

# THE VIEW FROM FAITH

DECEMBER 2011  
Vol 10 Issue 12



## FROM OUR PASTOR

Dear Faith Family,

When man landed on the moon, that was big news. It was almost as if the whole world stopped to watch Neil Armstrong's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind. But that is nothing compared to the big news we find in Luke's gospel account, "**For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord**" (Luke 2:11). In this one verse contains the true message of Christmas.

In it we see the relevance of Christmas; that God came to earth. Jesus was God incarnate and He said that by seeing him, we see the Father (John 1:14). If this is really true - and of course it is! - then Christmas is the most relevant event in human history. This is big news!

We see the reality of Christmas. The reality is that Jesus Christ was not only God but that He was a real man, flesh and blood. Jesus was a real person, not a myth or a fable or just a nice story. The Bible says that Jesus "**made Himself of no reputation, taking on the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men**" (Phil. 2:7). The reality of Christmas is that God desired to redeem mankind. To do that, He became a man. For us living in the everyday real world, this is big news!

We also see the reason for Christmas; Jesus came to this earth to die. He didn't stay in the manger but He went to the cross and willingly laid down His life for us. The Bible says that "**He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross**" (Phil. 2:8). Jesus did this to demonstrate His love for us. If you

ever want to see how much God loves you, look to the cross! Jesus also did this to pay for our sins; "**Jesus Christ Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to our sins, might live for righteousness - by whose stripes we are healed**" (1 Peter 2:24). In the light of what how the world sees Christmas, this is big news!

And then we see the result of Christmas; Jesus Christ is Lord! At His birth, the angels proclaimed Jesus as "**Christ the Lord.**" Now we can make the same proclamation with our lips in praise, with our love in worship and with our lives in service. To a society that recognizes no lord but themselves, the fact that one day every knee will bow and every tongue will confess Jesus Christ as Lord is really big news!

Enjoy the season. Spend time with your family. Savor the moments of celebration. But don't forget the true meaning and message of Christmas; the birth of Jesus Christ is the biggest news of all! God bless you and may you all have a Christ-filled Christmas.

The Carters

~Pastor David

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

What a wonderful work God is doing among us! It's great to see the new faces at Sunday School/Bible study.

As we celebrate the birth of Christ, we can also share His love for others by inviting a friend, relative, or co-worker to Sunday school. This holiday season take advantage of opportunities to share with others the best reason to celebrate, Jesus!

In His Love,

~Lara

## MUSIC MINISTRY

Well it is almost the end of the year already - how time has flown this year. The choir is busy

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Prayer Ministry-----Sue Dittmar  
Sunday School-----Lara Sebok  
Women's Ministry-----Cece McKinley  
Youth Ministry-----Mike Sandy



putting the last practice times in for our Christmas Cantata - "Mary, Did You Know". Hope you plan to attend and also plan to bring friends and family. We pray everyone will be touched by the songs about this wonderful event. Remember we will be doing our Cantata on Sunday evening this year, **Dec. 18 @ 6:00 pm** with the church-wide fellowship to follow in the Family Life Center. Pray for the choir as we also do a special cantata presentation for residents from the local nursing home in Swansea as well as share a special covered dish dinner with them. We pray that this is a special season for you and your family and that Christ will be honored in our celebrating of His birth. Serving Him,

~Donnita

### **PRAYER WARRIORS**

Thanks for all the Prayer warriors that attended the cottage prayer meetings and participated in the evening prayers before the services. We are continuing to pray for the lost and our continuing salvation. We need more Prayer Warriors at 9:20 each Sunday morning. Our teachers, choir and the morning service needs prayed for, as well as everyone who attends our services. Please come and join us for this empowering time of prayer. Our Week of Prayer for International Missions begins Dec. 4. There will be an insert in each bulletin. Please read and pray for these missionaries daily. The theme is His Heart, His Hands, His Voice. Remember that the Continuing Prayer List will no longer be on the Sunday bulletin, but be located in the Prayer Room. Each Wednesday there will be a prayer list also, on the back of the Pastor's outline. We will also be Prayer Walking Swansea the first Saturday of each month at 10:00am. Come join us and get your exercise at the same time.

~Sue

### **SWANSEA PARISH NURSE**

Don't Let The Grinch Steal Your Christmas  
What is a Grinch? My definition of a Grinch is something or someone

that spoils a pleasure or happy time. So what are your Christmas grinchs? Perhaps all of the holiday cooking, shopping in the crowds, endless house cleaning, the Christmas traffic, getting the Christmas decorations down from the attic or spending time with those favorite or not so favorite people?

Holiday time is stressful because we strive to make the holiday Martha Stewart perfect. We want our children to have magical memories...those special Christmas pajamas for Christmas morning opening of the gifts "picture taking" session. We spend hours trying to fill the table with everyone's favorite dish. And for the men folks they are stressing that the T.V. is not BIG enough for the upcoming football games. Do I hear an amen?

So what are some Grinch busters? First, take a deep breath and repeat I am not Martha Stewart. Let go of perfect. Perfect is not the measure of a holiday to remember. You can't make everyone happy even if the gift is perfect. It's not the value of the gift but the thought that counts. Stay on budget. Less is more. Less materialism more time with those you love. Accept others for who they are. Don't think you can change them in one day. There are 364 other days to work on the relationship.

It's a season of expectation but somewhere in the hustle and bustle we lose sight of what we should be celebrating, His birthday. We can choose how we are going to experience this Holy season. Don't let The Grinch's steal your holiday!

Until Next Time,

~Angie Redmond, RN, FCN

Contact me:

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### **WOMEN'S MINISTRY**

What a wonderful and thankful November we had. I hope that everyone's Thanksgiving was a blessing to be around family and friends. This time of year brings such love, hope, inspiration, the willingness to give, forgiveness, and joy. Christmas time is here! My hope and prayer is that we are all able to keep Christmas in our hearts and minds throughout the year. As we all know Jesus is the

reason for the season, and we should celebrate Him daily in our lives. This month is full of awesome events. Ladies we'll be having our monthly December meeting this Saturday, December 3rd at Kelly Hutto's home from 3-5pm. Kelly is hosting a Christmas slushy/ornament exchange. Ladies I'm so excited about our meetings, & I look forward to seeing all of you. December 10th we are holding our monthly Bible study with the Rapha residents from 10:30-11:30am continuing our study of Job. I want to extend a warm thank you to those women who were present last month. This has become a gift from heaven that warms my heart each time we go. Remember we should finish the race God has put before us. We are the light of the world; as soon as we accept Jesus in our hearts others should see Him through us. How exciting!! Now other upcoming December events for us Ladies are the Ladies Bible study at Papparoni's on December 12th & 26th. Our Christmas candle light service is December 21st, and Christmas service on Sunday December 25th. Remember we'll have Sunday school and Sunday morning worship, but we'll have no evening service on the 25th. Christmas is the celebration of our Lord's birth, Mary brought forth a son, His name JESUS, Immanuel God with us, the light of the world, wonderful counselor, KING OF KINGS, Yahweh, Jehovah, Messiah, and our heavenly Father, Abba. However you call upon him remember He was sent here for you and me. What a wonderful God we serve!! I hope that all our ladies are at as many events as possible. Thank you for all your services to our Lord. Happy Birthday, Father!!

God is Love,

~Cece McKinley

