

CORNERSTONE UMC NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2005

JOY TO THE WORLD

The very next day after Thanksgiving, people are driving the many ample places available for shopping. From that day on until the end of the year, Christmas carols are everywhere, including my mother's nursing home. The calendar of most churches is occupied with enormous programs and activities. This is the season of joy. Why?

Joy comes from the birth of Jesus Christ. Have you ever been in a very dark tunnel that has a dim light at the end of it? If you were in this situation, you had great hope and joy. Likewise, when people were under the Law of Moses, there was no hope to be saved by the law. They were in darkness. When Jesus was born people began to see the light that they would have salvation with him, in him, and through him. That is why we have joy in our hearts. Without that joy our shopping is meaningless, hopeless, and helpless.

However, countless people think they are joyful. But many people are confused between joyfulness and happiness. Christ Jesus gives us joyfulness that dwells in our heart and soul and it does not change by circumstances. Happiness comes from the world, which can be changed by circumstances and environment. As you go shopping, what do you have - Joyfulness or happiness?

Joy comes from the belief of Immanuel, God is with us. The Old Testament indicates that God is transcendent. But the transcendence of God is in us, with us, and among us. What a blessing! The incarnation of God into Jesus Christ causes us to have a great joy - that is why we celebrate Jesus' birth.



Joy comes from the anticipation of His coming again. Jesus was crucified, died and rose from the dead and said that he will come back again. We Christians expect to see Jesus Christ's coming again. Even though we are struggling here on earth to keep our faith and have trials and tribulations, when he comes back, Jesus will wipe our tears away and console us with his comforting words.

So what do we do? About three hundred years ago, Isaac Watts, a Christian writer, wrote "Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King; let every heart prepare him room." As you go shopping for your loved ones, please prepare for a room where Jesus comes in! Merry Christmas to you all!

Pastor Kong S. Namkung

PRAISE GOD FOR CHRISTMAS

BY JOSEPH BAYLEY

Praise Him for the incarnation,
for the word made flesh.
I will not sing of shepherds
watching flocks on frosty nights,
or angel choristers.
I will not sing of a stable bare in Bethlehem,
or lowing oxen,
wise men trailing star with gold,
frankincense, and myrrh.
Tonight I will sing praise to the Father
who stood on heaven's threshold

and said farewell to his Son
 as he stepped across the stars
 to Bethlehem and Jerusalem.
 And I will sing praise to the infinite, eternal Son,
 who became most finite, a baby
 who would one day be executed for my crime.
 Praise him in the heavens,
 Praise him in the stable,
 Praise him in my heart.

REMEMBER OUR CHURCH FAMILY MEMBERS IN YOUR PRAYERS

- | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------|
| • <i>DEPLOYED SOLDIERS</i> | • <i>CIVILLIANS</i> |
| • <i>Tyrone Anthony</i> | • <i>John Ban</i> |
| • <i>T.J. Edwards</i> | • <i>Mike Wiggs</i> |
| • <i>David Haskell</i> | |
| • <i>Jon Lipinski</i> | |
| • <i>Karen Marrs</i> | |
| • <i>Thia Schuh</i> | |
| • <i>Ed Smith</i> | |

DECEMBER CALENDAR of EVENTS

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|-----------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Dec 4 | | Potluck after Worship Service |
| | | Christmas Pageant Practice |
| | 6:30 pm | Administrative Council Mtg |
| Dec 6th | | Girl Scouts Carol @ Hospital |
| Dec 10th | 10:00—12:00 | Titus II Women's Group |
| Dec 11th | 11:00 am | Fundraiser for Leukemia |
| | 6:00 pm | Children's Christmas Pageant |
| Dec 14th | | Youth Christmas Party |
| Dec 15th | 5:30-7:00 pm | Tae Kwon Do Christmas Party |
| | 7:00 pm | PPRC Meeting |
| Dec 18th | Worship Service | Children's Choir Sings |
| Dec 24th | 7:00 pm | Candlelight Service |
| Dec 25th | Celebrate Jesus' Birth | |



WEEKLY EVENTS

Monday Evening—6:30 to 8:00 pm Cub Scout Meeting

Tuesday Evening—Experiencing God 7:00 pm at Jean Upchurches

Tuesday and Thursday Evenings—5:30 to 6:45 pm Tae Kwon Do Class

Wednesday Night Activities—6:30—7:30 pm

Children's Choir Practice 4 2nd Corinthians Study 4 Youth Study



Wednesday—Praise Team Practice 7:30 to 9:00 pm

Thursday—6:45 to 8:15 pm Boy Scout Meeting

Saturday—Family Bible Study 7:00 to 8:30 pm at Dwight Harro home

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

CELEBRATIONS in DECEMBER at CORNERSTONE

Karen Walker — Dec 1st

Jeremy Densmore—Dec 5th

Katie Yax—Dec 9th

Sophia Haskell—Dec 10th

Ed Smith—Dec 10th

Elinor Marrs—Dec 12th

John Ban—Dec 14th

John Harro—Dec 28th



Kathy Schuh—Dec 13th

Karen Marrs—Dec 17th

William Hall—Dec 31st

Happy Anniversary !

Willard & Kathy Davis—Dec 21st

Dwight & Laurie Harro-Dec 22nd

John & Deanna Turner-Dec 22nd

John & Pearl Lee—Dec 23rd



ON THE LIGHT SIDE—CHRISTIAN ONE-LINERS

- When you get to your wit's end, you'll find God lives there.
- Peace starts with a smile.
- God doesn't call the qualified, He qualifies the called.
- God loves everyone, but probably prefers "fruits of the spirit" over "religious nuts!"
- Don't give God instructions—just report for duty!
- The will of God will never take you to where the Grace of God will not protect you.
- Opportunity may knock once, but temptation bangs on your front door forever.
- The best mathematical equation I have ever seen: 1 cross+3 nails=4given.

GENERAL FUND GIVING

SHOULD BE \$184,587.74 OR 92.31% OF YEARLY BUDGET.
ACTUAL GIVING IS \$127,695.23. WHICH IS 73.86%
HOW MUCH MORE CAN YOU GIVE?

NEW MEMBERS—The Gills & The Yaxs

Please Welcome Cornerstone's Newest Members to our church family.

Charlie & Mary Gill and Darryl, Lisa, Nikki and Katie Yax joined us in November. God has truly blessed Cornerstone with these families.



Church leaders welcome new members

JESUS IS THE REASON FOR THE SEASON



OUR CHURCH

FAMILY



Contact Information

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