

Those to Serve

Sunday 12-20-2009

Sunday Morning Worship:

Announcements..... Weldon Miller
 Song Leader..... Hal Roper
 Opening Prayer..... Jim Duncan
 Closing Prayer..... David Neal

Month of DECEMBER 2009

Sunday Morning Lord's Table

South Side:

Jerry Freeman
 Rodney Cook
 Austin Neal

North Side:

Royce Armstrong
 David Neal
 Charles Kyle

Sunday Evening Lord's Table

Grady Duncan Ron Traugher

Sunday Evening Worship:

Announcements..... Weldon Miller
 Song Leader..... Hal Roper
 Opening PM Prayer..... Hal Roper
 Closing PM Prayer..... Bronson Roper

Serving Wednesday Night—Dec. 23- 2009

Announcements..... Weldon Miller
 Song Leader..... Hal Roper
 First Prayer..... Bob Hedges
 Closing Prayer..... Daniel McCary

*If you plan to be out of town or are not physically able to serve, please call someone to take your place. or call the church office.

Attendance for the week of 12-13-2009

Bible Classes..... 87
 Morning Worship..... 132
 Evening Worship..... 88
 Tuesday Ladies Class (Worked on Christmas Baskets)
 Wednesday Night..... 81
 Regular Contribution..... \$ 4,231.67
 New Construction Fund Contributions.....\$ -0-

Averages To Date This Year

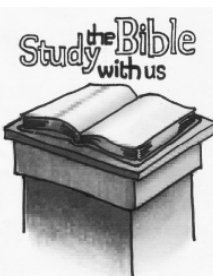
Bible Classes..... 99
 Morning Worship.....139
 Evening Worship..... 97
 Tuesday Ladies Class..... 12
 Wednesday Night..... 93
 Regular Contribution.....\$ 4,274.16
 New Construction Fund Contributions to date..... \$ 78,494.00
 (Also includes transfers and interest earned)

PLEASE NOTE: *This bulletin is formatted Friday morning each week. Any news items or articles you wish included must be submitted to the Editor no later than Thursday Night. You may call Rhodney Freeman at 903-572-1181 (home) or 903-572-1136 (Office)*

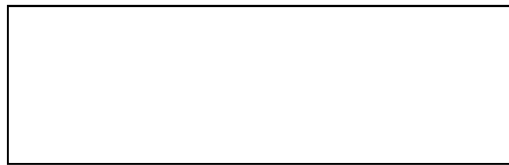
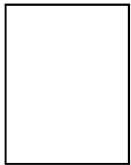
Today's Sermons

AM: "Bearing the Cross of Church Involvement"
Kris Groda, Preaching

PM: "The Cure of Afluenza"
Kris Groda, Preaching



North Jefferson Church of Christ
 P.O. Box 963
 Mt. Pleasant, TX 75456



Address Correction Requested

Assembly Times

Sunday

Bible Classes.....9:00AM
 Worship.....10:00AM
 6:00PM

Tuesday

Ladies Bible Class ..10:00AM
 (September—May)

Wednesday

Bible Classes.....7:00PM

Church Office:
 903.572.1136

Elders

Gene Campbell
 Weldon Miller
 Wayne Pickrel

Deacons

Grady Duncan
 Jim Duncan
 Jerry Freeman
 Bob Hedges
 Rance Robison
 Hal Roper

Gospel Preacher

Kris Groda

Secretary

Rhodney Freeman

Website:
 www.njcofc.com

Email:
 njcofc@sbcglobal.net

North Jefferson Messenger

As the cold of snow in the time of harvest, so is a faithful messenger to them that send him" Proverbs 25:13



Volume 11 No. 43 Founded on the Word—Focused on the World December 20, 2009

Separating Christmas Fact from Fiction:

by Steve Higginbotham

Personally, I relish Christmas as one of my favorite holidays. The children, presents, decorations, excitement . . . they all combine to make Christmas a special time for my family and me. However, in the midst of all the fun, I can't help but be a bit disturbed by all the biblical ignorance or inaccuracies associated with Christmas.

FICTION – While Gabriel did appear to Mary, and an angel did appear to Joseph, the Bible does not say it was Gabriel.

FICTION – The Bible is silent as to how many wise men came to see Jesus. Though three gifts were presented, it doesn't necessarily follow that there were three wise men.

FICTION – The Bible doesn't say the wise men were kings.

FICTION – The Bible says the star appeared above the house where Jesus was, not the manger (**Matt 2:9-11**).

FICTION – The Bible says the wise men visited Jesus when He was in a house. At the time of their visit, Jesus is called a "child" rather than a "baby" (Greek *paidion* vs *brephos* - **Matt 2:11**). In fact, he may have been as old as two (**Matt 2:7, 16**).

ANSWERS:
FICTION – Nowhere in scripture are we told

FICTION – The Bible says nothing about a star leading the shepherds to the manger.

FICTION – The Bible makes no mention of a donkey and says nothing concerning how Mary traveled to Bethlehem.

The preceding statements are thought to be fact by many people, but are in reality, fiction. It's surprisingly easy for us to believe as fact, what is in reality fiction. Furthermore, this "fiction" is sometimes propagated by religion.

How many church lawns and Christmas plays will portray a nativity scene which inaccurately portrays the biblical account?

Now here's my point: If we can be misinformed by religious leaders, concerning the events surrounding the birth of Christ, what's to make us think we can't be misled regarding other religious matters?

