

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 50, Number 51 ~ December 23, 2018

Pat
Barclay

Stan
Inman

Paul
Saunders

Mark
Tonkery

Cody and
Kristi Hoover



Jim
Galloway

John
Life

Dearll
Vincent

Wes
Cochran

Kimberlee
Shears

Season's Greetings to you and yours from the
Elders, Mark and staff.

Elders:

Pat Barclay
Jim Galloway
Stan Inman
John Life
Paul Saunders
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:

Mark Tonkery
740.350.5713

Doug Wells
330.231.8097

Camden Avenue Church of Christ

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No matter how
hard life can
get, go to bed
grateful for all
you have.



*Sometimes all it
takes is prayer to
change everything.*

Our church family in need of prayers.

Russ Alton, Sharon Armstrong, Colleen Ash, Pat Barclay, Harvey Caplinger Sr, Peggy Cowdery, Richard Cozad, Jim Dailey, Jim Henry, Phyllis Johnson, Nancy Kimes, Bill and Mary Lemley, Linda Moncrief, Debby Nesselroad, Gene and Peg Phillips, Ed Porter, Jane Pralley, Ron Riddle, Van Putnam, Ray Sams, Eloise Smith, Valeria Sprout, Lenore Vaught, Mike Wade

Prayers requested for family and friends

Cindy Adkins (Kassi's mother-in-law), Patty Alton, David Balderson (Sallie Hinzman's brother), Bob Boyce, Kelly Boyce, Diane Bowling (Madeline Gregg's neighbor), Paul DuVall (Terry Hofmann's cousin), Casey Freeman (Don and Brenda Dougherty's friend), Paula Garner (Julie Moser's mother), Malissa Hackathorn (Jerry and Shelly Todd's friend), Charles (Bill) Haid, Tony Haid, Jim & Jean Huber (Clayton's parents), Dolores Kemp (Friend of Mary Nesselroad), Sue Nelson (Chris Hofmann's aunt), Ron Richards (Courtney Richards' father-in-law), John Rockhold, Leonard Shears, Ronnie Smith (Keith Smith's brother), Penny Spaur (Cotton and Patty Sayre's daughter), Kimberly Wade (Marvin and Arrahwanna McMasters' daughter)

Mike Wade is home recovering from knee surgery.
Keep him in your prayers and remember him with cards.

Please remember Len Haid's brother, Bill, in your prayers and with cards of encouragement. He is experiencing health issues.

Charles (Bill) Haid

224 Garrison Avenue, Charleston, WV 25302

Scott Coffey "Scooter" is in The Willows (Room 217). He would enjoy visits.

Jo Langler is to have eye surgery January 3.

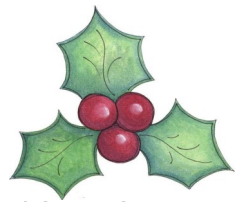


Thank You

- ♥ Thank you one and all for another year of kindness and remembrance, especially for your prayers, visits and cards. In Christian love, **Jane Pralley**
- ♥ Thank you for all the wellness cards, Harvey enjoyed them all. He is healing nicely. Hopes to be back with his church family in the near future. Thank you for all your prayers. **Harvey and Mary Caplinger**
 - Thank you to all those that provided food for the Youth Holiday Breakfast. Everyone had a great time!

A special **THANK YOU** to Laura Tonkery and Eloise Smith for the cookies and goodies. We sure enjoyed the sweet treats at the office.

Church News and Announcements



MEETING TODAY

There will be a meeting today after Bible study in Room 112 for anyone interested in going to Palo Alto, FL to work with the Churches of Christ Disaster Response Team for a few days in January. There will be a meeting this evening after services in Room 112 for those unable to meet this morning.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 26 BIBLE CLASSES

Mark will teach the 11:00AM Bible study this Wednesday. Wednesday evening all classes will remain in the auditorium for a singing and devotional service.

LOVE AND CARE SING

Please note: There will not be a sing at Love and Care December 31 due to the holidays.

NEW YEAR'S EVE GET-TOGETHER

Everyone is invited to a New Year's Eve get-together for all ages in the MP Room December 31 starting at 8:00 with devotional at 10:00. Bring \$2 for pizza and snacks to go with pizza. Sign-up sheet on the counter.

JANUARY 2 DINNER

Everyone is invited to a dinner with the OVU Women's Basketball team in the MP Room Wednesday, January 2 at 5:30.

LOVE AND CARE SERVICES

Care Group 1 will conduct the 2:30 service at Love and Care Sunday, January 6 and 7:00PM Thursday, January 10. Everyone is encouraged to attend.

