

Honor the Sanctity of Life on Sunday, January 17

Even so, come, Lord Jesus!

Boulevard Park Press

JANUARY 2021

THE NEWSLETTER OF BOULEVARD PARK CHURCH

Why Should I Come Back to Church?

A HEARTFELT OPINION, by Randy Boyd

First, let me say this: If you are in a high-risk category for COVID-19, this article is not for you. Your health and safety are a priority. You should come back to church at the same time you feel safe to venture out on an infrequent basis.

For the rest of us, I have some thoughts in terms of physical attendance at church versus the current, incredibly popular, “Jammies, Coffee and a comfy Couch approach” [JCC].

A good starting point always is scripture: *“And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near”* (Hebrews 10:24-25).

Three observations:

1) Let’s acknowledge that it’s hard to do these from home, in isolation; not impossible, but hard. God calls all of us to meet together and encourage one another for the purposes of good works. Are you really doing this in JCC mode? You need some quality mask-to-mask time with the brethren to accomplish this.

2) We’re not to “neglect meeting together.” Facebook Live and JCC is not “meeting together.” The Bible says that meeting face-to-face is beneficial to your soul and we are not to neglect it.

3) Finally, note that we are called to avoid making a **habit** of neglecting to meet. Once in a while is fine, but we are told to avoid making it habitual.

There is danger in too much JCC – it is habit forming. Scripture knows it and warns against it.

For bonus points, read verses 26-31. Remember this is said immediately following our verses about not neglecting to meet together. These are serious warnings.

Okay, next let’s turn to singing: *“Speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart”* (Ephesians 5:19). This verse does not specifically call out corporate worship, but it is also a one- another verse. While it’s theoretically possible to do this at home, are you? Out loud? With all your heart? I suspect more than half of you don’t sing with the same gusto as when you attend in person.

There are very few things in this world that cause my soul to soar in appreciation of God more than singing a theologically-rich song with the saints gathered together on Sunday. I hope you experience the same thing. Even if you sing at home in your jammies, it will never, ever, feel the same as standing shoulder to shoulder with your brothers and sisters in Christ and singing the wonders of the God we serve.

Wrapping up

What are you doing right now for your physical body? Are you taking a little bit of a measured risk for it? Are you going to the grocery store, the hair dresser, the gas station, take-out food,

Fred Meyer and Costco in order to care for your physical body and to keep it from decaying? Hmmmm.

What about your spiritual body? Are you willing to take a little risk for its well being in the same way you are for your physical body? BPC’s COVID preventive measures are much better than Fred Meyer’s and Costco. I’ve been in all three places and I know this to be true.

In the early days of livestreaming, it was a completely adequate replacement and only to be for a short period of time. We had relationship with each other to lean on, we had past interactions, we were good friends who saw each other regularly and knew what was going on in each others’ lives.

Brother, sister...it has been NINE MONTHS. Nine months since many of you have laid eyes upon each other or asked how the other was doing. Listened, in person to the Word of God preached. Sang shoulder to shoulder (+ 6 feet) with your fellow believers. Prayed together, chatted, had relationship.

It’s time. You need to begin doing for your spiritual body what you’re doing for your physical body. You need to come sing. You need to come pray as a body. You need to be encouraging one another. Put away the jammies. Come back to in-person worship with your brothers and sisters.

The views of this author are not necessarily those of management or all subsidiaries. If you want to comment on this article, feel free to email Randy at randyboyd@hotmail.com.

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

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Sanctity of Life Ministries

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

Living on M**

An ongoing series by by C.H.*

Part 4: Don't Throw in the Towel!

There comes a time at which we all are unconsciously tempted to "throw in the towel" when it comes to our legacy and labor of discipleship.

When things seem to be going well, we ride the wave. But when the going gets tough and the disappointments pile up, the Saints are often tempted to wrap-up our planting and watering efforts. But we shouldn't. It may be right that a redirection is in order, such as when the Holy Spirit told Paul not to go to Asia, but rather to Macedonia. This redirect simply caused the harvest to happen in a different way.

Many of us are aware of the ebb in evangelical growth that is happening around us, even in our families. However, we cannot take our eyes off Jesus' promise that He WILL build His Church, and that the gates of hell will not prevail against it. Jesus said the Kingdom of Heaven WILL continue to grow like a mustard seed and expand like leaven. His promise hasn't changed. If Christianity grew from 300 to approximately 3,000,000,000 in the last 2000 years, to what extent will it grow if God takes a long weekend and we continue plodding forward another 3000 years? With that possibility in mind, periodically we must re-evaluate our legacy and our long-term strategy for making disciples.

