

On My Mind



Parkview Community Church

PARKVIEW KIDS

Gifts. Don't we all secretly love to get them, especially when they're totally unexpected? They can come in many varieties, not just Christmas gifts, but even things such as help, or time. Some of my favorite gifts come in the form of words. Words that convey love, blessing, and hope can have a power that outlasts the trinkets of this world. I overheard two examples of such treasure in recent days. As I walked down an aisle in a department store, I noticed a little boy around the age of five shopping with his mom. All of a sudden I heard the mom lean down and tell her son, "I was so proud of the way you stood up for Sam the other day." The little boy beamed. Choice words spoken in love. Encouragement that affirmed a good decision. Those few words can have an impact that go deep into a child's soul and develop crucial character traits for later. That mom gave a precious gift to her son that afternoon.

The second story is of my own 92-year-old mother and 24-year-old daughter. Due to my mother's poor health recently, Kelsey and my four-month-old granddaughter, Emi, and I went to Kansas to care for my mom. This was my mom's first opportunity to meet her one and only great-grandchild.

Throughout the short stay, I watched my mom intently observing my daughter. Before we left she looked at her and said, "Kelsey, you are a good mom!" She gave Kelsey a gift of words that conveyed blessing, love, encouragement, and hope. I can't think of a greater gift than those words passed from one generation to another. Words are powerful, and they have been used to set the course from the beginning of time when God declared what He had created was good as well as when the angels announced the most important news of all time, "For unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Savior, who is Christ the Lord!" Luke 2:11.

As we focus on gifts this season, let's not overlook the significance and the power of words and their effect upon our loved ones. May the most important words from our Savior ring in our ears this Christmas. As Jesus said, "I have come that they might have life, and might have it abundantly." Hallelujah!

Blessings for a very Merry Christmas,
Susan Shelley
 Children's Pastor

Why Twitter? Why Facebook?

The short answer: We want to be accessible to you. Both social media outlets allow you to take us in bits and pieces. You might see reminders about upcoming events or a project we've asked families to work on together. Pictures and recaps of great things that have already happened will also be shared. When we find a helpful resource for parents, we'll share it with you. We don't have the ability to be in conversa-

tion with each of you every week, no matter how hard we might try. But, we've found that Twitter and Facebook allow us to converse with you in a new and unique way. Sure, it's short and quick, but it's one way to stay connected throughout the week. We're hoping it will facilitate a stronger connection between what's happening at Parkview on Sundays and in your home the rest of the week. Will you join the conversation?

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PARKVIEW KIDS




TRADITIONS

Here at Parkview Kids we know the Christmas season can get busy and it's easy for our priorities to shift. Sometimes it is hard to find opportunities to celebrate with your kids and teach them about the true meaning of Christmas. We believe a good way to avoid that is to simply set aside the time to establish family traditions. Make celebrating Christ's birth a part of your holiday activities by throwing Jesus a birthday party. Bake a cake and eat it together on Christmas Eve or make it your centerpiece dessert on Christmas day. Let the kids make birthday decorations, sing *Happy Birthday* and talk about God's gift to us, His only Son! It doesn't have to be complicated, but your kids will want to be a part of the process and this can be that priceless opportunity to center their focus and yours on the reason why we celebrate this holiday. Merry Christmas and Happy Birthday Jesus!



Beth Carrera our Family Central storyteller



Why not make FAMILY CENTRAL a tradition. It's always the fourth Sunday at 9:15 and 10:45. A great opportunity for families to worship and learn together!



THE FUNNY SIDE OF PARENTING

You do know what would have happened if it had been three wise moms instead of three wise men, don't you?

They would have asked for directions, arrived on time, helped deliver the baby, cleaned the stable, made a casserole, and brought disposable diapers as gifts!

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

Small Group Leader for 1st Grade Girls @ 10:45 AM Service Email Susan@pccmail.org
Special Needs Buddies for children 2 through 5th grade @ 9:15 or 10:45AM on Sundays

VALENTINE'S DAY TRADITION

Daddy Daughter Dance

A NIGHT OF STARS

Friday, Feb. 10, 2012
6:00 - 8:30 PM

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- Dec. 11
- Dec. 18
- Dec. 24
- Dec. 25
- Jan. 1
- Jan. 8
- Jan. 22
- Jan. 29
- Jan. 29
- Jan. 30
- Feb. 1
- Feb. 10

