

GRACE BIBLE CHURCH

222 Boulder Drive, Gallup, NM 87301

Sunday School - 9:00 AM
Prayer Time - 6:00 PM

Worship Service - 10:15 AM
Edge - 6:00 PM

John W. Luginbuhl, Pastor

Rob Sanchez, Youth Pastor

Church Office: (505) 722-5114

Pastor's E-mail: john@gracebiblegallup.org

Youth Pastor's E-mail: rob@gracebiblegallup.org

www.gracebiblegallup.org

Grace Bible Church
~ The Lord's Day ~
December 9, 2012

WELCOME

9:00 AM
10:15 AM

Sunday School for all ages
Worship Service

Call To Worship
Welcome/Announcements
Praise & Worship
Prayer
Offering
Praise & Worship*

Scripture Reading

Luke 2:1-20

Message

John Luginbuhl

“Christmas Carol Theology!”
(Part 1: “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”)

Closing

*After this, children age 3 - grade 4 will be dismissed to Children's Church.

SERVING IN THE NURSERY TODAY:

Crawlers/Walkers Christina Nye & Rae Lynn Cosens

SERVING IN THE NURSERY NEXT SUNDAY:

Crawlers/Walkers Charity Chavez & Madison Sutliff

LATER TODAY...

2:30 PM Baby Shower for Angela & Hannah O'Bourke
 (see insert)

6:00 PM Prayer Time (Café)

6:00 PM Edge Group (after High School)

PRAISE & PETITION



“Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for He has visited us and accomplished redemption for His people.”

~ Luke 1:68

Praise the Lord for:

1. Our redemption - Salvation - through Jesus Christ, Whose birth we celebrate!
2. Forgiveness of sins, a place in heaven reserved for us, deliverance from Hell - all through faith in Jesus Christ and His finished work for us at Calvary.
3. Opportunities for ministry during this Christmas season.
4. Family and friends, both “near and far”.
5. The Body of Christ!
6. A wonderful Ladies’ Christmas Banquet last night!
7. The safe “arrival” of McKenna Jael Irving and Hannah Grace O’Bourke!

Petition the Lord for:

1. Those who are lonely and/or depressed this holiday season.
2. Those who will be traveling to see family and friends.
3. Families in our church going through the rough waters of life at this time. (Isa. 43:1,2)
4. College students “home for the holidays”. Pray for a refreshing time with family and friends.
5. Opportunities during the Christmas season to share our faith in Jesus with family and friends.
6. Couples preparing for marriage: Chris Piano & Sarah Luginbuhl (Sept. 21, 2013); Anders Berg & Jennifer Schell (no date set); Ryan Hamilton & Erica Sowers (no date set)
7. Concerning the very tense situation in the Middle East.
8. Becky Bierly, Ricky Lee (Nellie Lee’s son) both in Afghanistan.
9. Our President, military advisors, military men and women.
10. Ron Tallent (Carole Bertinetti’s brother): prostate and bone cancer; Staci Spolar’s uncle (cancer); Carol Reen (shingles)

“Christmas Carol Theology!”
(Part 1: “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”)
Luke 2:1-20

Thanksgiving is over and the Christmas season is upon us! Already we have heard Christmas carols played and sung in stores, restaurants, programs, on the radio and in church. No doubt we have quietly hummed or sung along as we have heard them! One week from tomorrow, many of us will be singing those carols at people’s homes as we have our annual All-Church Christmas Caroling! Many of these carols are so familiar that we miss the wonderful significance of the words. Let’s check out the first three stanzas of a familiar carol today...

I. Background

II. Theology

III. Response

This Week at Grace Bible...

(Here at the church unless otherwise noted.)

