

Senior Pastor: Rev. Jamie McBride  
Pastors Cell: 765-243-2910  
Email: jamiemcbride45@yahoo.com

Church Office Hours:  
Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m. - 1:00  
p.m.  
618-833-6702  
Email: annanazsec@frontier.com



# DECEMBER 2016

## PASTOR'S THOUGHTS

### Do You Have Time for Jesus?

*Joy to the world! The Lord is come: let earth receive her King.  
Let every heart prepare him room*

In the month of December we begin our celebration remembering the advent season. As Advent begins, Luke comes to us, as a kind of ghost of Christmas past, bidding us to lay aside for the moment our Christmas lists, leave the half-trimmed tree, pause the holiday movie, dry our hands from washing the cookie pans, and follow him. Suddenly, we find ourselves standing in what we somehow know is a small, ancient Palestinian village on an unusually starry night. The shapes and shadows of buildings look strange. The human and animal noises sound strange. The smoky scents of fire, foods, burning oils, and manure smell strange. The utter absence of electric lighting is strange. We reach for our smartphone. It's dead. Of course I am being humorous but in this short article I just want to draw our attention back to this wonderful story when Christ was born. As we do the story has some different characters and I encourage you to grab your bible and read the story found in Luke.

Do you have time for Jesus? I believe the Christmas story as Luke writes reveals some simple truths in how we make room for Jesus as the song sings "*let every heart prepare him room.*" I will identify the 5 people in the story and how they responded to making room.

1. Do you identify with Joseph and Mary? It wasn't easy or convenient, but they made time for Jesus.
2. Are you like the innkeeper? They are addicted to activity, not necessarily sinful activity, just things that keep one occupied. Do you not have time for Jesus because you are too busy?
3. Maybe you are like Herod. You don't have time for Jesus because you are self-absorbed in you own agenda. Herod is not unlike the men and women today who won't allow anything to interfere with their career, position in life, ambition, plans, or lifestyle. They won't let someone else be king of their lives. They see Jesus as a threat so they don't make time for him. Allegiance to someone else other than themselves is unthinkable.
4. Or, perhaps, you most identify with the religious leaders Have you learned yet that familiarity breeds contempt? Your familiar with Jesus, but your heart is covered with calluses. You've heard the story so many times that you don't hear it anymore and you just don't care. Indifferent people ignore their sin and Jesus. They don't care about the remedy because they don't believe they have the disease. So you're saying, "Why bother?"
5. The final person is described in this story:  
A legend recounts a company of demons before Satan's throne. Satan barks in a loud voice, "Who will go to earth to convince people not to give their lives to Jesus".  
"One said, "I'll go and tell them there is no heaven."  
"That won't work," Satan protested. "The conviction of a better life is too deep-seated in the hearts of men."  
"Then, I'll go," said another. "I'll tell them there is no hell."  
"Won't work," Satan thundered. "Man's conscience will witness against such mockery."  
Just then a dark spirit glided forward, "Satan, I'll go."  
"And what will you tell them?" "I will tell them," answered the spirit, "you have plenty of time to trust in Jesus, tomorrow will be soon enough to give you heart to the Savior. There's no hurry."

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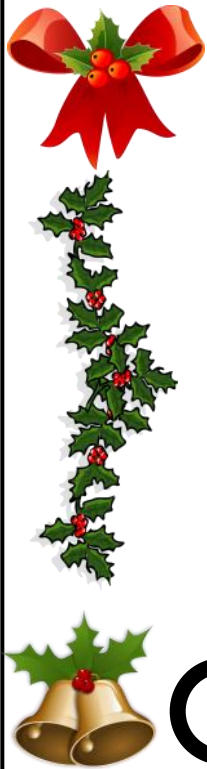
Does the procrastinator group resonate with you? You know the need and realize the peril, but would rather wait? Are you whispering to yourself, "There's no hurry? I'll make time for Jesus later."

If God made time for us, can't we make time for him this Christmas? Let's get ready for Christmas and make time for Jesus beginning now. Christmas is going to come whether we are ready or not. And Jesus is going to come again, whether we are ready or not. While there is still time let's get ready for Christmas and for Jesus. And if you have to choose one over the other, it's best to be ready for Jesus. The door to Jesus Christ has but one knob and it's on the outside. To welcome and invite Christ you must first open the door and invite him in.

*"They bowed down and worshiped him. They opened their gifts and gave him treasures of gold, frankincense, and myrrh." (Matthew 2:11)*

- > How do you need to make room for Jesus this Christmas Season?
- > How will you give Jesus your best this Christmas

With Love in Christ,  
Pastor Jamie



  
 Say  
**Hello**  
 To Friends You Know and  
*Everyone You Meet!*  
 Join us for a Christmas Open House  
 Saturday December **17th** 4pm-7pm  
 @The Parsonage

### SUNDAY SERVICES

Breakfast .....	9:00 a.m.
Pastoral Prayer .....	9:10 a.m.
Sunday School .....	9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship.....	10:35 a.m.
Children's Quizzing .....	5:00 p.m.
September - April	1st Grade - 6th Grade
Pastoral Prayer.....	5:40 p.m.
Evening Worship.....	6:00 p.m.

