



New Year, New Victory 2012

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you...” Peter 1:3-4

A new year and a new victory are before us in 2012! Our God is faithful to give us His abundant mercy and encourage us no matter the struggles we face. This new year opens before us with God’s promise that our eternal inheritance does not fade away...great news for God’s church! I will be preaching through 1 Peter for the next several months beginning this Sunday. The new sermon series is entitled, ***“Live in Victory!”*** I am excited about what the Lord will say to all of us as we encounter His Word from the Bible. This letter by Peter was written most likely after the burning of Rome by Nero and the beginning of great persecution against Christians. Those early believers were scattered all over the known world and they needed daily victory in their challenging lives. So do we! Our culture, our nation, and our world are being torn apart by sin and selfishness. All of us are feeling the weight of responsibility upon us. We have to keep praying, loving, and trusting! Our God is up to the task of guiding us through each day of 2012 and beyond. He has a path for His people to follow. Let’s discover it together as we meet every week to study God’s Word and minister together!

Welcome Don and Linda Heard as new members of River’s Edge! The Heards have been worshipping and serving with us for a while and now they are officially a part of the River’s Edge family. Make them feel welcome in this body of Christ!

Thank you so much for your faithfulness to the Lord in your service and giving as we kick off our new year. The ministries of the church are making a difference in people’s lives and I love you all for your genuine care and concern for others. ***Also, thanks for giving your tithes and offerings so well in January.*** At the end of the month, we came very close to our budget goal. I know everyone is doing their very best and God is blessing our efforts. ***Thanks*** to those of you who are picking up children and families for Awana and for Sunday worship. You are allowing yourselves to be chosen vessels of Jesus who reach out to others! This is what the church is all about...the *“whatever it takes”* attitude of people who love the Lord.

Making Children Mind Without Losing Yours is a parenting series taught by Dr. Kevin Leman. We will begin this new series on **Sunday, February 12th at 6:00** pm in the WorshipCenter. This series is not only an opportunity for adults at River's Edge to become equipped to be good parents, but it is also a time to invite other families to attend. We are going into neighborhoods to invite people, publicizing the series in the media and in local businesses. The greatest way to involve new families is to personally invite them to attend and then either bring them or meet them at the church building. I want to challenge you to invite at least one family this week to be involved in this great teaching time. We could all use some godly help and inspiration in raising our kids and grandkids!

Moving day for David Benoit is Saturday, February 11th. We want to help David get moved into his new apartment and we need anyone available in the morning hours to lend a hand. David is moving from the Auburn area down closer to us. We will print the details and addresses as we draw nearer to the moving day, but please put this important time on your calendar. We will meet at 8:00 am at the church building.

Several years ago, I preached a sermon series called, "***The God Questions – Examining Life's Great Questions About God.***" I included everyone in the church family by asking you to submit "God questions" that you've always had on your mind. We came up with a great list then, but I want to involve the church family once again and ask you for those special questions that are on your heart for this year! I still have my list from before with great places for us to start in God's Word. I want to include as many different questions as possible and begin the series in two months when we have finished the study in 1 Peter. ***Will you help me?*** There will be cards for you to record your questions at the church building, or you can just send them directly to me on my email: stephen@riversedgebaptist.org. I look forward to the wonderful questions you will send me!

I can never place into words how I feel about being your pastor and friend. Each of you has blessed me beyond measure and I draw strength from your love and kindness. Thanks for all you do for the Kingdom of God! Every one of you is a joy in my life!

I love you all,

Pastor Stephen

Remember Our Purpose at River's Edge: To become Christian Servants who impact our world with the love of Jesus Christ.