

Riverside Waterline

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Thoughts From Pastor Dan

Welcome to 2009!! A new story is about to be written. Over the past few weeks I am sure most of us have been fretting over New Year's resolutions and anticipating the New Year as an opportunity to change some part of our life.

The birth of Jesus and the story of the wise men (Matt 2:1-12) that came to visit soon thereafter is about new beginnings too. As 2009 begins we can learn something from the way the wise men responded to the new beginning they encountered. So what did they do? The easy answer would be that they brought God gifts. After all this is the part of the story that everyone remembers. The wise men brought Jesus gold, frankincense and myrrh. And while that is nice and symbolic, I think the actions of the wise men prior to them finding Jesus are more significant for our lives in the upcoming year.

The wise men cared enough about this newborn king that they went looking for him. The wise men were not Jewish scholars who understood the Old Testament

prophecies, but pagan astrologers. They were not experts in Jewish tradition, but they, rather than Herod and the Jewish leaders, went to find Jesus. They took the initiative to go looking for him. Their encounter with Jesus was not about knowledge, but about will.

Our faith must be this way too. We must take the initiative and pursue God every day. He is there waiting for us to come to him every morning, but we must make the choice to move in God's direction even when we might not feel like it.

Marriage is a great example of this need for action every day. As a husband, I am called to love my wife. Most days this is not too difficult, but there are other days where certain things Dana does make me angry or frustrated. She likely has a lot more reasons to be angry with me than I with her, but the point is that it is not always easy to love. Many times we have to choose to love even when we do not feel like it. We have to make an effort to go out and find it. We have to look for it in our marriages and cling on

to it, refusing to blot it out with the clutter of our lives.

Our faith is the same way. As we begin 2009, we cannot simply say I am going to be more faithful this year, or I am going to pray more this year, or I am going to be more adamant in verbally confessing my sins this year . . . we must actually take steps to make these things happen. We must go out and find God. We must continually pursue him. So whether it is beginning a daily bible quiet time, praying everyday in our car on the way to work, or meeting with a faith accountability partner, we have to take action.

The ironic thing, though, is that God never moves. He is always waiting for us to come to him. When I talk of us going to find God, we are not looking because he has hidden himself, but because we have put so many things between ourselves and God that we often need to go climbing through those things before we ever get back to God.

It reminds me of a punch bowl that my brother and I

January Sermons:

- January 4: Commit to Grow in Obedient Living and Worship
- January 11: Connect to God: Silence and Listening
- January 18: Connect to God: Prayer and Meditation
- January 25: Connect to God: Repentance and Submission



Thoughts From Pastor Dan, cont.

were looking for at my parent's house a few months ago. The punch bowl has always been in the same cabinet in the kitchen, but over the past year my mom had been putting things in front of it, pushing the bowl farther and farther back in the cabinet. So when my brother and I went looking for it we had to move a hundred things before we ever got to the punch bowl. We had to make an effort to go and find it not because it had moved, but because so

much stuff had been put in front of it.

Make that your New Year's resolution. To seek after God. To go and find Him every day. To find him in your joys, in your pain, in your confusion. We need to wade through all of the things that we have put between ourselves and God and strive to be with him. God appreciates our gifts. He appreciated the gifts that the wise men gave him. But what he wants

more than our gifts is ourselves.

While the wise men brought gold, frankincense, and myrrh, the most valuable gift they gave God was their willingness to go and find him so that they could be with him. That truly showed where their hearts were.

Promiseland Chatter

There was a lot of fun and excitement experienced last month in Promiseland as we all anticipated the birth of Jesus, our Lord and Savior. What a joy it was Christmas Eve to see our children present gifts from the heart to Jesus and celebrate His birth by ringing hand bells to Christmas songs. Many thanks to Miss Megan and Miss Dana for sharing their musical abilities each month with the Promiseland children.

