



# Deacons' Fund Is Now the Benevolence Fund

By Nate Kowallis

You may have heard a new phrase from the pulpit on the first Sunday of the month for the past few months: “the benevolence fund.” Historically, you have donated to the Deacons’ Fund for the relief of acute needs in our church body and in our neighboring community, but where you’re donating to such a ministry has changed for a few reasons.

First, the Deacons’ Fund has been renamed the Benevolence Fund. The new name represents a repurposing of the original. Before, the Deacons exclusively handled the distribution of funds so generously donated from the congregation for persons in need, the fund is now expanded to include proactive movements as well as responding to requests.

Second, the Elders commissioned a Benevolence Committee with representation from the Deacons, Deaconesses, and staff to oversee and develop the fund’s dispersal process. With broader oversight of the fund, we hope to have better awareness of more diverse congregational needs and a faster turnaround for meeting community needs. Furthermore, we hope that diversifying the composition of the committee will make us more accessible to you.

Third, the Deacons were doing a good job of handling the fund but the scope of their role could not keep up with your generosity. They functioned on a request-based system, and fewer people asked for help than they’d been resourced to bless. The renaming of the Deacons’ Fund and transition of oversight to the Benevolence Fund is an expansion of what the Deacons had been doing all along.

Finally, this clarifies some roles. In Acts 6, the pattern was established for Deacons to meet needs within the church. In 2 Timothy 4:5, a pastor is instructed to do the work of an evangelist. The whole of the church, however, is called in 1 Corinthians 5:9-10 to remain in contact with the world. By being available to the community to receive them in their need, the representative Deaconesses and staff join the representative Deacons in fulfilling these broad calls, freeing the remainder of the Deacons to attend to congregational needs.

In conclusion, the Benevolence Committee expands the ministry that the Deacons historically have been performing. It is our hope that the resources you generously provide will further your encouragement in Christ—both as givers and receivers of that grace—and that God’s kindness through this church would bring more people to repentance.



## Pastor Nate

By Jon Recker

On Sunday, October 9, BPC had the privilege of ordaining our Youth Director, Nate Kowallis, during the worship service. Ordination requires one to demonstrate extensive knowledge of the Bible, a clear understanding of biblical, systematic, and practical theology, and a biblical approach to pastoral ministry.

For over two years Nate pursued an intensive program of study, culminating in his successful completion of written and oral examinations covering all of these subjects.

We congratulate Pastor Nate on this very significant accomplishment and encourage everyone to lift him up in daily prayer!

## 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)



**Boulevard Park Press  
November 2022**

Published Monthly by  
Boulevard Park Church

1822 S 128th Street  
Burien, Washington 98168-2903

Phone: 206-243-2600

E-mail: [Info@bppc.org](mailto:Info@bppc.org)

Website: [www.bpcburien.org](http://www.bpcburien.org)

Pastor: Bud Diener

Worship

Services: Sunday at 10:30 a.m.

### Press Staff

Editor: Eva Lee Henderson

Reporters: Ellyn Roe

Photographer: Jessica Sneesby

Proofreaders: Peggie & Ernie Recker

The Press also is available on  
the church website.

December Deadline: November 15

E-mail: [bpcpress@bpcburien.org](mailto:bpcpress@bpcburien.org)

## Our Hearts are Breaking, But Trusting

By Mark and Joanne Mackey

To the BPC Family:

Thank you for your prayers and interest in Ukraine. The attention of many people throughout the world is on Ukraine during these difficult days. Our attention is focused in a special way, because of the 28+ years that we served in that nation.

### A few tidbits:

The part of Ukraine where we served was in the east, in a Russian-speaking area. We transliterated the city's name from the Russian spelling: Zaporozhye. The entire nation now is more patriotic, nationalistic and Ukrainian than ever. Translitterating the city's name from the Ukrainian language: Zaporizhzhia, which is the name you see on TV news.

Zaporizhzhia is the capital city of the state (province) of Zaporizhzhia, where Europe's largest nuclear plant is located - as the crow flies about 40 miles from the city itself. A radiation leak from the power plant would endanger the entire region and beyond, depending upon which way the wind blows.

