

Grace Tidings



A Newsletter of Avalon Grace Church

January - February 2021

Who's in Your Future?

We often hear slogans such as: "Don't leave home without it" or "What's in your wallet"? Whether we realize it or not, advertisers are competing for our trust, playing on our fears and uncertainties - hoping our decisions are based upon the latest trend, news headline, or stock market report. Other advertisers appeal to warm, fuzzy feelings: "Say it with flowers" or "Because you're worth it" or "When you care enough to send the very best!" Still others target our anxieties and impatience: "When it absolutely, positively has to be there overnight" or "It's everywhere you want it to be" or "Just do it!"

As followers of Jesus Christ, we don't have to get drawn in or be influenced by the world's watchwords or subtle suggestions. Their catchy slogans may make us smile of course, but for the believer, a life of faith involves reading and studying God's Word daily, rightly dividing the word of truth, relying on His Holy Spirit to enlighten and teach us, and living each day trusting God to guide and

direct our future. *"Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee."* - Psalms 119:11 KJV

You may not know where life is taking you or what obstacles or circumstances you will be facing in 2021. But you can be sure that with each tomorrow, God has something prepared for you that you can't see or imagine. Whatever each tomorrow may hold it is always generated out of God's unconditional love for each of us.

As human beings we sometimes worry about the uncertainty of the future because we can never really be sure about it. A single event can change our lives for the better or present us with a new challenge, sorrow, disappointment, illness, or adversity; however, in the unexpected events of life, God is faithful and He is totally sufficient to meet our every need.

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Pastor Phillip McClellan, Jr.
Pastor Emeritus Arthur Sims
Kathleen Smith, Editor

All Are Welcome!

Sunday Worship 10:30 AM
(Sunday Messages available on website:
www.avalongracechurch.com)
Children's Sunday School 10:45 AM
Wednesday Evening Bible Study is
Currently Suspended

"And to make all men see
what is the fellowship of the mystery,
which from the beginning of the world
hath been hid in God, who created
all things by Jesus Christ: . . ."
- Ephesians 3:9

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God can be trusted and our future – come what may - is secure in His hands. And, according to our apostle Paul, God has sufficient sustaining grace to meet every single challenge of our lives. *"And He said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me."*

- II Corinthians 12:9 KJV

Someone once said that, 'If God brings you to it; He will bring you through it.' There's a lot of comfort and reassurance in that simple phrase, especially when going through difficult times as is the

reality for so many folks in our church fellowship today.

And we know ". . . that all things work together for good to them that love God" (Romans 8:28 KJV). Therefore, we can trust Him fully every day even though the world around us is falling apart. As we walk into a New Year let's place our lives and whatever the future may hold into His all-wise, capable, loving hands.

"Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen. - Ephesians 3:20-21 KJV

I encourage you to read God's Word daily, study to show thyself approved, rightly dividing the word of truth, pray often, keep loving Jesus, serving one another, and reaching the world for Christ.

As followers of Jesus in this dispensation of God's glorious grace, we ask ourselves and others, 'Who's in your future?' and proclaim with assurance "Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ – don't leave earth without Him!"

Happy New Year,

Pastor Phil

Church news



Mark your New 2021 Calendar now: Pastor Timothy Board, the Director of Development with "Things to Come Mission" is scheduled to speak at Avalon Grace Church on January 31, 2021 at our 10:30 AM Worship Service. We are excited to welcome Pastor Board to our fellowship. To learn more about Pastor Board and his family as well as the missionaries associated with TCM and the work they do for the LORD, please visit: <https://tcmusa.org/>



Avalon Grace Church has a new Facebook Page. You can access it with this link: <https://www.facebook.com/Avalon-Grace-Church-103707158085475>

If you currently follow Avalon Grace Church on the older Facebook Page, please go to the above FB address and follow us! The older Facebook Page will be deactivated in a month or two. The new FB page has multiple Administrators, all of whom are members of Avalon Grace Church. We hope you like the new format and if you have suggestions to improve it or include other items of interest, please don't hesitate to let us know!



On November 23, 2020 Avalon Grace Church delivered 13 shoe boxes for the Operation Christmas Child ministry. Along with very generous donations, our congregation sent a total of 90 boxes plus 25 "The Greatest Journey" discipleship lessons!

Thank you so much for your generosity in support of this vital ministry where children receive gifts from all over the world with the message of the gospel that saves. It is such a blessing for our fellowship to play a small part in a greater ministry that brings Jesus to children.

On Sunday, December 13, 2020, Avalon Grace Church celebrated the Lord Jesus Christ and His birth with a special Christmas Program followed by a time of fellowship and refreshment. Here are some pictures that capture this special time of year:



12/13/2020



Instead of making a New Year's resolution
Consider committing to a Biblical solution!
Your promises are easily broken
Empty words, though earnestly spoken.

But God's Word transforms the soul
By His Holy Spirit making you whole
As you spend time alone with Him
He will change you from within. - Mary Fairchild



I Am the New Year

Author Unknown



Give Glory to God



"And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, [do] all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him."

