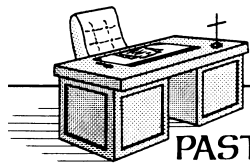


# THE GOOD NEWS BULLETIN OF WELLSVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH

DECEMBER, 2015 EDITION

WELLSVILLE, KANSAS  
AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCH



**FROM THE  
PASTOR'S DESK**

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,



When Jesus came to earth on that starry night so many years ago it was with a purpose. He was on a rescue mission! The Bible tells us that Jesus was on a mission to seek and to save the lost! (Matthew 18:11)

At that time the whole world was lost! There was no peace between people and God. That is why Jesus came so that peace could be had between lost humanity and the Creator. Romans 5:1 tells us that it is through faith in this Jesus that we have peace between us and God!



That is why Jesus came! He came so that you and I and our neighbors could have peace with God through eternity! That is why John 3:16 says that God loved the world so much that Jesus came so that we would not have to perish but we could have life.



This is the true message at Christmas! If you want to see God's love just look at the manger. He gave the One that He loved the most to save those that we love the most!

It is up to you and me to share, to worship and to magnify this God who loved us and still does!

*Pastor Tom*

Pastor Tom



## NEW BOARD MEMBERS!



If you have been newly elected to one of our Boards, please make sure that you have signed the Statement of Faith/Membership Agreement. See Pastor Tom for a copy.



## UPCOMING CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES

### Children's Christmas Play

Sunday, December 13, 2015

6:30 p.m.

In the Sanctuary

Please bring cookies for a time of fellowship following the program



### Special Blessings preschool Christmas Program

Monday, December 14, 2015

6:30 p.m.

In the Sanctuary



### One Worship Service for All

Sunday, December 20, 2015

### Christmas Eve Candlelight, Baptism & Communion

#### Worship Service

Thursday, December 24, 2015

7:00 p.m.

In the Sanctuary



### Church Office Closed

Friday, December 25, 2015

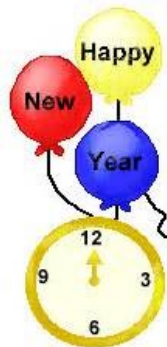
Friday, January 1, 2016

### Teen New Year's Eve Party

Thursday, December 31, 2015

9:00 p.m.—5:00 a.m.

In the Family Center



# CHRISTMAS IS A TIME TO REFLECT ON THE PEACE THAT GOD HAS GIVEN

The first advent of Jesus Christ is a story that redefines peace and good will. It is a story, not of power, but submission; of weakness becoming strength for any who could receive this unspeakable free gift of God. The Angels sang, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.” or, “with whom God is pleased.” Read this way, the news suddenly gets troubling. How can I please God? Who am I that God should rest His favor on me? Ah, but I am not the first to ask this question:



*In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, “Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!” But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”*

*And Mary said to the angel, “How will this be, since I am a virgin?”*

*And the angel answered her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy the Son of God. And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren.*

*For with God nothing shall be impossible.”*

*And Mary said, “Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word.” And the angel departed from her. (Luke 1:26-38)*



**The favor is God’s to give, not ours to earn. I’ve been thinking about what it means to accept God’s favor. Have**



I really accepted this wonder? Not just for salvation alone, but for peace right here and now on earth? Is Jesus truly born in me such that my heart, like Mary’s is a sanctuary of peace? This is really what Christmas has to offer all who hear and receive the good news. Christ offers you and me a radical and comprehensive way of thinking, feeling and acting—the way of God’s favor. Here are some things that we receive when we accept Jesus’ peace.

1. The Father gives Jesus, the Prince of Peace. Before Jesus returns to the Father, He promises the gift of the peace He experienced on earth, through the Holy Spirit. Jesus’ peace is the gift of the Spirit’s indwelling presence that comforts and guides us to the Father.
2. Christmas welcomes a King who invited relationship, not pomp and circumstance. For Jesus, friendship is more important than knowledge or intellectual assent. This friendship with God in Christ, by the Holy Spirit, a friendship that shapes our identity and transforms our reality.
3. Third, Jesus’ peace touches every part of our life. The Hebrew word for “peace” is “Shalom” which literally means “completeness, soundness, welfare, and peace.” Peace means everything that is for our higher good, everything that we find in Jesus the Messiah. Thus the Shalom of God touches every aspect of our lives—physical, intellectual, emotional, and spiritual. Shalom is not some emotional or philosophical premise, but a functional truth, an experienced reality, a covenant promise.
4. Finally, Jesus’ peace changes our perspective. Instead of looking for escape in times of trouble or distancing myself from others when conflicts rises, I can face life face to face with courage, because nothing is impossible with God.



