

Hillside Happenings

A friendly Nevada Church, Teaching the Word of God, Sharing the Love of Christ, and Building Stronger Families.

VOL. 19, No. 3

P.O. BOX 6598, STATELINE, NV 89449

DECEMBER 2009

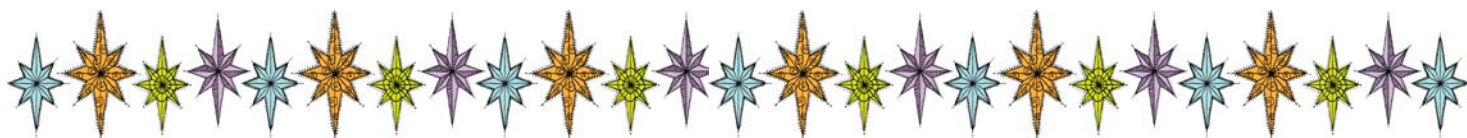


All-Church Christmas
Potluck Lunch
Sunday, December 13
after worship

Dinner and a Movie
"The Nativity"
Saturday, December 19
5:00 pm

The Little Drummer Boy
Christmas Service
December 20
10:45 am

Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service
Thursday, December 24
5:30 pm





DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Natalie Daly
- 8 Pastor Rachela Fazio
- 10 Ruth Anne Scudder
- 11 Bob Pavich
- 11 Gabriella Tracy
- 13 Jerry Klosterboer
- 14 Ann Kaiser
- 15 Holly Brumbach



DECEMBER EVENTS

- 3 Preschool Christmas Program
- 5 Parent's Day Out
- 6 Second Sunday of Advent
- 6 Thai One On Fundraiser
- 6 Family Care Ministry Meeting
- 7 Elder Meeting
- 13 Third Sunday of Advent
- 13 Christmas Potluck Fellowship
- 19 Potluck Dinner and a Movie
- 20 Fourth Sunday of Advent
- 20 Little Drummer Christmas Service
- 24 Christmas Eve Worship Service
- 25 Christmas Day
- 28-30 Tsunami Youth Conference

JANUARY EVENTS

- 1 New Year's Day
- 10 Church Fellowship Lunch
- 17 Diaconate Meeting
- 18 Martin Luther King Jr Day
- 31 Lord's Supper

Sign Up with Elder Mark Peterson to help clean the church and MPR. All the equipment and products are here on-site, including complete instructions and to what needs doing. (775) 588-4219. Dates needed for September:

Saturday, December 12
Saturday, December 26



Woman's Bible study

Both evening and morning classes will be doing **One in a Million** by Priscilla Shirer beginning in January. We will explore the Israelites' journey through the wilderness. We will be encouraged to fully engage in the abundant life God has waiting for those of us who will allow Him to take the lead in our daily living. **One in a Million** is an opportunity for us to experience our deliverance from strongholds, to conquer our wilderness living, and to claim our God-given inheritance.

Wednesdays at 5:45 pm beginning January 6th

Thursdays at 9:00 am beginning January 7th

\$14.00 cost for materials

Let Pastor Rachela know if you will be joining us,

775-588-5860



Little Drummer Christmas Service

This year our Drummer service will be on **Sunday December 20th at 10:45 am.**

We invite you to present your talent for baby Jesus at this service. Anyone who would like to play an instrument, sing a song, read a poem or something similar is invited to do so. Contact Pastor Rachela Fazio or Pastor Paul Tracy **by Sunday, December 13th** so that we can plan the Little Drummer Service and include you in it.



Give a Bible for Christmas

The "pew" bibles are looking ragged, aren't they? This year, give a gift of God's Word to regulars and visitors to Tahoe Community Church. We'd like to replace the paperback bibles with hardcover bibles that will last. We hope to be able to order 100 bibles at \$10 each (with *larger print*). If you would like to make a donation, just earmark your check "Pew Bibles."

Grace Maintained!

By Pastor Sam Worley

To date, I have experienced 68 chemotherapy treatments. It is a real project to be sure but, in praise of Jesus my healer, I am managing. How long do these treatments continue? A question asked me recently. For me, chemotherapy will proceed until I cannot tolerate the treatments or the side effects (which are legion) any longer.

We had a good garden this summer and the extra warm September made it an extra good producer. We canned, pickled, dehydrated and gave away an abundant crop.

We have spent time in Elko visiting family and checking on our property. With eight grand children, there is often a graduation, birthday or sporting event we attend.

I cannot break the habit of reading and studying. Recently, I have over-viewed world history, the great sieges of history and Moslem Eschatology. I have particularly enjoyed Epicenter and Inside the Revolution by Joel C. Rosenberg.

