



Forgotten Christmas

It's tempting, when thinking about the Christmas season, to just sort of go on auto-pilot. There's so much that is routine, familiar, and traditional about it all. Really, this is true about all facets of Christmas – from the decorations we put up each year that we've had for decades, to the Christmas gatherings we go to every year with the same people, to what we eat on Christmas morning for breakfast (cinnamon rolls are a staple for us).

Does the same thing happen to us when it comes to the birth narratives of Jesus?

We know about Mary and Joseph and the wise men who came later. We know about the already full guest room of the house they went to. We know the wise men came a bit later bringing gifts of frankincense, gold, and myrrh. We definitely know that we'd only appreciate one of those gifts, ourselves.

There's so much that we're familiar with in the events of God coming to us in Jesus, that it's easy to kind of go on auto-pilot. We're that familiar with the events.

But are we really that familiar with the Christmas story?

What about the people who are a part of the narrative, but maybe don't take center stage quite so much? Are there some people and events we've maybe forgotten about? For instance: What about the people who carried the faith in the generations prior to Jesus' birth (Mt. 1:1-17)? What about Elizabeth and Zechariah? Is it even possible that for some people, Jesus is forgotten?

This is what we will look at this Advent: some of the forgotten people of the Christmas narrative. Why? Because it's important for us to remember that the "main characters" aren't the only characters, and even those who are less prominent have a huge impact. Really, that's where most of us probably live: a little bit off to the side of the spotlight. Maybe way off to the side, even.

But even there, God has a role for us. He's inviting us into His story at this moment in history, to carry the torch of the gospel. And we certainly don't want to forget that.

So, let's join together each Sunday this Advent – and make sure you bring a friend. The Kingdom of God grows when His people reach out to others and invite them along (including online). And then, my hope and prayer is that this series on the Forgotten People of Christmas will actually be unforgettable and will have a lasting impact, pointing people to Jesus.

Your Pastor,

Brian



RHKIDZ

Gwen North, Children's and Family Ministry Director

 **Merry Christmas!!!**

There are so many things that warm my heart about December. I can't get enough of the Carmel Brulée Latte or the Chestnut Praline Latte. The school winter programs are adorable as they give the kids the chance to shine. Our church's bells play beautifully and give us hope. Warm gatherings take place like the Christmas Desert and community bazaars. The kids/youth **Christmas Pageant** is extra special as the kids get into the heart of the message of Christmas. They do active engagement as they play the characters and speak the roles. Christmas Eve services help us to raise the light of faith and gather hope for tomorrow. Simply said, December has a real charm and there is no celebration quite like Christmas. May we all know the heart of God to embrace us this Christmas!



Children/Youth Christmas Pageant

Let's Meet at the Stable! The Children and Youth Pageant is definitely one of the highlights of the year at RHC and this year it is going to be on Sunday the 12th during a combined worship service at 10am. The kids get dressed up and make their way to the birth of Christ. We have townspeople, Mary, Gabriel, Caesar, Joseph, The Wisemen, The Shepherds and sheep, and the birth of sweet Jesus. The children/youth are the actors that bring this magnificent story to life. Parts are being passed out at church and practicing will happen at home. We will gather for practice on Saturday the 11th at 9am in the Sanctuary. We will then perform it as part of the combined worship service on Sunday the 12th. What a glorious day that will be!

Reach out to gwen@rosehillpc.org or paul@rosehillpc.org if you have any questions!

Operation Christmas Child was a success again this year. It is such a blessing to give and make the difference in the life of a child. Way to go RHChurch! We gathered 25 boxes and blessed kids from around the world! That is 25 kids that are going to hear about the love of God and be blessed! Praise the Lord.



Trunk Or Treat at RHC!

Great job everyone it was so fun to see 600 people come and have fun with all of us in the parking lot. The games were wonderful and the decorations were a blast. Congratulations on a job well done. The kids were blessed!



Paul Hudson, Director of Emerge Youth Group

EMERGE

"To say to the captives, 'Come out,'
and to those in darkness, 'Be free!'"

