

THE CLOVERDALE CONNECTION

SHARING THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS

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Immanuel...God with us.

I don't know about you, but the idea that God wants to dwell in our midst...that He wants to live with me (of all people) is so over the top, that it brings me to tears!

John the Revelator penned the following words...

And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, "Now God's presence is with people, and He will live with them, and they will be His people. God Himself will be with them and will be their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death, sadness, crying, or pain, because all the old ways are gone."

Rev 21:3-4 ~ NCV

We celebrate the birth of Jesus during the Christmas holidays.

Most theologians believe that Jesus was born in the Spring of the year. The fact of the matter is, Jesus came to this earth as an infant to *dwell with us...to give us a taste of the new earth!*

The humblest and the poorest were given special privileges. Mary and Joseph were very poor, yet Mary was favored of all Heaven to raise the Christ child. Shepherds, a profession often looked down on by the elite...were singled out as the first to worship the Christ child.

My wife & I have been reading a book entitled "*The Road to Happiness*", by Taylor G. Bunch. In this book, the author does a deep dive into the Beatitudes. Christ's most famous sermon hits hard on our responsibility to take care of the poor..."*for the kingdom of Heaven belongs to them*". Circa ~ Matt 5:1-12 (NCV)

The point here is...God is crazy about each one of us. It does not matter what we have or do not have. He wants to live with us...every person on this planet! Think about it...

Let's make this Christmas season about each other...helping those who are less fortunate. "*I tell you the truth, anything you did for even the least of My people here, you also did for Me.*"

Matt 25:40 (NCV)

Merry Christmas to our Cloverdale church family...

~ Martin & Judy Casper!



Children...one of God's many blessings that enrich our Cloverdale Church family!

Children are the lifeblood of a growing church. Without active Children's Ministry programs, churches struggle to grow.

In case you have not noticed, Cloverdale is blessed with a lot of kids! We have a very active Children's Ministry division. From infants to pathfinders, God is really blessing!

We have incredible leadership and staff. Individuals who participate in the Children's Ministry division, are focused and intentional about mentoring our young people to live a life of significance!

"The Cloverdale Kids" exists to grow disciples for Jesus, from a young age. "Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it." Proverbs 22:6 ~ (NKJV)

We have 6 classes ranging from ages 0-18. We also have a whole bunch of new volunteers that love children and are eager to share God's love.

The children's classrooms have been renovated and are a vibrant place for kids to worship. Each room has a different feel...both in décor and curriculum. This is in line with our plan to guide each child through the same wonderful Bible stories in age-appropriate ways. Initially, it is through playful interactions with parents. This method creates a positive environment to learn about the importance of worship, while moving into becoming a part of each Bible story.

As children grow and begin to understand the Bible, we help them see how these unique individual stories can apply to their lives. This helps them better understand the importance of their relationship with Jesus, as well as their friends and families.

We have created a system to check the kids in upon arrival to class. We also check them out when Sabbath School class ends. We are still working out some kinks in the system, but we are happy to say that it is another step to ensure your child's safety.

Are there are ways to be a part of Cloverdale Kids?

Absolutely! We are still in need of teachers, assistants, storytellers, people who love to create crafts, people willing to bring snacks, and many others.

For more information on how you can help "The Cloverdale Kids"...

**Contact: Lianna Bergherm
Children's Ministry Director**

At Cloverdale, we are blessed to have the dedication of individuals like Bill Legg & Teri Tamyose, along with others who lead and mentor our youth in the Boise Ponderosa Pathfinder and Adventurers Club(s).

It is the desire and goal of the Boise Ponderosa Pathfinder Club to serve the Adventurer and Pathfinder age youth in our church and community...while leading them to the feet of our Master Guide, Jesus Christ. Our singular focus is to follow the leading of the Holy Spirit, along with the guidance of the Cloverdale SDA Church administrators.

Within the last few weeks, the Adventurer Club assisted our Cloverdale Backpack Ministry with organizing donated goods...placing them in backpacks to be given to the homeless. They also crafted hand-made cards, filled with words of encouragement and love to be included with each backpack.

The Pathfinder Club helped make tie blankets to be supplied to the women's shelter. The Adventurer Club as well as the Pathfinder Club, were doing their part to *give unto the least of these my brethren*. Cloverdale is proud of what these amazing leaders are doing, to help these young people learn the importance of living intentional lives of significance.

For more information on how you can help Boise Ponderosa Pathfinders...

**Contact: Bill Legg, Director
Pathfinders**

**Contact: Teri Tamyose, Director
Adventurers**









Pastor's Corner

God with us...

It's the Christmas season! What a wonderful time of the year! But don't be confused. That does not mean relaxing...it is not easy. Many of us are running around trying to keep up with all the events, performances, gatherings, trips, projects, services... and the list goes on.

If those aren't enough to peg "your anxiety meter", you might find yourself having conversations with individuals who have very different views from yours...regarding Christmas, religion, politics, health, sports, etc. This season of joy and festivities can quickly become very stressful for many of us. So then...why would I refer to this experience as a wonderful time?

What I like most about Christmas is this...it provides me more opportunities than at any time of the year, to talk about Jesus. People may love or hate Christmas. They may or may not believe in Jesus...or the December 25 date. However, they are talking about Jesus, and that is my favorite topic of conversation!

For me, the birth of Jesus is confirmation that God desires to be with us.

From Genesis to Revelation, the Bible describes God's desire to be with us. Genesis describes how God created us, then set aside the seventh day of the week as a special day for us to spend quality time together (Genesis 2:1-2). Later God instructs Moses to build a tabernacle (Exodus 25), so He may dwell among his people. Fast forward again and Jesus is born as one of us (Matthew 1:22-25).

Ultimately, I look forward to when Jesus will come again, and finally be with us forever (Revelation 21:1-4)!

Christmas time offers us a great opportunity to share with others about the incredible God of the Bible who loves us and longs to be with us. Regardless of the date when Jesus was born, the fact that He was born, demonstrates just how far God is willing to go to be with us!

Prayerfully consider how you can experience opportunities to talk about Jesus, as well as God's great love for every one of us.

Be blessed...

Merry Christmas.



~ Pastor Marlon