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1883 Old US 24
Huntington, IN 46750

Worship Service
11 AM Sunday Mornings

—What is your plan? —

Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and he will establish your plans. Proverbs 16:3

I am learning that I need to be much more intentional about how I live my life. I need to be much more goal-oriented in how I approach my daily living. I need to ask very specific questions about all of my relationships. The proverb I referenced above gives me a good starting point. Too often I begin with my plans and hope that God is on board. I should not assume that God and I are on the same page on the aspects of my life.

And while I do want to make sure that as the new year we are entering into closes with significant growth in my life, I can't just assume it is going to happen because I want it to. I have to plan on it. But I am learning that I need to be more general with the details. As a simple example, I will use being a husband. In 2015 I want to be a better husband. What I would most naturally do is ask myself, "What does a good husband do?" and then make a checklist of things to do in 2015. A good husband tells his wife he loves her, takes her out on dates, shares the workload around the house, and the list can go on.

But the proverb shows me that the only thing I really need to do is seek to honor God in how I relate to my wife. When this happens, God will reveal to my

spirit how to best care for her. And while many of those things may get accomplished in the process, the motivation will be to bring glory and honor to God and is the greatest motivation I can have. So, in 2015, I don't simply want to be a better pastor, I want to bring glory and honor to God in my vocation. I don't simply want to be a better dad or husband, or friend, I want to primarily bring glory and honor to God in all of those relationships trusting that the natural byproduct will be that all of those relationships will see significant growth.

Whatever you do, commit it to the Lord. Whether it is being a student, a parent, a spouse, a friend, a volunteer, an employee, etc. do it for the Lord and not for personal gain.

A very loose paraphrase of that proverb can be, "If you put God first, He'll sort out the details." A very simple and broad resolution for the new year for us all can be: In 2015, I will be committed to the Lord in all I do.

Pastor Josh Kesler



—Peace and Joy—

Psalm 119:165 “Great peace have those who love your law, and nothing can make them stumble.”

Peace and joy go hand in hand and, if we took the time to reevaluate our lives, we would discover numerous times when we suddenly feel a sense of peace come over us, knowing everything would be alright. 2014 is almost over, 2015 is poised and ready to unfold.

I would like to pose a question to you as you transition into the New Year. What brings you peace and joy in your life? Are you a smartphone addict? Are you constantly looking forward to the newest version to arrive so you can be the first to have it? Are you a NASCAR fan who looks forward to Sunday afternoons in order to watch the race, so you feel lost and bored during the January and February break? These are only a few examples. It’s a vicious cycle that we can allow ourselves to get caught up in.

Have you ever teased a loved one by holding your fingers about an inch apart and reply “about this much” when you’re asked “how much do you love me?” If we were to ask God “how much do you love me?” we would see Jesus with his arms stretched out wide and nailed to the cross and God would reply “this much.” God’s love for us is

constant with no highs or lows. God doesn't have days where He doesn't love us as much as He usually does; He loves us the same day in and day out.

I am not saying that having things like a cool phone or watching NASCAR on Sundays are bad things, but if we continue to search for peace and joy in material things we will never be satisfied. You will be forever searching for the perfect material item in order to maintain the joy in your life. God can and will give us that peace and joy through Scripture and time spent in prayer.

Happy New Year,

Pastor Jim Hippensteel



Christmas Eve Worship Service



Neighborhood Kids

As we are about to enter a new year, I find myself reflecting on not only this past year, but more recently this past week! Like most people during this time of year, my family has spent the last week finishing up last minute shopping, secretly wrapping gifts (and feeling like they would NEVER end), making sure that “Santa” delivered the correct items to the correct children in our house, losing a ton of sleep, planning how to best spend the time off of work, spending time with family and friends, and of course participating in all of the holiday baking, cooking, eating, and other festivities that are always involved! When we think of the Christmas season, we are filled with thoughts of Santa, presents, elves, reindeer, food, family, and the list goes on. We find ourselves getting caught up in the moment and sucked in by all of the excitement surrounding these traditional events.

As crazy, hectic, and wonderful as all of these activities can be...they only last a short period of time. In less than 3 days, my family visited 4 sets of grandparents, spent time with our wonderful church family, all of the presents in our house were both wrapped AND unwrapped, and so many emotions were shared. Our house was filled with hugs, laughter, excitement, amazement, and many giggles from our 3 little girls...but we also experienced exhausted, grumpy, whiny, and not-so-pleasant attitudes from those same sweet little girls at the end of the whirlwind of activities. Maybe my household is the only one like this, but I’m going out on a limb by saying this may be typical of most families with little kids.

