



# The Connection

We are called to share Jesus in creative and intentional ways, through: **Connecting** with God and His Church, **Growing** in Faith and Love, and **Serving** Our Community and World.

October 2022

The Monthly Newsletter of Turner Christian Church

Volume 17; Issue 10



*Dear Church...* from Pastor Matt

**As you may already know, at 1:35 AM on September 25, Casey gave birth to Margaret Joanna Holmes, and I officially became the father of three children.** Over the past nine months, Casey and I were given a lot of advice about what to expect when we transitioned from two kids to three—most of it involving the phrase “zone defense.” Some people told us that three “brings the party;” others told us that three officially makes us a “big family.”

One thing I have learned as a newly minted expert in parenting three children(kidding) is that having three kids, and a dog, immediately makes things busy. When my parents arrived after Maggie was born, The situation could best be described as chaotic. Even though Maggie was less than a week old, adding her to two excited kids and one excited dog meant that greeting my parents was noisy and disorienting. It wasn't bad—in fact, it was kind of fun—but it was definitely a different kind of chaos. Looking forward, I'm sure that there are times when that chaos will be overwhelming, frustrating, and exhausting, but I also know that it will be worth it because I am completely in love with this new little girl, and so are James and Charley.

This reminds me of a workshop from this year's Northwest Christian convention, by Sean Bitzer over at Monmouth Christian Church. He talked about the cost of family ministry to a church. It was a good presentation, and I highly recommend you check it out on the Northwest Christian Network YouTube page or the podcast (You can find both at [www.nwchristiannetwork.com/media](http://www.nwchristiannetwork.com/media)). Basically, Sean challenged us that doing family ministry is expensive, chaotic, and difficult. It requires a church to be willing to invest money in programs, in staff, and in repairs to the building. It also requires us to be willing to change the way we do things so that they minister to every generation, not just to the generation I happen to be in. It is a very difficult task to take on. However, it is also 100% worth it. I am glad to be in a congregation where I know you all agree with me on this: I love to hear kids in the sanctuary, even when they make themselves known in the middle of the sermon. There is no way to have generations worshipping together without opening ourselves up to the chaos that kids bring with them. To be fair, every generation brings its own quirks and particular needs that the other generations need to adjust to. But that's what makes a church a family: we are willing to embrace the chaos so that we can all live and love together.

I'm not telling you this because I think our congregation is bad at this mentality- I'm simply telling you this because it's what I've been thinking about sitting here in the chaos of my three wonderful children. It is my passionate prayer that we are headed for all kinds of chaos and noise and disruption and fun and love and frustration and cooperation and compassion and joy as we seek to build our part of God's family. I hope you're excited too, because it's coming whether you are excited or not!

(I'm not kidding, Maggie literally spit up on me as I dictated that sentence into my phone! That's another thing I'm learning-- as we take on the chaos of ministry, we have to be ready to adapt to other ways of doing things, like dictating your newsletter article into your phone because your hands aren't free to type!)

The point is, I love my biological family, and I love my church family--and both are worth the chaos!

# *I've been thinking...* About Emotional Wounds!

**Wait, don't stop reading!**

So, where are the places in yourself that you don't like to go? The spots in your heart or mind, where, when a certain kind of conversation comes up, you think or say, "Well, that's enough of that." The spaces where, an innocuously intended question might find you defensive-angry, or crying.

I used to say that my friends were welcome to wake me up at 2 am if they wanted to have a deep conversation. It was normal for me to share deep parts of my heart and mind in the everyday—with God, with friends, with church family. But the few years before I moved to Turner were filled with turmoil, and it was just the other day, when, again, I was working through a devotional and skipped a question, thinking to myself, "Well I don't want to think about *that*."

It's easy to pretend that the places we don't let God heal only affects us. It's easy to imagine that we can motor forward, no one the wiser, with the broken parts of ourselves tucked neatly in storage. The reality is though, that the community suffers in our suffering. We are less patient, less grace-filled, less able to listen to the wounds of others when we are wounded. We are less able to hear the Lord and more bound to this world.

How do I know this? Because in order to carry our hurt places with us and resist healing, we're struggling in some way to trust God, to trust the Jesus who promises us rest (Matthew 11:28), the Father who binds up our wounds and heals us (Psalm 147:3), the Lord who is near to the brokenhearted and delivers them (Psalm 34:17-18), the God whose power is perfect is weakness, so we need not hide our hurt from Him (2 Corinthians 12:7-10), the Jesus who gives us peace (John 14:27), the God who by the spirit-inspired writings of his followers, exhorts us to confess to one another (James 5:16) and carry one another's burdens (Galatians 6:2). Hiding our wounds is our choice, not what God asks of us, or offers us.