The way I see it is that the big enemies of growth, (aside from the garden-variety spiritual attacks and our own sinful habits), include social and political flare-ups that lure our vision into the sinkhole of paralyzing worry. Unless we have our minds trained on remembering God's commands and promises, we can easily get preoccupied with the cultural current and start conforming our lives to societal trends rather than being transformed in our thinking and mission.

I hope that the American church, and particularly those of us living and serving in the south Seattle/Boulevard Park area would make life and ministry decisions with millennia in mind.

That said, here are some challenges for consideration:

• **Corporate – Plant a new church.** According to a 2012 article ⁽¹⁾ by Pastor Tim Keller, most new converts to the faith are won to Christ amidst the growth and outreach of a new church-plant. It may be painful to consider the 'split' that must occur in order to go from one church to two. But we should see the commissioning of a new church as proud parents

⁽¹⁾ https://download.redeemer.com/pdf/learn/resources/Why_Plant_Churches-Keller.pdf

**Global Work, whether on the field or home assignment

***Part 3, "The Best \$9 Investment" was inadvertently omitted from the December Press, but it was emailed by Pastor Bud and posted as an addendum on the Press Page of the church website. Its powerful message is not limited to Christmas. Don't miss it!



Photo credit: Curtis Thornton on unsplash.com

see off a married child, rather than mourning a divorce. Maturing and multiplying is our commission, not our collapse.

• **Corporate – Start a small Christian school, educational center, or bolster existing Christian education co-ops.** Roles of administration, teaching, counseling, outdoor recreation, or facilities and maintenance are just a few of the jobs that would be created and filled by our talented body in this Kingdom endeavor. Not only could we be supported by other churches who have successfully made this a reality, we would have a quality local alternative to the God-ignoring education offered in our public schools.

• **Personal – Host monthly extended-family dinners.** While everybody's together and cozy, start a tradition of sharing a Bible story lesson and singing a song together. If we realize that 500 years from now we could have approximately 1000 direct descendants (do the math), would that change the way we raise our children (or our 'children'-in-the-faith)? Regardless of family size, we should intentionally be influencing and pointing those in our circles of influence to the incredible riches we share in knowing Christ. There is no better and more unifying hope that could be imagined.

Finally, as one pastor said, "It's amusing to consider that 10,000 years from now the youth group kids in our church are going to be confusing C.S. Lewis and Athanasius because they are both 'early church fathers.'" This is the kind of scope for longevity and legacy we should be envisioning. May we not "throw in the towel" early, but like the Apostle Paul exclaim, "I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God" (Acts 20:24).

Have You Lost that Loving Feeling?

By Pastor Bud

In 1965 the Righteous Brothers released the hit title song for their album, “You’ve Lost That Loving Feeling.” While the song does not speak about our relationship with Christ, it is a relevant question to ask, “Have you lost your first love for Jesus?” Possibly, you are unaware of the signs that you have lost your first love. To help you examine your life, you may have lost your first love if...

- You love to be right but fail to be righteous.
- You love the Savior’s teaching but fail to love the Savior.
- You are more concerned with the style and sound of worship than you are with the soundness and sincerity of worship.
- You grumble about the preacher rather than glory in the Christ whom he proclaims.
- You prioritize comfort and convenience over conviction and commitment.

Jesus addressed a church that had lost their first love (Rev. 2:1-7). He advised them to “remember from where you have fallen,” and “repent and do the deeds you did at first” (Rev. 2:5). This prescription is helpful when we know what our Lord was asking them to remember and redo. Jesus’ exhortation would likely have taken the Ephesian minds back to Paul’s instruction. They would have known about what Jesus spoke. Possibly they would have thought about Ephesians 2:8-10. Consider these verses and if you have lost your first love, remember, repent, and redo.

1. Remember the grace of salvation (Eph. 2:8-9). When our passionate celebration of grace wanes, our love, worship, and gratitude decrease. Worship becomes nothing more than a lip-sync of someone else’s passion. We relegate the Lord’s Supper to a ritual rather than a remembrance. Our service is driven out of convenience rather than a sacrifice from conviction. Essentially, our love grows cold; we go through the motions. Our hunger for God’s word atrophies, being replaced with a “verse-a-day to keep the devil away” mindset.

The solution: remember grace. Recollect that you once were far off, in a hopeless

condition, and unable to respond, dead (Eph. 2:1-4; 11; 13). Reminisce on the freeness of your gift, the unmerited favor God displayed when He rescued you from the domain of darkness and transferred you into His kingdom (Col. 1:13-14). Recall the absolute flood of relief washing over your soul when you closed your eyes as a child of God, secure in the knowledge that He, who holds the world in His hands, holds you safe forever. And, when you do, love cannot remain cold. Communion can never be commonplace, and worship will never again be boring. The word will be your longing like a newborn babe longs for milk (1 Pet. 2:2). Once again, Christianity will be about a God-glorifying, joy-filled, love relationship.

