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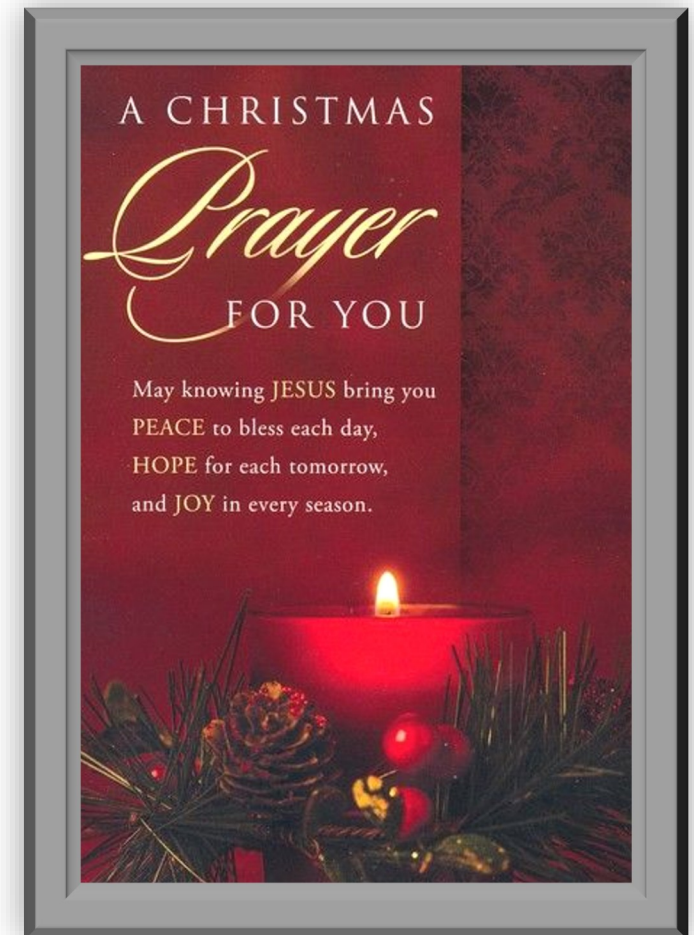


Watch video recordings of messages on YouTube @ "EBCSF"



PASTOR'S BLOG: wouldbbest.wordpress.com

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE	9:30 a.m.
TUESDAY: Adult Bible Study	10:00 a.m.
THURSDAY: Nehemiah Prayer Group	11:00 a.m.
Men's Bible Study	1:30 p.m.





December 2023



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3 9:15 am Prayer 9:30 am Worship w/Communion Advent Begins	4	5 10:00 am Adult Bible Study	6	7 11:00 am Nehemiah Prayer Group 1:30 pm Men's Bible Study	8	9 1:00 pm Christmas Cookies 4:30 pm Caroling 6:30 pm Pizza & Games
10 9:15 am Prayer 9:30 am Worship RMMO Offering Fellowship following worship	11 6:00 pm Advisory Board Meeting	12 10:00 am Adult Bible Study	13	14 11:00 am Nehemiah Prayer Group 1:30 pm Men's Bible Study	15 2:00 pm Lamplighters	16
17 9:15 am Prayer 9:30 am Worship RMMO Offering 10:45 am Quarterly Business Mtg	18	19 10:00 am Adult Bible Study	20	21 11:00 am Nehemiah Prayer Group 1:30 pm Men's Bible Study	22 6:00 pm Blue Christmas Service	23
24 9:15 am Prayer Christmas Eve 9:30 am Christmas Eve 6:00 pm Advent Ends	24 <i>The Birthday of a King</i> 	26 NO BIBLE STUDY	27	28 NO BIBLE STUDY	29	30
31 9:15 am Prayer 9:30 am Worship NEW YEAR'S EVE	CLOSED FOR NEW YEAR'S DAY			Pastor Brett will be on Vacation December 25 - January 1		

NOVEMBER REPORT

	ATTENDANCE	VEWS	OFFERING*
11/5	33	15	\$2,183.00
11/12	32	13	\$1,732.00
11/19	57	14	\$1,804.58
11/26	27	10	\$4,927.00

2023 Year to Date received: *\$118,154.31

2023 Budgeted Amount: *\$126,970.29

Amount Needed Per Sunday: *\$2,662.83

*These figures are for General Fund and Missions only.

USHERS FOR DECEMBER
JAKE HAWKINS & VICTOR SOLO



DECEMBER LAMPLIGHTERS MEETING

December 15 - 2:00 p.m.

Union Gospel Mission

LOVE GIFT: hats, gloves & underwear for men, women and/or children, also chapstick



C.O.G.S.

FYI: The Salvation Army Red Kettle \$20.00 donation match is Saturday, December. 16.

Retired Ministers & Missionaries Offering



RMMO2023: Good will come.

