

Pittsburgh District

Church of the Nazarene

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December 2015



Rev. J Bret Metcalfe
District Superintendent

I ordered Terri a birthday present thinking that I had plenty of time for it to come in. I received the confirmation and all was good until I saw the expected delivery date. The expected delivery date is over a month away! How does that even happen? I contacted the place of purchase and they told me since it was a “collectable” they do not pre-make any of these items. I knew Terri wanted it, so I let the order stand and just showed her a picture. It was a little disheartening, but when things are ordered, you are at the mercy of the provider. In a way, we could say that we are in the season of advent for her gift. We are awaiting its arrival. With anticipation we wait and hope it is worth the wait.

Christians around the world are now in the season of Advent. Unlike those over 2,000 years ago, Christians today celebrate the birth of Christ beginning four weeks before the Sunday of celebration. Each week, in many churches around the world, a candle is lit and an Advent thought is read, leading up to the day that we recognize as the Savior coming into the world. I wonder what people were doing four weeks before Mary and Joseph made their way to Bethlehem? Did they even know? Were they even aware of what was about to take place? Probably not.

Unfortunately today, even with the knowledge of the birth of Christ, many people have no clue as to what the event or even what Jesus means for the world today. For too many people, Christmas is all about the stuff they get. Most of which will be worn out, traded off, forgotten about, or simply discarded as no longer relevant. For too many people, the birth of Christ, the greatest gift ever, will not be talked about. For too many people, they will go through the month of December and view the events as just another party to attend, gift to buy, or money to spend.

The greatest Gift ever given is not for purchase, it is given freely. It is the only Gift that is the perfect size, never gets old, never wears out, or never becomes irrelevant. It is the Gift for all ages and all peoples. It is a gift that requires no waiting as it is available the moment you accept Jesus as your Savior. Who might need to receive this great Gift? Can you think of someone? We are in the season of Advent – the coming again of Jesus. Those who are in Christ are eagerly awaiting His return. Do your friends or family share your anticipation? May your Advent celebrations draw those who do not know Christ to the Christ of Advent.

Have a blessed Christmas season.

Walking with you, J Bret

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PITTSBURGH DISTRICT CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE



UNIFYING CHURCHES

Unifying Churches

Psalm 133:1 (ESV)

133 Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity!

While we want to see the churches of the Nazarene on the Pittsburgh District become unified, we know it cannot stop there. We must be willing to work together as Christians in our communities for the sake of the kingdom. The Great Judge will not judge pastors on their attendance reported, however, they will be judged on their actions and what they did for the kingdom.



EMPOWERING BELIEVERS

Empowering Believers

Ephesians 4:11-13 (ESV)

¹¹ And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, ¹² to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, ¹³ until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.

One of the greatest revelations that pastors can accept is that they cannot do it all. Therefore, they need active believers to assist them in proclaiming the message of Christ. With that in mind, pastors need to honor those who gather weekly with them by empowering or discipling them to do the work Jesus called each to do, “Make disciples” (Matthew 28:18-20). In order for believers to be active in following the command of Jesus, they must be empowered. It is imperative that each believer learns their gifting and how to use their gifts for the kingdom.



ADVANCING THE KINGDOM

Advancing the Kingdom

Acts 1:8 (ESV)

⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

The goal of all believers should be to advance the kingdom. While each person is saved individually, their Christian walk must be lived out in community. By pastors and believers working together in unity and by believers growing in their faith and maturing to the point of living out what Jesus commanded, the kingdom will advance. This takes complete cooperation and unity. Christians are not on earth to build themselves up, we are here to worship and glorify God. By being witnesses, we will be able to see the kingdom advance.



Rev. David Smith
SDMI Chair

Sunday School Discipleship Ministries International

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SUNDAY SCHOOL | DISCIPLESHIP
MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL

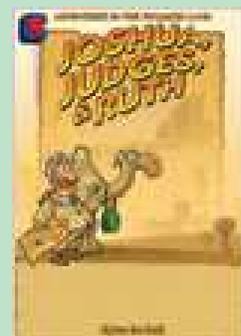
Find Us Faithful

This time of year always stirs within my heart the desire to reach beyond justice to mercy. Nativity scenes have been significant to me ever since I can remember. When I look at the holy family, an unwed mother, a faithful and humble young man, and gaze at the Kings from afar, shepherds, sheep and angel, I can't begin to fathom that God became a tiny baby and brought these unlikely people together. What does a shepherd have in common with a king, or a king with a shepherd? I realize it is only the incarnation of God that could bring these very diverse groups together and give them a commonality; peace with one another.

God's revealed plan to love has impacted me in a way I cannot quite understand. Many families are so broken they allow the peace the Christ child has brought to pass by without any thought. To me, this time of year makes me focus on the reconciliation of family and friendships that have been broken. Any argument or resentment gets dim in light of what really matters. Christ is what matters. Our eternal life is what matters. It won't matter in 90 years what kind of arguments we have, or how someone hurt our ego or feelings. One day we will face the reality of our hope and stand in the light of His presence and be changed by His glory. I bet then any problem or situation will not matter because Christ is all.

So this Christmas as you gaze at the nativity scene in your home, and ponder on what really matters, make steps to reconcile with those you need to. Demonstrate your faith by setting aside all that hinders you from living your faith. Restore relationships. Make every effort to do what leads to peace. This is how the world can know the greatness of His love. Blessings to you and your family and have a very Merry Christmas.

Children's Bible Quizzing



Merry Christmas to all! Keep studying as you prepare for the 2nd invitational on February 27. And what about those memory verses? Are you prepared?

