



December
2008

The Greatest Gifts We Continue to Receive

December has rolled around once again and with it Christmas. Christmas is the wonderful time we remember our Lord's birthday and with his coming we have indeed received the greatest gift of all. The first coming of our Lord Jesus was God's overwhelming signal of love for his people. Without the coming of Jesus we would all spend a horrible eternity away from God and away from his love. **The Greatest Gifts We Continue to Receive**



Jesus did come but he did not stay. As recorded in Acts 1, Jesus ascended to the Father and took his rightful place at his right hand, filling his role as head of the Church and interceder for his people. He did not leave however without providing for us – revealing again his love for us. He told his disciples and us that he must go away so the Comforter could come.

The Comforter we know to be the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit with us is another gift which we depend on greatly each and everyday of our lives. With the Holy Spirit as our teacher we are able to know Jesus Christ. With the

Holy Spirit we are able live our lives in submission to our Lord. With the Holy Spirit within us we are led to worship the triune God.

These are tremendous gifts and if not there, we Christians could not exist. We are truly blessed beyond anything we could imagine.

There is more, there is another gift that is available to us that we depend on. It is the Word of God. Each day as we open our Bibles and begin to read we are reading the very Words of the living God. Everything our Lord God wants to say to us he has said. It is the greatest of gifts and we are able to hold in our hands, read it with our eyes, hear it with our ears and live by it throughout our lives.

Yes, Jesus ascended and left the Holy Spirit to comfort and guide us. In addition to the wonderful presence of the Spirit is the Word of God. As we read the Word, God is revealed. As we read and meditate on the Word our souls, our minds and our hearts are exposed to the Creator of the universe. As we read we are exposed to the greatest gift ever known to mankind. In these Words, Jesus Christ and his teachings are recorded so that we, 2000 plus years later, can know him just as the people of his day knew him. It is a most beautiful and gracious gift.

Every time we open the pages of Holy Scripture I pray we remember the beauty of this gift that we continue to receive.

Speaking of the beauty of the Word of God we are able to hold in our hands, I am especially looking forward to January and preaching from the book of Ephesians. Ephesians has been called by some, one of the greatest theological books ever written. It is also referred to as one of the best lessons in practical living found within Holy Scriptures.

From Ephesians we will tackle some of the greatest theological teachings found in Scripture – election, predestination, salvation in Jesus Christ, blessings in the heavenly realm, the purpose of the Church and much more. Added to this are the practical teachings we should be living everyday. We will discuss the marital relationship and teaching our children. During our discussions we will also tackle the supervisor/worker, teacher/student relationship. Are you surprised that the Bible addresses how we are to treat our teachers in school? It's there.

Ephesians is truly a gift that continues to give and I am looking forward to opening its truths for our benefit. I pray the Holy Spirit begins now to **prepare** us.

In preparation I want you to do something. Before the first Sunday in January I would like to ask you to read through the book of Ephesians, not once but 10 times. Its only 6 chapters so it won't take long.

You may ask why so many times. Paul's writing in Ephesians is complicated and sometimes it takes reading a sentence several times to get the point he is making. During my preaching labs in seminary we were told to read the book 50 times before preaching. I am only asking for 10. I think you will be surprised at what you get from the book each of the 10 times you read it.

Christmas is coming and we will be sharing gifts with those we love. Please remember the gifts given you by someone who loves you dearly – the gifts are Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit and the Word given you by the Father.

In His Service,

Pastor Tim



Sympathy is expressed to the family and friends of Katy and Josh Campbell in the recent passing of their infant daughter, Ally.

Sympathy is expressed to the family and friends of Joe Morrison.

Sympathy is expressed to Bill Morrison in the death of his wife, Margaret and his brother, Joe Morrison,

Sympathy is expressed to Anna Donohoe in the passing of her father.



News From New Sterling Women's Ministry

Dear Ladies,

It is hard to believe December is here and 2008 is almost gone! What a year it has been. God has greatly blessed New Sterling Church individually and corporately! Thank you all for the many acts of kindness, prayer, attendance to the many events and circles, for all the hours of service that has been poured into the Women's Ministries and for the unconditional love for each other. It has been a great joy to be part of such a special group of people.