Monday, December 10

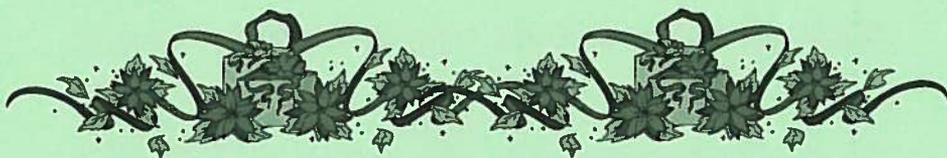
- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| 6:30 PM | Ladies' Bible Study ("The Pursuit of Holiness") |
| 6:30 PM-8:00 PM | Life Group (Colossians) at Marshalls' home (1419 Elva Drive) |
| 7:00 PM-9:00 PM | <u>No</u> Life Group (James) at the Luginbuhls' home (303 Cactus Rd.); resumes January 7 |
| 7:00 PM | Men's Prayer Time |

Tuesday, December 11

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| 9:30 AM | Ladies' Bible Study ("The Life of Christ")
(nursery available) |
| 5:00 PM | Handbell Rehearsal |
| 6:30 PM | FBI Class |
| 7:00 PM | Life Group at DenBleykers' home (615 VandenBosch) |

Wednesday, December 12

- | | |
|----------------|-------|
| 6:30 PM | AWANA |
|----------------|-------|



COMING SOON:

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| December 17 | All-Church Christmas Caroling (6:45 PM) |
| December 24 | Christmas Eve Service (7 PM) |
| February 15 | African Children's Choir with us |

Ladies....
You are invited to a
Baby Shower

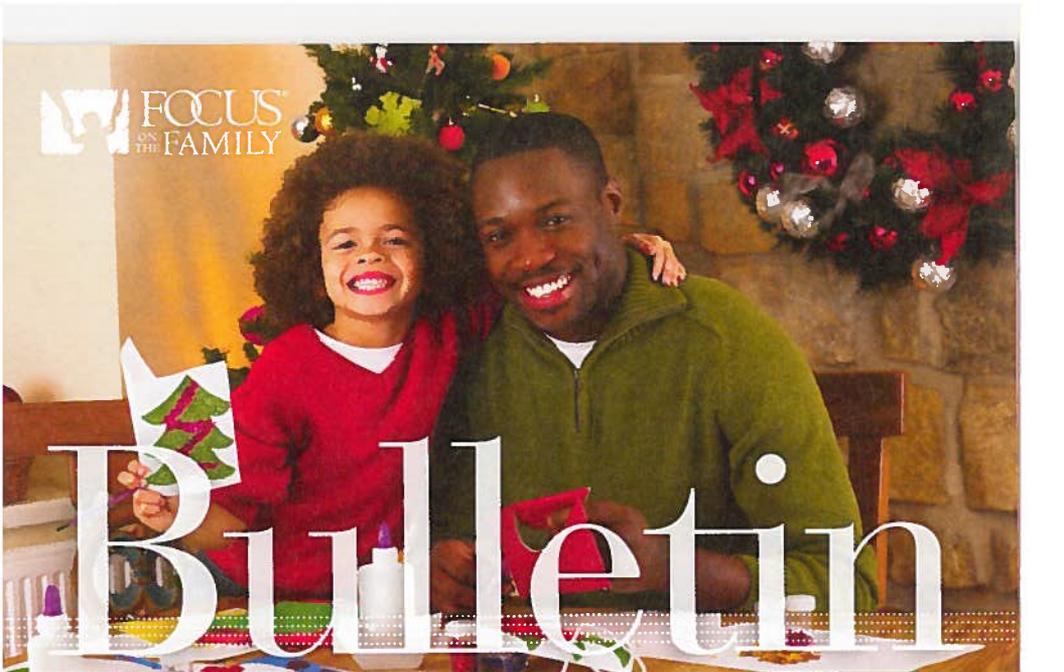
For **Angela** and baby
Hannah Grace O'Bourke
Sunday, December 9, 2012
2:30pm
At the Luginbuhl's home
(303 Cactus Road)

This is the perfect opportunity to get

to know
Angela
and meet
the new
baby.
Don't miss
out!

