

# ★ Surrey Hills Baptist Church Newsletter ★



It is the season of giving!

With three beautiful granddaughters, this is a special time of year as Katie and I consider gifts for them. This season is often regarded as special because of the thoughtfulness of gifts. Be sure to remember, this is a season of giving because at this time we celebrate the greatest gift ever given: the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ! It's the perfect time to slow down, reflect on God's incredible love, and make some cherished memories together.

At SHBC, we have a few special events coming up that you absolutely won't want to miss. First up is our Christmas Program! Our volunteers and kids are working hard to put together a beautiful program that tells the true story of Christmas. Plan on joining us on December 20th at 5:00 pm. It's going

to be a wonderful time for the whole family and a great opportunity to invite your neighbors and friends!

Then, we'll cap off the season with our worship-filled Christmas Eve Service at 5:00 pm. There is just something special about gathering together, singing those classic carols, and lighting candles one more time before Christmas morning. It's a reflective moment that always centers us on the real meaning of the holiday.

Consider this a gift for your personal invitation to both events! I encourage our entire church family to invite someone—a co-worker, a family member, or a friend from the neighborhood—to join us for these special times. Let's make this Christmas season all about sharing the joy and celebrating the greatest gift again!

*Pastor Doug*

 *Have a Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year*

THE NEWSLETTER CREW

NANCY BIRD, KIM CHRETIN, TREVA HILL, JOAN WORD, RICK WORD, & DENISE WILLOCK, EDITOR

## HOLIDAY SCHEDULE ★ ★ ★

Dec. 20	5 pm	Christmas Program
Dec. 24	5 pm	Christmas Eve Service

★ ★ ★  
**NO  
GROWTH  
GROUPS  
DEC. 21 & 28**

## Focus on the Congregation

In case you haven't met them, I would like to introduce you to George and Peggy Nightengale. They have been members of SHBC for about 2 years. George was born in Pueblo, Colorado and Peggy was born in Rocky Ford, Colorado. They have been married close to 50 years and have 2 children and 5 grandchildren. George's favorite hobby is camping, but Peggy is the fisherman in the family. She is also a fan of baseball, water polo and golf. She is an 'all-season' wreath maker, likes scrapbooking and making cards.

George considers Pastor Doug a great strength of our church because of his teaching ability and friendly manner. Peggy agrees, but also appreciates the number of Bible Studies available for church members. When they first came to SHBC, they were very pleased to see our Youth Group sitting together, on the front row

George is an electrician. He uses his ability to help with electrical repairs around SHBC and helps mow the church yard. But, his favorite 'job' is being a bus driver. He makes it a priority of his day to pray over each child and pray for good road conditions in bad weather. While driving, George enjoys listening to audio books such as the "Left Behind Series."

Peggy was a para educator for special needs children, from elementary through high school. She loves helping autistic children. She uses her support skills to help in VBS, and is a member of our Helps and Encouragements Ministry. She also felt led to start the weekly prayer bulletins that contain prayer requests collected from each of the Growth Groups.

Peggy's favorite scripture is: Philippians 4:13: "I can do everything through Him who gives me strength." I agreed with Peggy when she said, "God carries you through life's challenges. Trust HIM!!" Hope you make it a point to meet George and Peggy if you don't already know them. They're GREAT!!

Interviewed by: Joan Word

## NAMES OF GOD

*Emmanuel: "God with Us"*

*What a great reminder that no matter where we are, or what we're facing, God is right there beside us. His presence is our peace.*

- |     |     |
|-----|-----|
| 1.  | 13. |
| 2.  | 14. |
| 3.  | 15. |
| 4.  | 16. |
| 5.  | 17. |
| 6.  | 18. |
| 7.  | 19. |
| 8.  | 20. |
| 9.  | 21. |
| 10. | 22. |
| 11. | 23. |
| 12. | 24. |

## Guess the Christmas Carol



## CHRISTMAS STORIES FROM THE CONGREGATION



My cousin Ronnie and I were born exactly six weeks apart and were nearly inseparable (once we met). We looked so much alike that people mistook us for twins.

Our main bond was our sense of humor, nobody understood it but us. Ronnie taught me to like mustard instead of mayo on my hamburger, chocolate instead of vanilla ice cream, cream soda instead of Pepsi. He was my best friend, my protector, my encourager...and my brother in Christ.

