

Good News Daily

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Sunday, December 30

Isaiah 62:6-7, 10-12 *The LORD has made proclamation to the ends of the earth: "Say to the Daughter of Zion, 'See, your Savior comes! See, his reward is with him, and his recompense accompanies him.'"* (v.11 NIV)

A proclamation to the ends of the earth used to be a time-consuming and expensive job. Now, in the 21st century, I can write a blog at my computer at home, post it, and it becomes accessible around the world in seconds. If I am writing about my faith and hope in Jesus Christ, I become one of the servants God has called to be part of the fulfillment of His word to Isaiah.

Jesus came to carry out the redemption plans of our Heavenly Father. Skies full of angels made it plain God was not going to keep it a secret. As one year ends and another begins, let us joyfully commit to carrying out our part in announcing this wonderful news to our part of the world. The proclamations that started at the first Christmas, and the rejoicing we have heard this past week, is not finished. It has just begun!

Psalms 93, 96; Hebrews 2:10-18; Matthew 1:18-25

Birthdays: Barbara Seaton, Barry Marsh, Amy Branden, Christopher Colon

Anniversaries: Mark & Erin Ripple, David & Judy Dye, Jose & Fran Farinos

Sunday's Calendar

7:30 a.m.	Holy Eucharist, Rite I
9:00 a.m.	Contemporary Family Worship Service
9:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist, Rite II
10:15 a.m.	Coffee Hour - Smith Hall after 9:00 A.M. Services
11:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Today's Ministry: Backpack Buddies

By Rick Hoover

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"Growing into Jesus - Reaching out with love"

The Clergy

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Friday's Calendar

7:00 a.m.	AA "Hour of Power"
9:00 a.m.	A Way Out
9:30 a.m.	Life Group
10:00 a.m.	Bible Study
8:00 p.m.	Friday Night Young Peoples' AA

Today's Ministry: Choir

Saturday, January 5

John 15:1-16 *"He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful."* (v.2)

My wife loves gardening, and I often watch gardening shows on TV with her. One of the regular topics for discussion is taking perfectly healthy, fruitful plants and cutting them back severely. The butchered plants look awful at first. But the gardeners do it because they know the plants will grow back stronger and more fruitful than ever.

If this were not such a familiar fact in the common life of a garden, it would be difficult to understand when a loving God does the same thing in the garden of our lives. As unpleasant as the experience is, we have the examples before us showing why it is a good thing in the long run.

Let us just be careful that the reason we have the Gardener's attention and are being pruned back is because we *are* fruitful, not because our lives are failing to show any kingdom fruit at all.

Joshua 1:1-9; Psalms 2, 110; Hebrews 11:32—12:2

Anniversary : Peter & Connie Ellison

Saturday's Calendar

7:00 a.m.	AA "Hour of Power"
9:30 a.m.	AA Step Study for Women
5:00 p.m.	Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Today's Ministry: Coffee Hour Ministry

Monday, December 31

Isaiah 26:1-9 *You will keep in perfect peace him whose mind is steadfast, because he trusts in you.* (v.3)

Looking back over the not-always-pleasant surprises of the year gone by, Isaiah's promise is a good one to return to often. With new headlines demanding our attention every hour, it is vital that we discipline our thoughts to return to a place of rest in Jesus.

In a changing world, he never changes. When every other anchor breaks and gives way, Jesus never fails. In dark hours of frightening turmoil, he is a rock where we find shelter and peace.

We end this year in gratitude, Lord Jesus, that you have continued to show your faithful care for us. We want to continue to place all our trust in you in the new year. It is our only hope to know peace in the midst of a noisy, chaotic world. Thank you for grounding us in your love. May we be faithful in sharing what we have found, sharing what you have shown us, with those you bring across our path every day. May our lives glorify you throughout the new year.

Psalms 46, 48; 2 Corinthians 5:16—6:2; John 8:12-19

Birthdays: Tom Thurlow, Eileen Dayton

Monday's Calendar

Office Hours 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
7:00 a.m. AA "Hour of Power"
5:30 p.m. ACA Families

Today's Ministry: Bell Choir

Tuesday, January 1

Genesis 17:1-12a, 15-16 *For the generations to come every male among you who is eight days old must be circumcised.* (v.12a)

When I was born, I was given my name by my father. I obeyed the rules my father and mother established in their house. By these various signs, other people knew where I belonged and to whom I belonged. They were indicators of my identity. All I had to do was accept them. They became a part of how I saw myself, without any need for me to invent them from scratch.