HOLIDAY CARDS

Please check the boxes in the rear auditorium foyer for your holiday cards. Feel free to distribute to others.

REMINDER

Melva would like to recycle holiday card envelopes. She uses envelopes to distribute coupons. Envelopes may be left in her file in the card box at the rear auditorium foyer.

Save the date! CYC February 21-22 Pigeon Forge

Traveling Youth Group at the Hopewell congregation next Sunday for their 6:00PM service.

Daily Bible Reading

December 23 - Revelation 13, Nahum 1-3
December 24 - Revelation 14, Habakkuk 1-3
December 25 - Revelations 15-16, Zephaniah 1-3
December 26 - Revelation 17, Haggai 1-3
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



“We can’t help **EVERONE** but **EVERYONE** can help someone.”

Ronald Reagan



Tonk Talk by Mark T. Tonkery

The Origin of Christmas, Dec. 25

Many people during this time of year ask if Christmas is really Christ's Birthday. Maybe the following information will help each one of us to answer this question:

In the year AD 274, the winter solstice fell on December 25 as *Natalis Solis Invicti*, the festival of the birth of the invincible sun. In AD 354, Philocalus wrote a Christian martyrology that dates the nativity of Jesus Christ on December 25, and cites an earlier work as backup. From this we can deduce that Christmas was celebrated on the present date as early as AD 335 in Rome. It may be that Christmas was set on this day to supplant the pagan feast. Hippolytus and Tertullian, two early church fathers that lived before the Nicene Council set up our present method of determining the date of Easter, by using March 25 as the date of Easter. If this is also the origin of considering March 25 to be the date of Christ's conception, then it is possible that December 25 was calculated from March 25 so that Christmas might be older than the *Natalis Solis Invicti*. However, there is no evidence dating earlier than AD 335 that Christmas was even celebrated, let alone on December 25. Also there is no date mentioned in the Bible or elsewhere when Jesus' birth took place.

It is also interesting to note that Christmas failed universal recognition until recently. In the early part of our Nations history Christmas was legally banned, because of the many pagan influences that had formed Christmas. As of the nineteenth century it was not even consider a legal holiday. Also, nowhere, in the New Testament is there record of Christians celebrating Christmas as Christ's birth.

So what does this mean? I believe that the Bible teaches us that the peace Christ brought, the spirit of giving, the attitude of helpfulness, the value of family and the care we show one another during this holiday season is not to be limited to December. Christians are to live their lives like this everyday of the week (Rom. 12:1-2; 14:5) and not just once a day, month, or once a year.

Many may ask, is it wrong to think about Christ's birth? Is it wrong to preach and teach about Christ's birth? Is it wrong to sing songs about Jesus being born in a manger? Is it wrong to give gifts and help those who are needy? Is it wrong to send cards with notes of encouragement? No, unless this is the only time we think and sing about Christ and do good deeds. Christ wants to be apart of our everyday life and not just once a year. Christ's birth is part of the Gospel, it must be preached, and it must be celebrated daily.

"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.

(Gal 4:4,5)

Written by Mark T. Tonkery

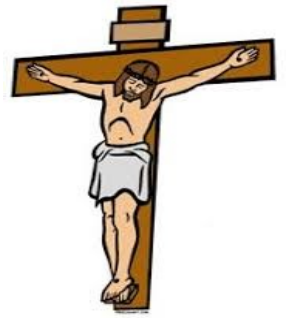
*Season Greetings and Happy Holidays from
Mark, Laura, Breanna, and Samantha Tonkery*

SERMON NOTES

Jesus is...The Christ

Scripture Reading:

Text: John 20:30-31



Over 500 times in the New Testament Jesus is identified as _____.

Many people today think that "Christ" is the last name of Jesus, it is not it is His _____.

Christ or Messiah means - _____

The Prophets, Priests, and Kings of Israel were all considered - _____.

So it is fitting the Jesus is Christ - _____.

I. Jesus is _____

A. _____

II. Jesus is _____

A. _____

III. Jesus is _____

A. _____

Sunday Evening Sermon

Amazing Facts About Jesus' Birth

Scripture Reading:

Matthew 1:18-22



LEAD WELL

I think it is in our nature to search out heroes. Or, if you are uncomfortable with that, let's call them role models. We want to find people who we can trust. This is especially true spiritually. There is great comfort in Paul's words when he says: "Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ" (1 Corinthians 11:1). What do I do in this situation? What should I say to this person? How does this verse apply to my life? I don't know – but I know if I look at what Paul does and says I'll get some really good insight. I suppose that's what we want in these heroes, it's very difficult to figure everything out ourselves. I freely confess that when I'm in an unfamiliar situation I'm looking around to see what other people are doing. If I have a go-to guy to look to in order to see the right way to act that does make life a lot easier.

