

Kindness at Christmas

by Susie Beil

When our boys were little, we collected a number of children's Christmas books. Board books, lift-the-flap nativity stories, picture books – all telling in various ways the story of the birth of Jesus. One favorite paid particular attention to the kind Innkeeper who made room for Mary and Joseph out back in his stable. It's something of a disappointment to discover that there really is no Innkeeper in the story as far as Matthew or Luke tell it in the gospels. But tradition has sculpted for us a picture of this kindly man (or woman) who is overcome with pity for the poor couple so visibly in need of a place to stay.

We can learn some things from this figurative character. His inn must have been bustling with activity, with travellers in need of food, clean linens, directions to the market. Yet he found time to make room for this man and his wife so full with child.

The life of a mother with three adolescent boys is one of non-stop activity: teenagers in need of food, new shoes, a ride to this activity or that friend's house. They certainly keep me on my toes. The life of a pastor is likewise full: sermons to write, committees to lead, people to



visit, prayers to pray and space to hold for the hearts of many. I get letters from charities, I get invitations to various benefit dinners, I see homeless people on the street corner. In all this, I confess that my first response is often that I've got my hands and heart full, my pocketbook already committed.

So I think I'm exempt from kindness to others beyond my own circles. Or, maybe it's more accurate to say that I *wish* I was exempt from showing kindness to others outside my familiar relationships. But then I look at the legendary Innkeeper and wonder if perhaps my busy-ness is just an excuse; I wonder if I might be able to make room for someone in our town who might be in need.

This Advent Summit is once again partnering with Kitsap Community Resources and their Christmas Angels project. Gift tags are on the tree in the narthex for ten children from one family in our community. We don't know these kids personally, but we have a chance to share kindness and love to them in a tangible way. Bell ringers at stores around town will be collecting change for the Salvation Army and its tremendous ministry to the homeless. Perhaps you have a neighbor who will be

alone this Christmas for the first time, and an invitation to dinner or Christmas worship will make all the difference to them. Surely the man or woman who made room for Mary and Joseph that cold, lonely night in Bethlehem could never have known the impact that one act of kindness would have on the whole world.

The story of the kind Innkeeper stirs me to consider acts of kindness despite my busy-ness. Yet even more than the fabled Innkeeper, it is the Child born in the Innkeeper's stable, the One who left heaven to dwell among us and show us the most powerful of kindnesses, it is he who truly moves our hearts to reach out to others in kindness and love. For he has made time and space for me and for you. When we make time, make space for others in our lives, we make room for him - and the light of his kindness shines through us. May the Christ Child, the Lord Jesus, fill you with deep joy and move you to great kindness this Christmas.

Susie



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Summit Life is a monthly publication of:

Summit Avenue Presbyterian Church

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Newsletter Articles are due at the church office the 3rd Monday of each month.

Sunday Worship Schedule

9:00am Adult S.S Classes
 9:00am Brass Handbells
 10:00am Chancel Choir
10:30am Worship
 11:00am Summit Kids
 11:45am Coffee Hour
 3:00pm Youth Group

Audio sermons available at www.summitave.net

Every Member a Minister

As Presbyterians, we believe God calls and equips all of us to serve and lead in the church. The following list of names is a reminder to those who have signed up to serve in the coming weeks. Like to be on this list? Give the office a call or mark a blue card with your name and how you'd like to help, and we'll contact you!

Communion

Dec. 4 Mary Fisher, John Lemm, Barbara Stark
 Dec. 24 Bethany and TBD

Liturgists

Dec. 4 Kurt Spitzer
 Dec. 11 John Lemm
 Dec. 18 Nathan Perry
 Dec. 24 Barbara Stark
 Tim Taylor
 Dec. 25 Bethany Nupen

Usher & Greeters

Dec. 4 Joyce Hersch, Bud Taylor, Bethany Nupen, Bev Pratt
 Dec. 11 Aggie Schultheis, Ken & Sue Davis, Peggy Hitchcock
 Dec. 18 Sue Kela, Alison Bowling, John & Jeannie Lemm
 Dec. 24
 Dec. 25 Mike & Bev Kelly

Time For Young Disciples

Dec. 4 Nathan Perry
 Dec. 11 Tineke Dahl
 Dec. 18 Tim Taylor
 Dec. 24 Susie Beil
 Dec. 25 Susie Beil

Acolytes

Dec. 4 Ruth Ross
 Dec. 11 Maxx Kelly
 Dec. 18 Jonah Griffin
 Dec. 24 Jayke Kelly, Caleb Beil
 Dec. 25 Geneva Kranenburg

