

FOR UNTO US THIS DAY
A CHILD IS BORN WHICH IS

CHRIST THE LORD.

MAY YOU REJOICE
IN HIS BLESSINGS

DURING THIS SEASON OF CHRISTMAS
AND THROUGHOUT THE NEW YEAR!

THE PBC STAFF

~THOMAS, DAVID, LARKE AND
BECKY~



December 2014

PBCConnections

A Great Gift for You This Christmas

A few years ago an Australian nurse, **Bonnie Ware**, published an article on her web site listing the top five regrets of dying persons. She has this awareness because she worked for years as a palliative care nurse, a caring angel helping persons die peacefully. In her work she encountered the last thoughts, joys and regrets of many persons, and she saw a pattern.

In order from most common to slightly lesser common, the top five regrets of her many patients were:

- 1. I wish I'd had the courage to live a life true to myself, not the life other persons expected of me.**
- 2. I wish I didn't work so hard.**
- 3. I wish I'd had the courage to express my feelings.**
- 4. I wish I had stayed in touch with my friends.**
- 5. I wish I had let myself be happier.**

When we look backwards at our lives, many of us have thoughts of "do overs", but few of

(Continued on page 2)

Christmas Gift... (continued from page 1)

us give thought to the time we have left to "**do over**". We imagine ourselves stuck in some circumstance, or feel thoughts of defeat. The "**do overs**" haunt us.

God no doubt had thoughts of "**do overs**". Look at the mess of humanity from the time of creation. Could we, as a creation, have done much worse following and honoring God? Not likely. Priests, prophets, judges, kings, leaders, stories... God tried them all to keep us on the straight and narrow, yet sheep we are we strayed.

God, being a bit smarter than you and me, fashioned the ultimate "**do over**" by interacting with humanity in the person of Jesus, the Christ. In a fully human experience, God was "**born**" in a lowly human experience that connected God for eternity with least, lost, lowly and forgotten. Even so, this gift of God is a gift to us all, for all who will receive him.

The best gifts I've ever received are ones that helped me, improved me, entertained me, or afforded me some opportunity. I could easily expand on each of these blessings and how the

gift of God meets them all, but I ask you to focus on the last one, the opportunity one. **What opportunity does the gift of God in Christ this Christmas give you this year?** Sure, you can say the simplistic answer, "**Salvation!**", or "**Eternal life!**" but do you remember that Jesus was far less focused on the eternal than he was on the now? What opportunity to you have now?

Referring again to the list, in the time you have left of life (*and I pray it is many years!*), **how can you courageously live the life God uniquely created for you? How can you work less hard for salvation and more joyfully in faith? How can you faithfully express your feelings of love for God and neighbor? How can you create new spiritual relationships every day? And how can you rest in the joy and love that is God?**

I remind you of the gift of Christ this year. What will his gift be in you? I pray it will be the gift of better, more fulfilling, less regretful years in your faith journey. Isn't that what God wants for you? I think it is.

As always I'd love to hear from you, any way you want to reach me, about whatever you think.

pbcpastor@windstream.net

Seniors in Fellowship



Dec 4

**Pilot Mtn. Association
Senior Adult Candle Tea @ 2:00
Ardmore Baptist Church
Free**

Dec 17

**Christmas Organ Concert (Free)
Old Salem @ Noon
Leave church at 11:30
Lunch following concert**



Make a Joyful Noise

As I type this, one thought prevails: It CAN'T be time to talk about December! Not yet. Even with the unseasonably cool Autumn weather, it just doesn't feel like we can already be ready for Christmas.

How do you experience Christmas? Is it complaining of the retail side that already has Santas in the mall before Veterans Day? Or is it just the unfiltered joy that goes back to your childhood? Do you think first of the love, or of the gifts?

On December 14, the Sanctuary Choir's program is called "Our Christmas". In addition to the variety of familiar and more obscure carols that the choir will be singing, there will

be monologues read by our members that tells how various groups related to the song would've seen Christmas. Most of us are blessed with comforts and luxuries, and Christmas would be hard to imagine as anything other than a warm, cozy feeling. But what about the African American slaves, or the poor people living in the Caribbean, the earlier Appalachians, the Shepherds, and others? "Our Christmas" will attempt to give voice to the way so many of our world's citizens see Christmas as more than a happy day, but a day that reminds them that God is here and hope is something worth having. The service for this program begins at 6:00pm.

We will also have a variety of music on other Sundays, including the annual presentation of the children's choirs and handchimes at the morning service of December 7th. May the love of God bless you this Advent season!

