

CONNECT



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DECEMBER 2015

Weekly Connection:

SUNDAY

- 7:07 AM Prayer
- 8:15 AM - Early Worship
- 8:15 AM - Radio Program
WBBA 97.5
- 9:30 AM- Sunday School
- 10:30 AM- Morning Worship
JAM Kids Hour
- 6:30 PM - Praise & Worship

TUESDAY

- 9-10 AM Ladies Bible Study
- 7:00 PM Young Adults-Coffee H.

WEDNESDAY

- 6:05 AM- Men's Prayer – FC
- 6:00 PM Teens
- 6:30 PM Prayer in sanctuary
- 7:00 PM– Small Groups
Caravan (Sept.—April)
- "Wacky" Wednesday (May-August)

FRIDAY

- 9-11 AM Walk-in prayer—
the Sanctuary

Thinking forward to 2016 and making a difference, being an influence, a catalyst for change in the Kingdom of God, I am reminded of this story:

Her name was Mrs. Thompson. And as she stood in front of her 5th grade class on her first day of school, she wrote her name on the blackboard and introduced herself. Like many teachers, she looked at her students and said that she would care for all of them the same, and was genuinely interested in each one of them. But that was impossible, because there in the front row, slumped in his seat, was a little boy named Teddy.

Mrs. Thompson had observed Teddy the year before and noted that he didn't play well with the other children, that his clothes were messy, his hair unkempt and that he constantly needed a bath with an unpleasant odor. And Teddy could be unpleasant. It got to the point where Mrs. Thompson would actually take some hidden delight in marking his papers with a red pen, making bold X's and then putting an "F" at the top of his papers.

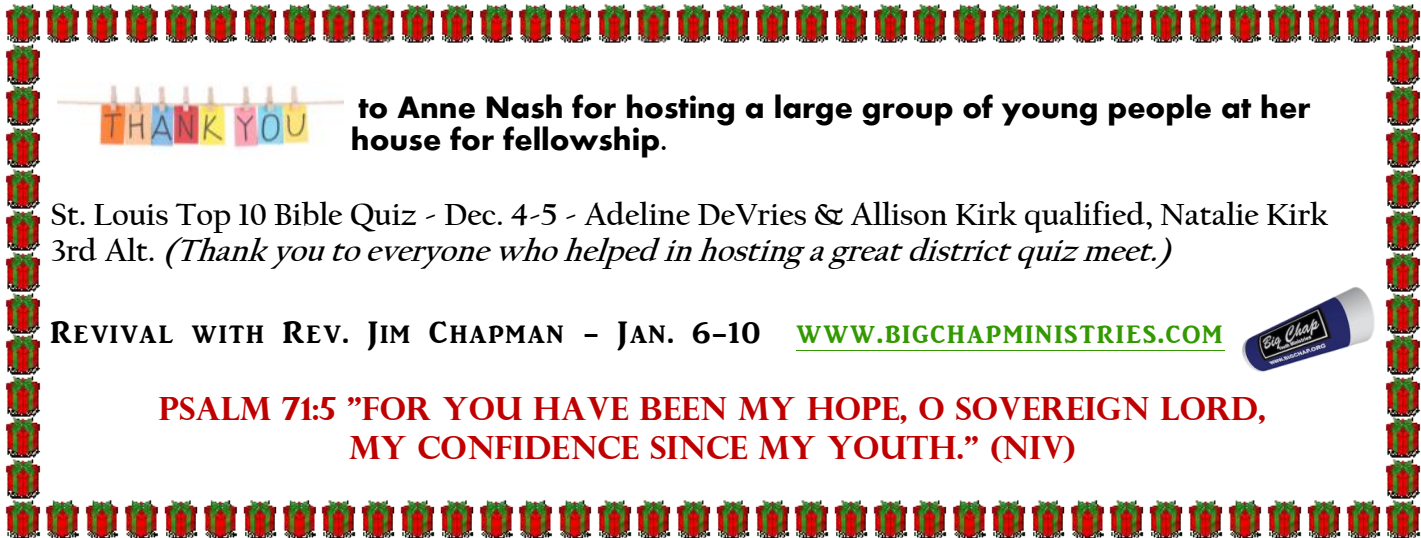
At the school where Mrs. Thompson taught, she was required to review each child's past records and she had put Teddy's off until last. Finally, when she reviewed his file, she was in for a surprise. Teddy's first grade teacher wrote, "Teddy is a bright child with a ready laugh. He does his work neatly and has good manners... he is fun to be around." His second grade teacher wrote, "Teddy is an excellent student, well liked by his classmates, but he is anxious because his mother has a terminal illness and life at home seems to be a struggle." His third grade teacher wrote, "His mother's death has been hard on him. He tries to do his best but his father doesn't show much interest and his home life will soon affect him if some steps aren't taken." Teddy's fourth grade teacher wrote, "Teddy is withdrawn and doesn't show much interest in school. He doesn't have many friends, is often teased and sometimes sleeps in class."