Organist

Dec. 4 Len Guyt
 Dec. 11 Joann Richardson
 Dec. 18 Woody Bernas
 Dec. 24 Woody Bernas
 Dec. 25 Joann Richardson

Hospitality Team

Dec. 4 Megan & Dan Kranenburg, Jim & Dorie Hunt
 Dec. 11 Sue & Ken Davis, Ray Goodale, Sallie Horne
 Dec. 18 Shar & Paul DuFresne, Jean & Chuck Feth
 Dec. 24
 Dec. 25 Sue Hall, Bud Taylor, Connie & Jerry Wheeler

Advent & Christmas

listen online: summitave.net

Date	Scripture	Sermon Title	Preacher
December 4 Advent 2	Isaiah 11:1-10 Matthew 3:1-12	Prepare	Rev. Susie Beil
December 11 Advent 3	Isaiah 35:1-10 Matthew 11:2-11	What did you go out to see?	Rev. Susie Beil
December 18 Advent 4	Isaiah 7:10-16 Matthew 1:18-25	Do Not Be Afraid	Rev. Susie Beil
December 24 Christmas Eve	Isaiah 9:2-7 Luke 2:1-14(15-20)	Hope for the World	Rev. Susie Beil
December 25 Christmas Day	Isaiah 52:7-10 John 1:1-14	Stories & Carols	Rev. Susie Beil



HOPE

Christmas Eve 7pm & 10pm
Christmas Morning 10:30am

Christmas Eve Potluck

Christmas Eve, December 24th
8:30pm
Robinson Fellowship Hall

Helping in one of the Christmas Eve services? Musicians, worship leaders, ushers, and communion servers. All who are helping with one or both services - you are invited to bring a potluck dish or snack to share and enjoy between services.

We will set up in the Robinson Fellowship Hall and eat around 8:30 and clean up by 9:15 so we can get ready for the 10pm service.

Elder-Deacon Potluck

Saturday, December 17th
3-5pm
The home of Chris & Larry Hall, 3127 Rocky Pt. Road

Chris and Larry will provide both meat and veggie lasagna. Please bring what you would like to drink plus an appetizer, salad, veggie dish or dessert. See you then!

Longest Night Vigil

Wednesday, December 21st
5:30pm in the Courtyard
First Christian Church, 811 Veneta Ave Bremerton, 98312

Homelessness in our community is one of the most challenging problems we face. Kitsap Interfaith Network recognizes this need annually with the Longest Night Vigil for the Homeless. People from faith communities in Kitsap gather in the Courtyard of First Christian Church in Bremerton (811 Veneta Ave, Bremerton WA 98337) on the longest night, December 21st at 5:30 pm, to share a short service remembering our homeless community members who are outdoors this winter, and those who have died this past year.

We collect warm clothing, toiletries, feminine products, and backpacks to share with our homeless neighbors. And we ask for guidance and blessing for the wisdom and the will needed to end homelessness in our community.

We hope you will join us this year. Dress for the weather. Folding chairs are appropriate if you are not comfortable standing.

Christy Bristow, christy@johnbristow.org, 360-373-2444

Traditions

I've heard it said before that *traditions* reinforce *identity*. What we choose to celebrate is just as important as *how* we choose to celebrate. Together, they help reinforce who we are as people. What are some traditions you have in your family? Maybe it's a certain food you cook on Thanksgiving. Turkey? Yea, maybe. But in my family we had a lot of Filipino food like pancit, chicken adobo, rice, and lumpia! I remember an episode of Friends when Monica was asked to cook for Thanksgiving but she was asked to cook the mashed potatoes 3 different ways. Creamy, chunky, and one with red potatoes with the potato skins so each person would be reminded of home.

My Christmas Tradition Vs. Katherine's

In our family, for Christmas we always open one present on Christmas Eve. But then we wait to open the rest of the presents Christmas morning. When I was real little my dad used to have us put out cookies and milk for Santa before we went to bed. In the morning our Christmas tree would be surround by many presents that hadn't been there the night before (all addressed from Santa) and the cookies and milk would always be gone. I remember one particular Christmas where Santa had actually washed his plate and glass for us and put away the dishes while we were asleep!

In my wife's family, she grew up going to a midnight mass on Christmas Eve so by the time they came home it was technically Christmas already. Before they all went to bed they would open all their presents. The following morning they would

lounge around the house together and have quality family time eating and relaxing together. She also grew up in Hawaii so a cold, white Christmas would not remind her of home! Her Mele Kalikimaka (Merry Christmas in Hawaiian) would be warm with palm trees and possibly a trip to the beach.

