

The Anchor

New Year's Resolutions

“The Lord said to me, ‘You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will display my splendor.’” Isaiah 49:3

It is that time of year when people begin making New Year's resolutions. We sit down, take an honest look at ourselves, and decide just what it is about us that we want to change for the coming year. For some people, New Year' resolutions are very important; for others it is a curiosity on how long they can keep just one resolution. Yet, whether or not we make resolutions, there is probably no one who does not care about bettering their life.

Putting our best foot forward and trying to improve our life has a great impact on our self esteem and self worth. We really don't need someone to tell us our flaws or shortcomings. We know them all too well, for they are a part of us. So out of a true desire to be a better person, we resolve to get rid of our unwanted traits. Sometimes we are successful, other times we fail miserably. However, there is good news!

The good news is that God knows us more intimately than we know ourselves. Even though we look in a mirror and see unwanted characteristics, God looks at us and sees something far better. He sees that we are beautifully and wonderfully made (Psalm 139). He sees countless possibilities because He gifted us with the Holy Spirit (Acts 2). Ultimately, He promised that one day we shall be made over in the image and likeness of the person He created us to be (Phil. 3:20,21).

So don't be afraid to make New Year's resolutions. However, make the ultimate resolution to trust the power of the One who is working in you and can make you a better you – Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Sincerely
Pastor Tom

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Journey through the Bible

Starting Sunday January 15th, we will begin a study of the Bible. It will be called, "*A Journey through the Bible*". This study will take us through the Old and New Testament and will be at least a two year process.

This may not be an easy journey, but it can be exciting. When one examines at the Bible, they know it will take some time to read through it. That is why there are many Christians today who have not read the Bible in its entirety. There are sections that are hard to understand, and there are cultural differences that differ from what we experience in the 21st century. However, the truths of the Bible are timeless. The lessons we discover are as relevant today as they were to the people in Scripture. The reason for this is because human nature hasn't changed. People still lie, steal, cheat, kill, deceive, as well as hope, love, and care for people as they did in Moses, David, and Jesus' time. So what makes reading and going through the Bible and this journey exciting?

First of all, this journey puts our faith into action. To read the Bible from cover to cover requires time, energy and discipline. James 2:17 says, "*In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead*".

Second, there are a lot of Christians who do not know the chronology of the Bible. Most people know the stories of Noah, Abraham, Moses, David, Paul, Ruth, Esther, etc, however, they don't know where things fit. Some people think the Book of Hebrews is in the Old Testament, and II Chronicles is in the New Testament. This study will try and help people know where things are and what event took place when.

Third, working our way through the Bible is a huge commitment to listen to God. The goal of reading through the Bible is not to gain mere Bible knowledge, it is to know God and listen to what He has to say in our life. I often hear people say, "I want to be guided by the Holy Spirit." Well, in order to be guided by the Holy Spirit, one needs to know the Word, because the Holy Spirit will never go against His Word since He was the One who inspired the authors to write the words they did.

Fourth – Fruit! Throughout the years I have done some study on identifying trees. It is an interesting study. But a primary way of knowing

trees is by their fruit. It's a dead give-a-way. A person will not find apples on a peach tree, or a pear on a crabapple tree. The same thing is true spiritually. The primary test of whether or not we hear God is the way His Word changes our life. Like most married couples, it is not whether we heard our spouse talking, it is whether we will react and do what we have been asked to do.

The preaching schedule for the winter and spring quarter is listed below. You will notice there is a break in the flow of scripture for April 9 and 16. This is so the Gospel lessons for Palm Sunday and Resurrection Sunday can be observed.

January

- 1 Pastor Andrew
- 8 *Time Keeps on Ticking* (Luke 12:16-21)
- 15 *Nothing but the Best* (Genesis 2:2-25)
- 22 Guest speaker. Pastor Tom on vacation; Pastor Andrew at seminary
- 29 *The Sin Epidemic* (Genesis 3:1-13)

February

- 5 *Floating Assets/Floating Promises* (Genesis 6:1-9)
- 12 Missionary speaker
- 19 *Living Life on the Edge* (Abraham) (Genesis 12:1-4; 22:1-10)
- 26 *A Night at the Hardrock Hotel* (Genesis 32:22-31)

March

- 5 *When Bad Things Happen to Good People* (Genesis 26-50)
- 12 *God's Blueprint for Life* (Exodus 3:1-15)
- 19 *No Fear* (Exodus 14:1-4, 10-14)
- 26 *The Laws for Life* (Exodus 20:1-21)

