

**CHESTNUT STREET BAPTIST CHURCH**  
 609 N Chestnut Street  
 Ellensburg WA 98926  
 (509) 925-2424  
 office@csbcfamily.com



Senior Pastor, Frank R. Johnson  
 Associate Pastor, Jeremy Johnson  
 Youth Director, Stacia Harmsen  
 Ministry Assistant, Ellen Hyde

*The Nutshell, January 2018*



NONPROFIT  
 U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
 Ellensburg, WA 98926  
 Permit #3

# The Nutshell



January 2018  
 Volume 26, Number 1  
 Frank R. Johnson, Managing Editor  
 Ellen Hyde, Ministry Assistant, Editor

*News and Information from Chestnut Street Baptist Church*

609 N Chestnut Street Ellensburg, WA 98926 (509) 925-2424 office@csbcfamily.com www.csbcfamily.com

**HAPPY New Year 2018**

**Sanctity of Human Life Sunday**

Chestnut Street Baptist Church will pause in our schedule on Sunday, January 21, to affirm the sanctity of every human life, from conception to natural death. This annual observance is held by churches around the country on the Sunday nearest to the date of the Supreme Court's decision on Roe v. Wade in 1973 (January 22). In contrast to that decision, we affirm that all of our human lives have intrinsic value because we are made in the image of God our Creator. Care Net Pregnancy Center of Kittitas County will also hold a ceremony of remembrance at the Memorial for the Unborn at the Holy Cross Cemetery (on Dry Creek Road) on that Sunday (p. 3).

**In This Issue:**

Sanctity of Human Life Events	1
As I See It ... by Pastor Frank	1
NCM Update and Musical Notes	2
Youth Update from Stacia	2
Musical Notes	3
Women's Ministry Events	3
Business Meeting Highlights	3
Ceremony for the Unborn	3
Special Days Remembered	3
NCM Variety Show Coming	3
Men's Breakfast	3
Monthly Schedule of Activities	4

## *As I See It ...* by Pastor Frank Johnson Living in a Post-Christmas World

Every year in late December, as I drive about town, I inevitably see what for me is a symbol of the season: a deflated Santa Claus on someone's front yard. Now really, I am not completely offended by the Jolly Old Man. He represents a tradition that stretches all the way back to a great Christian in the late 3rd and early 4th century, Nicholas of Myra, Turkey—St. Nicholas in popular parlance. Nicholas was a famous Christian about whom a variety of legends have grown. One of the main ones is that he gave away his inherited wealth and went about the countryside helping the poor and sick. Even the Fat Man in the Red Suit is still a flicker of that ancient Christian story, and so I don't hold any grudge against him.

However, his is now a story of much form and little substance. He is an inflated invention of modern times. He is full of cheer and bears gifts for the "nice" people, but the worst he can do is to put a lump of coal in the stocking of the "naughty." Even in this there is a semblance of justice, but rather of a weak and toothless kind. The trouble with inflated things is that they won't hold air forever.

As I write this column, my family is watching the classic Christmas movie, *A Christmas Carol*. It is the 1984 edition in which George C. Scott plays Ebenezer Scrooge. That Charles Dickens' story is a tale with more grit and with much more at stake. The possible outcomes of life truly are stark, and they could not be more opposite to each other. And there is indeed opportunity in this life to change the path—and the destiny—of our journey. The Scripture being

read in the Cratchit household makes the point of the story subtly but clearly: "unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven (Matthew 18:3, ESV). Mr. Scrooge truly does "turn" as he humbles himself before heaven and becomes like a little child in his repentance, begging for mercy and a change to change his ways. Bob Cratchit's quote from Tiny Tim suggests the gospel in the story, albeit again hinted but not proclaimed: (I paraphrase) "I hope the people see me at church, and they remember the one who made the lame walk and the dumb speak."

It is now two days after Christmas. We are living in a post-Christmas world, but not just this week—rather, for the past two millennia. "And the Word became flesh and pitched a tent among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of an only-born from the Father, full of grace and truth" (John 14:6). As I see it, nothing now remains the same. Our very physical world is now hallowed, if not haunted, because of the Incarnation. God holds insider information about the human lives that He created in His image. The Son of God "in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin" (Hebrews 4:15, ESV). That writer gets the point: "Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need" (Hebrews 4:16-5:1 ESV). Let us, indeed!