Turn in all Missions on the Menu Bags
K-5th Sing at both adult services,
Serve & Sing for Manna friends at 10:45 AM service
Christmas Eve Services: 2 pm, 5 pm, 6:30 pm & 11 pm.
Childcare only for birth – Pre-K at the first three services.
Merry Christmas!– NO Services
Normal programming for all children both services
GLOW – Parkview's Special Needs Ministry begins in room M1
FAMILY CENTRAL (All K-5th grade in CMA)
WAM -Worship and Missions (All K-5th graders in the CMA)
Parent/Child Baptism Class in M3 at 9:15. [Sign up online.](#)
6:30PM Confident Kids Winter/Spring Session begins
6:30PM Wed Nite 4 Kidz Winter/Spring Session begins
Daddy/Daughter Dance -A Night of Stars 6-8:30PM

PARKVIEW KIDS



Try New Christmas Faith-Boosters

The most wonderful time of the year is a wonderful time to share Jesus—and why he came to earth—with your children. Instead of getting caught up in the holiday rush, focus on what Christmas truly means. Use the Advent season (the weeks of preparation before Christmas) to engage in old and new traditions, make simple crafts, have discussions, and worship Jesus, our newborn King.

Faith-boosters needn't be elaborate or time-consuming. Instead, use materials you already have to reinforce the good news that the angels shared on the first Christmas Eve: Jesus, our Savior, is born!

After you've shared this message with your children, look for simple ways to spread Christmas joy as a family. From caroling and delivering cookies to sending cards and inviting neighbors to programs or concerts, the possibilities are endless for letting your light shine as you celebrate Jesus, the Light of the world.

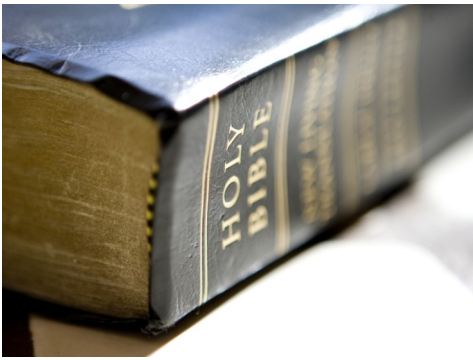
POWERSOURCE

ASK GOD:

1. To bless your Christmas preparations and to ready your hearts for his arrival.
2. To help your family stay focused on Jesus during the holidays.
3. To replace stress and busyness with calm and peace, so you can treasure family time.

INSIGHTS

- In a poll conducted in the U.K., 24% of children ages 7 to 11 said Christmas was about giving, rather than receiving, presents. *(Daily Mail)*
- When asked about the true meaning of Christmas, 70% of children said it's about celebrating the birth of Christ, 39% said it's about being thankful, 37% said it's about spending time with family, and 13% said it's about receiving gifts. *(KidzEyes.com)*



So the Word became human and made his home among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness. And we have seen his glory, the glory of the Father's one and only Son. (John 1:14)

At Christmas, we celebrate the good news that God became flesh, in the form of Jesus, to die for our sins.

TEACHABLE MOMENTS

1. Wrap Race—You'll need some empty boxes and gift-wrapping supplies. Form teams and have them race to wrap an imaginary gift for the whole world (such as peace) in the shortest time possible. Afterward, discuss what gifts you'd like to give and why.

2. Chapter Chain—Encourage family members to spend more time exploring God's word. From Thanksgiving until Christmas, give out a red or green construction paper link for every chapter of the Bible someone reads (or listens to). On Christmas Eve, hang the chain as a special birthday gift to Jesus.



3. O Christmas Tree—Tie a red ribbon around the head of a concrete nail, and tie the ends of the ribbon into a knot to form a loop. Hang the ornament on your Christmas tree. Talk about how baby Jesus wasn't only born for us but was born to die for us—on a tree.

While engaging in Christmas festivities, start a conversation by asking these questions:

1. What are your favorite Christmas traditions, and why? How do our traditions help us remember the real meaning of Christmas?
2. What are some ways we can add service and outreach to our Christmas celebrations?
3. How would you explain Christmas to someone who didn't know anything about Jesus?