December is a busy month, as was November. On December 11th the Women will have the annual Salad Supper Christmas Party held in the Fellowship Hall @ 6:30 pm. All women are invited and are encouraged to bring a friend. If you would like to come, all you have to do is bring either a salad (cold or hot) or a dessert. It will be a special night of fellowship with our sisters in Christ. It will also be a time of sharing information for the upcoming year and the opportunities that God has allowed.

2009 circle Bible study books will be on sale the night of the party. Information about the circle meeting times and Bible study will also be available. You will sign-up for your circle during this time. All circle members will need to purchase the study book before your first meeting and have the first lesson completed. If you are unable to attend, your circle chairman will have the books until circle begins in January.

At the Christmas party, secret sister information will be collected to draw for 2009 secret sisters. If you cannot attend and would like to participate in the secret sisters ministry please get your information to Judy Watson or Kim Brady before December 11th. Also, after the Christmas party, 2008 secret sisters will exchange their Christmas gifts. If you didn't have a secret sister this year and need information about this ministry contact your circle chairman, Judy Watson, or Kim Brady. Information about secret sisters will be placed on the table in the vestibule for anyone who is interested.

Also, at the Christmas party there will be sign-up sheets for the Women's Ministries committee opportunities. We encourage every one to use the gifts that God has given in the area that He leads you. We have many opportunities to serve.

We would like to thank the Mary-Martha Sunrise Circle for all their hard work decorating the Chrismon Tree and for being responsible for taking it down. It is beautiful as it always is!

We are looking forward to 2009 with great expectancy of the great things God is going to do in the lives of the people here at New Sterling Church!

God Bless You All and Have a Safe Holiday!



Coming Events



December 2	7:00	Men's Bible Study
December 6	9:00	Knit Wits—Cancelled
	10-12	Youth Shepherds pack Shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child
December 7	9:15	Praise & Worship
	5:00	Children's Christmas Program Practice
	6:00	C3 Practice
December 8		Sterling Silvers
December 8	7:00	Experiencing God
December 9	10:00	Decorating committee decorate for Salad Supper
December 11	6:30	Women's Ministry Salad Supper
December 13	6-9 pm	Pack Shoe Boxes for Operation Christmas Child in Charlotte
December 14	9:15	Praise & Worship
		Annual Congregational Meeting
	5:00	Children's Christmas Program Practice
	6:00	C3 Practice
December 15	7:00	Knit Wits with Delinda Mauney
December 17		Christmas Caroling Youth Shepherds
December 21	9:15	Praise & Worship
	11:00	Choir Cantata
	7:00	Children's Christmas Program
December 22	6:15	Seekers Bible Study Christmas Caroling
December 24	7:00	Christmas Eve Candle Light Service



December 25

Christmas

December 28 9:15 Praise & Worship

Christ in the Lord's Supper

The first Sunday of January we will celebrate the Lord's Supper together. It is a special time for Christians to honor this sacrament and to remember our Lord Jesus and his work. But just exactly how do we remember him? Is it just a memorial? Is it only symbolic? Where is Christ in the Supper?

This month in my Tabletalk devotion from Ligonier Ministries they gave several days to this discussion. I would like to take sizable excerpts from their work to answer our questions.

The Westminster Confession summarizes the biblical teaching on Christ's presence in the Supper, saying that worthy receivers feed on Jesus "not carnally or corporally, but spiritually." Christ is spiritually "present to the faith of the believers," and we feed upon "Christ crucified, and all benefits of his death." (29.7) As we eat the bread and drink the wine we by faith commit ourselves anew to Jesus and renew the covenant, showing that we need his physical body and blood to save us as much as we need food to nourish us. We meet with Jesus and he strengthens us from the resources he has as both the Son of God and as a glorified human being.

This is possible because of our union with Christ through the Holy Spirit. It is the Holy Spirit in us that allows us to meet with Christ during the Supper. In the end, it is a mystery as to how all this happens.

The ARP Church's Directory of Worship speaks of the Lord's Supper this way:

The Lord's Supper is a sacrament of the New Testament, wherein, by giving and receiving bread and wine according to the appointment of Jesus Christ, his death is showed forth; and they that worthily communicate feed upon his body and blood, to their spiritual nourishment and growth in grace; have their union and communion with Him confirmed; testify and renew their thankfulness, and engagement to God, and their mutual love and fellowship each with the other, as members of the same mystical body.