April

- 2 *How Unholy People meet a Holy God* (Leviticus 16:1-14;20-22,34)
- 9 *Peace in Person* (Luke 19:28-40)
- 16 *How Real Is Easter to You?* (John 20:1-8)
- 23 Pastor Andrew

May

- 7 *Making Wise Choices* (Numbers 14:1-10)
- 14 *Passing the Baton* (Deut. 6:20-25)
- 21 *Authentic Worship* (Deut. 26:1-11)
- 28 TBA

Wednesday Night Adult Bible Study

Themes: Treasure Principle Workshop & Overview of the Pentateuch

Beginning January 11th, we will begin 6 week workshop entitled “*The Treasure Principle*”. This will be a 1 hour workshop with a video segment. There will be review questions based on the video and a workbook for each participant. The facilitator will be Kurt Peterson. Weekly schedule and themes are listed below. Cost for the workbook: \$10.00 Questions – please contact Kurt or Pastor Tom. an overview of the Bible.

On February 22 and March 1, there will be two special classes on “*How to Study the Bible*”. It will be informative and very personal. What is important about these two classes is that you will discover and learn for yourself how to study the Bible. Following these two classes, there will begin an overview of the first five books of the Bible (Genesis – Deuteronomy) known as the Pentateuch. This study will take us through the end of May. Handouts and book overviews will be available on January 8th. Facilitator: Pastor Tom.

Wednesday Night Schedule

January

- 11 Treasure Principle #1 “Buried Treasure”. Theme: He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose.
- 18 Treasure Principle #2 “Compounding Joy” Theme: God owns everything. I’m His money manager
- 25 Treasure Principle #3 “Eyes on Eternity”. Theme: My heart always goes where I put God’s money.

February

- 1 Treasure Principle #4 “Roadblocks to Giving”. Theme: Heaven, not earth, is my home. I should not live for the dot, but for the line.
- 8 Treasure Principle “Getting Started”. Theme: God prospers me not to raise my standard of living, but to raise my standard of giving.
- 15 Treasure Principle “For Such a Time as This.” It ought to be the business of every day to prepare for our last day.
- 22 “How to Study the Bible” Part 1

March

- 1 “How to Study the Bible” – Part 2
- 8 Overview of Genesis; Genesis 1, 2 & Sabbath Rest
- 15 Genesis 12-50 – The stories of Abraham, Jacob, Joseph
- 22 Overview of Exodus; The story of Moses
- 29 Exodus 7-11 – The Study of Israel’s Redemption

April

- 5 Exodus 19-40 – The Law and the worship of God
- 12 Overview of Leviticus
- 19 No class (Easter break)
- 26 TBA

May

- 3 Overview of Numbers
- 10 Overview of Deuteronomy
- 17 Deuteronomy (Part 2)
- 24 End of class for the spring quarter

TRUE JOY

BY NATE TRUITT

During the Christmas holidays, you hear a lot about giving, and, of course, receiving!!! I, like most, hear people telling stories about how much more joy you receive when you give. You hear about fundraisers for homeless people to bring some happiness on Christmas morning, people volunteering at food kitchens and serving food, and much more. I like hearing these stories because it makes me happy inside, but (I admit) I don't usually think, "What can I do?" I'm usually busy getting presents for people, putting up decorations, running around to various activities, or just sitting and soaking up the Christmas holiday.

Well this year's Christmas changed me, and it wasn't because I raised a thousand dollars for the homeless or because I spent trillions of hours serving food. It was something very small.

On Christmas, I woke up, and prepared myself for Christmas service. I eyed the presents under the tree that I could not open until we got home and thought about what dumb luck it was that I had to wait so long to open them. We went to pick up my grandma who lives at a senior apartment complex and off we went to church. My grandmother talked about how some people where she lived did not have anywhere to go. One lady that I knew well wasn't going to do anything. I felt sorry, but soon my sorrow went away as we drove. After the service we went home and finished preparing the Christmas dinner. Soon my brother and his friend came, we had great fellowship time, and after eating a wonderful meal we opened the presents! The presents I got were things I had been wanting for some time, and when I got them I was so happy I felt like I could burst. I could not stop grinning!

