



The Foothills Flyer: *Keeping the Church on Mission*

We're Planting A Church! by Mike Potter

Values: Hospitality Without Exception, Everyone a Minister



The big announcement has been made! After months and months of prayer and discussion, the elders have affirmed that God is leading us as a church to plant a new church in the International District of Albuquerque! And, as God would have it, He's already brought us the pastor who

will lead the charge. Jesse Harden, who served as our youth and associate pastor from 2002-2012 will be returning with his family to Albuquerque in July of 2016 to lead us on this ministry adventure.

Our mission statement says that we will "participate in the mission of God's kingdom by proclaiming the good news locally..." There is no better way to do this than to plant a new church! Dozens of studies have confirmed that the average new church gains most of its new members (60-80%) from the ranks of people who are not attending any worshipping body, while churches over 10-15 years of age gain 80-90% of new members by transfer from other congregations. This means that the average new congregation will bring 6-8 times more new people into the life of the Body of Christ than an older congregation of the same size. I can't wait to see the Kingdom of God expand in the International District through this new church plant!

On Sunday, December 13th, the Hardens will be with us to share more about their calling and vision for this. For now, let's celebrate what God is doing in and through us! Here are the 5 things I'm encouraging you to do in light of this big announcement:

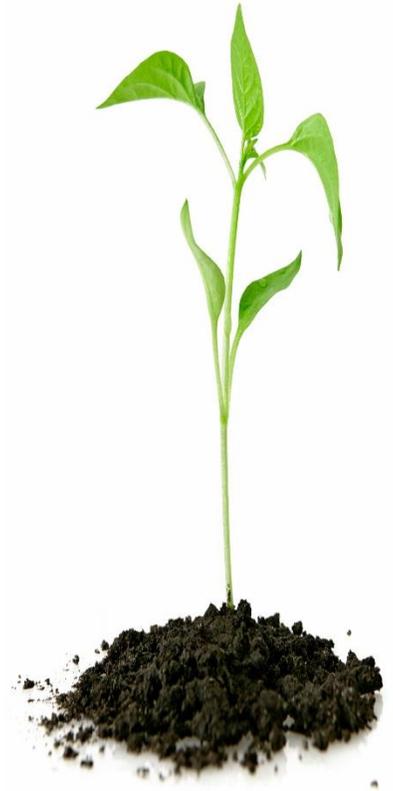
1) REJOICE! This is GREAT news!

2) Pray for the Hardens as Jesse finishes up his schooling in Waco and the family transitions here in 2016.

3) Pray for the Elders. There are lots of decisions to be made in the coming months.

4) Pray that God would reveal to you how you might one day be involved in this. Opportunities for service will abound!

5) Be prepared to give financially to make this happen. We know that many organizations will be asking you for an extra year-end gift this Christmas season, but we want you to consider making your year-end gift this year to Foothills Fellowship via our *Christmas Offering 2015*.



We know that many organizations will be asking you for an extra year-end gift this Christmas season, but we want you to consider making your year-end gift this year to Foothills Fellowship. We're asking you to continue to faithfully give your regular tithes and offerings thru the end of the year so that we can meet our 2015 budget. AND, between now and December 31st, we're asking that you also make a one-time extra "Christmas Offering" with the goal of helping fund this incredible ministry opportunity for 2016. The goal is \$27,000 by December 31. *We can do it!*

No amount is too small. We'd love to see ALL of you pray, prepare, and participate by making an extra offering either [online](#) or on a Sunday by making your check out to "Foothills Fellowship" and writing "Christmas Offering" on the memo line and placing it in one of the offering boxes.

Why We Celebrate Advent As A Church by Mike Potter

Value: Ancient Future Worship

Advent is a season that lasts for about four weeks, starting four Sundays before Christmas and ending on Christmas Eve. It's the beginning of the Christian Year (or Church Year), and while we don't observe everything in the Christian Year, we do observe Lent, Holy Week, and Easter as well.



Advent is a season of preparation for Christmas. Christians prepare for celebrating the birth of Jesus by remembering the longing of the Jews for a Messiah. In Advent, we're reminded of how much we ourselves also need a Savior, and we look forward to our Savior's second coming even as we prepare to

celebrate his first coming at Christmas. The word "Advent" comes from the Latin word *adventus*, which means "coming" or "visit." In the season with this name, we keep in mind both "advents" of Christ, the first in Bethlehem and the second yet to come.

Some churches make a big deal of Advent, and some don't. The reason we do is because the culture's version of Christmas is so pervasive that it's easy to be shaped by their version rather than to be shaped by Jesus - His birth, life, death, and resurrection. Therefore, on Sundays during Advent, we read the Advent Scriptures, I preach them, we light candles, and I remind us often to remember the waiting of God's people of old for the Messiah and that we are waiting now for His return.

Christmas is the time when we celebrate by giving and receiving gifts, but if we marginalize the greatest gift of all - Jesus - and our need to receive this gift, then we've missed the whole point.



My Message Memo by Sarah Dumas, Children's My Message Director

Value: Holistic Discipleship

We have wrapped up both trials from our curriculum choices and are now focusing on preparing our hearts and minds for Christ's arrival during this Advent season! Even young children can interact with the season of Advent, and I encourage you to share the weekly Scripture readings with your kiddoes! We will be having a My Message Christmas celebration on Sunday, December 20th during the My Message hour. We'll interact with the Christmas Story, play games, make ornaments, have snacks and decorate cookies.



Make sure you have completed a My Message Registration Form so we can make accommodations for any food allergies!

As I plan for the upcoming year, I want to invite anyone who is interested in volunteering to come chat with me! I have a few teachers who are unable to return in the Spring Semester, so I would love to fill their teaching spots with YOU! Wishing you a Christ-filled Christmas and Joyful New year!



The Foothills Flyer is a monthly newsletter under the oversight of Pastor Joe Eastman and designed by Rachel Gard that is aimed at keeping Foothills on mission and keeping us committed to our 9 Core Values.

OUR MISSION: Foothills Fellowship exists to be a worshipping community of God's people whose lives are shaped by the life, death, burial and resurrection of Jesus and who participate in the mission of God's kingdom by proclaiming the good news locally, nationally and globally.

OUR CORE VALUES: 1) Jesus Christ, the Head 2) Biblical Leadership 3) Everyone A Minister 4) Ancient/Future Worship 5) Hospitality Without Exception 6) Unity in Community 7) Intentional Families 8) Global Missions 9) Holistic Discipleship

Online at www.thefoothills.us