

A Beacon of God to all People

Growing in Christ.....Sharing God's Love..... Reaching Out to the World



Believe.....Belong.....Serve

The Newsletter of the Parkwood United Methodist Church
Proudly serving the Parkwood Community for 55 years

Mark 1: 14-15

January, 2016

All your life have you looked away...

“They said, “Galileans, why are you standing here, looking toward heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same that you saw him go into heaven.”

-Acts 1:11

I will begin with a bit of honesty. As I write this, my mind is on other things. That week I've been looking forward to for quite some time is finally upon us. Star Wars will be premiering the Friday after this article is sent in. We're always looking forward to something are we not? Most normal folks were just looking forward to Christmas, not Star Wars. Advent is the season of waiting, of anticipating, of dreaming of the day Christ finally returns. But it's January. It's Christmas (Yup! Still is) and Epiphany is on the horizon. This is no longer the season of watching and waiting, but the appointed hour for us to go and tell what we finally saw.

Those were the words of Yoda to Luke Skywalker: “All your life have you looked away...to the future. Never your mind on where you were...what you were doing.” Life was happening all around him and he was more concerned with what hadn't happened yet. Likewise, the angels looking down at the disciples after Jesus ascended said something very similar.

“Don't just stand there! Jesus is coming back. You needn't worry about that. Instead, you need to tell someone!” Why wouldn't they want to tell someone? Why wouldn't we? Jesus is the Son of God! Jesus was born a baby in the manger! Jesus performed miracles, but none grander

than giving up his life, selflessly, for you and for me! Oh...and he came back from the dead, too!

There's no time to sit around. The time is now for us to go and tell someone about how Christ has changed our lives. Each of our stories are unique and each of our glory sightings can be a window for another to view God at work in the world around them. We've waited long enough. There's nothing we need to worry about on the horizon. Time is running out and now is the moment we've all been waiting for. Go! Tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

Pastor Nathan



SPIRITUAL OPPORTUNITIES



The Seekers Class

On Sunday January 17, 2016, the Seekers Class will begin the Study of **John, The Gospel of Light and Life** by Adam Hamilton. Please plan to join us.

The Seekers class meets at 9:30 in room 5

The Seekers class is moderated by Bob Newlin



the Jacob Class

The Shadow of a Doubt
Confronting Challenges to Faith

Bring your doubts out of the shadows and into the light.

"I don't believe it." In this five-week study, you'll learn that it's okay to have doubts about your faith. Everybody does at one point or the other. Author Talbot Davis suggests that the way to handle your doubts is to acknowledge and confront them. Using biblical stories as illustrations about doubt, he shows you how to bring your doubts out of the shadows and into the light so that you have the opportunity to experience a more authentic faith

the Jacob class meets at 9:30 in room 1

the Jacob class is moderated by Ron Byrd



Photo by Betty Romani

Praise the Lord...We had
95 people at our Christmas Eve
service!!

We've never had this many and it goes to show
everybody that GOD Lives.

