

The Growler

January, 2016

From Pastor Eric

I am thinking about you and hope you are thinking about each other as we anticipate the start of 2016. Another Jan. 1 of another year, except what you make of it will be the determining factor. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me (Philippians 4.13), says St. Paul, a trailblazer disciple of Jesus just as Jesus called him to be (Acts 9.3-6,15,16). We have these witnesses (Heb. 12.1ff), not in the least Paul, those who by obeying Jesus left us a legacy to inspire us to be successful followers of Jesus.

That is why we need to think about each other. Jesus has called you and me as his servants to draw others to Jesus in closer ways. I need you and you need each other. How disappointing it would be, especially to Jesus, if we were something other than an inspiration for each other. Failing to be witnesses of Jesus, our lord and savior who works in us to do his perfect will (Philippians 2.13) would be the most disappointing in our lives. For unlimited reasons we might be majoring in the minors and minoring in the majors in the best case scenario if we could not say I have not failed my brothers and sisters in Christ by being the best I can be as a witness to the living lord Jesus

Are you there for me? Are you there for each other? We are on the "Jesus' Team" as Frances Fuller once said for being a member of Jesus' disciples. Our Captain, Jesus, is all

that matters. He will find worthy recruits to be part of his team, and it is one which the Bible tells us is the greatest one to be on for it matters for eternity. It is the victory "wreath", as St. Paul would have us see in his simile (1 Corinthians 9.24), which God our creator and savior in Jesus will lay upon our heads. What a glorious thing that will be. If you know what it feels like to be associated with a team that wins the "gold" or the prize of the competition that you have lived for. It is nothing less than tears of joy for the "athlete" except that these tears the disciples will refer to are for the joy that will wipe away every future tear and every throbbing pain that would have been if we were still in earth and much much more. That is all that I can really say, because I have no words to describe it. I have not the capacity to adequately attempt to express the experience of the future glory Jesus promises us (Jn 17) for we have not fully developed to understand what that means for we are a work in progress.

It is so exciting to be on his team. We can't afford to even entertain a momentary thought of giving less than our best for the captain and our team mates. We are looking at each other and we must be sure that we have done what we can to be at least affirming that each is in the right place at the right time. Time is right and time is here, repent for Kingdom of heaven begins now (Mark 1.15). Are you and ready? Are we ready to go reach out to the community

sowing seeds of Jesus' love and truth of the gospel (Matthew 28.19-20) in 2016? Just another January? Just another Jan. 1? Just another New Year? Only it is up to you. It would not be hype to say Jesus is coming as soon as the bell for beginning of 2016 rings (Luke 12.35-40). That is part of the secret to being successful disciples. To have the presence of mind now, because it is New Year's Eve, not to celebrate with all the festivities with colorful lights and all because it is what we just do, but we have real substance

when we say now is the time for salvation (Romans 13.11-12). It is the most exciting call to live with a purpose, this year in 2016 and we have only couple days left until then to use an expression. But you know what I mean by now. You know already!

Pastor Eric

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

9 BEVERLEY LAMBERT
10 DEENA STORR
15 BILL DALTON
16 NATHAN JOHNSON
25 PAT GATES
28 LINDA MILLMAN
29 BOB FREAS
29 MARYELLEN JOHNSON
31 SERENA WALSH

If you are new to our church family
and have not called to let us know when you celebrate your birthday, please do.
MaryEllen will bake you a birthday cake,
and we will be so glad to share it with you as we sing Happy Birthday, God loves you!

530-333-4581

**BIBLE READINGS FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY, 2016 IN THE BOOKS
OF GENESIS AND EXODUS**

Jan. 1: chapters 1-2 in the book of Genesis	17 th : 46-48
Jan. 2: chapters 3-5	18 th : 49-50
3 rd : 6-9	19 th : Book of Exodus chapters 1-3
4 th : 10-11	20 th : Exodus chapter 4-6
5 th : 12-14	21 st : chapter 7-9
6 th : 15-17	22 nd : 10-12
7 th : 18-19	23 rd : 13-15
8 th : 20-22	24 th : 16-18
9 th : 23-24	25 th : 19-21
10 th : 25-27	26 th : 22-24
11 th : 28-30	27 th : 25-27
12 th : 31-33	28 th : 28-30
13 th : 34-36	29 th : 31-33
14 th : 37-39	30 th : 34-36
15 th : 40-42	31 st : 37-40
16 th : 43-45	

HERE IS SOME ADVICE FROM JOSHUA ABOUT MEDITATING ON THE

BIBLE Joshua 1:8 Do not let this book of law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do every thing written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.