During the first seven months following the invasion, Zaporizhzhia experienced some missile attacks, but relatively few in comparison with cities like Kharkiv and Mariupol, which were decimated. A few weeks ago serious shelling began in the early morning hours in the downtown sections of Zaporizhzhia and in residential areas. Neighborhoods where we know people, streets down which we walked, stores where we shopped, and places where we drove are no more.

The two of us are deeply disturbed over the destruction and loss of life. We know people who died, who were arrested and interrogated, and who now live in occupied territory where conditions do not allow communication with the outside world. This is most distressing.

At the same time, ministry is taking place. Church services are full on Sundays. Churches and humanitarian agencies help displaced people with food, clothing, and transportation to the western part of the country where it is safer - maybe not safe, but safer. Schools are in session on-line or remotely.

Zaporizhzhia Bible Seminary (ZBS) professors conduct courses, lead seminars, and participate in conferences to help local churches and individuals, as many as possible. ZBS conducts classes, and opened a new campus in central Ukraine where enthusiastic young students began studies last month.

### What do we know?

- We know that the Lord is in His holy temple. God is still on His throne.
- We don't understand WHAT God is doing, but we declare our trust Him.

### What is our prayer for the people of Ukraine?

- That Ukrainians would be strong and courageous, focusing on the Lord.

Thank you for joining with us in prayer.



Church service in Zaporizhzhia Sunday, October 9, 2022.



ZBS Professor Andriy teaching Old Testament Survey at a new location in central Ukraine, a new group of young students.



Make-shift beds set up in a local church facility for displaced people to rest.

Below: 1000 loaves of bread, ready for distribution or for consumption at a local church helping displaced people.



Photo Credits: Courtesy of the Mackeys

# Biblical Thinking on Ethics

By Pastor Bud

Biblical ethics is inseparable from theology because ethics is grounded in the character of God. Francis Schaeffer says:

One of the distinctions of the Judeo-Christian God is that not all things are the same to Him. That at first may sound rather trivial, but in reality it is one of the most profound things one can say about the Judeo-Christian God. He exists; He has a character; and not all things are the same to Him. Some things conform to His character, and some are opposed to His character.

For this reason, a biblical ethical position must be critical enough to distinguish between things that conform to God's character and those that do not.

In the world today, many speak of establishing a new moral order. It doesn't take long to see how the media and Hollywood's aggressive messaging reshape our ethical grid. However, the possibility of establishing a new moral order, which is the foundation of all ethical decisions, is the same as founding a new physical order. Both are universal *givens*, which means that they exist transcendentally. They are not human constructs. That they are transcendent of human design means we must deal with them as they are.

As Christians, we recognize that the moral order is as real as the physical order. While Paul considered the material order temporal, he believed the "not seen" order was eternal (2 Cor. 4:18). This eternal moral order is a reflection of the character of God.

Christian ethics is a reflection and expansion of the transcendent moral order revealed to and in

all mankind. Although the ethical assessment of certain specific actions may differ, there is an overarching pattern of similarity among all ethical codes. For example, murder, lying, and abuse are almost always condemned. The similarities within the ethics of diverse cultures are evidence that morality finds its source in a universal foundation.

Every person exercises moral judgment. That judgment implies the existence of an objective moral anchor. Whenever man judges, he relies on some standard against which he measures the moral value of something. If morality is to make any sense at all, regardless of the specifics of one's moral code, some independent foundation must exist. Without a standard, there can be no justice; without an absolute ethical foundation, there can be no morality.

In a Christian worldview, ethics is founded on the belief in an absolute standard existing outside of, yet somehow inscribed on man's heart. It flows from the nature and character of God, not a construct of the human mind or contemporary culture. It is part of God's image in man and His revelation to him.

John expresses the revelation like this, "*There was the true Light which, coming into the world, enlightens every man*" (John 1:9). It is what Paul referred to as "*the work of the Law written in their hearts, their conscience*" (Rom. 2:15).