We believe a Truth Project group will begin soon at the home of neighbors we have shared and prayed with.

How we enjoy your visits, cards, emails and calls. Thank you for your steadfast prayers.

Merry Christmas

Pastor Sam and Joani

Isaiah 46:4



Would you like to go Christmas shopping without your children? Drop off the kids for Parent's Day Out.

December 5th 9am-3pm
cost: \$30-for one child
\$35-two children
\$40-three children

The children will be well cared for by our youth and an adult. Please bring their lunch.

Join us at Thai One On (across from the church) anytime from 7:30am 2:30pm on Sunday, Dec 6th. Let our Youth server you breakfast or lunch and a portion will go to their summer camp fund.



Thai One On
Sunday, December 6
7:30am-2:30 pm

CONNECTIONS

**A CHANCE
TO MEET,
GREET AND EAT**

Get to know others over lunch once a month after the morning worship service.

Join us on

**SUNDAY
December 13
CHRISTMAS
POTLUCK**



**AFTER
CHURCH**

Note: this is a change of date since last month's newsletter.

Saturday, Dec 19
DINNER AND
A MOVIE
Dinner at 5:00
Movie at 5:45
"The Nativity"

Three Suggestions for this Christmas Season

By Pastor Paul Tracy

I'm not sure which Christmas song has this lyric in it; "It's the most wonderful time of the year" but I've concluded that whoever wrote those words didn't have most peoples' schedule for the month of December. If you are like me December is extremely active, busy, stressful and taxing and not necessarily in that order either! So what can we do to survive this wonderful time with a smile on our face and some joy in our hearts? Try these three suggestions.

Keep on Track! By this suggestion I mean that we should remember what Christmas is really all about. It's about the birth of our Savior. It's about God's gift of love given to us. It's about God providing a way for us to be in a right relationship with Him. Sometimes we can get confused by all the other things that are promoted as Christmas or a part of Christmas. If we can remember the true focus of Christmas then we can find the joy that it brings to our hearts and minds.

Keep in Touch. By this suggestion I mean that we should make sure to make the time to worship God during this season. All the other things that are associated with this season can take us far away from the reality of who is responsible for Christmas. Without enough time spent on



It can be a wonderful time of the year if we remember to "Keep in Touch, Keep on Track. Keep on Going."

End of the Year Giving

By Shirley Ralls
Director of Administration

December is an important time to many people for making contributions to the church. For starters, Christmas is a time for giving. It is also the end of the year for IRS tax-exempt contributions. Be sure to get them to us in a timely manner. Here are the IRS "rules" on end-of-the-year contribution reporting:

Rule #1: The General Rule. The income tax regulations specify, "Ordinarily, a contribution is made at the time delivery is effected. The unconditional delivery or mailing of a check which subsequently clears in due course will constitute an effective contribution on the date of delivery or mailing." According to this language, a check (payable to the church) dated December 31, 2009 but physically delivered in January of 2010 is

praising God for His precious gift then we can become harried and hassled and unhappy. The Psalmist wrote "The joy of the Lord is my strength" long before there was a Christmas season. He knew that it was in his personal relationship with God that he could find strength and joy. Don't isolate yourself from God by missing times of worship and praise. It's worth the effort to stay close to the Lord.

Finally Keep on Going. By this suggestion I mean that we should take all of our cares and burdens to God and to let go of them. For many people this time of year can be sad and lonely. Recent changes in their close relationships or in various other situations have brought about significant adjustments for their daily lives. Often these adjustments impact them emotionally, physically and spiritually. We do not have to bear these burdens alone. I Peter 5:7 tells us to "Cast all your cares on Him, because He cares for you." God can help us deal with these changes and help heal us from the inside out. We have to let go of these burdens, give them to God and not take them back again. Going to God is something that we can always do!

deductible only on the donor's 2010 tax return. This is true even if a donor backdates a check to read "December 31, 2009" during church services in January of 2010. It is also true if the donor actually wrote and dated the check in December 2009 if he or she did not deliver the check until 2010.

Rule #2: The Exception. The only exception to the general rule is a check that is dated and mailed (and postmarked) in 2009. The fact that the church does not receive or cash the check until January 2010 does not prevent the donor from deducting it on his or her 2009 tax return.

We will, of course, accept your donations in both 2009 and 2010. If you have reason to want us to report it in 2009, though, please be sure to follow the "rules."

May God richly bless you in the coming year!