As we step into January, our 3-to-5-year-olds in Discovery Hour will be introduced to Jesus' interaction with His family and friends as a boy and as an adult: staying behind in the temple, going to a wedding and visiting Mary and Martha.

Discovery Hour K-through-3rd grade children will learn three attributes of Jesus and understand the commands He gives us related to these attributes: Jesus is loving, Jesus is a servant, and Jesus is all-powerful.

Our Discovery Hour fourth and fifth graders will be challenged to learn how to do life together in Groups, which is one of the 5-Gs. They will learn God has given us the Church, as a place for community, to learn and grow closer to Him and one another. As part of a community in Groups, children will also learn the Bible's teaching on conflict resolution. They will discover in God's community they can get to know each other, pray for and serve each other, and celebrate. Each lesson is designed to lay the

foundation so your children will see the advantages of doing life together with God in the picture.

We have experienced some growing pains in Children's Church, resulting in dividing a large class. Thank you to those who have stepped forward to help with the new 3-to-5-year-old class. We still need somebody with musical gifts to help the 2nd Sunday of each month in this class. Trust me, if I have to be the one teaching this class, we will have 3-to-5-year-olds begging their parents to stay upstairs to listen to Pastor Dan's sermon. I have no musical ability!

Joyfully,
Dar Muehlhausen



"Serve the LORD with gladness; come before Him with joyful singing.

Psalm 100:2

Youth Ministry

The students were busy little workers this month! We got into the holiday spirit by helping decorate the basement which was awesome and crazy with all the snow fluff and glitter!! Then we really got to see what being God's hands and feet look like when we made dinner for the guests at Lafayette Urban Ministry. We spent the evening across the street at Jane's Gourmet Deli making A TON of vegetable soup. We let everyone help chopping up pounds of potatoes, carrot's, celery, and peppers-we even let Brandon use the big knives, don't worry, he was very responsible!! While it was simmering we ordered way too much Chinese food then headed over to the shelter to serve the guests. It was really amazing-Lacey and Abby were worried about being too emotional but it had a total different feeling and they made it through the evening with a greater appreciation of the homeless. The guests were so nice, shared a little of their stories, one lady even quoted Isaiah to us-she had quite a bit memorized and was excited to share it with us. It was a late, late night and a lot of work, but hopefully we'll get to cook for them every month and the students will continue to understand more and more what

it means to love like Jesus loved-all inclusive, unconditional.

We got to celebrate Lacey's big 18th birthday as a group as well-her momma wanted to surprise her so we all got together, decorated the welcome center, ordered some pizza (what's a youth event without pizza? I think it's a food group now.) and had lot's of cake and ice cream to ring her into adulthood!! Although she's our only senior, Thomas is our other adult in the group since he got to sit at the big table at Thanksgiving-just an FYI! We finished up the night with a very intense game of Bible Apples to Apples-Ryan won, and River ran off with most of the cards.

None of the students had ever made Gingerbread houses before which is an old tradition with my family so we just had to introduce them to the wonderful world of sugar shock and royal icing! They rose to the challenge and created fabulous houses that won't last long-they are 100% edible so I'm sure family members and a dog or two will get a hold of their masterpieces!

It was the start of a wonderfully messy new tradition!!

Some big takeaways from the month-we've really been hitting hard on sharing our faith through our lives-not shoving the Bible at friends, but living out what Jesus talked about and holding high the ideals he lived by.

Christmas is a wonderful time to be different-to care more about giving than taking. And by living out loud for Jesus their friends will be drawn in, have questions, and hopefully will want that kind of life too!! We piggy-backed off of Dan's sermon in the beginning of the month-that God's love is not random-it's RADICAL and we need to be that way too-crazy in love with Jesus and ready to share it!!

December wraps up a month and then some of planning our first ski retreat-can't wait to let you know how amazing and God-filled it was in January's edition!!

Smiles, Becky



“God’s love is...RADICAL and we need to be that way too – crazy in love with Jesus and ready to share it.”



Getting to Know Melissa Kraus and William

What are your full names?