My love in Christ,  
 Pastor Frank

### In the Coming Month: January 2018

- Sundays at 9 a.m.** Bible Study Hour, and **10:15 a.m.** Worship
- Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m.** LIFE Group at Johnsons, 808 E. Capitol
- Wednesdays 6:30 p.m.** Prayer Group at the church's facilities, room 202
- Wednesdays 6:30 p.m.** Cornerstone Kids Club 1-5th grade
- Wednesdays 7 p.m.** Ignition (youth group, grades 6-12)
- Thursdays 7 p.m.** Cross Walk (university students and young adults)
- Thursdays at 7 p.m.** LIFE group at Hyde's, 1806 N Bluegrass Lane
- Thursdays at 6:30 p.m.** LIFE group at Bissonette's, 2406 N. Ellington St.
- Fridays 4:30 p.m.** LIFE Group at Briarwood Commons
- Sunday, January 7 , 10:15 a.m.** Lord's Supper and Deacons' Fund Offering.
- Mondays, January 8, 15, 22, 29 at 7 p.m.** Women's Prayer meeting at CSBC
- Saturday, January 12, 8 a.m.** Men's Breakfast fellowship
- Saturday, January 20, 9 a.m.** Women's Breakfast fellowship
- Sunday, January 21, FISH Sunday**
- Sunday, January 21** Sanctity of Human Life Sunday
- Sunday, January 21** Ceremony of Remembrance at the Memorial for the Unborn, 2:00 p.m.

See the calendar online at [csbcfamily.com](http://csbcfamily.com) for upcoming scheduled events.  
 Prayer requests? Contact PrayerNet at [prayer@csbcfamily.com](mailto:prayer@csbcfamily.com), or call the church office, 509-925-2424.

## Stacia's Notes: Youth Ministry Update

### Youth Greetings

Merry Christmas! I hope that you are filled with joy as this season reminds us of how much love the Father has lavished on us. He is good! And the gifts He gives are more valuable and eternal than anything else we get. I look forward to spending time with family and I hope that each of us takes the opportunity to thank God for such gifts as this.

### Ignition and Youth Sunday School

We had our annual youth Christmas party and it was a blast! Ellensburg and Kittitas schools got out at different times this year so it made our evening a little different since it was on a school night for some. But we still did a gift exchange in which a large pink unicorn made an appearance, and a pair of huge dark sunglasses stole the show. We ate food together, prayed, played silly games (building a snowman out of toilet paper, and fashioning gingerbread houses with a partner), and laughed a lot. I hope that as you spend time with your friends and family this holiday season that you take our youth's lead and turn times of fellowship into times of worship and relational growth, honoring God with your time and thanking Him for His gift of unity.

Sunday School has been going well, too, with each week being quite unique based on who joins our class. Last week, just for fun, we invited the college students and the children's department to have a "snowball" fight with us (the snowballs being crumpled up recycled paper) and to watch "A Charlie Brown Christmas" It was fun and chaotic. The character Linus in the show puts it all well when he says "That's what Christmas is all about, Charlie Brown," after reciting Luke 2:8-14. Remember this season that God deserves glory, that angels and shepherds give it to Him and so should we, and that He has already acted in love by sending His son to be born among us. I am excited to carry this truth into January, the long Ellensburg Winter, and the days coming this year when lots of others things demand attention but don't measure up to the awesome truth of God displaying His love for us.

### December Highlight Story

The month is not yet over as I write this and I think the coming days will hold plenty of highlights. But for now I will simply say that the simple ways I've been able to connect with and interact with students has been the highlight of this month in the youth realm. On a week when only a couple kids came to Ignition we loaded up our Bibles and went to Winegar's for hot cocoa and Bible Study there (all of us wearing Santa hats J). When families are running late to Sunday School it means I get to visit with the one that is there and have them help with final preparations. A slower work schedule with the college side of things has left time for prayer, and future preparations, meaning I feel close to God and see Him providing for the future even now. The fact that God is relational and created us to be so, too, is amazing! I am thankful for it and it has made this month be all the more joyful. Thanks for those of you who share so much of life with me, reminding me of God's goodness and joy!

With hope in Christ, Your Youth Director, Stacia Harmsen

## NCM Updates

Fall quarter wrapped up at the beginning of December for students at CWU. But before everyone dispersed to their homes or started the hard work of taking a break, there were a couple cool and noteworthy things. The first is that I (Stacia) was away at a collegiate director's retreat for what would be the final week of Crosswalk for 2017. Our leadership team was willing to carry on without me and decided to do caroling along with some coca and fellowship. They gathered together for a bit and went to a few houses to spread cheer through singing! I thought it was a great idea and was so glad they carried it through! We also had a Christmas party that was generously hosted by our own Deborah Hutchinson. It was so fun to gather in someone's home together! A lot of visiting happened around the edges of games, snack, and a gift exchange. We decided to do something other than our classic White Elephant gift exchange so we instead instructed each guest to bring a gift that was meaningful to them to exchange. As gifts were opened we had to determine who we thought brought the gift and then they told us why they brought what they did. It was a neat thing to do, going a little deeper than just silliness.

Pray for me and us as we prepare of the new quarter and look ahead to our Spring Break Mission Trip (to Houston!) and the fundraising efforts that will go into that project. Thanks for all your support!