*Angela has set
up a baby
registry at
Wal-Mart*





Bulletin

DECEMBER
2012

A PUBLICATION OF FOCUS ON THE FAMILY®

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Holiday Movie Messages

BY BOB SMITHOUSER

IN MANY HOMES, THE CHRISTMAS SEASON ISN'T COMPLETE WITHOUT certain holiday films. My family settles in with hot cocoa and *A Christmas Carol*.

While we appreciate Ebenezer Scrooge's promise to be more generous, something important is missing: The story doesn't address his need for the Savior. No matter which version of this classic tale we watch, we remind our kids that true redemption comes from faith in Jesus Christ.

Then there's *Miracle on 34th Street*, *Elf* and *The Polar Express*, which take us on a journey toward belief . . . in Santa Claus. As families enjoy these films, parents can point out that the object of our faith is the Savior born on Christmas.

And who doesn't love the charm and life lessons of *It's a Wonderful Life*? Yet the story stumbles through an unbiblical portrayal of angels. Parents can shed light on the inaccuracies while embracing the importance of a life devoted to helping others.

As we pop in the Christmas DVDs this year, we should be sensitive to faulty philosophies in even the sweetest holiday movies. As you discuss them with your children, highlight the positives and refer to the truth of God's Word. There's no better story to enjoy as a family than the true account recorded in Luke 2.



TOUGH QUESTIONS FROM KIDS

Why can't I
see angels?

Answer on back



Symbols of Christmas

Children's author Sally Lloyd-Jones encourages parents to allow their children to help decorate for the celebration of Christ's birth.

"I love to involve children in the excitement of Jesus' coming," Sally says. "God's people waited for Him, and in Advent we're waiting, too. We're getting ready for Him; we're preparing our homes and our hearts for Him."

Consider relating biblical symbolism and stories to items you use while decorating the tree. As you string the lights, you might remind your kids that Jesus is the Light of the World.

The star on the top of the tree represents the star that led the wise men to where Jesus was born. Here are a few additional insights to share while decorating together:

Christmas tree: Evergreens don't lose their greenery. These trees can be symbolic of something that doesn't end and compared to eternal life.

Angel ornaments: God sent His choir of angels to proclaim the Good News to the shepherds.

Gifts: The greatest gift of all is Jesus Christ. God sent His only Son to pay the price for our sins.



A Grace-Filled Christmas

It's a sad reality that emotions can run high during holidays. Husbands and wives find themselves arguing about how much to spend on gifts and with which family they should have Christmas dinner. But just like the credit card bill and the extra calories, many marriages have a day of reckoning in January when they're faced with cleaning up after the conflicts of the holiday rush.

Perhaps the best present you can give each other this holiday season is the gift of grace. Extending grace begins with intentionally communicating and praying together. Talk about your expectations and anxieties as the holidays approach. Discuss what you want the calendar and bank balance to look like throughout December and into 2013.

Maybe it's time to begin a new Christmas tradition of setting aside time to focus on each other. Consider exchanging gifts privately, and for New Year's, try a celebration for just the two of you—no party crowds, no kids.

The beauty of Christmas can be found in remembering the love and grace that came to the world wrapped in the gift of Jesus. As you reflect on the birth of our Savior, put His love into practice with the most significant person in your life.

—Dr. Juli Slattery

Beyond Presents & Pancakes

Since our sons, Trent and Troy, were little, we've gathered as a family for a devotional time during the Christmas season. Some years, that's been daunting, but as the boys have grown older, it's become easier for all of us to keep focused. Then on Christmas morning, we rise with the sun, open gifts and enjoy a breakfast feast of red and green pancakes. Traditions are an integral part of our family, but we're always eager to refresh our perspective on Christmas.