Melissa Kraus and William Lindsey

What are your occupations?

Graduate Students (Teaching Assistants) in the Math department at Purdue.

What brought you to West Lafayette / Lafayette?

Graduate School

What brought you to Riverside?

How long have you been here?

Melissa started attending soon after she came to Lafayette, 4 years ago. William started at-

tending, first sporadically 2 years ago when he and Melissa started dating, then regularly about a year ago when they got really serious.

What do you do for fun?

We like to bowl, we love playing all sorts of games with friends (including some really obscure ones), and we enjoy playing tennis.

What is a fun fact or memory about you?

We were office mates when we first started at Purdue, but it took almost 2 full years before

we started dating. Then God intervened (through a Rubik's Cube), and we finally came around. We are now looking forward to starting a wonderful life together on May 9, 2009!



Women's Ministry

Bible Study

Our Women's January Bible study will begin on **Wednesday, January 21st from 6:30pm - 8:30pm** at Riverside. We will be offering a 7 week study entitled "Stepping Up" by Beth Moore. The workbook is \$13.00 and babysitting will be provided.

"Stepping Up" is a journey through the Psalms of Ascent. It explores Psalms 120-134. Traveling pilgrims sang these psalms both on the way to the great festivals of the Jews and as key elements of the worship at those festivals. Women will interact with Beth Moore and the Scriptures in new ways.

They will gain a new appreciation for the life of faith as a journey to greater fellowship with God and worship of Him.

A sign-up sheet will be located at the church or you can email Rhonda Ausk at Rhonda@AusKInternational.com. During the study, we will also be collecting personal items (shampoo, deodorant, soap, etc.) to donate to the women and men of Trinity Mission.

Come dive into the Word with us!

Crafting Event

Have you wanted to learn how to crochet or knit but thought only your Grandma needed the

skills? Then we have the Women's Ministry Event for you! On Saturday January 17th, 2009, 2-4 p.m. let's gather the women of Riverside to learn some new crafting skills. Yarn and needles will be provided for this event to learn to make homemade items, like a plastic grocery bag, scarf, or squares for a quilt. All ability levels from beginner to expert are welcome to share their skills.



Thank You

From Trinity Mission

Dear Riverside Covenant Church,
WOW!!! Thank you so much for your great gift to change the lives of men and women at Trinity Mission. What a great blessing you are. May the Lord richly bless you for giving to those in need.

We give thanks for you, dear brothers and sisters!!! God bless you with

His presence, words and Spirit!

We are ultimately thankful to Jesus for what He has done for us, setting us free from sin and bondage. Hallelujah!!

God Bless,
Todd Wesbrook
Director of Development

From Young Life

Thank you for your partnership in making Jesus known to the teenagers of Greater Lafayette. Wishing you a Happy New Year filled With joy and blessings!

Mark W. Kirgiss



Community News

Health Screening

Redeemer Lutheran Church will host a health screening on Friday, February 13, 2009 that will be open to the entire community. On that day, Life Line Screening will offer a variety of health screenings:

- 1) Stroke/Carotid Artery ultrasound evaluation
- 2) Heart Rhythm
- 3) Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm

- 4) Peripheral Arterial Disease
- 5) Osteoporosis
- 6) And Blood tests

These screenings are recommended for anyone 50 and older and anyone 40 and older with high cholesterol, high blood pressure and/or family history of stroke and heart disease. This is a prevention program, and with early detection, these problems can be treated. The results are sent directly to you and then you

can follow-up with your own primary care physician. These tests are non-invasive, painless, and are offered for \$45 each. There are also several discounted packages available. Pre-registration is a must. Call 1-800-324-1851 for your appointment or for more information. Flyers are available at the Welcome Center.



The beginning of the gospel about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is written in Isaiah the prophet:

"I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way"—

"a voice of one calling in the desert,

'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.' "

Mark 1:1-3 (NIV)

Men's Ministry

Bible Study

The men will begin a study on the book of Mark the week of January 19th. Two times will be available—Monday evenings at 7 p.m. and Thursday mornings at 6:30 a.m. Pastor Dan will be leading the study.

