



# Chapel Call

January/February 2011

## The Pastor's Corner

### Merry Christmas or Happy Holidays?

*Dear Friends,*

By the time you read this, Christmas 2010 will be a dimming memory. As I write, though, the feverish rush toward December 25 is in full spate. I heard again today more salvos from the ongoing, "Is it Merry Christmas or Happy Holidays" war. Seems someone is making a list and checking it twice.

It's a naughty or nice list. Your business is naughty if employees say Happy Holidays! You can figure out who makes the "nice," list, and, likely, who made up the list. That would be Christians who are concerned about Christ being squeezed out of Christmas and are feeling a bit persecuted by the politically correct crowd.

Well, here's a news flash! Very little of what passes for "Christmas" in our part of the world has anything at all to do with Christ, anyway. I suspect that Christ, himself, is disgusted with the annual orgy of spending and consumption that masquerades as His birthday celebration. That would be \$504 billion last year. In this country, alone. We may as well call it what it really is: a Happy Holiday. I'm going to save my Merry Christmases for those moments that I know are dear to Jesus:

when worshipping people sing to him, Emmanuel; when hungry people get fed, homeless people sheltered; when poor children receive enough gifts that they don't wonder why Santa only visits the rich and doesn't care about the good.

Here's a novel idea. How about the Chapel on the Hill, a community that is the very Body of Christ, celebrating his birth in a way that would please him? Yes, yes, I know. We give Angel Tree gifts. We have a food pantry offering. But what percentage of our total spending at Christmas does that giving represent? You do the math for yourself. Then ask yourself: "Whose birthday is it that I'm celebrating?"

You want to know a great irony? The same online paper reporting on the "Merry Christmas/Happy Holiday" flap carried an article titled, "With New Violence, More Christians Are Fleeing Iraq." Seems that 1.4 million Christians in Iraq are not particularly bothered whether their neighbors say Merry Christmas or Happy Holidays. They're worried that they may end up as one of the increasingly grim statistics, people who are dying everyday in Iraq for one reason: they belong to Jesus

Christ. Fifty-one Christians and two priests died in an October 31 attack on Our Lady of Salvation Church in



Bagdad. Last month, a dozen more were killed in Bagdad and Mosul, alone. All of them were targeted for their faith. As we crowded into pre-Christmas shopping malls, Christians in Iraq fled for their lives, often with only what they could pack in their cars. The wealthy set up house in Kurdistan. The poor sought safe haven in historic monasteries. They are reminiscent of the Holy Family fleeing to Egypt on that first Christmas.

So here's what I'm thinking: what if we took our portion of the \$504+ holiday spending next year, pooled it together and used it to save the lives of as many Christians in Iraq as we could resettle? "Dream on," you say? "Quit meddling, and leave Christmas, celebrating, presents, Santa and all that stuff alone, would you!" Maybe you're right. In that case, let me be the first to wish you, in advance, a "Happy Holiday!"

Warmly,

*Bob*

# Our Mission Trip to Kenya Was



**In** November 2010, Cheryl and I went to Kenya, Africa with Sally Bardin. We expected to see beautiful landscapes and poverty. What we were not prepared for was the hospitality, hard work and faith of the people.

We were in Limuru, Kenya, northwest of Nairobi. This area became a tea growing area for the British in the early 1900s. Most people with an education speak English, even though it is their third language behind Swahili and their tribal tongue.

The people work incredibly hard in the tea fields for \$1.25 a day. This, of course, is not enough to feed their families. Many children are malnourished and do not receive adequate medical care.