GLORY



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU



Birthdays

Bob Jones 1-14

Alexander Nelson Omburo 1-17

Susan Clark 1-28

Jandy Mooney 1-28

Laura Denny 1-29

Henrik Ronni 1-30

Anniversaries

Bob & Betsy Newlin 1-2

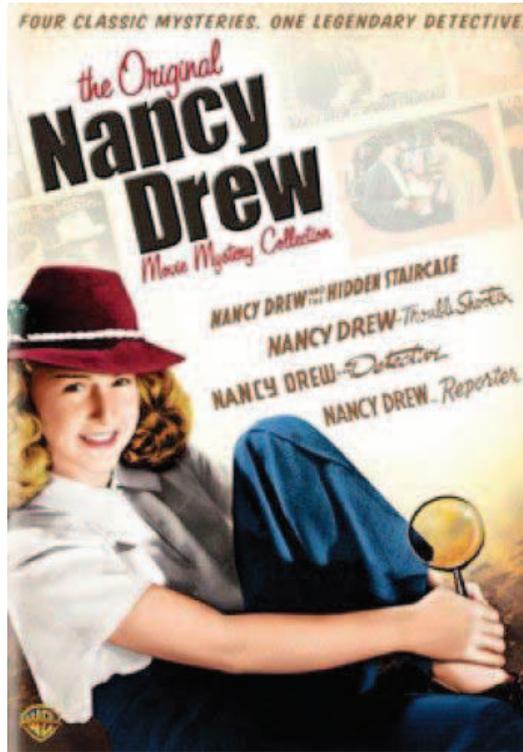
Bill & Linda Youngblood 1-26

Send birthdays and anniversaries to crabbyron@yahoo.com



Biblical King's Royal Seal Unearthed Near Temple Mount.....See Page 12

Friday Nite Movie Presents:...from1939 Double Feature



Friday, January 8th at 7:30 pm

Previews of Coming Attractions for 2016*

Feb.	Somewhere in time	1980	Christopher Reeve & Jayne Seymour
March	Where hope grows	2014	Christopher Polaka & David DeSantis
April	Blithe Spirit	1945	Rex Harrison & Constance Cummings
May	Court Martial of Billy Mitchell	1955	Gary Cooper & Charles Bickford
June	War room	2015	Pricilla C. Shirer & T.C. Stallings
July	North by Northwest	1959	Cary Grant & Eva Marie Saint
Aug.	Little Boy	2015	Emily Watson & Jakob Salvati
Sept.	They Were Expendable	1945	John Wayne & Donna Reed & Robert Montgomery
Oct.	The Robe	1953	Richard Burton & Jean Simmons
Nov.	The Glenn Miller Story	1954	Jimmy Stewart & June Allyson
Dec.	The Good Witch's Gift	2010	Catherine Bell & Chris Potter

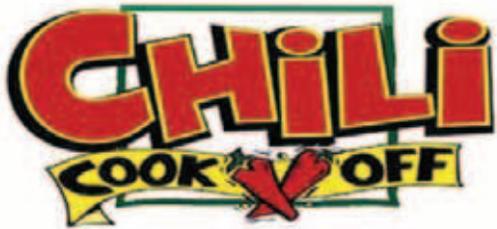
*subject to change

Parkwood United Methodist Men



Men's Breakfast

The Parkwood UMM will meet on Saturday morning January 16th, 2016, for breakfast at Beneties Restaurant in the Greenwood Commons shopping center off Sedwick road at 8:00 am



Parkwood United Methodist Men presents: Our annual Great Chili Cook-Off competition On January 31st right after services. Please Support the UMM Charities

Knit - PurI - Pray

Parkwood United Methodist Church
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
2nd. and 4th. Saturday



If you are an experienced knitter/crochet, beginner or a novice; you are welcome. We all have our own level of expertise and love to share.



News from the chicken coop

Eggs for the Durham Rescue Mission will be collected on Sunday, January 17th.

FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

CHRISTMAS: An explanation for what we just went through.

Christmas is one of those holidays that means different things to different people. It can be a spiritual time, a family time, a time for partying, or a time for just overeating. Most people, in countries where it is the main religious festival of the year, find something to enjoy about Christmas whether they are Christian or not.

Christmas in the consumer age has become a bit too big – and a lot too commercial.

The secret of a good Christmas is to be selective. Here is my personal list of the things Christmas would definitely be better without:

PLASTIC CHRISTMAS TREES

Fussy people don't like the trees that drop their needles on the carpet. Surely, in the age of vacuum cleaners this is not a problem anymore. Worst of all are those plastic trees that come with their own decorations already attached, so depriving children of the great joy of hanging decorations themselves. Replace with real fir trees from sustainable forests.

LIGHTS THAT DON'T WORK

We have sent people to the moon. Computers have changed our lives. On the internet huge amounts of information travel all over the world with the speed of light. So it shouldn't be too difficult to put a few light bulbs in a row so they last until New Year without breaking down. Replace with candles and fireproof fir trees.

ROCKIN' AROUND THE CHRISTMAS TREE

A stomping two-chord song from the dark ages of the 70s. Played endlessly in the malls and on the radio through December. It is the musical equivalent of jumping up and down in heavy boots and trying to drink beer at the same time.

BING CROSBY'S WHITE CHRISTMAS

While I'm on the subject of Christmas carols, lets not forget that this sentimental 1950s tune is the biggest selling single of all time. It's ideal for falling asleep in an armchair, but too nostalgic. And very annoying. Replace with "Silent Night", a beautiful German carol that everyone knows.

OFFICE PARTIES

Doesn't a computer decorated with tinsel and an office with paper chains hanging from the ceiling look just a tiny bit depressing? And office Christmas parties are worse. Under the

influence of cheap wine in paper coffee cups, strange things happen with the copier. Rude messages are faxed to clients. Most people can't relax in the office, and those who can will probably do something they'll regret later. Replace with an extra afternoon off work.

CAROLINA CHRISTMAS WEATHER

In the movies it always snows at Christmas. The countryside is covered with a beautiful white blanket, the perfect setting for a romantic happy ending. What's the reality of Christmas weather in the Carolinas? Grey skies with a good chance of a cold drizzle in the late afternoon. Replace with Russian Christmas weather.

TV

We spend more time in front of the TV at Christmas time than at any other time of the year. The TV schedules are filled with old films, comedy "Christmas Specials," soap operas with Christmas-related plots, and of course hundreds of ads. Switch off and visit your relatives instead. Replace with log fires, hot cocoa and board games.

