

From The Pastor

“Baby Jesus and the Great Rabbi”

Happy Holidays is a politically correct statement that just doesn't cut it. There's more to Christmas than holiday; but, how to get to the real meaning of it all? You can do the Santa Claus thing even with the journey to the mall and sitting on Santa's lap but how do you get to the real meaning of Christmas? Try this: read the following story of the Great Rabbi and get ready to experience it for yourself.

The story is told of a Jewish couple whose greatest hope was to have a child. When born he was a rambunctious child. Finally the day came when he was to go to yeshiva (school) and learn the Word of God. He never arrived. Instead he went to the woods and swam in the lake and climbed the trees. This shamed his parents and they didn't know what to do. So they called in the behavior modificationists to modify his behavior then the psychoanalysts to unblock his blockages but each time he found himself back swimming in the lake and climbing the trees.

At this time the Great Rabbi visited their town so they took him to the Rabbi and told him what was going on. The Rabbi bellowed, "Leave the boy with me and I will take care of it." He told the boy, "Come in here!" Trembling the boy came forward and then the Great Rabbi picked him up and help him silently against his heart. The next day he went to yeshiva to learn the Word of God. And when he was done, he went to the woods to swim and climb as well and was one with the woods and the trees.

The boy grew up to become a great man. People who were seized with panic came to him and found peace. People who were without anyone came to him and found communion. People with no exits came to him and found a way out. And when they did he said, "I first learned the Word of God when the Great Rabbi held me silently against his heart.

The heart is the symbol we employ to capture the deepest essence of personhood. It symbolizes what lies at the core of our being; it defines irreducibly who we really are... When the boy listened to the heartbeat of the Great Rabbi, he heard more than the systole and diastole of a palpating human organ. He penetrated the Rabbi's consciousness...and came to know the Rabbi in a way the embraced intellect and emotions—and translated them."

Do you want Christmas to be more than a cultural event or a politically correct holiday? If so ask God this question: WILL YOU EMBRACE ME AND LET ME HEAR THE BEAT OF YOUR HEART? Then get ready to experience the true meaning of Christmas as He takes you up into His lap and holds you silently next to His heart.

Pastor Bud

THOSE SCHEDULED TO SERVE IN JANUARY

ELDERS:	Jan.	1	Dorothy Kay	Tami Bloomfield
		8	Ken Mishler	Dorothy Kay
		15	Janice Middaugh	Ken Mishler
		22	Sheryl Reeve	Janice Middaugh
		29	Scott Braumiller	Sheryl Reeve

DEACONS:		Dick Barnhart	Jacob Reynolds
		Mary Brady	Genevieve Seckel
		Pat Mishler	Vern Sizemore
		Carolyn Owen	

CHILDREN'S TALK:	Jan.	1	Cheryl Obenour
		8	Pastor Bud
		15	Gen Seckel
		22	Sheryl Reeve
		29	Pam Denzer

CHANCEL FLOWERS

Dates to supply January chancel flowers are all available at the time of this printing. The new flower calendar is posted on the Narthex Bulletin Board. Be sure to sign up for the Sundays you wish to provide flowers.

Sunday, January 1, 2012 - Happy New Year!

VALET PARKING is offered by Kathie Sizemore at 8:30 a.m.

COFFEE HOUR - 8:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall on the first, second, third and fourth Sunday of the month. A free community lunch is offered at 12 noon on the third and fourth Sunday of the month. A community breakfast along with a sack lunch is offered the last Sunday of the month starting at 8:00 a.m. Children's talk is during the 9:30 a.m. worship.

FOOD PANTRY - offers a chance for you to help feed the area's hungry. Please bring food staples to help us continue our support of this community-at-large ministry.

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Ruth Group

Thursday, January 5; 1:30 p.m. in the Social Room  
All women of the church are invited.