Stacia, Acting NCM Director

## Musical Notes

A big thanks to Lydia Gross for stepping in to lead our Christmas Choir while Pastor Jeremy is on sabbatical. She did a great job and the choir performed a great selection of music to celebrate, truly, "The Greatest Story Ever Told." We appreciate, also, Stephen Barta, Mellissa Barnes, and Stacia Harmsen who are organizing our music for worship on Sundays. We had a lot of people traveling over the holidays, so it was tricky on a couple of Sundays in December to round up accompanists, but we have worshiped the Lord consistently through song each week!



## Business Meeting Highlights

In our Business Meeting of December 17, 2017, we reviewed a variety of ministry projects past, present and future. We noted a worship band conference coming up in May of 2018, a Spring Break Missions project in Houston, Texas, the *Prepared to Answer* simulcast moved to February 17, and summer projects that include a mission group working on the Upper County Project and our folks building houses in Mexico. We received Doug DeRooy as a new member by statement of faith, revised the budget proposal for 2018 to present to the congregation on December 31, and elected a number of members to serve on various Ministry Teams. We also reviewed the progress on developing our men's ministry and affirmed Lacey Myers as she applies for admission to Gateway Seminary to pursue the counseling service through the Army Chaplaincy.

## Cold Weather Shelter

The Cold Weather Shelter has been serving an average of 10 guests each night. The guests are kind, grateful, and good people to be around. However, we are so low on volunteers! We are partnering with Resonate Church to staff our Friday night shelter; however, they have fewer volunteers this year and with our own lower numbers, we are in a struggle every week to staff the shelter. Several Fridays, we are scrambling, calling every volunteer on our list, looking for someone to serve, and worrying about the reality that we might have to close the shelter doors. If you are willing and able to volunteer (even just once!) in January and February, please email us at [coldweathercsbc@gmail.com](mailto:coldweathercsbc@gmail.com). Talk to Lydia and Jordan Gross, or Bryce Harmsen for more information. Thank you!

## NCM Variety Show Coming in February

February 3, 6 p.m. will be our annual variety show to raise funds for the spring mission trip which will be in Houston Texas. We invite anyone young and old who would like to share a song, dance, poem or other entertainment to please contact Stacia Harmsen, NCM Associate Director.

## Men's Breakfast and Ministry

The monthly men's breakfast fellowship will be January 12, at 8 a.m. Contact Merle Woody if you would like to help with cooking breakfast.

Also, we began a conversation in our last Men's Breakfast about how to develop our Men's Ministry beyond a monthly breakfast gathering. We will spend a few minutes in the January fellowship time continuing this conversation. See you then, guys!

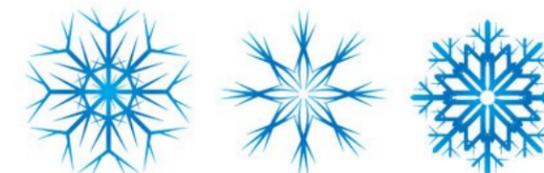
## Women's Ministry Events

Welcome 2018! The Women's Ministry Team is planning some great activities for the year, like breakfast plans, movie nights, weekend retreat, and more! Keep an eye out for events on our Facebook page: R.E.A.L. Women's Ministry, the bulletin, or *The Nutshell*. If you have any questions, please contact Lydia Gross, MaryDawn Buntin, Mellissa Barnes, or Pam Conover.

January 8, at 7 p.m. will kick off our Monday Prayer Nights. While it is still dark and cold outside, we will be gathering in the new Prayer Room upstairs in the church building to 'Pray for the Nations.' Thank you to Stacia for making the room a great space for us to use! These prayer nights will continue every Monday at 7 p.m. until it is warm enough to resume our neighborhood prayer walks. Don't forget to pray for your neighbors in the meantime! A great site to use is [pray4everyhome.org](http://pray4everyhome.org). Our Ladies Breakfast is Saturday, January 20, at 9 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. We will have food, fellowship, and a short devotional. Bring your friends!

## Ceremony at Memorial for the Unborn

On Sunday, January 21, Care Net Pregnancy Center in Ellensburg will hold a special ceremony of remembrance at the Memorial for the Unborn at Holy Cross Cemetery (Dry Creek Road). This brief service will begin at 2:00 p.m. and will affirm the sanctity of every human life, from conception to natural death. Chestnut Street Baptist Church will celebrate Sanctity of Human Life Sunday on January 21, as well.



## January Birthdays\*

Donna Bivens- January 5  
Nancy Suttles- January 9  
Lacey Myers- January 12  
Lois Bolton- January 13  
Logan Woody- January 14  
MaryDawn Buntin- January 15  
Gladys Long- January 15  
Baylee Hollar- January 21  
Clayton Myers- January 31

\*If we missed your birthday please let the office know so we can update our database. We appreciate your help so that no one is left out.