



Snow From God

Snow falls lightly from the sky
 up above
 Softly falling down like the feather
 of a dove
 Each snow flake is different like
 each one of us
 Falling to the ground like snow
 often does

It steals away breath this
 brilliant thing
 So pure and refreshing
 Like the songs angels sing
 They sing for remembrance of God
 and his son
 Throwing down these white tokens
 To say winter has begun

White is for birth - the birth of
 baby Christ
 White is for hope that things
 are alright
 Each flake that falls from the sky
 up above
 Is a gift from God telling us
 we are loved

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Evergreen News

Pastor Mick's Musings...

"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

Matthew 6:21

Happy New Year everyone!

I must confess! As your pastor, I now realize that I have done every member of this church a terrible disservice. There is a truth found in the Bible that I have overlooked and should share with you all. It is a topic Jesus talks about often and leads to investments of great wealth. By following Jesus' precepts, there is an abundant treasure to be given to those who follow him. It is available to you when you retire. I am not talking about your worldly retirement where, after those long years working, you finally can leave the job behind and live a life of leisure. I am talking to the time you "retire" for this world itself to meet Jesus in Heaven.

Do you realize that what we do here on earth affects our lives in eternity? God knows everything and that includes everything that you have done for Him and His kingdom. It says in Matthew 16:27, *"For the Son of Man in going to come in His Father's glory with His angels, and then He will reward each person according to what he has done."* So the obvious question that follows is, "What have we done to receive any reward?" Jesus tells us through parables and proclamations what we do with our time, talents and treasures here on earth matter.

We are going to take a look at few of these parables and the eternal principles behind them for the next sermon series. But for now, here are three precepts that I wish to share with you regarding giving to the Lord. First, God has given us a tremendous opportunity and not a burden. We can save up treasures in Heaven by what we do today. We are so eager to save our 401k's in this world for a time in the future that we can enjoy ourselves. Just think of the joy we have when we invest in those things that bring rewards in Heaven! We should be filled with excitement when we serve Him here. Second, quantity doesn't count, only quality. God is not concerned with the amount you give, just the amount is costs you to give. For those who have little and are give a lot, rejoice, for great is your reward. For those who have a lot and give a lot, rejoice, great is your reward. But remember the

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JANUARY ACTIVITIES

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 New Year's Day Office Closed	2 3M 7 am
3 Early Service 8 am Sunday School 9:15 am Worship 10:30 am	4 WWW Bible Study 7 pm	5 Men's Bible Study 7 pm	6 First Wednesday 6:30 pm	7	8	9 3M 7 am
10 Early Service 8 am Sunday School 9:15 am Worship 10:30 am	11 Tiny Timbers Board Mtg. 7 pm WWW Bible Study 7 pm	12 Men's Bible Study 7 pm Commissions Meet @ 7 pm Board Mtg. 8 pm	13 Jr. & Sr. High Clubs 7 pm	14	15	16 3M 7 am
17 Early Service 8 am Sunday School 9:15 am Worship 10:30 am	18 Martin Luther King Jr. Day WWW Bible Study 7 pm Tiny Timbers Closed	19 Property Planning Mtg. 7 pm Men's Bible Study 7 pm	20 Jr. & Sr. High Clubs 7 pm	21	22	23 3M 7 am
24 Early Service 8 am Sunday School 9:15 am Worship 10:30 am	25 COBYS Training 7 pm WWW Bible Study 7 pm	26 Deacon Mtg. 7 pm Men's Bible Study 7 pm	27 Jr. & Sr. High Clubs 7 pm	28	29	30 3M 7 am
31 Early Service 8 am Sunday School 9:15 am Worship 10:30 am	<p><u>WINTER WEATHER RELATED SERVICE DELAYS/CANCELLATIONS</u> Tune in to the following to check for any service delays/cancellations: Online: www.wgal.com - "Stormwatch", www.westgreentree.org (front page, scroll down) Television: WHP - Channel 21, WPMT - Channel 43, CW - Channel 15, Radio: FM 90.3 WJTL</p>					



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opposite is true. Third, one's motives are important. Giving to God only for the future reward will not count. God knows your heart. Giving to God because you are compelled by His love makes the difference.

Of course, the greatest reward we receive is the one that was given to us through Jesus Christ. The gift of eternal life is God's gift to us for those who wish to receive it. It is the pearl of great price. It is the treasure buried in the field. It is only right and true that we give and surrender all to Jesus who has paid the price for our entrance into Heaven.

For His glory,
Pastor Mick



Attention Ladies...

February 27, 2016 Beach Day: Join us as we transform the Fellowship Hall into a day at the beach.

May 12, 2016 Mother Daughter Spa: Mothers and daughters of all ages come enjoy an evening of pampering.