At the core of the Christian ethic is a moral order based on the character of God, which is revealed to man through general and special revelation. It is an order that exists outside man's empirical or five senses, and this order must be treated as an absolute by its very transcendent nature. For

this reason, people instinctively know in their hearts (Rom. 1:18-20) that worshiping idols, practicing homosexuality, maliciousness, envy, murder, deceitfulness, boasting, etc. (Rom. 1:23-32) are contrary to the eternal moral order.

God is the ultimate source of morality, and it is nothing short of blasphemy when we place ourselves in His role. We must understand the fallacy of secular ethics. All secular ethical codes are an aberration of God's code. The changing ethics of secularism is inherently hypocritical. On the one hand, a man attempts to live a life not controlled by God and His law; on the other hand, man still seeks to justify himself as an ethical and moral being.

As Christians, we emphatically embrace the concept of moral absolutes and believe they should be taught to our children. But what specific absolutes make up the moral order professed in Christian ethics? Absolutes are revealed to man in the Bible. While it is impossible for every situation requiring a moral decision to be contained in the Bible, God has given the Christian enough specific values, principles, and guidelines to understand right and wrong in all situations. Jesus, the only perfect adherent of God's ethical code, provides us with affirmation and insight into the scope of the commandments (Mt. 5-7).

So, ethics for the Christian is both like and unlike any other ethical system ever postulated. Every system contains some grain of truth found in the Christian code. But, no other system can claim to be the whole truth, handed down as an absolute from God to man.

For His glory,  
Pastor Bud

\*  
22

## CHILD DISCIPLESHIP FORUM

*Then Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me."  
— Matthew 16:24*

### Forum Highlights

By Lisa Siedenburg

#### \* Discipleship with John Mark Comer...

"The question isn't, *are* you a disciple? It's *who* are you a disciple of? Who will you follow? What path will you take?"

#### \* Old Maps vs New Maps with Matt Markins...

"Child discipleship is designed to form lasting faith by helping kids belong to God and his kingdom, believe in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, and become like Jesus and walk in His ways through the power of the Holy Spirit."

#### \* Technology and the Life We're Looking For with Andy Crouch...

"The more protected the environment, the more anxious you feel. The more fame you experience, the greater the loneliness. The more you lack meaningful paths for action in the world, the more you are at risk for depression, anxiety, and loneliness... We are spending way too much time on magic [technology/devices]."

#### Discipleship Paths May Vary with Andrew Peterson...

"Whose kingdom are you building? As a Christian we battle whether we build God's kingdom or our own."

#### \* The Church Must Reclaim with Rebecca McLaughlin...

1. Reclaim diversity — Christianity is the belief system of diversity... and the most diverse movement ever.
2. Reclaim the university — not as a hostile takeover but as an intellectual homecoming.
3. Reclaim morality — most self-evident morals are from Christian beliefs. We must flee self-righteousness... recognizing what Paul said, "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners of whom I am the worst."
4. Reclaim sexuality — "Marriage is meant to point us to Christ... Will you submit your attractions to Christ?"
5. The Rise and Triumph of the Modern Self with Carl Trueman... "Do the right thing, knowing that you may never see the fruit. The promises hold good." "We've been given the privilege of carrying the torch in the dark times."

#### \* Sexuality & Faithfulness in Discipleship with Sam Alberry...

"Jesus doesn't say *follow your heart*. He says '*follow me*'."

#### Identity and Connection with Cindy Bultema...

"Every child is ONE caring adult away from having their life changed for eternity." "May it not be said on our watch, "No one ever told me."



## Operation Christmas Child

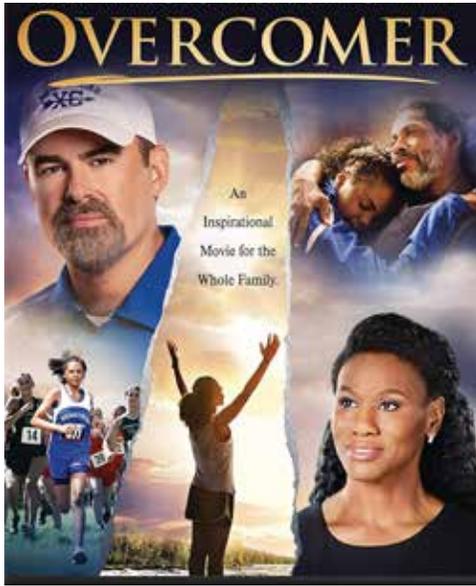
By Lisa Siedenburg

Our children's families are invited to fill an Operation Christmas Child box for a child. If you, your family, your small group, etc. would like to participate, you can pick up a box at the children's Check-In Station on the 100 level and **return it to us by Sunday, November 13.**

