

The Ambassador

News
and Views
From the Hill



December 2010

A Newsletter From
The First Baptist Church of Norwich
239 West Main Street, Norwich, CT 06360
Phone: 860-889-0369



Julie Wagner, Taylor & Michelle Chaffee help out those looking for coats and sweaters at the Annual Coat Give Away at the Homeless Shelter outside the St. Vincent De Paul Soup kitchen. We served over one hundred families on two November Saturdays.

More news inside:

Including photos of many of our activities over the last month.

Join Us For Christmas Eve at
7:00 p.m. or 11:30 p.m.

Our Annual Christmas Party &
Pageant will be on
December 19 at 6:30 p.m.



Wise Men and Women Still Seek Him

To get an ongoing and fun
report of happenings at
FBC check out
First Baptist Life at
www.firstbaptistlife.blogspot.com



Worship
10:30 -
11:45 am

Join Us As We Worship This Winter

Upcoming Sermons in December.



December 5, 2010

Second Sunday of Advent
Communion Sunday

Guest Preacher - Rev. Bill Huegel
 Sermon: "The Angel's Song"

December 12, 2010

Third Sunday of Advent
Friendship Sunday

Sermon: "The Shepherds' Song"

December 19, 2010

Christmas Service

Sermon: "Our Song"

December 26, 2010

Scripture Reading:

Sermon: "The Wise Men's Song"

Ministry Helpers in December

As Ushers & Greeters

- Dec. 5 - F. Royce, C. Brockway, N. & G. Schuster
- Dec. 12 - H. Calkins, L. McFalls, B. & P. Adams
- Dec. 19 - G. Strouse, K. Barber, Z. Earle, M. Kane
- Dec. 26 - F. Royce, C. Brockway, N. & G. Schuster

As Counters

- Dec. 5 - Dick Strouse & Mark Rogers
- Dec. 12 - June Deptulski & George Strouse
- Dec. 19 - Bob Walker & Bob Sullivan
- Dec. 26 - Nancy Allen



As Nursery Volunteers

- Dec. 5 - Kelly Bolin
- Dec. 12 - Bonnie Ambruso & Fran Rogers
- Dec. 19 - Hired Help
- Dec. 26 - Kristen Deptulski & Chelsey Calkins

As Worship Assistants

- Dec. 12 - Bob Walker
- Dec. 19 - Pete Adams
- Dec. 26 - George Strouse



Our Guest Preacher on December 5

Rev. William A. Huegel will be in the pulpit while Pastor Lord is away with the U.S.A. Tap Team in Germany. Pastor Bill was born in Erie, PA, where he became a follower of Christ at the age of 16. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree at Nyack Missionary College in 1964 and a Master of Divinity degree at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary in 1972. He was ordained to the Christian ministry in 1974 by the American Baptist Churches of Massachusetts and served as pastor in that state for 20 years before moving to Connecticut. Rev. Huegel served as pastor of the First Baptist Church of Wallingford, CT since 1995. He retired in June, 2009



Pastor Bill began leading mission trips to Haiti and to the Dominican Republic in 1996 and has taken hundreds of people to the Island of Hispaniola (Haiti and the Dominican Republic) where people are given the chance to help in some of the world's worst poverty situations. These short term missionaries help construct churches, schools and a major hospital. Their medical clinics bring medicine to the sick in both cities and rural villages. They have the joy of spreading the Good News of the Gospel of Jesus Christ through preaching and personal witness. Bill has also been privileged to lead on-going pastoral training events through the Bethesda Evangelical Mission in Haiti and continues to do so in his retirement years. He has a personal goal of helping the poor of Haiti learn to cook with solar reflectors and to bring solar-generated electrical power to the churches in villages that have no electricity.

We know you will enjoy hearing him as he preaches a message titled, "The Angel's Song" on December 5.

Slow Down and Join us at our 45 MPH Services



Join us on Wednesday nights at 7:00 p.m. for a series of messages based upon the Gospel of John. Each week we enjoy some special music, a time of prayer and a word of hope as we slow down to spend a little time with the Lord.

Joined in Prayer

Join Us
On Christmas Sunday
December 19, 2010
10:30 am

Lots of music, Great message,
Bring a friend!



Join Us On Christmas Eve!



We will have two wonderful services filled with music, to choose from on Christmas Eve this year.

The early service at 7:00 pm is geared more toward the family and will feature some special music and short message by the pastor.

