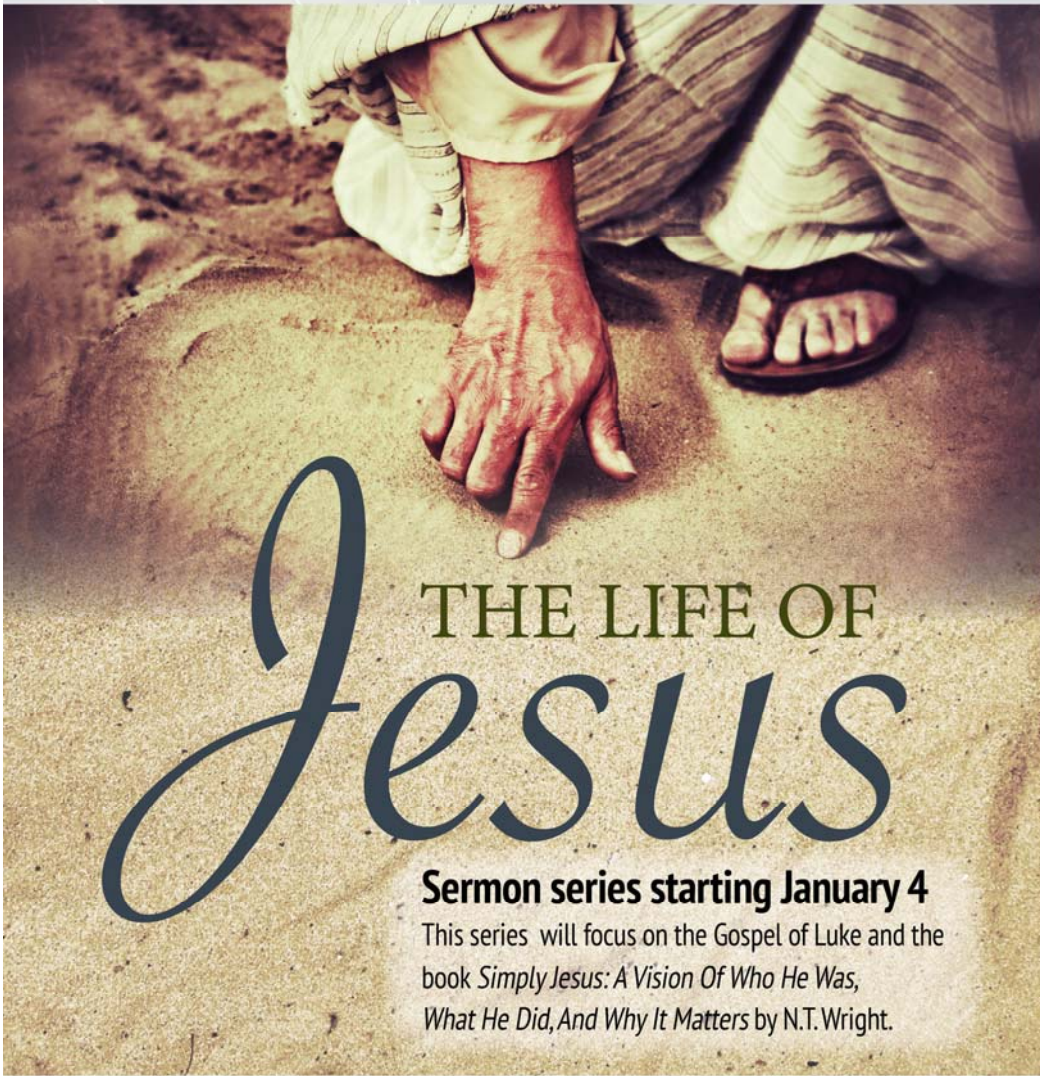


PARKER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Cross & Flame

January 2015



THE LIFE OF *Jesus*

Sermon series starting January 4

This series will focus on the Gospel of Luke and the book *Simply Jesus: A Vision Of Who He Was, What He Did, And Why It Matters* by N.T. Wright.

