

"The Link"

BETWEEN YOUR CHURCH... AND HOME!



A CHURCH FAMILY DISCOVERING
"NEW BEGINNINGS"

Volume XXIII

December 2015

Issue 12

No Public Displays of Christmas Allowed

You have read the same headlines and heard the news. *"City orders Christmas decorations removed."* *"Local malls must include symbols of all faiths when decorating."* *"School children are prohibited from singing Christmas Carols."* *"Merry Christmas is now a politically incorrect greeting."* *"Christmas will now be referred to as Winter Break so as not to offend or exclude."* *"The Salvation Army is no longer welcome on the premises."*

Even television and movies make a mockery of our faith and commit blasphemous attacks that leave us shocked and incensed. These blatant assaults coincidentally reach their peak during the seasons Christians hold most sacred. Jesus' birth, death, and resurrection are made fun of in the most vile and obscene manner possible, and the offenders are usually encouraged and praised through the media and by activist groups, big and small. All things Christian are portrayed as stupid, narrow, and obsolete by the standards of a modern society.

As believers, our first inclination is to take offense at the changes to our most sacred traditions and look for ways to confront the anti-Christian propaganda that dominates the landscape more and more. We wonder how such attitudes could be the true expression of the majority in this democratic republic. It must be a small minority of folks leading the attacks and policy changes, so let's issue the rallying cry and set the sinners straight.

But before you get caught up in all of the uproar and ugliness, let me remind you that Jesus was not really popular in His own day and time. The religious institutions of the day refused to recognize Him, the people in the street loved Him one day but hated Him the next, and even His inner circle of closest and dearest friends abandoned Him when the government arrested, terrorized, and eventually murdered Him on false charges. It was a far darker environment than what we live in today.

We must remember that the Christian faith and Christmas have very little to do with the number of brightly lit lights, beautifully decorated trees, sacred signage, or singing carolers. It has everything to do with representing Jesus Christ in the world where we live. A government might legislate what banners or symbols are displayed on a piece of property, and activist groups may picket and force some "seasonal" traditions to be shut down or silenced, but NO ONE may extinguish the light of life and joy of Christ that lives within us!

It is required of you to be a light to the world not just for a few weeks in December but throughout the year. There is no government on the planet that is capable of legislating your relationship with God, and though the nativity scene may no longer be displayed in some places, it is impossible to quench the Spirit of God as He directs you to love your neighbor...and those who will spitefully use you and say all manner of evil against you. If the roots of our faith reach no deeper than those few days of Christmas tradition or is not visible to those around us 365 days a year, 24/7, then do we really have a faith? They will know that we are Christian by our love, not by our decorations.

I would love to see all those around me embrace the traditional symbols of Christmas and celebrate with me the meaning, joy, and peace I have come to experience in Christ, but that will never happen for the simple reason that Jesus is still not understood, respected, or loved by the huge majority of those in this present age. If even those within our churches fail to honor Jesus Christ in their daily lives, why should we ever expect those outside the church who are without a Shepherd to respond any differently than the suffering and struggling mobs of unChristian masses did when Jesus walked the earth?

Unless they hear they cannot believe, and unless you tell them they cannot hear. If someone this Christmas tries to turn off your lights, take down your tree, block your parade, or remove your stable, think first of Jesus. He would reach out to the hater and love him with all of His heart. May you be a Merry Christmas to those around you.

December 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 7 pm Bible Study Decorate Church after service	3	4	5
6 Lottie Moon Offering 12:15 Property/ Baptist men 5:30 pm Finance Com	7	8 7 pm Deacons Meeting	9 7 pm Business Meeting	10 7 pm Pastor Search Com	11	12
13	14	15 10 am 3 score & more meet	16 6 pm Christmas Caroling	17 7 pm Pastor Search Com	18	19 9am Baptist men prepare food boxes
20 Cantata	21	22	23 7 pm Christmas Eve Candlelit Service	24	25 Merry Christmas, He Is Born!	26
27	28	29	30 7 pm Bible Study	31		