The late night service will be shorter and feature more carols, and this service will begin at 11:30 p.m. and end just after midnight, as we break in to Christmas morning.

Make plans now to come to one service or both. They will contribute to your Christmas Joy!

Members Of USA Tap Dance Team Sent Off With a Prayer



On Sunday, November 28 ten local members of the U.S.A. National Tap Dance Team and their families were in church as we prayed for them and sent them off with a blessing. The team is coached by Luis Pabon and the various routines were choreographed by teachers at the Elite Dance Academy of Cromwell. Present at our service and participating from the Luis Pabon Dance Arts center were Rachel Lord, Marlena Rockhill, Jessica and Sarah DiRoma, Mackenze Baker, Morgan Smith, Chelsea Weise, Alexandra Thomas, Cassie Klein and Shelley Erickson.

St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Hosts 18th Annual Choir Festival



We were one of the nine choirs that participated in the annual choir festival this year. It was also the first time we moved from the confines of the United Congregational Church in many years. Deb Lyon, the organist at St. Mark's, sent out the invites and hosted the groups. It was great to be with everyone again, united in the strains of sacred music.

We had a few friends singing with us for the event this year. Paul and Carol Johnson, Anna Senay, Curt Brockway and Robert Phillips added a little more depth to our harmonies.

We sang a great anthem titled, "Praise the Lord with Jubilant Song." It was a hit with our own congregation earlier in the day and it received good reviews at the Festival as well.

The group joined with the other choirs to close out the Festival with a very powerful piece. It was the highlight of the evening.

After it was over, Adele reminded us all that rehearsals for our Advent and Christmas anthems were beginning right away.

It's Beginning To Feel A Lot Like Christmas...



On Saturday, November 27 we gathered at church to decorate for the holidays. Karen Barber, Harry Calkins, Oliver Bray, Carol Calkins, Nancy Allen, Becky Lord, Bob & Helen Walker, Chelsey Calkins, Cheyenne Michelli, Cindy Costa, Pam Kane and Fran Rogers laid out the wreaths, the manger scenes, the greens and the angels. They decorated the Christmas tree and erected the candles and buzzed around the church to the sounds of Christmas playing on the radio.

Kaitlin Beavan worked with the children and helped them make some fancy cookies and Christmas ornaments. Afterwards we all enjoyed some goodies along with some hot cider. When we finally got ready to leave, it looked a lot like Christmas had come. Thank you to all who helped.



We think of Alys Royce in prayer. She spent a few days in the hospital battling pneumonia... Pam Kane will be having knee surgery this month. We pray everything goes well... Rachel Batter will have her tonsils out next week. Keep her in prayer... Doris Adams had a cortisone shot and it has helped take away the pain from her bursitis... Penny Sargent continues her treatments. We pray God will give her the strength to face each one... Michelle Lord had a fall and got pretty banged up. We think of Frank Roderick as he continues his treatments...



Our thoughts and prayers are with the families of the teens who were killed in the automobile crash in Griswold this week. We pray for God's comfort and presence in the wake of that tragedy... We lift up Carol Calkins after the passing of her mother last week. She and her girls, Sandy Stone, Sue Chaluto and Sharon Fishkin, and their families traveled to Maine for the funeral...

We think of our men and women in the military. In particular we think of Nicholas Muyres, Brian Grillo, Tim and Aaron Rogers and Danny Moriarty. We pray that God will keep them safe and bless their families as they watch and wait for them to return home...

We lift up members of our extended family who are in need of prayer. They include, Mark Roger's mom, Pam Kane's dad, Doris Adams, sister, brother and niece, Ray Deptulski's mom, Fred Green's dad, and June Deptulski's mom .

In our continuing prayers we lift up James and Shirley Murray, Nancy Oat, Barbara Hayes, Ken Taylor, Lois Lopez, Doris Regets and Jean Roscoe.

People News...

Congratulations to Shawn Rucker on receiving the Best Actress award at the Spirit of Broadway Theater's Annual Spirit Awards. She won for her portrayal of Mary Todd Lincoln in the production of Asylum...



Kristen Deptulski spent a few days in Florida visiting her mom last month... Amy Rezendes and Rosie Rakowitz traveled out to Seattle Washington to visit April Rezendes last month. April is a registered nurse. She loves it out there and has signed on for a second year at the hospital... Robert Phillips joined the church last month. He is seeking ordination in the Christian ministry. He may not be with us for long though because he is actively seeking a position in ministry...