Mrs. Thompson realizing the problem, started to feel ashamed of her attitude towards Teddy. She felt even worse when her students brought her Christmas presents, wrapped in beautiful ribbons and bright paper, except for Teddy's. His present was clumsily wrapped in heavy, brown paper that he got from a grocery bag. Mrs. Thompson took pains to open it in the middle of the other presents with all the tape. Some of the children started to snicker laugh when she found a rhinestone bracelet with some of the stones missing, and a bottle that was a quarter full of perfume. But she stifled the children's laughter when she exclaimed how pretty the bracelet was, putting it on, and dabbing some of the perfume on her wrist. Teddy stayed after school that day just long enough to say, Mrs. Thompson, today you smell just like my Mom used to and with you wearing the bracelet, you remind me of her. She didn't have any words to say, but when Teddy left, the tears came to her eyes.

On that very day, she quit teaching reading, and writing, and arithmetic. Instead, she began to compassionately care for children. Mrs. Thompson paid more particular attention to Teddy. As she worked with him, his mind seemed to come alive. The more she encouraged him, the faster he responded. By the end of the year, Teddy had become one of the sharpest children in the class. Teddy it would seem became one her "teacher's pets."

About a year later, she found a note under her door. It was from Teddy, telling her that she was the best teacher he ever had.

Continued on back page ...



THANK YOU

to Anne Nash for hosting a large group of young people at her house for fellowship.

St. Louis Top 10 Bible Quiz - Dec. 4-5 - Adeline DeVries & Allison Kirk qualified, Natalie Kirk 3rd Alt. (Thank you to everyone who helped in hosting a great district quiz meet.)

REVIVAL WITH REV. JIM CHAPMAN - JAN. 6-10 WWW.BIGCHAPMINISTRIES.COM



PSALM 71:5 "FOR YOU HAVE BEEN MY HOPE, O SOVEREIGN LORD, MY CONFIDENCE SINCE MY YOUTH." (NIV)



PCN Children's Ministry

We are collecting donations for the Christmas Food Baskets; collection is in your Sunday School class– due by December 13th.



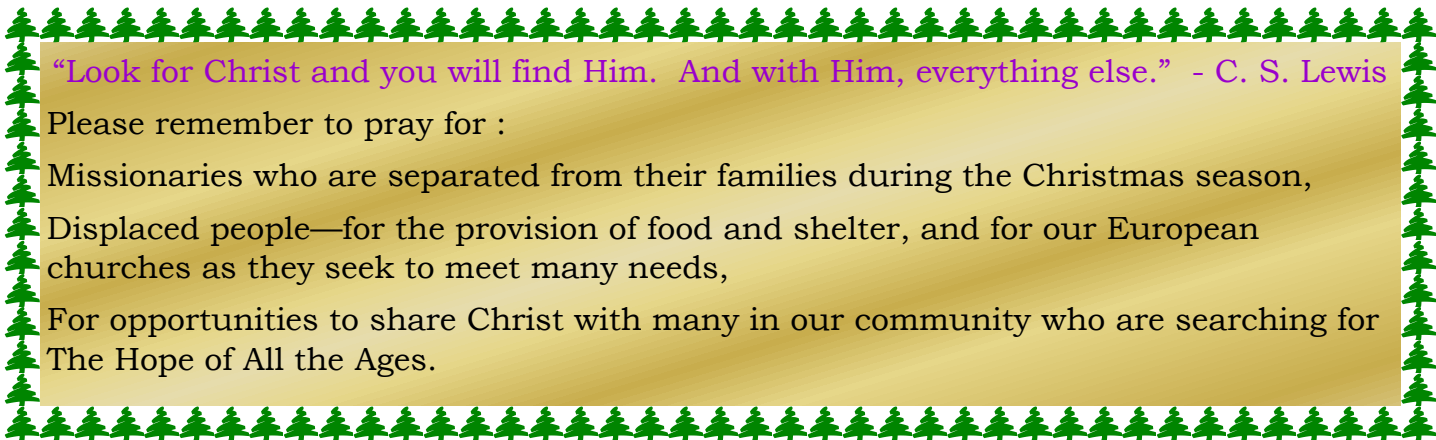
Children's Christmas program practices will be on Wed. evening instead of quizzing (except for the children not in the Christmas program). Michelle & Janeen may also have some other times to practice.

Christmas schedule: Pre-K Children's Christmas program at 10:30 a.m. on December 20th; children's Christmas program will be with the Cantata on Sunday, December 20th at 6:30 p.m.

Parents please continue to work with your child on the quizzing books so we do not get to far behind.



Nazarene Missions International



"Look for Christ and you will find Him. And with Him, everything else." - C. S. Lewis

Please remember to pray for :

Missionaries who are separated from their families during the Christmas season,

Displaced people—for the provision of food and shelter, and for our European churches as they seek to meet many needs,

For opportunities to share Christ with many in our community who are searching for The Hope of All the Ages.