11805 South Pine Drive - Parker, CO 80134
303.841.3979 - www.parkerumc.org

“Looking Forward” by Randy Jessen, Senior Pastor



Reflection: Casting back light or heat or sound after striking a surface, an act of intense concentration; a favorable observation; the ability to bend and even bounce; long and careful thought.

Don't you find that the Christmas holiday and the start of a New Year cause us to instinctively reflect on the things past as we project our thoughts and lives into a new season of time? Do you spend some time reflecting, remembering as the calendar changes? I know, I do. In fact, I have a fairly regular process that helps me move from one season to the next with intention.

When I look back at 2014, I can only smile and give thanks. That doesn't mean that everything was green lights and blue skies. But it does mean that, in the balance, there were a lot of things that tend to create a spirit of thanksgiving. For example:

I am grateful for the way God has been directing the life of our congregation.

I am appreciative of the fact that we have a great minis-

try team.

I am thankful for the blessings that have come to our family.

I am blessed to have a hand in some very exciting mission projects.

I am gratified that the Lord has provided abundant opportunities that stretch my imagination.

Those are the kind of things that make me smile! I could break each one down for you if we had time, but for now, let me just say that I sense the daily presence of God. Would your reflection bring you to a similar place?

In a way, I think I can answer a part of that question before I add the question mark. Because I know that some among our fellowship have struggled. I know that truth for my own family and I know it is true for the bigger picture as well. But I also know that many of you have likewise been blessed to be a blessing to others. Thanks be to God that the balance of time always seems to swing solidly toward blessing!

One of my New Year practices is the process of taking time to renew, change, increase, or adjust

my personal Rule of Life. Each of faith. Wouldn't that be an interesting way to reflect in a very positive way?!

Each year, I look at my investment in prayer, my commitment to Scripture, my promises to my family, and my desire to serve in mission. From those broad categories, I set specific targets and goals for each area. My Rule of Life is then printed out and hung on my wall where it challenges me each day as I seek to walk the path of discipleship.

Invest your life for the Lord! It won't always be easy but it will result in long term blessing and a heart that is thankful. I am thankful for you! I look forward to seeing you in worship or on the mission field of life! God bless you all!

Perhaps your discipleship journey would be enhanced by setting some specific structure or goals around your commitment

Yours in Christ,
Randy Jessen

THE LIFE OF
Jesus

Sermon Series
Please join us starting Sunday January 4. This series will focus the life of Jesus as recorded in the Gospel of Luke: Who He Was, What He Did, And Why it Matters.

Bible Exploration Gatherings
We'll gather as a body at Parker UMC on Thursdays starting January 8 through February 12 at 2 pm and 6 pm. We'll take an in depth look at that week's scripture and sermon.

Worship Services Sundays at 8, 9:30 and 11:00 a.m.
• Nursery is provided at our 9:30 and 11:00 Sunday worship services.
• For more information please visit www.parkerumc.org

Sun. Date	Sermon Title	Chapter
January 4	Sacred Birth	2
January 11	Prophetic Teaching	6:27
January 18	Miraculous Healing	7
January 25	Disciple Maker	9 and 10
February 1	Instruction on Prayer	11
February 8	Shepherd of the Flock	15
February 15	Salvation for All	24

Rev. Pat Bell, Associate Pastor



Sending Jonah Over the Rail

Jonah said to them, "Pick me up and throw me into the sea; then the sea will quiet down

for you; for I know it is because of me that this storm has come upon you." – Jonah 1:12

Remember the story of Jonah? The little boat on which Jonah was traveling was getting tossed around by the sea during a big storm. The sailors started throwing overboard everything that they felt they could in order to keep the boat afloat. Finally, they woke up Jonah where he was in the hold and he told them that if they wanted to stay afloat, it was Jonah himself that they would have to throw overboard. Of course, they didn't want to but eventually they did and the storm stilled.

As we end 2014 and move into a new year, many of us are stopping and taking stock. For a lot of us, we will be throwing some things overboard. Too much stuff in the storage room? Overboard it goes. Too many things to

do in the course of a day? Something is going overboard. All this in hopes that the storms of life that rage around us might somehow be stilled.