Please do not be hurt by my words. This is not a "you should" moment, this is a "look what God can do" moment. The pain that I carry is real, like yours. My wounds can be scary to me, and hard to engage with. They bubble up in unpleasant moments and in unpleasant ways. But healing has come to me—through truth, through love, through patient listening. Through times of worship, and times of prayer. Through people caring enough to listen to me cry and not "shush" me. Through the blessing of a Christian counselor at the right time. I am less weighed down that I was, and this community has been a big part of that.

Healing is complicated, and often slow. But acknowledging that there is a wound is a good place to start. So maybe the next time you think, "I don't go there," ask God, "But what would it look like if I did? Can you remind me that you are strong enough for my pain?"

While we will never be completely transformed in this life, we can go to Him with confidence, knowing that healing in His hands is possible, and that, even if it doesn't come in the way we want, we will be held by His strength in our weakness.

May blessings be upon you brothers and sisters, as you trust in Him.

—Rachel



# Operation Christmas Child

## Shoebox Defined = Gospel Opportunity

Since we know (through the follow-your-box labels on our shipped boxes) that many of our shoeboxes end up in the Philippines, I thought you would like to know how some of these Gospel Opportunities have made a physical, spiritual, and eternal difference in the lives of many of our brothers and sisters in the Philippines.

Paid by Jesus – Operation Christmas Child shares the good news of Jesus around the world, including indigenous mountain tribes in the Philippines! The Butbuts live in Kalinga province and are known to be one of the fiercest tribes in the mountains. Until recently, they were still engaged in wars with other tribes. The situation is improving since the shoeboxes were handed out. In fact, there are some billboards along the highway in Kalinga that say, “Love your children. Stop tribal war.” The tribe places a high value on payment of debts, including payment with blood, which actually makes it easy for them to appreciate and understand Jesus Christ paying our debt with His own blood. This is the approach that missionaries have successfully used when sharing the Gospel with the Butbuts. Operation Christmas Child recently distributed nearly 2,000 shoebox gifts to Butbut children in eleven villages in Kalinga.

We do not know if any of the shoeboxes that originated at TCC ever made their way up into the mountains of Kalinga, but we do know that wherever they ended up, God used them as Gospel Opportunities. He has used these shoeboxes as missionary tools in over 100 countries and to take His Word to over 108 previously unreached people groups – To the Ends of the Earth.



Thank you for your support of Operation Christmas Child as we continue to fill boxes with essential school supplies and hygiene items, as well as a few toys for them to enjoy as they learn of God’s great love for them. You are a very important part of making these Gospel Opportunities a reality.

—Ann Stoker



## Margaret Joanna Holmes

was born on September 25 , 2022!  
She weighed 7 lbs 11oz.—20 in. long!  
Welcomed home by Mom Casey, Dad Matt,  
big brother James and big sister Charley!

---

## With *Sympathy*

**Ruth Wood** passed away and went home to the Lord on September 9, 2022.

**Dorothy Blevins** passed away and went home to the Lord on September 23, 2022.

---



### Operation Christmas Child Shoobox Packing Party at TCC November 18th at 6:30 pm

**Items still needed for shoeboxes:** Pencils, sharpeners, erasers, scissors, and other school supply items for the pencil pouches. Also needed are paper products such as spiral notebooks, small legal pads, index cards, small coloring books, journals, stickers, etc. Wash cloths, Hot Wheels, and baby dolls would be helpful, as well.



Many thanks to Matt and Rachel for the many ways they serve the Lord, the Turner church, and community.

Many thanks also to the elders (Frank Loyd, David Moore, Mike O'Dell, Dave Stoker, Ray Telfer, Jon Remy) who faithfully serve the Lord and this congregation.

### ***Some ways we can express your appreciation:***

#### **Thank God for them**

*"And I will give you shepherds after my own heart, who will feed you with knowledge and understanding."*  
(Jeremiah 3:15)

#### **Esteem and respect them very highly in love**

*"We ask you, brothers, to respect those who labor among you and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, and to esteem them very highly in love because of their work."*  
(1 Thesalonians 5:12,13)

#### **Imitate their faith**

*"Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith."*  
(Hebrews 13:7)

#### **Pray for them**

*"Brothers, pray for us."*  
(1 Thessalonians 5:25)

---

### **One-Day All-Church Sunday Class!**

Sunday, October 16th  
Fellowship Hall • 9:00-10:00 am

What is the state of Christianity today—  
In America and around the world?  
What kinds of churches are succeeding today?  
How can we be an effective church?

The answers WILL surprise you!



