



THE SHEPHERD'S LYRE

JANUARY 8, 2020



Iain's Last Sunday and Farewell Party

It is with both a heavy and happy heart we announce the departure of our talented and valued Minister of Music, Iain Sturrock.

We are sad to see him go but excited about the opportunities which await him as he moves forward in his career.

This will be Iain's final Sunday with us, and we'd like to send him off with some fanfare!

So we've gotten reports that the weather is going to be bad this Sunday and because we want to be mindful of driving safety, we are pushing our **Drive-by Farewell Party and Love Offering Collection to Wednesday, January 13th at**

1:00 PM.

If you would like to stay and visit for awhile, please bring your own chair to set up in the back parking lot and remember to wear a mask and socially distance your seats from others.*

The Love Offering is to thank Iain for all the hard work he's done over the years at SHCC. Please bring a card or note addressed to Iain Sturrock, along with a check or cash to express your gratitude for his service to our congregation and to wish him well on his departure. If you can't swing by to give it to him on Wednesday, feel free to mail it into the church office in order to make sure he gets it. Thank you! We have been so blessed to have his talent, kindness, and friendship be a part of our lives for the time we've had him.

We hope to see many of you there! Thank you for everything, Iain!

**(Please continue to check your emails. If we deem that outdoor visiting is too high a risk, we will ask everyone to stay in their cars to tell Iain goodbye. Thank you for your patience, flexibility, and understanding during this time.)*

...Free Money

If you shop at Randall's or online at Amazon.com you can earn money for Shepherd of the Hills Christian Church, at no cost to you.

In the case of Amazon.com, simply log on to Smile.Amazon.com, rather than www.Amazon.com and select Shepherd of the Hills Christian Church as your designated charity. Your church will receive 0.5 percent of your eligible purchases. The selection and prices on Smile.Amazon.com are the same as on Amazon.com. The only difference is that your church gets rewarded. You can also click on <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/74-2337608> to log onto Amazon with Shepherd of the Hills Christian Church already selected as your desired charity.

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Both programs, Amazon and Randall's, cost you nothing. You do your normal shopping and your church gets rewarded.

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Randalls



I Guess I'll Stop Brushing...FOREVER

by Christina Frost

With the New Year here and that “fresh-start feeling” lingering in the air, we are energized to turn back to our passions and productivity.

We look forward to a future where our bold determination will have the power to change our lives—and the lives of those we love—for the better.

THIS year we will do THAT thing and it will finally make our dreams come TRUE!

But...in the shadow of our minds, there's a nagging memory putting a damper on some of our enthusiasm. Remember last year? Remember when you said you'd do the thing and you started, but then eventually stopped? You put in all that effort and hope, and what was the result? I'm guessing you know the answer. It didn't go exactly as planned.

The fact is, old habits die hard. Life gets stressful. And I think the worst part is, we don't lose our resolve in a dramatic fashion. It often peters out slowly, slipping under mounds of worry and busy seasons. In its place, we are left with feelings of shame, a sense of failure, or even bitter thoughts like—why did I even try this in the first place, what was the point anyway?

Here's what I think we miss. Just like failure is often not a dramatic meltdown, the road to victory is also not a glory-drenched passage littered with gold ribbons and throngs of adoring fans.

No...victory happens more like brushing our teeth.

We brush our teeth every day. We do it because, one, it makes our mouth feel better and second, it's good for our long term health. Yes, it's a small inconvenience to do before bed, but you know, we just do it! We've been doing it since we were kids, and we continue to this day. So how is brushing our teeth like trying to be faithful to our New Year's goals?

When you forget to brush your teeth, do you throw your hands across your eyes and lament, “Oh NO! I forgot to brush my teeth! I'm a failure. I guess I'll never brush them again...”

NO! Of course not. Instead you simply brush them the next day, no big deal. You don't throw away your entire year of dental health because you forget to brush a few times.

Victory happens small and steady. Every bit counts. Okay, you took a step back, but that doesn't mean you should discount your ten steps forward.

Here is the most important thing to remember, if your goals, dreams, resolutions, aspirations, etc. align with God's will—THEY WILL NOT FAIL. Proverbs 16:3 says this, “Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and He will establish your plans.”

He is the only one powerful enough to drown out the lying voice of the enemy.

Satan tells us, ‘you forgot to brush, so give up.’

God tells us, ‘My grace is bigger, my plans are bigger, and I have appointed these tasks and dreams to *you*. Keep brushing no matter what. I will not let you fall.’