However...There might be something, that one thing that God wants us to throw overboard. Maybe it's a sin that we can't let go of. Maybe it's an idol that we can't seem to stop worshipping. Maybe it's something that we have forgotten about but is there sleeping in the background.

Let's join together in throwing overboard anything that might be causing the storms and keeping us from fulfilling our calling in Christ. If we do, we can look forward to 2015 as a new year full of light and promise, God bless and Happy New Year!



Stephen Ministry

Are you going through a tough time? Would you be open to considering a Stephen Minister to help you through this difficult time?

Stephen Ministry is a one-on-one ministry in which trained Stephen Ministers spend about an hour each week with people who are dealing with life's challenges. Sometimes these relationships can go on for a month or two; sometimes much longer. The main role of a Stephen Minister is to listen, pray, and provide encouragement. Stephen Ministers aren't counselors and don't try to "fix" things. They help by just being present and listening. Female Stephen Min-

isters are paired with women; male Stephen Ministers with men. And everything that is shared with a Stephen Minister is confidential. Nothing is shared with church staff or anyone else – not even the fact that a specific person has a Stephen Minister.

If this is something you might be willing to consider, contact Randy or Pat and they will pass your name on to one of the Stephen Ministry leaders and he/she will give you a call to explore the possibilities with you.

Stephen Ministry At Parker UMC is alive and here to help!



Key January Events

- Wednesday 1/1 Church & Office closed for New Year's Day
- Sunday 1/4 Holy Communion. Sermon #1 "The Life of Jesus-Sacred Birth"
- Thursday 1/8 "The Life of Jesus" conversations at 2p and 6p
- Sunday 1/11 Sermon #2 "The Life of Jesus-Prophetic Teaching"
- Thursday 1/15 "The Life of Jesus" conversations at 2p and 6p
- Sunday 1/18 Sermon # 3 "The Life of Jesus-Miraculous Healing"
- Monday 1/19 Church & Office closed for Martin Luther King Day
- Thursday 1/22 "The Life of Jesus" conversations at 2p and 6p
- Sunday 1/25 Sermon #4 "The Life of Jesus-Disciple Maker"
- Thursday 1/29 "The Life of Jesus" conversations at 2p and 6p

Cody Anderson, Children & Family Ministry



Internet down! The two most feared words in our world today. It feels like the world is ending...

your palms start getting sweaty, your anxiety level starts going up, it is harder and harder to breathe. And that is exactly what we have going on here at the church this morning. No internet... whatever are we going to do? How am I going to know what is going on in the world? How am I going to stay connected? We have become so dependent on being "connected" all of the time, that we really are missing out on being truly connected.

I confess, I have my moments where I truly struggle at not being connected. I want to check my email, see who has "liked" my picture that I just posted, catch up on the latest news. Sometimes I can be so "connected" that I really miss out on being truly connected. My children are wanting me to watch something, and I am too busy checking out social media to give

them my undivided attention. My mom calls me on the phone, and I am not completely focusing on the conversation because I am too busy checking email. And that is just my family! What about my relationship with God?

Psalm 46:10 tells us to "Be still and know that I am God". Not pray and then remember that you really need to send out that email.... Not sit with your devotional and then check the news. Be still. If we could really be intentional about being still and being fully connected, not just with our families and friends, but also with God, our relationships will be strengthened in ways we never thought possible. I hope you join me in becoming disconnected more often so that we can become connected where it truly counts!



Cori Fitzpatrick, Director of Student Ministries



One month of full time ministry under my belt. As I adjust to life as a mother and a full time staff member, I feel myself relying on God more than ever. How can I do it all? How can I be a good mom, friend, wife, housekeeper, and good at my job too? When looking in my trusty Bible concordance under “change”, I came across 1Timothy 1:13-14. Paul tells Timothy to “Hold on to the pattern of right teaching you learned from me. And remember to live in the faith and love that you have in Christ Jesus. With the help of the Holy Spirit who lives within us, carefully guard what has been entrusted to you.”

to make wise decisions, focusing on my strengths and capabilities as well as what we feel the needs of the youth in our church are. I also am thinking about my own children, making sure to spend time with them. It’s a tough balance, and I realize I am not alone as many moms also work. I’m just new to it. I’m new to saying no to things I really want to do or saying “maybe later” when I hear a really good idea. I’m realizing I can’t do it all, and that’s okay. With all the changes taking place in my life right now, I am counting on my right teachings, my faith that God will always be by my side, and the Holy Spirit to help me find my best yes. And I pray that, wherever you are at in your life, that God will also guide your steps as He is guiding mine.

