



December 17, 2006

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WHAT ABOUT CHRISTMAS?

For years I have heard the controversial discussions over Christmas...to celebrate or not to celebrate seems to be the question. Perhaps a historical picture would clear the matter.

The early Christians did not know when Jesus was born. For the first century, no special date was observed. In the second century a controversy arose over the reality of the human Christ. With all good intentions, some Christians began celebrating a feast day on January 6 as the baptismal date of Jesus to prove that Jesus was only a phantom nature. He was a *divine spirit only*. To counteract this false practice, other Christians began to celebrate on January 6th and later on December 25th the coming into the world of the divine spirit as a *physical entry*...thus Jesus' birthday. This historical connection was apparently very important to Christians to confirm the teaching of Paul in Phil 2:7 that "**Christ Jesus...emptied Himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in the likeness of men.**"

All in all, it's a special time of reflection; however, in view of Jesus' position of power, we must also remember in Gal. 4:10-11 Paul chided the Galatians not to establish "special days" for religious observance. Paul was warning the Galatians, we must never lose sight of the appropriate celebration for church...every Sunday is the *Lord's Day* when we remember His sacrifice, His cross, His death, His triumphal resurrection to assure our salvation. This is the Gospel and the Good News is joy.

I must say quickly, however, that the historical necessity for a day to remind the world of the coming of Christ fills a contemporary need today. The world must be told Jesus is not a figment of imagination, a ghost, a historical misnomer.... He lived! He lives today.

His coming brings to this time of the year stouter smiles, kinder hearts, nearness and dearness to loved ones, happy children, thoughtful consideration, pure unselfish giving, and a special nature of love abounding from heart to heart. Truly the words of the angels on Jesus' birthday, whatever day that was, are still proclaimed to a world hungry for its message, "Peace on earth, goodwill toward men." Let the bells ring! Breathe the enchanting music that fills the air! Revel in the warmth and good cheer that wells in your heart and soul! Christ was born, He lived, He died and for us as Christians that is the best news, the word of pure joy.

Even though we know that December 25th is not the day of His birth, while the candles burn at this season, we may remember that He is the light of the world. As the sounds of cheer are expressed, we may remember Him who is the source of all joy. As the gifts are exchanged we may remember that God gave the supreme gift to take away the sins of the world.

Gary R. Beauchamp

We would like all of our Guests to join our members in filling out an attendance card so that we might have a record of your visit.

There are two things that we would like to explain to you about our worship service. Our singing is *acapella* or *without accompaniment*. Although instruments of music were used by the Jews in the Old Testament, they are conspicuously absent in the church of the New Testament. We are told to, "Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord." (Ephesians 5:19)

We partake of the *Lord's supper* or *Communion* every Sunday as the early church did (Acts 21:7). The partaking of the bread and the fruit of the vine is a weekly memorial that reminds us of what our Savior did for us. (I Cor. 11:23-26)

WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?

HEAR (Luke 11: 28)

But He said, "More than that, blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it!"

BELIEVE (Mark 16: 16)

"He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned."

REPENT (Acts 2: 38)

Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit"

CONFESS (Matthew 10: 32)

"Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven."

BE BAPTIZED (Acts 22: 16)

"And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord."

WELCOME VISITORS:

We are so glad you decided to be here today! It is always such a blessing to be able to meet you and be encouraged by your presence. Thank you for coming our way.

FOR THE CHILDREN:

Children's Worship Bulletins are available at the back for ages 3-6 and ages 7-12.

Attended Nursery for infants through age two. Parents may leave their children in the nursery before the worship service begins.

A Training Room for parents to use anytime during the worship service is also provided across the hall from the attended nursery.

For Your Convenience:

Hearing aid devices are available and may be received from the attendant in the sound room at the rear of the auditorium.



Prayer List

- ❖ **Carmie Green** will see a surgeon on Jan 11th.
- ❖ **Betty Burton** is having vision problems due to her diabetes condition.
- ❖ **Dave Marcum** is in the Florida Hospital Orlando recovering from surgery. He is expected to be in there a few more days.
- ❖ **Herman Klahn** has been released from the hospital. His heart rhythm problem will have to be watched. Both June and Herman send their Christmas greetings.
- ❖ **Sterling Allen** is having difficulty with the healing on his leg and foot, but is some better.
- ❖ **Dwain Chambers** is recovering from surgery on his neck and having physical therapy.
- ❖ **Chris Dale** has a broken toe.
- ❖ **Marvin McElwain** has been moved to the Royal Care Nursing Home, Room 121B in Avon Park and would appreciate visitors. He sends his love to us.
- ❖ **Pray for Winter Members** as they begin to return.
- ❖ **Helen Piety, Don and Elizabeth Ware** our shut-ins.

EXTENDED FAMILY AND FRIENDS.

