

TODAY IN THE TOWN OF DAVID
A SAVIOR HAS BEEN BORN TO
YOU!

HE IS THE MESSIAH, THE
LORD!

MAY THIS GLORIOUS DAY OF OUR
SAVIOR'S BIRTH RESOUND WITH
HOPE AND PEACE ON EARTH.

~THE PBC STAFF~

THOMAS, DAVID, ALYSSA, BECKY
LORI, SHARON AND VARNER



December 2015

PBC Connections

Merry Christmas?

How would you answer that question? If I were to Merry Christmas! I'm not really ready to say that, but now is the time to say, "Merry Christmas!" Are you ready?

Unfortunately, *Christmas is not a merry time for many people in our church, in our community or in our world.* I do not like being the bearer of bad news, but depression is a very close second to joy during this season and for good reason.

- Many persons will experience their first Christmas this year without someone they dearly love.
- Likewise, many persons will continue to struggle this year with the loss of a loved one some years ago, a loss that lingers into the present.

- Other persons consider their lives to be insufficient in one way or another, and Christmas is the season that points out the insufficiency.
- Still other persons struggle psychologically with seeing other persons experience joy.
- Many persons are simply bitter and resent the joy seen all around them.
- Finally, a great many persons have been lost by society, forgotten, trampled, abused and washed out, and Christmas seems to be a slap in the face.

How do we respond to these persons in a Christian way, especially when we are so flooded with joy? Perhaps it requires a reflection on the original Christmas story.

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All I Want ... (continued from page 1)

Christmas 2000 years ago was remarkable. First we see the parents, Mary and Joseph. **Theirs was a story of struggle: the child of strange origin, the mother considered unfaithful, the father with the stigma, the untimely journey, the disappointing reception in Bethlehem.** Yet through it all Christmas morning was a day of great joy for Mary and Joseph, for God blessed them with a beautiful baby boy. Perhaps they saw in Jesus' face the face of the savior, but as a parent with three experiences, I most imagine that **in the face of Jesus they most saw love.** He was their boy, their first born, and his birth alone was reason enough for celebration.

Mary and Joseph did not keep this personal joy for themselves, however. Soon after the birth arrived a band of true outcasts, shepherds. The story of their rejection is so well known it bears not repeating. Yet rejected as they were they were welcomed into the birthplace of Jesus with Mary and Joseph. He was not the shepherds' son but His birth

was very much a reason for their celebration. **For in Jesus' face I imagine they too saw love,** but His was the face of the Savior, the reason they had left all behind. The shepherds, too, rushed to share the good news of the birth of the Savior.

Sharing. That is the story of Christmas. **What do you have that you might share with persons not so joyful this year? Do you have enough light of Christ in you that you might shine in a dark place this year?** I can think of nothing more effective to share with the depressed, the lonely, the forgotten, the saddened or the bitter people all around us this year than a little bit of love. Not a silent prayer, not a warm feeling, but a personal expression of love. Then, **perhaps in your face they will see something of the Christ, and they too might experience a little joy this year.** Isn't that chance worth a share? Merry Christmas.

What do you think about sharing joy and love at Christmas? I'd love to hear about it.

Connect with me in any way you can. I'd love it!

pbcpastor@windstream.net



The song says "*Love Came Down at Christmas*". Love also came down a week before Thanksgiving. It was a week before Thanksgiving that my mother was buried in Pensacola. As of this writing, I haven't yet felt the enormity of the loss for myself, but I saw it in my father, who had lost his wife of over 59 years. More importantly, I felt the love. **It's the love that family shows in these times that we too often take for granted.**

Specifically, I want to say thank you to all from this church who expressed their love for me through emails, phone calls, messages, and the flowers that were sent for the memorial service. It was ministry to me and my family, and much appreciated.