2. Repent and redo the works you were created for (Eph. 2:10). The works we were created for before the foundation of the world are not dead and heartless deeds done out of a legalistic sense of obligation. They are not deeds for the sake of men’s praise, nor are they done for the purpose of earning favor from God. They are deeds done because of the grace of God:

- The darkness of our thinking has been illuminated by the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ who is the image of God.
- The rebellious moral inability of our spiritual deadness has been brought to life by the superior power of the Holy Spirit’s regeneration.
- The evil desires of our fallen flesh have been transformed to a longing for God-glorifying good.
- The slavery of our sinful souls has been broken by the sanctifying work of the Spirit.
- The fears of our doomed destiny have been replaced by the expectation of our future exaltation in Him.

So, as we begin 2021, and you have to honestly admit that you’ve lost that loving feeling, there is hope. Jesus gives us hope. “Grace be with all those who love our Lord Jesus Christ with incorruptible love” (Eph. 6:24).

For His glory alone,
Pastor Bud

Milestones

Anniversary

Harvey & Diane Siedenburg
60th Wedding Anniversary on
December 31, 2020

Deaths

Gary Stensland
November 24, 2020
former member of BPC

John Eberle

November 27, 2020
father of Kelly Graham

Nancy Conroy

December 7, 2020
mother of Alan Conroy

Vada Higbee

December 17, 2020
mother of Ellyn Roe,
grandmother of Lisa Martinez,
great-grandmother of Naya and
Jocelyn Martinez

Women's Ministries

Read the Bible Through in 2021

The word of God is living and active, performing its work in those who believe. It has been a privilege to read through the Bible together in 2020. Included in this issue of the Press is our 2021 Bible Reading Plan. In this plan, the Old Testament readings' order is very similar to Israel's Hebrew Bible, progressing from Law to Prophets to Writings. The New Testament ordering is based upon research regarding the order in which the books were authored. Although this research is not conclusive, it may offer helpful insights into your Bible reading this year. I urge you all to join with me and read the Word together in 2021.

— Pastor Bud

January Book Club!

By Lisa Bowen

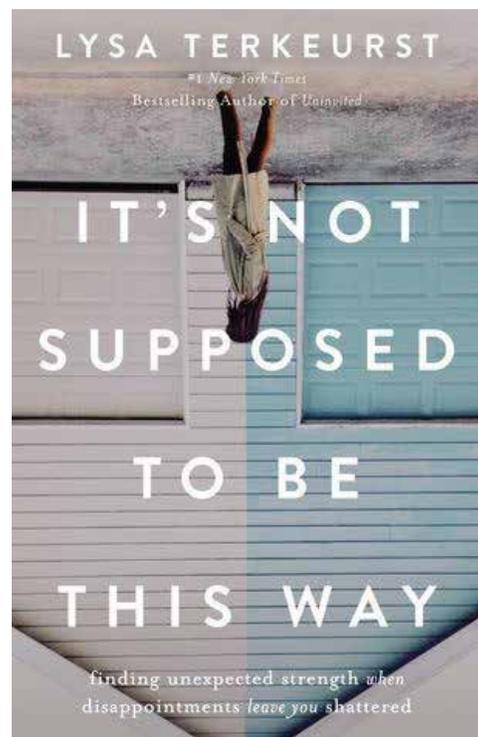
What do you do when God's timing seems questionable, His lack of intervention hurtful, and His promises doubtful?

Life often looks so very different than we hoped or expected. Some events may simply catch us off guard for a moment, but others shatter us completely. We feel disappointed and disillusioned, and we quietly start to wonder about the reality of God's goodness.

Lysa TerKeurst understands this deeply. But she's also discovered that our disappointments can be the divine appointments our souls need to radically encounter God. In this book, Lysa invites us into her own journey of faith and, with grit, vulnerability, and honest humor, helps us to see our lives in the context of God's bigger story. Whether we're dealing with daily disappointments or life-altering loss, we can find unexpected strength as we learn what it means to wrestle between our faith and our feelings.

~Description from back cover of book

We'll read this over the month on our own, and then meet virtually on **Thursday evening, January 28, at 6:30 p.m.** to talk about the thoughts we came away with! The link for our meeting will be sent out via email mid-January.



Questions? Contact Lisa Bowen at lisabowen@bpcburien.org.