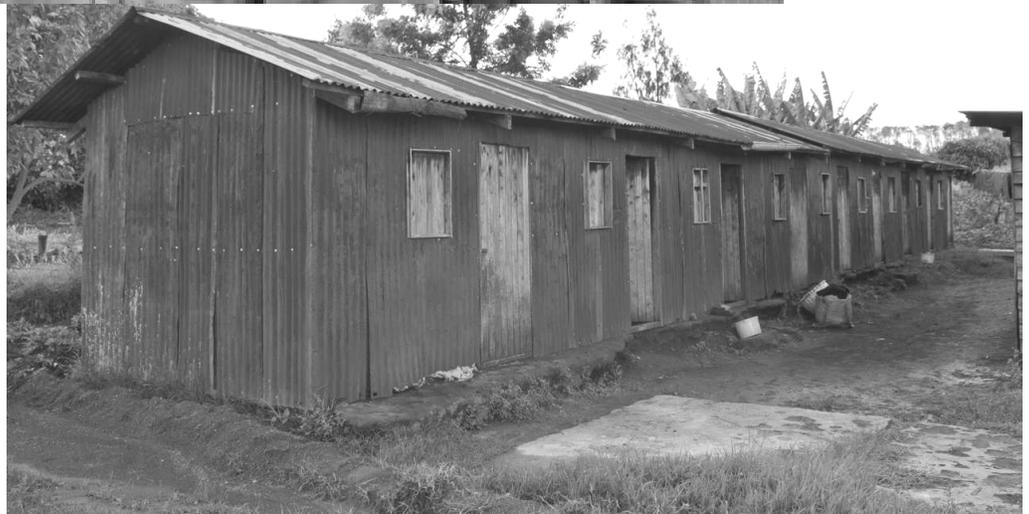
There are public schools, but 80 to 100 students are assigned to a class with one teacher. Children whose parents cannot afford to provide a uniform are not al-



# Even More Than Expected *By Don Johnston*

lowed to attend school. The quality of public school education is very poor. Private schools tend to be faith-based and are high quality, even though they have few class materials and books. We were constantly amazed by the motivation of each student. They have an insatiable appetite for learning.

If you would like to help the children of Kenya, go to the Tree of Lives Website at <https://app.etapestry.com/TreeofLives/OnlineDonation.html>. Or you can speak with me, Cheryl or Cynthia Hoffman. One hundred percent of all contributions go toward the mission in Kenya. All administration services are given by volunteers. Your donations are tax deductible.





# Great 2011 Season Planned for CAC *By Jeff Quinto*

## Mark

Badtke said something about the Christian Arts Center that bears repeating. He said that the joyous theater ministry that is the Christian Arts Centre and its Good Company has been an important part of the life of his family.

Further, he said that in the coming year he, Donna, Sean and Colleen would be working hard to get more Chapel members to become part of this amazing ministry. Don't be surprised if one of the Badtkes asks you to be a Pharisee in the Passion Play, Elvis in Joseph or to make costumes for Father of the Bride. An even better idea would be to seek them out and ask how you can help. The Christian Arts Centre is a blessing to the Chapel and a beacon to the greater community, allowing us to demonstrate the love of Christ to everyone who attends our performances.

### Huntley Brown Coming to Town

Acclaimed Christian concert pianist, Huntley Brown, will perform in the Chapel Sanctuary playing our grand piano on Saturday night, January 29. Huntley has performed all over the world and, in fact, just returned from a triumphant tour of Korea, Latvia and Ireland. You can get a preview of Huntley's dazzling talent by watching the videos on his website, [www.HuntleyBrown.org](http://www.HuntleyBrown.org), or by searching for "Huntley Brown" on YouTube.com. Tickets are \$10 and \$20 and are available from the Chapel



**Huntley Brown**

office or from Jeri Genz, Toni Quinto or me.

### Father of the Bride Coming in February

In early December, Director Sean Walker held auditions for our February presentation of Father of the Bride. I attended the tryouts and was given the crucial role of Red, the Furniture Mover. The play is so funny that during the tryouts we were all laughing hysterically at the dialogue when we did the initial read-through of the play. You won't want to miss this great production. Tickets for the February 18, 19, 25, 26 and 27 performances are \$10 and are on sale in the church office or by calling 262-245-9122.

### The Passion Play

In April, we will present The Passion Play, directed by Donna Badtke. The Passion Play is a clear statement of our

faith in a resurrected Christ. The seventy plus people in the play will be a testament to that faith and to the dynamic Christian community that is Chapel on the Hill. If you have not yet volunteered to be part of this production, please do so.

As you can see, we are set to have a wonderful season during 2011 at the Christian Arts Centre!

See you at the show,



**Mission Moments**

**Chapel Continues Mission Work** *By Cynthia Hoffman*

**Thanks** to all of you

who once again took part in the Salvation Army Bell Ringing Campaign, also know as the Keep Our Pastor Warm 2010 Campaign. In all, we rang the bells for 36 hours. Next year, we will be looking for a few “floaters” – folks who can fill in at the last minute if others can’t make their time. A good portion of the money raised in Walworth County stays in Walworth County.

Dresses continue to show up on the clothing rack in the parlor. Those blessed dress-making elves have sure been busy! Over 50 dresses were hand-delivered by Sally, Cheryl and Don when they made their trip to Kenya last fall, and the next batch of dresses is slated to go to Haiti when Gladys returns there in January.