Get STUPID

"Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and call you stupid" Matthew 5:11

Taylor Chaffee went to the ABCCONN Youth Conference at Camp Wightman and had a great time. It was called "Get Stupid" and it focused on claiming your faith in the midst of an unbelieving world. The kids played games, enjoyed music and devotions while building new relationships with friends from across the state.

Youth Group Scavenger Hunt

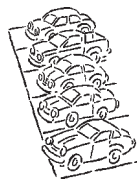


We will meet at church at 3:00 p.m. on December 12 and return at 5:30 p.m. Friends are welcome. We will look for items and then have time for shopping and ice cream. (Grades 6 - 12)

Parking at Church

The parking spots along the rear of our building are reserved for visitors and/or those with special needs.

There are plenty of parking spaces behind Firestone and at Midas Muffler for those who are able to walk. You can also park up at the Oak Tree Plaza if the other spots are full.

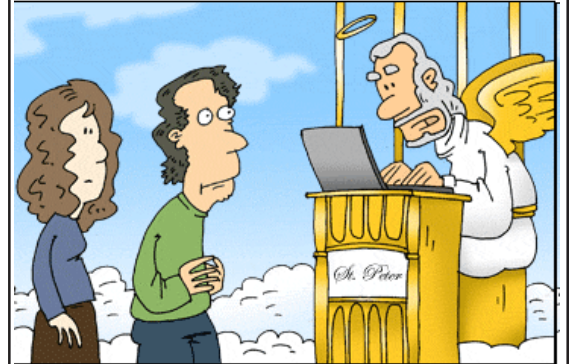


www.fbcnorwich.org

See this newsletter in full color and get all the latest news from your church family.



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Thanks to Nick Hengeveld 11-29-2010

YOUR SOCIAL NETWORKING RECORD IS TERRIBLE ... TWO MISSED OPPORTUNITIES TO "LIKE JESUS AS YOUR LORD & SAVIOR" AND REFUSAL TO PROVE YOUR FAITH WITH A SIMPLE "FORWARD TO TEN FRIENDS"

Christmas Poinsettias

Please be sure to order your Christmas Poinsettias now! They are \$8.00 for a 6" plant. We must have all orders in soon. If you are putting your order in the offering plate, please be sure to put the form along with payment into an envelope, so that we are sure to receive it.



We are looking for volunteers to help set up our poinsettia display on December 18th at 10:00 a.m. If you are able to join us, please speak to Karen Barber.

Seasons of Fun at First Baptist



Erica gives directions.



Kaitlin works with the kids.



It's M-m- Good



Lots of coats for a cold day.



The November Crew



Sorting through decorations



Trimming the tree



Smiling faces light up Advent



Can We Help You?



Ready to deliver the food



Coats for everyone



Bet you can't eat ice cream on skates

A Moveable Feast

We distributed 28 Thanksgiving Baskets to those in need on November 21. The people in the congregation were very generous this year. Not only did we receive all the turkeys we needed, but someone also made sure every family had a ham too!

After worship service that morning, Cynthia Strouse and her crew went out shopping to pick up whatever was needed to complete the baskets. That was made possible by a very generous gift by a friend of the congregation.

At 3:00 p.m. the crew gathered to put the baskets together and to distribute them. Young people worked side by side with the adults in a very meaningful act of Christian service.



Chelsea Weimer was a big help.



As Part of our "Adventures in Thanksgiving" Stewardship campaign we asked members of the church to write down their wishes for our church. Here is a few of the things that were listed:

Under Mission:

- * More Outreach to our own community
- * More help to Haiti
- * Support Erica with her clothing mission
- * Support amanda with her housing mission
- * Provide financial seminars so people can be good stewards
- * More local mission trips

Under Ministry:

- * Active Youth Ministry & Minister (Awana)
- * Prayer & Fasting initiatives
- * More adult functions/activities
- * Movie nights with Christian themes
- * More altar calls
- * A bass player for band
- * Visiting elderly
- * More after service luncheons (pot lucks)

Please fill out your wish booklet and get it back to church to echo these thoughts or to add others.

Under Maintainance:

- * More janitorial hours
- * New kitchen
- * New furnace
- * New carpet in back entrance
- * New lighting in fellowship hall
- * Fix parking lot



We Are Looking for Mission Mississippi Team Members

We will be heading to Slidell, Louisiana between August 9th -16th to work on the Epworth Project. This program works in conjunction with the Northshore Disaster Recovery Inc to provide spiritual, emotional and physical resources to those affected by Hurricane Katrina.

