

Camden Avenue Church of Christ

2900 Camden Avenue Parkersburg, West Virginia 26101

*We are dedicated to seeking the lost while edifying each other in order
that we may all enter the eternal home promised for the faithful.*

Volume 49, Number 51 - December 24, 2017

SEASON'S GREETINGS FROM THE ELDERS, PREACHERS AND STAFF!



**Have a wonderful holiday season and remember to count
your blessings.**

Elders:

Pat Barclay
Jim Galloway
Brian Haught
Paul Inman
Stan Inman
John Life
Ron Riddle
Paul Saunders
Dwain Shears
Dearll Vincent

Deacons:

Kevin Cochran
Marion Goldsmith
Steve Gray
Leonard Haid
Doug Hershman
Jon Hescht
Bill Hoover
Rob Hoover
Kevin Inman
Kyle Inman
Scott Johnson
Todd Kirk
Keith Smith
Jeff Taberner

Ministers:

Dana Slingsluff
304.483.3546

Mark Tonkery
740.350.5713

Camden Avenue Church of Christ

2900 Camden Avenue
Parkersburg, WV
26101

Office: 304.428.0504
Fax: 304.428.0505

E-mail addresses:

Dana
dana.slingsluff@cacoc.net
Mark
preachertonk@cacoc.net
Office
office@cacoc.net

Website:

www.cacoc.net



It's good to be a
Christian and know it,
but it's better to be a
Christian and show it!

John 13:35



Our church family in need of prayers.

Sharon Armstrong, Pat and Kim Barclay, Harvey and Mary Caplinger, Peggy Cowdery, Richard Cozad, Jim Dailey, Sheila Deems, June Freels, Dustin Hughes, Phyllis Johnson, Nancy Kimes, Todd Kirk, Jo Langler, Bill Lemley, Linda Moncrief, Debby Nesselroad, Heather Osburn, Gene and Peggy Phillips, Betty Porter, Jane Pralley, Van and Nancy Putnam, Ray Sams, Bob Smith, Teresa Steed, Dorothy Weaver, Tammie Wilson

Prayers requested for family and friends

Patty Alton, Luann Ayers (Shelley Todd's cousin), Leo Blair (Robin Anthony's brother), Gert Barnes, Bob Boyce, Kelly Boyce, Melissa Burgess (Friend of Robin Anthony), Elijah Clark, Casey Freeman (Friend of Brenda Dougherty), Elvis Galbreath, Malissa Hackathorn (Jerry and Shelly Todd's friend), Tony Haid (Len's son), Jean Huber (Clayton's mother), Harold Kirby (Bev Rine's father), John Knotts (Billie Coe's co-worker), Barbara Richards (Jean Martin's sister), Ron Richards (Courtney Richards' father-in-law), Helen Ruble, Rick Travis (Jerry Todd's cousin), Angel White (Eloise Smith's niece), Wilma White (Kay Stanley's aunt), Donna Vincent (Dearll Vincent's sister-in-law), Merl White (Terry Hofmann's father), Susan Williams (Friend of Don and Brenda Dougherty), Linda Wires (Sister of Susan Haid and Richard Marshall)

Congratulations to Kyle and Brittany Knotts in the birth of Brylee Ann Knotts. She arrived December 20 weighing 7 lbs, 10 oz and 19.5 inches. Congratulations to big sister, Madalynn and grandparents, Brian and Ann Knotts.

Please remember Debby Nesselroad in your prayers and remember her with cards.

Address: 78 Wyndham Knob, Parkersburg, WV 26104



Phyllis Johnson wishes everyone a Happy Holiday and Happy New Year!

(Please continue to remember her with prayers, cards and visits.)

- ♥ Thank you to everyone for the birthday cards I received. I enjoyed them very much. **Jean Martin**
- ♥ Thank you for the birthday and holiday cards. **Allen Coe**
- ♥ Thank you for the lovely birthday cards. Each one was very special to me. Also, thank you for the wonderful holiday cards!
In Christian love, **Tammy Kerns**

Thank you to **Kay Mills** and **Eloise Smith** for the homemade goodies in the church office. We enjoyed the cookies and candies!



