

December 2020

The Holy Post

In this season of Christmas, a special sense of emotion usually visits us. It's a time for many to feel that unique closeness of the Holy Child. It's a time when the eyes of our children are sparkling with great excitement and wonder at the coming events. Seems a shame, though that the REAL REASON for Christmas is slipping ever so slowly away.

It's certainly a time when most of us want to go home and share the experience with friends and family, hopeful to relive bygone days of Christmas Past. With the shimmering lights of the season bouncing from one surface to another and the music of bells ringing everywhere, you'll all be scurrying about in a frenzy. Too much of the drama will be about little that has to do with the Sacred Birth, but instead with the stress of not missing something on your family and friends list!

One has to wonder how far off it will be, before our off-spring are ignorant as to why we celebrate and only know of the Winter Holidays? There seems to be an organized effort to erase Christ from Christmas. Government and the corporate world seem to be leading the way. As Christians we seem to be doing little to stop it. It just seems too inconvenient or we don't want to make a fuss... A statement of our times...

For a change let's try to minimize the impact of Santa and maximize the experience of the Holy Birth. Fill yourselves with His Holy Spirit. Take the time to tell one another of your love. Spread your joy and your smiles throughout our community and wherever else you travel. Let them know we are Christians by our love! Let no one pass you by without giving a smile. Find someone who is in need and give anonymously. It's our spirit... our love... our faith that makes Christmas special... Santa has nothing to do with it. Though he is fun and has a place with the children... He is not the focus!

May you all have good cheer, good luck and lots and lots of love through the holiday. And may it be evident to all that we are Christians!

Phil



Mary Blaylock	3rd
Joel Dahlby	14th
Sherisse Smith	15th
Helen Dahlby	19th

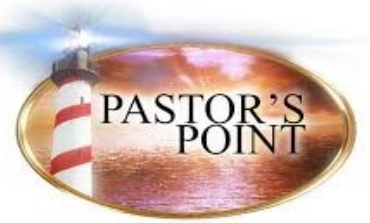
Joe & Qailia Nasise	2nd
Deb & Dave Goodwin	20th
Eric & Elizabeth Brosha	23rd
Lee & Kathy Anderson	27th
John & Mary Blaylock	28th



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The Most Wonderful Time of the Year



Every season has its own challenges, colors, charms, and celebrations. I love all four seasons. But there is something wonderful about Christmas. It is a season, like Easter, that has nothing to do with the impact of Earth's movement through our solar system. And everything to do with the impact of God's love on our soul's system.

If limited to Mark or John's gospels, we'd have little to celebrate, because we'd know little of the story, but thanks to Matthew and Luke we have plenty to ponder. They are the ones who highlighted how Jesus' birth fulfilled God's promises proclaimed by His prophets long ago.

It is astounding how many prophecies there were, and how detailed they were. It is as if God created a personprint (think fingerprint but even more unique). The promised Savior would have to match it perfectly, and Jesus did.

While the early church did not celebrate Jesus' birth, we have certainly come to do so. It seems that these celebrations have thoroughly influenced every culture around the globe producing a plethora of Christmas traditions. Some have kept Christ as their focus, like Christmas caroling, while others have strayed far away. These "secular" celebrations have also ushered in the commercialization of Christmas. I'm not too wild about it, but then again, I like to give and receive gifts. So, I am part of the problem. And while there is a part of me that is fascinated with Santa Claus, miracles on 34th street, talking Snowmen, and flying reindeer; none of these things usher in the wonder of this season.

Wonder – a feeling of astonishment, surprise, curiosity, or doubt. Every year I am astonished that God loves me enough to send His one and only Son to save me. John may not have included the Christmas story in His gospel, but he fully expressed the wonder of the season. I am surprised every year that so many people are okay with celebrating the secular side of Christmas but not the sacred. It was a holy night because a holy Child was given to us, an unholy people. I am curious, every year, to learn how God's power to do the impossible back then is still at work transforming people's lives today. And I doubt, every year, that I will ever fully grasp all that God has done for me and you.

As I wander through this most wonderful time of the year, I am encouraged. My faith is strengthened, my compassion finds expression, and my joy is overflowing. So, don't be surprised if I wish you a Merry Christmas. It's my way of hoping that you will be drawn into the wonder of it all too.

Doug

Who's Who in the Pews?



Edward Brodnax: Grew up in Las Cruces, graduated from University of New Mexico in History/Religious Studies. Works as a stay at home Dad. Loves riding his bicycles, fixing bicycles, and military history.

Lia Brodnax: Also grew up in Las Cruces and graduated from New Mexico State University and University of Texas at Austin. Works as a chemical engineer/scientist at the Lab. Loves reading, cooking, and her dogs.

Brodnax kids: Kathleen (14), Erin (11), and John (8). Kathleen is in 8th grade, Erin is 6th grade, and John is in 3rd at the Los Alamos Online Academy this year.

The Frame Game Who is this?



