

EQUIP ~ ENGAGE ~ EDIFY

CHRISTIAN CENTER NEWSLETTER

*for the equipping of the
saints for the work of
ministry, for the edifying
of the body of Christ,
Ephesians 4:12*

THE LION AND THE LAMB

B PASTOR STEVE MELLOR



We see Jesus depicted in the Scriptures as a lion and also as a lamb. The images speak of His mission and reign. He is the Lion, the King who will reign forevermore, and He is also the Lamb who sacrificed His life to provide forgiveness of sins to all who will trust Him.

In Revelation chapter five the apostle John weeps much because there is no one who is found worthy to take the seven-sealed scroll and open it. The scroll represents the title deed to all of God's creation, including mankind. John weeps because there is no one who can save humanity. BUT - one of the elders came to John and said,

"Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll ..."

This reference to Jesus goes back to Jacob's prophecy in Genesis 49 about his son Judah. From Judah would come the kingly line of David. It was a prediction that the Messiah, the Savior, would come from the line of David and He would ultimately be King over all the earth - the King over all kings.

But before He came as 'the Lion', He would come as 'the Lamb'. The image of the lamb is that of a sacrifice. In Israel, animals would be sacrificed to make atonement for sin. It was a substitutionary system that God set up for them - life for life. If a man sinned, the penalty would be death. God instituted the sacrificial system so that an animal could die in place of the sinner, bringing forgiveness to the one who deserved death. This is why Jesus is referred to as the Lamb. John the

Baptist said of Jesus in

John 1:29, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"

Jesus came as the Lamb at His first coming to deal with the issue of sin so that through faith in Jesus we could be forgiven of all the sin we have committed. He died as a substitute, instead of us dying and being separated from God forever. Jesus will come again, though, and at His second coming He will come as the Lion - the King of kings and Lord of lords.

In this Christmas season we remember that Jesus came to this earth to save us from our sin. We look forward to His soon return, when He will rule and reign forevermore - the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Son of God Who takes away the sin of the world.

Many Blessings to All of You,

Pastor Steve

FINANCES

We want to thank everyone who has been contributing financially to the church this year. Over the last couple of newsletters we have been keeping you informed on the financial state of the church and we appreciate your response. As of the first of December we are about twenty thousand dollars short of our projected income for 2017. We feel quite confident that our budget will be met because there are quite a few donations that are given in the month of December. Thanks again for supporting this fellowship with not only your finances but also with your heart and your prayers. May God be honored and praised in our midst.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

BY MARIAN MELLOR

JOY loneliness *hope* pain peace

chaos **faith** suffering

family **fear** friends **despair** grace *hunger* **rest**

battle **holy** love

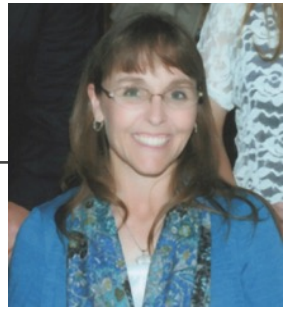
Do you desire to breathe slowly and deeply, soaking in the wonder and holiness of the Christmas season? I do, yet I find it easy to overcommit my days and become bogged down in a flurry of activity that steals away the peaceful simplicity that I long to experience and create for those around me.

Or maybe you wish you had more to do so that your mind could be occupied with happier situations than those you may be experiencing just now.

I am so thankful that we can “simply” look to Jesus to take care of the deepest need we long to have fulfilled. He is with us in our loneliness, pain, chaos, suffering, fear, despair, hunger, battle. He IS our joy, hope, peace, family, friend, rest, the “object” of our faith, the giver of grace. He is the Holy One who loves us so much that He gave His life for us. I sincerely pray that we sense His presence in abundance this Christmas and I ask Him to help us know Him more and love Him better.

Blessings!