The Counselor Is IN

To my BPC Sisters,

You may or may not be aware, but I am currently working on my Biblical Counseling Certification and have headed into the third and final phase of my program: 50 hours of supervised counseling. Over the next few months, I am looking for individuals who would be willing to spend some time with me as I practice what I have been learning.

If you have an issue that you've been struggling with, or something that you'd like to talk through, I would be honored and grateful for the opportunity to work with you. There is no cost to you, and it can be done in person, or remotely. I would ask that you be able to commit to 5-10 sessions, which would last for one hour in length each time. If you know of someone who doesn't attend BPC and who might benefit from Biblical counseling, please feel free to pass this info to them as well.

If you are interested in participating, please contact me at 206-354-0339 or at lisa.bowen@bpcburien.org and we can talk about the specifics of what our time would involve. Sessions will begin in January. Thank you so very much!

With a grateful heart,
Lisa Bowen



Pastor Bud Teaches in January

Politics Is Not Your Religion!

What is the church's role in society and politics?

Begins Thursday, January 7, 6-8 p.m.
Christ's Church Federal Way

During the month of January 2021, Pastor Bud will be guest-teaching a four-week class on the church's role in society and politics. In our current context, discussions about politics, the church, and society escalate quickly. Opinions about the church's engagement in society and politics abound. A recent Pew Research survey revealed that 63% of Americans believe the church should completely stay out of politics. Is the survey correct? Does it matter if you vote or not? Should Christians be Republicans or Democrats? How should the church engage the

culture? This class will ask these questions and more, seeking to provide real-life answers to the church, state, and culture questions we face by discovering what the Bible teaches.

Beginning **Thursday, January 7, from 6-8 p.m., at Christ's Church Federal Way** (941 S. Dash Point Rd., Federal Way) the class will run for 4 sessions. Christ's Church has invited anyone from BPC to attend. For more information, contact Pastor Bud at bud.diener@bpcburien.org.

Ladies! Let's get out and take some time to

WALK and TALK !



Every Thursday, starting on January 7 from 1-2 p.m.

We'll meet at the church and spend the hour just walking around our fabulously huge parking lot (flat and easy)!

We'll "mask up and catch up" with one another...Rain or shine!

There's no commitment...just come whenever you can!

Looking forward to seeing you!

Have questions? Contact Lisa Bowen
at 206-354-0339 or by email at lisabowen@bpcburien.org

Celebrations!

January Birthdays

- 1 Lynda Eck
- 5 Rebecca Carvo
Jennifer McCombs
- 6 Alex Alford
Rebekah Jonasson
- 8 Edmund Faulkner
- 10 Sheila Richardson
- 11 Jacqueline Griffin
- 12 Kelly Graham
- 15 Dan Kent
Katie Siedenburg
- 17 Carrie Hilstad
Sylvia Thompson
Jeanne Whalen
- 18 Jean Rose
- 19 Doug Barton
Bud Thorne
- 22 Shawn Will
- 23 Tim Simmonds
Vicky Steiner
- 24 Christabelle Hall
Rachel Wagner
- 25 Barry Groves
- 27 Serena Hale
- 28 Annette Conroy
Dee Secrest
- 29 Mel Kimmel
Chris Moore
Diane Siedenburg
- 31 Pat Jorgensen

Early February Birthdays

- 1 Anita Coffman
Donald Ellefson
- 3 Aidan Conroy
- 4 Debbie Bryce
- 5 Scott Boone
Jim Buck
- 6 Ethan Arnold
Stefanie Arnold
Susan Rose
Karen Shickley
- 7 Sherry Clemons

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

Journey Thru Christmas

A Wonderful (and Wet) Outreach

By Lisa Siedenborg

We are praising the Lord for another successful *Journey Thru Christmas*. There was a steady line of cars for 3 hours. Friends, family, neighbors and our community joined us just as we had prayed for! Despite most people having to wait over 45 minutes

just to get into the parking lot, there was no complaining and only gratitude for the experience.

Speaking of gratitude, we'd like to share some, too! Serving our Lord isn't always easy and pleasant, but it's always worth the effort. These people really made the effort!

- The small but mighty setup crew put up stars, tents, lights, hay bales, chairs, tables, and readied our sets in spite of the wind and rain.

- The actors and singers cheerfully persevered into an unexpected third hour on their soaking wet feet and with cold hands.

- The Scene hosts and Lights and Sound teams optimistically endured the rain as they supported their actors and singers to share their part of Jesus' story.

- The Cocoa Team kept a constant supply of warm cocoa to deliver to our guests and volunteers throughout the entire program.