*The mission of Operation Christmas Child is to demonstrate God's love in a tangible way to children around the world. Through this project, Samaritan's Purse partners with the local church worldwide to share the Good News of Jesus Christ and make disciples of all nations.*

# PIZZA/MOVIE NIGHT

Sponsored by Men's Ministry



**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18**  
**at 6:30 p.m. in Room 151**  
**EVERYONE'S INVITED**

*After a coach loses his entire basketball team, he's challenged to coach a new sport he doesn't know or like. Ultimately, he dares to help the least likely runner take on the biggest race of the year.*

## Women's Event

# Count Your Blessings

By Ellyn Roe

Women of all ages are invited to come to church on **Wednesday, November 16, from 10-11:30 a.m.** for a sweet time of singing, Scripture study, and sharing on the theme of Thankfulness, led by Mary Cox.

Mary says, "Based on the usual Wednesday morning Bible study with music to start, we will then look at Bible passages where people gave thanks to God interspersed with questions prompting us to examine our lives for places where we, too, can give thanks. I've always found that spending some serious time in thanksgiving before the "gimme gimme" of commercial Christmas helps me to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior with a joyous heart."

So, let's get together to "count our many blessings and name them one by one." Please come!



## Milestones

### Deaths

**Janette Ravander**  
October 6, 2022  
mother of Shannon, David and Helen

**Marie Thorne**  
October 11, 2022  
beloved wife of Bud and mama of Lisa Bowen



5 weeks of

## Christmas Crafts

Our next 5-week Talent Zone begins November 2 with a focus on Jesus's coming and Christmas. We will prepare some Christmas carols to sing for the elderly in our community and make some Christmas crafts to decorate our homes and/or to give as gifts.

Want to get involved in Children's Ministries on Wednesday nights or Sunday mornings? Contact Lisa Siedenburt at [children@bppc.org](mailto:children@bppc.org) or 206-334-6775.

**Wednesdays, Nov 2-Dec 7**

**6:30-8:00 pm**

**Age 4-5th Grade**

**(Family Dinner 6-6:30pm)**

**Final Performances on Dec 7 & 11 (TBD)**

Sign up here!



## COMING SOON – TO THIS VERY CHURCH

The trustees are now engaged in creating a fire evacuation plan for all events in the church, and in producing new exit route maps for each room.

Stay tuned to your future editions of the Press for all the details.

## Calendar Events

### SUNDAY REGULAR SCHEDULE

**November 6, 13, 20, 27**

9:00A Adult Sunday School

10:30A KIDS Church

10:30A Worship in Person and  
Live Stream

**Friday-Sunday, Nov. 4, 5 & 6**

Women's Retreat

**Sunday, November 6**

Communion

**Monday, Nov. 7, 14, 21, 28**

7:00P GriefShare

**Tuesday, Nov. 1 & 15**

6:30P Women's Bible Study

**Wednesday Nov. 2, 9, 16, 30**

6:30P Dinner

Kids Talent Zone,

Youth Group,

Adult Bible Study

**Tuesday, November 15**

Press Articles Due

**Wednesday, November 16**

10:00A Women's Event –

Count Your Blessings

**Friday, November 18**

6:30P Men's Movie Night

**Saturday, November 19**

2:00P Erryn Kowallis Baby

Shower (in West Seattle).

**Thursday, November 24**

Thanksgiving Day –

Church Office Closed

**Friday, November 25**

Janette Ravander Memorial

Service – Church Office Closed

**Sunday, November 27**

First Sunday in Advent

## Tending the Flock

# “Return to Me!”

By Steve Roe, Elder

Within the Bible's pages are many commands, instructions, exhortations which were effectual when it was written, and remain profitable today. The writer's declaration in Psalm 119:105, “*Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path*” should be our testimony and experience in 2022. But submitting to the authority of Scripture requires effort and discipline and sometimes, a change in direction.