TURKEY WITH CRANBERRY SAUCE

The usual Christmas dinner is turkey with cranberry sauce – although ultra-traditionalists may prefer goose. Cranberry sauce is basically a kind of jam. We don't put jam on meat at other times of the year, so why at Christmas. Replace with no cranberry sauce.

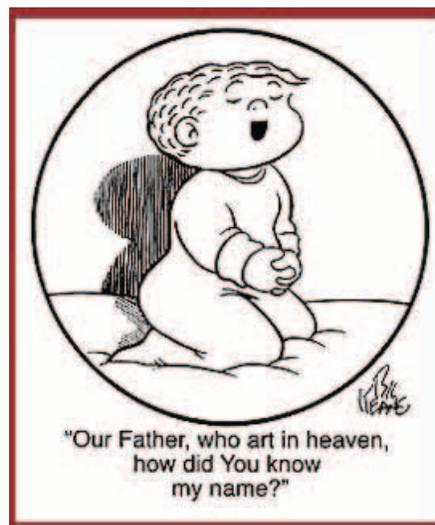
CONSUMERISM

You know what I mean. Ads for toys on children's TV. Department stores that put out Christmas decorations the day after Labor Day. The stress of Christmas shopping. Everywhere the message is spend, spend, spend. Christmas is a Christian religious festival to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. Replace with midnight carols at church, peace on earth, and good will to all men.

So that's my advice. Avoid these things and you'll have a good chance of having a truly Merry Christmas.

Which is what I wish you now.

And a Happy New Year



January Fellowship/ Refreshments

Jan 3. Florine Layman
Jan 10. Janie Henderson/Priscilla Thompson
Jan 17. Betsy Newlin
Jan 24 Pam Skidmore
Jan 31 Jan Schwarze

Hospitality Team
Jan 3 Betty Byrd
Jan 10 Debra Hayes
Jan 17 Dena Roberts
Jan 24 Brenda Stephans
Jan 31 Pam Skidmore
Sent from my Sprint phone.



A note from Cub Scout Pack 495:

"Wishing everyone at PUMC a very Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year from all the Scouts, leaders and parents of Pack 495."



Chancel Choir

You are cordially invited to join the Chancel Choir at Parkwood United Methodist Church. The choir meets weekly on Wednesday nights from 7:30-9:00 PM!





United Methodist Women

The United Methodist Women will meet on January 28th at 7:00 in the Fellowship Hall. This first meeting will be a planning meeting.

All women are invited to attend. And bring a friend.



LORD'S DAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SABBATH
					1 9:30 Senior Exercise Happy New Year!	2
3 9:30 Sunday School 11:00 Worship 12:00 Trustees 3-5 GS Rms 5,7	4 9:30 Senior Exercise	5 5:30-6:30 GS R5	6 9:30 Senior Exercise 7:30 Choir	7 6-8 Cubs Rm 7 7 Cubs Rms 1,3,4,5,6	8 9:30 Senior Exercise 7:30 Movie Nite: Nancy Drew	9 9-11 Knit, Purl, Pray
10 9:30 Sunday School 11:00 Worship 12:00 Finance 3-5 GS Rms 5,7	11 9:30 Senior Exercise	12 5:30-6:30 GS R5	13 9:30 Senior Exercise 7:30 Choir	14 6-8 Cubs Rm 7 7 Cubs Rms 1,3,4,5,6	15 9:30 Senior Exercise	16
17 9:30 Sunday School 11:00 Worship 12:00 Admin Council 3-5 GS Rms 5,7	18 9:30 Senior Exercise	19 5:30-6:30 GS R5	20 9:30 Senior Exercise 7:30 Choir	21 6-8 Cubs Rm 7 7 Cubs Rms 1,3,4,5,6	22 9:30 Senior Exercise	23 9-11 Knit, Purl, Pray
24 9:30 Sunday School 11:00 Worship 12:00 Sunday School Mtg. 3-5 GS Rms 5,7	25 9:30 Senior Exercise	26 5:30-6:30 GS R5	27 9:30 Senior Exercise 7:30 Choir	28 6-8 Cubs Rm 7 7 Cubs Rms 1,3,4,5,6	29 9:30 Senior Exercise	30 5:30 Come to the Table
31 9:30 Sunday School 11:00 Worship 3-5 GS Rms 5,7				Parkwood United Methodist Church	January	2016

