

Norwood Christian Grapevine

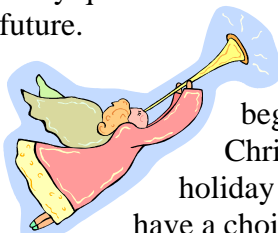
I am the vine; You are the branches... John 15:5

Pastor's Promptings...

A SEASON OF JOY & HOPE

As 2008 draws to a close many people are worried, scared, and without hope. Our economy is in a downward spiral. Major corporations and banks are failing. Homes are being foreclosed in record numbers. Unemployment is on the rise. There is a lot of uncertainty in the world today.

A new administration is promising change but many people are leery of placing their hope in the government bureaucracy that is in large part responsible for the crisis we now face. We are filled with many doubts, many fears, and many questions about the future.



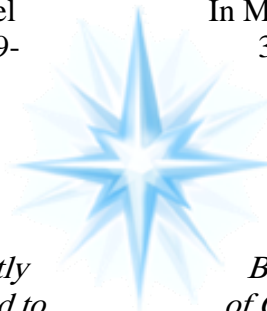
As we begin the Christmas holiday season we have a choice to make. We can enter it with these uneasy feelings of hopelessness or we can enter it with hope and joy in our hearts as we draw close to the One whose birth we celebrate – the Christ of Christmas - the only true source of joy and hope in our life.

Jesus' birth was proclaimed by an angel as being an event that would bring great joy to the

entire world. In the gospel of Luke chapter 2 verses 9-11 we read, *"And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. Then the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.'"*

Christmas is a time of joy because the source of all joy, Jesus Christ, was born. The only true God, Creator of the universe came to us, took on the form of a man, even a helpless little baby, and dwelt among us. Why? Because He loves you and He loves me. The Creator of the universe loves you. That fact should bring joy to any heart.

Not only is Christmas a time of joy, but it is also a time of hope – hope about our present and hope about our future. Jesus gives us hope for the present because He has promised to see us through our difficult times. In the gospel of John chapter 16 verse 33 Jesus said, *"These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."*



In Matthew chapter 6 verses 32 and 33 Jesus speaks to us about meeting our daily needs. He said, *"...your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you."*

Our national motto is "In God We Trust." Notice it is not, "In government we trust" or "in banks we trust" or "in corporate America we trust." If we will truly trust in God, seek Him first above everything else and everyone else in our life He will meet our needs. Even when the economy crumbles and Wall Street and banks fail, God will never fail. In God you can trust, for your today and your tomorrows.

Just as Jesus came at Christmas, He has promised to come again for those who have accepted Him as Lord and Savior. The hope of His second coming gives us hope and joy for the future.

In the gospel of John chapter 16 verses 21 and 22 Jesus said, *"A woman, when she is in labor, has sorrow because her hour has come; but as soon as she has given birth to the child, she no longer remembers the anguish, for joy that a human being has been born into the world."*

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Therefore you now have sorrow; but I will see you again and your heart will rejoice, and your joy no one will take from you.”

The choice is yours this Christmas. You can put your trust in the government and the economy and enter the Christmas season with doubts, fear and hopelessness, or you can trust in God and celebrate the hope and joy found in His Son, Jesus Christ – the Christ of Christmas.

Now more than ever you need some stability in your life. Now more than ever you need hope in your life. Now more than ever you need Christ in your life. Come meet Him at Norwood Christian Church this Sunday. We meet at 11 a.m. to worship the Christ of Christmas. You are always welcome.

In the words of the Apostle Paul in Romans 15:13, “Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”

Have a blessed, hope-filled and joy-filled Christmas!

Serving Christ and His family,

Pastor Ken



NEW MEMBER!

(by baptism)

Garry Joseph

Welcome to the family, Garry!



FILE 13

By Davis Watson

How many times we throw something away only to find the following day we need it and we spend the next two days looking through “File 13” to find it!

This newsletter is something many people will throw away. They look at it considering it to be *junk* mail and toss it in to File 13 before reading it. The fact that you are reading this article right now indicates you might not consider it *junk*.

It’s been said, “God never makes junk.” If God never makes junk then why do we have so much junk? We have trash cans full of waste paper, refuse cans full of garbage, we have homes full of clothes and furniture that will never be completely used and most will wind up in the garbage dump. Far worse than this is the *garbage* we have allowed into our personal lives – garbage from what we look at on TV, magazines, newspapers, and the Internet; garbage fermenting in and around us stinking up our lives and spewing out our mouths.

“Oh, it’s not that bad!” you say. “I don’t see people ‘holding their noses and covering their ears’ when we pass by.”

When I was young, my grandfather was a livestock trader and most summers my brother and I would help him prepare his livestock for auction. I will always remember the terrible smell of the livestock yard. My grandfather would say, “It’s the

smell of money.” I would say, “It’s the smell of my sister’s dirty diapers.” But after spending time, I would soon get use to the *smell* and would not notice it.

This is what happens also in our lives. Things a few years ago that were thought to be *garbage* are now *okay* because we have gotten use to the *smell*. It still smells but since everybody is doing it becomes okay.

Well, it is never *okay* to wallow around in *garbage*. Garbage is garbage and we should be able to recognize it no matter what form it takes. We should all realize we all have garbage in our lives.