Jesus fully entered and shared our human life, submitting to the rules and directions God had given to His people. As a baby, eight days after his birth, his earthly parents carried him to the temple in Jerusalem to carry out the first of the Jewish family signs God had commanded. And there he became known by the name his Heavenly Father had chosen for him, a name above all names, the name at which every knee would bow.

Psalms 103; Colossians 2:6-12; John 16:23b-30

Birthdays: James Gillis, Eileen Kerr, Christa Greenwald, Joyce Dodd, Ted LaBedz, Duane Strang, Kalie Jones

Anniversaries: Stephen & Deborah Allison, Raymond & Susan Riddell

Tuesday's Calendar

Office Closed
7:00 a.m. AA "Hour of Power"
6:00 p.m. Overeaters' Anonymous

Today's Ministry: Women's Cursillo

Wednesday, January 2

Psalm 34 *I sought the LORD, and he answered me; he delivered me from all my fears.* (v.4)

The celebrations have concluded. Now for the rest of the new year. We may feel daunted by the expectations we place on ourselves to please God and do well in the days ahead.

It will help if we keep in mind a little rule of thumb that Bruce Bickel and Stan Jantz mention in their devotional book *Keeping God in the Small Stuff*. They say that, "You are responsible for the depth of your spiritual understanding. God is responsible for the breadth of your ministry."

Each day, set the goal of reading your Bible and perhaps an additional devotional piece. The Good News Daily insert you are reading now can provide you the daily lectionary readings and a short reflection on them. It's a good place to start deepening your spiritual understanding while you wait on the Lord for His directions in how to serve Him today. And the new year is a good time to start.

Genesis 12:1-7; Hebrews 11:1-12; John 6:35-42, 48-51

Birthdays: Diane Kimes, Zachary Ormsby

Wednesday's Calendar

6:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study
7:00 a.m. AA "Hour of Power"
9:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist
10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting
10:00 a.m. Adult Life Group
11:00 a.m. Stephen Ministry Care
4:45 p.m. Mary's Kitchen
5:30 p.m. AA "Daily Reflections"
6:00 p.m. Life Groups

Today's Ministry: Capital Campaign

Thursday, January 3

Hebrews 11:13-22 *All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance.* (v.13a)

Rick Warren started his book *The Purpose Driven Life* with the statement, "It's not about you." For years I adopted that summary as the

Christian key to a servant heart. More recently, I've realized it would be better to modify it to say, "It's not *just* about you." What eventually helps *others* sometimes begins with what God has taught *us*. The lessons are for us *and* for others. And there may be a lapse of time before others get the benefit. For instance, I have been waiting for 21 months for what I am writing today to finally be placed in your hands to read here.

We see this kind of delay in the lives of the saints of Bible times. We will see similar delays in our own lives today. Let us reward the sacrifices of obedience the saints made for our benefit by listening to their witness. And let us not grow weary if it takes a while before we see the faith seeds we are planting today finally bear fruit for the kingdom of God.

Genesis 28:10-22; Psalm 68; John 10:7-17

Birthdays: Jon Drtina, Margie Durham

Thursday's Calendar

7:00 a.m. AA "Hour of Power"
10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist
10:30 a.m. Altar Guild Meeting
5:30 p.m. ACA Men's Group
6:30 p.m. Choir
7:00 p.m. AI-Anon "Stepping Stones"

Today's Ministry: Children's Choir

Friday, January 4

Psalm 85 *I will listen to what God the LORD will say; he promises peace to his people, his saints—but let them not return to folly.* (v.8)

As a gag, you can find golf balls and pool balls that have been made with their weight deliberately off-center. This causes them to roll in crooked and unpredictable ways. The inability to trust they will go in the direction you want makes winning a game difficult—and is a source of amusement to everybody else.

Trusting our own judgement causes us to be off-balance in the same way. It makes it impossible for us to arrive at the goals God intended us to reach. The peace He promises is real. But if we have been listening to some other voice, we will never receive the rewards God had intended for us.

We all start out crooked and broken. But when our lives are surrendered and centered on Jesus, we can begin to see what God intended for us to enjoy from the beginning. A good place for us to begin the year is with the resolution to listen to what the Lord says to us, and follow Him.

Exodus 3:1-12; Psalm 87; Hebrews 11:23-31; John 14:6-14

Birthdays: Sandy Mitchell, Jim Gillis, Clayton, Landry, Alexander Diaz