

Belmont Beacon

December 2016

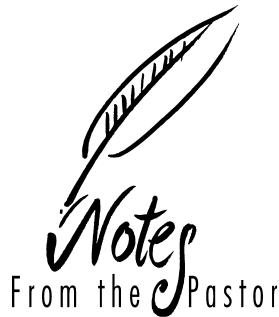
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I have always admired the commitment necessary to run a restaurant. I imagine this venture includes working with employees who might not be as committed as the owners. If the employee does not feel like going to work, the one running the operation is stuck in a difficult spot. How does this affect vacations if these getaways are even possible?

I ask all these questions in light of the news that *Spudnuts* will be closing at the end of the year. The shop opened in 1969 and I assume that they have answered some of my above questions throughout the past years by closing on Mondays and more recently on Saturdays. The longer break between Saturday and Tuesday would allow more time to "have a life" outside of the business.

At this point, all of those questions above pale in comparison to the question: **WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO WITHOUT SPUDNUTS?** Where will we get our delicious treats that simply can't be duplicated? What will the regular morning crew meet as they continue to solve all of our world's problems over their coffee and doughnuts? What will take the place of my thrill of discovering that maple doughnuts are in stock when they are not part of the daily rotation? We have so many questions that will be asked in the coming weeks?

The best word to describe this announcement is dread. I am not a "true" regular at *Spudnuts* like others who I imagine are really dreading what this announcement means. When we look ahead at something that we dread, I cannot help

but also look at the opposite of that of that feeling. Anticipation! Excitement! Hope!

Those are emotions that we are not experiencing with the news of *Spudnuts* closing, but these are the essence of this holy season we call Advent. The word "Advent" literally means "coming" and our focus is on the promises of God. We celebrate the coming of Christ into our world long ago in a stable turned nursery in Bethlehem involving a peasant girl named Mary and her fiancée, a carpenter named Joseph.

Advent is also our opportunity to celebrate the promise of Christ that he will come again. This season is a celebration of a first arrival and the anticipation of another promised coming. In the midst of our broken world, this is good news. With so much uncertainty surrounding us, the church can embrace the certainty of God's faithfulness to us and how those promises are actualized.

Our hope in Christ is accompanied by the call to proclaim the good news of Jesus to the world around us. As we have received such hope, we are to share it with those around us. This Advent will be a wonderful time to serve Christ as we host *PACEM* and continue other ministries in our community. This Advent will be a special time of worship as our sanctuary will be adorned in preparation for Christ's coming. The cantata on December 18th is something that you won't want to miss. The Christmas Eve Candlelight Service is a highlight for many of us in the congregation.

Indeed, the time is now to anticipate, to prepare, to hope in the promises and gracious mysteries of God! I think that a *Spudnut* would enhance those reflections!

Blessings, Greg



Belmont Friends,

Thanksgiving is a time to reflect and think about what has happened throughout the year. As this year is a year of many firsts I am grateful for my friends and family at Belmont Baptist Church.

Many nights as I sit at home and reflect I wonder how I would have gotten through the last 8 months with out you all. Then I stop as I already know that the plan God had was to not leave me alone but surrounded. He brought me to Belmont and for that I am Thankful.

Once Jim and I became empty nesters we started going to the beach for just a couple days over Thanksgiving and inviting any of the children who chose to join us. We will have a good time once again but a big part of our family will be missing from the table. But the good news is he will be in our hearts.

Please consider coming to choir on Wednesday nights and singing in the Cantata. Please invite your friends and neighbors. I am going to have fliers made. It would be great if you all could put them in locations near you to get the word out to the public. This music is so beautiful and the message to all is a blessing. Invite everyone. December 18th during our regular church service.

Stay warm and share peace and thanks with friends neighbors and strangers.

Blessings,
Peggy



Comcast Channel 13 will
Rebroadcast the Worship
Service Sunday at 7:00 pm.



