



Community Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

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Communi-K

Volume 38

Number 25

December 7, 2011

Dear Friends,

In worship this past Sunday, we dedicated the nativity set, which Gwen Vloedman made, that has adorned the front of our sanctuary several times during Advent. For many of you who have gone up and studied it closely, you have noticed that there are only Wise Men surrounding Mary and Joseph and the manger. It is an interesting and beautifully done Nativity set which provokes, or entices, you and me as observers to reconsider our own understanding of the significance of Jesus' birth narrative in both Matthew and Luke.

The most obvious reconsideration is the number of Wise Men involved. We do not know how many of them were actually there. What we are told is that there were three basic types of gifts presented to the baby and Mary and Joseph—gold, frankincense, and myrrh. It is an odd assortment of gifts for a baby and probably even a new born king. The frankincense and myrrh were probably the least variable while the gold could have been in the form of trinkets, cups, coins, necklaces or chains, etc. Frankincense is only mentioned one other time in the New Testament (in Revelation). It has a more frequent presence in the Hebrew history as a special incense used as offerings or burned during worship inside the Holy of Holies both in the Jerusalem Temple and, prior to that, when the Ark of the Covenant was housed in the Holy of Holies tent. It is a white gum resin that is ground into a fine powder for burning or mixing prior to burning and gives off a balsam fragrance. Myrrh is also a gum resin (apparently with a different aroma) that is found in both solid and liquid form. It was used in perfumes or to scent clothing and was mentioned twice more with Jesus. In Mark's Gospel myrrh is mixed with wine and given to Jesus while he is on the cross to help numb his pain, and then it is mentioned again as one of the spices used to

prepare his body for burial by Nicodemus. Neither myrrh nor frankincense was immediately user-friendly to Jesus or his parents. The gold had more immediate potential usage, although we never find out how any of the gifts were used.

If we only had Matthew's account of the birth story, what would that do for our understanding of Christmas? If there were no shepherds or sheep or angels or manger and stable—Christmas would be significantly different. First, and most obvious, most of our better known Christmas carols would never have been written. "Joy to the World" and "We Three Kings" would be our mainstays and probably others having to do with following the star and bearing gifts to Christ the King. Second, the focus would be on Jesus being kingly, of royal lineage, heir to the throne of David, and fulfiller of prophecy. Third, without Luke's birth narrative, we lose all of the connections with Mary, Elizabeth and Zachariah, and John (soon to be the "Baptist") as relatives of Jesus, which would dramatically affect Catholic history and tradition; and, therefore, our own history and tradition.

Hopefully, as you look at Gwen's nativity set you will have a greater appreciation not only about the message that it conveys, but also a reminder of what it does not. If you are particularly observant as you look at the this set Gwen made, you can pick out what does not belong in the Matthew version of this scene. May we all celebrate Emmanuel (God with us) this season!

In Christ's service together wherever He leads,
David

Prayers of Community

Immediate Prayers

Megan McKinley, granddaughter of Joanne McKinley, has digestive problems.

Tyler Gall & his mother Daina Ladd Gall, friends of Kevin Horn—Tyler has numerous medical issues and has only been able to attend high school for 14 days this year.

Jasmine Garcia, friend of the Sanchez family, is expecting a baby boy. She has difficulties during pregnancy.

Patrick Lopez, son of the Sanchez family's friend Juanita Lopez, had heart surgery.

Raymond Butts, friend of Colleen Wooten, had his last chemo treatment & scans show the tumor in his lung is totally gone.

Family & friends of Jack Lamb, former CCC member, due to his death

Family & friends of Ruby Kusgen, grandmother of Paul Latham and Ruby's mother, due to her death

Family & friends of Mike Leick, son of Pauline McGoodwin's neighbor, due to his death

Family & friends of Elby Martin, friend of Karlan Fairchild, due to his death

Joys

Marge Fulton, sister-in-law of Joanne McKinley, is doing much better and says thanks for the prayers.

Liam & Ryan Giddens, twin sons of Christy Horn's friend, are home from the hospital and doing well.

Amy Stevens, friend of Christy Horn, starts a new job on 12/5/11.

Kristi Nelson, friend of Mark & Kristin Slight, had surgery & all is well—no cancer.

Ongoing Prayers for Friends and Family

Community Christian Church

Israel

All Christians in countries where Christians are persecuted, up to and including death

All women who live in countries where Sharia law is strictly imposed

Families of war casualties

20+ MILLION unemployed and underemployed people and their families

Continuing victims of all disasters—fires, floods, earthquakes, droughts, etc.

Rebecca Allard, Neil Baker, Boni Baver, Gordon Beck, Guy Braswell, Kenn Briscoe, Mitty Brown, Jonathan Buck, Gloria Burke, Raymond Butts, Margaret & Troy Compton, Coon family, Katy Davis, Jean Duffy, Doug Easley, Mrs. Foster, Gary & Shannon Fuller, Doug Gerbosi, Connie & Joe Gordon, Grace Church, Jerry Griffin, Vera Hall, Cindy Hamilton, Joyce Hamm, Bryan Haywood, Ronnie Horowitz & daughter Helen, **Betty Jean House**, Stella Jacobson, Kahn family, Liz Keene, Marv & Norrita Knecht, Roy Knight, Virginia Krueger, Jack Lamb, Carl Arthur Leppert, Roy Lewis, Robbie Longacre, Everett & Charlotte Loughry, Lisa Lynn, Jim & Kayla McAfee, Jody McCutcheon, Duke Millard, Stanley Myers, Todd Oncken, Brown Plummer, Martha Quistian, June Rawlings, Leslie, Alan & Chance Redwine, Margie Renfrow, Helen Reynolds, Joe Ross, Larry Rutledge, Nicole Sanders, Jan Savage, Janelle Schuyler, Shelby, Jeffrey Sholden, Ana Stenzel-Wallace, Matt Sullivan, Mary Margaret Taylor, Tami Taylor, Dwight Vance, Shelly Viscovo, Gwen Vloedman, Tammy and Shelby Wagner, Christine Wickizer-Tobin, Dr. Brent Whitworth, Marie Wolfe, Brandon Wright, Kevin Wright, **Tracey Wyrick**