"Good will come to those who are generous and lend freely, who conduct their affairs with justice." — Psalm 112: 5 (NIV)

We will be taking our RMMO offering on December 10 & 17.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Mike Talbert
- 4 Amy Lindstrom
- 5 Brian Best
- 6 Tim Behrends
- 8 Michael Wise
- 20 Gary O'Connell
- 13 Megan Hadley (Gilk)
- 14 Wayne Van Der Vliet
- 27 Tim Hoover

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 8 Kevin & Katrina Kruse
- 19 Jacob & Mavis Hawkins

FRIENDS AND FAMILY WHO HAVE PASSED AWAY IN THE LAST FIVE YEARS

- 12/1/18 Paul Cleveland
- 12/17/22 Judy Morken



CHRISTMAS EVENTS

Dec. 3 - First Sunday in Advent

Dec. 9 - 1:00 pm Christmas Cookies

4:30 pm Caroling

6:30 pm Pizza & games

Dec. 10 - Second Sunday in Advent

Dec. 17 - Third Sunday in Advent

Dec. 22 - 6:00 pm Blue Christmas Service

Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve Worship (9:30 am & 6:00 pm)

Change is Not a Four-letter Word

The following is the introduction of a document I wrote for church leadership a decade ago. It was part of a document called “C.H.A.N.G.E. = Church Having A New Growth Experience.” (Catchy, right?)

How can we help our church grow?

Three caveats:

- *The notion that any of us can make a church grow is unbiblical.*

In 1 Corinthians 3:5-9, the Apostle Paul clearly states that we can plant and water, but it is God alone who brings the increase. This means we can only create the conditions to facilitate growth. God alone deserves the glory as He alone makes churches grow.

- *The truest form of church growth is spiritual growth.*

A measurable side of spiritual growth is numerical growth. However, it is possible to have numerical growth without spiritual growth. It is less likely to have spiritual growth without some numerical growth.

- *Be careful what you ask.*

Church growth requires change to achieve and more change once it is achieved. An important aspect of a church’s readiness for growth is its readiness to change.

There are techniques that can facilitate numerical growth. If these are employed with one’s spiritual priorities in order, they can be part of a thriving church’s growth experience. Here are six growth techniques:

- ***Restart.*** *Make everything new and make it public.*
- ***Parent/plant a new church.*** *This is frequently the most successful method.*
- ***Renew worship.***
 - o *Add a service. (Effectively starting a new congregation.)*
 - o *Revamp an existing service.*
- ***Evangelistic program.***
 - o *Crusade/Revival.*
 - o *Cold calling.*
- ***Service projects/programs.***
- ***Focused ministry.*** *Target a single demographic.*

Each technique has advantages and disadvantages. They are only techniques and guarantee nothing. Further, if these techniques only facilitate numerical growth but not spiritual growth, then we are not accomplishing anything of eternal value.

What happened? We pursued the “Focused Ministry” option, the approach had required the least change. Judge for yourself how we fared with that approach. We need to follow a strategy that takes on board more change if we are to experience numerical growth to go with our spiritual growth.



Our Savior's Birth

By Helen Peters

'Twas a beautiful night
Of Our Savior's birth,
God sent His Son
For us on earth.

The night was so silent
Not a sound could be heard,
No creature was stirring
Not even a bird.

When all of a sudden
The sky was bright,
Angels were singing
That holy night.

A Savior is born
To redeem mankind,
This was God's plan
We were on His mind.

Thank you Lord Jesus
For coming to earth,
Fulfilling redemption
By your wonderful birth.

“Good will come to those who are generous and lend freely, who conduct their affairs with justice.” — Psalm 112: 5 (NIV)

Good will come from community. “So many servants of God gave all that they have but were not compensated enough during their active ministry day. I have been the beneficiary of their dedication and know of many who are struggling to make ends meet after their retirement. I think we are morally responsible to support them.”

-Rev. Sebastian Ong, First Chinese Baptist Church of San Francisco

Good will come from caring. “It is a blessing to know that our ministry has made a difference in the lives of the people and churches we save served for the past 50 years.” *-Pastor Bill of Ohio*

Good will come from giving. “I am sure I represent many widows who are happy to receive this “thank you check” from the churches we served.” *-Widow of Florida pastor*

RMMO2023: Good will come.

Goodness came from the pastors, missionaries, and leaders who have served ABCUSA churches and ministries. Through your giving to RMMO2023, goodness will come back to each of them in the form of a thank you check—a tangible expression of our enduring gratitude for their service.

What is the Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering?

RMMO is a congregational offering and a joint project of ABCUSA and MMBB. Collected annually in December from participating congregations, RMMO funds are distributed as thank you checks to ABCUSA retired ordained ministers and commissioned missionaries who have devoted 15 years or more to our denomination, as well as surviving spouses. A certain portion is also allocated for direct emergency assistance. The offering originated in the mid-1930s as the Communion Fellowship Offering and since 1977 has been known as RMMO.

Please make your gift in the envelopes provided by mailing to the church office or in worship December 10 or 17.