Last month was
Tammy Hinckley

King
of

Kings

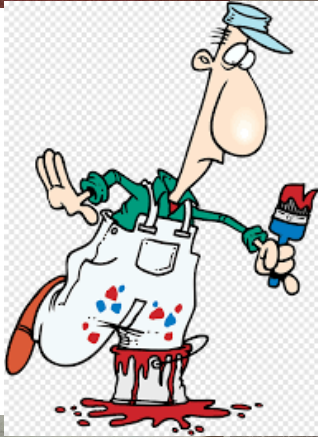
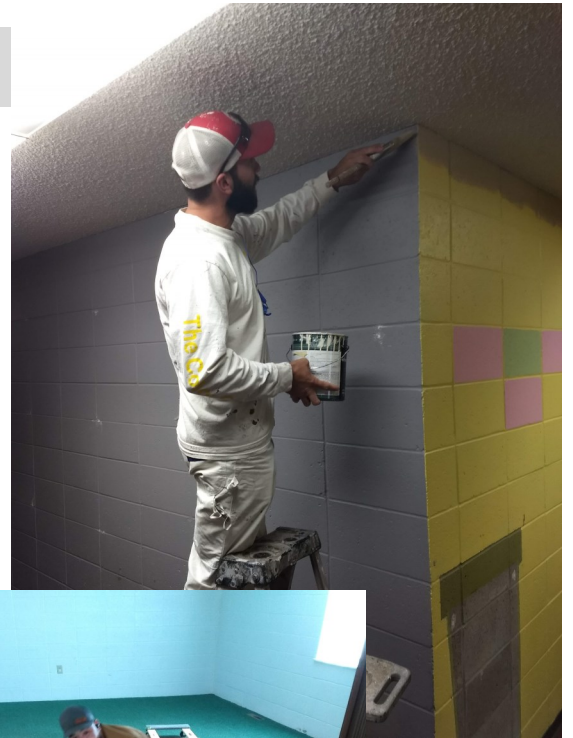
From the mouth's of Little Ones



"Mommy I love you,
I promise I will
never let you're
head pop off"

-Izzy , age 3

Church Redecorating





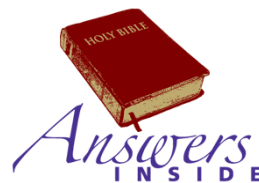
DECEMBER LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

In hopes of encouraging this growing “reunion” we are re-starting our Sunday morning adult Bible Study this Sunday (Nov. 8). It will meet in the fellowship Hall this Sunday at 9:15 AM. We will study the Gospel of Mark. You can also join us online for this study. It will be through the Sunday Morning Bible Study Faithlife group which uses Jitsi Meet (A video chat room – like zoom or google hangouts). If you have not yet set up a faithlife account and joined our church’s faithlife group, you can email me at ccpastor@msn.com and I will send you a link to the Jitsi Meet video chat room on Sunday morning.

We have received a lot of positive responses to the livestream of our services on YouTube. I am glad that it is helping you stay connected with us. You might consider inviting someone to join you at your home on Sunday morning. You could even host a “watch party.” It is easy to do. Just call up some friends with whom you are comfortable gathering, and invite them to watch our live stream with you. We hope to add a “chat” side bar to the livestream so you can connect with others who are also using

it, but we need some volunteers to monitor that before we add this feature.

Another way we are trying to stay connected is through faithlife groups (It is like facebook, but designed for the church). We have an online church group (The Christian Church) and if you join it, you will also get access to Logos Bible Study Software, faithlife TV, and some other Christian resources that are a part of our church’s package. We also have “subgroups” for children, youth, ministry teams, etc... If you are interested in getting connected this way, send me an email saying so, and I will send you an invitation through faithlife to join.



faithlife and Jitsi Meet. Email ccpastor@msn.com to find out more.

2) Wednesday Night Bible Study – 6:30 PM – in the fellowship hall (We will add an online connection to this group via faithlife and Jitsi Meet starting next week). We are in an In-depth Study of 2 Corinthians

3) NEW Sunday Morning Bible Study – 9:15 AM – in the fellowship hall and online – email ccpastor@msn.com to get a link to join live (Good News: The Gospel According to Mark)

Here are a few more ways that you can currently join us “onsite.”

1) Young Adults – Tuesday Nights – 7PM – in the fellowship hall. Our current study is “Sampson a Life Well Wasted.” We also offer an online connection to this group via



In The Old Days



At a work party at the church, Chuck Fite was heard to say, regarding the old church building, "It seemed wherever I stood, I was always positioned behind a pillar." I couldn't agree more with Chuck I always seemed to be looking up at pillars, flesh and blood pillars, that is.

Pastor Bob Murphy was indeed an awesome figure in a young girl's eyes, but he was not too busy to coach me with a few seventh-grade speech assignments, drawing from sermons to illustrate writing and presentation principles. It was a surprise to learn during our discussions that he also experienced stage fright from time to time.

When Lois Rayburn held the other end of my ski poles on a fateful winter day and matter-of-factly stated, "Blind kids can have fun skiing, too" I believed her. Over the years I took in a lot of her good advice as it was frequently served up with hot chocolate or a piece of her famous pie.

