

"Growing God's Family To Share God's Word"

First Christian Church



Visitor

Volume 62, Number 14

December 8, 2004

THE GRUMPY SHEPHERD – DEC. 12 – THIS SUNDAY!

The children of FCC will present this Christmas musical on Sunday, Dec. 12 at 11:15 AM. There will be a potluck luncheon following the show. All family and friends are invited to come, please bring a dish or two to share with guests.

All preschool age children are invited to be part of the musical by wearing an animal costume and joining in the final scene around the manger. All children present will receive a Christmas gift from the church.



2004 CHRISTMAS SPECIAL OFFERING

What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. (John 1:4)

Light that brings life! That's how we come to know Jesus Christ at Christmastime. The baby in Bethlehem lights up the world bringing us health, wholeness and love. As those who walk in that Light we too can share life with those we touch each day.

Through the Christmas Special Offering, we celebrate the ways the Regional Ministries share Christ's light and life.

When the Regional Staff coaches congregations and pastors...

THE LIGHT SHINES!

When new congregations are supported and encouraged...

THE LIGHT SHINES!

When congregations in transition are given hope...

THE LIGHT SHINES!

When young people are nurtured in faith at summer camp...

THE LIGHT SHINES!

As new ministers are called, equipped and sent...

THE LIGHT SHINES!

As leaders are trained to use their gifts in mission...

THE LIGHT SHINES!

MEMBERS IN THE MILITARY

Spc. Zach Street, Capt. Tom Waters,
Spc. Michael Gayso, Danny Randolph, Keith Michels, CPL
William Cotner, SPC Matthew Buchanan, Troy Street, LCPL
Jon E. Arnold, Chaplain Major Jim Summers, SPC 4 Mark
Homan, Jonathan Smith and Joe Swift.



OPERATION PRAYER SHIELD

Please keep all those in service whose pictures are on display in our lobby in your prayers.

SERVING IN DECEMBER

Diaconate: Jay Griggs, Megan Gidcumb, Bonnie Griggs, Calvin Seybold,
Zach Street, Troy Street, Herb Compton and John Bellessa

Custodial Deacon: Jay Griggs

Communion Preparers: Pat Beesley & Dana Tate

Acolytes: Ian Wiser & John Foshee

Camera Person:

Elder on Call: Gordon Kirkman

Sanctuary Straightener: Betty John

ELDERS SERVING

December 12, 2004: Priss Parmenter & Gary Bellessa

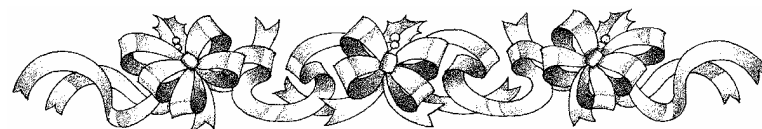


OPERATION SHARE – ANGEL TAGS

Donations of toys and money are needed for the Christmas phase of Operation Share. Donations can be dropped off in the church office or front hall. If you need a suggestion for a toy, please pick up an Angel Tag from the front lobby. Return the unwrapped toy by Dec. 13.



Those listed: Gladys Pope, Dave Duell, Frances Wood, Jeff Ankenbrand, Harold Meadows, Julie Wahler Girtten, Eleanor Smith, Patty Sutton, Wanda Robinson, Ray Farrar, Don McClane, Brenda Knuckles, Jake Raibley, Nell Kinney, Bonnie Burns, Alice Warmoth, Bea Alka, Phyllis Crow, Dwight Hughey, Edythe Randolph, Mary Lucille Cox, our country, its leaders and all service men and women.



THANK YOU!

A big thank you goes out to Betty Winternheimer who graciously volunteered to line-up our bell ringers for the Salvation Army! Betty would also like to thank those who gave of their time to fill all the time slots that made our bell-ringing day successful. We raised \$593.57. Thank you to: Larry & Rosanna Peterson, Jackie & Jim Summers, Gloria Lovellette, Eudine Tyler, Den 1 of Cub Scout Pack 293, Roxanna Seybold, Linda Kolb, Penny Keneipp, Betty Foshee, Doris Deputy, Betty Tharp, Evelyn Frick, Jack & Marcia Singer, Margaret Norris, Dana Tate, Doug Lathrop, Rian Waterbury, Pat Williams and Mary Faye Wyatt.

LEGENDS OF THE CHRISTMAS TREE

Many legends exist about the origin of the Christmas tree. One is the story of Saint Boniface, an English monk who organized the Christian Church in France and Germany. One day, as he traveled about, he came upon a group of pagans gathered around a great oak tree about to sacrifice a child to the god Thor. To stop the sacrifice and save the child's life Boniface felled the tree with one mighty blow of his fist. In its place grew a small fir tree. The saint told the pagan worshipers that the tiny fir was the Tree of Life and stood the eternal life of Christ.

Another legend holds that Martin Luther, a founder of the Protestant faith, was walking through the forest one Christmas Eve. As he walked he was awed by the beauty of millions of stars glimmering through the branches of the evergreen trees. So taken was he by this beautiful sight that he cut a small tree and took it home to his family. To recreate that same starlight beauty he saw in the wood, he placed candles on all its branches.

Yet another legend tells of a poor woodsman who long ago met a lost and hungry child on Christmas Eve. Though very poor himself, the woodsman gave the child food and shelter for the night. The woodsman woke the next morning to find a beautiful glittering tree outside his door. The hungry child was really the Christ Child in disguise. He created the tree to reward the good man for his charity.

Others feel the origin of the Christmas tree may be the "Paradise Play." In medieval times most people would not read and plays were used to teach the lessons of the bible all over Europe. The Paradise Play, which showed the creation of man and the fall of Adam and Eve from the Garden of Eden was performed every year on December 24th. The play was performed in winter creating a slight problem. An apple tree was needed but apple trees do not bare fruit in winter so a substitution was made. Evergreens were hung with apples and used instead.

**JIM SUMMERS
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SUNDAY SERVICE – Dec. 12th

Sermon: "Why Did Jesus Come Anyway?"

Rev. Jim Summers

Scripture: Matthew 11:2-11

Choir Practice	8:30 AM
Morning Worship	9:30 AM
Sunday School	10:30 AM
Grumpy Shepherd & Potluck	11:15 AM
MCHS Concert	2:00 PM
CYF Party @ Tanquary's	5:00 PM

OFFERING – Dec. 5th

General	\$3,811.35
Church School	38.25
TOTAL-General Offering	\$3,849.60
Building Use	15.00
Missions	20.00
Elevator	55.00
Fellowship Time	32.59
The Visitor	45.00
Helping Hand	20.00
Thanksgiving	30.00
Poinsettias	230.00
TOTAL – SPECIAL OFFERING:	\$447.59
GRAND TOTAL OFFERING:	\$4,297.19

WATCHING OUR FIGURES

Sunday Worship

12/5 146

CHURCH SCHOOL

Date Tea Pupils Total Offering

12/5 7 43 50 \$38.25



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