Bible Wordsearch

Wordsearch 243

Matt. 16:19-34

Sermons of Jesus 3

H	H	T	I	A	F	E	T	I	G	S	N	R	A	B
S	L	I	L	I	E	S	Y	R	E	R	I	F	E	B
S	R	E	T	S	A	M	O	A	E	N	A	L	M	I
Y	L	I	G	H	T	W	R	K	W	A	B	S	E	R
F	F	U	S	O	L	O	M	O	N	A	S	H	S	D
E	D	G	W	E	A	R	R	H	U	I	E	U	R	S
E	E	E	D	H	V	H	E	L	T	A	R	E	R	A
D	V	S	L	E	T	R	A	A	R	O	S	D	N	E
S	O	D	E	A	M	V	E	T	P	S	M	M	Y	F
R	T	O	I	V	Y	E	S	S	E	H	T	O	L	C
E	E	O	F	E	E	I	N	D	R	D	P	D	N	L
R	D	H	N	N	N	I	D	O	G	O	M	G	E	A
O	U	O	T	G	T	R	H	E	U	O	A	N	V	B
T	M	S	L	A	E	A	R	T	H	G	L	I	I	O
S	S	E	T	S	F	L	A	E	T	S	H	K	G	R

AWAY	BARNs
FAITH	BIRDS
FEEDS	DRINK
FIELD	EARTH
FIRE	CLOTHE
FOOD	DEVOTED
GIVEN	DRESSED
GOD	ENOUGH
GOOD	FATHER
GRASS	HEART
GROW	HEAVEN
LABOR	KINGDOM
LAMP	LILIES
LIGHT	MASTERS
MOTH	MONEY
REAP	SINGLE
RUST	SOLOMON
SERVE	THIEVES
STEAL	THROWN
STORE	TREASURE
WEAR	VALUABLE

After you find all the hidden words the left over letters spell out a Bible verse reading from the top left to the bottom right

MORE PUZZLES AT:

<http://biblewordgames.com>

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The Three Trees

According to legend, three trees grew near Jesus' manger; an olive tree, a palm tree and a fir tree. The olive offered its fruit to the newborn King, and the palm tree gave its dates.

The poor fir, having nothing to give but worship, raised its boughs in adoration, and the angels hung stars on its branches. So the fir became the first Christmas tree.





Birthdays

December 5th- Lynn Creasy

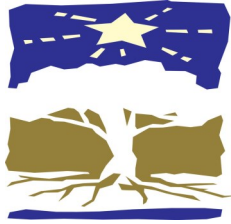
December 8th - Keller Poole

? Bible Quiz?

In Revelation 22: 16, Jesus says, "It is I, Jesus, who sent my angel to you with this testimony for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of _____, the bright morning star." Choose the correct name from the list below:

- A. Isaac
- B. Jacob
- C. David
- D. Solomon

Answer above the calendar



Church Members

Debbie Board
 James Board
 Lucille Caniff
 Myrtle Ellis
 Jim Ferrando
 Kenneth Gray
 Delmar Hill
 Collins Leftwich
 Reva Meade
 Agnes McPherson
 Jack & Edna Powers
 Connie Scarrow
 Jack Wheeler
 Jimmy & Jerri Wheeler
 Ken & Arlene Wheeler
 Sherman Wheeler

A 7 year old boy was chosen to be the innkeeper in the Christmas program. When Joseph and Mary approached him, looking for shelter in Bethlehem, he simply had to say there was no room. The kindhearted boy tried to make the sting out of the situation, however. "I don't have room for you in the hotel,," He said, "But I'd love to have you come in for milk and cookies."

December is a Busy Month!!

December 2nd - after Wednesday night service please stay and help decorate the church

December 6th- Lottie Moon Christmas Offering

December 15th- 10 am 3 Score and More will meet for their trip to Wytheville to see a Christmas play

December 16th- 6 pm Christmas Caroling and then return to church for hot chocolate and cookies

December 19th- 9am Baptist men will meet to pack food boxes

December 23rd- 7 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

December 25th- He Is Born!!
Celebrate the Birth of Our Lord, Christ Jesus!!

A Note from the secretary:

If your birthday isn't listed, please let me know, if it doesn't show up, I don't have it, and if you have anything that you would like to announce in the newsletter please let me know, thanks!!
If you want to receive broadcast messages by phone, I need your number.