LOVE AND CARE SING

There will not be a sing at Love and Care tomorrow evening.

NEW YEARS EVE GET-TOGETHER

Everyone is invited to a New Years Eve get-together in the MP Room next Sunday after evening services. Bring board games and snack foods. Money will be collected for pizza.

SACK THE PULPIT

Items requested for the church pantry include: saltine crackers, peanut butter, jelly, spaghetti sauce, pasta, pancake mix, pancake syrup, macaroni and cheese, boxed cereals, canned potatoes, canned corn, canned meats, canned soups, canned fruit. Items may be left in the front of the auditorium.

FIRST PRINCIPLES SUNDAY BIBLE CLASS

Mark Tonkery will be teaching a Sunday morning First Principles class beginning January 7 in Room 112. If you are interested in this class, please sign the sheet on the counter. We need to know if we have enough interest.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL MEETING

Vacation Bible School meeting January 7 at 5:00 PM to discuss date and theme.

DANA'S "I CAN'T BELIEVE IT'S NOT A HOLIDAY" DINNER

Dana and Cindy invite everyone to the "I Can't Believe It's Not A Holiday" dinner at Western Sizzlin' Monday, January 15 at 5:30PM. Sign-up sheet is on the counter for an attendance count.

AREA-WIDE SERVICE

The area-wide service will be Sunday, January 14 at 2:30PM at the Lubeck congregation.

HOLIDAY CARDS

Please check the boxes in the rear auditorium foyer for your holiday cards.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Happy Birthday tomorrow to Carol Collins, Amanda Cochran's mother. Also, happy belated birthday to Tempe Inman. Her birthday was Thursday.

Watch **"IN SEARCH OF THE LORD'S WAY"** each Sunday morning at 7:30 on WTAP, Dish Channel 239, Sunday 7:00AM, DIRECT TV Channel 307 Sunday 7:00AM, Local cable Channel 4 Sunday 6:30AM, GBN Sunday 7:00PM, Monday 2:00PM, Thursday 5:00PM.

December 31 Topic - THE FUTURE



Daily Reading - Bible classes

December 25 - Ruth 3
December 26 - Ruth 4
December 28 - Judges 17:6;18:1;19:1;21:25
December 29 - Ruth 1
December 30 - Ruth 2

I will
GIVE THANKS
to you, Lord, with all
my heart.

Psalm 9:1

Daily Bible Reading

December 24 - Revelation 14, Habakkuk 1-3
December 25 - Revelations 15-16, Zephaniah 1-3
December 26 - Revelation 17, Haggai 1-2
December 27 - Revelation 18, Zechariah 1-5
December 28 - Revelation 19, Zechariah 6-8
December 29 - Revelation 20, Zechariah 9-11
December 30 - Revelation 21, Zechariah 12-14
December 31 - Revelation 22, Malachi 1-4

DANA'S DIRECTION

"Peace on Earth"



Ironic! Several years ago, at Christmastime it was reported that two dozen gunmen had seized Town Hall in Bethlehem, holding the local governor at bay. Of course news of violence, radical religious extremism and unrest are daily news from this part of the world, And yet, two thousand years ago, an angel of the Lord appeared to shepherds in this same land and announced. "We bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people, for there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior who is Christ the Lord...and there was with the angel a multitude of heavenly host praising God and saying "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace and goodwill to men" (Luke 2:9-14).

I have been asked "Whatever happened to this promise of peace? If the coming of Jesus into the world was meant to bring peace - it certainly never happened! War, crime, civil unrest and rebellion continue to prevail in the world."