Marian



HARVEST FESTIVAL 2017





MEN'S MINISTRY

BY PAUL PALASZEWSKI

"And Jesus went up on the mountain, and there He sat with His disciples." John 6:3

Jesus was often going up to a mountain top, either alone or with his disciples, to temporarily escape the distractions of the world, to form more intimate bonds of fellowship, to pray and worship, and to experience God in profound and deeper ways. On February 2nd - 4th our Men's Ministry will be following Jesus' example: retreating, not to a mountain top, but to the Murrieta Hot Springs Christian Conference Center where the \$160 registration fee will provide for fabulous meals, lakeside dorm style lodging, and sound Bible teaching on this year's theme of "Running the Race". Come join us as we run together, helping to spur each other on toward that ultimate finish line goal, where we will one day hear those longed-for words, "Well done my good and faithful servant!"

With the fall migration from northern latitudes now over, our 7:00 am Saturday Morning Men's Meeting now feels complete with its full complement of brothers. All save one that is. We miss you, Leon! Our breakfast fellowship and Gospel of John Bible study continues to be not just conversational and informational, but truly transformational, as the Holy Spirit works in us and through us to change us into men that effectively mirror His image. It has brightened my spirit to hear from the men how the Word of God is touching their hearts right where it is needed most and how they are sharing insights uncovered in our dialogues with their spouses and families and beyond.

Paul Palaszewski



IT'S THE MOST WONDERFUL TIME OF THE YEAR

By Ryan Lynn

Acts 2:42 "And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers."

I am always surprised by how much I enjoy the holiday season. What is my favorite part of this season? You are my favorite part of this time of year. We get to enjoy the Thanksgiving Dinner, Caroling, Christmas Eve Service, Christmas Parties, and Potlucks all together! The real value in this season is not found in material goods but in the rich fellowship found in the body of Christ. I feel abundantly rich with the friends and family that God has blessed me with.

My prayer for 2018 for the Youth Ministry is that students fall more in love with Jesus and grow in their understanding of what it means to love one another. Life is created to be about relationships. Let's make sure we do not lose this important truth when setting priorities for this next year! Thank you so much for your prayers for the ministry and my family!



Pastor Ryan

WOMEN'S MONDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY NEWS

By Debie Dillahunt

Our community recently enjoyed the fabulous 'Celebration of Light' presented by our church at Christmas Circle. What a joy it was to focus on the true meaning of Christmas by celebrating Jesus as the Light of the World!

In our morning Bible study we've been covering the seven 'I AM' statements of Jesus which are found in the Gospel of John.

We've just completed the segment on 'Light', where Jesus proclaims, "**I AM the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.**" John 8:12. Jesus is the everlasting light! Psalm 119:105 says, "**Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.**" As we walk with Jesus, He illuminates the dark places along our way.

"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights..." James 1:17

May this passage fall fresh on us as we prepare to celebrate Christmas. Our God has given us the most wonderful and perfect gift: His only dear Son, our Savior Jesus. May we each take time to thank Him for His matchless gift. God bless you richly this Christmas and always as He lights our way.

Debie Dillahunt

WOMEN'S HOME FELLOWSHIP

BY DENISE SCHMADERER



Well, we are off and running through the book of Ephesians! We have met 4 times so far and only now are starting the second chapter!!

This book is so full of God's truths and already so rich in helping us to understand our blessings in Christ! What an example Paul is. I want to share a small excerpt from Elizabeth's book that says better than I can just exactly we have in Christ:

"Whenever your life seems to be out of control or you feel like the world is crashing in on you, realize God is sovereign. He is in charge, and He is a faithful, flawless administrator. He is working out His good and acceptable and perfect will. His purpose in saving you and showering a continuing multitude of blessings upon you has been established. Your future is secure in Him due to the riches of His grace. God's blessings are yours!"

Take a deep breath and just soak that in . . . ahhhhh.

Come fellowship, rest at His feet with us. **Monday nights, 6pm.**

Blessings,

Denise Schmaderer



UPCOMING EVENTS

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24TH, 2017

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE Christmas Carols and Candlelight Service

JANUARY 19TH-21ST

High School Winter Camp at Forest Home. \$160 per person.

FEBRUARY 2ND-4TH

Men's Retreat at Calvary Chapel Murrieta Conference Center. \$160 per person.

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