God, the creator and sustainer of life never makes junk but this world has turned His perfect creation into a garbage dump. On top of the garbage pile is man. Nothing can be done



with this world’s garbage pile until man is first recycled. God, the great recycler has provided a way to recycle our garbage-filled lives into new creatures.

Christmas is a time we need to remember, “For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.” John 3:16

As a body of recycled believers, we are ready to help you too become recycled from File 13. Start this week by attending our Worship Service at 11 AM on Sunday Morning.

I AM THE VINE; YOU ARE THE BRANCHES... JOHN 15:5

SUNDAY SERVANTS

DECEMBER 7th

Communion Preparation

Ted & Fay Earley

Greeters

Ted & Fay Earley

Communion Servers

Ted & Fay Earley

Communion Mediation

Ken Lawrence

Childcare

Kathy Nelson

Sound Booth

Heather Lawrence

DECEMBER 14th

Communion Preparation

Davis Watson

Greeters

Sharon Pike

Communion Servers

Ernie & Zack Calvillo

Communion Mediation

Davis Watson

Childcare

Cathy Carlson

Sound Booth

Heather Lawrence

DECEMBER 21st

Communion Preparation

Betty Greager

Greeters

Ted & Fay Earley

Communion Servers

Howard & Betty Greager

Communion Mediation

Dean Boehler

Childcare

Sharon Newport

Sound Booth

Heather Lawrence

DECEMBER 28th

Communion Preparation

Ernie Calvillo

Greeters

Thomas Lawrence

Communion Servers

Davis & Mary Watson

Communion Mediation

Ernie Calvillo

Childcare

Chris Lawrence

Sound Booth

Heather Lawrence

PASTOR'S CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE

Sunday, December 14th Pastor

Ken's family is hosting a

Christmas Open House at

Norwood Christian Ranch

(west of town at top of Elk Ranch Rd.)

Everyone is invited to stop by

anytime between

1:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m.



CANDLELIGHT COMMUNION SERVICE

Our annual Candlelight Communion Service will be held on Christmas Eve, Wednesday, December 24th at 6:30 p.m. Service will end by 7:30 p.m. Bring your family and start your Christmas celebration with the Lord's family at Norwood Christian Church. Don't miss this very special time to celebrate the birth of our Lord!

NEW YEARS EVE PARTY



It's now a tradition! Don't miss our third annual Norwood Christian Church New Year's Eve party, Wednesday, December 31st, from 7 p.m. to midnight. Bring your favorite party snack or dessert. We'll start with the movie "Expelled" and then play games and fellowship until we usher in the New Year with the Norwood Christian Church ball drop!

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Christmas is a very special time of year for Christians. It is the time we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. It is a time to celebrate because at Christmas God showed us His love by sending us the greatest gift of all. He sent us Himself.

We would like to extend a personal invitation to you to join us in this celebration all month. We are having five special opportunities in which you can join us.

Sunday, November 30th worship service at 11 a.m.

Sermon topic: *The Hope of Christmas*

Sunday, December 7th worship service at 11 a.m.

Sermon topic: *The Peace of Christmas*

Sunday, December 14th worship service at 11 a.m.

Sermon topic: *The Joy of Christmas*

Sunday, December 21st worship service at 11 a.m.

Sermon topic: *The Love of Christmas*

And then on Christmas Eve, Wednesday, December 24th we are having our annual Christmas Eve candlelight communion service. It begins at 6:30 p.m. and will end by 7:30 p.m. During this special service we will celebrate with traditional Christmas hymns, special music, and the reading of the Christmas story from the Gospel of Luke.

We extend a special invitation to you and your family to celebrate Christmas with the family of God at Norwood Christian Church this month.



Corner of Lincoln & Summit
P.O. Box 931

Norwood, CO 81423

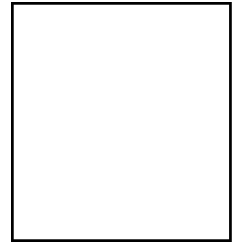
Phone: (970) 327-0201

Ken@NorwoodChristian.com

www.NorwoodChristian.com

10 AM ~ Bible Study

11 AM ~ Worship Service



"HOW SWEET ARE YOUR WORDS TO MY TASTE, SWEETER THAN HONEY TO MY MOUTH." PSALM 119:105



DECEMBER 2008



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4 Praise Team 7:30PM	5 Community Christmas Cantata	6 <i>John Williams</i>
7 Bible Study 10AM Worship 11AM Community Christmas Cantata	8	9	10	11 Praise Team 7:30PM	12 Noel Night	13  Jacqueline Berg's Baby Shower 1—4 PM
14 Bible Study 10AM Worship 11AM Open House 1—4 PM	15	16	17 <i>Ron & Cathy Carlson—Annv.</i>	18 Praise Team 7:30PM	19	20
21 Bible Study 10AM Worship 11AM	22 <i>Jay Berg</i>	23 <i>Kaitlin Newport</i>	24 Candlelight Communion Service 6:30PM <i>Mike Hulst</i>	25 <i>Happy Birthday, Jesus!</i> 	26	27
28 Bible Study 10AM Worship 11AM	29 <i>Jerry & Sharon Pike—Annv.</i>	30	31 New Years Eve Party 7:00PM  <i>Samantha Oliver</i>			

