

DECEMBER 2015

HOLIDAY

NEW LIFE NEWS



STEVE SAYS...

The Story

Our goal for 2016 is to have New Life grow in our knowledge of and interaction with scripture so that we can better:

- Know God and Draw Near to Him**
- Share His love with the World**
- Stay strong in the face of opposition**

The staff and elders of New Life have put together the above goal for our church for next year. We want to grow as individuals and as a church in the Bible. You might even say that 2016 is going to be the year of the Bible!

The Bible is our source of knowledge about God and about salvation and about how God wants us to live out our lives. You could say the Bible is the handbook for life. But there is a problem, far too many of us don't read or haven't ever read it. "It is boring". "There is too much I don't understand." "It is a big book." "There is so much history in it." These are all comments that explain, partly, why we don't read the Bible more. We hear you and we get it, so this year we are doing something to help!

This year as a church and as part of accomplishing our goal, we are taking on the challenge of walking through, "**The Story**." The book called "The Story" is a chronological, abridged Bible. There are no verse or chapter markings and individual segments of scripture from the New International Version of the Bible are woven together with transitional text so that it reads like a seamless story. In 31 chapters it takes us from the beginning of creation to the final view of heaven.

We invite you to read 1 chapter a week and follow along as the sermon each week reviews God's story in the events of Scripture and considers how that affects our story. Over the course of about ½ a year we will walk through the entire chronology and arc of the Bible. This will help us, as a church, to understand God's eternal plan (and our place in it!) in a new and powerful way.

Our youth and children will be following along in their Sunday School classes. It is so important that we teach the next generation about God's work in this world in the past, and also how he continues to work today. We want all of the church to learn the arc of God's story. This creates the opportunity in your family, to read and learn together. Maybe you could read The Story at the dinner table or at bedtime or in a weekly family devotion time.

We encourage each of you to get a copy of the book for yourself and for the members of your family. There are 5 different versions, one geared for every age group. You can order them at a reduced rate (\$5.50 for the adult book) through the church.

2016 will be an exciting year as we engage with God's word in this exciting way. Join us as we grow together!



December Birthdays

2 – Amy Beveridge

3 – David Shaffer

6 – Dianne Kehl, Darryl Jones, Bruce Snyder

9 – Christina Crawford

10 – Eli Sharp

11 – Bryan Dawson, Jeff Shaffer

12 – Bill Bushong

15 – Jeremy Brown

18 – Renee Sharp

23 – Hope Thompson

25 – Julie Clark

26 – Jacob Kindt

27 – Dane Noe

28 – Carolyn Awwiller, Nola Starling

29 – Jackson Noe

30 – Nick Kunz, Christian Nunn, Jim Rockwell

31 – Jeff Dixon, Cyd McCready, Janet Ocheltree, Lorri Richards

Christmas | Window to Redemption

In the beginning God had a plan, but after the creation of man, we adopted a new plan, one of our own making. Our plan was one of little forethought and subsequently resulted in our need for a Savior. It was God's plan all along to have a relationship with those that he had created. So God himself came to earth and revealed his plan for redemption. We invite you to join us for **"Christmas—The Window to Redemption" on December 24th at 6:00pm.** Let us come together and adore Christ the Lord as we journey from the lowly manger to the crown of glory in worship of our King.

We begin with the familiar nativity and Jesus' first bed. The manger was an indicator of his nature and purpose. Rather than coming to earth amidst fanfare and in plush surroundings, the King of Creation and God's own Son was born in a stable. And so, with the shepherds, we gather together to witness the birth of redemption.

As we look on through the window we can see the light of a star. It is the announcement of something to know about, something to celebrate, something brilliant, wonderful, and important. This star casts its light into the darkness, lighting the way to redemption in Christ. Wise men still follow this star. It illuminates our hearts and allows us to see the path that we must follow.

The path leads us down a dark road ending at the foot of Calvary's hill. But the cross is more than a symbol of suffering. It stands empty, a symbol of Christ's triumph over death that brings us life. The cross marks the point of God's reconciliation of our relationship with him. It demonstrates how deep, how high, and how wide God's love really is. So much so that he would send his only Son to be born in a manger, worshiped by shepherds, and to die on a cross only to be raised again so that we might share in his redemptive glory.

It is here, at the end of our Christmas Eve journey, where we see clearly through the window of redemption. We retrace our steps from Christ's manger bed to his heavenly throne and we worship the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords. Christmas is a reminder of God's plan for us. So, we celebrate the coming of Jesus this season and press our faces to the window watching for his return. We encourage one another toward the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him.

Gather your family and friends and join us for a look through the window this Christmas season. Enjoy familiar carols and timeless messages in song, share the "Light of the World" with those around you during our candle lighting, and take a worship journey affirming God's redemptive plan for you.