Isaiah 49:9a

Building meaningful and lasting relationships
with Jesus and each other.

ARH

Rose Hill Church Youth Group

Wednesdays: 6:30-8pm

Sundays: M.S. 9:30am, H.S. 11am

Contact: Paul Hudson paul@rosehillpc.org



It's the end of the year and that means Christmas parties, warm decorations, giving and receiving, carols, and the kids' pageants! Our youth Christmas party this year is December 8th—put it on your calendar! On December 15th we'll meet up at the Church and go around the neighborhood Christmas caroling. In the past when we've done this, I know it has been a very special time for many of our neighbors, please join us and bring the warmth of Christmas to our neighboring community! The kids' Christmas Pageant this year is on for a special live combined service at 10am on Sunday, Dec. 12th, not on zoom! We will have **rehearsal at 9am on Saturday the 11th, and practice at 9am on Sunday the 12th**. Finally, be reminded that we will not have Wednesday youth group on Dec. 22nd and 29th, and Sunday, Dec. 26th is one service. Please stay up to date with any other youth events by subscribing to my email updates, just contact me with your email address: paul@rosehillpc.org.

FELLOWSHIP & DISCIPLESHIP

Monica Ernsberger, Director

Christmas Dessert

Women's Ministries invites all ladies to gather for connection and refreshment as we prepare our hearts for Christmas.

Please join us on **Sunday, December 5th from 3-5 pm** for a new take on a Rose Hill traditional favorite! We will gather outdoors under the tent awning (rain, snow, or shine) at 3:00 for a S'Mores bar around the fire pit with warm drinks (think cocoa and spiced cider). Dress in warm layers so that weather doesn't dampen our enjoyment of the time together.

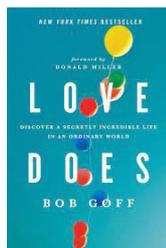


We will move indoors at 3:45 for a special program that we pray will help you prepare your heart to encounter Jesus in a deeper way as we celebrate His birth. This year more than ever, it is important to focus on the reason we celebrate Christmas – Jesus is God's ultimate gift of love to us!

Invite your mom, your daughters, your friends, neighbors, and anyone who loves chocolate and needs to know the peace of God more fully.

While we will follow all COVID guidelines in place at the time of the event, we also understand that it may be more comfortable for some to join online. A zoom link will be available at 3:45 to allow online participation for the main part of the program. Please sign up at the welcome center or online and let us know whether you will attend in-person or online. For additional information, email us at WM@rosehill.church, or talk to any member of the Women's Ministry committee: Chris Seifert, Elaine Weltz, Janelle Phibbs, Jeanne Harshbarger, Judi Byrne, Monica Ernsberger, Patti Smith, or Sue Eddy.

Join a 5-week Christmas season discipleship class on Zoom, Mondays from 7-8 pm starting Dec. 13th.



We like big, right? I'm not talking about Big Macs. I'm talking about when a childhood friend makes it big, or when you are delivered a case of items instead of the single item you paid for and are told, "OK, just keep it – on us!" Why is this? We love to see things go upside down. Christmas has lots of this. The King was born in a manger and the Son of God took on the nature of a servant! God's love is upside down because it does love in powerful, unexpected ways.

In this video-driven class we will watch short videos on Love Does featuring Bob Goff and then discuss the points he makes. Bob shares humorous and thought-provoking real-life stories that help make faith in God simple and real. What fuels his impact? Love. But it's not the kind of love that stops at thoughts and feelings. Bob's love takes action, just like Jesus did.

To join on Dec. 13th at 7:00 pm click on this:
<https://us02web.zoom.us>. Direct any questions to Andy Padvorac at andypadvo@gmail.com.

Rose Hill's Angel Tree for 2021



Rose Hill Church will have an Angel Tree in the lobby on December 5th. The Deacons invite you to take an angel tag from the tree and purchase a Christmas gift for the son or daughter of a prison inmate. The tag will give you a description of the gift the child wants. All gifts should be wrapped and returned to the church one week later on December 12th.