After the celebration was over, it was time to take my grandma back home. As my sister and I walked up the sidewalk to the door, my grandma said what a wonderful time she had had. It just then dawned on me that the lady who was doing nothing for Christmas must be feeling kind of lonely. I remembered how happy I had been after my presents were opened, and I imagined not doing ANYTHING for Christmas. Sorrow came over me again.



We left my grandma in her apartment, and the idea to visit the lady came to me. So we did. We went to her apartment and knocked on her door. The lady opened the door, and immediately lit up. It wasn't just "Oh, someone's come to visit." It was much, MUCH more. She was so joyful. Even though we just visited for a couple minutes, it meant so much to her.

As we left her apartment, I felt joy. But it not the kind of happiness I had felt after opening presents. This joy was greater. It did not make me grin for a long period of time. It gave me a warm feeling inside that filled me in a way I can't explain.

I learned many things this year. I learned to think of others. I learned that the littlest things can do great things. And I also learned, even though you hear all the time, that giving is SOOOOOOOO much better than receiving. I also learned that happiness lasts only for a moment, but joy lasts forever!



Get involved!

Please consider the ushering ministry in 2006.

We would like to see more participation from a variety of people. Men and women are welcome.

There is a list for each Sunday of 2006 on the sign up board in the narthex. Sign up for one or all! There is also a monthly ushering sheet if you are unable to commit weeks or months in advance.

If you are curious about the duties of an usher watch the ones serving on Sundays currently and ask questions of them or Don Masten. Don can be reached by phone at 471-8159 or e-mail at mastendon@sbcglobal.net.

Women's Bible Study

The Monday afternoon women's Bible study will begin again on the 9th of January at 12:30 at church. We will have a time of concentrated sharing and prayer and study several Psalms for the next 6 weeks. All women of the church are welcome. Contact Ann Carlson if you have questions.

From Doug Anderson, Christian Formation Team

My Council responsibility this year is to be the Chair of the Christian Formation Team. I am trying to mobilize my team for 2006. I will be having the first team meeting for the Christian Formation Team on Monday January 9th at 7:00 pm at Hope.

If you are interesting in helping on the team please let me know via Email and let me know if you are able to attend the meeting on Monday. Even if you can't make the meeting please let me know if you have any interest in serving for GOD on this team.

Below is a list of item that fall under the Christian Formation team:

Adult Ministries

Discipleship
Library
Next Level Living
Small Groups Laity Training
Men's Ministry
Women's Ministry

Children's Ministry

Sunday School
Nursery
Toddler
Wednesday Night
Children's Music
VBS

Youth

Confirmation
Youth Groups

Feel free email me or call me at home at 575-8709 or work at 237-2595 if you have any questions.

Nathaniel, Anne, Gary, and Kathleen Truitt have been honored as "2005 Volunteer of the Year" by the Indianapolis Districts Metro Ministries Auxiliary of the United Methodist Church for their work at Brightwood Community Center.

The Truitts created and have run an urban 4-H program for the past 5 years as a part of Brightwood Kid's Club innercity afterschool program. This is the only 4-H club of its kind in Marion County. Brightwood Community Center is one of several ministries in Indianapolis supported by Metro Ministries, Inc., the mission and program arm of all United Methodist churches of the Indianapolis Districts, which connects congregations with people in need within seven counties.

2006 Church Council

Dick Roskam	Chairman
Bill McAfee	Vice-Chairman
Wanda Anderson	Care & Fellowship Secretary
John Madeja	Financial Secretary Membership Team Publicity
Doug Anderson	Christian Formation
Mark Carlson	Stewardship and Property
Laura Ruppert	Worship
Steve Kessinger	Missions

The Church Council is YOUR council. Please seek them out, ask them questions, share ideas, offer service. Only together, can Hope Covenant become the church that God wants her to be

Preaching Series for the month of January

- 1 (Pastor Andrew)
- 8 *"Time Keeps on Ticking"*
(Luke 12:16-21)
- 15 *"Nothing but the Best"*
(Genesis 2:2-25)
- 22 Guest speaker.
Pastor Tom on vacation; Pastor
Andrew at seminary)
- 29 *"The Sin Epidemic"*
(Genesis 3:1-13)

Please email submissions for The Anchor to
Kristin Madeja at Kristin.Madeja@uscm.org

Next Anchor Deadline:
Sunday, January 22nd.