Projects include carpentry, cabinetry, framing, insulation, drywall hanging, flooring, plumbing and roofing. The group will fly down to New Orleans and drive 30 minutes to Slidell to a dorm facility where it will be housed for the week. We will be cooking our own meals and be responsible for our own transportation. More information on the Mission work and the project can be found at www.epworthministries.com. There is also a facebook page at Project Noah.

We have limited the group to 20 participants between the ages of 14 years and up. We estimate the total cost per person will be about \$750 per person. There will be fundraisers to help offset the cost for the trip, including our annual Pasta Dinner and Auction tentatively scheduled for February 5 at Central Baptist.

Deposits of \$100 will be needed by January 16 to secure your spot. All spots are on a first come, first served spot so get your deposit in early to insure your participation.

We have two meetings scheduled for participants from now through the beginning of the year. The dates are December 14 (6:00 p.m. at FBC) and January 13 (6:00 p.m. at CBC).

Please pass the word to other potential team members. This should be another great experience for those whom God has called to go with us.

Scouts Lend a Hand at November Luncheon



We had plenty of help on hand at the Community Luncheon in November. Several members of Laura Kreger's Scout Troop came down to help out. We served sixty people and cleaned up in record time. It is true: Many hands make light the work.

Erica and Keith Corbett cooked up meatball grinders, peas, squash, corn chowder and apple crisp for dessert.

Kathy Spielman will be cooking in December but we need help in January. Would you be willing to cook for 60 on the 16th? Talk to Cynthia Strouse or the Pastor.

Getting Over the "Gimmies"

6 tips for battling holiday greed

by Susan Alexander Yates

Hey mom, I saw the coolest paint gun on TV!" our son John, then about 11 years old, excitedly said. "That's what I want for Christmas! All the other guys are asking for it, and their parents are probably getting it for them, too. I just have to have one!"

It was two days before Christmas, and I'd already finished my shopping and overspent my budget. I was exhausted by my five kids' endless lists of "have to haves"!

This season of giving too often becomes the season of "gimme." So how can we raise kids to be "givers" instead of "getters"? Here are six quick tips.

1. Recognize that giving's more than a seasonal issue.

While the attack of the "gimmies" is most blatant at Christmas, it's what we do during the other 11 months of the year that determines the focus of our holidays. As the season approaches, take note of your family conversations. Observe what issues crop up that encourage materialism or self-gratification. Write down what you do right and what changes you'll make for next year. The best time to plan for next Christmas is this year.

Why not try what I call a "3-star" plan? Here's how it works: First, each family member determines that every day they'll compliment or encourage someone at school, in the office, or in the neighborhood. Second, each family member performs an act of service for someone else each week. Maybe it's doing a sibling's chore or running another person's errand. Third, every month your family does something surprising for somebody else, such as baking a cake for a neighbor, or taking flowers to a friend simply to say you care.

2. Guard against peer pressure.

Believe it or not, parents fall prey to a type of peer pressure that says, I have to give my kids what my friends are giving theirs.

No one wants their kids to be disappointed because they aren't getting

what their friends get. And no parent wants to feel left out of an adult peer group because she isn't doing the same things her friends are. But remember, you have to do what's right for your kids.

Talk about this pressure with your family, then set realistic expectations for what gifts your children will give and receive. When my five children hit their teen years, we began drawing names so that each child gave a nice gift to only one sibling. This helped limit the number of gifts, reduced expenses, and allowed for a more thoughtful gift for one person.

Above all, when it comes to limiting gift-giving, avoid saying, "We're poor." Material wealth isn't the issue; stewardship and keeping your focus on Jesus are the issues.

3. Plan ahead.

Before the season gets into full swing, take time in November to decide to whom you'll give gifts. Set a deadline by which to complete your shopping. Determine to stay out of stores after your cut-off date. It's too easy to think of one more gift for one more person. And especially be alert to media pressure! One family decided to ban giving any gift advertised on TV. Also, block off family times on your calendar now.

I have a present drawer in my laundry room. I notice bargains throughout the year and buy ahead for birthdays, weddings, and Christmas. The kids and I put gifts we receive but don't need in to this drawer, and they are available for recycling to others. As this busy season approaches, look at your gift list and your calendar, and "hit the delete key" as much as you can. It'll enable you to enjoy the season—not merely survive it.

4. Give creative gifts.

We don't have to spend money on gifts in order for them to be valuable. Often the most precious gifts don't cost money. Last year my daughters Susy and Libby gave

their big sister Allison—who has two toddlers—a complete day of housecleaning. What a wonderful gift!

