



THE CHURCH SPIRE

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A reflection on John 16: 31-33.

Before Jesus is arrested, he has a long conversation with his disciples. In John 16, Jesus begins to explain that he will be leaving to go to His Father in Heaven. After Him, the Holy Spirit will come and help guide all believers. The disciples struggle to grasp most of what Jesus says, although he has been warning them since the very beginning that he will not always be with them. At one point in the conversation, Jesus stops speaking figuratively, and clearly states that he is literally going to leave the world and go back to His Father. At this point the disciples declare, "This makes us believe that you came from God!"

After this declaration by the disciples, we read the following verses:

³¹ "Do you now believe?" Jesus replied. ³² "A time is coming and in fact has come when you will be scattered, each to your own home. You will leave me all alone. Yet I am not alone, for my Father is with me.

³³ "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

Finally, FINALLY, the disciples, at least for a moment, believe that Jesus came from God.

This is shocking given Jesus's history on Earth. The disciples didn't fully believe that he was the Son of God when they heard that he was born in a manger to the Virgin Mary. They didn't believe when Jesus turned water into wine at a wedding in Cana. They had their doubts when Jesus fed 5,000 people on a few loaves of fish and bread. But, finally, for a moment, the disciples looked at Jesus and realized that his Father really is God.

And in that realization, there was peace. If you just read verse 31, it doesn't feel much like a peaceful comment. Jesus tells the disciples that he will go home to His Father, and the disciples will disband. They will no longer travel together with Jesus. That's frightening. Except, Jesus tells them these things so that they might have peace. Jesus leaving does not bring them peace. The disciples going back home, alone does not bring them peace.

Realizing that Jesus is the Son of God is what brings them peace.

Jesus is the Son of God. Jesus came into this world to overcome it. In this world, we will have trouble, but we must believe that the baby Jesus who was born in a manger really was the Son of God, and he really did come to save us. In that realization, there is peace.

Featured Advent Devotionals



The "Peanuts" comic strip and I both appeared on the same week in October, 1950. I have always felt a special relationship to Charlie Brown, Lucy, Linus, Snoopy and the rest of the gang. The phrases known to many have become ones I routinely use: happiness is a warm puppy, good grief, wishy-washy, security blanket, AAUGHH! Who cannot remember Charlie Brown never winning a baseball game, successfully kicking the football or flying a kite? And that pitiful tree he brought home in the Christmas special, only to be unmercifully mocked. Charles Schulz frequently used trees as a symbol of the cross. Charlie Brown's kite predictably would end up in a tree, much like our burdens end up at the cross. In one strip, Charlie Brown actually uproots the kite-eating tree and carries it off, symbolically suggesting we take up the cross and follow Christ. What about the scrawny, bent-over Christmas tree? Perhaps it is the cross which was overlooked again and again while sitting in the tree lot until someone recognized its power and glory. Once brought into a crowd of believers, it was transformed into its splendor and magnificence. This Christmas, may your tree remind you of the cross and our Savior.

Submitted by: Sylvia Sabia

Hope in this Season

The Advent season is often noted as one of hope. Since it is time leading up to Christmas, little children hope for a special toy. Parents hope their child will remember their lines in the Christmas Play. Merchants hope for bountiful sales. Everyone secretly hopes for a white Christmas.

But the real hope of Christmas is the fulfillment of the prophecy that a savior will be born. And each year the hope is alive once more in the anticipation of the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ. What joy it is to be hopeful.

The weeks just prior to Christmas day are always filled with moments of sheer excitement that once again we have come to the place in our spiritual year where our hope is fulfilled. We are reminded of the coming of the Lord and our hearts leap with joy.

We become more childlike in our faith because we simply trust in the goodness and completeness of God's gift to us.

Bible Verse: "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." Romans 15:13

Bible Verse: "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

Prayer: Almighty God who has given us his only begotten son to take our sins upon himself, we pray that we are renewed in our faith daily and that we remain ever hopeful of His redeeming grace. We ask you to grant us the wisdom to live out the Advent Season as true believers of the Christmas blessing Amen.

Submitted by Cynthia Hollingsworth.

Don't Forget This Sunday December 6th

Deacon Soup Luncheon and Silent Auction

This Sunday following Worship Service

Please bring a soup and/or dessert!

All money raised will go to Christmas Charities.



Deacon Meeting This Sunday

December 6th at 10AM, prior to church

The Member Care Team wishes to express our sincere thanks to all those who donated items for the Advent Baskets. We especially thank the youth for making the Christmas Placemats!

Thank you to everyone who participated in Loaves and Fishes.

This year we raised \$1058.39!

Weekly Youth Bible Study Upcoming Schedule:

6PM-7:30PM. Dinner provided.

December 6th: Regular Youth

December 13th: Regular Youth

December 20th: Ugly Sweater Christmas Party. All Youth and their families (including siblings) are INVITED to put on your ugliest, most outrageous, gaudy Christmas sweater and join us at 6PM for our final session of the year. Please bring a snack and dessert to share!

Prayers of the People:

Tim Allen, Shelia Amos, Mary Jo Bradford, Stroby Stewart; Erica Scott; Bill Beigay; David Patrick; Julie Merwin; Des Noble; Jim Holmes; Judy Hood, Christine Miller, Andy and June Vaughn, Rex Parris, Mike Lee, Michael Boring, Viki Harrell, Miriah Penick, Ivy Bridges, Reese McPhail, Rev. Bill Allen, Charlene Allen, Room in the Inn Program for the upcoming season Cindy Rice's Father-Don Falk, and others in our thoughts and prayers from Sunday, November 22nd, 2015.