Both countries continue to need help. We will have products from Kenya available for purchase at the missions table. Items include tea and hand-



**Gloria and Ralph Wallace**



**Creighton and Jeff Quinto**

**Food Panty**

Please remember our food pantry as you do your regular grocery shopping. I’m told the cupboards are quite bare. Take advantage of those “buy one get one” offers – buy one for yourself, and get one for the pantry. The economy continues to challenge all of us, and many are finding themselves in a real bind when they try to feed their families. Help us to help those who are less fortunate.

**Foreign Missions**

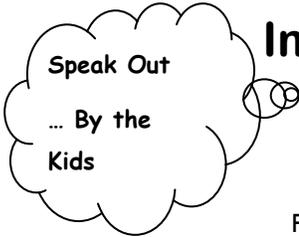
Our efforts continue in Kenya and Haiti. As a congregation we have come together to help sponsor the continuing education of a Kenyan student. Thanks to those who committed \$100 to make this happen. Kudos to Cheryl and Don Johnston, sponsoring the education of a second student.

crafted wooden birds. Stop by to do a little shopping. Proceeds will benefit our foreign missions.

**Youth Mission Trip**

Our missions group also helps the youth with some of the funding for their mission trip. The big bottle on the Missions table is a good place to drop off your change. All proceeds from the change bottle will go toward the youth trip.

If you have any questions about our missions involvement here at the Chapel, stop by and visit in the parlor. The missions table will be set up the second Sunday of each month. You may see me there at other times too – please take a minute to check us out.



# Impact Knows Music Is Powerful *By Anastasia Bouras*

## "Sing

joyful songs to the Lord!

Praise the mighty rock where we are safe. Come worship him with thankful hearts and songs of praise." Psalms 95 1-2

As you all know, the youth group, Impact, is a very talented musically. So I decided: Why not write an article about music?

Music is important to Impact for various reasons. Every week at youth group, we have a music video to go with our lessons, which helps us relate and understand. "I started listening to the lyrics and I realized music can have a message," said Riley Hinners.

So music can help us in troubled times and also in times of praise. Music means something different to everyone, but it is one of the things

we all have in common with each other. "Music paints a picture and it's different for everyone." said Jordon Drohner.

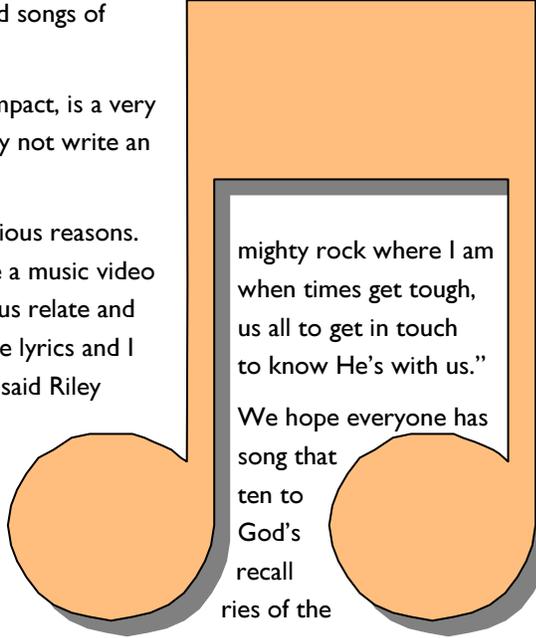
"Best of all it's my one direct contact with

God; anytime anywhere" said Abby Odden. "As Psalm 95 says, 'It is 'the safe,' so even music helps with God and

mighty rock where I am when times get tough, us all to get in touch to know He's with us."

We hope everyone has a favorite song that they can listen to and feel God's power or recall fond memories of the

past. I know I



## Birthdays & Anniversaries

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY

#### January

- 1 Susie Flemming
- 2 Amy Weckerle
- 4 Jesse Basile
- 8 Wesley Lindstrom
- 9 Matt Johnson
- 12 Lou Kowbel
- 13 Brenton Klawes
- 15 Roxanne Steen
- 16 Lily Hinners
- Greg Odden
- 19 George Hach
- 22 Lisa Noel
- 23 Wendy Regalia