My 16-year-old niece, Ann, gave her mom and dad a Christmas ornament with the name "Shantilla" on it. Completely surprised, my sister said, "What's this?"

"I gave a Christmas box of presents to this needy child, Shantilla, in your name, so her ornament's for you!" Ann replied. This gift is one of my sister's most prized possessions because it illustrates her teen's generosity.

5. Focus on Jesus.

Not only do we need to pare down our gift lists and calendars, but we need to expand on what really matters—Jesus' birth. There are many books available at your local Christian bookstore, such as Ann Hibbard's Family Celebrations at Christmas. These books will help your family prepare for Advent, the weeks between Thanksgiving and Christmas that celebrate Christ's arrival. Offset the focus on "things" by planning activities that put the emphasis on Jesus' coming instead.

6. Nurture an attitude of gratitude.

Let's face it, we enjoy being joyful! But being joyful doesn't depend on our possessions or circumstances. The apostle Paul tells us joy is a fruit of the Spirit, the result of abiding in Christ (Galatians 5:22). So take time regularly as a family to pray prayers of thanksgiving. Spend one or two minutes taking turns at break fast or dinner to say something for which you're thankful. Make a specific attempt to talk with your children about how fortunate you are, and why.

"This article first appeared on Kyria.com. Used by permission of Christianity Today International, Carol Stream, IL 60188."

Sharing Jesus With the 'Slumdogs' of Mumbai

Before Slumdog Millionaire made the world's largest garbage dump famous, Biju Thampy was feeding the children who live there.

The Deonar garbage dump in Mumbai, India, is certainly not a glamorous location for a movie. The first thing that hit me was the smell—an awful combination of urine, rotting food and toxic fumes. But what made me nauseous was watching dozens of skinny Indian children forage through the mountainous heaps of trash looking for their next meal.

Welcome to Mumbai, a city of 24 million made famous in 2008 by Danny Boyle's Oscar-winning film Slumdog Millionaire. The lead character in the movie, a boy named Jamal, grows up near the vast garbage dump (reportedly the world's largest), watches his mother die and then is coerced by a mafia boss into begging for rupees with other love-starved orphans. "I used to ask God why people suffer like this. Finally I came to the place where I stopped asking questions and started being the answer." - Biju Thampy

If you are wondering whether the film was an accurate portrayal of the poorest kids in India, ask Biju

Thampy, 37, an evangelist from south India who moved to Mumbai in 2006 with his wife, Secunda. They came to the city after hearing about a child in the slums who was drinking milk from a dog. Today Biju and his Vision Rescue team drive two school buses into the Deonar dump to feed 800 kids six days a week.

"I used to ask God why people suffer like this," Biju told me as we drove through the narrow dirt roads next to rickety, one-room houses made of tin and scrap wood. "Finally I came to the place where I stopped asking questions and started being the answer."

With his education and excellent English, Biju could be making lots of money in India or anywhere in the West.

But after seeing the needs in the slum his heart broke. Today Proverbs 24:11 is one of his life verses: "Deliver those who are being taken away to death, and those who are staggering to slaughter, oh hold them back" (NASB).

As Slumdog Millionaire proved, images of poverty can be powerful. I asked Biju what he had seen in the slums of Mumbai that moved him to action. He quickly rattled off a list:

*He often sees children walking in open drains full of sewage. The kids have no access to health care.

*He once saw a sick woman lying on a sidewalk. She had been thrown out of her small slum house because of her illness. He also saw a boy lying dead in a road after he was run over by a bulldozer. "Life here feels very undignified," he says.

*He recently led an abused, AIDS-infected prostitute to Christ. The girl owed money to her pimp, so Biju asked him how much it would cost to free her. The answer was \$18. Biju paid the money and the girl enjoyed serving Jesus before she died.

*Biju sometimes sees children without hands or eyes—and he knows some have been maimed on purpose, just like the boy in Slumdog who was blinded with acid by his owners. "Some parents also send these disabled children out in the streets to beg," he told me.

*In 2008 Biju began taking teams into Kamathipura, Mumbai's famous red light district, to pray for the young women there. He learned that the prostitutes sometimes give their kids alcohol to drink so they will sleep while they service their customers. Today the Vision Rescue team has opened a day care center for those children.

