

# The Messenger

COLDWATER CHURCH OF CHRIST

Dec 14, 2014



## Keeping Jesus in the Manger

It is that time of year again! Lights and other decorations of red and green adorn our houses and public buildings. Malls and shopping centers are filled to capacity with eager shoppers in search of the perfect gifts for their friends and loved ones. December 25th is recognized by many as "the most wonderful time of the year" because of the giving and receiving of gifts and the drawing together of family. However, to many the significance of this holiday is the celebration and recognition of the Savior's birth. Though it is wonderful when one chooses to reflect upon the life of our Lord here on earth, for many this is the only time of year where such a reflection is made. It also seems as though more attention is given to the "Nativity Scene" than to the preceding life of Christ. Their focus tends to be on the infant rather than who He was to become.

By the actions and priorities of the majority of society, it seems as though they would like to keep the Lord in the manger.

The account of Christ's birth is fundamental to the Gospel. When Matthew began recording the beginning events of the Gospel, he ...

*This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you... (1 John 1:5).*

**VISITORS,  
WELCOME!**

Sunday:

9:30 a.m. Bible Class

10:30 a.m. WORSHIP

1:00 p.m. WORSHIP

Wednesday:

7:00 p.m. Bible Class

We have Bible classes for  
all ages & Pew Packers  
each Sunday at 12:30

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### ELDERS

Billy Bland

Seth Daniel

Jim Jackson

W. Timothy Wilkes, Sr.

### DEACONS

Jason Bayless Jared Brown

Jerry Davis Jeffrey Ferrell

Ron Johnson Andy Ratliff

Joe Owen Tim Wilkes, II

### PREACHER

Clifton Angel

... wrote "now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise" (Matt 1:18). It was precisely on that wise that the Lord's incarnation as man was foretold by the prophets of old, thus "now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet" (Matthew 1:22). The writer then quotes the words of the prophet in Isaiah 7:14 which gave details to the event. In addition to the fulfillment of prophecy, this account is significant because of the humble nature of His birth. However, too many focus on this portion of His life as if there were no more to it. They would rather see baby Jesus than see the man who cleared the temple of the moneychangers or who later brought the price of sin to man's attention. After all, man would owe no gratitude--no personal responsibility to an infant in a manger.

What if there were no more to the life of Christ than His miraculous birth and humble beginning? While these things are indeed important and beautiful, they are but a small part of the vast mosaic which is the account of our Savior's life. When the angel of the Lord appeared unto Joseph in a dream, he was told to name the child Jesus, "for He shall save His people from their sins" (Matthew 1:21). After leaving the manger, "the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom: and the grace of God was upon him" (Luke 2:40). He began His ministry at the age of thirty, teaching and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, confirming the message by healing (Matthew 4:23; 9:35; cf Mark 16:20). Throughout His life He remained sinless, a quality which enabled Him to carry out His mission to be our sin offering (2 Corinthians 5:21). This sacrifice was realized when He selflessly gave Himself to die on the cruel cross of calvary. If the child had never left the manger, there would be no hope of salvation for us. When one limits his view of Christ to the precious little babe in Bethlehem, he doesn't see who the child became and all that He did for mankind.

Perhaps while leaving the Lord in the manger, many also choose to leave the seeking up to the shepherds and magi. It is essential to one's salvation that he seek the Lord. On one occasion our Lord said "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me" (John 14:6). The Hebrews writer stated that "without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him" (Hebrews 11:6 emp. added). Therefore in order to be reconciled and rewarded one must seek the Son! This can be done in the obedience of His Word. This is clearly seen in James' assessment that "of His own will begat He us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of first-fruits of his creatures" (James 1:18). Every December 25th multitudes of people celebrate the miraculous birth of Jesus, never to seek the Savior He became, but instead to seek worldly pleasure and revelry only five days later.

When one leaves the Lord in the manger and leaves the seeking to the shepherds, it only follows that he would leave the offering up to the magi. Christmas pageants and carols ...

... throughout the country recount how the wise men made their journey to Jesus, guided by a star, bearing gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. Many acknowledge and accept this account without so much as asking themselves "what do I have in offering to the Lord?" Man is expected to render his reverent service to the Lord. Paul wrote in his epistle to the Romans, "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service" (Romans 12:1). In addition to offering one's self by living for Him, one must continually give an offering of praise and worship in spirit and in truth (John 4:24). It was a command when the Holy Spirit through the hand of Paul proclaimed "let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord" (Col 3:16). Because the righteous seek the home prepared for them, they must "offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to His name" (Hebrews 13:15).

