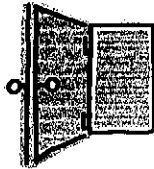


MT. GILEAD BAPTIST CHURCH

DECEMBER

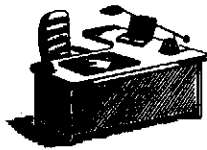
THE OPEN DOOR NEWS

ISSUE 4



**"HERE I STAND AT THE DOOR AND KNOCK.
IF ANYONE HEARS MY VOICE AND OPENS THE DOOR, I WILL COME IN..."
REV. 3:20**

FROM THE DESK OF THE PASTOR



HAPPY BIRTHDAY JESUS

What was the actual date of Jesus birth? Why did the ancient church celebrate Christmas on December 25th? There are two main theories that come to answer these questions. The first contends that the date was that of an ancient pagan festival, that Christians, " borrowed" to celebrate Christ' s birthday. The second implies that December 25th was celebrated as Jesus' birthday, early in the Church' s development.

Only Matthew and Luke record the events and participants of the nativity. Neither gives any indication of the month or day of Christ' s birth. Both say that King Herod (The Great) was ruler of Judea (37 B. C. to 4 B. C.). Luke asserts that Caesar Augustus (27 B. C. to A. D. 14) toll and Quirinius (6 B. C-A. D. 9) were the Roman authorities. Jesus was probably born some time between (6 B. C. - 4 B. C.) (If he was crucified at the age of 33, in approximately A. D. 28

In A. D. 274, the Roman Emperor Aurelian inaugurated December 25th as the pagan celebration of the Unconquered Sun, or the calendar date when daylight began to lengthen (the winter solstice begins on December 22nd). Some historians believe that Christians

“adopted” this date to celebrate the Lord’s birth, to prevent drawing attention to themselves in these times of persecution.

However, historical records suggest otherwise. Hippolytus of Rome, wrote of the celebration of Christmas, three decades before Aurelian’s festival—that took place “eight days before the calends of January” (December 22nd) St. John Chrysostom (patriarch of Constantinople until A. D. 407) wrote that Christians have celebrated Christmas on December 25th for centuries.

Luke says that Zechariah (father of John the Baptist) was performing his priestly duties in the Temple, when an angel told his wife, Elizabeth, that she would bear a son. Mary mother of Jesus, learned of her pregnancy (though a virgin) in the sixth month of Elizabeth’s pregnancy. The 24 classes of Jewish priests serve one week, in rotation, and Zechariah was in the eighth class. Rabbinical tradition fixed class of priests, on duty, when the Temple was destroyed in A. D. 70. Calculating backwards from that time,

Zechariah served October 2-9, in 5 B. C. Mary’s conception 6 month later, might have occurred in late March. Jesus’ birth would have been in late December. The feast of the Annunciation was thus celebrated on March 25th and Christmas celebrated December 25th. These were recognized early in the Church’s development.

Who knows? (only God). Jesus may actually have been born on December 25th.

Pastor Bryan

{Source Why is December 25th the traditional date for Christmas? By Richard Ostling}



THE SHOEMAKER'S DREAM

BY NORMAN VINCENT PEALE

EDWIN ARKHAM, ONE OF AMERICA'S GREAT POETS, TELLS THE STORY* OF A COBBLER, A GODLY MAN WHO MADE SHOES IN THE OLD DAYS.

ONE NIGHT THE COBBLER DREAMED THAT THE NEXT DAY JESUS WAS COMING TO HIS HUMBLE SHOP. HE GOT UP EARLY THE NEXT DAY AND WENT TO THE WOODS TO GATHER GREENBOUGHS TO DECORATE HIS SHOP IN ORDER TO RECEIVE SO GREAT A GUEST.

HE WAITED ALL MORNING, AND THE ONLY THING THAT HAPPENED WAS THAT AN OLD MAN SHUFFLED UP, ASKING TO REST. CONRAD, THE COBBLER, SAW THAT HIS SHOES WERE WORN THROUGH, SO HE BROUGHT THE MAN IN. "I'LL GIVE YOU A NEW PAIR," HE SAID AND PUT ON THE OLD MAN THE STURDIEST SHOES IN THE SHOP BEFORE SENDING HIM ON HIS WAY.