TASK	JANUARY 3	JANUARY 10	JANUARY 17	JANUARY 24	JANUARY 31
9:15 Greeters	Jimmy & Florine Layman	Marie Porter & David Thompson	Ron & Betty Byrd	Herb & Jan Schwarze	Jimmy & Florine Layman
10:45 Greeters	Ron & Betty Byrd	Marietta Abbott	Ron & Susan Clark	Charlotte Thompson & David Thompson	Natalie Robson & Betsy Newlin
Infant Nursery	Marietta Abbott	Dianne Mitchell	Dena Roberts	Marietta Abbott	Dianne Mitchell
Ushers	Ann Farmer & David Thompson	Ron & Susan Clark	Clint & Natalie Robson	Ron & Betty Byrd	Priscilla Thompson & Janie Henderson
Altar Guild	Marietta Abbott	Jan Schwarze	Pat Nestler	Charlotte Thompson	Priscilla Thompson
Communion Set-Up					
Altar Flowers					
Member Care Cards	Jan Schwarze	Betty Byrd	Susan Oglesby	Pat Nestler	Jan Schwarze
Counters	Roger Jarrell & Eddie Hanson	Eddie Hanson & Frank Stephans	Frank Stephans & Herb Schwarze	Herb Schwarze & Ron Clark	Ron Clark & Jan Schwarze
FT & Lection Reader	Herb Schwarze	Pat Nestler	Ron Byrd	Bob Newlin	Ann Farmer
Fellowship Refreshments	Florine Layman	Janie Henderson	Betsy Newlin	Pam Skidmore	Jan Schwarze
Office Help	Jan Schwarze	Marietta Abbott	Bob Newlin	Nathan Wittman	Ron Byrd
Hospitality Greeter	Betty Byrd				

MINISTRY TEAM FOR JANUARY 2016 *If you can't serve on your day, please arrange for a substitute. Thanks!

Biblical King's Royal Seal Unearthed Near Temple Mount



By Tia Ghose



© Eilat Mazar, Photo: Oren Talbot

The seal of the Biblical King Hezekiah was recently unearthed on a trash heap. The seal shows a winged ...

The royal seal of an ancient biblical king has been unearthed near the Temple Mount in Jerusalem.

The seal, a clay impression depicting a two-winged sun with two ankh symbols on either side, was once used to seal papyrus documents associated with King Hezekiah, who ruled the kingdom of Judea from 727 B.C. to 698 B.C. The seal was unearthed in a trash heap near the walls of the ancient Temple Mount.

"Although seal impressions bearing King Hezekiah's name have already been known from the antiquities market since the middle of the 1990s — some with a winged scarab (dung beetle) symbol and others with a winged sun — this is the first time that a seal impression of an Israelite or Judean king has ever come to light in a scientific archaeological excavation," Eilat Mazar, an archaeologist at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem who led the excavations, said in a statement. [The Holy Land: 7 Amazing Archaeological Finds]

King Hezekiah is one of the most famous of the Israelite kings. During his reign, he rooted out idol worship, spruced up the decrepit temple and centralized power, as told in biblical accounts.

His reign is also one of the best documented by nonbiblical sources. The chronicles of the Assyrian kings Sargon II and Sennacherib, who laid siege to Jerusalem under Hezekiah's watch, describe the Israelite ruler paying tribute to them to fend off attacks. The

Assyrians laid siege to Jerusalem but did not vanquish the Judean kingdom in Hezekiah's lifetime, according to the Assyrian chronicles.

Amazing find

The team found the seal while sifting through archaeological remains from a trash heap found outside what was once the Royal Building, essentially the food pantry for the ancient kingdom.

When the researchers took a closer look, they realized the item was a seal with the following inscription: "Belonging to Hezekiah, [son of] Ahaz, king of Judah."

The seal measures about 0.5 inches (1.3 centimeters) across and bears the imprint of the ring that would have encircled the seal of soft clay. While similar seals have cropped up in local markets for two decades, this is the first time an official excavation has uncovered a seal from Hezekiah's reign.

The winged-sun imagery suggests the seal came from later in Hezekiah's rule. Earlier in his reign, Hezekiah used a scarab, or beetle, which was a typical symbol of power in the Middle East at the time. But in later life, he turned to the winged-sun imagery, which represented the protection and refuge of God. Other kings, such as the Assyrians, also employed this symbol, and Hezekiah's interactions with the Assyrians could have influenced his choice, the researchers wrote in a statement.

While the king's jars used a symbol of the winged creature with arms extended, the king's personalized seal depicted those wings turned downward, with the ankh symbols at either end.

The researchers hypothesize that this transition occurred after Hezekiah was struck by a mortal illness. Hezekiah faced a near-certain death from something called "shehin" (which a 2002 study in the Hebrew journal Harefuah suggested was actually anthrax). Hezekiah prayed to God, recovered and went on to live another 15 years, biblical accounts state. His brush with death may have made the ankh symbols, which represented life, even more significant to the Judean king, the researchers wrote in the statement.

And finally, A Little Humor That Goes a Long Way



"The last thing I remember is being thrown into the dryer."



"Hello, doc. This is the 'hypochondriac.'
Guess where I'm calling from."