# October 2022

Green—Online Meetings  
Black-Meeting in Building

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						<b>1</b> <i>Missions Team Meeting—9 am</i>  <i>Children's Sewing Class—10:00 am</i>
<b>2</b> 9:00 Sunday Classes 10:30 Worship Bldg & Online  Youth Group, Kids Club & Parents Group 6:00 pm	<b>3</b> Men's Discussion Group—8:00 am Food Bank 9:00-11:30 am Staff Mtg - 10 am  Drama Team 6:30 pm	<b>4</b> <i>Zoom Small Group 9:00 am—Gary Tiffin</i>  Elders Mtg—6 pm	<b>5</b>  Ladies Bible Study—6pm  Adult Sermon-Based Study-6pm	<b>6</b> Music & AV Teams—9:30 am  Cub Scouts 6:30 pm	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> Turner Elementary Centennial Celeb.  Children's Sewing Class—10:00 am
<b>9</b> 9:00 Sunday Classes 10:30 Worship Bldg & Online Board Mtg 4:30 pm Youth Group & Parents Group 6:00 pm	<b>10</b> Men's Discussion Group—8:00 am Food Bank 9:00-11:30 am Staff Mtg - 10 am  Drama Team 6:30 pm	<b>11</b> <i>Zoom Small Group 9:00 am—Gary Tiffin</i> CCHOA MTG 6:00 pm Camelides 4-H 6:30 pm	<b>12</b>  Ladies Bible Study—6pm  Adult Sermon-Based Study-6pm	<b>13</b> Music & AV Teams—9:30 am  Cub Scouts 6:30 pm	<b>14</b>  Ladies Movie & Prayer Night 6:30 pm	<b>15</b>  Elder's Retreat
<b>16</b> 9:00 Sunday Class 10:30 Worship Bldg & Online  Youth Group, Kids Club & Parents Group 6:00 pm	<b>17</b> Men's Discussion Group—8:00 am Food Bank 9:00-11:30 am Staff Mtg - 10 am Com Garden Mtg 3:00 pm Y.I.T. Mtg—3:30 pm	<b>18</b> <i>Zoom Small Group 9:00 am—Gary Tiffin</i>	<b>19</b>  Ladies Bible Study—6pm  Adult Sermon-Based Study-6pm	<b>20</b> Music & AV Teams—9:30 am  Cub Scouts 6:30 pm	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> 9:00 Sunday Classes 10:30 Worship Bldg & Online  Youth Group & Parents Group 6:00 pm	<b>24</b> Men's Discussion Group—8:00 am Food Bank 9:00-11:30 am Staff Mtg - 10 am  Drama Team 6:30 pm	<b>25</b> <i>Zoom Small Group 9:00 am—Gary Tiffin</i>	<b>26</b>  Ladies Bible Study—6pm  Adult Sermon-Based Study-6pm	<b>27</b> Music & AV Teams—9:30 am  Cub Scouts 6:30 pm	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> 9:00 Sunday Classes 10:30 Worship Bldg & Online  Youth Group & Parents Group 6:00 pm	<b>31</b> Men's Discussion Group—8:00 am Food Bank 9:00-11:30 am Staff Mtg - 10 am  Trunk or Treat 6:00-7:30 pm					

# Ladies' Movie Night

Friday, October 14th—6:30 pm

We will watch "Mrs. Harris Goes to Paris" and then share in a time of prayer. This looks like a sweet and funny comedy/drama. Please join us with a snack to share and a friend. It will be a wonderful way to celebrate the transition to Fall for our group. Looking forward to seeing you then!  
Blessings, Vicky



# Trunk *or* Treat



GAMES!  
RAFFLE!  
DONUTS!  
CIDER!

Monday, October 31, 2022 | 6:00 – 7:30 pm

Turner Christian Church

7871 Marion Rd SE, Turner OR

[www.turnerchristianchurch.com](http://www.turnerchristianchurch.com) · 503-743-2119

**Office Hours:**

Monday—Thursday: 8:00am—2:00pm  
Friday: 8:00am—11:00 am

**Call us:**

503-743-2119

**Look us up at:**

[www.TurnerChristianChurch.com](http://www.TurnerChristianChurch.com)  
Facebook:/turnerchristian/OR  
Faithlife.com/turnercc

**Staff**

Matthew Holmes.....Senior Minister—[matt@turnerchristianchurch.com](mailto:matt@turnerchristianchurch.com)  
Rachel White.....Associate Minister—[rachel@turnerchristianchurch.com](mailto:rachel@turnerchristianchurch.com)  
Jules Roberto.....Preschool Director—[jules@turnerchristianchurch.com](mailto:jules@turnerchristianchurch.com)  
Jerry Sygney.....Office Administrator—[office@turnerchristianchurch.com](mailto:office@turnerchristianchurch.com)

**Sunday Morning Schedule**

Adult Bible Classes at 9:00 am  
Worship Service at 10:30 am  
Online Worship at 10:30 am  
TRH Live Stream at 10:30 am