- ❖ **John Stanley**, brother of Mary Jo Miller, is doing better.
- ❖ **Cindy LaForte**, sister of Mary Welsh, has had her chemo treatments changed because of difficulties with the drugs.
- ❖ **Leonard Anderson**, brother of Wayne is in VA Hospital with lung problems.
- ❖ **Ken Joines** is home from the hospital after his knee surgery and is going to therapy during the week.
- ❖ **Glenda Friend**, sister of Carol Johnson, is at home.
- ❖ Glen and Joanne Wooters' son, **Carolyn Shook**, cousin of Betty Parker, shows some improvement.
- ❖ **Sherry (Johnson) Brown**, ex daughter-in-law of Harry and Carol Johnson, **Carol Underwood**, a neighbor of Chuck and Mary Jo are all currently undergoing treatment for cancer.
- ❖ **Rita Bridges**, sister of Linda Bridges, has bone cancer.
- ❖ **Wayne Adkins**, brother of Carl Adkins, is improving following a heart attack.
- ❖ **Lynn Einfeldt**, father of Rachel Capps is at the Palms for physical therapy.

MISSION EFFORTS

- ❖ **Anil Tejpaal and family and Javeed Ally** in Guyana.
- ❖ **Vovo Shoot and family and Dema Galook and family** in Chernovtsy.
- ❖ **F. H & Becky Gates** in Brazil

Our Record: December 10, 2006

Bible Study	103
Sunday AM Worship	130
Sunday PM Worship	83
Contribution	\$3303
Wednesday Bible Study	90
Building Fund	\$125
Ukraine Building Fund	\$0
F.H. Gates	\$0
Special Mission – Guyana	\$0
World Bible Translation (Ladies Class)	\$0
Clothing Room/Pantry 12/14	11

Upcoming Birthdays



Mary Hargrove	12/18
Dan Luidhardt	12/18
Tonya Gurganus	12/20
Roger Gurganus	12/22
Lois Olds	12/23
Evelyn Parnett	12/23

Upcoming Anniversary

Carl & Nancy Adkins	12/20
Phillip & Lous Ormsby	12/22
Ebert & Vera Cribbs	12/22
Dwain & Jeanette Chambers	12/22

Visitors for December 10, 2006

Milton and Laurel Sewell
 Rob & Wanda Erwin
 Travis & Shelvia Golden
 Mr. and Mrs. Homer Clark

Telling Kids Jokes

I love to tell my children jokes. The great thing about telling kids jokes is that no matter how old the joke is, they haven't heard it yet. When Mom was working as an election official recently, the girls and I sat down at a table in a fast food restaurant and swapped jokes. I was amazed at what would make them laugh.

I wouldn't have told those jokes to my adult friends. If I had they would have listened politely and might have summoned a strained chuckle when I finished. They would have already heard them.

Don't assume your family and friends have already heard the gospel. So often, the bored, polite stare of someone who knows the punch line is replaced by a look of expectation when I speak with others of spiritual things. Surely, many are not interested. Yes, some will scoff at the message and the messenger. Not all, though. You and I have friends and loved ones who would eagerly accept an invitation to worship, who want their children enrolled with them in a Sunday School class, who would accept a Bible study and respond to the love of Christ.

How do I tell the difference? Ask.

Chris Graham

Preaching Schedule

12/17 Allen Barber AM & PM

12/24 Steven Mickholtzick AM & PM



Ladies Class Schedule



December 19th teacher Patty Massey; topic is **Percentage Giving**.

Clothing Room

On Thursday, 9-11am, is when the clothing room is open for the community. We can always use more help. If you have any furniture or household items to donate for use in this ministry, please let Betty Abrams or Harry Johnson know.



Searching For Truth

A new supply of copies of World Video Bible School DVD *Searching for Truth* has come in and copies are available on the tables in the back. The elders encourage everyone to use these DVD's and share them with friends, family, and those in the community.



Communion Sign-up

The sign up sheet for 2007 for communion preparation is on the bulletin board in the foyer. Please sign up for the month that you can do it.



CEO

The CEO will meet on Friday, December 22nd at 5:30pm at the Golden Coral in Lake Placid. All are invited to attend.

Building Loan Balance

After the December payment and the additional funds credited to the principal for November, the balance on the building loan is \$27,460.78.

From the Elders

The elders continue to search for a new evangelist. If you are aware of a candidate you would recommend, either ask the candidate to send us a resume by email to the church or Olin, or provide the candidate's name and contact information to Olin. It would be helpful to provide some background information and why you recommend the candidate. Ken Joines may return after he recuperates from his surgery to assist us on an interim basis. Local brethren will be asked to fill the pulpit in the meantime.



Canned vegetables & fruits of all kinds
Canned Meats
Chicken Noodle and Vegetable Soup
Spaghetti and Sauce
Chili & crackers; Stew
Syrup
Chicken & Dumplings
Canned White and Sweet Potatoes
Rice
Baby Food & Baby Cereal
Toothpaste & Toothbrushes
Bar Soap
Deodorant
Individual Small Boxed Cereal



Christmas Humor

It was the holiday season and a kindly sister halted little Tommy in the church lobby to inquire, "And what are you going to give your little brother for Christmas, Tommy?" "I dunno," replied the boy. "I gave him the measles last year."