CMF Breakfast

Saturday, January 21; 7:30 a.m. at the Marion Diner

Gazette Deadline

Tuesday, January 17<sup>th</sup>, 11 a.m.  
Anything received in the office AFTER this deadline will be included in the NEXT month's newsletter.

Bible Study

Pastor Bud is hosting a unique style of Bible Study for all those wishing to be discipled by the Word of God on Wednesdays at 7 - 8:15 p.m. Bring your questions, issues of import, Bible, and an open mind/heart for encounters with the truth that will prepare you for what God has ahead. Meet the challenge and come. Abiding in the Word of God is essential if one is serious about knowing and doing God's will and fulfilling his/her purpose in the Kingdom of God.

Prayer Concerns Lists

On February 1, 2012 all names will be removed from our prayer concerns lists and will begin again. If you would like to keep your name or the name of someone else on the list, all you have to do is notify the church office by January 17, 2012.

CHRISTMAS CARDS & LETTERS:

Posted on the Sanctuary Bulletin Board

Dr. Perry & Maureen Mattern     Roger & Esther Kingsley  
Roop & Doris Hans

Welcome New Members

On September 25, 2011, Pam Denzer and Sandra Guilfoyle reaffirmed their faith at Central Christian Church. Pam and Sandra's address is 5628 Denzer Road, Waldo, Ohio 43356. Pam's phone number is (520)260-9361. Sandra's phone number is (520) 400-7229. Add them to your Church Directory. On November 6, 2011, Robin Marler joined Central Christian Church. Robin's address is 465 South Main Street, Apt. 13, Marion, Ohio. Robin's phone number is (740) 751-0122. Add her to your Church Directory too. Please welcome our new members to Central Christian Church.

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Utilities for November 2011

Columbia Gas	\$ 636.54
Ohio Edison	\$ 363.97
Trash/Sewer	\$ 238.99
Frontier	\$ 185.11
Total	\$1424.61

Reminder

Hospitals, nursing homes, Hospices do not notify churches or pastors when a person is admitted to their care. It is up to you or a family member to contact the church if you wish a visit or ongoing care from the church. These policies are the results of HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act). Your church wants to provide the spiritual care you or your loved ones need, but we must know when admission to one of these facilities or programs has taken place.

UCC Care Closet

We are asking for donations for the monthly Care Closet that UCC supports. People are referred by Job and Family Services, Turning Point, or any church. These donations provide products they are unable to purchase with food stamps. Items such as toothpaste, bar soap, shampoo, deodorant, tissues, paper towel, toilet paper, cleaning supplies, and laundry items are needed. Donations may be placed in the marked box underneath the Service Station table in the Fellowship Hall.

Prayer and Announcement Cards

These cards are on the message center located beside the sanctuary entrance doors in the Fellowship Hall. When you have a prayer request on Sunday morning, complete a prayer request card and give it to the pastor prior to the service. When you have an announcement not printed in the bulletin, complete an announcement card and give it to the worship leader.

Wanted: Tired, Old Sheets any color, any size. John Cottrell, who heads up Trinity Baptist Church's "Holy Tearers", is in need of sheets. This is an ongoing project. Please bring in your unwanted sheets and deposit them on the bottom step of the stairs on the west wing by the church offices.

Campbell Soup Labels are being collected by the Ruth Group for the Cleveland Christian Home. Place labels in the marked box underneath the Service Station table in the Fellowship Hall.

ON A COLD JANUARY DAY

A Bowl of Soup

A Good Book

Nourish your body with a bowl of warm chicken soup and your soul with a good book from our library. This month we are featuring the CHICKEN SOUP FOR THE SOUL series of books. These inspirational stories will renew your faith in yourself, put the difficult times into perspective, and make you aware of the miracles in your life. Take a little time to view the special display in the bench area and check out a book or two. (Just sign your name on the card in the back of the book and leave it on the table. Please return to the library within one month.)