May Jesus, Himself, be your peace this Christmas!

*Ted Buckley*

Ted M Buckley  
(Homebound Pastor)



## WRONG IS ALWAYS WRONG



In a period of loose and sagging morals, Satan provides many rationalizations for improper behavior. Those who would live faithful Christian lives must not be ignorant of his devious. (II Corinthians 2:11). Wrong is always wrong despite our efforts to excuse

our actions.

**WRONG IS WRONG, EVEN If You Do It for a Good Cause!** The honorable purpose does not justify a dishonorable deed or action. The end never justifies the means. “All sin is transgression of the law” (I John 3:4, 5:17, II John 9).

**WRONG IS WRONG, EVEN If Others Are Doing Worse Things!** To the lost in the day of judgement, it will be little comfort to know others committed worse sins. “The thought of foolishness is sin?” (Proverbs 24:9).

**WRONG IS WRONG, EVEN If It Doesn't Bother the Conscience!** The conscience can be trained or educated to accept wrong-doing; even honest sin or evil done in sincerity is sinful in the sight of the Holy God. “... Whatsoever a man sows, that shall he also reap.” (Galatians 6:7).



**WRONG IS WRONG, EVEN If It Is Commonly Considered Acceptable!** The Bible says, “Thou shalt not follow a multitude to do evil” (Exodus 23:2). The Christian should “enter not into the path of the wicked, (Proverbs 4:15). “Prove all things and hold fast to that which is good. Abstain from all appearance (form) of evil” (I Thessalonians 5:21, 22).



**REMEMBER, THERE IS NEVER A RIGHT WAY TO DO WRONG!**

— Pat McGee, *“The Sword and Staff”*

Exchange: Good Ideas from Others to You—Compiled by Donna Park; January, February, March 2016; Page 4



## TEEN SKATING PARTY

We are planning a skating outing at Crown Center over Christmas break. See Dennis Kichler for details.

## PRAYER CONCERNS

Deb Burchett – Bev Knapp’s daughter – cancer diagnosis

Wayne Bartholomew – Dale Bartholomew’s brother – health concerns

J.R. Oshel – Brad Oshel’s father – prayers for clean bone marrow test

Fred Schnoke – diagnosed with segmental colitis w/ associated diverticulitis

Family of Bobbie Johnson – following her passing

Family of Cal Knapp – following his passing

Marilyn Swafford Bennett – Pastor Tom’s cousin – following the loss of her husband

Tina Rossi & Family – following the loss of her brother

Betty Lawrenz – recovering from cataract surgery

Patsy Shields – recovering from shoulder surgery

Mildred Whitney – in rehab in Gardner

Dean Rossi – recovering from neck surgery

Megan – Belinda Brown’s friend – health concerns

Terry Messenger’s mom – health concerns

Bonnie Lillich – Nadine Gale’s sister – broken femur

Lynnedra – Lesley Breithaupt’s sister – bleeding ulcer

Ann Unruh – undergoing chemotherapy

LaDema Higbie – health concerns

Robert Courter – health concerns

Barbara Ott – health concerns

Neita Robbs – health concerns

Bettie Phares – health concerns

Amanda Dunaway – COPD & emphysema

Dave Lowe – undergoing radiation therapy

Roger Rockers – Penny Anderson’s friend – pancreatic cancer

Jill Murray – Jim & Pat Campbell’s daughter – recovering from cancer treatments

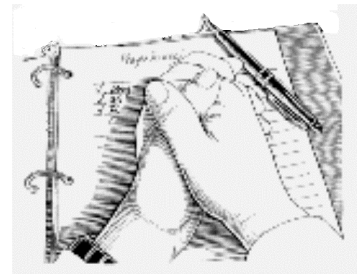
Sara Goodyeon – Pam Kichler’s friend – undergoing chemotherapy & radiation for throat and tongue cancer

Kathy Perricone – Lawrence & Sue Burbank’s daughter – breast cancer treatment

Jimmy Gibson – Leonard & Vesta’s brother-in-law – cancer

Jack Nitzsche – Don Nitzsche’s brother – severe nerve pain

Sawyer & Karter – friends of Belinda Brown – with genetic heart defects – awaiting transplant & on meds



## TEEN NEW YEAR’S EVE PARTY

There will be a party with games, movies, food and more for our teens from 9:00 p.m. until 5:00 a.m. on New Year’s Eve/New Year’s Morning. See Dennis Kichler or Sean Breithaupt for details.