An elderly aunt received this note from her young niece: "Dear Aunt: Thank you for your nice Christmas present. I have always wanted a pin cushion, but not very much."

SHEPHERDS

Harry Johnson.....655-3386
(Evangelism/Membership
Directory/Membership
Fellowship Clothing Room)

Dave Marcum385-8899
(Treasurer/ Administration)

Olin Shinholser.....382-1060
(Worship Services/ Education)

Paul Talbert.....385-3756
(Building & Grounds/
Benevolence/ Membership
Services)

DEACONS

Bill Benton453-6002
(Treasurer/Visitation)

Chris Fowler386-4661
(Youth Director/ Services
Director/ Substitute Teacher
Assignments/Sound Room)

Roger Gurganus453-3939
(Building & Grounds
Maintenance (Outside)/
Transportation/ Communion)

Tracey Stalter471-9736
(Building Maintenance (Inside)/
Membership Directory/ Pews)

BJ Thomas385-7270
(Building Maintenance (Outside)/
Benevolence, Clothing Room)

Don Ware.....382-0194
(Special Mission Efforts/
Timothy Class)

Sitter-Quitter-Or Getter

I'm a **SITTER**. I just want to sit and enjoy the service and do nothing.

I'm a **QUITTER**. I taught a class once, but I've served my time. I even visited for the church a time or two, but no one was home. If anything is done in this church, somebody else will have to do it.

I'm a **GETTER**. The more I think about God and His salvation, the more I want to do for Him. Even today He is preparing a place for me in eternity. He hasn't stopped working for me, so I will continue to work for him.

SCHEDULED TO SERVE		ORDER OF SERVICE FOR MORNING WORSHIP																
<p style="text-align: center;">THIS SUNDAY</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Prepare Communion: Marie Barber</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Greeters: Ron Horton Carl Martin Bill Sweeton Della Martin</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Pick Up Cards: Forest & Austin Ritenour</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Pick Up Communion Cups: Hayden Parker & Austin Ritenour</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Sound Room: Don Ware</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Secure Building This Week: Don Ware</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Announcements: Harry Johnson</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Song Leader: Chris Fowler</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Opening Prayer: Rick Cochran</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Lord's Supper: Preside: Clem Smith Serve:</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">NEXT SUNDAY</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Prepare Communion: Marie Barber</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Greeters: Ron Horton Clem Smith Bill Sweeton Margaret Smith</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Pick Up Cards: Austin Ritenour & Victor Oregon</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Pick Up Communion Cups: Nathan Ramer & Joshua Fowler</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Sound Room: Roger Gurganus</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Secure Building Next Week: Roger Gurganus</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Announcements: Bill Benton</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Song Leader: Paul Talbert</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Opening Prayer: Don Ware</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Lord's Supper: Preside: Carl Martin Serve:</p>	<p>Announcements: Harry Johnson</p> <p>Song: 123 Steadfast Love of the Lord</p> <p>Song: 108 The Lord is in His Holy Temple</p> <p>Opening Prayer: Rick Cochran</p> <p>Song: 578 We Will Glorify</p> <p>Communion</p> <p>Offering</p> <p>Song: 325 Boundless Love</p> <p>Song: 238 You Are the Song</p> <p>Lesson: Allen Barber</p> <p>Invitation Song: 902 Nothing but the Blood</p> <p>Song: 474 Thank You Lord for Loving Me</p> <p>Closing Prayer: Dan Luidhardt</p>																
<p>1. Wayne Anderson 4. Troy Talbert 2. Don Yost 5. Nicholas Stalter 3. Edison Green 6. Robert Capps</p>	<p>1. John Ware 4. Allen Barber 2. Herb Ellis 5. BJ Thomas 3. Rick Cochran 6. Henry Hargrove</p>	Reminder																
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<p style="text-align: center;">FREE BIBLE STUDY BY MAIL</p> <p>If you would like to receive a series of Bible Study Lessons, send this request to:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Sebring Parkway Church of Christ 3800 Sebring Parkway Sebring, FL 33870</p> <p>Name _____</p> <p>Address _____</p> <p>Age Range:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 0 - 10 yrs <input type="checkbox"/> 11 - 17 yrs</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 18 - 50 yrs <input type="checkbox"/> 51 - ?? yrs</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">MEET WITH US</p> <p>Sunday Bible Study.....9:00 AM Sunday AM Worship.....10:00 AM Sunday PM Service.....6:00 PM Wednesday Bible Study....7:00 PM</p> <p>Website: http://www.sebringcoc.com</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Email: sebringparkway@sebringcoc.com</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Office Hours: 9am-2pm M-F</p>	<p style="color: green; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">How to Search the Scripture:</p> <p>Seriously (Acts 17:11; 2 Tim. 2:5) Earrestly (Josh. 1:8; Ps 119:11) Anxiously (Jn. 20:3; Ps. 119:11) Regularly (Acts 17:11; Ps. 1:2) Carefully (Lk. 24:27; 2 Tim. 3:16,17) Humbly (Lk 24:45; James 1:22)</p>																