

December 2009

“WHEREFORE ALSO WE PRAY ALWAYS FOR YOU, THAT OUR GOD WOULD COUNT YOU WORTHY OF THIS CALLING...” II THESSALONIANS 1:11

The Vandover Call

Christmas Eve
candlelight
service
December 24
@ 6 pm



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December 11-13

Sunday Services:

9:30 a.m. Sunday School
10:45 a.m. AM Worship
6:00 p.m. PM Worship

Wednesday Services:

7:00 p.m. Prayer Meeting

Feed My People Christmas Baskets

Here are our adopted families: Basket #110

Mariah-F-15yr.- Sm/med

Katie-F-12yr

Mary-F-51yrs- Med

There were no special requests from this family.

Basket#111

Esminka-F-39yr- 12-XL

Keila-F-4yr- 10-M

Arel-M-12yr- 6-Sm

Keila- Hannah Montana

Arel- Sports, football

-Vandover is putting together these Christmas baskets so that these families will have complete holiday meals and to provide gifts for them to have for Christmas morning.

The deadline for collecting items for the baskets is December 13.



Christmas Baskets

What is Advent?

The beginning of Advent is a time for the hanging of the green, decoration of the church with evergreen wreaths, boughs, or trees that help to symbolize the new and everlasting life brought through Jesus.

The Advent wreath is a circular evergreen wreath (real or artificial) with five candles, four around the wreath and one in the center.

The circle of the wreath reminds us of God Himself, His eternity and endless mercy, which has no beginning or end. The green of the wreath speaks of the hope that we have in God, the hope of newness, of renewal, of eternal life. Candles symbolize the light



of God coming into the world through the birth of His son. The four outer candles represent the period of waiting during the four Sundays of Advent, which themselves symbolize the four centuries of waiting between the prophet Malachi and the birth of Christ.

The first candle is traditionally the candle of Expectation or Hope.

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Angel Tree

I would like to share with you a letter from Mark Earley, President of Angel Tree:

Prisoners' children are the unseen victims of crime. Sadly, Christmas often magnifies their feelings of invisibility and neglect. But last year, caring friends like you helped show hundreds of thousands of prisoners' children that- even though Mom or Dad can't be with them- they have NOT been forgotten.

It costs so little to help deliver this hope to the child of a prisoner. Each \$10.20 you give

means one more innocent child will receive a gift and the Good News of Jesus Christ, given on behalf of an incarcerated parent.

Please join us in prayer for these children who deal with sorrow and loneliness of having a parent in prison. They need our prayers and support all year long, but especially at Christmas.



Christmas Story in Lights

The Christmas Story in Lights opens the weekend of December 11-13. This will be a unique experience for those who take a stroll on the Prayer and Meditation Pathway that is lined with luminaries. A brochure will give explanation of the designs on each luminary. All of the designs speak of the Christ of Christmas. People will see and read about the unfolding story of God's plan of com-

ing to us to bring us to Himself.

What could be more fun than a nighttime stroll with family and friends, along a beautiful luminary lit pathway. Grab your coat, hat, gloves and some friends and experience Christmas in a way that is both beautiful and meaningful.

See you on the pathway!

Pastor Search

In the Spring, the church elected 5 members to search for a new pastor. The members are Marlene Blankenship, May Mangnall, Lynn Miller, Marvin Toothaker and Roy Scott.

We started meeting in April and as resumes came in, we discussed each one. Most were discarded, but a couple were interesting.

As time went on we came to agreement that Steve was working hard and deserved to be given the first choice at being our pastor.

In October, we met with Steve and asked him to discuss the matter with Terri and pray about it and to take as much time as they needed. Several days later, Steve called and said that they felt led to be pastor of Vandover Baptist Church. They submitted a lot of suggestions containing some things that

they would like to have considered.

We met with Steve and discussed a package that would suit him. It consists of 2 weeks vacation a year, a salary of \$500 a week, \$50 a week for mileage and expenses plus they would like some Wednesday nights off to attend Stacey's games and we agreed to that.

The committee then met with the deacons and we all agreed to announce this information to the church on Sunday the 22nd and again on the Sunday of the 29th that we would have a business meeting on Wednesday, Dec. 2nd to discuss the package and vote by ballot that night. If approved, the package would become effective Dec. 1st.

- Pastor Search Committee

From the pastor

Let's celebrate Christmas this year by helping our friends and family discover the answer to the question, "What Child is This?" Let's share the gospel by greeting everyone with "Merry Christ-

mas!" Let's remember that "Peace on Earth and Goodwill Towards Men" is channeled to people through our lives.

Merry Christmas!
Steve

Lottie Moon– Who's missing? Whose mission?