October 22, 2016 Women's Retreat: Always a great time of inspiration and fellowship.

More details to come. We look forward to seeing you there.

The Women's Fellowship Committee,
Mary Jane McClenaghan, Leslie Allen, Sarah Clugston,
Anita Youtz, & Mindy Smith

Sound Room Techs Needed

Attention current Sound Room Techs and anyone who has an interest serving in the sound room. Mark your calendars and join Pastor Mick during the Sunday School hour on 1/10, 1/17 or 1/24 for a discussion and hands on time of reviewing the sound board. At that time we will also look at an updated version of our slide show software. Please plan to attend at least 1 of these sessions.

If you are interested in serving in the sound room, please come to one of the sessions and let us know your interest in serving. We are looking for more individuals to assist in this area to allow everyone an opportunity to be able to be in our worship service.

Anniversaries

1/8 - Barry & Sheila Miller
1/8 - John & Judy Nauman
1/13 - Walt & Yvonne Johnson
1/14 - Carlyle & Jeanie Hinshaw

Birthdays

1/4 - Kelsey Hollinger
1/4 - Greg Seitz
1/5 - Mindy Smith
1/7 - Chloe Kowalski
1/8 - Laurie Hollinger
1/10 - Rose Hibshman
1/10 - Sharon Longenecker
1/13 - Adrianna Collman
1/14 - Greg Ramsey
1/17 - Melissa Breneman
1/20 - George Clugston Sr.
1/21 - Peggy Harry
1/21 - Laura Martin
1/24 - Dawn Dupler
1/25 - Nancy Garber
1/26 - Dennis Gerdel
1/29 - Richard Garber
1/31 - Dori Schwanger

Men's Mountain Movers

3M will be starting every Saturday morning at 7 am beginning January 2nd & run for 7 weeks. The series is Wonderstruck. Men of all ages are invited to attend. Join us!

Project 2016

P2016 is a minor face lift to the narthex. The goal is to refresh the narthex with the intent to offer a warm & welcoming experience all. Please be patient during construction (to begin December 29th). The end result will be worth the minor inconvenience.

Tiny Timbers Tidbits



Luke 2:11 reads, "Today in the town of David, a Savior has been born to you. He is Christ the Lord."

I count it a blessing to be part of the Tiny Timbers Preschool Program.

We are observing the delighted faces of these children as they are learning their addresses, phone numbers, & words that begin with the letter of the week, hearing rhyming words and recognizing sight words. They are anxious to show off their new skills and we encourage by reviewing and practicing daily.

Christmas time is a time of sharing. Our children brought in contributions to Samaritan's Purse. A total of 28 shoeboxes were given. Thank you! A cookie baking day was part of our December program. The look on the children's faces as the cookie eating begins...Yum!

This Christmas may you all enjoy time with your families and cherish this wonderful time of the year.

Miss Cindy C, MWF Assistant.

Secret Sister 2016

Plans are beginning for next year's Secret Sister program. We will be looking for ladies that would like to pray for & bless one special sister in Christ this coming year. Questionnaires will be available to fill out after the holidays. See Allison Huber with questions.

THANK YOU!

Thank you for your support of our Drum Fundraiser! We were able to cover the total cost of the new drum set which has been such a blessing already in our worship services. Thanks for your prayers & support!

The Worship Sub-Committee



**Thank you
First Wednesday
Folks!
We appreciate
your hard work
for the
Christmas Dinner!**

Thank You!

Thank you from the Tiny Timbers Staff & Board for all your support & prayers throughout the year. Thanks, also, for the many supplies & necessities that you, the church family has given! We appreciate you!

January Servants

	January 3	January 10	January 17	January 24	January 31
Scripture & Sermon					
Pianist/Organist	Leslie Allen	Ryan Arndt	Brenda Geib	Sylvia Weaver	Ryan Arndt
Special Music	Hymn Sing	Dawn Dupler	Audrey Garber	Choir	Hymn Sing
Chorister	Ryan Arndt	Regena Tripp	June Kolp	Glenn Weaver	Regena Tripp
Greeters 8 am	Gary & Dawn Dupler	Ralph Daniels	Daryl & Angie Harnish	Colton & Brienna Brown	Phil & Donna Hollinger
Greeters 10:30 am	Matt & Heather Haverkamp	Steve & Nel Bender	Marlin & Rose Hibshman	Barry & Sheila Miller	Henry Harry & Ralph Daniels
Worship Leader	Ryan Arndt	Allison Huber	Abby Ramsey	Ralph Daniels	Julie Ramsey
Ushers	Youth	New Horizons SS Class	Faith Seekers SS Class	Sojourners SS Class	
Deacons/ Anointing					
Sound Room 8 am	Jerry Huber & Zane Seitz	Jerry Huber & Jeff Schwanger	Jerry Huber & Justin Arndt	Jerry Huber & Duane Martin	Jerry & JJ Huber
Sound Room 10:30 am	Jeff & Shane Schwanger	Duane Martin & Jason Leonard	Duane Martin & Nikki Drescher	Jeff Schwanger & Andi Collman	Duane Martin & Zane Seitz
8 am Nursery/ Toddler	Kathy Martin & Julie Ruhl	Marcia & Aiden Hawthorne	John & Amy Burkhart	Shawn & Lisa Cannon	Kari Slater
10:30 am Nursery/Toddler	Cindy Collins	Jerry Huber Family	Jason & Holly Leonard	Charlie & Tracy Drescher	Dane & Lauren Youtz