By participating in Angel Tree you help prison inmates maintain loving contact with their children, giving them incentive and hope to make changes that will help them get out and stay out of prison. The children are thrilled to receive gifts from their absent parents and will also hear about Christ's wonderful and amazing love for them. So please take an angel and be a blessing to one of these families.

"I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me." Matthew 25:40

If you have questions about Angel Tree, please call Jane Peterson at 425-830-6034.

GLOBAL OUTREACH

TS John and family



South Asia Access's mission is to bring Christ's hope and healing to children, families and communities struggling with disabilities in South Asia. Since this ministry began in 1997, 91 unreached communities have been impacted, over 15,000 disability-affected families have been served, and 139 "Abundant Life" house fellowships started. Their mission is to meet health, access and spiritual needs, as well as providing livelihood training and jobs to help alleviate poverty. The need remains huge: an estimated 100 million South Asians struggle with poverty and social exclusion that comes from being labeled "cursed" by disability, and disability-affected families have been especially affected by COVID. Pray for the safety of SAA's workers **and those they serve, especially where preaching the gospel can be a dangerous activity.**

11/30/21 UPDATE: TS John asks us to pray for SAA's "Heroes of Hope" who continue to deliver relief supplies and development aid in the midst of a life-threatening pandemic, hostility from anti-Christian elements, and an ungrateful and unsupportive government.



Matthew & Elizabeth Van Wart (Nathaniel, Maddy, Annie, Alex) – WorldVenture

Matthew serves as a Public Health Coordinator, working through rural churches in villages in need of basic healthcare. The goal of their ministry is to help with physical needs as an inroads to reaching great spiritual needs. Elizabeth recently reported, "We are thankful that ministry opportunities abound. Matt is teaching Community Health Evangelism 2-3 times a week, I am able to teach Sunday School again, we are discipling a newly married couple and an engaged couple, and we are hosting different groups from time to time. God is so good."

11/30/21 UPDATE: Working through rural churches in villages in need of basic healthcare and creating connections to meet both physical and spiritual needs. Pray for continued safety, and that Uganda will not again have to "shut down" due to the COVID Omicron variant. (Such measures can leave the family feeling very isolated.)

SESSION

Jim Peterson, Clerk of Session

Session met on November 16, 2021, to discern God's will for His church here at Rose Hill. This meeting was rescheduled from November 9th due to the power outage at the church on that day.

Session heard from Eagle Scout candidate Isaac Jennings of Troop 572 (the Rose Hill troop) about his Eagle project plan to rebuild an aging play structure in the church playground. The Session approved his plan and voted to approve funding from the Doug Wing Memorial Fund. Isaac will return to update the Session prior to beginning work on the project.

We heard from our Finance Director Dave Cram about his plans to provide Session with streamlined financial reports and some improved financial procedures needed as the church continues to recover from impacts of COVID restrictions. October financial reports were delayed and will be reviewed later.

The pastor and elders discussed activities that are planned for the weekend of February 11-13, 2022, when ECO Synod Executive Dana Allin visits Rose Hill to meet with our Session and staff leaders. Funds were approved for leadership training tools to be used during Dana's meetings with our leaders. We anticipate that Dana will also join us for worship services on February 13th.

Other business included a discussion of ways Rose Hill Church might help to support a new ECO church planting effort in Edmonds. The elders agreed that Pastor Brian and Dave Cram should explore that further. Pastor Brian also gave an update on the formation of the Preschool Team that he recently announced to the congregation. The meeting concluded with an executive session of the elders to prepare their annual performance review for Pastor Brian.

Please continue to uphold our Pastor, and all church staff members, elders, and deacons in prayer as they do their ongoing work for God's Kingdom. Please also pray for God's guidance of the Nominating Committee and everyone they contact about becoming elders, deacons, and other officers in the coming year.

