

Another Word December 15, 2025

To our family and friends of King Road Christian Church

Ahhh, stress!! As I sit here, things are looking a little brighter than 3 hours ago. I walked into the church only to see Lake Erie in the hallway and Niagara Falls flowing from the ceiling in the dining room. My heart stopped (Metaphorically speaking) and I had no idea what to do, who to call, where to start. Just a little stress! I could have just run around the building yelling and screaming, but instead I prayed for clarity and strength. A peace fell over me and I heard: turn off the main water line, shut down the boiler, call Shakley, and our insurance agent, in that order! I did all those things then thanked Jesus for His direction and gave Him praise. Niagara Falls stopped, Shakley bypassed the leak, and there is a 3-man crew already here, drying out the carpets, mopping floors and wiping down walls. All of this just happens to tie into my story below.

As a reminder, we will be delivering our shut-ins bags this coming Sunday. If you signed up to purchase one of the items needed, please have them here by this Sunday.

Our Christmas Eve Service will begin at 7 pm. If you need a ride or would like to help someone come to the service, just call the office. This will be a festival of carols and readings, a wonderful way to end our Advent watch, and to welcome our Savior.

If that's not enough, we will be hosting Christopher Bailey on December 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm for, "A Faithful Christmas." Come and enjoy this free concert as Christopher performs powerful renditions of Steve Green's

greatest hits, as well as many of our most cherished Christmas favorites. This will be a beautiful and inspiring evening, perfect for the Holiday Season. This will also be a great time to invite a friend to enjoy this uplifting music.

Let us pray:

O Holy and mighty creator, we look into each new day filled with hope because there are so many things to thank you for. Family, friends, the beauty of our world, and the opportunities we have to serve you. Even in the stress of life, you are there guiding and comforting us, granting us peace. As we prepare to celebrate the birth of our savior, we lift our hearts to you. Hear our prayers and grant our brothers and sisters around the world your Peace. In Jesus' most precious name we pray, Amen

Every morning, I make a cup of coffee, head to a quiet room, read scripture, and pray. I love spending time with God's word and in worship. Distractions and frustrations fade away and I'm able to ponder on His wonderful gifts. I was having a peaceful morning until I walked into the building. But I believe because I spent time with God earlier, I could look back on even the crazy things that happened and was able to ponder them and deal with them in a sensible way. I believe that is what Luke is telling us when he wrote, "But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart." Luke 2:19

Trust me, I've got nothing on Mary, the mother of our Lord. Try to imagine the previous 12 months of Mary's life. She has been visited by an Angel, told she will become pregnant out of wedlock, and that the child will be the Son of God. Her elderly cousin Elizabeth is also

pregnant, and like Mary's new husband Joseph, Elizabeth's husband has also been visited by the Angel. Something extraordinary is happening! Imagine the stares and whispers as they settle in at Joseph's house in Nazareth. Then just before she is to deliver, they must make a dangerous trip to Bethlehem. And to top it all off, she delivers her child in a stable. The Heavens erupt in praise; shepherds visit and then leave glorifying and praising God! Talk about a year of stress!

Yet, as Mary holds her baby tenderly in her arms, she ponders all that God has done for her and through her. Nothing in the world could distract her from worshipping God. And worship she did!

And that's the lesson that I learned this morning. When things go sideways, or awry, we must never allow the troubles of the world to distract us from calling out to our God and ask for His guidance and then follow His perfect plan. And once we do, we must offer our praise, give thanks, and then worship our Almighty loving God.

In Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love,

*Rich*