Last year I boarded the Vision Rescue bus and watched as about 40 children learned to write simple Hindi

phrases on chalk boards. These kids get some simple education and Bible lessons before they are fed a hot lunch of rice and vegetables. Once a week they also get eggs, bread and milk. I prayed with the children and then looked outside the bus



to see dozens more waiting their turn.

Biju feeds 800 kids a week, but there are millions of children in this slum. I wondered if that was discouraging, but Biju lit up as he told me about a

six-year-old boy named Raj who was rescued two years ago.

"He was skin and bones, and he had run away from home because his father killed his mother and was beating him," Biju said. "He had a wound on his head. He came up and asked me, 'Can I go with you?'"

Biju was able to take Raj to the city of Goa, where his sister Beena runs a children's home. When he visited there recently, Raj told Biju that he wants to be a pastor when he grows up. "That makes it all worth it," Biju says. "What keeps me going is knowing that one child at a time is being saved."

Biju is now teaching all the young people on his team to care—not for the crowds, but for the one. "God is leading us these days to focus on the one sheep that is lost, and on the one lost coin. Jesus cares about the one."

In Slumdog Millionaire, an orphan who grew up in Mumbai ended up winning millions of dollars in a game show—plus he found fairytale romance with the girl of his dreams. That was a movie, and not a likely scenario for the kids at the Deonar dump. But because one man felt the heart of God for this harsh place, it is much more likely that many of these kids will discover the life-transforming love of the Savior.

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Charisma magazine

Burned Biscuits

When I was a kid, my mom liked to make breakfast food for dinner every now and then. And I remember one night in particular when she had made breakfast after a long, hard day at work. On that evening so long ago, my mom placed a plate of eggs, sausage and extremely burned biscuits in front of my dad. I remember waiting to see if anyone noticed! Yet all my dad did was reach for his biscuit, smile at my mom and ask me how my day was at school.



I don't remember what I told him that night, but I do remember watching him smear butter and jelly on that biscuit and eat every bite! When I got up from the table that evening, I remember hearing my mom apologize to my dad for burning the biscuits. And I'll never forget what he said: "Honey, I love burned biscuits."

Later that night, I went to kiss Daddy good night and I asked him if he really liked his biscuits burned. He wrapped me in his arms and said, "Your Momma put in a hard day at work today and she's real tired. And besides - a little burnt biscuit never hurt anyone!"

You know, life is full of imperfect things... and imperfect people. I'm not the best at hardly anything, and I forget birthdays and anniversaries just like everyone else. What I've learned over the years is that learning to accept each others faults - and choosing to celebrate each others differences - is one of the most important keys to creating a healthy, growing, and lasting relationship.

That's my prayer for you today. That you will learn to take the good, the bad, and the difficult parts of your life and lay them at the feet of God. Because in the end, He's the only One who will be able to give you a relationship where a burned biscuit isn't a deal-breaker!

We could extend this to any relationship. In fact, understanding is the base of any relationship, be it a husband-wife or parent-child or friendship!

"Don't put the key to your happiness in someone else's pocket - keep it in your own." So please pass me a biscuit, and yes, the burned one will do just fine!

Submitted by Debbie Sandherr

THE LAST PRESENT UNDER THE TREE

There is one last present under the Christmas tree,
I wonder whose it is?
Is it for the little girl with the rocking horse,
Or is it for Grandma or Aunt Liz?
It looks so lonely,
Sitting there by itself;
It'd certainly be an awesome addition
On "somebody's" shelf.



The ribbon is gold,
The paper is paisley red;
"Who does it belong to?"
Keeps rattling in my head;
I decided to snatch a peek,
And see whose name is on the card;
It'd only take a second,
It won't be very hard.

When no one was looking,
I reached under the tree,
Carefully handling the package,
"Who knows, it may be for me!"
But when I read the card,
I thought it was extraordinarily odd,
Because the message read,
"Love and blessings," God.

--Joel Bjorling

I Wish That I Could Wrap Up Christmas

I wish that I could wrap up all the love and Holiday cheer

That comes along with Christmas and with New Year's every year,

Pack it in a pretty box and put it on my shelf

And pull it down again each year and give it to myself.



I wish that I could tie up all my favorite carols with twine,

Wind around some ribbon, too, and for twelve months call them mine

Until the next Yuletide came when the sounds again could be unfurled

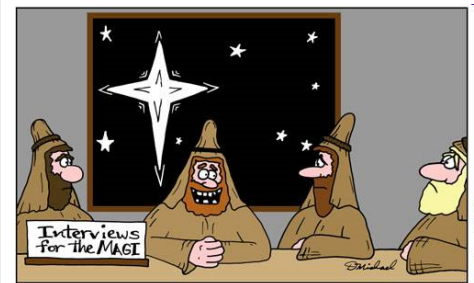
And untie every single one then give them to the world.

