



# Memorial Messenger

Volume 74 December 2017

## *God's Amazing Canvas*

Greetings,

December is going to be a busy month at Memorial Baptist. On Saturday, December 2, we will have our Live Nativity across from 5pm to 9pm. This is a great opportunity for you to invite family and friends in our Newport community to witness the retelling of the birth of Jesus Christ. I'm thankful for our many church volunteers who make this annual event possible.

Our Children's Christmas Program will be on Sunday, December 10, during the morning worship service. A lot of time has been given towards this play. This year will be a special program, as our very own Vickie Belcher wrote the play. You won't want to miss this Sunday in the life of our church family. Another great opportunity to invite a family member and friend to be a part of our worship service.

On Sunday, December 24, we will gather for worship at 10:45am, but there will be no Sunday school that morning. Our Candlelight Service will be at 5pm that evening. Merry Christmas! As always, I'm thankful to serve as your pastor at Memorial. I can't wait to continue to worship together this Christmas Season.

Blessings,

John



This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us"). When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

Matthew 1:18-25



# Donations

November

2017

Designated Giving

Acct

Memory

10/29/2017 Barbara & George Cureton

Bldg Fund

11/5/2017 Janet Collins

Josh & Celeste Collins

GA's

Play Ground

11/12/2017 Ray Anthony

Betty Harrison

Bldg Fund

Golden State Offering

In Honor of all Veterans

11/19/2017 Alvin & Jean Watts

Golden State Offering

11/26/2017 Dorothy Barnes

Wanda Ball

Betty Harrison

Anna Dean

Herbert & Barbara Cureton

Carol & Foster Chason

Terry Ball

RA's

Golden State Offering

Bldg Fund

Bldg Fund

Bldg Fund

Deacon's Benevolent Fund

Play Ground



***Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."***

***Luke 6:38***

## ***The Man and the Birds***

*By Paul Harvey*

The man to whom I'm going to introduce you was not a scrooge, he was a kind decent, mostly good man. Generous to his family, upright in his dealings with other men. But he just didn't believe all that incarnation stuff which the churches proclaim at Christmas Time. It just didn't make sense and he was too honest to pretend otherwise. He just couldn't swallow the Jesus Story, about God coming to Earth as a man.

*"I'm truly sorry to distress you,"* he told his wife, *"but I'm not going with you to church this Christmas Eve."* He said he'd feel like a hypocrite. That he'd much rather just stay at home, but that he would wait up for them. And so he stayed and they went to the midnight service.

Shortly after the family drove away in the car, snow began to fall. He went to the window to watch the flurries getting heavier and heavier and then went back to his fireside chair and began to read his newspaper. Minutes later he was startled by a thudding sound...Then another, and then another. Sort of a thump or a thud...At first he thought someone must be throwing snowballs against his living room window. But when he went to the front door to investigate he found a flock of birds huddled miserably in the snow. They'd been caught in the storm and, in a desperate search for shelter, had tried to fly through his large landscape window.

Well, he couldn't let the poor creatures lie there and freeze, so he remembered the barn where his children stabled their pony. That would provide a warm shelter, if he could direct the birds to it.

Quickly he put on a coat, galoshes, tramped through the deepening snow to the barn. He opened the doors wide and turned on a light, but the birds did not come in. He figured food would entice them in. So he hurried back to the house, fetched bread crumbs, sprinkled them on the snow, making a trail to the yellow-lighted wide open doorway of the stable. But to his dismay, the birds ignored the bread crumbs, and continued to flap around helplessly in the snow. He tried catching them...He tried shooing them into the barn by walking around them waving his arms...Instead, they scattered in every direction, except into the warm, lighted barn.

And then, he realized that they were afraid of him. To them, he reasoned, I am a strange and terrifying creature. If only I could think of some way to let them know that they can trust me...That I am not trying to hurt them, but to help them. But how? Because any move he made tended to frighten them, confuse them. They just would not follow. They would not be led or shooed because they feared him.

*"If only I could be a bird,"* he thought to himself, *"and mingle with them and speak their language. Then I could tell them not to be afraid. Then I could show them the way to safe, warm...to the safe warm barn. But I would have to be one of them so they could see, and hear and understand."*

At that moment the church bells began to ring. The sound reached his ears above the sounds of the wind. And he stood there listening to the bells – *Adeste Fidelis* – listening to the bells pealing the glad tidings of Christmas.

And he sank to his knees in the snow.

December 2017						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 LIVE NATIVITY 5-9 pm
3 Deacons Meeting 5pm	4 Glen Bradley	5 Jim Shelley	6 6pm – Prayer Group, WMU, RA's & GA's	7	8 Pauline Lawson	9
10 Childrens Christmas Program  Earl Parks	11 Mary Branam	12 Shelby Owens Charles & Joyce Slagle	13 6pm – Prayer Group, WMU, RA's & GA's 7pm – Choir Practice	14 YAH Luncheon and tour – Bush's 11:30am	15	16 Rodney & Barbara Williamson
17 Business Meeting 6pm  Celena Gradeless	18 George & Kim Wilson	19	20 6pm – Prayer Group, WMU, RA's & GA's 7pm – Choir Practice	21	22 Peggy Reich	23
24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Ceremony 5pm  Roy & Gay McManus	25 CHRISTMAS	26	27 6pm – Prayer Group, WMU, RA's & GA's 7pm – Choir Practice	28 Larry Pace	29 Charlene Jones Angie Gentry	30
31 Anna Dean NO Evening Service	Notes:					

### Nursery

12/3 Julie Munsey and Emily Shropshire  
 12/10 No Nursery - Christmas Play  
 12/17 Celeste Collins and Logan Hunt  
 12/24 No Nursery - Christmas Eve  
 12/31 Amanda Holt and Camryn Salyers

### Children's Church

12/03 Jill Overholt & Jean Watts  
 12/10 Angela & Melinda Hudson  
 12/17 Vickie Mason & Joyce Slagle  
 12/24 Barbara Williamson & Ruth Davis  
 12/31 Janet Collins & Tanner Cook

### Journaling

12/03 Sherry Smith  
 12/10 Vickie Belcher  
 12/17 Charlene Jones  
 12/24 Barbara Williamson  
 12/31 Vicky Turner

### Bunny's Kids

12/03 Joey Byrd  
 12/10 Pat Allbaugh  
 12/17 Sherrie Smith  
 12/24 John Hill  
 12/31 Rachel Mathers

### Sound Team

12/03 Kim Wilson  
 12/10 Bob Nash  
 12/17 Juli Munsey  
 12/24 Ray Anthony  
 12/31 Ray Anthony

### Sunday Night Worship

12/03 Mathers  
 12/10 Wendy/Nick  
 12/17 Smiths  
 12/24 ALL – 5pm service  
 12/31 No Evening Service

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