- 26 Tony Nettekoven
- 29 Frank Licary

#### February

- 6 Bob Bardin
- 8 Julie Muth
- 9 Carol Starkey
- 10 Aaron Turner
- 11 Brittany Struble
- 15 Jake Steen
- 16 Marie Nelson
- Thomas Santoy
- 17 Greg Nettekoven
- 18 Marge Venema
- 20 Jeri Genz
- 21 Eileen Knutson

- 21 Jennifer Licary
- Dave Nordentoft
- 22 Joy Myers
- Connor Daniels
- 26 William Maack
- 27 Doug Gerber
- Nancy Hoeft
- Sandi Lechner

### HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

#### December

- 1 Jeff & Toni Quinto
- 6 Bill & Sandi Lechner
- 16 Jim & Joyce Kennedy
- 26 Phil and Sharon Barnhart



*Thank you ... to everyone who has blessed us with their prayers, heartfelt sympathy, compassion and support following the death of our loving husband and father, Jim Dornbusch. We always will treasure your kindness and Christian love.*

*God bless you,*

*Carol Dornbusch and family*



**As EI See It**

## Three Fingers Pointing Back *By Eileen Altenburg*

# Gossip

— Is it a big deal or not?

I started to tell dad about a troubling situation involving some relatives. Before I could say much, he said he preferred not to hear negative information about loved ones because he didn't want to think less of someone he loved, and he could do nothing to remedy the situation.

Shortly after that, I stumbled upon some unfavorable information about someone I admire. I stopped as soon as I realized I was about to read something I didn't want to know about that person, whether or not the information was true. I've realized one of the dangers of gossip, because now I don't know how to erase the damaging thoughts that already entered my brain.

Is gossip really a big deal? I found many Bible passages that warn about slander and the need to control your tongue. Jesus said, "I tell you that men will have to give account on the day of judgment for every careless word they have spoken. For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned."

The Book of James gives these words of advice: "Brothers, do not slander one another. If anyone considers himself religious and yet does not keep a tight rein on his tongue, he deceives himself and his religion is worthless." Ouch!

Gossiping can be like drinking too much alcohol. While you are involved in it, you feel rather light-headed and out of control; later, it can produce a hangover of diminished self-esteem as you realize how you cut someone down. Remember when you were a kid, and you were told that whenever you point a finger at someone else you have three fingers pointing back at you?

As I thought about gossip, I compared hearing and adding gossip to my brain with stirring mud into water. I decided that that wasn't a good analogy. Mud stirred into water eventually settles to the bottom, and the water is clear again. Gossip

thoughts don't settle out of my brain; they stay there, suspended among my other thoughts. How do I remove them? (I think God gives me topics He wants me to work on.)

It's easy to get caught up in gossip. Gossipers can make it sound as though they sincerely care about the well-being of the subject of the gossip, or they are burdened by the information and need to share it with someone else. But is the gossip's motive really to help someone? Or is the gossip's motive to bring the other person down to the gossip's size?

When it appears someone is about to dish out gossip, I need to politely let them know I don't want to hear it (as Dad did with me) or remove myself from the situation. A friend told me about being in a group who were gossiping about



several others. My friend got up, moved, and sat alone. The others scowled at her, but she felt better about herself.

How can we recognize gossip? Use this passage from Philippians to help you decide if the information is worth being passed on, "Whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things." When you hear news about someone, ask yourself- Is it true? Is it important? Is it admirable? Is it praiseworthy? If the answer is "no," to any of those questions, it's gossip. Moms were right, when they told us kids: "If you can't say something nice, don't say anything at all."

## From the office ... *By Jeannie Licary*

# It's

January 2011!

**Doesn't seem possible – does it?**

**So far this year, our calendar looks pretty organized. Please make note of the things we have listed, and pay attention to the calendar in the Sunday Bulletins and Chapel Website for updates.**

**January 6** - The Bethel Series starts every Thursday from 6:30 until 9:00 p.m. (ending in May for the summer).

**January 8, & 15** - Men's Small Group, 8:00 a.m. in the Parish Hall. (Changes in February).

**January 9** - Elders/Deacons Ordination. Hospitality Workgroup meeting following service.

**January 14** - Christian Education & Nurture Workgroup, 1:00 p.m. at Caribou.

**January 23** - Deacons meeting.

**January 29** - Huntley Brown, concert pianist, performance in Chapel sanctuary.

**January 30 through February 6** - Homeless shelter.

**February 2** - LOGOS begins.

**February 11 & 12** - Ladies retreat.

**February 13** - Hospitality Workgroup meeting.

**February 14** - Valentines Day.

**February 18, 19, 25, 26, 27** - "Father of the Bride" performances at Christian Arts Centre.

**February 27** Deacons meeting.

**March 5** - Talent show and silent auction.

**March 9** - Ash Wednesday.

**March 13** - Daylight Savings time begins.

**March 20** - Spring begins

**March 27** - Deacons meeting.

**Since none of these dates are written in stone, all are subject to change.**

**See how quickly Spring came!**

## Help Provide a Gift of Warmth

*My 2010 knitting season ended in October, and I'm happy to report: mission accomplished.*