I’m a mom....and I just went from having 3 kids to 40 plus “kids”. My family and the youth in this church have been entrusted to me. If I am to “carefully guard” these two things, I must count on the Lord to help me! I don’t pretend to have all the answers, but I know that God and I are on this journey together. I will rely on God’s help





RETREAT IS COMING !!! March 6th beginning at 6:00pm going thru March 7 supper.

It is being planned especially for us “guys” that want: a set-aside time for 24 hours of special fellowship, interesting discussions, good food, and amazing accommodations! (Ok, I may have overstated the last part, but the beds are comfortable!) It will be at the Ponderosa Retreat and Conference Center about 40 miles south of PUMC.

We will have Mr. Dave Johnson as our discussion leader. He is a chaplain at a Colorado Springs Hospital. He returns to Denver weekends to attend Park Hill UMC. And he is highly recommended to us by Mr. Bill West, the President of our Rocky Mountain Conference United Methodist Men. In a long phone conversation with him, I learned: he grew up in the Carolinas, served in the military, has a Master of Divinity from Iliff, did not choose ordination, is very active in Park Hill UMC and its Men’s group. Several years ago he worked with Rev. John Thompson at Montebello UMC. He has several children and 5 grandchildren.

Adult Education

You are all children of the light and children of the day.

We do not belong to the night or to the darkness

1Thessalonians 5:5

New Beth Moore Bible Study!!

Wednesdays, beginning January 14th at 9:30 a – 11:00 in Room 137, next to the kitchen. We welcome you to join us!! Spread the Word.....Come with your friends!! *Children of the Day 1 & 2 Thessalonians.* Please email Susie Walker at suziew_10@msn.com or call 303-693-3338.

Happy New Year from your Prayer Ministry!

Remember to include Prayer as part of it. We can use people on the prayer links and on the prayer committee. Even though Advent has just ended Lent starts in February. The Ash Wednesday Taize Service will be at 7:00 pm on Wednesday February 18th. . It will be an evening of Singing, Readings, Meditation and the laying on of ashes, Taize originated in France.

Lay Leader—Ruth Wills



Greetings to All of You,

I pray your journeys through Advent and Christmas have been enriched by studies, sermons, group activities and individual times of attentiveness to our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ.

As we approach the new year of 2015, many of us have our calendars already filling up, while many are not sure what January will bring. Whatever the case, my prayer for you is that your relationship with God has been made more personal through these events of December, and that you will enter 2015 strengthened and enabled and filled with knowing that God loves you and works through you for enlarging God's Kingdom wherever you are.

The new lay leadership of the church has been published in

the December 2nd Annual Church Conference booklet. If you have not picked one up, check in the office to get one. This year's conference was not only informative but filled with a fun video of our Star Trek staff. I encourage you to take part in these annual conferences in the future!

Did you know we have several Councils here at PUMC: Church Council, where the church leaders (staff and lay) gather together, is held once a month on the first Tuesday at 7 pm – this council is always open for you to come and participate; then we also have a Children's Ministry Council, a Fine Arts Council, a Youth Council and a Preschool Council. New and continuing leadership is always important. Perhaps God is calling you to step out and be active in the future of PUMC. May God bless you today and every day,

Valentine's Dinner

Save the Date: February 15th 5:30-8:00p

RSVP on church website.

(Youth Fundraiser) Free-Will Donation

Come enjoy a night out with someone you love. Dinner, music and entertainment provided.

SAVE THE DATE
2015 UMW WOMEN'S RETREAT

The 2015 Women's Retreat is just months away! We are so excited to have our very own Cody Anderson as our guest speaker.