Basketball Outing

Men you are invited to go out for pizza and to a Jeff High School basketball game on January 23, 2009. We will meet at the Pizza King (by the high school) at 6 p.m. then head over to the game. Invite a friend to come along with you. The men of Trinity Mission will also be joining us.

Upcoming Men's Breakfast

Mark your calendar for these men's breakfasts at Riverside and be looking for more information.

Saturday, February 7
Saturday March 21
Saturday, May 16



Maturity Class 201

The Riverside Maturity Class is a course designed to help Christ followers progress in their Christian lives through the study and practice of spiritual disciplines. The class begins in week one with Biblical principles for spiritual growth and the process of growth. The second week provides an overview of six-



teen spiritual disciplines with a focus on

both Bible study and prayer. The final week examines the role of the disciplines of fellowship and fasting. For weeks two and three there is approximately 30 minutes of homework, for example, for week two participants will be asked to engage in a brief devotional time several days of the week prior to week 2. The class will meet from 11:30 A.M. – 1:00 P.M. downstairs and lunch will be provided.

Sign up by indicating your

interest on one of the information cards in the bulletin and turning that in through the offering.

Sunday, February 1: Biblical Principles of Spiritual Growth

Sunday, February 8: Spiritual Disciplines with special focus on Bible Study and Prayer

Sunday, February 22: Spiritual Disciplines Continued, Fellowship and Fasting

Adult Discovery Class

The Adult Class during the Discovery Hour will be studying and discussing the book of Colossians beginning in January. Colossians, written by Paul during his imprisonment in Rome, is a powerful letter both theologically and in terms of what it teaches about the Christian life. It includes a powerful hymnic section on

the person of Jesus Christ, a focus on our identification with him, and the implications of that identification for the Christian life. Our study and discussion will focus on individual sections or passages in the letter and the important historical, cultural, grammatical, and the literary elements in them.

January 4: Colossians: Themes and Purpose

January 11: Colossians 1:3-14

January 18: Colossians 1:15-20

January 25: Colossians 1:21-23

“For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.”

Colossians 1:19, 20





January 2009

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

**RIVERSIDE COVENANT
CHURCH**

1850 Woodland Avenue
West Lafayette, IN 47906
Phone: 765-463-4600
Fax: 866-766-8492
Email: office@rcovenant.org

*“Working together to help people
discover Christ and develop a growing
relationship with Him.”*

January Schedule of Events

- Sundays, January 4, 11, 18, 25
 - ⊕ Discovery Hour @ 9 a.m.
 - ⊕ Worship @ 10:15 a.m.
 - ⊕ Jr High meets @ 3-4:30 p.m.
(except January 4— no meeting)
 - ⊕ Sr High meets 6:30-8 p.m. (except
January 4— no meeting)
- Sunday, January 18, 11:30 a.m. – Con-
gregational Meeting
- Mondays, January 19 & 26, 7 p.m.—
Men’s Bible Study
- Wednesdays, January 21, 28, 6:30-8:30
p.m. – Women’s Bible Study
- Thursdays, January 22, 29, 6:30 a.m. –
Men’s Bible Study
- Thursday, January 1-Sunday, January 4
– All Youth Ski Trip @ Covenant Bible
Camp
- Friday, January 23 @ 6 p.m. – Men’s
Basketball & Pizza Outing
- Saturday, January 17, 2-4 p.m. –
Women’s Crafting Event at Riverside
- January 6-12 – Becky on vacation

January Birthdays

- 1 Coby Custer
- 2 Nathan Fassnacht
- 7 Tegan Hogan
- 12 Dar Muehlhausen
- 14 Shane Mann
- 24 John Christopher
- 24 Gary Rogiers
- 27 Kyle Rottler
- 31 Randall Nick