January Birthdays & Anniversaries



Anniversaries:

- 2 Allen & Jill Bainbridge
- 31 Karl & Barb Rettig

Birthdays:

- 3 Doug Hart
- 5 Luciana Lira
Brian Nelsen
Phyllis Roskam
- 8 Elijah Hiltunen
- 10 Scott Bunge
Phil Kern
- 14 Colleen Kaat
- 15 Vania VanKirk
- 20 David Kiari
- 24 Jorge Silva
- 28 Sam Anderson



Hope Evangelical Covenant Church is partnering with H&R Block in a joint fundraising referral program.

Here's how it works:

Congregation members/attendees refer new clients to H&R Block, using specially coded coupons, identifying our Church. For each referred new client, H&R Block will donate \$20 to Hope Evangelical Covenant Church. New clients will each receive a \$10 rebate check for participating.

These new clients can include yourself, your friends, relatives, and associates, not previously served by H&R Block, whose returns are prepared - anywhere within the H&R Block network of more than 12,000 offices worldwide - during the 2006 tax season (Jan. 3 – April 17).

Coded referral flyers are available at the church office for members to distribute in the community or use themselves. Please call Linda Silva at 843-2413 for further details.

Christmas 2005

Dear Family and Friends,

The play of light has always struck a deep chord for me—starlight and moonlight softening the depths of night, the gradual transition as night mellows into incipient dawn and then broadens across the sky and landscape before the sun rises, the magical light of dusk and twilight. Mechanical patterns of light—a city in a valley seen from the air, the rows of lights at an airport, beams of light thrown across the hills by a car rounding a curve—hold their fascination as well.

Maybe that is why some of my favorite Advent passages are found elsewhere than in the Synoptic Gospels. Isaiah writes that “the people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined.” Light has shined, a son has been born, the grip of darkness has been broken, joy overflows.

John speaks of the Word who is both Life and True Light—and who enlightens everyone. We need light to see and light to let glory shine forth. John continues, “The Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father’s only son, full of grace and truth.” True light shining upon us and dwelling with us, that is what we celebrate at Advent.

Lois and I have had a rich year, a full year, though not exactly the year we had anticipated. My hope of putting a few days to the side during the summer for backpacking was itself put aside. Instead, on June 2 I was rushed to the hospital to have a stent inserted in my heart. But instead of feeling better and gaining energy, I grew weaker. By now I am feeling much better, though the doctors continue to pursue what was, or is still, amiss. My needs reshaped Lois’s year, also.

Contacts with friends and family by phone, e-mailed pictures, and visits bring a special glow to our days. In mid-December we visited my sister Joyce and husband Jim in Pennsylvania and Lois’s brother Charles and wife Betty in Tennessee. Now we await the arrival of our son Karl with Evelyn and their daughters Rebekah and Rory on Sunday. A splendid Christmas present.

When we reflect that 2005 saw our oldest granddaughter Noelle reach the magical age of sixteen, we are reminded that we are moving through the stages of life. Son Doug and Christy homeschool Noelle along with her three sisters, Hannah, Lilly, and Hope, precious girls all. Our Chinese daughter Min Xiao was married to Jim Devins on December 12 in California. We rejoiced with them though we were sorry not to be able to be present for the wedding. Our Belgian son Pascal and Emmanuella and sons Jonas and Pieter have moved their thriving business into larger quarters and themselves into a lovely house adjacent. We are happy for them.

God continues to bless the ministry of the Overseas Ministries Study Center, and we rejoice at the privilege of being part of this special community. Being proud parents and grandparents, we will be happy to share pictures and stories as well as to introduce you to OMSC. Please come.

May the light of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ shine upon you this Christmas and throughout the New Year.

Dwight and Lois

Youth and Children's Ministry

Featured Event for the month of January:

Sr. High Snow Camp at Honey Rock Camp in Three Lakes, Wisc. **January 13-16**

The focus: The life of Jesus...how the way He lived His life must effect the way we live ours.

Activities: broomball, sledding, sleigh rides, speedball (best game ever),
community building games and lots more!!!

Bring: snow pants, lots of warm clothes, Bible, paper and pens, towel, washcloth, pillow, sleeping bag,
toiletries, money for four meals on the road, etc.

Don't bring: electronics, pets, pet food, poultry, weapons, etc.

So this is the New Year? By Pastor Andrew

In the song *The New Year*, songwriter Ben Gibbard sings, "So this is the New Year? I don't feel any different. The clanking of crystal...explosions off in the distance...this is the New Year and I have no resolution." As I listen to the song, I cannot help but understand how he feels. I have often approached New Year's with no resolutions; and often New Year's comes and goes without me feeling any different. So what is the significance of New Year's? Is it just about getting all dressed up and recycling the same resolutions we had last year? It certainly doesn't have to be.