The Bible uses the word “Return” well over four hundred times within its pages! When Scripture repeats a word, a principle or an instruction, we must take heed.

Out of many examples in the Bible, below are four Old Testament verses where the idea of “return” is punctuated by a sober exhortation and a call-to-action. Applications for today can easily be drawn from the many disheartening illustrations of Israel's history. Selah (think about this!).

### Isaiah 31:6-7

*Return to Him from whom you have deeply defected, O sons of Israel. For in that day every man will cast away his silver idols and his gold idols, which your sinful hands have made for you as a sin.*

- Our sin has been called out and exposed. We have traded the worship of Almighty God to elevating the works of our own hands.
- Our sin runs deep.
- Our acts of sin have been intentional.

### Hosea 10:12

*Sow with a view to righteousness, reap in accordance with kindness; **break up your fallow ground**, for it is time to seek the Lord until He comes to rain righteousness on you.*

- The idea here is that the “ground” had previously been productive, but was allowed to lie fallow, producing nothing. The exhortation therefore, is to **return** to productivity. Revelation 3:16 discusses

the fate of being lukewarm; “neither hot nor cold.”

- How shall we live? Shall we invest in evil – or righteousness?
- How long shall we remain idle? There is kingdom work to be done!
- It is time to return to a right perspective with the right actions, for the right reasons.

### Hosea 14:1-2

*Return, O Israel, to the Lord your God, for you have stumbled because of your iniquity. Take words with you and return to the Lord. Say to Him, “Take away all iniquity and receive us graciously, that we may present the fruit of our lips.”*

- Sinning leads to more sin.
- Consider David's penitent prayer in Psalm 51.
- Return to the Lord, that our lips may praise Him.

### Malachi 3:7

*“From the days of your fathers you have turned aside from My statutes and have not kept them. **Return to Me**, and I will return to you,” says the Lord of hosts...*

- We are born with a sinful nature, into a sinful culture – Romans 3:10
- We have personally sinned – Romans 3:23
- God offers the promise of reconciliation – Isaiah 55:7

One resource observes that “the Hebrew verb translated ‘return’ expresses the idea of turning back...coming to a place [or] condition...one has experienced before. God wants His people who are...in spiritual rebellion to repent of their sins and come back to...wholehearted obedience and devotion to the Lord.”

Where in your life do you (and I) need to return to the Lord? The prophet Isaiah pleads: ‘*Seek the Lord while He may be found; call upon Him while He is near*’ - Isaiah 55:6  
Return to Him today!



## Special Event

# Messiah Sing-A-Long

Saturday, December 10, 2022  
1:00-3:00 p.m.



By Steve and Ellyn Roe

In response to the enthusiastic turn-out for last spring's Sing-a-Long of *Messiah* Parts II and III, we invite you to gather together in December to sing or listen to *Messiah* Part I, Christ's Nativity.

As before, we will meet in Room 151 and sing along with others (no solos) to a choral CD of Handel's *Messiah*. We'll sing (as loudly or softly as you wish) each song once. This is not a rehearsal, is not limited to "trained" singers, but is just a chance to sing great music with a professional choir and orchestra via CD. We expect joy and laughter as the 4-part choruses are crazy hard, but SO fun to try. We also expect to be deeply moved by Handel's skill at putting Scripture to music, capturing the wonder and truth of prophetic and fulfilled Scripture through biblical lyrics and adept musical settings ranging from contemplative to celebratory. We will conclude our afternoon with the singing of the Hallelujah Chorus.

Your sheet music (if needed) and the CD and sound system will be provided. You should bring:

- your own copy of the *Messiah* choral songbook if you have one
- a water bottle, and/or mug of coffee, tea

Please RSVP to the Roes so we know how many copies of *Messiah* choral scores to round up. Find contact info for Steve and Ellyn Roe in the church directory.