### WEDNESDAY SERVICES

"Family Bible Study" .....	6:30 p.m.
1st, 2nd, 4th & 5th Wednesday of each month	
Missionary Service .....	6:30 p.m.
3rd Wednesday of each month	
Children's Quizzing .....	6:30 p.m.
September - April	1st Grade - 6th Grade

Check out our Website and Facebook Page at [www.annanaz.com](http://www.annanaz.com)



Nazarene Missions  
INTERNATIONAL



Virginia Glasco's memorial was both very sweet and very sad. Larry Fuller and I shared some memories on how Virginia will live forever in our hearts. The Memorial roll is a way to honor friends and loved ones who have graduated to their Heavenly Reward. Their names are sent to the Kansas headquarters and the \$75 goes to provide Nazarene missions insurance. I hope everyone enjoyed the song Jess sang, I love the thought of lost loved ones cheering us on from the balconies of heaven. I know Verna worked very hard on the PowerPoint and it was a blessing to see photos of loved ones who finished the race well. The print that was donated by the Johnson family is a beautiful addition to our church. Please take the time in the overflow area and check it out if you have not already seen this beautiful addition.

November's poverty dinner was amazing. Joyce really went well beyond her call of duty. Joyce really has a heart for reaching out to the hurting and the lost. I know I heard several complaints about the meeting being the day before Thanksgiving, I just wanted to make a point we are blessed beyond measure. Many will not have any special time with friends or family and more will not have a special holiday meal. After all when something goes wrong who do you call after mom? It is not Ghostbusters but it is the church family who lift us in prayer, carry our burdens and open their hearts.



NMI's December focus is on World Mission Broadcast. Whatever it takes is the attitude the organization is taking with speaking 32 languages, being 72 countries, and having 140 programs. World Missions Broadcast takes the Good news of Christ to listeners worldwide by radio, television, and internet programs. Airtime for the world broadcast is \$4.00 per minute. How many minutes will you fund this year? If you wish to donate please use the designated envelopes or mark the envelop World Mission Broadcast.

I want to thank everyone who participated in the Samaritans Purse ministry. As a church we collected 38 boxes. Some of you chose to pack a box, while some of you chose to help our children's church pack boxes. **THANK YOU!**



Samaritan's Purse desire for December is for you to pray over these boxes. Franklin Graham states that prayer is the most important thing you can send with your box. Don't feel left out if you were unable to donate items. You can still pray for these boxes and do not forget to pray for our own kids. Who knows, some of them may be called to the mission field because of this experience. Pray that the box gets to the destination safely, the child that receives the box finds Jesus and the child's heart be tender to the heart of God.

It has been an honor serving for you the last few months as your Nazarene Missions International President. When I signed my papers I knew that I would be busy with school. Some of you have been gracious enough to present the lesson and a few participated in the prayer walk through the church. Thank you to everyone that encouraged me and helped in any way they could. During the upcoming spring semester I find myself in a tight spot because clinicals could land on Wednesday or Sunday. I have been notified that I am in the Wednesday clinical group and will be in class from 4:00-10:00PM. I will not be able to attend the normal NMI meetings.

Sarah Elkins, NMI President

## UPCOMING EVENTS



### CHRISTMAS CARD TREE

Bring one Christmas card from your family and give to Carla Ramage or Verna Fuller to be placed on the Christmas Tree in the foyer.

This is a way you can wish everyone in our church a "Merry Christmas" and "Happy New Year".

### DECEMBER 4 THANKSGIVING/CHRISTMAS POTLUCK MEAT AND DRINKS WILL BE PROVIDED

**Everyone is to bring a vegetable, salad or dessert**

### KINGDOM BUILDERS CLASS (YVONNE GRAHAM'S CLASS) CHRISTMAS PARTY



WILL BE HELD AT THE  
BLUE BOAR RESTAURANT  
ON DECEMBER 8  
AT 11:30 A.M.