My answer is: "Jesus did bring peace!" How do I know? "He brought peace to me!" Jesus promised peace, not to the world on a wholesale basis, but to each individual who loves Him and will keep His word. (John 14:23) He said "Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled neither let it be afraid." (John 14:27)

The reason that man is troubled and afraid is because he has been alienated by sin from the God who loves and has created us. "Your iniquities have separated you from your God and your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear." (Isaiah 59:1-2) Thomas Aquinas correctly stated that man "cannot rest until he rests in Thee." The purpose of Jesus' coming into the world was to die on the cross - so the just penalty for our sins could be paid. Once our sin had been atoned for by the blood of Jesus - God was free to offer us forgiveness and reconciliation. By the sacrifice of Jesus, God "reconciled all things to Himself...having made peace through the blood of His cross. And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled." (Colossians 1:21-22)

Because of the cross of Jesus, I am at peace with God. No longer do I have to be worried about the sins of my past - they have been forgiven! No longer do I have to fear the Judgment - I am justified by the blood of Jesus. Because of Jesus, I have a relationship with God that is based upon love and characterized by hope and the assurance of salvation.

Because Jesus came, not only do we have peace with God, we are also at peace with ourselves. Sin is such a destructive force in the lives of every man. Whether we realize it or not, the sinner is tormented by the guilt of how his actions have hurt both God and his fellowman. Jesus not only offers us peace with God, but He also teaches us to live in peace. In Isaiah 48:18 God lamented, "Oh that you had heeded My commandments! Then your peace would have been like a river."

Living by God's commands not only will bring peace in our own life, it will also allow us to live in peace with one another. I have seen countless examples of dissension between neighbors, families and friends that have been resolved peacefully because the spirit of God prevailed. Jesus said "Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called the children of God." (Matthew 5:9)

I recently saw a bumper sticker that said it all: Know Jesus - Know peace. No Jesus - No peace! The only way for man to have true peace with God, himself and his fellowman is by obedience to the gospel. That is why the scripture says "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, who bring glad tidings of good things." (Romans 10:15)

“Jesus is Lord”

(I Timothy 6:12-16)



“He who is the _____ and only _____, the _____ of Kings and _____ of Lords, who alone has _____, dwelling in _____ light, whom no man has _____ or can see, to whom be _____ and everlasting _____.” (I Timothy 6:15-16)

Vain Religious Titles. “Holy and _____ is His name.” (Psalm 111:9) **Jesus _____ exalting men by using religious titles.** “But you, do not be called _____, for One is your _____, the _____ and you are all _____. Do not call anyone on earth your _____; for One is your _____, He who is in _____.” (Matthew 23:8-9)

Jesus Christ is _____. Having _____ or _____; a master or a _____. “You call Me _____ and _____, and you say well, for so I am.” (John 13:13) **Peter announced** “Let all the house of Israel know, assuredly, that God has made this _____, whom you have _____ both _____ and _____.” (Acts 2:36)

What does Jesus’ _____ mean? “All _____ has been given unto Me in _____ and on _____.” (Matthew 28:18)

Jesus has all _____ in _____. “This Jesus God has _____ up... being _____ to the _____ hand of God.” (Acts 2:32-33) **He will be our _____.** “For we must all appear before the _____ seat of Christ.” (II Corinthians 5:10)

Jesus has all _____ on _____. “And put all things _____ His feet, and gave Him to be _____ over all things to the _____.” (Eph. 1:23) **He is the _____ of the family. He is the _____ of every _____.** “But I want you to know that the head of every man is _____, the head of _____ is man, the head of Christ is _____.” (I Cor. 11:3)

Because Jesus is Lord we must _____ Him. “God has spoken to us by His _____.” (Hebrews 1:2) **His word has complete _____.** “Teaching them to _____ all things that I have _____ you.” (Matthew 28:20) **Only His word can _____.** “If we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other _____ to you that what we have preached...let him be _____.” (Galatians 1:6-8) “The _____ that I have spoken, the same shall _____ him in the Last days.” (John 12:48)

Because Jesus is Lord we must _____ to Him. “Why do you call me ‘_____, Lord’ and not _____ the things which I say?” (Luke 6:46) “Not everyone who says unto me ‘_____’, will enter into the kingdom of heaven, but he who _____ the will of my _____ who is in heaven.” (Matthew 7:21)

Some day _____ everyone will _____ that Jesus is _____. “At the name of _____ every knee should _____... and that every _____ should confess that Jesus is _____.” (Philippians 2:9-11)

Be here this evening. Mark will be preaching.

