



December 24, 2006

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The Babe of Bethlehem

True children of God realize that this season of the year has no more religious significance than any other, but minds are inevitably turned to the birth of Jesus at this time because of the thought of the world around us. Some good is done when we remember that in the midst of all the carnality, strife, and division there is some thought of the Savior. Many who sing of his birth do not commemorate his death as he commanded, and some who remind us of his birth are commercial in purpose, but the world has not completely gone to the dogs as long as the story of Jesus, even warped and twisted, quiets some fears, captures some hearts, and encourages some hands.

O that the abuses and misconceptions could be removed, and they could be simply believing and obeying the word of God! Heathenism and idolatry, encroaching on Christianity through developing such things as "Christmas", do not crumble overnight; they do not lie helpless at our feet at the break of day.

The song, "Silent Night," thrills the soul with joy and what it describes is historically accurate and its blessings perpetually ours. We do not know whether in winter or summer, but we know it happened. Think of the happiness kindled in the heart and expressed in the words, "Joy to the World, the Lord has come!" Then consider the gentleness in the song, "It came upon a midnight clear..."

May we not attach religious significance to December 25th, but never lose sight of the birth of that baby in our teaching and meditations. We must never become so hard against celebrating his birth that we will leave the impression that we lack appreciation for it. That he was born of the virgin in Bethlehem we firmly believe.

L.L. Gieger

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 *acappella* 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 home and recovering from surgery.
- ❖ **Herman Klahn** has been released from the hospital. His heart rhythm is doing better. Both June and Herman send their Christmas greetings.
- ❖ **Dwain Chambers** is recovering from surgery.
- ❖ **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.

- ❖ **Bob Loush**, friend of Bob Maire, has cancer and requests prayer.
- ❖ **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.

MISSION EFFORTS

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

Matthew 28:19, 20

Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen

Our Record: December 17, 2006

Bible Study	102
Sunday AM Worship	140
Sunday PM Worship	96
Contribution	\$2693
Wednesday Bible Study	104
Building Fund	\$23
Ukraine Building Fund	\$0
F.H. Gates	\$0
Special Mission – Guyana	\$0
World Bible Translation (Ladies Class)	\$0
Clothing Room/Pantry 12/21	27

Upcoming Birthdays



Flavil Miller	12/27
Priscilla Pintor	12/27
John Ware	12/27
Martha Spung	12/28
Harlen Drew	12/30
Elsie Gannon	12/31
Edward Barnett	12/31

Upcoming Anniversary

Clem & Margaret Smith	12/26
Harlen & Ruby Drew	12/27
Chris & Shannon Ritenour	12/30

Visitors for December 17, 2006

Billy and Shirley Clayton
Sylvia Figueroa
Bob Schultz

A Word of Exhortation "Let Us" from the book of Hebrews

Let us fear.	4:1
Let us labor.	4:11
Let us hold fast.	4:14; 10:23
Let us pray.	4:16
Let us go on.	6:1
Let us draw near.	10:22
Let us consider.	10:24
Let us lay aside every weight.	12:1
Let us have grace.	12:28
Let us go forth.	13:13
Let us praise God.	13:15

Jim Martin

Preaching Schedule

12/24 Steven
 Mickholtzick AM *When
 People Meet Jesus & PM Devotional
 with Scripture and Songs*
 12/31 Allen Barber AM & PM



Ladies Class Schedule



Ladies class will not meet on the 26th.
 Jan. 2nd teacher

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. *Your help is needed. January and April are the only months with a volunteer listed.*



CEO

The CEO will meet on Friday, December 29th at 5:30pm at the China Buffet in Avon Park. All are invited to attend.

Rainbow Room

Almost any rainbow
 Finds a place to start.
 In a rain-stained heaven,
 Or a tear-stained heart.

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

Our Sympathy

to the family of Lynn Einfeldt, father of *Rachel Capps*, who passed away Tuesday evening. The funeral service will be Wednesday Dec. 27th at 10 AM at the Maranatha Baptist Church, in Maranatha Village on Arbuckle Creek Rd. Visitation will be at 9:00 AM. Burial will be in the afternoon in Lutz, FL.

Thank you

We wish to say a big thank you to the Cub Scout Pack 808 that meets here at the church building for their donation of Christmas gifts for needy children. Shannon Ritenour is the leader of this troop. We found a family at the Avon Park congregation that needed what we had left after we filled the requests that we had. They were so grateful for these presents.

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)

It is Easier...

- To read the Bible than to follow its teaching.
- To tell what I believe than to put my belief into practice.
- To say what I should do than to do.
- To judge a person than to extend mercy.
- To speak of our methods than our motives.
- To speak of the sins of others than to speak of our own sins.
- To talk about heaven than to prepare to go there.

EASIER but COSTILER!