Out of High School, Ron joined the Navy, married Ruth and they had two children. After his tour, in August of his 33rd year, he was diagnosed with cancer. By December we knew it would be his last Christmas with us. Christmas day, I picked him up at the hospital to spend the day with his family...and me. There was no doctor helping Ruth as she tried to get his IV started for Ron's pain. Everything was going wrong for her...yet, she endured until the medicine was flowing – giving him the relief he needed. God blessed us that day. We cherished every moment, each other and the love between us.

On January 8th, Ron's 34th birthday, he passed away. I was devastated. I rushed to the funeral home and stood alone by his coffin crying. I had wanted so much to exchange places with him. Ron had a family who needed and loved him. I was single, wouldn't be missed that much, etc. God listened for a while. Then He gently asked me if I trusted Him. "Of course I trust You, Lord!" "Then know, without a doubt, that you will see Ronnie again." Reminded of that truth calmed and strengthened me for the days ahead.

The Lord then brought to my mind Mary and Joseph in Bethlehem. There was no doctor to help them, no running water, no rest after their journey. Yet, they believed God...so they endured, cherishing every moment, thankful to be together and knowing Jesus would bring life to a dying world. Ron's alive today because of what Christ started that first Christmas... and I eagerly await our reunion. But, if Jesus hadn't come to earth, been placed in the manger...then on the cross...there wouldn't be a reunion. It still amazes me that God so loved that world...that on a cold winter night...He gave us Jesus. And that's why I cherish Christmas so much....Christ was born... and began God's redemption plan for mankind.

–Joan Word

One year my brothers and I decided to play Santa Claus for our parents. Our grandmother co-signed for us so that we could buy a movie projector for our dad and a punch bowl for our mom, since she liked to entertain. On Christmas Eve after they went to bed, we put the gifts under the tree. The next morning we woke up to their voices of surprise and unbelief. It was fun to see their excitement.

– Carol Corn

My favorite Christmas was in 1952. The church that I grew up in always had a Christmas program on Christmas Eve where the children would participate—we left for church that evening—the church was out in the country—we had our Christmas tree up at home but no presents were under the tree when we left— when we returned from the program there was all kinds of presents for my brother and I around the tree—I immediately saw a pink doll buggy and a beautiful doll inside, also a little ironing board and play iron— I just couldn't believe that somehow all these presents appeared while we were gone( to this day –I don't know how my parents were able to slip back home a mile from the church and place our presents around the tree) of course I thought Santa had come – to this day I still remember that beautiful Christmas—that doll remained my favorite gift throughout my childhood

–Gale Moser

Christmas is a time when many families come together to celebrate the birth of the Savior repeating age old traditions that had been handed down through the generations. Have you ever wondered how those old family traditions began? Because I am old, I saw a tradition in my family take root. More than 30 years ago I sat my first grandchild on a stool in the kitchen to help Nana make sugar cookies. Seemed like a one-time event to me but that would not be the case.

Along came grandchild 2, 3 and 4. My grandchildren are now adults and still come to my house to make sugar cookies, bringing along spouses or significant others for the festivities. I never would have imagined in 1994 that making sugar cookies would become a treasured family tradition. Wishing you and yours a blessed

Christmas!

–Diana Stewart

"The God-Shaped Hole  
and the Gift of the Savior"



Sat. Dec. 20 @ 5:00 pm



## Christmas Traditions

For me, years hinged on Christmas. The anticipation of the holiday season was amplified by the colorful twinkling lights blinking through the darkness in the crisp winter air. The smells of fresh cut pine, baking cookies, and hot spiced teas made daily life full and rich every December. Our family usually decorated for Christmas a week or so after Thanksgiving. Our decorations included a squat, fresh cut pine tree meticulously chosen from a local tree farm. We proudly drove it home, tied down carefully to the roof of our wood paneled, sky blue station wagon. We all worked together to decorate the tree, lights came first. Our lights were always the multicolored mini lights—for years I always thought those were best. What a beautiful thing the tree always was! I could stare at it for hours and usually, I did just that. Next, came the ornaments. Years of memories in one fragile, tissue lined box. A ceramic rocking horse painted long ago, a set of clear acrylic name ornaments, hand made salt dough handprints, and crafted candy canes all adorned our tree. When we woke up Christmas morning, we all gathered in the living room. Gifts were now under the tree and our stockings were full of surprises. The feelings of excitement, joy, and fulfillment in these moments were unmatched at any other time of the year. Our family did not open gifts until everyone was gathered and even then we had a unique tradition. Dad would first read the Christmas story. The prophecy and fulfillment of our hope in the birth of our King, Jesus. While he read, we all listened from wherever we sat, or lay, around the glowing Christmas tree. His voice throughout the years reading those verses became a favorite tradition as I became a mother and wanted the same thing for my children. That was the true gift, the one of eternal hope in Christ, the Reason for the Season. We listened and our hearts were etched with God's Word. Most years we were waiting impatiently for Dad to finish reading and to pray so we could get on with opening the beautifully wrapped packages. We didn't yet understand fully. I don't know that Dad even realized but I know he wanted us to put God first and keep the focus on Him. It was his way of honoring God and it also helped pass on the priceless gift of salvation to his children and now grandchildren. Maybe he did realize and that was his way of passing on the best gift of all—one that money cannot buy—one that lasts forever.