Our theme will be: What is it to have "child like" faith? With as busy as all of our adult lives are it will be great to explore ways we can have that type of faith again.

We will be at the Hideaway Inn located in Colorado Springs from February 27th, 28th and March 1st. Come renew, refresh and rejoice in the Lord! It will be a wonderful time to see old friends and make new ones.

Husbands, this would make a wonderful Christmas present to give to your wives. Be looking for brochures and our sign up table in the Narthex soon! Scholarships available.



The Gift of Reading

The members of the Contemporary Christian Book Group "gift" each other every Christmas with suggestions of books



we have enjoyed. If you would like to receive a copy of the "gift" brochure that we create for each other, please contact Susan Gustin at sjgus-

tin@comcast.net, and she will get a copy to you! The brochure also includes a list of the books the group has read. The brochure will be available after December 3.

The Contemporary Christian Book Group meets the first Wednesday evening of the month (excluding January and July). We will announce our books for Spring 2015 in the Cross and Flame and mid-week messenger in early January. Please join us!

Mission of the Month of January: UMCOR

The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) is in need of kits. You can help by making a replenishing relief supply kits that contribution during January offerings (note UMCOR in the memo) or help provide care for the most vulnerable people during times of crisis. In 2014, the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) delivered 364,184 relief-supply kits into the hands of people in need, leaving relief-supply warehouses throughout the United Methodist network in need of replenishment. Kits that are now in most critical



January 2015 Acolyte Schedule

	8:00 am	9:30am
4th	LILY PETERSON DYLAN WAHLERS	HANNAH REYNOLDS RACHEL REYNOLDS
11TH	COLTON WARNER JACKSON WARNER	MAYA STROMAN JAMES SMITH
18TH	EMMA SHEFFIELD CAITLYN VOYLES	SEAN SAYLER LUKE SAYLER
25TH	MACKENZIE BROWN TAVIE BROWN	CAS STANLEY ANDREW HUEY

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Meet Your 2015 Church Council

Name	Role
Chris Ambors	Financial Secretary
Cody Anderson	Children's Ministry
Debbie Barthel	Hosp. Co-Chair
Jennifer Bell	Fine Art's Chair
Pat Bell	Staff-Assoc. Pastor
Mel Bond	Office Manager
Angela Cain	Hosp. Co-Chair
Pat Chase	Lay Member to Ann. Conf.
Thorne Davis	SPR Chair
Linda DePoy	Trustee Chair
Keith Eipper	UMM President
Michelle Farnholtz	Nursery Coord.
Cori Fitzpatrick	Staff-Youth
Brian Hardy	Boy Scout Trp 16 rep
Cheryl Hardy	Children's Council Chair
Amy Hicks	Church Council Chair & Worship Com. Chair
Randy Jessen	Staff-Senior Pastor
Joy Johnson	Staff-Preschool Asst. Director
Katie Karp	Lay Member to Ann. Conf.
Caroline Lynch	UMW President
Rich Oppmann	Adult Ed Chair
Rahn Porter	Finance Co-Chair
Angela Rachubinski	Preschool Council Chair
Jeremy Saylor	Finance Co-Chair
Paula Saylor	Youth Council Chair
Krishia Sielaff	Staff-Bells and Choir
Kurt Stroman	Staff-Fine Arts
Sabrina Thompson	Prayer Min. Chair
Marsha Weber	Missions Chair
Ruth Wills	Lay Leader
Tricia Woods	Staff-Preschool Director

Amazed by God – Planning and Construction Update- December 2014

The Board of Trustees is forming a special purpose team for Design and Construction Administration of the sitework projects identified during the Amazed by God campaign. The team will be composed of two members of Trustees, one member of Finance, some technical professional members of the church, a staff representative, and be lead by Hank Battjes, former Trustee and professional civil engineer. The Design and Construction Administration team will begin meeting in January to establish a schedule, set priorities and phasing of the projects, coordinate available funding options,

and begin reviewing site design alternatives. The site Master Plan as previously approved by the Town of Parker will be used as the starting point for our new site plan.

