

"Come, follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." Matthew 4:19

The Fishing Line

News and Notes from Troy Christian Church



From the MINISTER

In his book *Christmas Spoken Here* John Killinger told the following story.

"One day I was staring through the window of a beautiful little Christmas shop. It was packed with Christmas items, even though Christmas was still six months away. There were exquisite crèche scenes from Italy, Germany and Norway. There were fuzzy faced elves and jolly old Santa Clauses, sleighs and reindeer of every size and description, bells and trees, and music boxes. There were nutcrackers and candles and electric lights, angels and wise men and little drummer boys, stars and snowmen and gingerbread cutouts. The little shop was fairly bursting with Christmas, and a loudspeaker broadcast a medley of Yuletide tunes. It was infectious, even in the summertime. And down in the corner of the front door, where no one could miss it, was the neatest touch of all. It was a small sign that said: "Christmas Spoken Here."

"Christmas Spoken Here." I cannot imagine a better slogan for the church at this season or any time of year, than that one. What could say better why we are here? God has entered human history to change its course forever. He came as a Word, as something said, articulated, put in a message: "The Word became flesh and dwelt among us" (John 1:14). We remember that event each year in song and pageant and decoration.

"Christmas spoken here," for it is the basis of all we do.

"Christmas Spoken Here." It is an appropriate motto for us. The church ought always to speak Christmas. We ought always to be reminded of the Word God has spoken: the intelligible, important, and loving Word of His concern for us. And Christmas is the best time of all the year for remembering it. "The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth." That is Christmas, and Christmas is spoken here. It will always be spoken here."

I love that story. It makes a powerful point about the holidays and what they are truly all about. "Christmas spoken here." What a way to live. I think the apostle John may have had something like this in mind when he wrote in I John 1:2-3, "The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us. We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ."

As we go through this special time of year, in the midst of all the busyness common to this season let's not forget the reason for it all and make it a point to be a people where Christmas is spoken here. This is the time of year when many are lonely and depressed. A visit from you might do more good than you could ever imagine. Clerks and workers at stores and restaurants are busy, tired and being treated badly by many they are trying to serve. A kind word from you might be like an angel's voice to them. Many are more open to an invitation to church now than at almost any other time of the year. Why not ask? Your kids need to hear the real Christmas story, and be reminded again and again of the reason for the season. Don't forget to take time to do that (continued on page 2).



From the Minister (from page 1)

Get it? "Christmas Spoken Here." It's a way and practice of life. But it's the kind of people that God intended us to be. Let's be intentional about it this year.

Merry Christmas and God's richest blessing on you and yours....Dave

REASONS TO REJOICE

Transfers:
Corey and Katie Kostman
September 12, 2010

Baptism:
Brandon Whetstine
October 3, 2010

Weekly Statistics

Our Giving

Oct. 31: \$3,908.35
Nov. 7: \$4,040.35
Nov. 14: \$3,601.85
Nov. 21 Missions: \$4,027.38
Nov. Alms Offerings: \$797.00
Church Budget: \$178,712.00
Needed per Sunday: \$3,436.76
Building Fund: \$26,484.44

Attendance

162
190
167
197

Announcements and Coming Events

Dec. 6: Elder's meeting 6:30 p.m. at the Parsonage
Dec. 11: The Love Your Neighbor Project baskets will be put together. If you'd like to help, meet at the church at 10:00.
Dec. 12: KICKs/Primary Christmas Program during the 10:30 a.m. worship service
Dec. 20: Elder's meeting 6:30 p.m.; Board meeting 7:00 p.m.
Dec. 24: Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 5:00
No KICKs from December 22 until January 5.

What's A Church For?

Every time I hear about a church fight, I cringe. When my wife and I went out to eat with a pastor friend, he told us about some of the things that people in his church have squabbled about. Christians have been pitted against Christians over such issues as the color of the carpet, the thermostat setting, and whether the choir should wear robes. Pastors have been run out of town during these kinds of arguments. Christians have cut off friendships. Churches have split because folks argued about such things. Why does this happen? People who get caught up in petty squabbles have lost sight of what a church is for. The church is the place we go for worship, for reading the Word, for singing to God's glory, for serving others, and for helping one another to grow. It's supposed to be a place of love, forgiveness, and encouragement.