November & December Stats

	November 29	December 6	December 13
Total Worship	139	181	209
Sunday School	None	118	139
General	\$4,263.00	\$5,823.00	\$5,697.00
Building			
Deacon			\$408.00
Seminary			\$70.00

Hello church family! I hope this update finds you all doing well! This is such an exciting time of the year, as we prepare to celebrate Christmas and the birth of Jesus. For me this year, not only am I excited for Christmas but I am also so excited to come home for a couple months!!! I am more than thrilled to visit home and see my family, friends, and church family and spend the holidays at home! At first, my plan was to come home for a month and return back to Uganda in mid-January. However, next year in Uganda in February it will be election time, and they will be doing the presidential election and elections for other smaller offices. Here in Uganda, elections can be unpredictable and there is always the possibility of riots or dangerous situations, so the staff of Empower A



Me with my students at the zoo

Child are asking us to stay home until March 1st, and the elections are over. So that means I have the blessing of spending more time at home until that date, which I am also very excited about! After a challenging year, it will be a wonderful time with family and I will get to rest at home and prepare for another year of teaching.

As I mentioned in my last update, this past month was a very busy one! On November 13th, 3 other teachers and I went on a Field Trip with about 45 students from the school. We took a small bus and traveled from the village to the city of Kampala. It was so fun just sitting with some of my students on the way to Kampala and watching their reactions to different things on the road and then watching their amazement at the tall buildings once we were in Kampala. These children rarely leave the village, let alone get to ride in a vehicle, so they enjoyed it so much. First, we visited the Uganda National Museum and they looked at artifacts from history, animal fossils, and Ugandan cultural materials. Then we drove from Kampala to Entebbe, where our next stop was the airport. We got on a large tour bus, and the driver drove us close to the large airplanes and explained what we were seeing. We were able to see some of the airplanes taking off! Our final stop was the Uganda Wildlife Center, or Zoo. This was hands-down the children's favorite part! When we arrived, we were first going to eat lunch. Before we got off the bus though, the children were given specific directions from one of the other teachers. He told them, "Be careful while we are eating. If you leave your food unattended, the monkeys will come and take your food." And I just thought, WHAT does he mean?!?!? Then, as we entered the zoo, I understood why he said that to them. In the area where we gathered to eat, there were many monkeys just wandering around, walking near us, climbing up the trees, and moving about freely. Needless to say, it freaked out some of the children. And even me. However, they were harmless. We ate our lunch and just watched the monkeys move around us. It was really cool! We went into the zoo and saw many different types of animals. We saw zebras, ostriches, antelope, crocodiles, water buffalo, warthogs, sea otters, turtles, snakes, eagles and other types of birds, lions, chimpanzees, baboons, and a giraffe. Most of the animals had a tour guide and they talked to us about the animals in that exhibit. The children LOVED it so much! After we saw the animals, we went to the children's play area, and they had a camel! And you know what the best part was? They were giving camel rides and we had the opportunity to take turns and ride the camel! The children had so much fun and I even had the chance to ride the camel with 2 of my students! The zoo also had a section next to the play area that had a small sandy beach area on the shore of Lake Victoria. So, the pupils had the chance to see Lake Victoria and put their feet in the water! The kids couldn't believe how big it was and enjoyed seeing it in person. After the zoo, we headed back to the village. Overall, it was a special day and we enjoyed it so much!



The next week after the field trip, we had final exams, and the children performed very well! The day after the last final exam, we had a small class party to celebrate the end of the school year. The children and I watched the movie, *Despicable Me*, on my laptop in the classroom. We had chapatti and soda and it was a great day!

On Thanksgiving, the other volunteers and I were able to have a Thanksgiving feast! We got a big 13 lb. turkey from one of the EAC staff members, who just so happened to be raising a couple of turkeys and was willing to sell us one of them! We worked together Wednesday evening and Thursday morning preparing and cooking the food. In a world of limited access to "American-type" food, we were able to have a feast that closely resembled what we typically have at home. And it was so delicious! Even though I couldn't be with my family this year, it was such a blessing that I could have Thanksgiving with the other girls here who have become my "EAC family".