The initial plan proposes to start work on the new south end parking areas, with a goal to commence construction by late April or early May. The south end parking lots will include additional new parking spaces without interrupting current available spaces. Following that project, the intent is to continue with paving of the northern parking lots, and landscaping. Timing of cash flow from Capital Project commitments will determine the phasing and scheduling of all site improvements.

Amazed By God Commitment Update (12/18/14)

Pledge Goal:	\$1,500,000.00
Number of Pledges:	210
Total Pledged:	\$1,238,614.01
Pledged Given:	\$156,100.00
All Time Given:	\$160,731.25



Little Blessings Preschool & Kindergarten 2014 – 2015 Registration

Little Blessings Open House is Wednesday, January 14, 2015.

Open House for 2 years - Kindergarten at 6:30 p.m.

Pre-Registration for returning families will begin January 12th.

Contact Tricia at Tricia@parkerumc.org or call 720-204-4420.

Little Blessings GOALS:

- Strong Early Childhood Education foundation to foster a love for learning
- Foster and nurture the development of the whole child
- Small classroom ratio to promote individualized instruction
- Partner with families
- Faith based Worship and classroom connections
- Enrichment programs



YOUTH

Confirmation Class

This year's Confirmation Class will be starting up in January. Confirmation is open to all youth in 6th grade. Any youth who are older and have not been confirmed can also join the class. More information coming soon.

Springboard

Would you like to learn more about Parker United Methodist Church?

Perhaps you would like to discover the basics of the Christian faith?

Maybe you would like to meet some folks who are new to the congregation?

Or you might be interested in becoming a member of the church?

If any of the above applies to you, then Springboard is your connecting point. Springboard is a six week experience that happens for one hour on Sunday and Thursday evenings throughout the year. Email Rev. Pat Bell at pat@parkerumc.org or contact the office at 303-841-3979. The next session begins Sunday 1/4 or Thursday 1/8.

Children and Preteens

Joyful Noise

Joyful Noise children's choir and hand bells will pick back up on January 7th as they begin preparing new pieces for the spring. If your child isn't part of Joyful Noise yet, this is a great time to get them involved. We meet every Wednesday from 4:15-5:30 and would love to have your child join in all the fun! For more information, email Cody at cody@parkerumc.org

Preteen Events

Join us on January 9th from 6-8pm. Preteen Events are for children in 4th, 5th and 6th grades. This is a fun time where kids get to come together and have fun while growing in their faith. Friends are always welcome! Don't miss out on this fun evening!!

Annual Shrove Tuesday Also Known as "Fat Tuesday"

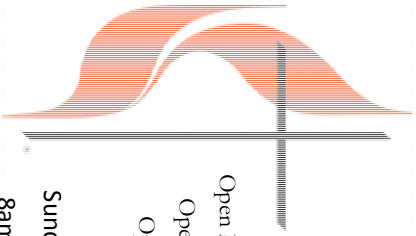


Pancake Supper Tuesday 2/17/15 5p-

The Day Before Lent Begins. Provided by the Scouts of Troop 16. Tickets will be available on Sundays in late January.

Time again for College Care Church outreach to our college youth!!

Neighbor to Neighbor UMW Circle sponsors this with help from all of you! In the past we have received heartfelt appreciation from our college students. We encourage, pray and lend to them faith support in the rugged environment of college campuses. As our youth are rooted and built up in Him, we continue to strengthen them in the faith, just as they have been taught, with various resources. Last year we included The Case for Christ Youth Edition. We do not send the same thing twice. We also send goodies to give them energy and sustenance during the upcoming testing times. Please consider helping with donations for materials and postage for about 70 youth by Sunday, February 8th. Be sure to put on checks or envelopes "for college care". We plan to send the College Care packages to our youth on February 9, 2015. Email any questions to Chris Ambors at ambors1@comcast.net, or call her at 303-841-8767.



Open Hearts
Open Minds
Open Doors

Parker United Methodist Church

11805 S. Pine Dr. Parker, CO. 80134

303 841-3979

www.parkerumc.org

Sunday Worship Times

8am, 9:30am & 11am

Holy Communion at 9:10am

January 2015