Some books in the NEW BOOKS SECTIONS in the library are:

MISSIONAL CHURCH: A Vision for the Sending of the Church in North America (edited by Darrell L. Guder)...a team of six authors examine today's secular culture and the church's loss of dominance in contemporary society.

LIVING QUOTATIONS FOR CHRISTIANS (edited by Sherwood Eliot Wirt and Kersten Beckstrom)...a faith building collection of fascinating, relevant thoughts and ideas for speakers and writers.

SARAH'S GARDEN (Kelly Long)...yes, another story from the Amish community in the Allegheny Mountains. Sarah King knows how to touch and nourish the plants in the garden she loves but duty calls her away to a world she knows little about.

GROWING UP WITH A BUCKET FULL OF HAPPINESS: Three Rules for a Happier Life (Carol McCloud)...teaches children that happiness can come from being a kind and considerate person.

THANK YOU TO . . .

- all those who decorated the church.
- all those who participated in the Christmas Eve service.
- all who donated to the Mitten Tree.
- the Advent candle lighters.
- Libby Davis, Patsy Krider and Brenda Reish for working in the church office.

Prayer Concerns

Members

Dorothy Besch	Gene & Charlotte Miller
Dorothy Bobst	Jane Ratterman
Joe Burns	Joel Reeve
Chuck Gruber	Barb Ryan
Roger & Esther Kingsley	Craig Schertzer
Betty Leib	Earl Smith
	Barb West

Non-members

Joe Acker (Acker)	Elizabeth Newton (Reeve)
Ben Adkins (Reeve)	Nishiyama Family (Brady)
Ally Dinwiddle (Schertzer)	Michael Noland (Kay)
Brenda Dye (Ford)	Beth Nowlin (Besch)
Mable Evans (Schmalz)	Julie Owen (Owen)
Marge Gorman (Sizemore)	Paul Pezley (Schertzer)
Sue Hoover (Middaugh)	Hope Phillips (Middaugh)
Jim Hord (Owen)	Will Renken (Reeve)
Sandy Hunt (Butler)	Marcia Riggleman (Davis)
Monica Jones (Sizemore)	Pat Saad (Middaugh)
Thelma Knapp (Middaugh)	Jon Sisler (Schertzer)
Brandy McDermott & Kids (Kingsley)	Dave Smith (Middaugh)
Megan McFadden (Gorenflo)	John & Lois Stine (Lusch)
Debbie Melvin (Reish)	Helen Swinehart (Frye)
Gregg Miller (Acker)	Taylor Wilhite (Gilmore)
Steph & Massey Moore (Sizemore)	Mark Young (Seckel)
Theresa Moran (Brady)	Pete Zimmerman (Besch)
Melissa Morehart (Green)	Simeon Hill (Hill)

Military: Erin Kirk, Kevin Kirk, Jason Knotts and Sarah Sipe

CCC CELEBRATES
JANUARY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Happy Birthday!

1	Chris Camm	17	Kathie Sizemore
	Alex Bushatz	18	Libby Davis
2	Lisa Frye Burke 19 Don Ryan		
3	Roger Kingsley	20	Tyler Reeve
7	Eileen Stephenson	21	Bill Schertzer
9	Brycelyn Deickert	22	Betty Jo Bernow
11	Mary Brady		Verna Gilmore
13	Matthew Sharrock		Nicholas Mayne
14	Jean Frye	23	Jordan Butler
15	Michael Schertzer	26	Ben Acker
	Tait Palm	28	Eugene Miller
		29	Lisa Camm

Happy Anniversary!

13	Paul & Olga Geissler
16	Eugene & Charlotte Miller
17	Tom & Cheryl Obenour
18	Tom & Raetta Maurer
20	Clyde & Beverly Cole

If you have a birthday and/or an anniversary in January and it does not appear in the list above, please call the church office immediately so it can be added in the future. Thanks for your help in keeping these lists as complete and accurate as possible!