Of course, there are limitations to this approach. Any hero short of Jesus is not going to be perfect. Sometimes I might observe a behavior that is not the best way to do things, and then I'll copy that. I might even go so far to say something like, "well, it worked for [insert hero here] so it's good enough for me." Right . . . but if you could do better why wouldn't you? The other problem is that I have to be very careful in who I pick to be a role-model for me. Solomon lamented that he only found one upright man among a thousand (Ecclesiastes 7:28). And Jesus teaches that if my guide is really blind we are both going to fall into a pit (Matthew 15:14).

Considering all this, you can imagine how important it is for a church to have good leaders. For better or for worse, people are going to look to those who are leading the congregation. If the leaders are following Christ all is well. They will help many others follow Christ too. But if they aren't then bad attitudes and practices will spread as others come to believe that since [insert elder/deacon/preacher here] does it then it must be okay. So let all those who love the Lord pray for our leaders! So much depends on them. And praise the Lord mightily if your leaders really do follow the example of Christ.

Written by Doug Wells

(This article is written by Doug Wells, who has recently been hired to work with our congregation. His articles have been featured in the bulletin to get to know him a little better. Please keep Doug and his family in your prayers as they prepare to make this transition).



December is Sack the Pulpit

Items requested:

Canned potatoes
Instant Potatoes
Canned Baked Beans
Vegetable Soup
Chef Boyardee
Canned carrots
Canned Meats (Chicken, Vienna Sausage, etc.)
Crackers
Breakfast cereals
Pancake mix and syrup
Canned peaches/fruit cocktail
Mac n cheese
Ramen Noodles
Peanut butter
Jelly

Items may be left on either side of the pulpit.

Minute of Meditation by Mark T. Tonkery

Heard on 910 AM WLTP

Benjamin Franklin is noted as starting the trend to light the streets of Philadelphia with lanterns. He did not try to persuade the people in the city by talking about it. Instead, he hung a beautiful lantern on a long bracket before his own door.

Then, he kept the glass polished, and carefully lit the wick every evening as dusk approached. It was not long before Franklin's neighbors began placing lanterns in front of their homes. Soon, the entire city was hanging lanterns and the city saw the value of street lights.

This is a good reminder if I want a better society, a better family, and even a better church it is up to me to "light my lantern."

Jesus once stated, Mat. 5:16, "In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is heaven."

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



Opportunities To Serve

Sunday, December 30

ELDER IN CHARGE - Jim Galloway

DEACON IN CHARGE - Scott Johnson

SONG LEADERS

AM - Kyle Inman

PM - Clayton Huber

PRAYER

9:30 AM - Bill Hoover T

Close - Jeff Taberner

6:00 PM - Stan Inman

Close - Brian Haught

SCRIPTURE

AM - Dwain Shears

PM - Steve Moser

COMMUNION

AM - Don Gaston

PM - Ron Riddle

Scott Smith

PA SYSTEM - Steve Gray

DOOR GREETERS

AM 1 - Herb Wright

2 - Tammy Kerns

3 - Joyce Wright

PM

1. Dana Sponseller & Ben Haught

2. Hannah Shears & Jordan Kirk

* Doors 3 and 4 - Unattended *

5. Sonya Hescht & Sherry Wilcox

6. Don & Sheri Gaston



May your **Home** be warm,
your **Holidays** grand,
and may your **Heart** be held gently
in the Lord's hands.

Facts and Figures

December 16, 2018

AM Service.....285

Bible Study.....175

PM Service.....206

Wednesday.....199

Contribution.....\$7127.00

MEMBERSHIP FOR 2018

Baptisms.....2

Restored or Requested Prayers...5

Placed Membership.....6

Services Times

Sunday

AM Worship.....9:30

Bible Study...15 min. after worship

PM Worship.....6:00

Wednesday

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

Winter Series

Each Thursday 7:00-8:00PM

January 10-31

Dewey Avenue Church of Christ

St. Mary's, WV

Speakers: Greg Yost, Mark Tonkery, Skip Andrews, Randy Baker

One Day Lectureship 2019

Sunday, January 13

Bridgeport Church of Christ

Speakers: Mike Phillips, Skip Andrews, Mike Reese

Flyers on foyer bulletin boards

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 30 - OUR RECORD