Friends, make sure your faith is not based on what others have told you is true, but rather make sure your faith is based on what you know to be true from your own personal study. Let the fiction you see perpetuated on church lawn's and in church "pageants" this holiday season be a reminder and a warning to you to do your own Bible study and not be content with what others say. ***"Prove all things; Hold fast what is good" (1 Thes 5:21).***

Adapted

Young Men's Training Seminar

(All men are encouraged to attend)
Saturday, January 02, 2010
Mount Vernon church of Christ

"The Privilege of Service and Worship"

Areas of Interest:

"Am I Qualified?"
"Leading Prayers"
"Reading Scriptures"
"Song Leading"

Lunch will be provided.

If there are any questions contact Chris McElyea

Great Smoky Mountain

Marriage Retreat

February 17-20, 2010 Pigeon Forge Holiday Inn Conference Center - Pigeon Forge, TN

Theme: Joy in the Journey—Celebrating God's Gift of Matrimony.

Who: This is a couples only retreat for married couples of all ages. It is designed to be part get-away and part practical instruction seminar on enriching marriage relationships.

Cost: There is no charge for the retreat. Including food and hotel, a couple can usually for about \$250.

This retreat is sponsored by the Jacksonville church of Christ—Jacksonville, AL Allen Webster is the director.

For more information, please call, 256.435.9356.

Please Remember in Prayer: Justin Barker, Rachel Barker, Doris Bell, James & Sue Browning, Billy Campbell, Gene Campbell, Suzanne Charlton, Randy Cooper, Jim Duncan, Barbara Duncan, Irene Duncan, Patsy Duncan, Wade Miller, Wayne Pickrel, Thelma Reed, Bud Roach, Rebecca Tippit.

Also: Carolyn (Katy) Cabell, Denise Hess, Mary Jo Lee, Janice Lineberger, Kent Stephenson, Charles Whitney

Congregational Shut-Ins:

Home: Doris Bell, **Pleasant Springs Assisted Living:** Annah Brown, **Home:** Irene Duncan, **Villa Assisted Living:** Georgia Lide.

SEASONS GREETINGS FROM THE STAFF (Preacher, Elders, Deacons, Secretary, Weekly Maintenance, Bookkeepers) AT NORTH JEFFERSON CHURCH OF CHRIST TO THE CONGREGATION.

Church Happenings:

On Wednesday evening everyone will meet in the Auditorium for a Congregational Prayer meeting, reading scripture and singing songs. Everyone is encouraged to be in attendance.

Bible Bowl News: Practice at 5pm today. This is for all young people from the 1st-12th grades.

Men and Boys: Young Men's Training Seminar Saturday, January 02, 2010 Mount Vernon church of Christ. Theme: "The Privilege of Service and Worship" This is a great teaching/training opportunity. If you want to train to lead and serve better—this seminar is for you. Kris Groda will speak on "The Privilege of Service and Worship."

Holiday Open House: Saturday, December 19 from 11AM-2PM at the Groda's at 315 CR 1520. **HAS BEEN POSTPONED. We will do something later.**

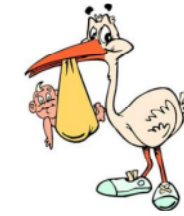
HEALTH UPDATES:

Billye Campbell is about the same, occasionally is able to come to church with Gene.

Julia Terrell passed away last Sunday evening. Her funeral was conducted Saturday afternoon at Bates-Cooper-Sloan Funeral Home with burial at Liberty Hill Cemetery. Nelda Cooper was related by a previous marriage.

Wayne Pickrel is back in the Mother Frances Hospital in Tyler, Room 390. Hwas having difficulty breathing and was very weak. He was a little better Friday morning.

Wade miller was admitted to the hospital in Winnsboro Thursday and had surger on one of his feet Friday morning due to an infection. He will remain in the hospital until Monday or Tuesday of next week. He is in Room 137.



Friday, December 18, 2009, at 12:34 PM **Zachary Manuel Newman** poked his head out of his secure enclosure into a new world. His first thoughts were: "What now?" In a little bit he began to cry at the top of his little lungs. It sounded as though he said: "Hello Mudder, Hello Fadder." "Hold me tight, wrap me up ...

I'm cold." What's that suction noise in my throat? Wait, are you weighing me? How much? 8 lbs 4 oz, you say? How long? 20 inches!? "I want my Mudder!" "They can't understand my baby talk, but some day they will." "I have a big sister, Zoë Lynn?" WOW!" "I bet if I cry a lot someone will change my diaper and give me something to eat."

My mother and father are: Marty and Rhonda Newman, and sister Zoë. My happy grandparents are: Rhodney and Judy Freeman and Betty Newman. I'm told I have a Uncle David, and an Aunt Crystal Freeman, and a cousin named John David Freeman. Oh yes, I'm also told I have a great grandmother named Hallie Lang. And then they said I had Aunts Jackie, Amanda, and Janie, and Uncle Steve and other aunts, uncles and cousins too numerous to name. I'm glad to finally be here." "Give me lots of hugs and kisses!"

THANK YOU ... "Because of your generous gifts of money and goodies ... the Ladies Bible Class was able to fill several Christmas baskets for our shut-ins and others in need of encouragement, as well as 2 young men in the military. The love and spirit of giving displayed by this congregation is truly awesome. Thank you ...

Ladies Bible Class"

The Faculty, Administration and Graduating Class

Of Stephen F. Austin State university
Announce the graduation of
Stephanie LuAnn Thomas
With a Bachelor of Science Degree
In Agricultural Development.

Commencement Ceremonies were held

At 9:30 a.m.

Saturday, December 19, 2009

William R. Johnson Coliseum, Nacogdoches,
Texas