*Life is too short to wake up with regrets.
Love the people who treat you right and forget about the ones who don't.*

May You Find Your Merry Christmas

May you find this Christmas inner peace
Equal to the patient love you give,
Releasing all the pain you can release,
Renewing all the grace with which you live.
Yearnings may you turn to rhapsodies,

Choosing to find happiness in beauty,
Holding in their haunting melodies
Riches that sustain your sense of duty.
In anger may you find an evening star
Showing you the way to Bethlehem.
The angels that watch naked from afar
May you hear them sing your name
As all you love are blessed in having you
So may you feel the joy in all you do.



"That's a great looking star, but my dream has always been to saddle up the camels and follow the Big Dipper."

Don't Forget Jesus

Christmas is a special time
To reflect on Jesus Christ
The wonder of His lowly birth
Brings meaning to our lives

There really is no other reason
We celebrate this day
The birth of God's precious son
And the life He willingly gave

But so much seems to distract us
In the busy-ness of our lives
We lose our focus in all the happenings
Not knowing, we leave out Christ

We lose sight of the true meaning
As we endlessly rush about
Trying to find that perfect gift
Seems to cloud our Saviour out

We need to stop and reflect awhile
Remembering our precious Lord
His birth, His life and sacrifice
And all that He stands for

For though the world may celebrate
It seems though for other reasons
Let's keep in mind that Jesus Christ
Is the true meaning of the season.

ACROSS

1. the owl, and the night ____, and the cuckoo (Lev 11:16)
5. They hatch cockatrice' eggs, and ____ the spider's web (Isaiah 59:5)
9. looked like ____ of glass, clear as crystal (1,3) (Rev 4:6)
13. ____ at Jerusalem with a very great caravan (1 Kings 10:2)
14. praise him with stringed instruments and ____ (Ps 150:4) KJV
15. It had large ____ teeth; it crushed and devoured (Dan 7:7)
16. they dropped four anchors from the ____ and prayed (Acts 27:29-30)
17. Can anyone ____ in secret places so that I cannot see him (Jer 23:24)
18. but the name of the wicked will ____ (Prov 10:7)
19. Light is ____ upon the righteous and joy on the upright (Ps 97:11)
20. dishonest scales, with a bag of ____ weights (Micah 6:11)
21. they are ____ than honey, than honey from the comb (Ps 19:10)
23. thou art as a whale in the ____ (Ezek 32:2) KJV
25. ye lawyers! for ye ____ men with burdens (Luke 11:46) KJV
26. intending after ____ to bring him forth to the (Acts 12:4) KJV
29. I will be an ____ unto thine enemies (Exodus 23:22)
32. Tell us, by what authority ____ thou these things? (Luke 20:2) KJV
34. God gave unto them Saul the son of ____ (Acts 13:21) KJV
36. Three times I was beaten with ____, once I was stoned (2 Cor 11:25)
38. who ____ your wood and carry your water (Deut 29:11)
39. who was ____ think that I could oppose God? (1,2) (Acts 11:17)
40. the hollow of Jacob's thigh in the ____ that shrank (Gen 32:32) KJV
43. plundered all these villages, since there was much ____ there. (2 Chr 14:14)
44. King Xerxes imposed tribute throughout the ____ (Est 10:1-2)
46. as small as the ____ frost on the ground (Ex 16:14) KJV
49. the cloud was over the tabernacle only ____ days (1,3) (Num 9:20)
50. in newness of spirit, and not in the ____ of the letter (Rom 7:6) KJV
54. They proclaimed ____ and seated Naboth (1,4) (1 Kings 21:12)
57. Darius the ____ took over the kingdom (Dan 5:31)
58. When you make a ____ to God, do not delay (Eccl 5:4)



59. Joshua ____ his clothes, and fell to the earth (Joshua 7:6)
60. he who doubts is like ____ of the sea (1,4) (James 1:6)
61. Roman Emperor
62. Two ____ shall there be in one board (Ex 26:17) KJV
63. Repairer of Broken Walls, ____ of Streets with Dwellings (Isa 58:12)
64. the Offspring of David, and the bright Morning ____ (Rev 22:16)
65. He that is surety for a stranger shall ____ for it (Prov 11:15) KJV
66. Hiram king of ____ sent messengers to David (2 Sam 5:11)