### NATIVITY SHADOW DRAMA



**DECEMBER 18, 2016  
10:35 a.m.**

You will not want to miss this unique way that the

**Children's Church**

will be telling the story of the birth of Jesus



**CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICES - DECEMBER 25  
NO SUNDAY SCHOOL  
WORSHIP SERVICE AT 10:35 A.M.  
NO EVENING SERVICES**

# OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

## MINISTRY VOLUNTEERS DECEMBER 4

Special Music: A.M. Abby Barlow P.M. Randy Wright & Johnathon Cauble  
 Greeters: A.M. Darrell & Marie Mowell P.M. Dorris & Joyce Johnson  
 Projection: A.M. Verna Fuller P.M. Jason Elkins  
 Sound: A.M. Stanley Elkins P.M. Stanley Elkins  
 Video: A.M. Michael Hill P.M. Abby Barlow  
 Ushers: Robert Smith, Logan Wiseman, T.J. Macy, Chad Brooks  
 Pastoral Prayer Partners: Bryan & Ginger Morrison, Richard & Yvonne Graham  
 Nursery Worker/Helper: Vonda Hill/Madison Wright  
 Finance Team: Stanley & Marilyn Elkins, Leonard Sadler

## MINISTRY VOLUNTEERS DECEMBER 11

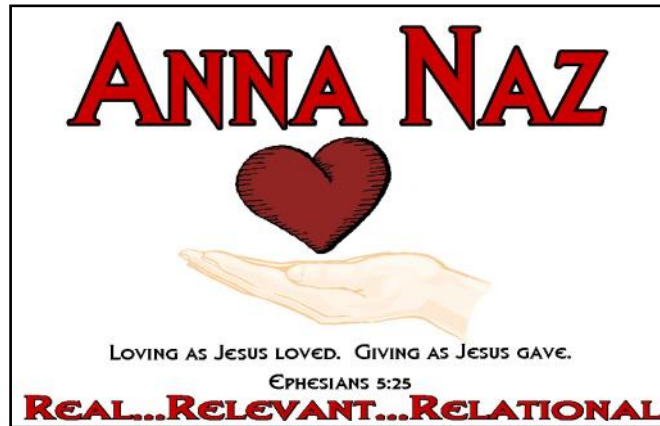
Special Music: A.M. Harley & Madison Schnaare P.M. Stanley & Marilyn Elkins  
 Greeters: A.M. Chad, Am & Abram Brooks P.M. Bryan & Ginger Morrison  
 Projection: A.M. Verna Fuller P.M. Sarah Elkins  
 Sound: A.M. Brad Clayborne P.M. Brad Clayborne  
 Video: A.M. Abby Barlow P.M. Clayton Ramage  
 Ushers: Matt Macy, Terry Wiseman Sr., Noah Wiseman, Dorris Johnson,  
 Pastoral Prayer Partners: Bryan & Ginger Morrison, Kathy Papa, Leonard Sadler  
 Nursery Worker/Helper: Vonda Hill/Marie Mowell  
 Finance Team: Stanley & Marilyn Elkins, Dorris Johnson

## MINISTRY VOLUNTEERS DECEMBER 18

Special Music: A.M. Children's Christmas Program P.M. Patti Mulback  
 Greeters: A.M. Kathy Papa/Lottie Smith P.M. Leonard & Connie Sadler  
 Projection: A.M. Sarah Elkins P.M. Jason Elkins  
 Sound: A.M. Stanley Elkins P.M. Stanley Elkins  
 Video: A.M. Michael Hill P.M. Clayton Ramage  
 Ushers: Curt Lyerla, Esten Parks, Jacob Wright, Phil Ray  
 Pastoral Prayer Partners: Bryan & Ginger Morrison, Richard & Yvonne Graham  
 Nursery Worker/Helper: Vonda Hill/Kerri Macy  
 Finance Team: Stanley & Marilyn Elkins, Leonard Sadler

## MINISTRY VOLUNTEERS DECEMBER 25

Special Music: A.M. Jessica Elkins P.M. No Service  
 Greeters: A.M. Terry Wiseman Sr. & Noah Wiseman P.M. No Service  
 Projection: A.M. Jason Elkins P.M. No Service  
 Sound: A.M. Stanley Elkins P.M. No Service  
 Video: A.M. Abby Barlow P.M. No Service  
 Ushers: Curly Ralls, Heath Brooks, Darrell Mowell, Mark Smith  
 Pastoral Prayer Partners: Bryan & Ginger Morrison, Kathy Papa, Leonard Sadler  
 Nursery Worker/Helper: Vonda Hill/Marva Wall  
 Finance Team: Stanley & Marilyn Elkins, Dorris Johnson



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

### Anna First Church of the Nazarene December 2016 Activities

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3 Minister's Christmas Party at Effingham
4 AM-Communion Thanksgiving Christmas Potluck	5	6	7 Family Bible Study 6:30 pm	8 Kingdom Builders Class Christmas Party	9	10
11	12	13	14 Family Bible Study 6:30 pm	15	16 Church Office Closed	17 Christmas Open House at Parsonage
18 AM Children's Christmas Program	19	20	21 Missionary Service 6:30 pm	22 Fellowship Hall Reserved	23 Church Office Closed	24
25	26 Church Office Closed	27	28 Family Bible Study 6:30 pm	29	30 Church Office Closed	31 New Year's Eve