Remember to bring mittens, gloves, hats, and scarves for the children at Clark School. Also, you may bring underwear and sweatpants. The tree will be in the church foyer the month of December. Thanks for your generosity during the Christmas season.

The Personnel Committee has asked Mary Hawkins, the current Financial Administrator, to move into the combined Church Secretary/Financial Administrator position beginning December 1,, and she has accepted this new responsibility. Janet Shiflett's last day in her role will be November 29. We are grateful for the congregation's input and patience as we followed through a careful and diligent process.

Respectfully,
Linda Breeden





Thank You

Thank you to the Belmont Baptist Church Family,

I would like to thank all of the volunteers who, over the past 16 years, have helped me with many projects Beacon folding, envelope labeling, etc. Without their help my job would have been more time consuming. I will not list all the names in fear of leaving someone's name off the list. Please know that each of you are special to me.

Janet Shiflett



Dear Belmont Baptist Church,

For 6th grader Jonathan Lambert, and many other children like him around the world, going to school means hope.

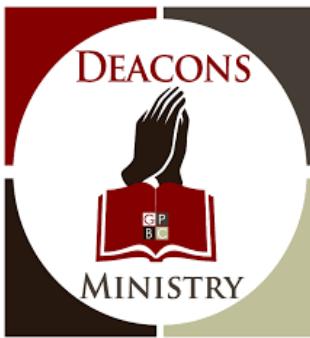
"I am really happy because sometimes this is the only meal I get for the whole day," he said. "My parents are not able to buy me food."

The Stop Hunger Now meals Jonathan eats every day at school give him more energy to study and focus. His grades have risen from Bs to As.

Jonathan is only one of the tens of thousands of children around the world who receive Stop Hunger Now meals at school. By packaging meals with us, you have helped Jonathan grow and thrive. And because you shared your time with us, children have hope for their future, families can take a step out of poverty, and communities can prosper.

We are delighted to announce that the meals from your meal packaging event on 10/2/2016 have been shipped in a container totaling 285,120 meals from our Lynchburg, VA warehouse.

The meals will be received by our in-country partner Reach Now International in Zambia. Family Legacy operates 17 schools in the slum compounds around Lusaka, Zambia, providing education to thousands of orphans and vulnerable children every day. The 5,500 children that attend their schools are fed one meal (lunch) every day, so Stop Hunger Now meals are critical to their development and education. In addition, Family Legacy operates 26 orphan homes at the Tree of Life Children's Village, where they have more than 300 orphans receiving full-time care.



Give Yourself Away

We are entering that time of year when we give presents to friends and loved ones. When we practice God's admonition to give ourselves to others, we feel good deep down to our soul. Of course Biblical giving goes beyond our friends and loved ones. We are directed to give to stran-

ers, and people in need.

In John 15:13 we read, "Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. Matthew 20:28 says, "Even the son of man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many." In 1 Timothy 4:15 the admonition is stated, "Practice these duties, devote yourself to them, so that all may see your progress." In Mark 8:35 Jesus said, "For whoever would save his life will lose it; and whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it." Jesus' parables, miracles, healings, and the feeding of 5,000 soundly convey the message to give ourselves away as we serve him.

Whether it's helping someone with laundry needs, preparing a meal for the homeless, giving groceries to the needy, taking a child to a sporting event, mowing grass, raking leaves and replacing a blown ceiling light bulb, we exist to serve God by giving ourselves away.

Galatians 6:9-10 says, "And let us not grow weary in well-doing, for in due season we shall reap, if we do not lose heart. So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all men, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.

Finally, John Wesley up-dated Galatians by saying:

Do all the good you can,
By all the means you can,
in all the ways you can,
in all the places you can,
at all the times you can,
to all the people you can,
as long as ever you can.

Richard Wharam,
Deacon Chair

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Merry Christmas

and

Happy New Year

Greg

Peggy *Mary* *Janet*

Phyllis *Susan* *Ann*

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