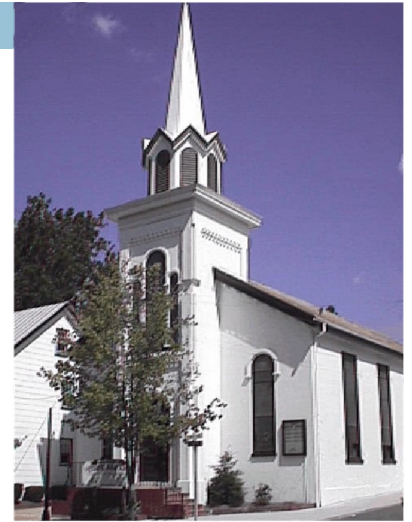


The Carillon

Shoebboxes for Samaritan's Purse



Thank you to everyone who donated. We collected 50 shoeboxes for Samaritan's Purse. Join us for the trip to the packing warehouse in Baltimore on Wednesday, December 6. See Katy Higginbotham to sign up.



How to Take a Holy Pause before the Christmas Crazy

Written by Julie Gillies

Every year, my mother assured me, Christmas arrived faster and faster. At eight years of age, I looked up into her blue eyes and my eager heart could scarcely fathom her point. All kids knew Christmas took forever to arrive. We waited eons before it finally showed up.

Fast forward many years, and I seriously understand what she meant. The year zooms by at warp speed. First comes New Year's Day. Five minutes later it's Valentine's Day, followed immediately by Good Friday and Easter. A week and a half later, I am sweeping up firecracker and sparkler debris from my driveway, and bam! It's Thanksgiving. And then it's Christmas time. Again.

I hardly have time to catch my breath, let alone purchase gifts, find cute wrapping paper, and Christmas-tize my house. Or spend time with the One it's all about.

If, like me, you'd love for life to slow down, particularly as the holiday season begins to ramp up, it's important to understand that in spite of our long to-do lists, the shopping and baking and the fun aspects the holidays bring our way, we can choose to still our hearts. It may not be easy, but if we desire the authentic, heart transforming experience of Christ's presence in the midst of the Christmas crazy, we can choose a holy pause.

A holy pause is the opportunity to step out

of the madness, the demands, and the haste of the season, and into His presence. It's the decision to shut ourselves away from the endless noise and commotion and quietly engage our hearts with His. It's the chance to trade His stillness for our rushing, His peace for our panic, and His joy for our irritability.

Life doesn't stand still, but we can. Scripture invites us to do just that: "Be still, and know that I am God! I will be honored by every nation. I will be honored throughout the world." (Psalm 46:10 NLT)

God desires for us to honor Him by spending the expensive currency of our time, even in the busyness of the season. To engage in the difficult but rewarding discipline of quieting our minds, bowing our hearts, and pausing before Him. It's then that we can begin to experience the beauty of His awesome, all-sufficient presence.

What if, at the very start of the Christmas season, before we drag out boxes of tangled lights, sift through glittery decor, and tenderly unpack nativity sets, we allow ourselves the luxury of a holy pause? What if instead of permitting the briskness of the season to scoot us forward on its endless current, we stopped and bowed our hearts before the One who stepped

(continued on back page)

Birthdays for December

Florence Conte	3
Missy Scott	7
George Scott	11
Audrey Cash	25

Anniversaries for December

Dave & June Johnson	20
Ken & Judy Conner	22

Verse of the Month for December

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

~~Isaiah 9:6~~

Holiday Recipe

A heaping cup of happiness
2 of love and caring,
1 of understanding,
1 of joyful sharing.

A level cup of wisdom,
1 of artful living,
1 of thoughtful insight,
1 of selfless giving.

Mix ingredients together,
Toss in a little flair,
Serve to everyone you know
Topped with a tiny prayer.

May every measure of happiness
Be yours this Christmastime!

~submitted by Joan Parker

No one is useless in this world who lightens the burdens of another. --Charles Dickens

A tree is known by its fruit; a man by his deeds. A good deed is never lost; he who sows courtesy reaps friendship, and he who plants kindness gathers love. —Saint Basil

~submitted by Dick Higginbotham

Christmas Crazy—continued

out of heaven, in awe and wonder of all He has done?

What if we allowed our hearts to marvel at His unfathomable journey from eternity into an unassuming, most unroyal manger? What if we pondered the miracle of His birth and the reason behind it? What if we asked Him to fill our hearts to overflowing with the reality of the priceless gift of His presence?

What if, instead of pinched stress across our faces, our families saw eyes that reflect our wonder-struck hearts?

And what if this became our daily goal this holiday season? A holy pause. An exquisite time in His presence. A life-changing, refreshing time with the One the season is all about.

Lord, I bow my heart before You and honor You. Help me to choose not one but many holy pauses this holiday season. Please nudge me by Your Spirit and remind me to step away from the Christmas crazy and get alone with you. In Jesus's awesome name, Amen.

Be intentional. Block out time for a daily holy pause this holiday season and ask God to help you honor this commitment.



A Christ-centered, community serving, Biblical church

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To:

Here's your newsletter for November 26, 2017