Christian Tradition

Despite the vast array of Christmas traditions, underneath it all is the celebration of our Lord and Saviors birth. That God himself would come and dwell among us. Christmas is a celebration of the coming of the saving one who would ultimately die for our sins and offer us eternal life through the power of his resurrection.

So what are some other Christian traditions or practices that we have here at Summit? Our youth who have been going through our Burnt Toast Confirmation Class have been exploring different tenants of the Christian faith learning about different Christian beliefs and practices all around the world and throughout history. They have had the chance to visit two different churches to experience their worship services and how it both differs and is similar to ours here at Summit. It helps them see why we do what we do and why we believe what we believe, though it may look a little different in different denominations.

Nothing Against Santa

Nothing against Santa Clause (or more historically correct, St. Nicholas!) but when I was little, the celebration of a jolly old fat man traveling the world on

reindeers to distribute presents clouded my mind from the real reason of Christmas. I never had it explained clearly to me that Christmas was in fact all about Jesus! Simply, I did not understand the PURPOSE of Christmas! Not to say it hadn't been explained to me but as a kid it never stuck because what we practiced was centered on Santa and presents. In the same way, it is important to explain to our younger generation the Christian values that undergird our traditions like baptism, communion, worship, scripture reading, prayer, confession, giving/tithing, serving, sharing the gospel, and love and forgiveness. Our beliefs must line up with we are actually doing! And when students begin to see how our traditions at Summit are rooted in the Word of God and throughout Christian history, they begin to participate more fully rather than just going through the motions. It no longer feels monotonous but each time we take communion, or serve someone else. Or each time we enter praise and worship that we are remembering our greatest hope. We are celebrating His love and mercy towards us. We are trusting in His goodness to carry us through. I pray that as a church, this Christmas, we'd each have a renewed sense PURPOSE as we celebrate with our friends and family. Merry Christmas!



In Christ's Service,
Nathan Perry

Easter Project 2017

Info Night

Thursday, Dec. 1, 6:30 - 8:00pm

We are planning another exciting mission trip to Tijuana, Mexico spring break of 2017! Come find out the details at this first Info night. Youth in 9th-12th grade.

Youth Christmas Party

Sunday, Dec. 18, 3-5pm

Youth come join us for a fun filled Christmas party. We will be having dinner together, followed by games and worship. Bring a small gift for a gift exchange

Hope through the Holidays

Dinner & Discussion

Friday, December 9th, 6:00pm
 Haselwood YMCA
 RSVP @ the Welcome Center

If you find yourself struggling this time of year, you are not alone! For those coping with grief and loss, the holidays are not always full of joy and celebration. Join us free of charge for this potluck dinner and discussion about holiday grief. Contact Hilary Kimsey for more information 360.307.4024

Rosemary to Remember

Life can be hectic and so can the holidays. We invite you to take a rosemary scroll out of the basket in the Narthex this holiday season. These are rolls are filled with helpful hints and tips to handle holiday stress.



2017 Pledge Update:

Thank you to all who turned in your 2017 pledges! We are grateful for your generosity and faithfulness. We have increased our Special Capital Projects giving for 2017, but we are still quite short in our Operations pledges. If you have not turned in your pledge, we encourage you to do so. It is so helpful for our ministry planning. If you have concerns or questions about whether you can pledge this year, we hope you will talk with either Pastor Susie, Rick Chapman or Paul DuFresne.

Stewardship

is heart work



As of November 23, 2016:

<u>2017</u>	<u># of pledges</u>	<u>amount pledged</u>	<u>operations budget</u>
Operations	67	\$ 188,963	\$260,000
Special Capital Projects	25	\$ 14,663	
*Presbytery Grant	1	\$ 10,000	
<u>2016</u>			
Operations	76	\$209,820	\$260,000
Special Capital Projects	24	\$ 9,374	
Sanctuary Upgrade	37	\$ 14,330	
*Presbytery Grant	1	\$ 10,000	
<u>2015</u>			
Operations	70	\$216,444	\$250,000
Special Projects		\$ 7,720	
Youth Leadership		\$ 19,390	

*Seattle Presbytery awarded us a \$10,000 grant in 2016 to increase our Youth Director salary to 30 hours/week. We have applied for the same grant for 2017. We do not plan to apply for 2018.

Foodline Shopping List

Since we have posted the new Foodline shopping lists, our donations have increased like never before! We will soon be posting our monthly donations totals above the wagon. We thank everyone that has donated so far!

MOPS Fundraiser

Saturday, December 10th

2-5pm

Robinson Fellowship Hall

Drop in and get holiday ready, with all proceeds going to Summit Ave MOPS, you wont want to miss out on the fun! There will be ten LuLaRoe clothing consultants on hand to help add some fun and color to your style. There will be Mary Kay, Thirty One, and Isagenix too!