FAMILY EXPERIENCE

Add a meaningful new twist to your Christmas celebrations by trying these ideas:

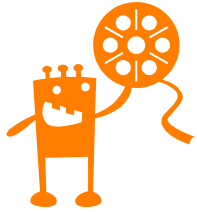
- **Unwrap the Story**—Start a new tradition as you unpack your family's crèche, or nativity scene. Let each person pull out one or two wrapped figures without peeking to see what's inside. Take turns unwrapping figures. When someone adds a figure to the



scene, have him or her say a prayer of thanks for the role that figure played in Jesus' birth. For example, the person holding the stable might say, "Thank you that there was at least a stable nearby where Jesus could be born." The person with a shepherd might say, "Thank you that the shepherds went and told lots of people about Jesus' birth."

After the scene is complete, discuss the role we all can play in preparing for Jesus' birth and in telling people why Jesus came to earth.

- **Parable Ornaments**—Make a different ornament each week that reflects a parable from the Bible. For week one, pour salt into clear ball ornaments (Matthew 5:13). For week two, pour mustard seeds into clear ball ornaments (Matthew 17:20). For week three, tie Goldfish crackers in netting (Matthew 13:47). For week four, pour sunflower seeds into clear ball ornaments (Matthew 13:37). Print the verses and tie them to the ornaments. Then hang the ornaments on a small Christmas tree as a powerful reminder of Jesus' life and teachings.



MEDIA MADNESS



MOVIES

Movie: *The Adventures of Tintin*

Genre: Animated adventure

Rating: PG (for adventure-action violence, some drunkenness and brief smoking)

Cast: Jamie Bell, Daniel Craig

Synopsis: In this motion-capture film based on comic books, a boy and a captain go on a treasure hunt to find a sunken ship.

Our Take: With Steven Spielberg and Peter Jackson at the helm, *Tintin* is being hailed as a “must-see” family movie this Christmas.



MUSIC

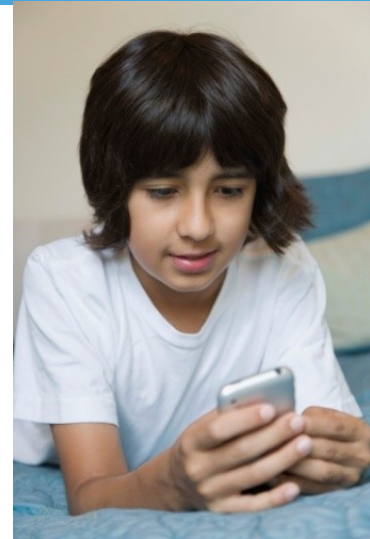
Artist: Aaron Shust

Album: *This Is What We Believe*

Artist Info: Shust, a church worship leader, won several Dove Awards for his 2005 folk-driven album *Anything Worth Saying*.

Summary: The singer-songwriter’s fourth album contains several heartfelt worship anthems, including “My Hope Is in You.” The moving video is available on YouTube.

Our Take: Shust’s powerful tunes and lyrics will help listeners of all ages celebrate God’s power and love.



CULTURE & TRENDS

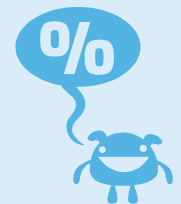
• Last year, 36% of kids ages 10 or 11 owned a cell phone. That number has more than doubled since 2005. Boys are more likely than girls to perform “data-intensive” activities with their phones, such as browsing the Web and downloading games. (*Mediamark, NY Times*)

• Before heading to the ER with their sick children, more parents are now logging in. One in eight parents now checks the Internet for medical information before plunking down an emergency-room copay. (*Reuters*)

QUICK STATS

• Only 4% of adults ages 25 to 34 in the U.K. believe that the most important part of Christmas is the religious meaning. (*Church of England Newspaper*)

• According to a new study, pre-schoolers who have trouble resisting temptation and delaying gratification are more likely than their more-patient peers to become adults who lack self-control. (*HealthDay*)



GAMES

Title	Content	Rating & Platform
<i>Skylander: Spyro's Adventure</i>	This action-adventure game is pricey because it comes with collectible action figures and a sock puppet. Contains cartoon violence.	E10+; Xbox 360, PlayStation 3, Nintendo 3DS, Wii,
<i>Centipede Infestation</i>	In this reboot of the classic arcade game, players must kill as many creepy, crawly critters as they can in numerous rounds of play.	E10+; Nintendo 3DS, Wii
<i>FactMonster.com</i>	This free website from Information Please provides a wide range of resources for students, including a “Homework Center” reference desk.	Geared toward elementary and middle-school students



This page is designed to help educate parents and isn't meant to endorse any movie, music, or product. Our prayer is that you'll make informed decisions about what your children watch, listen to, and wear.