a few highlights of what goes on behind the scenes with our staff. We are so blessed by them and so thankful for their ministry to us by God's strength.

## 2nd in a Series

See Page 2

\*Because the Press is published online, some of our global workers must guard their identities. If you need email addresses, contact [ellynroe@comcast.net](mailto:ellynroe@comcast.net)

## Say Thanks!

We do appreciate our ministry staff at Boulevard Park Church. Take a moment to reach out and let Pastor Bud, Conor, Nate, Lisa S. and Lisa B. know how much they are appreciated, how thankful we are for them and for what they do for our church family!

## Celebrations!

### November Birthdays

- 1 John Clifton  
Joyce Symons
- 2 Jocellyn Martinez
- 3 Joshua Henry  
Serena Owens
- 4 John McGill
- 5 Candis Bingham  
Caleb Wagner
- 6 Lauren Recker  
Bill Turner
- 12 Todd Neumann  
Sarah Struble  
Diane Stuart
- 16 Jay Moore
- 18 Lenny Autio
- 19 Jason Arnold  
Mary Cox  
Diane Eickert  
John Welch
- 20 Jodi Dunning  
Doug Wichelt
- 21 Wayne Eickert
- 22 Sheri Noble
- 23 Linda Huck  
Ellie Roenicke  
Ed Snyder
- 24 Dianne Rose
- 25 Rebecca Brownlee
- 26 Tony Porterfield  
Dave Will
- 28 Joan Dehn Whidden
- 29 Craig Hall

### Early December B-Days

- 5 Randy Sneesby
- 6 Jo Ann Peterson
- 7 Jael Nagy
- 8 Micah Harder
- 9 Bill Roenicke
- 11 George Brown  
Sharon Nickells  
Carmel Walder
- 12 Miesha Hartley  
Susie Hudson

If your birthday is not listed, please contact the church office.

# Children's Ministry Updates

By Lisa Siedenburg

## Sunday Mornings

Have you been watching the livestream and wondered **where are all the children?!** We're in the MPR! Four to five families have been joining us each week for worship in the Multipurpose Room. We meet at 10 a.m., watch our pre-recorded Kids Bible Study lesson, play a little game to review or practice the verse, and then the kids work on the activities during the livestream worship. It has a home-church-like feel and it's a joy to learn and worship together each week!

## Bibles Presented Recently

On October 11, we were finally able to follow through on Boulevard's long-standing tradition of presenting Bibles to our elementary school graduates. We missed it last June as we were dealing with pandemic shutdowns. We also decided to change tradition by blessing our incoming 4th and 5th graders with Bibles, so that when our Tween class starts back up they will be able to use them. Between that Sunday morning presentation and individual deliveries, we gave out 17 Bibles! It was so fun to see all of our 4th-6th graders!

## Trunk or Treat

Praise the Lord! We have 17 couples/families/groups hosting a trunk at our **Trunk or Treat** outreach on Saturday, October 31! Please pray for the interactions with our church family and the invitations to participate in our church to find tender hearts seeking a relationship with Jesus and His followers.

## Operation Christmas

We are looking forward to putting together **Operation Christmas Child Boxes on November 15!** If you would like to donate anything toward this project, please bring it to the church that morning or to the office by November 13. Contact Lisa Siedenburg at [children@bppc.org](mailto:children@bppc.org) or 206-334-6775 if you want more information.

## Nursery/Preschool to Reopen

We are also in the process of re-opening the **Nursery/Preschool** program during the Sunday morning service. Please be in prayer for our young families as they consider this option, for our staff and volunteers to provide a safe and Christ-centered program, and for wisdom and ease in following the new regulations.



## A Journey Thru Christmas

A Journey Thru Christmas is still a go for **Saturday, December 19, 5-7 p.m.!** Instead of walking the Journey, our guests will remain in their cars and drive from scene to scene. In the past we have had the children sing in the stable choir or angel choir. As we are trying to prevent the spread of COVID, we are having families volunteer together as much as is possible. Families with young children will be invited

## Share with Us

### Caroling, Caroling

Do you have a favorite Christmas carol? We invite you to share with us how a particular carol blesses you in a special way at Christmas. You can tell us about a favorite verse or phrase which touches you, ministers to you, or evokes a memory when you hear it. Maybe you have sung Christmas carols to reach out to others or to fellowship with friends. Tell us about it! Please submit your piece by November 15 for publication in the December Press to [bpcpress@bpcburien.org](mailto:bpcpress@bpcburien.org).

to be “villagers” in between scenes. Families with older children may participate in the scenes or as angels and shepherds out in the field.

### Volunteers Needed for Journey Thru Christmas

We need lots of adult volunteers as well! Here are some options:

- **Donations/Loans:**
  - Extension Cords
  - Canopies
  - Propane Fire Pits/Propane Tanks
- **Preparation:**
  - Prayer Team
  - Prepare Costumes
  - Prepare Sets
  - Audio Script Recording (Dates TBD)
  - Publicity
- **Preparation the Day of the Event (12 p.m.):**
  - Scene Set Up
  - Sound/Lighting Set Up
- **The Evening of the Event (4:30-7:30 p.m.):**
  - Welcome Team (Outside)
  - Parking Lot Guide
  - Hospitality (Mostly Outside)
  - Costume Crew (pass out before and collect after)
  - Clean Up Crew (7:30-9 p.m.)
  - Sound/Lighting Crew
- **Production Crew (Mandatory Dress Rehearsal Dec 12, 9 a.m.):**
  - Actors/Actresses (no speaking)
  - Family Villagers
  - Live Music

As you can see, this event will look different this year. Most of our jobs the night of the event are outside and will still require social distancing. Also, if you are waiting to be asked and wonder if we want you, we do!! There are so many details and with the awkwardness of doing this in a pandemic, please feel free to reach out to us: Lisa at [children@bpc.org](mailto:children@bpc.org) or 206-334-6775 or Peggie at [peg\\_recker@comcast.net](mailto:peg_recker@comcast.net) or 206-248-1450.

## Best Wishes, Jessalyn and Sam!

By Jessica Barton

Sam and Jessalyn (Henry) Welch were married in May of this year. They live in Bend, Oregon. Sam manages a window washing company in Bend and Jessalyn has recently started working alongside him. Jessalyn is also doing online schooling, working on her Masters program in International Community Development.





# BOULEVARD PARK CHURCH

*Reaching Our World for Christ*

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## CARE NET BABY BOTTLE BANKS ARE DUE BACK ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1



By Ellyn Roe

Steve and Ellyn Roe will collect your donation in the church parking lot Sunday morning, **November 1 from 10-10:45 a.m.** Your coins, bills or checks (made out to Care Net of Puget Sound) may also be brought in any container. If you cannot bring your contribution or send it with a friend on November 1, call the church office to make arrangements for pick up at your home.

THANK you, dear church family, for once again giving sacrificially to this Christ-centered ministry blessing women who face unplanned or under-supported pregnancies. ☺