What does it mean to **meditate** on scripture?

The word **meditate** literally is a word for a cow chewing it's cud. So—chew on it!

NEWS ABOUT US

Every thing about Christmas Eve was beautiful. At my house it had snowed all day and into the late afternoon, but by 6:30 the clouds cleared; the moon shining on the snow made the night magic!and then we arrived at church! Here is where the fun really began!

Kudos to Linda Freas, David and Diana Teves and David Justice as well as those who had fun of being in the play, A Not So Silent Christmas. The choice of play was perfect. The child-shepherds could not stop dancing for joy. The plot of the play had some of those shepherds so rowdy as to have been brought to trial in the County of Bethlehem. Judge Zachariah Justice presided over the case as presented by the District Attorney Justin Cho. He called witnesses, Miss Busy Body (Heaven Leigh) and Mrs Gotta Lotta (Eleanor), and Dr. Know-It-All (Linda) to prove at least three shepherds were guilty of disturbing the peace. The poor bailiff, (David Jr) swore every one in on the scroll or was it the bible? Under Cross examination one of the shepherds, (Isaiah) explained he did not talk to the angels; the angels talked to him but they meant the message for every one. Another shepherd (Matthew) was obviously demented from having inhaled too much sheep aroma. It seemed the case was lost, but then the attorney for the defense, William Cho, was able to produce a star witness, one of the wise men of East (Pastor Eric) to testify for the defense. The wise judge ruled in favor of God, saying he thought every one should be jumping, dancing and hollering because God had sent His son to live among His people!

Linda chose the perfect play for this group. Diana and Rebecca dressed the little shepherds, Mary, Joseph, and the angels with skill; David Teves built the stable and filled it

with a manger and hay. The star was lit up by the professional lighting skills of David Justice who also provided strobe lights and spot lights. After the singing of Silent Night and the lighting of the candles, the congregation joined the players in Buckner Hall for Christmas cookies and good wishes. It was truly a special night!

Love came down at Christmas! God gave us His son-the most wondrous gift of all. Because God gave us His son, and because Jesus gave His life for us, we enjoy the tradition of giving gifts to others. It's never what did you 'get' for Christmas; it's how did you 'spend' Christmas. We don't know the day or even the season when Jesus was born in Bethlehem. We know Joseph took Mary with him when he went there to be counted in the little town of Bethlehem. It was crowded with all of King David's descendants, and there was no room in the inn.

Jesus was born in a lowly place, but His family was there, and the angels proclaimed His birth and people came to see. That's how Jesus 'spent' His first Christmas.

Family is important to all of us. Sometimes we can not gather the whole family together on December 25th and so we may celebrate the king's birthday on some day other than 12/25. That's the way it was for several in our church family this year. Meg and Howard Hiemke were with son Ken and his family in Vacaville. While there they saw the show, Wizard of Oz. Then, after arriving home their daughter came to visit them for a second Christmas in Georgetown.

Jeanine DeBerry's daughter Jacqueline came to Georgetown to visit for a few days; then Jeanine followed Jacqueline to San Raphael where they all spent Christmas together.

Frank and Fran Clark enjoyed Christmas brunch with Fran's niece in Grass Valley. Two granddaughters were there; one traveled from Wyoming and the other came from Morrow Bay.

The Boitnott's traditionally spend Christmas in the house where Santa comes to visit little people. That means they were with Michael and Tasha and the wonderful grandchildren, but Mary's sister does her share of entertaining and that means lots of wonderful food in multiple venues.

June Poindexter felt it was important to do something a little different this year. The whole family went to Cal Expo on Christmas Eve for the Light Show.

Steve and Lek Walton always have to be spontaneous because when the railroad calls, it's "all aboard" for Steve. Recently they had wonderful skiing at Homewood Ski Resort while the extended family enjoyed being all together in a big log cabin.

Diana and David Teves had their whole big and blended family here while at the same time inviting any lonely folks from our congregation to join them in Buckner Hall. Robert and Rebecca Monson had to put Christmas away quickly because on the day after Christmas they moved to Gardnerville, Nevada.

We missed Annette Hendrix here, but she was having a great time in Centreville, Maryland with her son, Doug, his wife Sandy, and their twins, Michael and Marion. Annette's family

from Greenwood drove across country to Maryland and they all had Christmas together. On Christmas Eve they attended church service at the community college where granddaughter Marion plays first flute in the community orchestra. After the service they toured the community to see the local landmarks--many of which date back to the 1700's. Annette flew home on the 29th while Mark and Patricia drove on to Vermont to learn to snow board.

