

Church

The great in-between time

Well, Christmas is in the past and the New year is in the future. This week is always sort of that great in-between. Between Christmas and New Year's seems to be sort of a waiting time. The glow of Christmas hasn't worn off yet, but the New Year isn't here yet either.

It is as if in that week in between we don't know quite what to do. Some families for one reason or another are having a late Christmas, so you still hear an occasional "Merry Christmas." On the other hand, many of us are



JOHN ROHR

looking forward to the New Year, so you hear "Happy New Year" a lot. If you are trying to work, it can be tough because so many places are closed. And even if they are open, a lot of people at work this next week are in a daze between too much sugar and too many parties!

And then of course there is the concern over the New Year. We want to look forward to a fresh start, but let's be honest, the last couple of years have been sort of a mess! So, we want to look forward with hope, but the last couple of

years have made us a bit cautious.

As Christians we also live in that great in-between time. We are between the first and second coming of Christ. First, He came as the suffering Savior who died for our sins and rose the third day, soon He will return as the conquering King. As believers we are in between the time we trusted Christ and the time of our full redemption. Paul reminds us of that "...We ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. (Romans 8:23 ESV) That groaning is our

dealing with this fallen world. It is our struggle with sin and temptation. It is our battle against the flesh. We long for the day when our struggles with sin and sorrow will be over. We understand that there is coming a day when all our heartaches will end and we long for that day.

There is a real difference though, as we look forward with some hope for the new year, we also have a lot of uncertainty as well. As believers, we need have no uncertainty about Christ's return or about our hope. Our hope is sure and certain, we have been redeemed and when the trumpet of the

Lord calls us home, we need have no worries. A new year may hold dreadful surprises, but our new resurrection life will hold only delight.

Our hope is not in the chance of what tomorrow may bring, it is in the promise of the One who holds all our tomorrows. His promises are true and sure from the moment He makes them. We can trust Him and His promises completely. My hope for you to have a Happy New Year is a wish, a desire for your good. God's promise of new life is His assurance that all our tomorrows are ultimately blessed because they are held in His almighty hand!

I was naughty and didn't know it

Everybody has their own definition of what naughty is. So my great concern is why we allow this man called Santa Claus from the North Pole to determine who is naughty or nice?

For some reason, I got on Santa's naughty list this year. You might ask, "How do you know that you're on his naughty list?"

The answer to that is very simple, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage said to me this past week, "I think you're on Santa's naughty list this year."

I don't know how she knew that, but I never question what she knows or doesn't know. So if she says I'm on Santa's naughty list, I am for sure on Santa's naughty list.

The problem is that she has a different definition of naughty than I do.

Her definition of naughty is eating apple fritters.

My definition of naughty is eating broccoli.

Right here, the Twain shall never come together.

The only way that Santa could know that I have been naughty this past year is if he got the

information from The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. That in itself seems to me to be quite naughty. But you didn't hear it from me.

If being naughty is eating an apple fritter, then I shall be naughty till the day I die. After all, any Apple fritter is worth it.

That being settled, it is very clear that I know how to be naughty.

The Apple fritter is just one aspect of my naughtiness. So what I need to investigate is how in the world can I get on Santa's nice list?

What can I do this coming year to guarantee a spot on that infamous list?

To be sure, I will not be asking The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage because then she will tell me, and I will be in deep trouble. I can almost hear what she would say in this regard.

But I need to figure out for myself what it really means to be nice. I thought I was a nice person, but what I think doesn't really matter. What can I do to be nice to the people around me?

And if I am nice to the people around me, will Santa notice? What can

But I need to figure out for myself what it really means to be nice. I thought I was a nice person, but what I think doesn't really matter. What can I do to be nice to the people around me? And if I am nice to the people around me, will Santa notice? What can I do to get his attention? After all, this infamous character supposedly lives in the North Pole, so how would he know what I'm doing way down here?

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After all, this infamous character supposedly lives in the North Pole, so how would he know what I'm doing way down here?

I spent some time the other day thinking about this and trying to come up with a list of things I could do to reveal the nice quality of myself to people around me. After a couple of hours of such meditation, I did not come up with a single thing I could do to reveal my niceness.

My first focus was, how can I be nice to my wife? After all, she's nice to me, so how can I reciprocate?

After living with her for so long, I have come to the conclusion that anything I do, she can do much better. Everything I break, she can fix.

Then a thought did a Christmas dance in my head. Then, whenever

she fixes anything, she is very happy because she can fix it. So what makes her happy is fixing things.

So, if I'm going to make her happy this coming year, I need to concentrate on breaking things. Everything I break will make her happy because then she can fix something. So why didn't I think of this before?

I can think of so many things I can break that I didn't know exactly where to start. It's going to be important to start at the right place so that I can build on that throughout the year. After all, if something can be broken, I'm your man.

This was a great challenge for me because everything I break is an accident. To do this right, I will have to master having accidents.

A couple of years ago, I broke the front

bumper of my truck. My wife was able to fix it using several paperclips.

Well, guess what my first accident was? You got it.