The day after Christmas every year I felt a profound sense of sadness and a wave of depression because Christmas was a whole year away again and that felt like forever. This emptiness persists every year after Christmas, but it doesn't depress me anymore because it highlights the temporary nature of things here on earth and hints at the longing we all have for the eternal. Christmas is a small glimpse of what God has in store for us on the other side and keeping it centered on Jesus Christ like Dad did is one way to pass it on to the next generation.

Written by Faith (Willock) Romero





## Ministry Focus

### Christmas In the Preschool/ Nursery

We spent Nov. learning God keeps His promises. Things like "He is with me everywhere I go" and "God will help me" are such great truths for our little ones to know. Knowing God keeps His promises is vital as we go into December and celebrate Jesus' birth. This month we will learn God planned for Jesus to be born and His plans cannot be stopped. Two of the songs we will learn are sung to songs we already know. Sing to The Farmer and the Dell: Mary will have a son. Mary will have a son. Mary will have a baby son, and you will name Him Jesus. AND London Bridge (remember how to play that?) We can praise God for Jesus, Jesus, Jesus. We can praise God for Jesus. All can praise Him!



## DOCTRINE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

*Our training class held November 2, covered the Doctrine of the Holy Spirit. Pastor Doug taught us that the third person of the Trinity takes up permanent residence in the believer upon regeneration (being born again by the Spirit of God) and is the seal and guarantee of our salvation.*

*The Holy Spirit's ministry within us is to produce Christ-like character, commonly known as the Fruit of the Spirit, and to empower us for service, by gifting us with spiritual abilities to build up the body of Christ.*

*For Him to complete His work in our life, and in the church, we are commanded to be filled with the Spirit. We do this daily, as we make Him Lord of our lives: by submitting ourselves to the Spirit and being led by His Spirit, according to the truth of Scripture.*

*♪ Yes, Lord, Yes I'll say yes, Lord, yes To Your will and to Your way I'll say yes, Lord, yes I will trust you and obey When Your Spirit speaks to me With my whole heart I'll agree and my answer will be yes, Lord, yes ♪*

*For further study on living by the Spirit: Gal. 5:16-25; Eph. 5:18; 1 Peter 3:15; Gal. 2:20; Rom. 8:1-17; Luke 9:23; Rom 12:1-2; Col. 3:1-17*

★ Come and Worship, Come and Worship, Worship ★  
Christ the Newborn King



After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, “Where is the one who has been born King of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” Matthew 2:1-2

After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshipped him. Matthew 2:9-11

Jesus said, “You have now seen him; in fact, he is the one speaking with you.” Then the man said, “Lord, I believe,” and he worshipped him. John 9:37-38

Suddenly Jesus met them, “Greetings,” he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshipped him. Matthew 28:9

Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. When they saw him, they worshipped him; ... Matthew 28:16-17a

When he (Jesus) had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven. Then they worshipped him and returned Jerusalem with great joy. Luke 24:50-52

And again, when God brings his firstborn into the world, he says, “Let all God’s angels worship him.” Hebrews 1:6

Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand. They encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders. In a loud voice they were saying: “Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and praise!” Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, saying: “To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power, for ever and ever!” The four living creatures said, “Amen,” and the elders fell down and worshipped. Revelation 5:11-14



*Thank you!*

**Thank you so much for your generous support of our food drive!**  
**Because of your kindness, we collected over 500 pounds of food to help families in need. Your willingness to give makes a real and immediate difference in our community, and we are truly grateful.**  
**Thank you for being a part of this effort and for sharing hope with others.**