**Locations are:
NORTHERN TIER:
Albion
SOUTHERN TIER:
South Hills**

**Email Joanne Tutor
with any quizzing
related messages at
pghnazquizzers@yahoo.com**

Snowflake Craft & Gift Show

Saturday, December 5

9 AM - 3 PM

Mt. Chestnut Nazarene Center

177 North Road * Butler, PA 16001

724.287.5867

More than 50 Vendors!

*** FREE Admission * FREE Parking * Lunch available in Dining Hall ***

Come shop our craft and gift booths. Find the perfect gift!

Hall available for rent:

Graduations * Anniversaries * Reunions * Weddings * Meetings * Special Events

Somerset Church of the Nazarene

Sunday, December 13

Adult choir will be performing our Christmas Cantata

Sunday, December 20

Children will be performing their Christmas program

Thursday, December 24 at 6:00 PM

Our candlelight Christmas Eve service



Spring Ladies' Retreat

Friday-Saturday, March 11-12, 2016



Our speaker, Carol Broadbooks, is the wife of Robert Broadbooks, Regional Director for the USA/Canada Region of the Church of the Nazarene. Carol has been actively involved in ministry. She has a love for scripture memorization, intercessory prayer, and speaking to ladies' groups. She graduated from MidAmerica Nazarene University with a degree in elementary education. Registration forms will be sent to your Pastors and SDMI Directors in January. Check our website for info and updates at www.pghnazwomn.org.

NMI News

If you missed Fall Deputation with Bill and Gail Patch, you missed Bill challenging us to serve God wherever you are with full obedience. You missed how Bill and Gail shared their story of how they got to Korea in the monsoon season and how Bill fell in love with the people of there. You missed the challenge of “right people feel committed to that God will work.” You missed a great story.



Thank you churches, pastors, NMI presidents for attending and the great job of putting your service together. They spoke at Union City, Titusville, Clarion, West Sunbury, and Somerset. They will be at New Brighton on November 15 in the evening.

God planned this weekend and what a great revealing pieces of a puzzle I saw. Gail asked me how they were picked to speak. My response “it was totally a God thing”.

If you still can send in a deputation offering to Debby Shutak and she will forward it towards the Patch’s project, The Mango Tree – a school taking care of and teaching children and adults with significant disabilities in Korea. This is near and dear to their hearts.

Pastor Peter Roy, my husband and I will be delivering Pal Paks this next weekend - November 14 to Inez, Kentucky. I am excited to be part of this delivery. Thank you all for the many boxes we will be taking. Offerings and Pal Paks can still be brought to the Mission Station and we can take another trip.

Urgent need of all of your help. The Work and Witness group going to Nicaragua needs your help with the project money. Please pray and see if you could help us raise \$8,000 to help transform the Morella Church into a parsonage. The money needs to be sent in by the end of November. Yikes God’s closet of abundance needs to be opened. Would you be willing to help us out? Send that money to Marian Lineman, 213 High St. Bradford, PA 16701.

Thank you, Pittsburgh District once again. I can never say how you are loved and appreciated. Please pencil in June 18th, 2016 for a very special NMI convention. Start praying now for delegates for the General Convention in 2017 in Indianapolis.

Next time I hope to give you more details about the convention and speakers. Keep this in your prayers. It will be exciting, God has a BIG plan and as it is being unveiled it will be special.

Serving the Pittsburgh District, Sandy

On the Pittsburgh Promoter Mailing List?

If you want onto the Pittsburgh District Promoter e-mail list, please contact: David Marker at admarker@comcast.net.

The Promoter is published in the months of February, April, June, August, October and December of each year. Copies of all Promoter issues are also available on-line at the Pittsburgh District website at www.pghnazarene.org.

District Events Schedule * 2015

December 5: Annual Snowflake Craft
and Gift Show (District Center)

December 12: Dan Schall Concert
(District Center Dining Hall)

2016

January 9: District Children's Council
Meeting

February 27: 2nd 2015-2016 Children's
Quizzing Invitational (North - Albion
and South - South Hills)

February 28: Last day for Children's
Talent Competition/Local

March 11-12: District Ladies' Retreat

March 12: Children's Talent
Competitions/Zone (Locations TBA)

March 17-20: District Scrapbook
Retreat (District Center)

April 9: Children's Quizzing District
Finals (District Center MPB)

April 15-16: Women in Ministry Retreat

April 23: Pastor's Prayer Day

May 7: Children's Talent/District Finals
(District Center MPB)

June 11: NYI Convention

June 13-17: Kidz Camp

June 17-18: NMI Convention

June 18-23: NYI Teen Camp

June 24-25: District Assembly

June 26: District Unity Worship Service
(A.M.)

July 10-16: NYI-sponsored trip to
Encuentro, Puerto Rico

July 24-31: Family Camp

** Dates are subject to change.*

DISTRICT ALLOCATIONS:

Thank you for your faithful giving to the District Ministry Fund and the other allocations. Please remember to send your district allocations into the District, SDMI, NMI and NYI. If you haven't started giving, it's never too late!

Payments can be made to the following:

District Ministry Fund:

Henry Twentier, District Treasurer
177 North Road, Butler PA 16001

Make checks payable to:

***Pittsburgh District
Church of the Nazarene***

NMI:

Debra Shutak

428 Great Belt Road
Butler PA 16002

Make checks payable to:

Pittsburgh District NMI

SDMI:

Rev. Ronald Schaeffer
141 Tressler Drive
Confluence PA 15424

Make checks payable to:

Pittsburgh District SDMI

NYI:

Tom Aaron

141 Supervisor Drive
West Newton PA 15089

Make checks payable to:

Pittsburgh District NYI

ENC:

23 E Elm Avenue
Quincy MA 02170