One memorable Sunday following Easter service, I was inconsolable, after I experienced "total amnesia" during verses two and three of my solo performance of Blessed Assurance. Some timely reassuring words from Jerry Bauer were the antidote. I needed to sing another song.

And how many questions must my Sunday school teacher, Harold Rayburn, have patiently answered, so that today I could have a relationship with Jesus as my personal Savior?

In the Christian Church of the 1970s and of today, those who venture into our congregation are sure to encounter pillars. It is easy to take their presence for granted because they are always there to lean on and to be a staunch support for our church family.

Memories of Karen Edwards



A Story of Love

Jesus' followers taught that His conception and birth were part of a divine plan to bring us genuine peace, inner freedom, and self-respect. They believed the biblical God wants us to enjoy friendship with Him, and meaning and purpose.

Alas, our own self-centeredness separates us from Him. Left to our own, we would spend both time and eternity in this spiritually unplugged state.

Jesus came to help plug us into God. Mary's baby was born to die, paying the penalty for our self-centeredness, which the biblical documents call "sin." If I had a traffic fine I could not pay, you could offer to pay it for me. When the adult Jesus died on the cross, He carried the penalty due all our sins then rose from the dead to give new life.

Jesus explained, "God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life."[\[19\]](#) God can become your friend if you believe in Him, that is, if you trust Him to forgive you. He will never let you down.

Perhaps you are becoming aware of the importance of the Christmas story in your own life. Might you like to receive Jesus' free gift of forgiveness and place your faith in Him? You can celebrate this Christmas knowing that you are a member of His family. Perhaps you'd like to talk to Him right now. You might want to tell Him something like this:

Jesus Christ, thanks for loving me, for dying for my sins and rising again. Please apply your death as the means of my forgiveness. I accept your pardon. Come and live in me and help me to become your close friend.

If you made that decision to place your trust in Jesus, He has entered your life, forgiven you and given you eternal life. I encourage you to tell another of His followers about your decision and ask them to help you grow in faith. Read the Bible to discover more about God. Begin with the Gospel of John, the fourth book in the New Testament, which is one of the easier ones to understand. Tell God what is on your heart, and tell others about the discovery you've made so they can know Him too.

Christmas is meant to celebrate peace and joy. Amidst the busyness of shopping, parties, presents, and fun, remember that the Prince of Peace came to spread peace and joy to all who believe in Him.

Written by Rusty Wright



In the beginning there was dirt...



And it was good... and light shone upon it



But then the people cried out...

How long Oh Lord, how long must we wait?



And then the Lord answered...

It is finished



TO THOSE WHO MAKE IT POSSIBLE

It takes a great deal of effort and coordination to make our church exist. Many hands go into taking care of the building... preparing the elements and sermon... bringing the music to the service... of course all of the office work and professional details that are a part of everything these days... and of course the love

that you meet every time you walk through the doors... then there are the loving hands that prepare food and service for our marriages and funerals and baptisms and so much more. I have only touched the surface! And let us not forget the children's programs.

We are blessed with a very active membership that sup-

ports this church in all kinds of ways. Many who go about it daily with no expectation of praise. To all who make this church a church...



At the Christian Church, it was Christmas time. There were decorations of every kind.
Even though it was not quite the same, many just loved it, after they came.
With trees and garland and everything shiny, some of the beautiful baubles were tiny!
The work on the outside was nearly done. It was time for celebration and lots of fun!

The lobby was full of our sisters & brothers & sons & daughter & fathers & mothers.
Yes, ever-present were the Covid masks, but everyone accepted this miserable task.
There was Steve at the door with his tester and Phil was waiting for someone to pester,
The Sanctuary gleamed, it was so so pretty, the loveliest church in the whole darn city.

The table in front with the elements in glasses, they were so tiny, "Holy Molasses!"
Cathy and Dorii and Sandy and Gretchen and too many others, too many to mention,
all made the service ring out with joy. I almost forgot Sherri, Mark and James... Oh Boy!

Joe on the drums and Steve on guitar. We wanted it to last more than an hour.
The Smiths & Brodnax & Grosses & Hughes, were just some of the people who sat in the pews
The Hinckleys & Millers & Vincents all sang & the Wilhoit 's & Nolen's voices all rang.
And don't forget the media people, Kayleen and Roy. It was a service for all to enjoy

Bob and Pam and Doug were caroling for the Santa fe inmates once again,
Blaylocks and Dahlbys and Hasselstroms, our whole family including the Andersons,
had little candles in their hands and so did the Harshmans and Irish and Manns.

And when it was done and we all said goodbye to the Tuzels & Greens & Leta, oh my
and Edwards and Lois and all the Fullbrights it was the best of 2020, that Christmas night.

There are just too many I realize now, to get in this poem and tickle somehow.
And the Mertzes too are missing some fame and I'm sorry, also if you don't see your name.
But if you were one, who was left out, don't fear. I'll find a way to embarrass you next year!

So have a great Christmas, my friends
so dear
And remember to keep Jesus VERY... VERY
near!
And look for us again in... Mayhem with the
Mertzes next year

