



WEST SHORE BAPTIST CHURCH

UPDATE



DECEMBER 2018
NEWSLETTER

West Shore Baptist Church ▪ 2025 Market Street ▪ Camp Hill,

From the Pastor



*The people walking in darkness have seen a great light;
on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned . . .
For to us a child is born, to us a son is given.
Isaiah 9:2, 6*

Isaiah’s oft-quoted words appear at such a remarkable moment in his prophetic message to the people of Israel. They come just as he finishes speaking of the impact of our sin and rebellion against God as leaving us with “no light of dawn,” no hope of seeing clearly and walking safely.

To those living in the darkness of sin, groping about as if blinded, unable to rescue themselves or escape the effects of their sin, a Light dawns. The very Son of God is given to the rebellious from God, so they might become children of God! This child born for us is the first rays of hope, the signal that darkness can be overcome and victory over sin and death won.

Is that not what we celebrate each Christmas? Year after year, we gather in a darkened sanctuary on Christmas Eve and flood it with *light* to visually signify the incredible hope that came that first Christmas morning – light that overcomes our darkness.

And that hope is the very reason that Isaiah’s prophesy continues and he utters these words:

*Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD rises upon you.
See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples,
but the LORD rises upon you and His glory appears over you.
Isaiah 60:1-2*

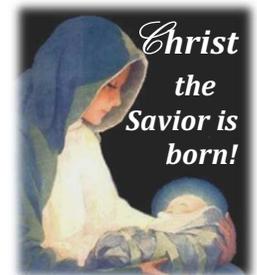
Isaiah says it is not enough for us to simply receive the gift of the Light of Christ, for *us* who dwell in the shadow of death to step into His marvelous light. We who know the one who is Light must *shine*. We reflect His light to the people around us, still enshrouded in thick darkness. That’s our purpose. It always has been and always will be.

So this Advent season, as you take time to ready your own heart and spirit to receive anew the promise and gift of the Light that casts out fear, banishes sin hiding in shadows, and calls us to walk in confidence toward the Lover of our souls, *shine*. Profess where your hope lies. Name the Son given to us. And invite those still trapped in the darkness to receive His light.

Love ya,
Pastor Kelly

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Please note:

The church office will be closed Tuesday, December 25, through Friday, December 28, & Tuesday, January 1.

A Message From the Associate Pastor



It is no secret that our world is broken. One need only turn on the news, read a history book, or walk through a hospital to see that something is deeply wrong with this place. And my guess is, you can feel it. You feel the brokenness. You can feel the world groaning in agony. Whether it's the physical pain of a tumor, the emotional anguish of grief, or the psychological distress of mental illness, we are everywhere constantly reminded that things are not like they should be. And what is worse – we are part of the problem.



This brokenness is not merely external. It resides inside us. We are not sinners because we sin. We sin because we are sinners. This hideous brokenness has its repugnant fingers wrapped around our hearts and has fractured every part of our being. Even though we have been saved, we continually live with the wickedness of sin inside us and around us. And nothing seems to fix it. Pass all the laws you want, improve every policy possible, advance medical research, find incredible cures for disease, enhance the educational systems, provide universal clean water, eliminate poverty, reduce crime rates, and there might possibly be some temporary progress, but nothing will fix the problem of brokenness. It might seem like these things would solve the problem, but they will not. The problem is inside us. The problem is sin. This world is fundamentally broken and there is nothing we can do about it. In fact, no one but God can do something permanent about the brokenness in our world. And praise Him that He did. The eternal second person of the Trinity took on a human nature, and by doing so, stepped down into our dirty, broken world. Leaving the glories of heaven, the Light came down into the darkness as a helpless child. In Christ, heaven was brought to earth. He lived in the same, broken world. He was despised and rejected – even by His own family. He experienced the agonies of a fallen creation just like we do and was tempted in every way as we are. And then, as a result of all the brokenness, He died for us, satisfying the righteous, propitiatory demands of the law. Where we should be punished for our brokenness, Christ was punished instead. And as amazing as that is, it is not the end! Christ raised from the dead, proving that God's righteous indignation was satisfied and promised to return to consummately establish His rule on earth for all of eternity. Someday, He promised, there will be no more cancer; no more heartache, no more grief, no more death, no more tears, and no more sin. Because of Jesus Christ, our brokenness is temporary. Someday He will make everything better. And until then, let us wait with our eyes fixed upon our great, empathizing High Priest. Maranatha.



Soli Deo Gloria,
Associate Pastor *Greg Kabakjian*



Christmas Eve

Sunday, December 24
6:30 p.m. Christmas Eve
Carols & Candlelight Service
In the Sanctuary

From the Diaconate Board

Have You Heard It A Hundred Times?