SCHEDULED TO SERVE		ORDER OF SERVICE FOR MORNING WORSHIP																
<p align="center">THIS SUNDAY</p> <p align="center">Prepare Communion: Marie Barber</p> <p align="center">Greeters: Ron Horton Clem Smith Bill Sweeton Margaret Smith</p> <p align="center">Pick Up Cards: Austin Ritenour & Victor Oregon</p> <p align="center">Pick Up Communion Cups: Nathan Ramer & Joshua Fowler</p> <p align="center">Sound Room: Roger Gurganus</p> <p align="center">Secure Building This Week: Roger Gurganus</p> <p align="center">Announcements: Bill Benton</p> <p align="center">Song Leader: Paul Talbert</p> <p align="center">Opening Prayer: Don Ware</p> <p align="center">Lord's Supper: Preside: Carl Martin Serve:</p> <p>1. John Ware 4. Allen Barber 2. Herb Ellis 5. BJ Thomas 3. Rick Cochran 6. Henry Hargrove</p> <p align="center">Closing Prayer: Bill Cole</p> <p align="center">Sunday Evening</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Song Leader: Don Ware</td> <td>Opening Prayer: Roger Gurganus</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lord's Supper: Carl Martin</td> <td>Closing Prayer: Allen Barber</td> </tr> </table> <p align="center">Wednesday Evening</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Song Leader: John Ware</td> <td>Invitation: Don Ware</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">Closing Prayer: Cliff Blain</td> </tr> </table>	Song Leader: Don Ware	Opening Prayer: Roger Gurganus	Lord's Supper: Carl Martin	Closing Prayer: Allen Barber	Song Leader: John Ware	Invitation: Don Ware	Closing Prayer: Cliff Blain		<p align="center">NEXT SUNDAY</p> <p align="center">Prepare Communion: Marie Barber</p> <p align="center">Greeters: Ron Horton Don Ware Bill Sweeton Laura Ware</p> <p align="center">Pick Up Cards: Forest Ritenour & Nicholas Stalter</p> <p align="center">Pick Up Communion Cups: Hayden Parker & Austin Ritenour</p> <p align="center">Sound Room: Harry Johnson</p> <p align="center">Secure Building Next Week: Harry Johnson</p> <p align="center">Announcements: Paul Talbert</p> <p align="center">Song Leader: Olin Shinholser</p> <p align="center">Opening Prayer: Harry Johnson</p> <p align="center">Lord's Supper: Preside: Jim Morris Serve:</p> <p>1. Carl Martin 4. Dale Spung 2. Harlen Drew 5. Bob Parnett 3. Bob Adams 6. Ben Shepard</p> <p align="center">Closing Prayer: Clem Smith</p> <p align="center">Sunday Evening</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Song Leader: Don Gunter</td> <td>Opening Prayer: Bill Benton</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lord's Supper: Jim Morris</td> <td>Closing Prayer: Rick Cochran</td> </tr> </table> <p align="center">Wednesday Evening</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Song Leader: Mike Tubbs</td> <td>Invitation: Bill Benton</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">Closing Prayer: Robert Capps</td> </tr> </table>	Song Leader: Don Gunter	Opening Prayer: Bill Benton	Lord's Supper: Jim Morris	Closing Prayer: Rick Cochran	Song Leader: Mike Tubbs	Invitation: Bill Benton	Closing Prayer: Robert Capps		<p>Announcements: Bill Benton</p> <p>Song:</p> <p>Song:</p> <p>Opening Prayer: Don Ware</p> <p>Song:</p> <p>Communion</p> <p>Offering</p> <p>Song:</p> <p>Song:</p> <p>Lesson: Steven Mickholtzick</p> <p>Invitation Song:</p> <p>Song:</p> <p>Closing Prayer: Bill Cole</p> <p align="center">Reminder</p> <p>If for some reason you find that you cannot serve as scheduled in the monthly assignment schedule, please call Chris Fowler as soon as possible so that a substitute can be selected.</p> <p>Those serving are asked to be here at least 10 minutes before the service starts.</p> <p>Those who participate Sunday morning are asked to wear appropriate dress attire, preferably, though not required, a dress shirt and tie. At other services casual sport shirt and slacks are acceptable; no T-shirts or shorts should be worn while serving the congregation.</p> <p align="right">Thank you for your cooperation.</p>
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<p 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 align="center">Sebring Parkway Church of Christ 3800 Sebring Parkway Sebring, FL 33870</p> <p>Name _____ Address _____</p> <p>Age Range: <input type="checkbox"/> 0 - 10 yrs <input type="checkbox"/> 11 - 17 yrs <input type="checkbox"/> 18 - 50 yrs <input type="checkbox"/> 51 - ?? yrs</p>	<p 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 align="center">Email: sebringparkway@sebringcoc.com</p> <p align="center">Office Hours: 9am-2pm M-F</p>	<p align="center">Hebrews 4:12</p> <p>For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.</p>																

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