In Christ,
David



Special Events in December

December 7 - Children's Christmas Presentation - 10:25am

December 14 - Sanctuary Choir Presentation - 6:00pm

December 17 - Christmas Caroling - 6:30pm

December 21 - Candlelight Christmas Love Feast - 7:00pm

Invite your friends and neighbors.

College & Career Christmas
Dinner
Tuesday, Dec. 16 @ 6:30pm
Cheddar's Restaurant near
Hanes Mall.



YOUTH & CHILDREN



Thank you PBC for your continued support of the American Red Cross. Thank you to those who donated blood, time, and snacks to such a worthwhile cause. Your involvement helped save many lives. Fifteen units were collected with two new first time donors.
~WMU Night Group

Youth:

—>The youth traveled to Ridgecrest for their annual retreat November 21-23. This year's theme was "Alive" and came from Ephesians: But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. (Ephesians 2:4-5)

—>**Food, Fun, Fellowship** gathering #2 was graciously hosted by the Bounds family on November 16. The youth came together for an evening of pork tenderloin, homemade marshmallows, wii bowling, and devotion. The next event will be held Sunday January 11 from 6-7:30. Details to come.

—>Christmas is fast approaching and the youth will be taking a hayride through the Tanglewood Park festival of lights. They will also have a small gathering at church with some snacky foods and Christmas decorations.

—>**Youth On Mission** will be moving to Sunday nights beginning in January. We are hoping to create a space for more of our youth to participate outside of the numerous weekly obligations. Bible study will begin at 6pm and conclude at 7pm. There will not be a dinner provided during these specific studies.

Children:

—>Christmas for the children begins on **December 7 during the Sunday Service**. The children will be singing and playing the hand chimes! Come out to support these blossoming musicians. Later that afternoon, they will be having a Christmas party and will be making gingerbread trains while watching the *Polar Express*.

—>Once per month in the new year, **Children in Action** will be having some form of food experience during their normal Bible study. See Larke if you would like to provide a small meal one of these Wednesdays.

—>**Beginning in January**, Children In Action will meet on Wednesday nights for Bible Study at 6pm. Their lesson will run from 6-6:45pm and they will continue with choir at 6:45pm.

2015 OFFERING ENVELOPES

The 2015 offering envelopes are available on the back row of pews for you to pick up. If you have not already been assigned an envelope number, please contact the church office and we will be happy to provide you with envelopes.

PBC Bulletin Board

Wed, Dec 17

**Christmas Caroling
to show love to our
community**

**ALL voices
welcome!**

6:30 pm



Christmas Cards

If you would like to give Christmas cards to **active members of Pfafftown Baptist Church**, you may deliver your cards to the box in Building "B" and then **deposit 20¢ per card in the postage jar**. All funds collected will benefit our missionary, Ann Sharpe. **You may bring your cards from the first Sunday of Advent (Nov 30) through December 17. *Don't forget your postage!***

CHURCH SCHEDULE for DECEMBER

Dec 5 Deacons' Dinner
Dec 6 Men's Breakfast
Dec 8 WMU Night Group
Dec 9 WMU Day Group
Dec 14 Sanctuary Choir Cantata
Dec 17 Senior Adult Outing
Dec 17 Christmas Caroling
Dec 18 Single Senior's Lunch
Dec 21 **NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**
Dec 21 Love Feast
Dec 24 - 25 Church Office Closed
Jan 1 Church Office Closed

Newsletter information can be sent to
kim_bounds@hotmail.com.

Address Change

We've been asked to share this new snail mail address with you. Please make note of the change.

C. Sharpe
POB 501
Neve Yarak
4664500 Israel

Pfafftown Baptist Church is on mission to serve God by sharing joyful life and displaying love with our greater community

December Birthdays

Noah Anderson	Dec 4	Dwight Long.....	Dec 14
Ann Sharpe	Dec 10	Linda Royall.....	Dec 14
Nicholas Marshall	Dec 12	Cynthia Anderson.....	Dec 15
Samuel Marshall.....	Dec 12	Noah Speaks	Dec 24
Amy Stinson.....	Dec 12	Denny Franklin.....	Dec 26
		Becky Bos	Dec 30



The Salvation Army of Forsyth County is "Church Day" by inviting churches to participate in their bell ringing program on **Saturday, Dec.**

20. We still need people to work one-hour shifts between 10:30 am and 7:30 pm. If you would like to participate in this ministry, please see Thomas.



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