Colossians 3:17 KJV

"Glory to God in highest heaven, who unto man His Son hath given; while angels sing with tender mirth, a glad new year to all the earth."

~ Martin Luther



Don't Look Back

"Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before," Philippians 3:13 KJV

Renew

"And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness." Ephesians 4:23-24 KJV



Direction

"Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children; And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet smelling savour." Ephesians 5:1-2 KJV

I am the New Year.

I am an unspoiled page in your book of time.

I am your next chance at the art of living.

I am your opportunity to practice what you have learned about life during the last twelve months.

All that you sought and didn't find is hidden in me, waiting for you to search it but with more determination.

All the good that you tried for and didn't achieve is mine to grant when you have fewer conflicting desires.

All that you dreamed but didn't dare to do, all that you hoped but did not will, all the faith that you claimed but did not have these slumber lightly, waiting to be awakened by the touch of a strong purpose.

I am your opportunity to renew your allegiance to Him who said:

"Behold, I make all things new."



Valentine's Day, February 14, 2021



Colors of Love

By Clay Harrison

Imagine a rainbow of black and white,
A Moonless sky on a starless night. . .

Picture a sunrise, a colorless sun,
Pale autumn leaves when summer's done. . .

Envision a garden dreary and gray,

Lackluster roses in a bridal bouquet . . .

Now faded and dismal God's earth would be,

Without any colors for our eyes to see!

He paints us a rainbow after each storm,

Flowers in springtime when earth is warm. . .

And there on His canvas in Heaven above,

He paints every sunrise with colors of love.

Love is . . .

Slow to suspect Quick to trust

Slow to condemn Quick to justify

Slow to offend Quick to defend

Slow to expose Quick to shield

Slow to reprimand Quick to forbear

Slow to demand Quick to give

Slow to provoke Quick to conciliate

Slow to hinder Quick to help

Slow to resent Quick to forgive



Valentine's Day

With Jesus

By Marilyn Ferguson

Jesus does not send perfume

To linger in the air

Instead He sends salvation, sweet

To show how much He cares.

He doesn't bring me candy hearts

In boxes of delight

Instead He always lets me know

I'm precious in His sight.

He doesn't send out pretty cards

Trimmed in shades of red

Instead He gave His life for me

His precious blood was shed.

He doesn't hand out fancy gifts

Like we would send to mother

Instead He sends a message clear

To always love each other.

He doesn't give me teddy bears

That whimper, "please be mine"

Instead He gave His heart to me

I wear it all the time.

He doesn't give me roses, pink

For all the world to see

Instead He gave eternal life

That's good enough for me!

President's Day, Monday, February 15, 2021

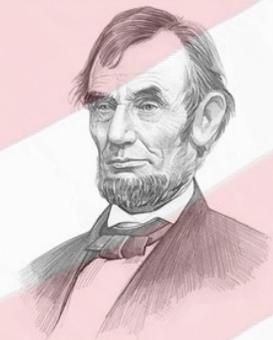


"You do well to wish to learn our arts and ways of life, and above all, the religion of Jesus Christ. These will make you a greater and happier people than you are."

~ President George Washington,
May 12, 1779

"In regard to this great Book, I have but to say, it is the best gift God has given to man. All the good Savior gave to the world was communicated through this book. But for it we could not know right from wrong. All things most desirable for man's welfare, here and hereafter, are to found portrayed in it."

~ President Abraham Lincoln,
July 7, 1864



The hope of a Christian is inseparable from his faith. Whoever believes in the Divine inspiration of the Holy Scriptures must hope that the religion of Jesus shall prevail throughout the earth. Never since the foundation of the world have the prospects of mankind been more encouraging to that hope than they appear to be at the present time. And may the associated distribution of the Bible proceed and prosper till the Lord shall have made "bare His holy arm in the eyes of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God." Isaiah 52:10

~ President John Quincy Adams, 1830

We can't allow Satan to dump his garbage of fear, doubt, worry, and sin in the well of our heart.

"Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." ~ Philippians 4:6-7 KJV

"Keep thy heart with all diligence, for out of it are the issues of life. Put away from you a froward mouth, and perverse lips put far from thee.. Let thine eyes look right on, and let thine eyelids look straight before thee. Ponder the path of thy feet, and let thy ways be established. Turn not to the right nor the left; remove thy foot from evil." ~ Proverbs 4:23-27 KJV

GUARD YOUR HEART

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life.