In Christ,
Jim Peterson



Deacons' Doings

DEACONS

Roy McIntosh, Moderator

We are so blessed and have so much to be thankful for, yet these are difficult times for each of us in different ways. It is both a time to give thanks and a time to seek HIS help in all we do. Your Deacons are preparing to give gift certificates from Safeway to needy families for Christmas. We are also asking for your support for the Angel Tree Ministry and for the Deacon's Christmas Card in the narthex. Please take an angel from the Angel Tree and be a blessing to one of these families. None of this would be possible without your supporting contributions and prayer.

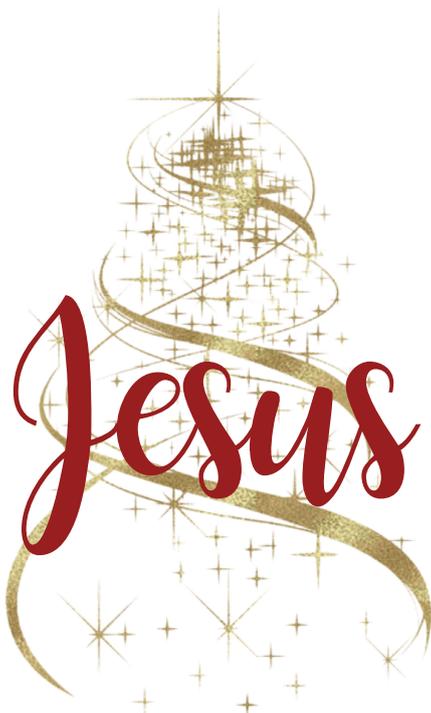
We are still looking for someone to coordinate the Teacup Ministry. Please tell us if you or someone you know would like to be included on the Deacon's Prayer List.



It's Rosehill's tradition to have a congregational Christmas card that congregants can sign and make a donation in the box provided for the Deacons fund. Deacons are not funded through the annual budget. They have to raise money on their own. This makes it possible for us to help those in need. The box and card will be located on a small table by a hand painted winter painting done by Judi Byrne.

1 Thesalonians. 5:16-18

God has poured His love into us, so we should allow that love to overflow.



CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE
7:00 p.m.
In-Person & Online

"...and she gave birth to her firstborn,
a son. She wrapped him in cloths and
placed him in a manger..."

Luke 2:7

December Birthdays

4 Shelley Nagel	23 Carol Sagara
12 Steven Roetcisoender	27 Mary Ellen Kennedy
14 Ro Patterson	Owen Johnson
Monica Ernsberger	30 Betty Lovett
17 Ron Lince	31 Barbara Patrick
19 Sawako Buchanan	Sue Eddy
23 Judi Byrne	

Happy Birthday! 

Weekly

M	11:00am	Staff Meeting (2nd & 4th Mon)
	6:15pm	BSF
T	6:30pm	Worship Team Practice
W	6:30pm	RHC Youth Group
TH	8:00pm	Bells Practice
SU	9:30am	Modern Service
	11:00am	Traditional Service



December Anniversaries

- 7 Kenneth & Carol Sagara
- 27 Jim & Jane Peterson

Happy Anniversary! 

Group Prayer Time every 1st & 3rd Thursday each month at 7:00pm on Zoom, led by Hailey North. Praying for a variety of things, but with a focus on our church: our ministries, our future, our transformation.

December dates: 2nd, 16th

Email Gwen North at gwen@rosehillpc.org for the link.



FACILITIES

Dan Wolfe, Facilities Director

Let's join together to maintain our amazing church home!

Remember to bring your mask, snacks & drinks.

Thank you for your servant's heart!

WORK PARTY

December 11

9:00am-12:00pm

December Calendar

- 2 Group Prayer, 7:00pm
- 5 Second Sunday of Advent
Women's Christmas Dessert
3pm - 5pm
- 11 Work Party
- 12 Third Sunday of Advent
Combined Worship, 10:00am
Christmas Pageant
- 16 Group Prayer, 7:00pm
- 19 Fourth Sunday of Advent
- 24 Christmas Eve Service at 7:00pm
- 25 *Merry Christmas!*
- 26 Time Off for Staff Who Worked Christmas Eve
- 27 Church Office CLOSED for Christmas