That's hugely encouraging—that we aren't treading the long path alone. God walks beside us as we move forward in 2021 and all that is yet to come.

Hold on to that excitement because every day can be like the start of a New Year. Keep going. You and God have got this.

Just keep brushing...

A Prayer for the New Year

Dear Jesus,

As I head into this year, I praise You as the God of certainty. You wired me uniquely with purpose. A purpose to follow You, worship You, and be the salt of the earth (Mt 5:13). Lord, I ask You to reveal to me any and all impure areas of my heart (1 Cor 4:5) or stagnant areas of my life. Then, Lord, as only You can, I ask You to revive the dry bones of my life. Revive them and fill me with Your hope (Ezek 37:11). A hope shining brightly no matter the trial or the hurt. When the day seems long, and the road unclear, and the answers unclear, fill me with Your wisdom to do the next right thing. Renew my spirit with gratitude and joy, giving me eyes to see the world as You see it (Ps 51:10-13). Not missing the good or the bad, but rather seeing each moment as an opportunity to recognize Your goodness and shine Your Spirit of love.

In Jesus' Name I pray.

Amen

DavidSchmidt.com



Opportunities for Fellowship and Growth



- ◆ **The ORG (Old Retired Guys)** group will be meeting virtually on Zoom at 9:00 AM on Tuesdays.
- ◆ If you have questions about the **Chancel Choir and Handbell Choir**, please contact Iain Sturrock at Iain.shcc@gmail.com for further details.
- ◆ The **Book Club** will be meeting on Zoom this coming Monday night, January 11, at 7:00 PM. We will be discussing *The Lost Man* by Australian novelist/mystery writer Jane Harper. Set in the outback of Australia, a mysterious death for which there seems to be no explanation or motive leads to this character-driven study of family dynamics. It will be interesting to see if anyone guessed what the ending revealed. We welcome all interested readers, and we'd love to have you join us on our screens. The link to the meeting is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82305119616>.

The Week Ahead

Saturday, January 7

9:00 AM Budget Summit

Sunday, January 10

9:30 AM Zoom Sunday Series

10:40 AM **Online Live Worship Service**

Tuesday, January 12

9:00 AM Zoom ORG Meeting

Wednesday, January 13

10:00 AM Zoom Women's Bible Study

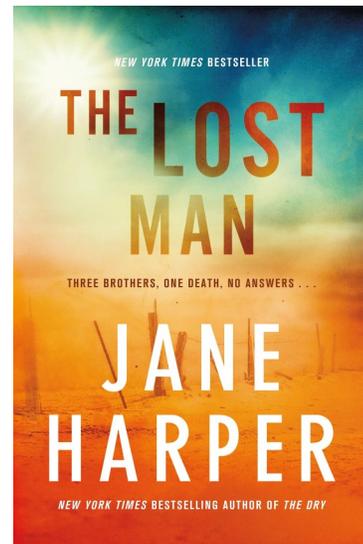
1:00 PM **Iain's Drive-By Farewell Party**

7:00 PM Zoom Men's Bible Study

Sunday, January 17

9:30 AM Zoom Sunday Series

10:40 AM **Online Live Worship Service**



Birthdays and Anniversaries

Trisha Krause January 10

Bobbie Tropp January 12

Faye Carnes January 14



Sharon and Jerry Miller January 9

Judi and Dave Proctor January 9

Please contact Christina in the office (shccaustin@gmail.com) to ensure your birthday and anniversary are on our lists!

Kids Corner

Parents, check your inbox for your “Sunday School at Home Lessons and Activities” for your family to use and adapt as you see fit.

If you have any questions feel free to contact Jessica at

jessica.shcc@gmail.com .

Sunday School
@
Home!



Disciples Women New Bible Study

Dear Ladies,

Happy New Year! How about adopting a New Year's Resolution to deepen your understanding of God and better defend your faith in Christ!?

Continuing on Wednesdays at 10:00 A.M. on Zoom, the ladies of SHCC are studying C.S. Lewis's classic *MERE CHRISTIANITY*.

For over 50 years, this book has made a powerful and rational case for the Christian faith to millions across the globe. Supplemental materials will include some of the most recent developments in science and sociology to give you the freshest perspective on timeless truths.

You can contact me with questions at dawnetta@yahoo.com. Hope you will give it a try!

Love,
Dawnetta