Our Directory states that, "the Sacraments are holy signs and seals of the covenant of grace, immediately instituted by God, to represent Christ and his benefits, and to confirm our interest in Him." Exactly how Christ is present in the Supper is unknown; it is a supernatural mystery. There is, however, one thing we do know – the sacraments are given as a sign of God's grace to his children. When we gather on that first Sunday in January let us praise and thank God for his loving grace as we participate in the Lord's Supper.

Pastor Tim



Jesus was content to be born in a stable so that we may have a mansion when we die.

Though he was rich...he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich. 2 Corinthians 8:9



New Sterling Angel Tree

The Angel Tree is up in the Educational Building and ready for you to pick your ornaments! We have 4 families this year in much need of our help so please grab an ornament or just go by the list below and let's help make these families have a Christmas filled with God's grace and love!

Please use the ornament taken from the tree as the gift tag on your gift. If you choose to go by this list, please make an ornament or tag to correspond with the family colors.

We have also placed a decorated box just beside the tree for pantry items. If you wish to also make a donation of pantry items, place them in the box and we will divide equally among the 4 families.

Family 1 - Red

Female Age 11

- Pant Size 5
- Shirt Size Medium
- Coat/jacket Large
- Shoe Size 7
- Books
- Sims 3 Playstation2 game
- Silent Hills Origins –
Playstation 2 game

Female Age 9

- Pant Size 3
- Shirt Size Medium
- Coat/Jacket Large
- Shoe Size 5.5
- New Dress
- Kite
- Final Fantasy X-2
Playstation 2 game
- Stuffed Animals

Male Age 5

- Pant Size 6
- Shirt Size 6 or Medium
- Coat/Jacket 6 or Medium
- Shoe Size 1
- Play Cars
- Kite
- Cars game for Playstation 2



Family 2 – Yellow

Female Age 12

- Pant Size 10-11 Junior
- Shirt Size Med-Large
- Coat/Jacket 10/12
- Shoe Size 8.5
- Hair Supplies
- Photo Album
- Pokemon Stuff
- Jewelry
- Board Game
- Pokemon Cards
- Game for Game Boy Advance

Female Age 10

- Pant Size 7/8
- Shirt Size 10
- Coat/Jacket 10/12
- Shoe Size 1.5
- Hair Supplies
- Hannah Montana Stuff
- Jewelry
- Bead Jewelry Kit
- Board Game
- Bratz Stuff
- Stickers/coloring books

Male Age 7

- Pant Size 6/7
- Shirt Size 7/8
- Coat/Jacket 10/12
- Shoe Size 2-2.5
- Hot Wheel Cars
- Car Track Mat
- Football
- Disney "cars"
- Toy Trucks
- Puzzles
- Dukes of Hazard Toys





Family 3 – Blue

Female Age 13

Pant Size 5 Junior
 Shirt Size Medium
 Dress Size 5-7 Junior

Female Age 8

Pant Size 7/8
 Shirt Size 7/8
 Dress Size 7/8
 Shoe Size Girls 1

Female Age 3

Pant size 4T
 Shirt Size 4T
 Dress Size 4T
 Shoe Size 8-8.5 toddler

Ugg Boots w/fur

Knee high lady size 9.5-10

Mushroom Chair Aqua blue
 Or purple

Full Size Bedroom Set – blue

3 wheel scooter

Playdough Set

Pixos

Littlest Pet Shop

Playset & Pets

High School Musical

Dolls – Troy or Gabriella

3 wheel scooter

Pixos

Art and/or Craft Set

Babydoll Playset with

stroller, carrier, baby bed

Anything Dora Explorer

Barbie My Size

Little People Playset

Anything a 3 year old would like

Family 4 – Green

Boy Age 10

Pant Size 10/12 slim
 Shirt Size 10/12
 Shoe Size 5.5
 Underwear 10-12/Socks
 Model Cars
 Bike

Girl Age 15

Pant Size 12
 Shirt Size Medium
 Shoe Size 7
 Food Gift Card

Girl Age 17

Pant Size 12
 Shirt Size Medium
 Shoe Size 7
 Skillet CD (Christian) 1st CD



Boy Age 17

Pants Size Men 30/31
 Shirt Size Medium
 Like Pullovers
 Likes Sports especially
 Football

Boy Age 2 ½ months

Size 2 diapers
 6-9 month clothes
 Baby Toys

Grandmother

Pant size 4X Capri style
 Shirt Size 4X
 Shoe Size 7

This was the complete list for family 4. I think gift cards for the older children either Walmart, Kohl's, Old Navey, Goody's, or Target would be very appropriate.