We all choose to approach the New Year with varied degrees of expectation. We can look at New Year's as just another day, a mere link in the chain of days that has no more significance than any other day of the year, or we can look at it as a chance to celebrate and reflect on what happened in 2005 and commit to an even better 2006.

However we have approached it in past years, it is important that we all take a look at our lives and notice where God has worked in our lives in the past year. Has He stretched me? Has He blessed me? Has He been distant from me? Have I ignored Him? Have I taken time to just be with Him? When we really examine how He has worked in 2005, it gives us fuel to continue the journey in 2006. It might convict us to doing things differently.

Whatever our situation last year, no matter how hard or easy last year seemed to us, let us approach the New Year together with an open heart, always on the lookout for what He has for us next.

Congratulations!

To our graduating seniors, Lucy Kessinger and...well, I guess it's just Lucy, but CONGRATS anyway!
God bless you in Nicaragua!

THANK YOU!

A huge thank you to all who helped with Wednesday Night Ministry this fall: Dena Rae Hancock, Vania VanKirk, Barbara Griffith, Marcie Gates, Bill McAfee, Kathie Riley, Michelle Anderson, Laura Ruppert, Kitty Hart, Doug Hart, Curt Sellke, Lucy Kessinger, Jessie Austin, Stacy Edgecomb, Emily Weaver, Amanda Edgecomb, Solange and Juan Lira and the occasional Will Miller. It could never happen without you! We look forward to a new year of ministry this winter and spring. Thanks!
Wednesday night ministry starts up again on **January 11!**

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To redeem this offer, visit H&R Block between 1/1/2006 and 4/15/2006. To make an appointment or locate an office, call 1-800-HRBLOCK or visit hrblock.com.

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Hope Evangelical Covenant Church
 Richard Roskam
 8615 Spring Mill Rd.
 Indianapolis, IN
 46260



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The Anchor

Hope Evangelical Covenant Church
 8615 Springmill Road
 Indianapolis, Indiana 46260
 317-575-8161
 www.hopecov.org

“Hope in Christ – Our Secure Anchor in Life”

We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. Hebrews 6:19a

Tom Miller, Pastor
Andrew Gates, Pastoral Intern Children and Youth Ministries
Solange Lira, Pastor's Assistant and Coordinator of Hispanic Ministries
Phyllis Beatty, Parish Nurse
Jorge Ramirez, Pastor, Iglesia Evangelica Del Pacto El Redentor

The mission of Hope Covenant Church is to declare and demonstrate the transforming power of life in Jesus Christ.

January 2006						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:00 AM Come As You Are prayer 10:00 AM Worship 5:30 PM Jr. High Youth Group 6:45 PM Sr. High Youth Group	2	3	4	5	6	7
8 9:00 AM Come As You Are prayer 10:00 AM Worship 5:30 PM Jr. High Youth Group 6:45 PM Sr. High Youth Group	9 12:30 Women's Bible Study 7:00 PM Team Meetings 8:00 PM Council Meeting	10	11 5:30 PM Family Dinner 6:30 PM Children's Ministry 6:30 PM Jr. High Bible Study 6:30 PM Adult Studies 7:30 PM Sr. High Bible Study 7:30 PM Worship Team Rehearsal.	12	13	14
15 9:00 AM Come As You Are prayer 10:00 AM Worship 5:30 PM Jr. High Youth Group 6:45 PM Sr. High Youth Group	16 12:30 Women's Bible Study	17	18 5:30 PM Family Dinner 6:30 PM Children's Ministry 6:30 PM Jr. High Bible Study 6:30 PM Adult Studies 7:30 PM Sr. High Bible Study 7:30 PM Worship Team Rehearsal.	19	20	21
22 9:00 AM Come As You Are prayer 10:00 AM Worship 5:30 PM Jr. High Youth Group 6:45 PM Sr. High Youth Group ANCHOR DEADLINE!!!	23 12:30 Women's Bible Study	24	25 5:30 PM Family Dinner 6:30 PM Children's Ministry 6:30 PM Jr. High Bible Study 6:30 PM Adult Studies 7:30 PM Sr. High Bible Study 7:30 PM Worship Team Rehearsal.	26	27	28
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