- The Parking and Welcome Teams sweetly welcomed and greeted guests as they waited patiently in their cars.

- Our talented musicians, Conor and Natalie, Suzanne, Luke, Teresa, Ellie, and Lisa Martinez readied their songs and sang and played for 3 hours without any breaks.

- Without missing his cue for 3 hours straight, Pastor Bud enthusiastically encouraged, welcomed, and invited each carload of guests to join us for more insight into God's Word and Christmas Eve.

We'd also like to mention some key behind the scenes people who may not have been noticed...

- Over a dozen people trekked through Roger Cox's recording studio to read their lines, and afterward Roger put together all of the audio and added intro and exit music to each scene. It sounded amazing and is a great addition to continue when we go back to a walk-through event.

- Randy Boyd researched, purchased and made it so we could hear the audio recordings.

- Eva Lee Henderson with Minuteman Press printed signs and a booklet with the script for each carload to follow along with and to keep. This is an addition we will use in the future.

- God equipped Peggie and Jill to creatively prepare 50 costumes and 9 sets...and ways to stabilize them in the rain and wind.

- Fred Volkens supplied and mounted our much needed stars again, although sadly we lost one to the wind before the program started.

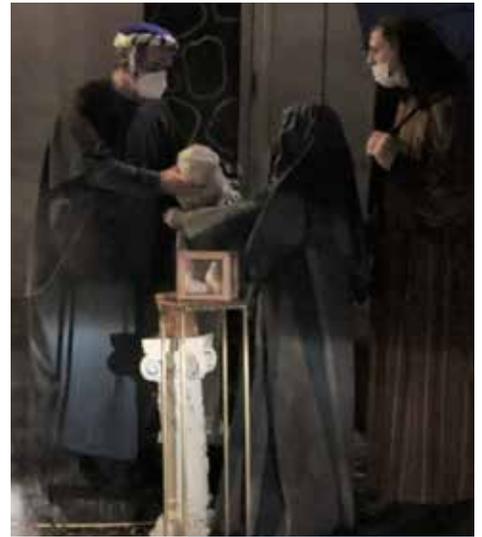
- Larry Bretz with his electrical skills created a way for cars to drive safely over multiple power cords without interrupting the scenes.



Did I mention there was a lot of rain? Well, it didn't seem to matter to the guests, and maybe it even brought more. Isaiah 43:18-19 says, "Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert."

Because of COVID, we had to make a few changes this year, and as it turns out, many of those changes worked in our favor and will be used in the future. Even though the rain was discouraging and uncomfortable for us, we saw how God used it to bring many out in their vehicles to see His story. Thank you, Church family, for your part as well in serving the Lord through this event! We look forward to seeing what He will do next year!

Photos at left, top to bottom: Scene 1 - Mary's home; Scene 2 - Elizabeth's home; Scene 3 - Joseph's home; Scene 4 - Herald's Announcement. Photos at right, bottom to top: Scene 5 - the Stable; Scene 6 - the Hillside; Scene 6 - the Angels; Scene 7 - the Temple; Scene 8 - Wise Men/Herod's Palace



Yard Sign Reminder

If you have a yard sign for the Journey, please return the metal support frame. You returned them after VBS and we saved \$50 by re-using them for the Journey!

Special Note from the Editors: Special thanks to Katie, Kara and Carly Siedenbug, Lisa's daughters, who so willingly jumped in to help with everything from set-up to clean-up AND to perform in the Journey!

All photos: credit Jessica Barton





BOULEVARD PARK CHURCH

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Renovation Update – January 2021

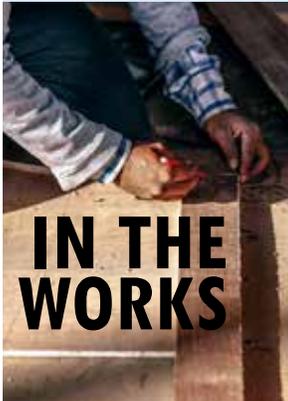
Phase 1 MPR Restroom Renovation

By Todd Neumann, BPC Phase 1 Liaison

The rough-in of mechanical, electrical and plumbing components and their inspections are complete, modifications to the shear wall and its inspections are complete, and installation of tile backer board and sheetrock has started. Here is what's left to do:

- Door installations;
- Reinforcement of a floor truss at the new hot water tank location;
- Install of floor tile, wall tile, and shower tile;
- Install of counters, sinks, and faucets;
- Painting;
- Install of toilet partitions, fixtures, and accessories;
- Purchase and install of light fixtures.

An end-of-January completion still looks possible.



fancycrane on unsplash.com