I have to say, when looking back over this past week, I think this year can be recorded as my absolute best Christmas ever! Why do you ask? Was it because of the wonderful gifts that were given and received? No. Was it because I was able to spend time with many of my family that I do not see very often? No. Was it because Phil and I were excellent at playing “Santa” this year? No. Was it because my girls were in excellent moods through the entire week of events? No. It was because on Christmas Eve night, I was reminded very innocently by my middle daughter, Harper, the true meaning of Christmas.

We were on our way home as a family from the Christmas Eve service at The Well. Keep in mind, this is the first Christmas Eve service that my family has ever attended because typically we have had family commitments during this time. As a family, Phil and I felt that we needed to make some changes and attend the service with our Well family. Just when we were getting ready to pull in our driveway, I asked the girls if they were ready for Santa to come visit with presents. They said “YES”! But then I was politely reminded by Harper that “Well, Christmas isn’t really about the presents, Mom. The real reason for Christmas is because it is Jesus’ birthday! We only give presents because all those people brought presents when Jesus was born. Now it’s just a tradition to do that...didn’t you know that?” Okay, so I was instantly brought to my senses by my 5 year old and reminded once again of the true meaning of Christmas. Now THAT is why this will be remembered as my best Christmas ever!

With this being said, a huge THANK YOU to our Well family and our Neighborhood Volunteers...we are doing something “right” in The Neighborhood. Bring on 2015!



Youth News

We are looking forward to meeting again as a youth group after the start of the New Year! In the weeks and months to come, we are excited to be moving forward with a "re-launch" of The Well Youth Group. We will be tweaking what we are currently doing in order to more effectively accomplish our vision. The vision of the youth group is "To bring glory and honor to God by making disciples who know Christ, are led by His Spirit, and proclaim the Gospel in both word and action."

Some changes will include new lessons, small group discussion, games relevant to the lessons, as well as group outings and service opportunities. Megan, Nick and I have been brainstorming a number of ways to engage and interact with the students to assist them in building a solid biblical foundation for life. We have a few things already in the works for the rest of the winter, spring and summer but one thing that we hope to have more information on soon is a retreat weekend where students will be able to have some fun while growing in their relationship with Christ and one another.

The Well youth group will resume January 11, 2015 6:00-7:30 pm. Additionally, for students in grades 6-12, our youth group has been invited to attend "Festivus: The all night party for the rest of us." This all-nighter begins on Jan 2nd at 8pm and ends on January 3rd at 6:45am. We will be joining other area youth groups for hours of fun that includes laser tag, batting cages, bowling, and ice skating just to name a few. If your teen is interested and would like more information feel free to contact me through my email, abby@thewell.church. The total cost for this all-night adventure is \$35. If cost is an issue, please let me know as there can be assistance available for anyone who has need. Registration starts at 8pm in the Sports Complex at Huntington University and pick-up will be at College Park Church.

Please encourage your teens to invite friends and spread the news of our youth group. Hope to see you there! -Abby



ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Be Informed

Be sure to like our Facebook page:
www.facebook.com/thewellathuntington
 Check out our website:
www.thewell.church

Follow us on Twitter:
[@the_wellchurch](https://twitter.com/the_wellchurch)

We Want You to Have a Bible

If you are in need of a Bible, The Well has one for you. See Pastor Josh on Sunday morning.

Men's Prayer Group

Men's prayer group meets on Thursdays, 7 PM. Contact Pastor Jim at jim@thewell.church if you are interested in joining us or if you have a prayer request you would like the men to be praying for.

Serving Opportunities

Some of you may be wondering how you can serve at The Well. We currently have opportunities in our Children's Ministry, Worship Ministry, Frontline Ministry, with more opportunities coming! If you want to get plugged into The Well, contact any of the pastors and they will help you get connected.

Getting the Newsletter?

If you know someone who isn't getting the newsletter, for whatever reason, let us know. Send us an email at office@thewell.church.

Prayer Available

If you have any prayer requests or would like to pray with one of our pastors contact Pastor Jim Hippensteel at jim@thewell.church. He is also available for prayer, before and after our worship service.

New Mailing Address

We are no longer using the PO Box. Please send any mail to 1883 Old US Highway 24, Huntington, IN 46750.

The Well News and Weather Announcements

Want to stay up on what is happening or what the needs are of The Well? Check the "News" section on our website.
www.thewell.church/news

Weather related announcements will be first communicated through the website. Also check Facebook, Twitter, Star 88.3, and local television stations.



Thanks to Mr. Kyle Hoopingarner for the Christmas Eve pictures.

