



Good News...Great Joy...A Savior has been born; He is Christ the Lord!
Luke 2:10-11

Greetings,

Thursday, December 27, 2007

I trust you had a blessed Christmas! Jamie and I and the girls are so grateful to have spent this Christmas participating in the life and worship of Kendalls Church! What an experience Christmas Eve with the organized chaos of gift-giving. Thanks Santa for the coal – I'll be better next year, I promise (fingers crossed)!

Sincerely, thank you all for your love and kindness through Christmas cards and presents. It's your "presence" that means the most to us – it is a reminder that God has placed us together for the purpose of fellowship, worship, and ministry. I look forward to what God has in store for us in 2008! Below you will find some plans and ideas in the works. I am asking that you be intentional in praying for me as your pastor, for each other as we discern and seek God's will, and as we be and do the work and mission of Jesus Christ!



Why I like the Grinch...

The name of Dr. Suess' timeless children's poem about the Grinch is somewhat misleading. "How?" you ask. I take this opportunity to finish where I left off last Sunday. I used the tale of the Grinch to introduce in the sermon the real meaning of Christmas. I left him (the Grinch) contemplating (puzzling) and finally having this epiphany that Christmas can't be bought in a store, that it must mean a little bit more, and that he couldn't keep Christmas from coming...it came just the same.

So, did the Grinch actually steal Christmas? NO. The story continues:

And what happened then...?

Well...in Whoville they say

That the Grinch's small heart

Grew three sizes that day!

And the minute his heart didn't feel quite so tight,

He whizzed with his load through the bright morning light

And he brought back the toys! And the food for the feast!

And he...

...HE HIMSELF...!

The Grinch carved the roast beast!

The Grinch had a change of heart (3 sizes is a big change) after realizing that Christmas was not all about the "stuff." While Dr. Suess doesn't use any of the Christian message of Christmas, the hint is surely there. The Grinch could be likened to someone who realizes

that Christmas is not about the presents (and all the rigamarole), but Christ's presence - God in the flesh, the Infinite who became an infant. Why? Because God loved the world so much that He gave....

I love the Grinch because he isn't who he was as the end of the poem. He is changed from the inside out (I love Jim Carey's line - "I feel all toasty inside, and I'm leaking."). I hang the Grinch ornament on my Christmas tree to remind me that there are many people like the Grinch who need to know that Christmas means more. In fact, let me even try my hand at some Dr. Suess:

*In Christmas we find that God came-
In the flesh, but he came just the same.
The greatest gift not intended for a few-
It is a gift for all - even for you!*

May the Christ of Christmas continually fill your life with peace, joy, and love each and every day!

Pastor Chris

SUNDAY WORSHIP

Join us Sunday, December 30 for Bible Study at 10 am & Worship at 11 am:

Message: *"The End is Near!"*

Scripture: 1 Peter 4:1-11

Special Music



GET FIT

Kicking off the new year can be a great opportunity for renewal and commitment and improving our walk with Christ and quality of life. So, for the month of January all adults are invited to join the GET FIT CLUB (CFC). The best thing about it is it's ABSOLUTELY FREE!!! Whether you need a total makeover or just some tuning, you're sure to get something! Meets in the Fellowship Hall, 6:00 pm.

Here are the FITNESS topics scheduled for the CFC:

January 6 – SPIRITUAL FITNESS

January 13 – PHYSICAL FITNESS

January 20 – FINANCIAL FITNESS

January 27 – RELATIONAL FITNESS

******Children's ministry activities will resume in January also.**



There are many to thank for such a delightful, meaningful, powerful, spirit-filled Advent season:

■ Becky Laney, Linda Gilbert and crew for Hanging of the Green decorating and preparations; Wes Herlocker and Brian Dwyer for muscling in the Chrismon tree; Young Adult Sunday School class; all participants in the Hanging of the Green service!

■ Ann Watson, Kerry Burris, Mary Ann Abernathy, Danny Abernathy and Adult Choir for beautiful and spirit-filled Christmas cantata – The Gift Goes On.

■ Karen Herlocker, Kristen Herlocker, Beth Howard, Christi Gilbert, Misty Dwyer, Cheryl Turner, Dusty Laney, Dale Burris, Kerry Burris for the fun and lively Children's Christmas musical – Baby Jesus, We Love You!

Others who helped in various ways: Bobbie Whitely – decorations in fellowship hall; Sunday School ladies who helped with food following the cantata; Kendall, Laney, Sells families, Danny Abernathy, Billy Hunneycut, Jeff Gilbert – for the poke fillin';

If I inadvertently left someone out, I do apologize – it takes a lot of work and commitment (which translates into lots of people) to make something so special and purposeful happen. THANKS TO ALL OF YOU FOR YOUR DEDICATION AND WORK!



As of Christmas Eve, we had a little over \$2500.00 given to our Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. We are less than \$500 away from our goal of \$3000.00. This Sunday will be our last Sunday to give. Pray asking God what you can give to help missionaries all over the world TELL...the Story of Jesus!