Eleanor and Ed Bowen seem to have had three Christmases. First, early in the week of Christmas, Ed's daughter and her brood enjoyed lots of food and gifts around the tree. There were games to play and music to make. Then Eleanor's son, Kirk, and his daughter, Vanessa, and her husband, Matt, came for the weekend after Christmas. On New Years weekend Ed's son Kevin and his family came from Spanish Fork, Utah. That's a lot of cookin' and a lot of lovin' !

Pastor and Julie Cho were delighted to have their sons at home. Some of us have had the opportunity to see their boys become men. It's a wonderful transformation. Last summer Justin had the opportunity of working in a bank. That internship resulted in a job offer in Dallas. William is just beginning his education with a business major.

Here is just a little piece of advice from one who knows: People who are eighty years old should remember to stand on two legs instead of one. (Sallie Cook)

Small Group Meetings: The small group that is currently studying "How to Read the Bible for all its Worth" has decided that its next study book will be "How the Bible Became a Book" by Joseph Maher. The study group will consider how the sacred written text originated in a pastoral, agricultural and oral society. The study will include a review of the development of the Bible from an oral tradition to one of textuality and from a pre-literate toward a literate society. We will start this study right after completing the present one. **Wayne Fuller**

Memorial

LARRY POINDEXTER

February 7, 1941 - December 2, 2015

Larry was born at home in Lawrence, Missouri. He was the baby of the family with ten older sisters and one older brother. After graduating from high school Larry found work in California. That's where he and June met on a blind date. It was love at first sight and they were married six months later. Fifty-three years later their legacy includes two children, four grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

Although Larry worked at other jobs, he made a career of roofing. There was just too much sun on those roofs and Larry retired with a disability: melanoma. But, that's when The Poindexter's and June's parents moved to Garden Valley. They loved living in the

foothills and Larry loved growing hot peppers and big tomatoes which he shared with members of this congregation.

Larry blessed his church with his presence and his talents. He was usually on the Board of Trustees, chairman of the Men's Group, enthusiastic motivator of the fishing group, and always at the door of the church greeting folks with a hug and a bulletin. Larry was a loyal usher for church services. We all miss Larry, stalwart of the church.

Charles Schultz Philosophy

You don't have to actually answer the following questions;
just read them straight through, and you'll get the point.

1. Name the five wealthiest people in the world.
2. Name the last five Heisman trophy winners.
3. Name the last five winners of Miss America.
4. Name ten people who have won the Noble or Pulitzer prize.
5. Name the last half dozen Academy award winners for best actor and actress.
6. Name the last decade's worth of World Series winners.

How did you do? The point is, none of us remember the head liners of yesterday. The applause dies; awards tarnish. Achievements are forgotten.

Here's another quiz. See how you do on this one.

1. List a few teachers who aided your journey through school.
2. Name three friends who helped you through a difficult time.
3. Name five people who have taught you something worthwhile.
4. Think of a few people who have made you feel appreciated and special.
5. Think of five people you enjoy spending time with.

Easier?

The lesson: The people who made a difference in your life are not the ones with the most credentials, the most money, or the most wards. They are the ones who care.

Don't worry about the world coming to an end today. It's already tomorrow in Australia.

2015 Christmas Food Basket

We had 270 families pre-registered and 44 late registrations for a total of 314 families eligible to receive a food basket. We had 240 families that showed up to receive food, warm jackets, blankets, scarves and for the first time a turkey or a ham. The turkeys were the result of our first "turkey drive" that ended on December 5th. We advertised and received 63 turkeys that were delivered to us at MarVal or purchased with the turkey bucks given by MarVal customers. We also received additional turkeys on the day of the give-a-way. The smaller families received a ham, and the families of four or more had a choice of a ham or a turkey.

My thanks to all the volunteers in this year's Christmas Food Basket. We had people participating from eleven churches. Special thanks to the Food Bank of El Dorado County, Acher Meats, MarVal, Winco, El Dorado

Disposal and five schools on the Divide. They provided the commodities that made the program a success. Individuals who helped by leading a committee were Beverly Lambert, Bob Liston, Heather Mandell, Neill Boitnott, MaryEllen Johnson and David Justice. Seventy or more volunteers showed up on Wednesday and Thursday to bring food, sort it, and make up the baskets.

We were fortunate to have toys from the Divide Toy Drive which included 22 bicycles. Angel gifts were given to 422 children.

The Give-a-way Day was made more special when Mark Spaugh showed up with his keyboard to entertain us with Christmas songs.

Gary Johnson,

Chairman of the Divide Food Basket