*Last year, I completed 50 scarves for boys and 50 for girls, whose names were on our Christmas Angel Tree. Extra ones go to the food pantry for distribution. In addition, I made 15 just for men who will stay at The Chapel's homeless shelter. There are another 50 or so for general distribution.*

*During the summer, I was under the care of a visiting nurse, who told me about the mission of her church (Mt. Zion-Walworth) to provide aid to an Indian reservation in South Dakota before winter set in. These people were in dire need, so I knitted another 100 scarves for toddlers to teens. This was the first time my handiwork has gone outside of Walworth County.*

*I'm now knitting scarves for the winter of 2011. I need your donations of standard 4-ply yarn in any color or amount, since I mix and match colors. Each scarf is hand-fringed, which requires a good amount of yarn, as well.*

*I'd like to give special thanks to Marilyn Nelson and her sister for the huge bags of yarn they gave me. Please check your craft corners and ask neighbors, friends and relatives to do the same.*

*If you have special concerns for someone in need of a warm scarf, please let me know.*

*God Bless,*

*Doris Buschgne*

## Small Groups Grow to 113 Members *By Kathy Ferguson*

# Our

small groups have grown since last spring and we now have ten small groups which offer many different themes of study and service ministries. Our Fall Kick-Off was a huge success! I want to personally thank all of the small group leaders, because without you we would not have these small groups.

God has blessed these Chapel members with the gift of leadership and we have attracted 113 people from the congregation to be involved in small groups. Just check the calendar and try to find a night or day when something is not going on and some small group is not having a meeting!

As I have asked small group leaders and members what they feel about small groups, I have received many different responses. These people have said small groups have a lot to offer. In small group we study God's word and serve others in some way. But there is so much more than that. In small groups, members feel listened to and accepted; they feel trust, caring, love, comraderie, closeness, friendship, fellowship, and bonding. There is also a level of confidentiality which builds trust among the group's members.

You may ask: "Why small groups?" The nature of Christian faith is social. At its heart is a personal relationship with God incarnate in Jesus Christ. Jesus himself began his public

ministry by inviting others to accompany him and share in his life (Matthew 4:18-22, 9:9, 10:1-4).



In the context of a small group, Jesus came to know and be known by his disciples. He taught them, opened the Scriptures with them, worshiped and served with them.

Christian faith is lived in relationship with Christ

and others whom he gives to accompany us. We come to know and be known by Christ through the relationships he gives to us with others, especially those we might not choose for ourselves.

Faith formation is a constant movement of God's people who are desiring and seeking God.

Faith formation is the work of small groups. Small groups are vehicles for those who desire God and who seek to be molded by God. This molding happens when people strive to strengthen their faith through prayer, Bible study and Christian conversation. Small groups provide a place for this molding to take place.

Why not start 2011 off by exploring a small group here at The Chapel? If you already belong to a group, I encourage you to press on and continue growing closer to God.

If you have not found a group that is right for you, please feel free to contact me. We have opportunities for new groups to form.



# Wonderful World ... For Women Only *By Sally Bardin*

## Happy

New Year, Everyone!

This news item is exclusively for the ladies at the Chapel. And really, it's an invitation. Sorry, fellows, but sometimes a girl's gotta be with her girlfriends!

Wishing you could get away for a mini-vacation? We've got your ticket!



Wonder Full World is an unforgettable travel-themed retreat the women of our church are doing together. It includes worship, Bible study, and time for laughter as well as time for quiet reflection.

At Wonder Full World we'll "travel" to each of the seven continents. While there, we'll explore wonders of a woman's heart, such as, "I wonder if I matter to God" or "I wonder where God is when life is hard." We'll find the answer to each of these questions in the Bible and discover more of God's amazing love for us.