News from the Knit Wits



To the wonderful ladies in the Knit Wit group and the congregation of New Sterling Church:

You are all a True blessing to the kids and families that visit the Dove House. Thank you for the beautiful soft blankets and thank you for coming to our need of paper products. You would not realize how the paper products help us. Kids seem to love to roll toilet tissue off the roll!

I wish you could be here when a child picks a blanket of their favorite color. I really helps them through a rough time.

Thank you all so much, With Love,

Candy and the Dove House Staff



Jane Fulbright, Muriel Jenkins, Juanita Massey and Pat Price deliver Prayer Shawls and Afgans to Carolyn Byers and Clarke Milholland.

PRICELESS GIFTS TO GIVE FOR FREE

The gift of a prayer: Let your friends and loved ones know that you pray for them — and then do it!



The **Winters families** and the **Hager family** recently joined Marcia's Mom, **Mary B. Davis**, in celebration of her 99th birthday!!!!..... **Felicia Woodall** has moved into her new home.....**Carrol McNeely** has been in the hospital with pneumonia.....**Melderine Pope** is home from the hospital.....**Rev. Olin Isenhour** held morning worship service on November 23.....Pastor Tim was back in the pulpit on November 30. **WELCOME BACK.....Jeremy Brady, Andy Gray, Michael Pope and Tra Watson** were elected to the office of Deacon.....**Jimmy Winters, David Brady and Frank Emery** were elected to the office of Elder.....The **Sunday School classes** decorated the Christmas tree in the fellowship hall and enjoyed refreshments hosted by the **Friendship Class.....Pastor Tim** "cracking" on the ladies when announcing the Secret Circle Sisters will "reveal" themselves at the Women's salad supper. He invited all of the Men!!!!



The Seekers Bible Study will be going Christmas caroling on December 22nd. They will meet at the church at 6:15 and will plan to eat at Cracker Barrell after caroling.

They welcome any and all help available to sing God's praises for the birth of His Son, Jesus Christ. Make plans, come and have fun, fellowship and sing songs of joy to those who are not able to be out and about. Be at church at 6:15 on the 22nd, share God's gift of the season with others and remember—you get to eat afterwards!!!!!!!



A guy took his blonde girlfriend to her first football game. They had great seats right behind their team's bench. After the game, he asked her how she liked the experience.

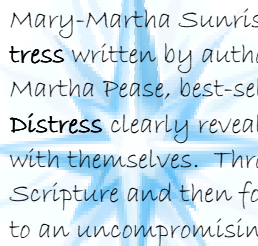
'Oh, I really liked it,' she replied, 'especially the tight pants and all the big muscles, but I just couldn't understand why they were killing each other over 25 cents.'

Dumbfounded, her date asked, 'What do you mean?'

'Well, they flipped a coin, one team got it and then for the rest of the game, all they kept screaming was: 'Get the quarterback! Get the quarterback!'

I'm like... Hellooooooo?
It's only 25 cents.'

2009 Women's Bible Studies



Mary-Martha Sunrise Circle, Mary-Martha Sunset Circle and Treasure Keepers Circle will study **Damsels in Distress** written by author Martha Pease. This study covers issues from gossip and slander to PMS and legalism. Martha Pease, best-selling author of **The Excellent Wife**, offers biblical insight on problems women face. **Damsels in Distress** clearly reveals God's principles for dealing with the common problems women face—first with others, then with themselves. Through its pages you will be stimulated to honestly analyze the problems through the grid of Scripture and then formulate practical application that brings glory to God. This study Martha exhorts her readers to an uncompromising standard of personal holiness.