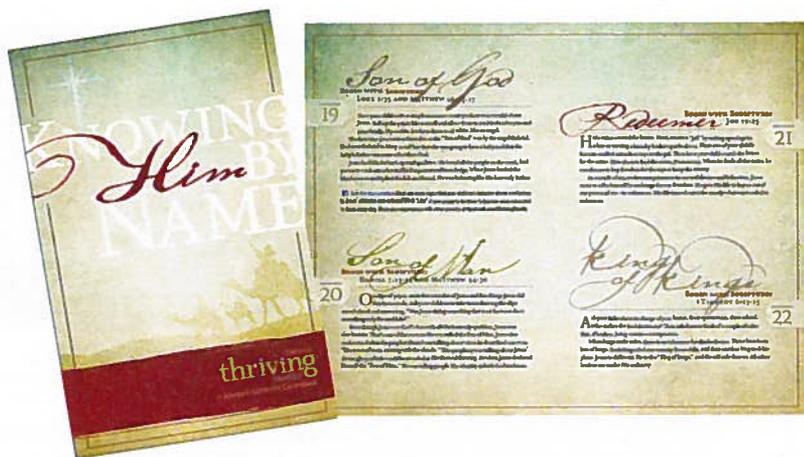
Through all the ups and downs of this past year, I'm reminded of the true reason behind the season—not the

colorful presents and pancakes, but the story of the newborn King. The birth of Jesus is the gift that gives meaning to all gifts, and I want our boys to have a genuine understanding of the mighty Savior who arrived as a baby and was laid in a manger. I want them to truly know Jesus and His role in our lives.

As a father, I'm pleased to present *Thriving Family* magazine's 2012 Advent calendar, a practical, interactive way to journey through the season with your children. This year's theme teaches the names of Jesus, and

we'll focus on how Scripture uses different names to describe the character and role of the Savior. The pages of our calendar are filled with faith-based activities that will help your children develop a deeper understanding of the identity of Jesus. He is the Word, the Lion of the Tribe of Judah, the Lamb of God!

To get started, visit ThrivingFamily.com/free/advent. As you and your children study the Scriptures and enjoy the activities, I hope you will gain a new understanding of Jesus and of that silent night in Bethlehem. —*Jim Daly*



Family Matters

Answers to your questions . . .

Christmas is a very stressful time for our finances. How can we survive and enjoy the holidays?

Answer: Decisions we make in preparation for Christmas have an impact far beyond Christmas Day itself. Some of those decisions are economic, some involve the busyness of our schedules, others have to do with emotional pressure—but all of them build memories of the holiday season. Here are some suggestions to make Christmas better:

1. *Don't spend more money on Christmas than you can afford.* December 25 comes every single year. It's not a surprise, so plan for it.

2. *Give something of lasting value.* If you have small kids, it's easy to buy something you think they will enjoy, only to find that by the end of Christmas Day the toy is broken, worn out or boring to them. Let your kids know you'd rather pay the same money or more for something they will enjoy for a longer period of time.

3. *Do something meaningful for someone else.* Make it a family project of doing a good deed for a neighbor, shut-in or relative. It could be as easy as fixing a meal or baby-sitting.

4. *Focus on spiritual, not material, issues at Christmastime.* We should be willing to take the

focus of Christmas off the gifts, the decorations and the parties and try to do something creative with our families that reinforces the spiritual emphasis of Christmas.

5. *Give something to yourself at Christmas.* Not an impulse gift, but a commitment to do some things right in the following year: pay off debt, build an emergency fund, begin a saving plan, live within your means.

6. *Build memories.* By changing your focus to functions that build family memories, Christmas can become a highlight.

(This answer was taken from the Complete Guide to Faith-Based Family Finances by Ron Blue with Jeremy L. White.)

TOUGH QUESTIONS FROM KIDS

Answer:

Angels appear to people only when God tells them to. In the Bible, angelic appearances were quite rare—during the Exodus, the time of the judges, the time of Elijah, the time of Jesus' birth, and the time of the forming of the early church. In other words, God doesn't show off His angels. He has them appear when people really need to see them.