If you have a name to add to the prayer list please use the Christian pads in the pews and drop it in the offering plate Sunday morning. You may also email them to: scottsboroopc@gmail.com.



AUTOMATIC DRAFT NOW AVAILABLE

If you are interested in automatic Draft, fill out the attached form and return it to the church office with a voided check. Forms also available in the Church Office For more information, contact Sheri at 256-574-2575

Just a quick note on tithes and offerings and the difference between the two: Biblically, a tithe is giving 10% of all one earns to the Lord. The Israelites were under a legal system that required them to give 10% of all they earned to God. Offerings, however, are not the same as tithes. Offerings are gifts given in addition to tithing. Offerings, however, are not limited to money, but can also be time and other resources. What we are hoping to do with the automatic draft is help create a convenient way for us as a church to tithe. This way, money will be debited out of your account and credited to the church without us having to remember to take it out of our paychecks every month. In a lot of ways, this is a closer system to what the Israelites may have had. However, even if you opt to sign up for the automatic draft, you are always welcome to offer additional money for particular projects or events throughout the year in the regular Sunday morning offering. Setting up an automatic draft for tithe does not mean that you can no longer offer additional money, time, energy, and other resources to the church throughout the year. Hopefully that brief lesson on the difference between tithes and offerings is helpful for you as you consider setting up the automatic draft.

CHECK OUT OUR

New Website

**WHERE YOU'LL FIND THE LATEST NEWS, PARTICIPANT COMMENTS,
UPCOMING EVENTS, VIDEOS, PHOTO GALLERIES, AND MORE!!!**

www.scottsborocpc.com



Mark Your Calendars:

Wreaths and Garland

Wreaths will be tagged & ready for pick-up on Friday morning December 4th



Decorate the Church
for Advent
December 4th at 5:30 PM

"Joy in the Morning" through Music and Worship

Join Us for a Special Christmas Service

11 AM on Sunday December 13th

The Service will include the Children's Christmas Program, readings from our youth, and special music led by our Choir.



Sock and Mitten Tree

November 22nd through mid December

Bring Socks, Mittens, and Toboggans
for the Choctaw Indian Children in Oklahoma

"Lunch with the Ladies"

December 14th, 2015 At Stevarino's

Deacon Meeting

December 16th at 5PM

Room In the Inn

Will start on December 15th

Our First Date to Host will be December 26th.



Church Mission Trip!

What: A Trip to Guatemala City to work with the Hot Lunch Program (where we sent the Loaves and Fishes money). A trip like this will help us build a relationship with Cumberland Presbyterians in Guatemala (and who hasn't wanted to worship in Spanish ;)

Who: 8-10 adults. We could use both medical professionals AND other adults. Medical professionals would work with the kids doing health checks in relation to their specialty. Any other adults would work with the kids, teaching Bible Lessons, cooking meals, and playing games.

When: Dates to be Determined. Summer of 2016

Approximate Cost: \$1000/person (depending on plane tickets)

If you are interested in going on this trip, please keep your eyes open for more details regarding the trip. **AND**, contact Pastor Micaiah by email. Also, start saving your money...

may all your
sweaters be
UGLY
& **BRIGHT**



Youth Ugly Sweater Christmas Party

December 20th at 6PM

All Youth and their families

(including siblings) are INVITED

Wear your ugliest, most outrageous, gaudy sweater!

Please bring a snack and dessert to share!

Christian Education Schedule

Nov. 29- Feb. 7: The following Sunday School classes will be offered

Outreach Class: Video Discussions

Ideal Class: Chapter by Chapter Bible Study through a few Prophets (Taught by Micaiah Tanck)

Mustard Seed Class: Study called The Story, which is a book that walks through the entire Bible, going through each book of the Bible and its major themes and stories. (Taught by Lil Noble)

Youth: Bible Study (Taught by Brian Tanck)

Emmaus Class: (Taught by Rachel Cook)

Children's Class: (Taught by Sharon and John Frey & Stella Benson)

*Please consider joining one of the preceding classes. You are welcome to try a couple different classes for the first couple weeks until you find the class you want to be a part of. If you have never been a part of any of these Sunday School classes, give them a shot! We would love to have as many as possible committed to coming to these classes to gain greater Biblical knowledge, as well as grow in fellowship.

Feb. 14- March 27: Lenten Bible Studies, Regular Sunday school classes will continue.

During this time, we will offer a women's Bible study on Monday night at 7 PM, and a men's Bible study on Wednesday morning at 6 AM. The same curriculum will also be taught on Sunday morning during the Sunday school hour at 9:45 AM. **This means that you can choose what time slot works best for you.** You can **either** come during the week to the men or women's groups **OR** you can come on Sunday morning. The curriculum for all three classes will be the same, leaving you the opportunity to pick what time works best for you. The Lenten study will be on the topic of prayer practices AND community service projects. The idea is that we are spiritually formed in order to be sent out.

April 3- May 22: Regular Sunday School classes will continue. Small groups/Bible studies can continue (or even be created!)

2015

General Fund

November 29, 2015 offering: \$ 5178.00

YTD Offering: \$ 284,239.17

Budget Requirements

Budget Requires per Sunday: \$6,533.67

YTD Budget Requires: \$ 313,616.16

Attendance for 11/29/15

Sunday School: 47

Worship: 106

Worship Aids for Sunday

Head Usher: Rodney Bell

Pastor: Micaiah Tanck

Worship Leader : Lori Capodanno

Greeter: Dus & Rebecca Rogers

If you cannot serve, please find someone who will replace you.

If you need something please call the Church office If no answer please call Micaiah, (205) 478-5985; Brian (630) 730-1577 . Your concerns and needs are important to us.

The Church Spire

Church (256) 574-2575

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