Jerry Rankin, president of the International Mission Board, toured six countries and came face to face with barriers that prevent the lost from hearing:

"I saw hundreds of worshippers file into a mosque. I walked around the church in Carthage where the divine inspiration of the Bible's books was affirmed and in the ancient city of Ephesus– a rich harvest field for the Apostle Paul. Both the church and the city lie in ruins.

In the Horn of Africa, I saw thousands of Ethiopian Orthodox members cling to Virgin Mary for their salvation. On a hill overlooking Kabul, Afghanistan, I felt a palpable tension in the air where political instability and threats to foreign workers rule the day. Hostility and lack of freedom are not exclusive to these hard places

to live. Other people lack Gospel access because they are physically hard to reach or have no Scripture in their language.

What do we do about those missing from God's family? I am reminded how, in Luke 19:40, Jesus told the Pharisees that if His disciples failed to proclaim His victory over bondage, deception and death, then the very rocks would cry out.

Our God knows the name of every missing person. He is all-powerful to gather the stones at Carthage, Ephesus and elsewhere– and reshape them into vibrant churches. Will you help your church to give sacrificially so those still missing can hear the saving message of Christ's love?"

Vandover's goal is \$500.

WHO'S MISSING? WHOSE MISSING? MISSION?

Sermon series for December

Dec. 6	Dec. 20
2nd Sunday of Advent– Joy	Fourth Sunday of Advent– Love
Dec. 13	Dec. 27
Third Sunday of Advent– Peace	

Advent continued

This draws attention to the anticipation of the coming of a Messiah.

As God’s people were abused by power hungry kings, led astray by self-centered prophets, and lulled into apathy by half-hearted religious leaders, there arose a longing among some for God to raise up a new king who could show them how to be God’s people. They yearned for a return of God’s dynamic presence in their midst.

The second candle represents Peace. Before Jesus’ birth, Zachariah spoke of a Savior who would guide us in the ways of peace. Jesus’ death on the cross has brought

peace and reconciliation to mankind.

The third candle represents Joy. It is a reminder of how the angels brought good news of great joy to the shepherds.

The fourth Sunday of Advent represents Love. This is a reminder of God’s love in sending Jesus into the world. And Jesus died on the cross to bring the abundance of life to mankind.

The center candle is called the **Christ Candle**. It is traditionally lighted on Christmas Eve. The central location of the Christ Candle reminds us that the incarnation is the heart of the season, giving light to the world.

From the pastor

Have you ever considered the question - “What Child is This?”

Jesus is the “reason for the season.” Many wonder why or how this could be so. When we consider the question of “What Child is This?” the answer becomes more clear. The familiar carol says that this Child is Christ the King. He was and is the Christ. People will be wishing each other Merry Christmas this year and will unknowingly give testimony to Christ the King. We should

purposefully keep saying, “Merry Christmas” to each other. It is okay to say it. It is not a statement we need to try to make politically correct with phrases like “happy holidays or Winter break.” It is another opportunity for us to testify to God’s presence in the world. It shouts out, after 2000 years, that God is active, interested and in control of the world.

Matthew 1:21 says that Mary’s baby was to be called Jesus because He had come to save people



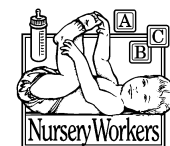
Cleaning Crew Schedule

- The week of:
- Dec. 7 Marvin Toothaker, Larry Shaw
- Dec. 14 Geri Warren, Frances Scheller
- Dec. 21 Nick & Valerie Ems
- Dec. 28 Maurice Williams, Jim Mangnall

- Dec. 6 Volunteer needed
- Dec. 13 Lynn Miller
- Dec. 20 Roy and Norma Scott
- Dec. 27 May Mangnall

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-  Dec. 6
- Dec. 13 Valerie Ems
- Dec. 20 Joy McVean
- Dec. 27

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- Dec. 6 Valerie Ems
- Dec. 13



- Dec. 20 Jennifer Shaw and Frances Scheller
- Dec. 27 Cherri Roberts

From the pastor

from their sin. The name Jesus means Savior. Sin separated mankind from God and sin continues to create barriers between us and a holy God. Jesus was born to be the Savior of the world. Jesus is still the Savior of the world. We can sing “What Child is This” with great power and confidence that Christ the Savior is born. We can speak with excitement “Merry Christmas” declaring to a sleeping world, that the Savior has been born and wants to meet them.

The Bible also tells us that the Child will be called Emmanuel which means, God with us. Jesus Christ is still with us today through His Holy

Spirit. For Christmas to have meaning in our lives this year, we have to talk about the crucified and risen Christ, as well as the babe in the manger. He rose from the grave and when He left earth, God sent the holy Spirit to live within us. God truly is with all who have received forgiveness from their sin. God is with us still drawing all people to Himself. Truly there is “Peace on Earth and Goodwill Towards Men” because of God’s Spirit living within believers.

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