# December, 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 9:30 a Adult Bible Study, 6:30 p AWANA, 7:00 p Adult Bible Study, 8:00 p Board of Deacons	<b>3</b> 9:30 a Bible Study at Wellsville Retirement Center (WRC), 3:30—5:30 p Teen Open Gym	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6*</b> 8:30 a, 9:45 a, 11:00 a Worship Services, 9:50 a Sunday School, 4:45 p Worship Team, 5:30 p Youth Group, 6:30 p Bible Study	<b>7</b> 7:00 p 4-H in the Fellowship Hall	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 9:30 a Adult Bible Study, 6:30 p AWANA, 7:00 p Adult Bible Study	<b>10</b> 9:30 a WRC Bible Study, 10:00 a WRC Bingo, 3:30—5:30 p Teen Open Gym, 6:30 p Board of Christian Education	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
	————— Pastor Tom and Family on Vacation this week —————					
<b>13*</b> 8:30 a, 9:45 a, 11:00 a Worship Services, 9:50 a Sunday School, 4:45 p Worship Team, 6:30 p Christmas Program	<b>14</b> Pastor Tom back in the office today 9:00 a Staff meeting, 6:30 p Special Blessings Preschool Christmas program	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 9:30 a Adult Bible Study, 6:30 p AWANA, 7:00 p Adult Bible Study	<b>17</b> 9:30 a WRC Bible Study, 3:30—5:50 p Teen Open Gym, 7:00 p Board of Trustees	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 8:00 a Family Center Rented
<b>20*</b> One Worship Service, 3:00 p WRC Service, 4:45 p Worship Team, 5:30 p Youth Group, 6:30 p Bible Study	<b>21</b> 9:00 a Staff meeting	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 9:30 a Adult Bible Study, 7:00 p Adult Bible Study	<b>24</b> 7:00 p Christmas Eve Candlelight and Communion Service	<b>25</b> Christmas Day	<b>26</b>
			————— No Preschool until January 4th —————		Church office closed	
<b>27*</b> 8:30 a, 9:45 a, 11:00 a Worship Services, 9:50 a Sunday School, 4:45 p Worship Team, 5:30 p Youth Group, 6:30 p Bible Study	<b>28</b> 9:00 a Staff meeting	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 9:30 a Adult Bible Study, 7:00 p Adult Bible Study	<b>31</b> New Year's Eve 9:00 p—5:00 a Teen New Year's Eve Party in the Family Center	*Sunday—Regular Weekly Services — 8:30 a.m. Traditional Worship Service, 9:45 a.m. Connect Contemporary Worship Service; 9:45 a.m. Sunday School for all ages, 11:00 a.m. Blended Morning Worship Service, 5:30 p.m. Youth Group for ages 7th—12th grades;	
		————— No Preschool until January 4th —————				

If your birthday or anniversary is not listed below, please call the church office and let us know.

### Anniversaries

20-M/M Tom Christian

### Birthdays

4-Will Guthrie, Fred Schnoke

5-Tamara Mosher

6-Tom Christian

9-Landon Taylor

10-Shelton Breithaupt

12-Debbi Fouts

13-Tiffany Coughenour

14-Scott Coffman

15-Sandy Rogers, Roger Johnston

16-Emery Ishmael, Anna Swafford, Hollie Staker

### Birthdays (cont.)

17-Luke Christian

18-Alicia Rossi, Kim Robbs

21-Bella Staker

22-Julie Coffey

23-Elba Unruh

24-Kara West

25-Rebecca Oshel

26-Rev. Thomas Swafford

27-Sheila Brecheisen

28-Pam Kichler

30-David Johnson, Jeff Courter

31-Lanette Neel

The Good News Bulletin is a monthly newsletter of Wellsville Baptist Church, 217 Main Street, Wellsville, Kansas, 66092. All visitors are welcome to worship with us each Sunday at 8:30 a.m. and 10:50 a.m., Sunday School begins at 9:45 a.m. Mid-Week Service is Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. Dr. Rev. Thomas W. Swafford is the Senior Pastor and Pastor Dennis Kichler is the Interim Youth Pastor. The Good News Bulletin coordinator is Jan Beuthien. The church office phone number is 785-883-2640. The Pastor's phone number is 785-883-4201 and the Youth Pastor's phone number is 785-248-3866.

Wellsville Baptist Church  
PO Box 555  
Wellsville KS 66092  
Return Service Requested