Sunday mornings from 9:00 am-10:15 am. Deaconess Suzette Waite will be leading an in-depth study of the book of John. Bring your Bible and yourself and join us as we savor God's Word. Meet in the downstairs preschool room. More info call Deaconess Suzette Waite at (775) 588-7002



A NOTE FROM PASTOR RACHELA:

Each year I encourage you all to get involved in a Bible study in the New Year. Well, here it is, the end of 2009, and 2010 is around the corner. Will you spend time with our Lord? How much? Will you just give Him the customary time—Sunday worship or will you give more time next year? I encourage you to seek Him. Make a goal to grow in/with Him next year. Read/study His Word daily and get involved with others to study/share His Word. May our Lord bless you all during this month as we celebrate the birth of our Lord.

You are NOT a number

By Shirley Ralls

At TCC, you are a valued person: you have a name, you have a face, a personality, a story, a life. Your name is written in the Book of Life. You are NOT a number to God or to us.

However, in the computer age we work in, it is easier for the office to track your contributions for tax purposes if we have a number to enter. For this reason, each family that gives regularly is assigned a number for entry purposes.

In December, we distribute packets of envelopes to our regular givers. On these envelopes there is a number printed to help us record gifts. If you don't use envelopes, writing your number on your check is a big help.

This year, we've consolidated the range of numbers/envelopes ordered, so your number may have changed from last year. If you don't know your number, I will be happy to look it up for you. Or if you do not have a number, one can be assigned.

You *do not* need an envelope or a number to give to the Lord through the church and anonymous gifts are also welcome.

Food Pantry Update

By Deaconess Kathy Pavich

The Food Pantry fed 692 people during the month of October - 265 more people than last month - what a huge increase in numbers! We fed only 59 new people who have never visited us before (still a large number), but we are seeing the return of many people who have visited us before. A large number of those are waiting for jobs at the ski resorts!

As I write this, we are gearing up for the Thanksgiving giveaway. Our prayers are for enough turkeys and all the fixings to feed the anticipated large number of recipients! We'll be sure to let you know how the Lord provides!

We continue to be grateful for the donations of food, soaps, shampoo, lotions, and paper and plastic bags that come from this church body. These donations continue to be very important to us!

Stop by any Friday from 1:30 on, and join us in our service to the Lord!

Thank you again for your continued support and prayers for this ministry.

Kathy Pavich





Tahoe Community Church is an autonomous church, choosing to affiliate with the Tahoe Baptist Association, the California Southern Baptist Convention, and the Southern Baptist Convention of the USA.

"Hillside Happenings" is published monthly. Events and articles for the next issue are due in the church office by the 15th.

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Stateline, Nevada 89449

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Web: www.TahoeCommunityChurch.org

Weekly Ministry

Sundays

9:00 am Sunday School-All Ages
9:30 am Prayer Ministry
10:45am Worship, Nursery,
Children's Worship

Mondays

6:30 pm Men's Bible Study

Tuesdays

7:00 pm Gambler's Anonymous

Wednesdays

7:00 am Men's Breakfast Fellowship
3:30 pm Awesome Kids Grades 1-6
5:45 pm Women's Bible Study
6:00 pm Worship Team Rehearsal

Thursdays

9:00 am Women's Bible Study
5:45 pm Overeaters Anonymous
6:30 pm Youth Group

Fridays

3:00-4:30 pm Food Pantry Ministry

Saturdays

6:00 pm Evening Worship

Here to Serve You:

Elders

Jeff Brumbach, Leonard O'Malley,
Mark Peterson, Gerry Wright

Elder Emeritus

Sam Worley

Deacons/Deaconesses

Susie Brumbach,
Co-chairman Bob Daly, Jacky Daly,
, Jerry Klosterboer,
Chairman Bob Pavich, Kathy Pavich,
Ken Ralls, Franca Tracy,
Tootie O'Malley, Suzette Waite

Church Staff

Paul Tracy, Pastor
Rachela Fazio, Women/Children's Pastor
Shirley Ralls, Director of Administration
Ken Ralls, Custodian

Preschool Staff

Beth Peterson, Director/Teacher
Laurie Blowney, Teacher
Kathy Sufka, Teacher
Franca Tracy, Teacher
Maria Arreola, Asst. Teacher
Catalina Rodriguez, Asst. Teacher

Music School Staff

Paul Tracy, Director/Instructor
Shirley Ralls, Instructor

IN GOD WE TRUST

Tahoe Community Church
P.O. Box 6598
Stateline, NV 89449

**DEADLINE FOR
NEWSLETTER ARTICLES**
December
15th