By Pam Norford



In my mind and tucked away in my heart are several Christmas day memories as a child and as a teenager. When I was five, I received a “Chatty Cathy” doll. Pulling the string at the back of her neck for her to say something to me gave me a thrill and an instant friend. I pulled and pulled and loved everything she had to say. It didn't matter that I'd heard it a hundred times.

Being the youngest of four, I found Christmas to be all about my family. I always treasured the special gift from my oldest brother, Terry. Although he was ten years older than me, I always felt the love he had for me all our young lives. As a family, we never attended church, let alone on Christmas. The only time Christ was mentioned in our house was when my dad hit his finger with a hammer—I didn't know what I was missing. It wasn't until I was twenty that I was told about God, his son Jesus, and how a personal relationship with Christ could change my life forever.

Christmas tells us that with His help God moves in mysterious ways in our lives. He deals with us all differently through His grace. For some, He may speak through a friend. God may speak through worship or music. For others, it may be a sense of peace that overwhelms you . . . or maybe courage you strangely find to stand up and go forward.

Christmas also tells us that a light has come into the world that can never go out and the light is God. How comforting to know that God is with us all day and into the dark of the night. I'd like to mention a few needs that Christmas meets for us. . .

First, the need of the holy with its mystery and wonder. It is God who makes things holy. It is not surprising to me that our little church is crowded at the candlelight service on Christmas Eve. People come to experience the sense of holy.

Second, the need of love. Christmas is the great season of love and caring for one another. Love never grows old. “Love is patient and kind, love is not jealous or boastful; it is not arrogant or rude. Love does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrong, but rejoices in the right. Love bears all things, believes in all things, hopes all things, endures all things” (1 Cor. 13:4-7). God's love receives you and me unconditionally!

Third, the need of forgiveness. “As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us” (Psalm 103:12). There is enough grace in Him to cover sins of the whole world. No one, no matter how depraved, is beyond His word of forgiveness.

Fourth, we need peace. There is nothing better than asking someone for forgiveness and receiving it. That inner peaceful feeling! What a blessing. We need peace in every aspect of our lives—in us personally, in our families, in our communities, in our nation and in the world. We call Jesus the Prince of peace. He said to his disciples, “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid” (John 14:27).

As an adult, I want to hear over and over the story of Christmas even though I've heard it a hundred times. Will you listen to the story again? Won't you share the story of Christ's love?

One small child . . . One King bringing us life!

Born of the Virgin Mary

By Hilary Art Nixon



When evangelicals speak of the virgin birth, they mean that the Virgin Mary miraculously conceived her child by the Holy Spirit (Luke 1:33-34) and had a normal birth (Luke 2:6).

The miracle of the virginal conception involves genetics. Human cells have 46 chromosomes—except sex cells have 23 (the female egg and the male sperm). In fertilization the sperm and egg unite their chromosomes and form a zygote, a new potential individual person. Regarding the offspring's sex, the father's seed is the deciding factor. (The mother only contributes the X gene. The father may give an X or Y gene. Hence a son is XY and a daughter is XX). Virgin birth (parthenogenesis) can occur in frogs, but the offspring are only female. Jesus was a circumcised male (Luke 2:21), so a miracle occurred at conception for the virgin to conceive a son. The Holy Spirit miraculously prepared and gave to Mary the 23 chromosomes which would be taken by the Son of God to create a fully human son.

If you don't hold to the virginal conception of Mary, a theological nightmare unfolds. Suppose Joseph was the biological father—then a human person already existed. When God's Son incarnates into that person, confusion, mixing, or dividing of nature occurs. The two persons might get confused or mix together in one body. Another possibility is that God's Son does not fully incarnate—resulting in a God-filled man (akin to prophets). But the creeds clearly state the mystery of the incarnation is that Jesus has two natures (fully God and fully man) yet is one person—without confusion, mixing, or dividing of the natures.

Now what Isaiah 7:14 meant to King Ahaz is extremely difficult to understand; but for Joseph, the angel's quote is clear: "BEHOLD, THE VIRGIN SHALL BE WITH CHILD AND SHALL BEAR A SON, AND THEY SHALL CALL HIS NAME IMMANUEL (Matthew 1:23). Mary was a sexual virgin—she "knew no man" (Luke 1:34). Joseph took Mary as his wife. He believed "the child who has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit" (Matthew 1:20). Like Joseph, we do well to believe in the virgin conception of Jesus. In Him, God's Son took on flesh to bear our sin so that He could adopt us into His family. Truly He is Immanuel, God dwelling with us.