The Story through Praise and Worship

<http://blog.worshiptogether.com/the-story-song-suggestions>

SONSHINE SINGERS YOUTH CHOIR

Let me tell you a little bit about an amazing group called, the Sonshine Singers Youth Choir. This choir is a very unique group, due to the fact that we have kids from age 5 thru high school. We are not a "children's choir," or a "teen choir." We are a youth choir for ALL age youth. We are a close group where the younger kids learn from and look up to the older youth, and the older ones teach and mentor the younger ones. These kids all get along amazingly well, and form a close bond through working so closely with each other for each musical adventure.

In the past few years we have had several of our members graduate, so we have lost a lot of our older mentors. Our present group has only 4 high schoolers, some middle schoolers, and the majority are 9 and under, with our youngest being only 4! Needless to say, we are a young group, and we are so proud of our 4 high schoolers for their leadership and patience with so many young kids!

With all that being said, we would like to invite everyone to the Sonshine Singers Christmas Musical performance of, *Miracle on Main Street*, Sunday, December 6th, at 6:00pm, in the New Life gym. The kids have a fantastic message they are excited to share, and they look forward to seeing their families, friends, teachers, and neighbors at the performance. Honestly, we can't think of a better way to start the Christmas season!

A light meal will be served following the performance, and everyone is asked to bring a finger food and a couple dozen cookies.

Jason's Jam...

As we enter the Christmas season, one of my favorite words pops up a lot, joy. Joy is such a wonderful, biblical emotion one needs in their life. Over a year ago, I had a stroke, and those times alone in rehab, depression would try to sneak its evil head in, I was determined with God's help, to let joy win. We as Christians get to spend eternity with Christ, that's something to be joyful about! When we let joy win, any setbacks we face in this life, are nothing compared to the glory that awaits us in heaven. Psalm 47:1 says "clap your hands, all you nations; shout to the Lord with cries of Joy!". So this holiday season I challenge you to do just that, clap, shout, and show your joy. As the sign says in my Sunday school room, "Enjoy the Journey! Merry Christmas



A LINE FROM LIMING:

We are so blessed by our God with a wonderful group of senior adults who really enjoy being together. Dan Noe and his committee work so hard at making the special events truly a joy.

We sure had a good time with our Veteran's Day gathering. The panini sandwiches and the various soups were a great addition to our waists and the program by Eric Ellis truly helped us appreciate those who gave so much for us during wartime.

Once again let me thank you for making me feel so welcome. I sure love our church and especially our senior adults!!

A Happy Christian,



KYLE'S KORNER...

This year's church Thanksgiving meal was the place to be on Sunday, November 22! There were tables and tables filled with enough great food to feed an army. And it looked like a whole army showed up to help eat it! No official tally was kept, but it looks like around two hundred people chose to share this wonderful evening with us. As I loaded my plate down with turkey, dressing, potatoes, casseroles and gravy, I had a wonderful time talking with others who were making their way through the line with me. Everyone was in a pleasant mood and the conversations, at least the ones I was blessed to take part in, were just as good as the food. Again, just like every preceding year, the dessert table(s) were a hot attraction. I came to the table with good intentions of eating only a couple sweets, but after peanut butter pie caught my eye here and mint brownies caught my eye there I pretty soon had a plate heaped a couple layers thick. I think Hannah thought I might had gotten two or three too many pieces of dessert, but I made up for it by being a good boy and cleaning up my plate.

The concert that followed the meal was a lot of fun also. The hour was led by *64 to Grayson*, and most who ate stayed around to listen to and sing along with them. I sat in front at my kids' request so I didn't have a great view of all the people in the gym, but I'll wager that if they were clapping and sing as much as my table was it was probably an interesting sight to see. It warmed my heart seeing my three kids clapping at three different rhythms during the songs. I'd imagine that other families had similar scenes at their tables.

It was encouraging to see so many pitch in to help with clean-up at the end of the evening. Sure, I didn't expect anything less, but it is always refreshing to see so many people so eager to serve. Our congregation is filled with servants who bring joy to many people and I think we should feel good about that. Thanks to all who cleaned and stacked tables, hung chairs, swept, helped the band carry out gear and any and everything else that you helped with. May God bless you as we head into this Christmas season!

-Kyle

DECEMBER EVENTS

- 6th Sonshine Singers Performance
6:00pm
- 24th Christmas Eve Candlelight
Service 6:00pm
- 28th Upward Practices Begin

JANUARY EVENTS

- 16th First Upward Game
- 23rd Upward Game
- 30th Upward Game

FEBRUARY EVENTS

- 11th Care Packages