We'll begin with dinner on the evening of Friday, February 11, 2011 and will finish by 3:30 p.m. on the afternoon of the 12th. Our retreat will be held at George Williams University, and the cost is only \$100.00 per person! This covers three delicious meals, fun and refreshing activities, and comfortable lodging.

Call the Chapel office at 262-245-9122 for more information to learn more and register.

Take time to relax, to make new friends, to worship, and to explore God's wondrous love. We hope you'll join us at Wonder Full World!

### ***Chapel Call***

*September/October 2010*

***Chapel Call is published bi-monthly for members and friends of The Chapel on the Hill, Lake Geneva, Wisconsin.***

***Telephone: 262-245-9122***

***Website: [www.chapelonthehill.net](http://www.chapelonthehill.net)***

***E-mail: [info@chapelonthehill.net](mailto:info@chapelonthehill.net)***

***Sunday Worship Services are held at 10:30 a.m.***

***Back issues of Chapel Call can be viewed on our website, where Pastor Bardin's Sunday sermons also can be heard.***

# Love Letter from Your Almighty Father

My Dear Child,

I know everything about you. (Psalms 139:1)

I know when you sit down and when you rise up.  
(Psalms 139:2)

I am familiar with all your ways. (Psalms 139:3)  
Even the very hairs on your head are numbered.  
(Matthew 10:29-30)

For you were made in my image. (Genesis 1:27)

In me you live and move and have your being. For you  
are my offspring. (Acts 17:28)

I knew you even before you were conceived.  
(Jeremiah 1:4-5)

I chose you when I planned creation.  
(Ephesians 1:11-12)

You were not a mistake, for all your days are written  
in my book. (Psalms 139:15-16)

I determined the exact time of your birth and where  
you would live. (Acts 17:26)

You are fearfully and wonderfully made.  
(Psalms 139:14)

I knit you together in your mother's womb. (Psalm  
139:13)

And brought you forth on the day you were born.  
(Psalms 71:6)

And it is my desire to lavish my love on you.  
(1 John 3:1)

Simply because you are my child and I am your Father.  
(1 John 3:7)

Every good gift you receive comes from my hand.  
(James 1:17)

For I am your provider and I meet your needs.  
(Matthew 6:31-33)

My plan for your future has always been filled with  
hope. (Jeremiah 29:11)

Because I love you with an everlasting love.  
(Jeremiah 31:3)

My thoughts toward you are countless as the sand on  
the seashore. (Psalms 139:17-18)

And I rejoice over you with singing. (Zephaniah 3:17)

I will never stop doing good to you. (Jeremiah 32:40)

For you are my treasured possession. (Exodus 19:5)

For if you seek me with all your heart, you will find  
me. (Deuteronomy 4:29)

So, Delight in me and I will give you the desires of  
your heart. (Psalms 37:4)

For it is I who gave you those desires. (Philippians  
2:13)

I am able to do more for you than you could possibly  
imagine. (Ephesians 3:20)

For I am your greatest encourager. (2 Thessalonians  
2:16-17)

I am also the Father who comforts you in all your  
troubles. (2 Corinthians 1:3-4)

When you are brokenhearted, I am close to you.  
(Psalms 34:18)

As a shepherd carries a lamb, I have carried you  
close to my heart. (Isaiah 40:11)

One day I will wipe away every tear from your eyes.  
And I will take away all the pain you have suffered on  
this earth. (Revelation 21:3-4)

I am your Father, and I love you even as I love my  
son, Jesus. (John 17:23)

For in Jesus, my love for you is revealed. (John 17:26)

And to tell you that I am not counting your sins.  
Jesus died so that you and I could be reconciled.

(2 Corinthians 5:18-19)

His death was the ultimate expression of my love for  
you. (1 John 4:10)

I gave up everything I loved that I might gain your  
love. (Romans 8:31-32)

If you receive the gift of my son Jesus, you receive  
me. (1 John 2:23)

And nothing will ever separate you from my love  
again. (Romans 8:38-29)

When it's time for you to come home and I'll throw  
the biggest party heaven has ever seen. (Luke 15:7)

I have always been your Father, and will always be  
your Father. (Ephesians 3:14-15)

My question is ... Will you be my child?  
(John 1:12-13)

I am waiting for you. (Luke 15:11-32)

With Love, Your Father,  
Almighty God

(Adapted from God's Minute, [devotions@godsminute.org](mailto:devotions@godsminute.org))



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 Sunday Matinee  
 3:00 pm

Director by:  
**Sean Walker**

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