Title: A baby changes everything Scripture Reading: Ruth 4:13-17



Tonk Talk by Mark T. Tonkery

Why are there “Christmas Carols” in our hymnbook?

This time of the year we can hear “Christmas Carols” almost anywhere. Although these songs are very popular during this time of year one can also find several “Christmas Carols” in our hymnbook. Why?

To answer this question, we need to understand that the earliest carol, was written in 1410, only small fragments of it still exists today. The carol was about Mary and Jesus meeting different people in Bethlehem. Most carols from this time and the Elizabethan period are untrue stories, very loosely based on the Christmas story, and were entertaining rather than religious songs.

It is also important to note that “Christmas” as we understand it once failed universal recognition until about 1900. As of the nineteenth century it was not even consider a legal holiday.

If one would notice the dates of the songs in our hymnbook one would notice that many of the songs we sometimes called “Christmas Carols” were written before the nineteenth century, before Christmas became what it is today. Many of these “Christmas Carols” were first written as hymns and only later used as “Christmas Carols” as the idea of “Christmas” became popular.

For example, the hymn Joy to The World first published in 1719 by Isaac Watts.

Isaac Watts wrote many hymns and one of those that survive today is Joy to the World. Which is Isaac Watts’ interpretation of Psalm 98; he pondered the real reason for shouting joyfully to the Lord – the Messiah has come to redeem us and reigns over everything.

During the life of Isaac Watts, it was the custom of churches to only sing songs from the book of Psalms. Isaac Watts felt that Christians were being limited by just singing the Psalms and Christians needed to sing about New Testament teachings. “Taking various Psalms, he studied them from the perspective of Jesus and the New Testament, and then formed them into verses for singing” (p.25).

If one will carefully read the words of Joy to the World it is not talking about the birth of Christ alone but the joy of the entirety of Jesus coming to this world and providing the way of salvation. One can also read Jn. 1:17; Heb. 1; Col.1:15-28 and Lk. 19:40 and see how this song captures the whole teaching of the New Testament scriptures.

Joy to the World was not meant to be sung once a year but meant to be sung regularly and often throughout the year proclaiming the joy we have in Christ. It is a very biblical song, Jesus did come to this world, He is the Savior who reigns, Christ’s blessings must and should spread into all the world, and Christ does rule the world with truth and grace.

If those who sung this song would grasp it’s meaning they would see that this is a powerful hymn proclaiming the truth of the entire New Testament. “Joy to the world, the Lord is come!” We are reminded in Heb. 2:12, “... I will declare thy name unto my brethren, In the midst of the congregation will I sing thy praise.”

May we sing with joy, in spirit and in truth, that Jesus Christ is the only true Savior that reigns!

Taken from: http://www.whychristmas.com/customs/carols_history.shtml

Taken from: Morgan, Robert J. Then Sings My Soul Book 2. Thomas Nelson, Nashville, Tennessee. 2004.

Minute of Meditation by Mark Tonkery

Heard on 91.0 AM WLTP



Anissa Ayaca of Los Angeles needed a bone marrow transplant to save her from leukemia. Her parents, age 44 and 42, had another baby to save her life.

It is not the first time that a baby was a savior.

The Bible tells us in Galatians 4:4-5 “But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.”

Hearing these verses, our minds may go back to the words the angel spoke to Joseph about Mary, by saying “She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins” (Matthew 1:21).

The Bible points out, Christ’s birth was an essential part of God’s plan of Salvation.

Jesus grew and later offered Himself to die upon the cross and then He was raised from the dead on the third day, for the sins of all people.