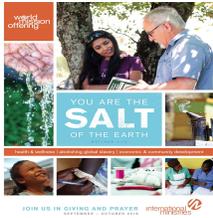


*O come,
O come,
Emmanuel*

The staff at West Shore Baptist Church wishes you and your loved ones a very Merry Christmas! We give thanks for the privilege of sharing ministry with you.

*Blessings,
Pastor Kelly Legg, Pastor Greg Kabakjian,
Carol Saltzer, Gary Stefanic, & Bonnie Prior*

From the Missions Board



2018 World Mission Offering
We've reached our goal of \$5,000! Thank you for your faithful giving.



The Annual Christmas Mission Offering

The Annual Christmas Mission offering will be received during the Advent season. This year's special offering is designated for our retired American Baptist ministers and missionaries (RMMO). Offerings will be received beginning ***Sunday, December 9***, and will run through ***Sunday, December 30***.

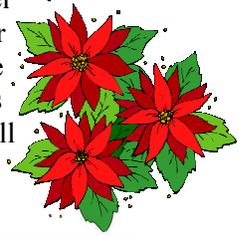



CCU 2018 Celebration Banquet
“UNITED IN LOVE”

WSBC members Rose and Steve Sleboda and Chuck and Patty McCown attended the 2018 CCU banquet. They are pictured here with speaker, Tony Campolo and his wife (center).

Don't Forget to Order Your Poinsettias!

It's time once again to order beautiful poinsettias to decorate the church this Christmas. Please use the designated envelope in the pew rack and enclose your payment of \$10.00 per poinsettia ordered. Then place your order in the offering plate. The deadline for ordering poinsettias is ***Monday, December 10***. Please call the church office at 761-0942 if you have any questions.





Birthdays:



- 4 Rylan Dunkle
- 7 Ron Barth
- 9 Nathan Born
Jean Phillips
- 14 John Bihl
- 16 Steve Curry
- 17 Karine Lewis
Beverly Whitcomb
- 19 Ashley Kennedy
E.J. Stevens
- 20 Jeff Waring
- 22 Carol Keeney
- 26 Michael Goldman
- 28 Al Sweigard



Anniversaries:

- 11 Robert & Jean Phillips
- 14 Richard & Pat Zulaica



Childcare Schedule

DATE	NURSERY 9:00 AM	NURSERY 10:30 AM
December 2	Edie Kennerly (Alexis Kabakjian)	Becky Gentzler (Maryke Clark)
December 9	Ida Rhone (Cheryl Montgomery)	Jayne Metz (Rose Sleboda)
December 16	Kristin Born (Judy Brouse)	Linda Fleming (Lisa Fleming)
December 23	Patty McCown (Edie Kennerly)	Becky Gentzler (Gayle Campbell)
December 30	Alexis Kabakjian (Ida Rhone)	Maryke Clark (Jayne Metz)

Note: Scheduled nursery workers and children’s Sunday School teachers are asked to arrive in their designated rooms **10 minutes** ahead of schedule. If you are unable to make your assigned Sunday, please attempt to switch with another volunteer and let the church office know. Contact Kristin Born, at (717) 743-4586, if you are unable to meet your obligation.

Happenings and Highlights

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Missions Board Meeting

The Missions Board will meet on *Monday, December 3*, at 6:30 p.m. in Room G-4.

Advisory Council Meeting

Due to the Strategic Planning Meeting on Saturday, December 1, the Advisory Council *will not* meet in December.

Board of Trustees Meeting

The Board of Trustees will meet on *Monday, December 10*, at 6:30 p.m. in Room G-2.

Board of Christian Education Meeting

The Board of Christian Ed. will meet on *Tuesday, December 18*, at 6:30 p.m. in Room G-2.

Diaconate Board Meeting

The Diaconate Board *will not* meet in the month of December.

ADVENT Begins Sunday, December 2



Faith in Action

The Faith in Action LIGHT Team will meet on *Tuesday, December 4*, at 9:00 a.m. to do general building and grounds maintenance. If you'd like to join the team, call Richard Zulaica at (717) 255-9085.



Deadline for January UPDATE

The deadline for the submission of articles and announcements for the January UPDATE is *Friday, December 21*. You may forward your input to Bonnie Prior via hard copy or by email to b.prior@wsbc.org.

Men's Breakfast Fellowship

The next meeting of the Men's Breakfast Fellowship will be at 8:00 a.m. on *Saturday, December 15*, at the Front Street Diner in Harrisburg. All men are invited!



Ladies Breakfast Fellowship

The Women's Breakfast Fellowship *will not* meet during the month of December. The next meeting will be on Saturday, January 19, at 8:00 a.m. at the Camp Hill Café on Erford Road.