Down

1. even the very ____ of your head are all numbered (Matt 10:30)
2. Men will go there with bow and ____ (Isa 7:24)
3. I ____ them with ink in the book (Jer 36:18)
4. it is true that I am near of ____ (Ruth 3:12)
5. Though one ____ to dispute with him (Job 9:3)
6. He ____ the temple area and began driving out (Luke 19:45)
7. Even on the ____ you laid a very heavy yoke (Isa 47:6)
8. a very long period of time
9. pillars of the heavens quake, ____ at his rebuke (Job 26:11)
10. we launched, meaning to ____ by the coasts of Asia (Acts 27:2)

11. From the ____ of the earth I call to you (Ps 61:2)
12. you do not plant the body that will be, but just ____ (1,4) (1 Cor 15:37)
19. Do not love sleep or you will grow poor; ____ awake and you (Prov 20:13)
20. I hold ____ to your statutes, O LORD (Ps 119:31)
22. under oaks and poplars and ____ (Hos 4:13) KJV
23. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will ____ God. (Matt 5:8)
24. Men at ____ have contempt for misfortune (Job 12:5)
27. Their calls will ____ through the windows (Zeph 2:14)
28. not during the feast, they said, or the people may ____ (Mark 14:2)
29. sons of Gad: Zephon, Haggi, Shuni, Ezbon, ____ (Gen 46:16)
30. But he took ____ of their distress when he heard their cry (Ps 106:44)
31. another name for Esau (Gen 36:7-8)
33. "No ____ sews a patch of unshrunk

- cloth on an old garment (Matt 9:16)
35. Let us send men ahead to ____ out the land for us (Deut 1:22)
37. Rescue me from the ____, do not let me sink (Ps 69:14)
38. they laded their asses with the ____ (Gen 42:26) KJV
40. Take them down to the water, and I will ____ them for you (Judg 7:4)
41. A ____ command I give you: Love one another (John 13:34)
42. ____ sows sparingly will also reap sparingly (2 Cor 9:6)
43. ____ them farewell, saying, I must by all means keep this feast (Acts 18:21) KJV
45. I have not hastened from being a ____ to follow thee (Jer 17:16) KJV
47. David was the youngest. The three ____ followed Saul (1 Sam 17:14)
48. ye shall be able to quench all the fiery ____ of the wicked (Eph 6:16) KJV
51. and the hold of ____ fowl spirit (Rev 18:2) (KJV)
52. Of how much ____ punishment, suppose ye (Heb 10:29) KJV
53. the men ____ an oath to each other (Gen 26:31)
55. shake the dust off your ____ when you leave (Matt 10:14)
56. a prophetess, ____, the daughter of Phanuel (Luke 2:36)
57. "Don't call me Naomi," she told them. "Call me ____ (Ruth 1:20)
60. ancient mode of transportation
61. I desire mercy, ____ sacrifice (Matt 12:7)

No. 141

The Annual Christmas Party & Pageant

Come join the fun!



**Christmas
Program**

The Annual Christmas Party and Pageant will be held on Sunday, December 19 at 6:30 p.m. Come and celebrate with the kids as they come together to perform the annual pageant. You will see shepherd, angels, wise men and a few others as they come to pay homage to Mary, Joseph and Jesus.

Dessert and beverage will follow the production and then we will gather again to await the arrival of Santa Claus. Please let Pam Kane (860-564-4316) know if you are coming with children who are not regulars at Sunday School so we make sure Santa has a little gift for them.

All of the children are invited to bring in mittens, gloves, scarves or hats to share with the families at



the TVCCA Homeless Shelter. A mitten tree will be set up on the landing in the back entry way as well, for

those who want to participate who cannot make the party. We are also accepting personal hygiene products for our "Because We Care Closet." So pick up extra tube of toothpaste, tooth brushes etc. and put them under the tree as well.



Sunday, December 19 at 6:30 p.m.

**The First Baptist Church
239 West Main Street
Norwich, CT 06360
Vol. 26, No. 6**

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Sunday Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.
Sunday School at 9:15 a.m.
Mid week worship -
Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.

Rev. Dr. Clayton A. Lord, Jr., Pastor
Adele DiBiagio,
Organist & Choir Director
Sandy Stone, Administrative Assistant
Harry & Doris Calkins, Carol Calkins, Sharon Fishkin and Bob Walker are the Production Assistants.