

# Connect

With Sunny Place Church of God

December 2014

"Fulfillment is a sense of completeness, with a spirit of awe; thanking the Almighty deep from the heart, and may be flowing out through our eyes, like Tears, or bursting out through the lips, like words."

A French Physicist and Philosopher, Pascal, once said, *"There is a God-shaped vacuum [hole] in the heart of each man which cannot be satisfied by any created thing, but only by God the Creator made known through Jesus Christ."*

I remember a day when my dad, my cousin and the driver of the car, were killed in a car crash. It was around 2 pm on the 11th day of June in the year 1991. I was the only one who survived that accident, with multiple fractures and injuries, including a possible concussion. My memory was wiped out. All I remember was seeing a huge bus headed towards my face in a flash of a second. However, that event changed my life. I felt a huge hole that had a vacuum, deep inside, that I thought could not be filled.

In addition to the emotional pain, there was fear and insecurity; my femur bone, as well as other bones, were broken at multiple points, and there were other visible wounds all over my body. The physicians implanted a steel rod through my femur bone and placed all the pieces of bone in its right place, maybe like a puzzle connected together. It helped me to start moving around on a pair of crutches for few weeks. It was a time when I reflected on my good old days. It opened my eyes to value what I had before.

Then a day came when I was able to place my foot on the floor, and transferred my entire weight onto my right leg that was shattered, and took my first step! What a moment! It was a moment when I sensed that there was something that was so powerful at work in the deepest valley of life. The night when I saw that I was able to

walk again with my two legs, I felt a deep inner relief. It was the first time I said, "Thank you, Lord" straight from my heart. I tasted the power of His strength that was far beyond myself. It was the power that was at work in me. I praised Him with tears of joy. I felt fulfilled. After many empowering and confirming experiences, I sensed a deep inner passion to the pastoral ministry. A thirst to fulfill His will through my life.

*"After this, Jesus, knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the Scripture might be fulfilled, said, 'I thirst!' Now a vessel full of sour wine was sitting there; and they filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on hyssop, and put it to His mouth. So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, 'It is finished!' And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit."*

John 19:28-30

Fulfillment involves a thirst, and quenching of that thirst with a sense of accomplishment and a completion. If we are open to God, He will fill up the emptiness of life with the Spirit of the living God. In other words, it is a moment of emptying, humbling, and finally coming to a self-awareness that it's all about God quenching that thirst and filling up the emptiness. This is the true essence of fulfillment.

I believe that in order to taste that fulfillment, we need to go through an emptying state. It is a state in which we empty of self-reliance and our selfishness into a true, self-awareness. Maybe we need a time to pause and reflect. Maybe God allows us to go through a time of disorientation. Maybe we need to spend time to evaluate our weakness,

(Continued on page 2)

FULFILLED

our strength, and take it all to the Lord in reflections, prayers, and offerings; to bring forth the fruit of self-awareness. Maybe we needed to remember the ways the Lord has led us. Maybe we need to recall those moments the Lord empowered us, and to be in awe of the power of God, intentionally reflecting, repenting, and allowing God to enter into the emptiness of our life.

Finally, fulfillment is a sense of completeness with a spirit of awe, thanking the Almighty deep from the heart, and may be flowing out through our eyes, like tears, or bursting out through the lips, like words. It is an offering straight from the heart of the creation to the Source of all creation. It is a moment when the soul is wondered, humbled and healed, by the power of the Almighty. Mary sang a song of praise and thanksgiving, otherwise known as the Magnificat, straight out of her heart, and it burst out as Mary's magnificent moment of praise. After a moment of wonderment, and reflection, Mary opened up humbly and witnessed the great truth. It empowered her to be a vessel for the great gift of true love, joy, and peace. What a fulfillment we see in Christ Jesus! What a praise we hear through the servant of the Lord. Receive the living water and let it flow and overflow freely.

As we celebrate Christmas this season, don't forget to reflect on the wonder of the greatest Gift, and allow our hearts to be filled; and let it flow freely, with His truth, that is captivated by the love in Christ, Jesus.

Merry Christmas!

Sam Jacob



## Luke 1:39 - 56

### **Mary Visits Elizabeth**

*At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, where she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. In a loud voice she exclaimed: "Blessed are you among women and blessed is the child you will bear! But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!"*

### **Mary's Song**

*And Mary said:*

*"My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me holy is his name.*

*His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation. He has performed mighty deeds with his arm; he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts. He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble. He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty.*

*He has helped his servant Israel, remembering to be merciful to Abraham and his descendants forever, just as he promised our ancestors."*

*Mary stayed with Elizabeth for about three months and then returned home.*

**Connect**

Published by

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# TLC

Together Loving Christ

**A**re you sharing in the exciting and spiritual blessings of studying God's Word and discovering how it applies to your contemporary life?

