

# Southwest

## Church of Nazarene

### 365 Days Ahead

CHURCH NEWSLETTER  
DECEMBER 30, 2020 – VOLUME 41

*James 4:13-15*

*<sup>13</sup> Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit";*

*<sup>14</sup> whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away. <sup>15</sup> Instead you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that." NKJV*

Everyone enjoys thinking about the New Year's possibilities. We have 365 days that are just waiting to be filled with plans, hopes, and dreams. It is easy to simply start planning life, trying to figure out all the schedules and details... but we can't forget the most important piece of the puzzle. James said it like this, "If the Lord wills..." This needs to be a part of our daily prayer life, for He is the One in charge of this world. For all I know, I may not be here tomorrow... hope I am!

One day recently I pulled up to a local Starbucks drive thru for some coffee and thought to myself, "There's no one in line. That is a rarity at Starbucks!" But as I was waiting fruitlessly by the drive thru, I noticed no one was inside. For a normal workday I thought this was strange. I finally drove away perturbed that I had no coffee, and second, no one told me they were closed! I came to find out they were closed for two weeks due to COVID issues. This reminded me that no

matter what we have known, seen, or enjoyed in the past, it may not be there tomorrow. Apparently, the Lord wasn't "willing" for me to have Starbucks that morning.

In the wisdom literature we read in Proverbs 16:1,9, "The preparations of the heart belong to man, but the answer of the tongue is from the Lord" and "A man's heart plans his way, but the Lord directs his steps." In short, the Lord always has the final say. To leave God out of our equations is futile, even foolish. His will shall be done one way or another, because He is Sovereign. Therefore, the best way to face the future, our upcoming plans, and the many decisions we must make, is to bring everything before the Lord first and listen for His voice to give us proper direction. He has the power to pour out resources, bring about the right people at the right time, or He can blow the winds of change in our direction and crumble our house of cards we have tried to build from "our plans."

In 2021, let us remember Jeremiah 29:11, when the Lord spoke encouraging words about Israel's future, "For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope" (NKJV).

Let's trust His plans for our future... they are the best!

Pastor Scott & Cindy

## **Ways to Start the New Year Off Right:**

- Make a list of new books to read.
- List 12 books of the Bible to read this year, one per month.
- Create a new prayer list.
- List 5 people you want to contact or meet up with this month.
- Daily empty out the negative from your mind and refuel with the positive.
- Decide to take care of your body, mind, emotions, and spirit.
- Reflect, Evaluate, and Plan – what was it that you did not like about last year? What was out of your control? What was in your control but did not go so well? Ask God to show you how to have a better year in 2021.

## **Great verses that go along with these:**

- **Psalm 90:12**

So teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom. NKJV

- **Lamentations 3:22-25**

<sup>22</sup> Through the Lords' mercies we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not.

<sup>23</sup> They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness. <sup>24</sup> "The Lord is my portion," says my soul, "Therefore I hope in Him!"

<sup>25</sup> The Lord is good to those who wait for Him, to the soul who seeks Him. NKJV

- **Philippians 3:13-14**

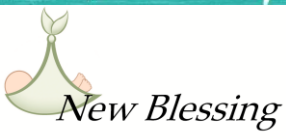
<sup>13</sup> Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting

those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, <sup>14</sup> I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. NKJV

- **Philippians 4:8-9**

<sup>8</sup> Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy – meditate on these things. <sup>9</sup> The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you. NKJV.

## **Announcements and Notes:**



**Stephen Hatchett and his fiancé Monique**

**welcomed a new baby boy named Legend Levi Hatchett on Tuesday, December 29<sup>th</sup> at 9:48am. He weighed 5 lbs 6 oz and was 18 1/4" long. Mother and baby are doing well. Congratulations on this special blessing!**



**From a food pantry recipient:**

**Thank you for all you do to help me and the people of our community. Much love and good wishes this holiday season.**

**Wendy & Takota**

# Upcoming Events:



- Wed., Dec. 30<sup>th</sup>: No Evening Prayer Meeting
- Fri., Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>: 7pm R!OT Youth Lock-In (will stay from Friday at 7pm to Saturday at 7am)
- Sun., Jan. 3<sup>rd</sup>: 10:40am Family Worship Service  
No Teen Quizzing Practice  
5:00-7:00pm R!OT Youth Meeting
- Wed., Jan. 6<sup>th</sup>: 6:30pm Prayer Meeting
- Fri., Jan. 8<sup>th</sup>: Church board reports due to Katrina ([southwest@swnazarene.org](mailto:southwest@swnazarene.org))
- Sun., Jan. 10<sup>th</sup>: 10:40am Worship Service & Children's Church  
3:00-5:00pm Teen Quizzing  
5:00-7:00pm R!OT Youth Meeting
- Tues., Jan. 12<sup>th</sup>: 6:30pm Church Board Meeting

## Praises:

- Praise the Lord for our Christmas Eve Service! The Lord's presence was near as Emily Apple did a monologue from Mary's story, and several people sang and played Christmas instrumentals. We then received communion and lit candles while we sang "Silent Night." It was a beautiful evening.
- Praise the Lord for the service and message Sunday! The younger Praise Team and Saralynn did an excellent job in leading us to worship, while Dave Metcalf gave a great message and people came to pray about needs in their life at the altar. God is working!
- Praise the Lord for those who were able to come back to church! We had a few families able to return after being hit with the COVID virus. So great to see them again!
- Praise the Lord for returning visitors! It was great to see a new family return and enjoy the service Sunday! Let's pray for the Joseph family this week.

## Prayer Needs:

- Prayer Requests can be found on the emailed and mailed versions of the church newsletter.