The Golden Christian Circle will study Our Golden Christian circle will be studying two books by Kay Arthur. These books are **HOW DO YOU WALK THE WALK YOU TALK and MONEY AND POSSESSIONS: THE QUEST FOR CONTENTMENT**. These are two 6-week course studies which will be used for the year of 2009. The books are 40-minute bible studies which investigate powerful Biblical truth in short, easy lessons. The study is designed to draw you into God's Word through basic inductive Bible study. No homework is required, so everyone in the group can work through the lesson together at the same time.

MONEY AND POSSESSIONS: THE QUEST FOR CONTENTMENT: What does your view of money reveal about your relationship with God? The subject of money seems to be one of the most emotional issues of our times. For many of us, money rules like a despot over our attitudes, our time, our decisions, and our politics. An individual's personal economic status can cause his or her emotions to rise and fall like the stock market. We think we'll find contentment, if only we can accumulate enough. Yet money is more than a measure of one's well being. The way a person handles money is a barometer of that individual's relationship with God. Money and possessions are a matter of the heart. They show where our true affections lie. This why the New Testament devotes so much attention to money and possessions, for as Jesus said, "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." In light of this truth, we need to know what God has to say about money, where it comes from, how we are to handle it, and what our accountability may be in respect to whatever we have. We hope you will find this study will help you gain new insights regarding your quest for contentment.

HOW DO YOU WALK THE WALK YOU TALK?: How does God want us to live? How does a person walk the walk they talk without hypocrisy in a way that lets others see the difference that genuine faith makes in a person's life? This is a study of Ephesians to discover what God has to say about your walk—living out in practical ways what it really means to be "in Christ: with Christ in you. You've probably heard the expression "Words are cheap." Maybe someone said that to you when you made a promise—and they added, "Yeah, sure! We'll see." And that is it! They will wait and see if your promise is really true, if it will really come to pass—if you are going to "walk the walk you talk..." This is what this inductive look at a few passages from the book of Ephesians will let you see for yourself. You will see what God says about the walk of a true believer in Jesus Christ.

More information on the studies will be given at the Women's Ministries Christmas Party on December 11th, along with information about circle dates and times. If you cannot attend and would like more information, please contact Judy Watson or Kim Brady.



Comedy Corner

An older lady gets pulled over for speeding...

Woman: Is there a problem, Officer?

Officer: Ma'am, you were speeding.

Woman: Oh, I see.

Officer: Can I see your license please?

Woman: I'd give it to you but I don't have one.

Officer: Don't have one?

Woman: Lost it, 4 years ago for drunk driving.

Officer: I see...Can I see your vehicle registration papers please.

Woman: I can't do that.

Officer: Why not?

Woman: I stole this car.

Officer: Stole it?

Woman: Yes, and I killed and hacked up the owner.

Officer: You what?

Woman: His body parts are in plastic bags in the trunk if you want to see

The Officer looks at the woman and slowly backs away to his car and calls for back up. Within minutes 5 police cars circle the car. A senior officer slowly approaches the car, clasp his half drawn gun.

Officer 2: Ma'am, could you step out of your vehicle please! The woman steps out of her vehicle.

Woman: Is there a problem sir?

Officer 2: One of my officers told me that you have stolen this car and murdered the owner.

Woman: Murdered the owner?

Officer 2: Yes, could you please open the trunk of your car, please.

The woman opens the trunk, revealing nothing but an empty trunk.

Officer 2: Is this your car, ma'am?

Woman: Yes, here are the registration papers.

The officer is quite stunned.

Officer 2: One of my officers claims that you do not have a driving license.

The woman digs into her handbag and pulls out a clutch purse and hands it to the officer.

The officer examines the license. He looks quite puzzled.

Officer 2: Thank you ma'am, one of my officers told me you didn't have a license, that you stole this car, and that you murdered and hacked up the owner.

Woman: Bet he told you I was speeding, too.



Women's Fall Retreat

Aarene Reese, Jane Fulbright, Juanita Massey, Jeanette Hauck, Kim Brady, Jan Jackson, Susan Pugh, Barbara McClure, Pat Price, Felicia Woodall, Delinda Mauney, Kitzi Emery, Peggy Gray and Jane Mayhew attended the 1st Women's Fall Retreat at Bonclarcken.