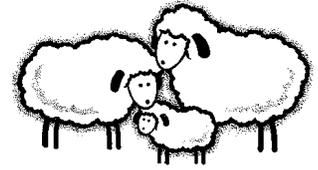
**J**oin with us in our Adult Study Group at Sunny Place every Thursday at 7:00 p.m.

***Grow in the Word!***

## Sunday Morning Worship 10:45 a.m.

*Kid's Rock* available  
for children ages five to nine

*Nursery Services Provided*



**Sunday, December 14, 2014**



Join us for a  
**Church Christmas Dinner**  
12:30 p.m.

Visit us at: [www.SunnyPlaceChurch.org](http://www.SunnyPlaceChurch.org)



901 E. Oak Street, Addison, IL 60101

***Connecting Families With The Love Of Christ***



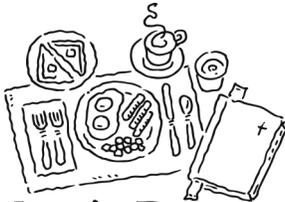
**Ladies Christmas Party**  
*Saturday, December 6 at 4pm*

All ladies are invited to the Jacob home, which will be filled with His love, and Ann's hospitality. The party will begin a little early, at 4pm, for those who prefer to drive in daylight.

As in previous years, please bring a gift for the gift exchange. This is the time when we entertain each other, delighting in the Christmas spirit of giving and taking. Plan to attend and thoroughly enjoy your sisters in Christ.

*A special "Thank you!" to Ann for opening up her home to us.*

Need to get away for a couple hours? Come to the  
**Men's Ministry Breakfast!**



**MEN'S PRAYER**  
BREAKFAST

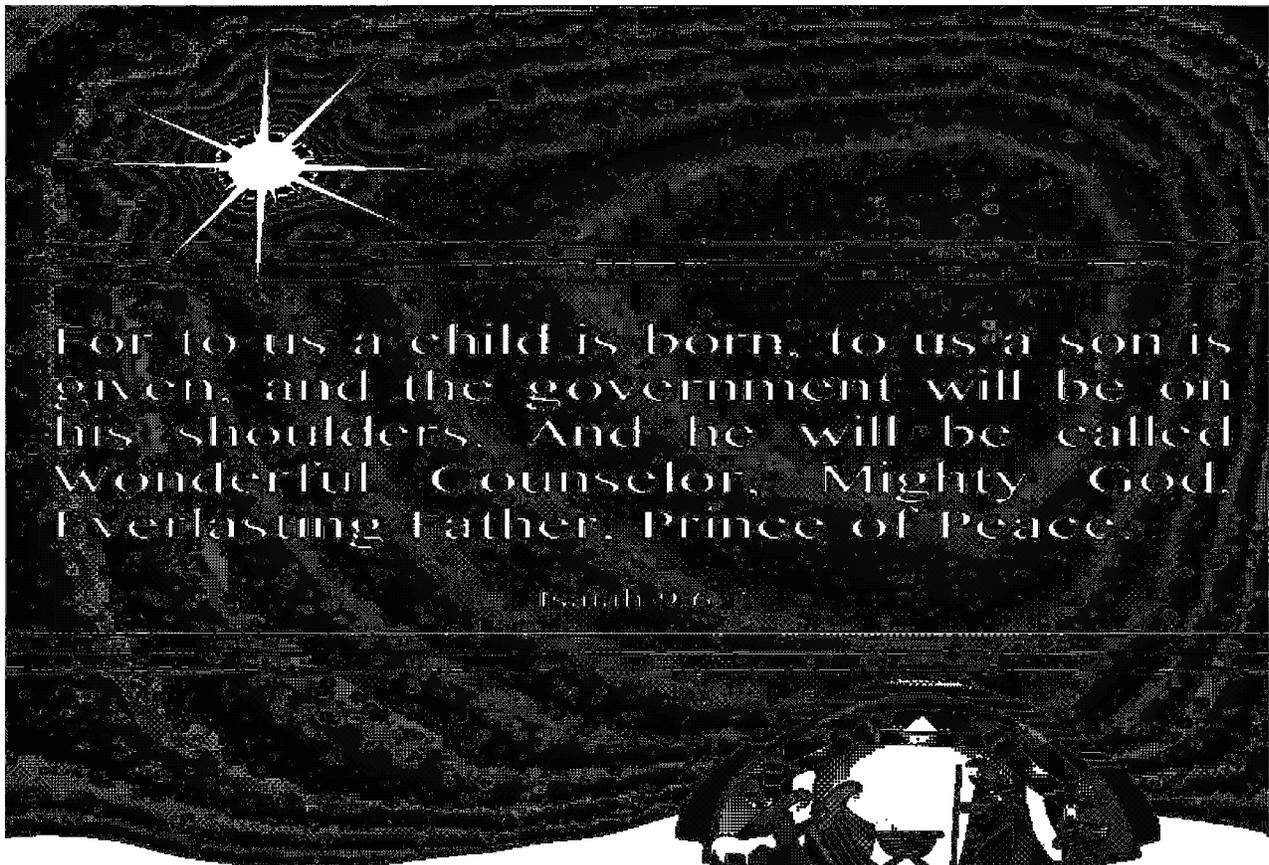
Saturday, December 13, 2014  
from 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.