Entertainment for the kids, raffles, and snacks will also be provided. So come get some holiday shopping done and support a great cause!



Summit & Friends Bookclub

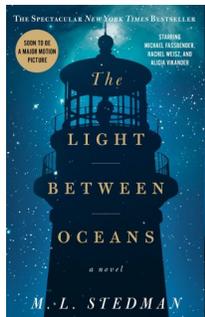
Sunday, January 8th, 2017

6-8pm

The Home of Megan Kranenburg, 1390 NE Paulson RD

Come join us as we select and discuss a fiction or non fiction book as a group every month. Our next selection is *The Light Between Oceans* by ML Stedman.

We will be meeting at the home of Megan Kranenburg, 1390 NE Paulson Road, Silverdale 98383.



Christmas Angels

Gift Deadline, December 11th

In the Narthex

The Angel Tree is up in the Narthex and this year Summit has adopted ten children! We ask that you please bring back the items listed on the tags UN-WRAPPED and returned to the Narthex no later then December 11th. New this year , if you do not want to, or are unable to do the shopping you can write out a check to SAPC, marked Christmas Angels in the memo, and leave it in the office. Laura will do the shopping for you. If you have any questions, please contact Laura Blair at 775.203.3542 Thank you for your kind generosity.



Christmas Bazaar

December 4th

After worship

Robinson Fellowship Hall

Please join us for the annual Christmas Bazaar and bake sale. 100% of the bake sale proceeds will go to Missions.

If you would like to participate in the Bazaar, contact Sue Kela at 377.0266. Set up will be at 9:30am on Sunday December 4th.



Blessings from Jerry

Jerry Benjamin has decided to retire from teaching his Thursday night bible study class. He wants to thank everyone for their attention, support, and kindness. He sends his blessing to all.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Our Treasurer's report reflects what was approved at the previous month's Session meeting, giving us a month's lag time. So for this newsletter, we report on:

October 2016

	Actual	Monthly Budget (expected)	Year to Date
Income	\$25,462.20	\$22,100.91	\$277,073.20
Expense	\$23,194.33	\$23,233.82	\$249,546.55

Statistical Report for November 2016

Average Worship Attendance: 102
 Lord's Supper: 103
 Nursey: 5
 Kids: 7
 Youth: 8
 Groups: 160
 MOPS: 35 moms, 40 children, 7 volunteers!



Summit Leadership

Session

Sharon Peterson	Personnel/Youth Team
Griff Ames	Building and Grounds
Bethany Nupen	Worship/Kids
Tim Taylor	Youth/B&G/Acolytes
Brett Harrison	Mission/Outreach
Russell Warren	Groups
Paul Du Fresne	Finance/Stewardship
Ken Davis	Mission/Memorials
Ruth Martin	Outreach/Hospitality
Dan Kranenburg	Personnel/B&G
Rick Chapman	Finance
Bev Kelly	Youth/Personnel
Lori Hamilton	Clerk

Deacons

Moderator: Delcea Wills	
Joyce Hersch	Jeannie Lemm
Mary Fischer	John Lemm
Audrey Robinson	Jerry Dick
Chris Hall	Ann Sveen
Kurt Spitzer	
Cheryl Sanlin	
Sue Davis	

Staff

Pastor: Rev. Susie Beil
Parish Associates: Rev. Jerry Benjamin
Youth & Children's Ministry Director: Nathan Perry
Childcare Ministry Leaders: Ida Kendall, Aphroditis Howell
Choir Director: Gary Dahl
Handbell Choir Director: Cheryl Sanlin
Organists: Woody Bernas, Joann Richardson, Len Guyt
Office Administrator: Faith Parker
Communications Coordinator: Julie Mirth
Custodian: Darlene Randall
Treasurer: Cathy Best
Kitchen Facilitator: Sue Kela
Sound Technicians: Rick Walker, Tineke Dahl, Karl Jensen, Rick Chapman, Oliver Dahl
Choir Director Emeritus: Audrey Robinson

Desk Volunteers:

Monday	Aggie Schultheis & Bethany Nupen
Tuesday	Sharon Plowman & Joyce Hersch
Wed.	Phil McGaughey & Judy Wieck
Thurs	Mary Urwin, Sue Kela, Sue Hall

Growing disciples in all generations by loving God, loving others, and serving the world.



Puget Soundsters Concert

Sunday, December 18

3:00pm in the Sanctuary



Office Hours

Monday-Thursday
9am - 2pm
Phone: (360) 377-2740

Check out our website at:

www.summitave.net

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