In Paul's letter to the Ephesians church, he described the unity of purpose (Eph. 4:1-16) that should help us work through disagreements without creating divisions. He knew all too well how selfish desires, personal agendas, and playing favorites could create havoc (1 Cor. 3:1-9). Let's make sure our churches are safe havens from squabbles by remembering what a church is for.

O Lord, help us to turn aside from words that spring from selfish pride. For You would have Your children one, in praise and love for Your dear son.
Christians at war with each other cannot be at peace with their heavenly Father.

(By David Branon; Reprinted from the Willis Christian Church Newsletter)

MERRY CHRISTMAS

From our staff and their families



*From the
Youth Minister*



Lydia will turn 6 months in December. It's hard to believe how fast she is growing up. I was reflecting on this the other day and just looking back over her short life; learning how to laugh and play. However, the time that means the most to me, as her father, is that first moment after she was born. She became very familiar with my voice while she was still in the womb. Every night I would talk to her, sing her songs, or read her books. The day she was born was rather traumatic for her, as it is with most babies. I remember hearing her cry for the first time and listening to the nurses attempt to calm her down. Then they asked me if I wanted to come and see her, which still seems like a silly question. I approached her to say hi, and the sound of my voice calmed her down and she started looking around trying to see me.

Are we that in tune with our Father's voice? Do we recognize it when we hear it? Does it sustain us when everything around us seems traumatic? Deuteronomy 30:19-20 says, "Now choose life, so that you and your children may live and that you may love the Lord your God, listen to his voice, and hold fast to him. For the Lord is your life." Through our Father, God, is life and yet so many times we don't recognize His presence, His voice, or His calling in our lives because we don't take the time and effort needed to seek Him. My hope, through this Christmas season, is that we will slow down and take time out to seek the Father's voice and what he is teaching us.

Adam

*KICKs/Primary
Christmas Program*

**December 12 during the 10:30 a.m.
worship service**



*Christ
is Born!*



**Christmas Eve Service
December 24th at 5:00**



Troy Christian Church Extreme Weather Policy

In the event of a tornado warning, heavy snow, blizzard conditions, expected blizzard conditions, ice or expected icing conditions, the chairman of the General Board shall contact the Doniphan County Sheriff's Office for an assessment of road conditions. If driving conditions are considered to be hazardous, church services will be canceled and the chairman will notify the following media no later than one hour prior to commencement of services: KQTV, KFEQ, KAIR, KNZA. We will also put a message on the church answering machine.

In the event of an electrical power failure or loss of water pressure, the chairman shall follow the same procedure as extreme weather conditions.

December Birthdays and Anniversaries

- | | | | |
|----|---|----|---|
| 1 | Katie Johnson | 20 | Chris & Michelle Douglas |
| 5 | Haley Whetstine, Mackenzie Harbeston | 21 | Bill & Pat Triplett |
| 9 | Tim Snead, Kasey Christopher, Michael & Larissa Jenkins, Garrett Miller | 22 | Cara Jeschke |
| 10 | Jared Pickerell, Rick Simmons, Rick & Laura Jeschke, Harper Whetstine | 24 | J.D. Euler |
| 16 | Kristie Klaus | 25 | Regan Miner, Heather Wetmore |
| 17 | J.D. & Jana Dominguez | 27 | Marcus Martinez, Jimmy & Mary Ruth Ruddy, Linda Clary, Gregg Miller |
| 18 | Amy Adams | 28 | Robyn Johnson |
| 19 | Barbara Goss, Wanda Jenkins, Michael Jenkins | 29 | Pam Kostman, Jill Huss, Bob & Wanda Jenkins |
| | | 30 | Dave & Rae Jean Burtis, Gib Thomsen |

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December 2010

Troy Christian Church
120 S. Liberty, P.O. Box 156
Troy, Kansas 66087
Church Office: 785-985-3846
E-mail: TroyChristian@jesusanswers.com
Website: www.troychristianchurch.com

Minister: Dave Burtis 816-261-9204
Youth Minister: Adam Kretzinger 816-351-3954
Secretary: Cindy Rush 785-985-2630
Elders: Neil Caudle 988-4267; Rick Simmons 985-2240; J.D. Euler 989-4444; Tom Speaks 985-3781; Steve Adams 985-2530

Sundays: 1st Service 8:00 a.m.; Sunday School 9:30 a.m.; 2nd Service 10:30 a.m.

Sundays: 6:00 p.m. 7th-12th grade Youth Group; Wednesdays: 3:40 - 5:15 p.m. KICKS for K-6th graders