Jesus is the Savior of the world.

I am Mark T. Tonkery with a minute of meditation from the Camden Avenue church of Christ where you are always welcome.

Youth Section

Kingdom Forward Student Conference will be January 5-7

(Hosted by: Belle and Alum Creek Churches of Christ, WV) at the Charleston Civic Center
For middle school through college ages **Sign-up today.** See Mark Tonkery for more information.

North End congregation will host an area-wide youth day next Saturday starting at noon and concluding around 4:30. Please bring \$5 for two games of bowling and shoe rental.

Sunrise congregation will host the traveling youth group and a New Years Eve get-together next Sunday evening. Their service begins at 6:00.

LADS TO LEADERS - LEADERETTES MEETING

There will be a Lads to Leaders/Leaderettes meeting January 7 after PM services in Room 109. This is for everyone that is involved with Lads to Leaders (participants, adults, and coordinators). We will go over the details for the upcoming pre-convention events. If you are planning on going to convention this year and I have not spoken to you, please see me as soon as you can.

Todd Kirk



'Twas the night before Jesus came

'Twas the night before Jesus came and all through the house
 Not a creature was praying, not one in the house.
 Their Bibles were lain on the shelf without care
 In hopes that Jesus would not come there.
 The children were dressing to crawl into bed.
 Not once ever kneeling or bowing a head.
 And Mom in her rocker with baby on her lap
 Was watching the Late Show while I took a nap.
 When out of the East there arose such a clatter.
 I sprang to my feet to see what was the matter.
 Away to the window I flew like a flash
 Tore open the shutters and threw open the sash!
 When what to my wondering eyes should appear
 But angels proclaiming that Jesus was here
 What a light like the sun sending forth a bright ray
 I knew in a moment this must be THE DAY!
 The light of His face made me cover my head
 It was Jesus! Returning just like He had said.
 And though I possessed worldly wisdom and wealth,
 I cried when I saw Him in spite of myself.
 In the Book of Life which He held in His hand,
 Was written the name of every saved man.
 He spoke not a word as He searched for my name;
 When He said "It's not here" my head hung in shame.
 The people whose names had been written with love
 He gathered to take to His Father above.
 With those who were ready He rose without a sound
 While all the rest were left standing around.
 I fell to my knees. But it was too late:
 I had waited too long and thus sealed my fate.
 I stood and I cried as they rose out of sight;
 Oh, if only I had been ready tonight.
 In the words of this poem the meaning is clear:
 The coming of Jesus is drawing near.
 There's only one life and when comes the last call
 We'll find that the Bible was true after all!

Opportunities To Serve

Sunday, December 31

ELDER IN CHARGE - Dwain Shears

DEACON IN CHARGE - Len Haid

SONG LEADERS

AM - Rick Stanley

PM - Jim Galloway

PRAYER

9:30 AM - Clayton Huber

Close - Bill Mills

6:00 PM - Walter Morgan

Close - Rob Hoover

SCRIPTURE

AM - Brandon Sheppard

PM - Dennis Keller

COMMUNION

AM - Ron Riddle

PM - Don Gaston

Doug Hershman

PA SYSTEM - Steve Gray

DOOR GREETERS

AM 1 - Dearll Vincent

2 - Jeff Taberner

3 - Julie Taberner

1. Chris & Patty Mullins
2. Scott & Gwen Johnson
3. Stan & Debi Inman
4. Patrick & Bev Rine
5. Mike & Teresa Wade
6. Addie Miller & Betty Lamb

Facts and Figures

December 17, 2017

AM Service.....273

Bible Study.....175

PM Service.....172

Wednesday.....218

Contribution\$6813.00

MEMBERSHIP FOR 2017

Baptisms.....1

Restored or Requested

Prayers.....3

Placed Membership.....2

Services Times

Sunday

AM Worship.....9:30

Bible Study.....11:00

PM Worship.....6:00

Wednesday

Bible Study....11:00AM & 7:00PM