HE WAITED THROUGH THE AFTERNOON AND THE ONLY HAPPENING WAS THAT AN OLD WOMAN UNDER A HEAVY LOAD OF FIREWOOD CAME BY. SHE WAS WEARY, AND OUT OF COMPASSION. CONRAD BROUGHT HER IN AND GAVE HER SOME OF THE FOOD HE HAD PREPARED FOR THE CHRIST CHILD. SHE ATE WITH RELISH FOR SHE WAS VERY HUNGRY. AND, REFRESHED

SHE WENT ON HER WAY.

THEN, AS THE SHADES OF NIGHT BEGAN TO FALL, THERE CAME INTO HIS SHOP A LOST CHILD, CRYING BITTERLY. CONRAD WAS ANNOYED BECAUSE IT WAS NECESSARY TO LEAVE HIS SHOP IN ORDER TO TAKE THE CHILD HOME.

WHEN HE RETURNED, HE WAS CONVINCED THAT HE HAD MISSED THE LORD. SADLY HE LIVED THROUGH THE MOMENTS AS HE HAD IMAGINED THEM, THE KNOCK, THE CALL, THE LATCH PULLED UP, THE LIGHTED FACE, THE OFFERED CUP. HE WOULD HAVE KISSED THE HANDS WHERE THE NAILS HAD BEEN, WASHED THE FEET WHERE THE SPIKES HAD ENTERED. THE LORD WOULD HAVE SAT WITH HIM, WOULD HAVE BROKEN BREAD.

CONRAD CRIED, "WHY IS IT, LORD, THAT YOUR FEET DELAY? HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN THAT THIS WAS THE DAY?"

THEN, SOFT IN THE SILENCE A VOICE HE HEARD:
"LIFT UP YOUR HEART FOR I KEPT MY WORD;
THREE TIMES I CAME TO YOUR FRIENDLY DOOR;
THREE TIMES MY SHADOW WAS ON YOUR FLOOR.

I WAS THE BEGGAR WITH BRUISED FEET;
I WAS THE WOMAN YOU GAVE TO EAT;
I WAS THE CHILD ON THE HOMELESS STREET.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR



DECEMBER

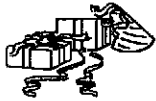


03 EDDIE EBERHART
15 MARTIN EBERHART
22 TORI MULDOON
29 MARVIN EBERHART
31 TERESA MEREDITH

IF YOU ARE NOT ON THIS LIST AND YOU ARE
CELEBRATING A BIRTHDAY PLEASE LET CAROLYN
KNOW

812-371-3794 OR

812-587-5344



REMEMBER OUR SHUT INS

EVELYN SMITH
NORMA CLARK
NORMAN PIKE
DOROTHEA PARKER
MARION HICKMAN
EDNA PARKER
HESPER MOHR
MARJORIE SANDEFUR'S

PRAYER CONCERNS

HALEY (*little girl w/jaw disease*)
JERRY WERTZ (CANCER)
RUSSELL SWIFT (CANCER)
KENNY ADAMS (CHEMO)
HOPE PARKER (HEART)
CHANDRA ABSTROM
BOB NOEL'S MOTHER

EMILY PARKER'S MOTHER
KEEGAN PHELPS
JEFF BURTON
WILL ICENOGLE (lung removal)
KENNY PILE (heart)
CHERYL DEPREE (cancer)
ANNA KELLY (baby)
EMILY KIRBY (BREAST CANCER)
BREONNA MARTIN
ANGIE FRAYLEY (LIVER)
RHONDA PIKE (TUMOR)
VIRGINIA CRANE (LYMPHOMA)
PHIL ROBINSON (CANCER)
ELIZABETH CAMPBELL
MANDY ELLIOT (KNEE INJURY)
JANET TITUS (CANCER)
LEWIS WEAVER FAMILY
RYAN FISHER (LEUKEMIA)
JOHN ROSS (SUSACS DISEASE)
JANET DRAKE (BREAST CANCER)
ALLISON PATTON (HEART)
CHARLES HAVENS (LYMPHOMA)
SALLY WATSON (CANCER)
DAVE McCAMMON
(LEUKEMIA)
MICKEY PILE (ANEURYSM)
Jeff Brown
JOE GILLIS (deployed to Iraq)
MATT BEUDEL (deployed to Iraq)
CARTER BRAMWELL FAMILY
CHRIS MASSEY FAMILY
DON&NAOMI FUCHS (fire)
MELISSA QUICK (pregnant/twins)
WILLIAM HALEY (motorcycle accident)
SONNY SHUGENT (BACK)
XAVIER SANFORD (leg)
PAUL BOWER (cancer)
MARY HENNING
BERNIE RAY
HELEN'S AUNT
DONNA GIBSON (eyes)
JENNER GORE
BERNARD SPALDING (cancer)



