



# The Bethel Lighthouse

Season Three - Episode Twelve - December 2015

*Shining the Light of Christ to a broken world.*

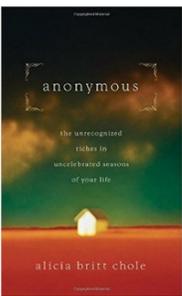
**From the Church Council** - At our Council Retreat last summer we discovered the following. "There are special, unique times when we experience a calling upward into a specialized task to soar with God." Based on Isaiah 40:31, please pray as your church council considers God's great vision for our work together.



Thanks to everyone who filled out a Church Schedule Survey. Your input was of much value. We have decided to keep the current schedule for the time being.

Progress is being made concerning the Anglican Church Plant strategy. We are looking forward to a meeting with the Anglican leaders soon.

**Wednesday Men's Group** - We are beginning a new series called "Joyful Effectiveness", a study in the book of Philippians. Come and find out what God has in store for you and how you can be joyful and effective.



**Women's Bible Study** - We will be studying "Anonymous" by Alicia Britt Chole. We all experience times of hiddenness, when our potential is unseen and our abilities unapplauded; college freshmen, transplanted professionals, new parents, the widowed, the retired, the waiting. Though we often want to rush through these anonymous seasons of the soul, they hold enormous power to cultivate character traits that cannot be developed in any other way!

Jesus was no exception, says author Alicia Britt Chole. Most of His first 30 years were not recorded and consequently are not celebrated. But unknown is not a synonym for unimportant! This hidden 90 percent of Jesus' life was essential! As it was for Jesus, so it is for us: personal hiddenness prepares us for true spiritual greatness. In these sacred spaces, God grows in us an unshakable identity, an accurate portrait of Himself, trust in His timing, and a disciplined imagination.

## #Giving Back

**Giving Back in December** - On December 5th over 500 cookies were delivered to Northview Church to be further transported to Tacoma for the Step-by-Step Christmas party benefitting at risk women and children. This year the Bethel children, under Greg's supervision, contributed to the cookie making, along with the Kupers, Judith Mayer, Sharon Thatcher, Barb Tappan and Terre Wilson.

There was also a dessert auction fundraiser for the Christ-

mas Basket project at Delta on Nov 21st. Another \$600 was raised.

**Christmas Baskets** - Several Bethel folks also participated in the yearly effort by Delta Church to put together Christmas Baskets for needy people in the community. This is an outreach that has been ongoing for many years and also takes many volunteers and hours of work to accomplish. The goal this year was to help 40 families with boxes of food for several meals and gifts for the children. Thanks and blessings to Sharon Argyl, the director of this valuable outreach. Thanks also to everyone who contributed.

**Christmas Caroling to Bethel** folks - There were 15 people who ventured out on the 20th of December to share the songs of Christmas with Bethel folks who cannot attend church. Team Prancer visited Ray Terry, Gail Dow & Jean Correll. Team Don-



At Gail Dow's home

der visited Vi Stolz, Glenna Skegrud, Billie Koch and Verona Hanson. Some of the children from the Sunday School program were also able to



Vi & Arna Stolz home

come along. This served as a great way to increase their involvement in church activities and make them feel more a part of the Bethel family.

**Bethel Christmas Music** - It was great to hear the Bethel Choir singing "Christmas Grace" (12/13) and the Orchestra playing along with the congregation and also performing "Christmas Joy" (12/20). MANY thanks to Donna Kuper for her diligence in rehearsing the choir and also to Dave & Robin Stangland for their direction of the Orchestra.

**Ground Zero** - 9 to 13 kids are involved each Friday night. The last messages were about the difference between King Herod and Christ. We are still planning a Dec 31st all-nighter. Please pray that Abe can get off night shift.

**Sunday School & Children's Church** - We finished the month with a cookie bake and decorating session as part of the church decorating party. We were able to donate most of the cookies to Step by Step with the rest for the church social time. The children were excited to participate and contribute while the church was being decorated; this was a great way

to start the Christmas season.