For more information on any of the topics in this bulletin, go to FocusOnTheFamily.com or call 800-A-FAMILY (232-6459). To reach Customer Service regarding your subscription, please call 800-692-9912. To check out more church resources and read the editor's thoughts, please visit us at www.tyndaleperiodicals.com.

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WE WELCOME YOU!

There are many good reasons for coming to church, but we hope that your joining us this Sunday morning includes the best reason: to thank and worship God for His amazing love revealed in the birth, life, and ministry, the suffering and death, and the wondrous resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ! This is what our church is all about! If you are visiting today, please fill out a guest card and place it in the offering plate, so that we can have a record of your visit. Thank you ... and visit us again!

The mission of our church is to prayerfully
prepare believers for worshipping God, serving
Christ, loving one another, and
reaching out to others!

2012 YEAR VERSE:

"As for God, His way is perfect. The Word of the LORD is flawless. He is a shield for all who take refuge in Him."

~Psalm 18:30

YOU ARE ENCOURAGED to begin thinking about and praying about a "Year Verse" for our church for 2013! Suggestions can be written out (please include which version of the Bible) and given to Pastor John or placed in the offering plate.



OUR THANKS to Broken Arrow Bible Ranch - as well as all the other ladies and men who helped in any way - for making last night's Ladies' Christmas Banquet a wonderful success! Approximately 75 women attended the event!

AS MENTIONED LAST SUNDAY ... IT'S A GIRL!

1.  McKenna Jael Irving, born to Rachel and Jeff Irving, Friday, November 30, 2012, 3:12 AM, at Rehoboth McKinley Christian Hospital, Gallup! McKenna was 8.6 lbs. at birth and was 20" long. She joins big sister Nizhoni in the Irving family.

2.  Hannah Grace O'Bourke, born to Angela and Phillip O'Bourke, Sunday, December 2, 2012, 4:45 AM, at Gallup Indian Medical Center! Hannah was 7 lbs., 1 oz., at birth and was 20" long. Hannah is the O'Bourke's first child.

Our congratulations to both couples and their families!!
Let's keep the Irvings and the O'Bourkes in our prayers
as they begin this new chapter in their lives!

ALL-CHURCH CHRISTMAS CAROLING! Dec. 17, 6:45 PM



- Meet at church and dress warmly!
- Bring the whole family!
- Refreshments after caroling.



CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE
Monday, December 24, 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM



OUR THANKS to all who helped decorate our Sanctuary, foyer, café, and hallway for Christmas! Looks beautiful!



A list of December birthdays and anniversaries of regular-attenders of Grace Bible is on the kitchen door. Please make (legible) corrections/additions right on the list. Thank you!

FROM OUR FINANCIAL SECRETARY:

"Notice to donors: Donors are advised not to file their federal income tax return before they receive their contributions receipt from the church. Also, donors wishing to 'catch up' on their financial commitments to the church must deliver such contributions before Jan. 1, 2013, to be credited to 2012, (mailed-in contributions must be post-marked by Dec. 31). Backdating is not allowed by the IRS. See Paul Schell for advice."

This Week in Church History...

On December 13, 1835, Phillips Brooks, American Episcopal clergyman, was born in Boston, Massachusetts. In 1859, he was ordained and began his first pastorate in Philadelphia. He transferred to Trinity Episcopal church in Boston in 1869 and remained there until 1891. Brooks became famous as a preacher of exceptional personality, charm, and spiritual force. He produced five volumes of sermons; and five more were published after his death in 1893. He also wrote the Christmas Carol, "O Little Town of Bethlehem" for the children of his Sunday School, after a visit to the Holy Land in 1868.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK...

"Tomorrow's history has already been written ... at the name of Jesus every knee must bow."

- Paul E. Kauffman