**MEN'S PRAYER**  
BREAKFAST

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 9:6





Kid's

# Connection

December, 2014



# THE CHRISTMAS *Story*

# Minutes of the Elder's Meeting, held on November 5, 2014

Attendees: Phyllis Clark, Bob Hettlenger, Glenda Kasza, Ted Gehman, Pastor Weber, Sam Jacob, Chuck Bender, Paul Gigous, & Shyam Nair.

Devotion and Prayer: Ephesians 4:1-6 Paul writes telling us to be a prisoner for the Lord, be completely humble and gentle. It takes time and energy to be humble, to go out of our way to keep peace. There is only one body and one spirit. Jesus prayed for us to become one and to be a part of the whole, transformed to overcome the flesh. One God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

## Ministry Reports

Treasurer: Budgeted bank balance on 11/05/2014 was \$2,010.34.

Worship: The search for a Worship Leader is ongoing.

Christian Education: Vacation Bible School for 2015 will be initiated, staffing for the nursery is being addressed and we are seeking additional leadership for this team.

Hospitality & Encouragement: Focus on new members to the church, planning visits and encourage life of the Church. Cards and flowers have been sent for birthdays, anniversaries and to those who are ill or unable to attend church.

Missions: There is no meeting planned at the present time. Nothing new to report.

Prayer and Devotion: There is no meeting scheduled at the present time. The Afternoon of Prayer is being held the 16<sup>th</sup> of November following a light lunch at the Church. The Afternoon of Prayer will always be held the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month.

Stewardship & Support Services: The Stewardship team has been active in cleaning and remodeling the parsonage. Our goal is to start the parking lot reconstruction in the spring of 2015.

Ladies Ministry: The Ladies ministries will be working on their 2015 schedule. There is a Ladies breakfast scheduled for November 22, 9AM at the church.

Evangelism & Outreach: No new news at this time. The next meeting will be November 23<sup>rd</sup> after morning worship service.

Fellowship: There is no meeting scheduled at the present time. Working on next years calendar of events.

Men's Ministry: The Men's breakfast will be canceled this month and will meet the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month 8:30 AM; all men are welcome. Breakfast and devotion is the format.

## Old & New Business

- The Fire Department's "Crowd Manager Program" will be postponed until spring 2015.
- Worship leader position update: Kambui Tendaji has taken a position in Virginia.
- Capital funds Campaign: Pledges have exceeded \$170,000.00.
- All budgets are due for ministry teams.
- All annual Reports are due by Dec. 1, 2014.
- Elder Nominations begin.
- Started our first pass at the 2015 budget.

The next Elder's Meeting will be held Wednesday, Dec. 3, 2014.



## What kind of donut are you?

Are you a "Jesus filled" donut?

Or do you have another filling that is, well, not so "fulfilling"?

Perhaps you don't have a filling. Maybe you feel like a donut that has an empty hole...

*"Lord, we pray that you would be with us during this busy season. Help us to take time out to spend time with YOU. Fill us with the Holy Spirit. Help us to capture the wonder and fulfillment of knowing you. Amen."*



*"...they will call him  
Immanuel"  
— which means,  
"God with us."*



*Matthew 1:23*

## December Sunday School Line-Up Sunday School at 9:30 a.m.

Adult  
Bible  
Study

### "Jesus is Greater..."

Study led by John Gryparis  
on the Book of Hebrews



## Children's Classes

**Grades 1-6** led by Carla Weber

**Youth 7-12** led by Kim Gehman  
& Chuck Bender

**Nursery services are provided**



**Thursday Evenings  
7:00 p.m.  
at Sunny Place**

## "Jesus in 3-D"

A study through the  
Synoptic Gospels  
led by Pastor Pete

# DECEMBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
			Elder's Meeting 7:00 p.m. at Sunny Place	Adult Bible Study 7:00 p.m. at Sunny Place		Ladies Christmas Party 4pm at Ann Jacob's home
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
 Gingerbread Workshop 1:30—3:30 at Sunny Place			Christian Education Meeting 7:15 p.m. at Sunny Place	Adult Bible Study 7:00 p.m. at Sunny Place		Men's Breakfast 8:30-10:30a.m. at Sunny Place
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
 Church Christmas Dinner 12:30 p.m.				Adult Bible Study 7:00 p.m. at Sunny Place		
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Sweet Hour of Prayer following a light lunch 12:30 p.m. At Sunny Place						
28	29	30	31			