**Don't read music? Not a singer?** Come and hum to the familiar choruses, (e.g., Hallelujah Chorus) or come for the fellowship and reading the lyrics as others sing. **And feel free to invite family or friends "outside" of BPC.**

## Lighthouse Women's Bible Study Resumes in January

By Ellyn Roe

Beginning on **Wednesday morning, January 4, 2023**, from 10 a.m. to noon at church, Mary Cox and Ellyn Roe will co-lead the H2H Lighthouse Class in a twelve-week Bible Study for women, using the 2016 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Edition of Cynthia Heald's classic *Becoming a Woman of Excellence*.

We hope that those of you who were encouraged by this book years ago will be eager to study Scripture with it again. If you are new to *Becoming a Woman of Excellence*, we think you will find it valuable to your spiritual growth. *From the Publisher: "Challenging and encouraging, this bestselling*

*topical Bible study will lead you through Scripture and offer practical guidance on becoming a woman of excellence for the glory of God, regardless of your stage in life."*

Whether you are new to BPC, new to Bible Study, or an "old hand" at both, please join us for Wednesday morning worship in song, Bible study and prayer. Books may be purchased for \$9 at the first session, January 4. (Complimentary books are available if your finances are tight.) To facilitate our purchase of books for you, **please RSVP to Mary or Ellyn.** (Emails and phone numbers are in the church directory.)

## Celebrations!

### November Birthdays

- 1 John Clifton  
Joyce Symons
- 2 Jocellyn Martinez  
Lois Nordblad
- 3 Joshua Henry  
Serena Owens
- 4 John McGill
- 5 Candis Bingham  
Caleb Wagner
- 6 Lauren Recker
- 12 Todd Neumann  
Sarah Struble
- 16 Jay Moore
- 19 Mary Cox  
Diane Eickert  
John Welch
- 20 Jodi Dunning  
Doug Wichelt
- 21 Wayne Eickert
- 22 Sheri Noble
- 23 Linda Huck  
Elizabeth Roenicke
- 24 Dianne Rose
- 26 Dave Will
- 28 Joan Dehn Whidden
- 29 Craig Hall

### Early December BDs

- 5 Randy Sneesby
- 6 Jo Ann Peterson
- 8 Micah Harder
- 9 Bill Roenicke
- 11 George Brown  
Sharon Nickells  
Carmel Walder

If your birthday is not listed, and you would like it to be, please contact the church office.



BOULEVARD  
PARK CHURCH

*Reaching Our World for Christ*

1822 S 128th Street  
Burien, Washington 98168-2903

Return Service Requested

Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage  
Paid  
Permit No. 7375  
Seattle, WA

## Inside

Deacons' Fund Becomes  
Benevolence Fund (page 1)

Update from Ukraine (page 2)

Biblical Thinking on Ethics  
(page 3)

Pizza/Movie Night (page 5)

Messiah Sing-A-Long (page 7)

## Winter Worship Night

with

CITIZENS



### Winter Worship Night w/ Citizens

Friday, December 2nd

Dinner @ 6 p.m.

Concert @ 7:15 p.m.

Let's start off the holiday season right by gathering outside of our typical routines and rhythms to share a meal together and be led in worship by special guests, Citizens! To register, go to [bpcburien.com/events](http://bpcburien.com/events). Seats are limited!

# Top Dozen Things I've Learned Over 80 Years

By Bruce Lindquist

- 12 Situations change – You need to adapt to them.
- 11 Tackle your hardest tasks first – otherwise they won't get done.
- 10 Thank God for being born in America. We are blessed. Enjoy some of life's pleasures. Smell the roses. Take a hike. Enjoy His creation.
- 9 Study God's word daily, ask Him for guidance. Use the Bible as your handbook for life.
- 8 Before making a decision, consult with your spouse and other Christians first.
- 7 Pray for your family members, thank God for them. God put you where you are for a reason.
- 6 God promises to be with you and meet your needs.
- 5 People are fallible, put your trust in God. Be His witness.
- 4 Personal relationships are more important than things.
- 3 Use your talents and resources to help others. That's why God gave them to you.
- 2 Use your time wisely. You are here only for a short time. Eternity is a long time. (Psalm 90)
- 1 Proverbs 3:5-6 - *Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will direct your paths.*