I pulled into a parking lot for some reason, went too far, and unintentionally broke the front bumper again. Actually, I didn't know I had broken it; I just heard a sound and didn't think too much about it.

Later that evening my wife happened to go outside where my truck was parked and when she came in, she said with a smile all over her face, "Did you notice that your front bumper is broken again?"

At first, of course, I thought she was joking and laughed at her and said, "Is that right?"

She disappeared and, in a moment, came back with several paperclips and went back outside and fixed my truck.

I leaned back in my chair, smiled, and said to myself, "This is your first act of niceness for the year. What's next?"

I was reminded of the words of Jesus when he said, "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you" (Matthew 7:7).

This coming year I certainly will exercise when Jesus says here and look forward to ways I can be nice, especially to my wife. Then, I might be able to loop over to being nice to other people. So I have a great year ahead of me.

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CHURCH HAPPENINGS

AA MEETINGS

Al-Anon meetings are held each Monday from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. at First Christian Church, located at 403 Main Cross Street, Taylorsville.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Submit your church announcements to The Spencer Magnet by Friday at 5 p.m. Email them directly to editor@spencermagnet.com.

YOUR CUSTOMER JUST READ THIS AD.
Advertise in The Spencer Magnet.

The Spencer Magnet

Cost to display your church advertisement in the newspaper:

1 block for 26 consecutive weeks at \$8.50 wk.

Double block for 26 consecutive weeks at \$14.00 wk.

Community Church Directory

"I was glad when they said, 'Let us go into the house of the Lord.'" Psalm 122:1

Call Victoria at 633-4987 ext. 114 to have your church listing added.

Waterford Church of Christ
5607 Mt. Washington Rd.,
Taylorsville
Minister: Joseph Stone
502-477-2316

Schedule Of Services
Sunday Morning
Worship 10:30 a.m.
Messages from the Bible

"As a light on a hill"
**BRIAR RIDGE
CHRISTIAN CHURCH**
3951 Briar Ridge Rd, Mt. Eden
Lonnie D. McNabb, Minister

Sunday Classes 10 a.m.,
Worship & Youth 11 a.m.,
Sunday Night Worship & Youth 6 p.m.,
Wednesday Prayer Meeting 6:30 p.m.

**All Saints
Catholic Church**
Mass:
Sunday 8:00AM and 12:00PM
Wednesday 12:00PM
Thursday 12:00PM
410 Main Cross St.
477-6676

First Baptist Church
115 West Main St., Taylorsville
www.taylorsvillefbcc.com
Chance McConnell, Pastor
Contact or for transportation call:
477-8197
Sun: Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.
Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.
Youth Group 6:00 p.m.
Wed: Prayer & Bible Study 6:30 p.m.
Family, Children & Youth 6:30 p.m.

**Taylorsville United
Methodist Church**
145 W. Main St., Taylorsville
Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors
Sunday School 10 a.m.
Morning Worship 11 a.m.
Pastor Charley Hatfield
TaylorsvilleMethodist.org
502-477-8718

**RISEN LORD
LUTHERAN**
LCMS
Pastor Jon Mueller
Office (502) 477-6557
www.risenlordchurch.com
Christ-centered with an emphasis on
Scripture, Grace, and Faith
5138 Taylorsville Road, Taylorsville, KY 40071
(located near Elk Creek on Ky 155/55)
Worship 11:00 a.m.
Sunday School 10:00 a.m.
"Caring and Sharing...Spreading the Gospel"

Wakefield Baptist Church
5517 Bloomfield Rd.
Pastor Brother Tom Sparrow
SUNDAY SCHOOL 10 a.m.
MORNING WORSHIP 11 a.m.
EVENING SERVICES
Sunday 5 p.m.
Wednesday 6 p.m.
WBRT RADIO 1320 AM
Good Sunday Morning
9:30 a.m. - Listen

LITTLE MOUNT BAPTIST CHURCH
6129 Little Mount Rd., Taylorsville
Allan Hahn, Interim Pastor
477-6979
Sunday School - 9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship - 10:45 a.m.
Wednesday Community Meal - 5:15 p.m.
Wednesday Prayer Meeting
and Bible Study - 6:30 p.m.

PLUM CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH
www.plumcreekbaptist.com
Off of Hwy. 44 in Waterford
(502) 477-2582
SUNDAY SCHEDULE
Sunday School 9:50 a.m.
Morning Worship 8:30 & 11 a.m.
Youth Small Group 6 p.m.
Evening Worship 6 p.m.
WEDNESDAY FAMILY MINISTRY NIGHT:
Dinner 5:45 p.m. • Children, Youth & Adult
Bible Study & Prayer Meeting 6:30 p.m.

**First Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)**
Main Cross St. Taylorsville
Where Friends Become Family
Pastor Bill Dunning
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Worship 11:00 a.m.
Know God, Worship God, Serve God

The Old Country Church
OCC Ministries
FULL GOSPEL
3596 Mt. Eden Road
Deborah Peach, Pastor
SUNDAY SCHOOL: 10 A.M.
MORNING WORSHIP: 11 A.M.
EVENING WORSHIP: 6:30 P.M.
THURSDAY EVENING: 7 P.M.
502-738-5081