December is here, and it's time for some special Christmas music! On the morning of December 6, our children will once again be singing and ringing. **At 6:00pm on December 13,** the Sanctuary Choir will be presenting a cantata that we have never previously sung: *Lord of Glory* by Dan Forrest, an acclaimed composer of many pieces, including a gorgeous single Christmas anthem we have sung in many years past called *There is Faint Music*. This is a cantata for choir and narrators, and we look forward to presenting it to you on the night of the 13th. Please invite a friend or neighbor, and come hear this wonderful music!

Besides our Christmas Lovefeast and Candlelight service on the evening of the 20th, we are also planning a possible church outreach event that will feature choir and congregation. Watch future bulletins for details.

In Christ, *David*



YOUTH & CHILDREN

CHILDREN

Dec 6..... Christmas Program @ 10:25 during Worship

Dec 11..... Christmas Party 6:00pm in the Youth House

YOUTH

Dec 18..... Progressive Dinner Meet at church at 6:00 pm

2016 Offering Envelopes
 The 2016 offering envelopes are available on the back row of pews for you to pick up. Please note an additional space on the front of the envelopes for you to mark "Cash" or "Check # ____" 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.

LOOKING AHEAD


Dec 4.....	Deacon/Spouse Dinner
Dec 5.....	Baptist Men's Breakfast
Dec 5.....	Operation Christmas Child
Dec 6.....	Children's Christmas Program
Dec 8.....	WMU Day Group
Dec 10.....	PMBA Candle Tea
Dec 13.....	Adult Christmas Program
Dec 14.....	WMU Night Group
Dec 17.....	Single Senior's Lunch
Dec 18.....	Youth Progressive Dinner
Dec 20.....	Candlelight Love Feast
Dec 20.....	<u>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</u>
Dec 24-25	Church Office Closed
Dec 30 - Jan 1	Church Office Closed

Our Christian Sympathies are extended to:

David and Jennifer Lane in the loss of David's mother, Shirley Lane

Dwight and Sylvia Long in the loss of Dwight's father, Milton Long

Bob Opoulos in the loss of his son



Thank You! Baptist Women's Night Group would like to sincerely thank all who participated in our Blood Drive on Nov. 1st. PBC is so blessed to have members who will give of their time to help unload supplies, greet and register donors, bake homemade treats, supply needed packaged treats, serve in canteen, donate blood, and then help ARC load their supplies. Thank you also for your prayer support of this life saving event!

Our next Blood Drive is scheduled for Sunday, June 12, 2016.



PMBA Senior Adult Candle Tea December 10, 2015

2 PM at Stanleyville First Baptist

Light refreshments will be served after the Candle Service.



Christmas Cards

If you would like to give Christmas cards to **ACTIVE MEMBERS ONLY** 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 go towards helping Ann Sharpe. You may bring your cards from the first Sunday of Advent through December 20. Cards left for NON-ACTIVE MEMBERS WILL NOT BE MAILED.

College and Career Students:

There are a couple of activities planned for you during the month of December!



FIRST: Your own Bible Study class will take place on the Sundays beginning NOVEMBER 29 and go through Dec 20. The class will meet in the conference room in the A Building at 9:15 with Pastor Thomas.

SECOND: There will be a Christmas dinner on Tuesday, December 15 @ 6:30pm at the Village Tavern on Hanes Mill Blvd. Please RSVP to Debra Rieron @ 336.682.3793.



Saturday,
December 19

Harris Teeter on
Reynolda Rd.

Ringers are needed
from 9am to 6pm.

See Pastor Thomas to
schedule your time!

December Birthdays

Noah Anderson	Dec 4	Dwight Long	Dec 14
Ann Sharpe.....	Dec 10	Cynthia Anderson	Dec 15
Nicholas Marshall.....	Dec 12	Phillip Busbin.....	Dec 16
Samuel Marshall	Dec 12	Denny Franklin	Dec 26
Amy Stinson	Dec 12	Becky Bos	Dec 30

PFAFFTOWN BAPTIST CHURCH

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