It is precious when you choose to meditate on the birth of his Lord and Savior no matter what day of the year it happens to be. In fact, Christ's entire life should be the focus of your daily meditation for as long as the breath is within you. When the Savior stated "this cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me," it was a practice to be done on the first day of every week (1 Corinthians 11:25; cf 1 Corinthians 16:2; Acts 2:42; 20:7). Let us focus on His whole life often, always remembering His sacrifice and what it means for mankind.

—written by **Steven Rogers**

This article and others like it can be found at [www.thefp.net](http://www.thefp.net)

## UPCOMING YOUTH EVENTS

1. New Year's Youth Lock-In at Thyatira  
For youth, 6th grade & up, and any adults that would like to help chaperone. Intentions are to go to SkyZone, then rendezvous at Thyatira church building for devotionals, fun, & games throughout the night & morning.
2. Jan 17: Bible Bowl @ Independence  
4 pm, Genesis 43–45

REMEMBER NOW THY  
**CREATOR** Ecclesiastes 12:1

## Sermon Review

### THE GREATEST BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT

(Luke 1:26–38)

- I. His Conception
- II. His Commonality
- III. His Calling

### NOTHING PURE

(Titus 1:15)

- I. The Definition
- II. The Demand
- III. The Direction

# NEWS & NOTES

## Please Pray

**Rebecca Brown** & family, in loss of her father Allen Bulla, funeral was Thursday; **Jeffrey Ferrell** & family in loss of his mother, Janet Colvett, funeral was Saturday; **Spencer, Ferrell, & Colvett** families in tragic loss of Alex Spencer; **Wiley & Betty Tuggle**; **Helen Bowman**.

**NetCasters**

**Fishers of Men**

**Far East Missions**

## Family & Friends

**Jimmy Colvett**, in loss of Janet; **Tyler Smart**, suffered many injuries in car accident, at Med improving; **Jason Spencer**, several serious health problems & loss of wife and son this year; **Bill Fleming**, Billie Martin's father; **Joy Angel**; **John Smith**, Grace's brother-in-law, colon cancer; **Andrew Jones**, friend to Weslyn, battling cancer; **Elizabeth Baker**; **John & Anita Simpson** and family; **Paul Perkins**, Mischel's father; **Janie Brister**; **Ray Hendrix**, lymphoma; **Carole Livsey**, Clifton's aunt, lymphoma; **Trent Childers**; **Amanda Cummings**, young mother with cancer; **Danielle Key**, young mother with cancer; **Andy's grandmother**; **Carla Carlson**; **Ava Roten**, **Brett Rutherford**; **Frankie Burfield**, cancer; **Jack Higginbotham**; **Tasha Higginbotham**; **Lauren Harrell**, breast cancer treatments; **James Cooper**, Jan's brother, cancer; **Marie Sims**; **Renee Loya**, Parkinson's, MS, & dystonia; **Eli Williams**; **Ray Maples**; **Martha Hatfield**, Lynn's grandmother, cancer; **Virginia Johnson**, lung cancer; **Mac Owen**; **Bob Spurlin**; **Ally Jo Kelly**; **Brad & Sheri Daniel**.

## Birthdays

12/17	Kaiden Ferrell
12/22	Dalton Owen
12/23	Jeremy Moore
12/24	Daniel Owen
12/30	Renee Davis

## Anniversaries

12/13	Jerry & Renee Davis
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## Get Involved!

**Providence Place Devo — TODAY — 2 PM**  
Youth need to come & help deliver fruit baskets

**Donations for Joseph & Ashton — TODAY**  
Last day, give money to Jim or Jeanna

**Secret Sister Reveal Party — Dec 18**  
See Anna Johnson for details

**New Year's Lock-In at Thyatira — Dec 31**  
See inside for details

**Bible Bowl — Jan 17 — 4 PM**  
At Independence, Genesis 43 – 45

## Privileged to Serve

### Sunday, December 14

#### Morning

Prayer Before Class	Chris Martin
Announcements	Billy Bland
Song Leader	Jared Brown
Lord's Supper:	
Preside	Ron Johnson
	Jeffrey Ferrell
Assist	Jeremy Moore
	Jerry Davis
Opening Prayer	Jason Bayless
Sermon	Clifton Angel
Closing Prayer	Jim Jackson

#### Afternoon

Song Leader	Jared Brown
Opening Prayer	Johnny Bayless
Sermon	Clifton Angel
Lord's Supper	Ron Johnson
	Jeffrey Ferrell
Closing Prayer	Timothy Wilkes, Sr.

### Wednesday, December 17

Song Leader	Jared Brown
Prayer	Joe Owen
Invitation	Clifton Angel
Prayer	Andy Ratliff