— PROVERBS 4:23 NIV

Coloring for Jesus

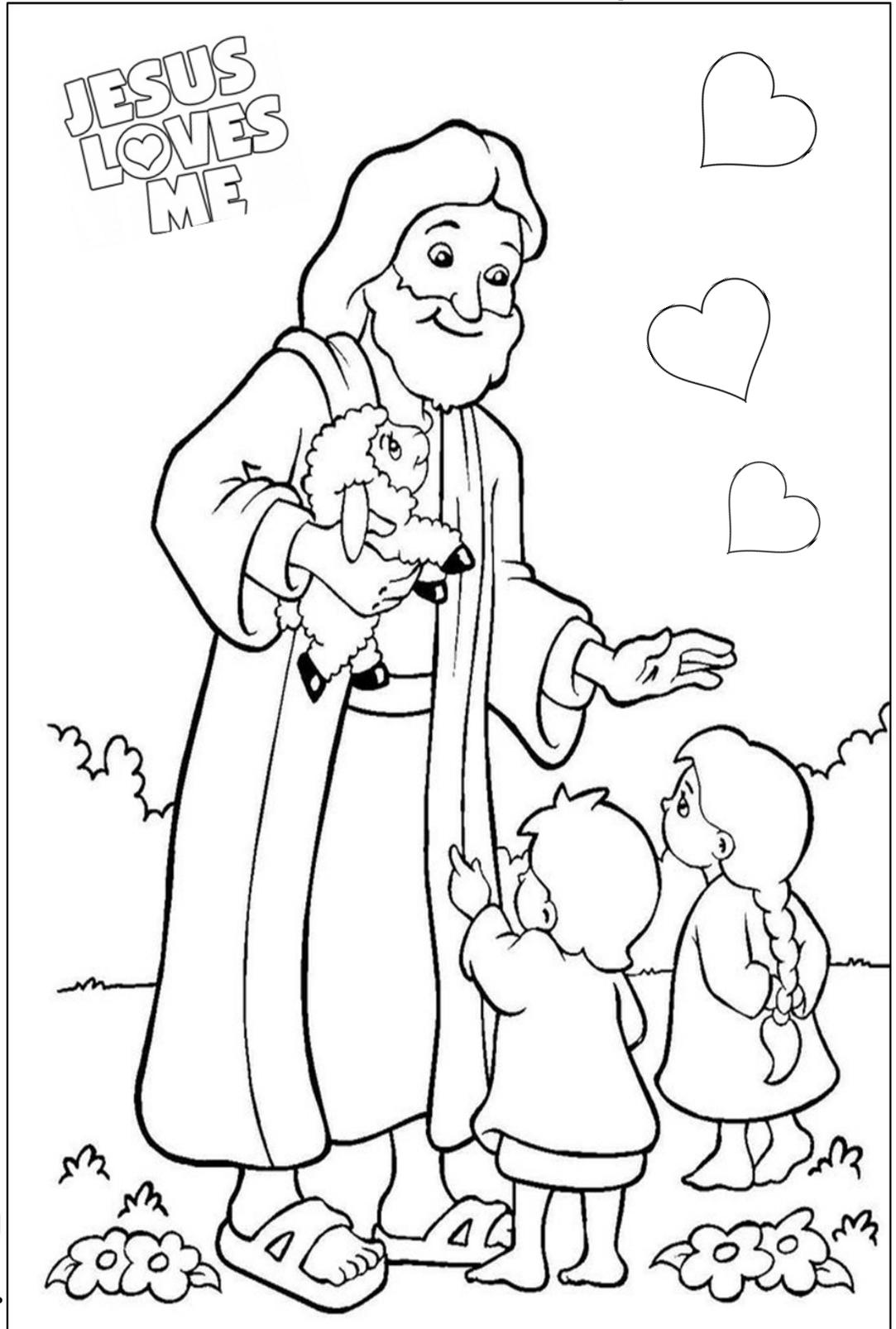
God is love and He loves me unconditionally.

Jesus loves me
this I know, for
the Bible tells
me so!

Jesus loves me
and that helps
me love other
people.

Jesus loves us
so much that
He died for
our sins.

Thank you,
Jesus for loving
me just as I am.



“We love him, because he first loved us.” ~ 1 John 4:19 KJV



**Avalon Grace
Church
of Naples, Florida**

**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY
TO YOU!**



FEBRUARY

- 6th Phillip McClellan**
- 9th John D'Amico**
- 26th Olivia McClellan**

“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”
- 2 Timothy 2:15

“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works. “
- 2 Timothy 3:16-17

January 2021						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 New Years Day	2
3 9:45 Breakfast 10:30 Worship 10:45 Child. SS	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 10:30 Worship 10:45 Child. SS	11	12	13	14	15	16
17 10:30 Worship & The Lord's Supper 10:45 Child. SS	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 10:30 Worship 10:45 Child. SS	25	26	27	28	29	30
31 10:30 Worship 10:45 Child. SS	Guest Speaker Pastor Timothy Board					

February 2021						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 9:45 Breakfast 10:30 Worship 10:45 Child. SS	8	9	10	11	12 	13
14 10:30 Worship 10:45 Child. SS 	15 <i>President's Day</i>	16	17	18	19	20
21 10:30 Worship & The Lord's Supper	22 	23	24	25	26	27
28 10:30 Worship 10:45 Child. SS						