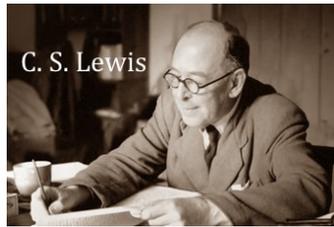
We have started a new quarter for curriculum and continue with steady attendance, although we are praying for an increase in the number of children at Bethel Baptist.



The Wednesday night Dinner & Bible Study crowd were presented with a view of the world "out there" from Stewart & Elaine Dow sharing insights from their two months in the Middle East and Stan Barta reporting on his time in Israel. It was great to hear of adventure and the Lord's work around the world.

A hearty "Welcome home" to **Steve Mosman**, back from his time serving as a substitute teacher at Rosslyn Academy in Nairobi Kenya. Steve filled in while the regular chemistry teacher recovered from being ill. Praise God for his preserving power and for this opportunity to have an impact on children of missionaries and internationals. Steve made it home just in time to play in the Bethel Orchestra.

**C.S. Lewis - Christmas** - In the December 25 reading from A Year with C. S. Lewis we have most appropriate excerpt from Miracles. It starts,



C. S. Lewis

"The central miracle asserted by Christians is the Incarnation." It's so easy to lose sight of the Gospel in light of all the hubbub that fills our Christmas season.

The Incarnation makes up the center and all the moving parts of God's plan. It is why the earth received form out of nothing, and why humanity became animated from dust. Perhaps God may have still come despite the necessity for our sin. We know that his want (not need) for relationship would remain. But, with the Fall, the intent of the Incarnation needed to be restoration, and the steps of the judges and the prophets and the kings all pointed in one direct dirge. "It relates not a series of disconnected raids on Nature," Lewis says, "but the various steps of a strategically coherent invasion—an invasion which intends complete



2015-2016 sessions.

API #1 & API #2

Seminar #4 Saturday January 2nd

First Year- 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Second Year- 12:00 Noon - 2:30 p.m.

*Find out how to take your deep need to God - Develop Breath Prayers, Pray through the Highs and Lows of your Timeline and grow in the skills of Soul Friendship Contact Pastor Wes or Theresa Schaudies.*

**API Retreat #2 - "Praying Our Triumphs & Challenges"**

Date: February 19-21, 2016

Cedar Springs Christian Retreat Center (Sumas, WA)

Make plans now to attend

conquest and 'occupation'."

When we mask Christmas in the joy of children and family, in twinkle lights and gifts under the tree, in reindeer and snowmen, we only place a disguise on the Truth of the Incarnation. The joy of children isn't wrong, but we need to become like children to see the foolishness of the Gospel. Family time creates place and identity, but our love needs to be enveloped in Jesus. The festivities and symbols that pull Christmas away from the manger need to be noticed so we might always be aware that Jesus is a suffering Messiah. He poses a threat (and an ask) to come and follow him.

If we waver on the Incarnation we cease to be Christian. "The fitness, and therefore the credibility, of the particular miracles depends on their relation to the Grand Miracle," Lewis says in reference to Jesus' coming.

"He comes down; down from the heights of absolute being into time and space, down into humanity down to the very roots and seabed of Nature He has created. But He goes down to come up again and bring the whole ruined world up with Him." Glory to God in the highest.

<http://blog.cslewis.com/the-grand-miracle/>

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- ◆ Saturday January 2nd - API #1 - 9am-1pm. API #2 - 12 noon-2pm.
- ◆ Tuesday January 5th - First Tuesday Fast & Pray. The theme is Spiritual renewal for God's people and His church
- ◆ Wednesday January 6th - Baby Shower for Jesus - Benefits the Pregnancy Resource Center.
- ◆ Saturday January 9th - 9am Church Work Day. 10am Second Saturday Sewing Circle.
- ◆ Sunday January 17th - 12:30pm Children's Mentoring Orientation.

Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 2 Corinthians 9:7



WANTED:  
Items for  
Charlie's  
Closet



Non-perishable items are needed for Charlie's Closet. We are in need of canned goods, pasta dinners, prepackaged snacks, cereal, rice & beans, Top Ramen (or similar) noodle soups, peanut butter & jam and anything else that will not spoil. Thanks!