Calendar Highlights
DECEMBER 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

- 4 & 5 Regional Quiz Meet
 8 Prime Time outing—T B A
 10 Church Board Meeting
 20 Choir Christmas Cantata 6:30 p.m.
 20 Children's program 6:30 p.m.
25 Merry Christmas!
 Family Center reserved
 31 New Years Eve Celebration @ 7:30 p.m.

JANUARY 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

- 1 **Happy New Year!**
 6-10 Youth Revival with "Big Chap"
 12 Prime Time luncheon
 14 Church Board Meeting
 17 Special speaker from Romania

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 ■ Tumbling every Saturday morning (some exceptions); see Anne Nash for dates and times. ■

**Birthdays & Anniversaries**

- | | |
|--------------------|------------------------------|
| 3 Jim Davidsmeyer | 25 Debbie Rush |
| 8 Brady Curtis | Doris Webel |
| Sallie Bowers | Chris Shotts |
| Matthew Hamm | 26 Marcus Davis |
| 12 Darcy Westfall | 28 Lexie McClain |
| Dan Mefford | 30 Ryan Brown |
| 13 Patty Cawthon | 31 Pastor Kroeze |
| Joshua Collard | Evelyn Ward |
| 15 Roxanne Cawthon | |
| 16 Lauren DeVries | <i>It's our anniversary!</i> |
| Rusty Westfall | 3 Dennis & Evelyn Workman |
| 18 Shelby Wade | 15 Chad & Brandi Ruzich |
| Carolyn Carroll | 13 Chris & Anita Shotts |
| 21 Rosalie Davis | 24 Gerald & Sally Bennett |
| 22 Doris Browning | 28 Larry & Monica Ruble |
| Benny Butler | |

**Nursery Helpers**

- SUNDAY Nursery**
 06 AM Andy & Sheryl Borrowman
 PM Jarrod & Michelle Kirk
 13 AM Russ & Paula Monroe
 PM Janeen Freesmeyer/Allison Kirk
 20 AM Vicki Grammer
 PM David & Grace Guthrie
 27 AM Chad & Brandi Ruzich
 PM Katie Davis
TODDLER Nursery - Sunday AM
 6 Ashlyn Collard
 13 Mikyla Collard 20 Emily Guthrie
 27 Macy James
WEDNESDAY Nursery
 2 Susanne Curry 09 Della Rush
 16 Don & Annelle Kirk 23 Ben Guthrie
 30 Donna Davidsmeyer



Life Changing

Jim Chapman speaks to thousands of people every year in **conferences, camps, retreats, school assemblies, revivals** and more. He is also author of ***Finishing Well: A guide to training for the race of life.***

With a style like no other, his **humor and passion** will deliver a **powerful message** that leaves you challenged.

YOUTH REVIVAL January 6-10, 2016
Pittsfield Church of the Nazarene

TAX DEDUCTIBLE CONTRIBUTIONS.... If you are planning to make an end-of-the-year contribution to the church, it needs to be received by December 30th to include it in your 2015 giving



We will be distributing food baskets this year and are asking for monetary donations to help purchase the food items. Please mark any donations "Food Baskets" and put in your Sunday School Class offering or church offering. Donations are needed by December 13th.

Continued..... Six years went by before she got another note from Teddy. He then wrote that he had finished high school, third in his class, and she was still the best teacher he ever had in his whole life. Four years after that, she got another letter, saying that while things had been tough at times, he'd stayed in school, had stuck with it, and would soon graduate from college with high honors. He assured Mrs. Thompson that she was still the best and favorite teacher he ever had. Then four more years passed and yet another letter came. This time he explained that after he got his bachelor's degree, he decided to go a little further. The letter explained that she was still the best and favorite teacher he ever had. But now his name was a little longer, the letter was signed, Theodore F. Stoddard, PHD

The story didn't end quite there. You see, there was yet another letter that spring. Teddy said he'd met this young lady who had become his fiancé and they were going to be married. He explained that his father had died a couple of years ago and he was wondering if Mrs. Thompson might agree to sit in the place at the wedding that was usually reserved for the mother of the groom. Of course, Mrs. Thompson did. And guess what? She came wearing his mother's bracelet that he had given so many years before with the rhinestones missing.

They hugged each other, and Dr. Stoddard whispered in Mrs. Thompson's ear, "Thank you Mrs. Thompson for believing in me, for your nurturing and care, for although you were my teacher, you became like my mother. Thank you so much for making me feel important and showing me that I could make a difference." Mrs. Thompson, with tears in her eyes, whispered back "Teddy, you have it all wrong. You were the one who taught me that I could make a difference. I didn't know really how to teach, care and love until I met you."

"We do not have to play games with each other. We can simply say: 'I am your friend, I am happy to be with you.' We can say that in words or with touch or with loving silence. Sometimes it is good to say: 'You don't have to talk. Just close your eyes. I am here with you, thinking of you, praying for you, loving you.'" — Henri J.M. Nouwen, *Bread for the Journey: A Daybook of Wisdom and Faith*

Pastor Jon Kroeze



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