Happenings and Highlights



January

January Annual Meeting

The January Annual Meeting will be held on **Sunday, January 20**. All church officers and boards should submit their reports to the church office no later than *Friday, January 11*.



The Diaconate Board invites church members and friends to assist in a post-Christmas season “un-decorating” project on **Saturday, January 5**, beginning at 8:30 a.m.



Church-Wide *Christmas* Celebration

Join in the celebration on **Saturday, December 8**, at 2:00 p.m. We will travel to the homes of some of our WSBC family for Christmas caroling and then return to the church for a cookie exchange, the Christmas story, and a visit from Santa. Please bring as many cookies as you want to take home, plus one dozen to share at the party. Please bring a wrapped gift for a child and a food item to donate to a needy family. Can't come for caroling? Then join us at 3:30 p.m. for the party!



Winter Weather Information!

While every effort will be made to hold Sunday morning services, during severe winter snow or ice storms follow these steps for the latest information:

- 1) Check the WSBC website (www.wsbc.org) for the latest news on winter weather-related worship cancellations or church closings.
- 2) Phone WSBC at (717) 761-0942 to inquire about cancellations and/or church closings.
- 3) Watch your local television station to see if WSBC is listed.

At all times, please use care and discretion in your winter travel decisions.



December 2018



"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests." (Luke 2:14)



Sat

1

8:30am - Strategic Planning Mtg

2	3	4	5	6	7	8
<p>9am - Christian Ed Classes</p> <p>10am - Coffee Cafe</p> <p>10:30am - Worship Service</p> <p>11:45am - Prayer LIGHT Team @</p> <p>12:30pm - Searchers Class Party</p> <p>6pm - Youth Group</p>	<p>10am - Staff Meeting @</p> <p>6:30pm - Mission Board Meeting</p> <p>7pm - Beacon Bell Choir Practice</p>	<p>9am - Faith In Action</p>	<p>6:15pm - Praise Team Practice</p> <p>7pm - Choir Practice</p>			<p>2pm - Christmas Celebration @</p> 
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
<p>9am - Christian Ed Classes</p> <p>10am - Coffee Cafe</p> <p>10:30am - Worship Service</p> <p>11:30am - Youth Group-</p> <p>11:45am - Prayer LIGHT Team @</p>	<p>6:30pm - Board of Trustees Mtg</p>		<p>6:15pm - Praise Team Practice</p> <p>7pm - Choir Practice</p>	<p>6:30pm - Men's Bible Fellowship</p>		<p>8am - Men's Fellowship</p>
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
<p>9am - Christian Ed Classes</p> <p>10am - Coffee Cafe</p> <p>10:30am - Worship Service</p> <p>11:45am - Prayer LIGHT Team @</p>	<p>7pm - Beacon Bell Choir Practice</p>	<p>4:15pm - Men's Group at</p> <p>6:30pm - Chr. Ed Board Mtg @</p>	<p>6:15pm - Praise Team Practice</p> <p>7pm - Choir Practice</p>			
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
<p>9am - Christian Ed Classes</p> <p>10am - Coffee Cafe</p> <p>10:30am - Worship Service</p> <p>11:45am - Prayer LIGHT Team @</p> <p>6pm - Youth Group</p>	<p>6:30pm - Christmas Eve Service</p> 	<p>Merry Christmas!</p> 	<p>9am - Church Office Closed</p>	<p>9am - Church Office Closed</p>	<p>9am - Church Office Closed</p>	
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
<p>9am - Christian Ed Classes</p> <p>10am - Coffee Cafe</p> <p>10:30am - Worship Service</p> <p>11:45am - Prayer LIGHT Team @</p> <p>6pm - Youth Group</p>		<p>New Years Day</p> <p>9am - Church Office Closed</p>	<p>6:15pm - Praise Team Practice</p> <p>7pm - Choir Practice</p>			

Calendar of Events

*West Shore Baptist Church
seeks to be a
L.I.G.H.T. to our Community by...*



L*oving God* in celebrative worship in order to *magnify* His wonderful name

I*nviting Friends* and sharing a caring witness as part of our life *mission*

G*rowing Together* in uplifting fellowship encouraging faith and church *membership*

H*elping Others* and empowering growing disciples to engage in God-shaped *ministry*

T*eaching Truth* and equipping disciples to develop Christ-like spiritual *maturity*

West Shore Baptist Church
2025 Market Street
Camp Hill, PA 17011

SUNDAY SERVICES:

Christian Education Hour— 9:00 AM
Coffee Café — 10:00 AM
Worship Service— 10:30AM

We're on the web!
Visit: www.wsbc.org