

The Piner Press

Christmas Edition 2019



Upcoming Events

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| Dec 14 | Angel Tree Breakfast |
| Dec 14 | Caroling @ Regency Manor |
| Dec 15 | Family Meeting |
| Dec 18 | Sr Pioneers' Outing |
| Dec 24 | Christmas Eve Service |
| Dec 25 | OFFICE CLOSED |
| Jan 1 | OFFICE CLOSED |

Piner Baptist Church—God's Love Reaching Out...

About 20 years ago when Joshua was a little boy, he got a Christmas present from some friends of ours--a Christmas train that goes around the base of our Christmas tree. It ended up being a present for the entire family. We loved to watch it go around the tree and listen to the Christmas music it played. It was really a lot of fun.

Several years later something terrible happened. A big ugly giant stepped on our Christmas train. I didn't mean to--it was in the middle of the floor. I broke one of the couplings that attaches the cars to one another. The next year we tried to figure out what to do so that we could operate the train. We tried to switch one of the couplings from the caboose with the one that was broken on the other car. But that didn't allow the teeter-totter to work on the broken car.

So I tried tape. You know you're a redneck if you think you can fix anything with enough duct tape. I'm not there yet, 'cause I tried using masking tape. That worked for a little while, but it didn't take long for the weight of the caboose to pull loose and slip off of the broken coupling.

Right now we have a temporary solution. We've moved the caboose to the middle of the train and the broken car rides on the back. It just doesn't look right having a caboose out of place. It's sort of like eating a bologna sandwich with the bread on the inside.

You know that broken train is a lot like our relationship with God. Many years ago Adam and Eve enjoyed a close relationship with God. They spent time with Him. They were attached. But then a big monster stepped in and broke that relationship. When Adam and Eve gave into the temptation of the serpent, their attachment to God was broken. Our sinfulness keeps us from being attached to God.

Many attempts have been made to bridge that gap. Religion is man's attempt to pick and choose what his god will be. Man determines "God should be this" or "shouldn't do that" and voila' you're attached. The only problem is it doesn't fit. You are left with a god that isn't God at all. There are many religions, but there is only one "Way" and his name is Jesus.

Then you have the other attempt. We will try to mend the broken piece. We will hold the relationship together through our own efforts, and that will suffice. This is trying to live the life according to the law. The Jews were given the law of God on Mt. Sinai. And they began to try to live the life of righteousness. Like the train coupling held together with tape, this works for a little while but it's only a matter of time before we fail. And the relationship is broken again. The law was good, but its purpose never was to reconcile the relationship of man and God. Instead, "*the law was put in charge to lead us to Christ that we might be justified by faith.*" Galatians 3:24 (NIV) The law helps us to realize our need to depend fully on God through faith in Christ.

We finally decided that the best way to take care of our problem with the train is to get some Super Glue. After all, if it's strong enough to hold a man suspended from a steel beam, I believe it can hold a little train together. Friends, Jesus is the "Super Glue" that can repair our relationship with God. Paul writes, "*But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation.*" Colossians 1:22 (NIV)

As we think about Christmas and look to the manger and remember the Who? What? and Where?, let's not forget the why of Christmas. Why did God become flesh and dwell among us? To get us back on track.

All aboard!

Merry Christmas !



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2019 CHRISTMAS CARD EXCHANGE
 You can place your cards in the appropriate mail slot in the foyer or in the wooden church by the sanctuary door, and we will pass them out for you. Be sure to check the mail slots for your family's cards. Save postage and give it to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering!



ADVENT
 Don't forget to get your Advent Weekly devotional book. This can be a wonderful tool to point us toward the manger during the month of December.

O come • O come • Emmanuel

*Merry Christmas from the staff of
 Piner Baptist Church*

*Mark, Greg,
 Amy, Shawn & Phyllis*




THE FAMILY BUSINESS

Family Business Meeting
 Sunday, December 15,
 after Evening Worship