JANUARY

**02 WEDNESDAY NIGHT ACTIVITIES
GAME NIGHT**

**06 BUSINESS MEETING
9:15 AM**

**CONGRATULATION
TO
MISSY AND ANDY
BUHR
AND
JUSTIN AND NATALIE
PARKER
ON THEIR RECENT
MARRIAGES**

**THE A.B.W. WERE HONORED TO HAVE THE
FLAT ROCK ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT
BONNIE MCCAY
FROM BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH
AT THEIR NOVEMBER MEETING.
SHE GAVE DEVOTIONS FOR THE LADIES.**

**CARDS WERE SENT TO 3 YOUNG PEOPLE WHO
ARE IN COLLEGE WHOSE PARENTS ARE
MISSIONARIES**

**THE ABW ARE COLLECTING BOXES OF CEREAL,
HAMBURGER HELPER, CANS OF FRUIT AND
CANS OF MEAT TO GIVE TO THE SALVATION
ARMY. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HELP PLEASE
BRING YOUR ITEMS TO THE CHURCH.**

**IF YOU HAVE NOT RETURNED THE INFORMATION SHEET
FROM LAST MONTH PLEASE MAIL OR BRING BACK TO THE
CHURCH.**

IF YOU NEED ONE CALL THE CHURCH

**DEACON OF THE WEEK FOR
DECEMBER**

09 CHAD CLARK	317-729-5483
16 MIKE MCCAIN	317-729-5405
23 DAVID LAWSON	317-392-2889
30 DON PARKER	317-729-5383

**AT THE LAST BUSINESS MEETING IT WAS
VOTED TO HAVE THE FLOOR IN THE KITCHEN
AND FELLOWSHIP HALL OUT TO THE STAIRS
AND THE ENTRANCE OF THE CHURCH
RESURFACED. WORK HAS BEGUN AND
HOPEFULLY WILL BE FINISHED SOON.**



**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY
NEW YEAR**



SERMONS FOR DECEMBER

- 02 "THE WORD WAS GOD"
JOHN 1: 1-14
- 09 "MARY'S PRAYER/
THE CHRISTMAS CHILD"
SERVICE OF CAROLS
- 16 CHRISTMAS PROGRAM
"GOOD NEWS"
LUKE 2: 1-20
- 23 "THE WISE MEN
WEREN'T STOOGES"
MATTHEW 2: 1-13
- 30 "THE OLD HAS GONE,
THE NEW HAS COME"
2 CORINTHIANS 5:11-6:2

JOIN US ON SUNDAY MORNINGS
9:15 FOR FELLOWSHIP
WITH DRINKS AND DONUTS

9:30 SUNDAY SCHOOL
WE HAVE CLASSES FOR ALL AGES
10:30 WORSHIP SERVICE
NURSERY PROVIDED

WEDNESDAY EVENINGS AT
6:30 LIGHT SUPPER
FOLLOWED AT 7:00
WITH ADULT BIBLE STUDY

JR. SR. HIGH YOUTH GROUP
6TH GRADE THRU 12TH GRADE

AND KINDERGARDEN THRU
5TH GRADE YOUTH GROUP
WITH NURSERY PROVIDED

DECEMBER HAPPENINGS



02 COMMUNION SUNDAY

03 DEACONS MEETING @ 7 PM
TUESDAY



05 WEDNESDAY NIGHT
ACTIVITIES
6:30 PM

09 SERVICE OF CAROLS
10:30 AM
BUSINESS MEETING
11:30 AM



12 WEDNESDAY NIGHT
ACTIVITIES
6:30 AM

15 CHRISTMAS PROGRAM
PRACTICE AND LUNCH
10:30



16 CHRISTMAS PROGRAM
10:30 AM

18 ABW 7 PM

19 WEDNESDAY NIGHT ACTIVITIES
6:30 PM
MAKING GINGERBREAD HOUSES



24 CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE
5 PM



31 NEW YEARS EVE
6:30-9 PM