On December 3rd, the school had a Speech Day. This was a special day where each class performed songs in front of an audience of other students at the school, their parents, and EAC staff and the volunteers. My class sang a song in Luganda, sang "Jesus Loves Me", said John 3:16 while doing motions, and sang a song that I made up about

school with the tune from another song. Some of the children were a bit timid singing in front of the parents, but they did a great job! Also as a part of Speech Day, the school choir performed traditional dances while wearing grass skirts. Some of the older boys at the school played the drums while all of the classes and the school choir performed. The children at the school are very, very talented at singing and dancing and it was wonderful that they had



the opportunity to showcase their talents in front of their parents and the other students. The last part of the program was Top Class Graduation. The children in my class put on a cap and gown and I presented the graduating students in my class to the parents. The children were given a certificate to celebrate their graduation from the Nursery section to Primary school. It was a special time and the parents were so amazed that we were able to do this for their children! It was a wonderful day and it was such a blessing to take part of this special event at the school, and be able to watch all of the children at the school show their talents in singing and dancing!

December 4th was the last day of school! The children came to school, I handed out their report cards to them, and then they returned home to officially to start their school holiday! As I reflect on the school year, it was challenging, but I am so proud of all of my students. They worked so hard, put forth a lot of effort in class, learned how to comprehend, speak, and read English, and grew so much throughout the year. As I looked at the performances of my students at the end of the year, I am especially proud of one of my students, Ivon. This was her first



year at school in Uganda because she just moved from Kenya to Uganda during the 2014 school holiday. She didn't know Luganda and barely knew English. She only knew some Luganda because her family spoke it at home and her friends spoke it around her while they were playing. At the beginning of the year, after taking the Mid-Term Exams, she was 42nd out of 44 students. She performed very poorly on her exams, didn't seem to understand my English very well, and wasn't focused in class. I was worried about her in the beginning of the year. However, as we continued in 2nd Term, she began to slowly comprehend my English and improve on the lessons. Then in 3rd Term, she began to understand my directions more and more and was able to answer the questions that I asked in English. Then she started to speak in English and was able to ask questions and say statements in broken or simple English. She continued to improve and I was so impressed

by her performance in the classroom. She had more confidence and was showing so much growth in her academics and English. It was time for our End of the Year Exams. After calculating all of the children's scores, I was shocked by the end results. Ivon's scores were tied for the best in the class!!! She started out in 42nd position and at the end, she was 1st!!! It was so inspiring to see her work hard, even as a Kindergartener, and see her hard work pay off! It's part of why I love being a teacher. I love watching growth in students and seeing how they grow from the beginning of the year to the end of the year. It's an encouragement to all of us to never doubt the potential in anyone and to be the encouragement that can help another person strive to work hard, never give up, and aim high. We all are surrounded by others. Children. Co-workers. Nieces and nephews. Youth. No matter the age, we are all called to be an encouragement to others. To lift them up, recognize their potential, and be supportive.



The final exciting event of this past month was the Sunday School Christmas Party. We were able to raise enough money to fund the party, so we were so thankful for that! We had the party at the church in the village for all of the children who attend Sunday School. We had about 350 – 400 children attend the party! We had a time of praise and worship, songs by the Sunday School choir, crafts, and games. We served lunch to the children –thankfully we had enough food for all of them! After lunch we handed out gifts. They each received an article of clothing, either a shirt or a pair of pants. After they each received their gift, we gave them a small piece of cake, and then they went home. We were so blessed to receive the funds that we needed to give these children a Christmas Party and we all had a joyous and wonderful time, especially the children! It was so great to see them at church today wearing the new clothes they received at the party!

It was a busy month! My house and classroom are packed and I'm ready to return home for a short time. I can't believe I will be seeing you all very soon! I look forward to spending a couple months at home and being able to share more of my experiences with you all in person. Pray for safe flights and that I make it home safely! Thank you for your steadfast prayers throughout this year. I can't wait to see you all on Sunday the 20th!

Blessings to you, Kelsey Hollinger

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Elizabethtown, PA 17022

WEST GREEN TREE
CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

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Our Purpose Statement
*“We intentionally develop friends of
Jesus Christ by sharing God’s love
through words and deeds.”*

Sunday Service Times:

Contemporary Worship 8:00 am

Sunday School 9:15 am

Traditional Worship 10:30 am

Wednesday Service Times:

Jr. High Clubs @ 7:00 pm

Sr. High Clubs @ 7:00 pm