Some of us do go to classes



Still time to talk crochet



Lunch time



Ice Cream is a treat after lunch



Laughing it up with guest speaker, Renee Swope from Proverbs 31 Ministry



Always time to cheese it up



How many New Sterling women can you fit in an Elevator?



Jeanette showing off her special cup.

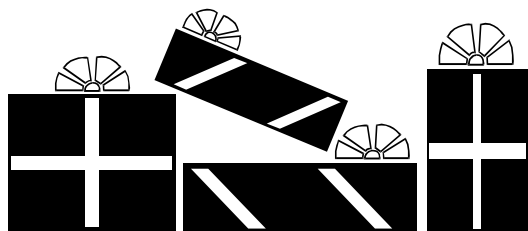


Mark your calendar

Operation Christmas Child Shoebox

volunteer to pack

Boxes in Charlotte, December 13, 6-9 pm.



The Youth Counsel has decided to have a shoe box packing day on December 6, 2008 from 10am-12pm. If you would like to donate items to pack in a shoe box please place them in the Young Adult class. On December 6, the youth will pack the items in the shoe boxes. Do not bring boxes, we will be receiving boxes from Samaritans Purse. BUT if you still would like to pack your own from home, please have them at the church on December 7.

Things you can donate are: **School supplies** (pencils, crayons, color pencils, coloring books, pads, stamps and ink pads) Now is a good time to buy school supplies with the back to school sales. **Toys** (Choose toys for the age you want, remember to supply extra batteries for electronic toys), **Hygiene items** (NO LIQUIDS OF ANY KIND, put bar soaps in plastic bags, tooth brush and paste, hair brush and combs, wash cloths) **Candy** (Gum, hard candy, lollipops, NO CHOCOLATE OR LIQUIDS, remember to double bag candy), **Others** (Socks, t-shirts, hairclips, play jewelry, sunglasses, stuffed animals, watches, flashlights, with extra batteries)

NO NOT SEND damaged items, war related items, play money, liquids chocolate or food, medications, breakable items like snow globes or glass containers, aerosol cans, etc.

If you would like to give a **personal note or picture** to the child, just place it in an envelope, seal it and put it in the bag with the items you donate.

With each box we make there is a **\$7 shipping fee**. If you would like to donate money for the shipping fees, please put your \$7 in an envelope and write "Donation" and the amount on the top of the envelope. You may give this to **Taryn Setzer, Jessica Graham or any of the Youth Counsel members**. If you do not wish to donate items but wish to donate money to the shipping fees that is OK. We would like all the shipping fees to be covered for all the boxes we make. Pamphlets for Operation Christmas Child will be placed in the church vestibule soon.

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR SUPPORT. ALL DONATIONS OF ANY KIND LISTED ABOVE ARE GREATLY APPRECIATED!!





December Birthdays

- 2 Betty Sides
- 3 Linda Harper
- 4 Larry Watts
- 5 Tena Campbell
- 5 Pressly Reese
- 5 Betty Thorne
- 10 Pat Price
- 12 Barbara McClure
- 12 Clark Milholland
- 13 Estelene Jenkins
- 14 Phyllis Shoemaker



- 15 Anthony Brady
- 16 Dorothy Beatty
- 17 Doris McNeely
- 18 Dawn Keller
- 19 Jim Snyder
- 22 Craig Pugh
- 23 Olean Deal
- 26 Peggy Gray
- 27 Lori Pope
- 30 Ed Henderson
- 31 Juanita Massey

YOU ARE INVITED TO ONE STOP SHOPPING ON SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6 FROM 9:00 AM—12:00 PM AT BETHEL METHODIST CHURCH FELLOWSHIP HALL.

VENDORS REPRESENTED:

SIGNATURE HOME STYLES
TUPPERWARE
PAMPERED CHEF
HOME INTERIORS

RADA CULTRY
THIRTY-ONE
TASTEFULLY SIMPLE
ANGEL FOOD MINISTRIES

LIA SOPHIA
UNITED METHODIST WOMEN
BREAST CANCER AWARENESS

COME AND BRING YOUR CHRISTMAS LIST AND LET ONE STOP DO IT ALL!!!!