Service Men and Women

The people who serve in our military both at home and abroad, especially: Bryan Aft, Jeffrey Brown, Josh Brown, Chandler Berg, Chaplain Paul Carpenter, Dan Cockerham, Troy Dorsey, Aaron Duncan, Jason Fairchild, Chaplain Kyle Fauntleory, Chris Loughry, Camilla Maybee, Amanda Parker, Ryan Parker, Scott Pitchford, Shawn Sears, Shane Shupak, Devin Watson, Jeff Williford, George Woodley, Rob Wright



December Anniversaries

December 24 Mary Anne & Rob Potter
December 28 Charlotte & Jerry Coyle

December Birthdays

December 1 Julie Knecht
Jim Latham
Joshua Sanchez
December 3 Don Bohlcke
Jane Keene
December 5 Don Slape
December 8 Betsy Horn
December 9 Ethan Knecht
December 14 Mark Slaight
December 15 Priscilla Long
Jan Loughry
Carl Zerweck, III
December 17 Allison Jane Clifford
December 20 Pauline McGoodwin
December 24 Jeannine Frank
Geoff Gafford
December 26 Edie Slape
December 29 Henrietta Wilson

BEHOLD Book Study

The BEHOLD book study will meet on these dates:

Monday, December 12th 6:30–8:00 p.m.

Monday, December 19th 6:30–8:00 p.m.

A Christmas Reminder

An old-fashioned potluck luncheon will be held on Sunday, December 18 in Fellowship Hall after the children's Christmas program. Bring a favorite dish to share; Membership will furnish turkey. We hope to see you at this special event.



Calendar of Events

Friday, December 9

6:00 p.m. Christmas Gathering at the Cartwright's

Third Sunday of Advent, December 11

9:30 a.m. Sunday school
10:50 a.m. Worship/Cantata
12:15 p.m. Fellowship in Fellowship Hall
5:30 p.m. Christmas Gathering at the Cartwright's

Monday, December 12

6:30 p.m. BEHOLD book study in parlor

Wednesday, December 14

8:00 a.m. Mike's kids truck loading
6:00 p.m. Stitchers meeting in library
No Choir Practice

Thursday, December 15

10:00 a.m. Spiritual Disciplines Prayer Group

Saturday, December 17

8:30 a.m. Property Workday
8:30 a.m. DWM Meeting

Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 18

9:30 a.m. Sunday school
10:50 a.m. Worship/Children's Program
12:15 p.m. Potluck lunch in Fellowship Hall

Monday, December 19

6:30 p.m. BEHOLD book study in parlor

Wednesday, December 21

No Choir Practice

Thursday, December 22

10:00 a.m. Spiritual Disciplines Prayer Group

Saturday, December 24

5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service

Christmas Sunday, December 25

9:30 a.m. Sunday school
10:50 a.m. Worship
12:15 p.m. Fellowship Time in Fellowship Hall



CCC Christmas Gatherings

You and your family are invited to attend one of the CCC Christmas gatherings that will be hosted by David and Dani Cartwright at their home at 1315 Magnolia Drive, Richardson.

The dates of the two remaining gatherings are: Friday, December 9th; or Sunday, December 11th. You and your family are invited to sign up and attend one that best fits your schedule. You are also invited to bring either an appetizer or a dessert. The Friday evening gathering will be from 6:00–8:00 p.m. and the Sunday gathering will be held from 5:30–7:30 p.m. Come and go as your schedule allows!

If you have a question or need directions, contact David at 972-998-9193 or Dani at 817-944-8794.

Education Committee

The children began November 20th learning songs and words for their Christmas program, so they will be meeting together through their program on December 18th. Linda Fairchild will be leading them in this exciting program!

There will be NO Junior Church on December 25th or January 1st. We will start the New Year on Sunday, January 8th!! Thanks for your support of children's ministry!

Thanks,
Dani

Membership Committee

Beginning January 1, 2012 the membership committee will provide cake in Fellowship Hall to celebrate all those having a birthday during the current month.

Please notify Jeannine if your special date needs to be added.

Thanks,
The Membership Committee

Outreach

SPECIAL OFFERINGS COMING UP:

Our Christmas offering will be taken on December 11th and December 18th. Please look for the envelopes in your church bulletin and give generously.



NETWORK & HUNGER PANTRY:

Marvin Rogers delivered 676 pounds of food to Network for CCC's November contribution. Please let's continue to keep finding ways to contribute to NETWORK and the Hunger Pantry and to fill the baskets in the north foyer with canned goods.

It's that time of year for Mike's Kids!

We're off to a great start with the leftovers from the garage sale but need even more. Please bring your new or gently used clothes and toys by December 11, 2011. We're having a hard time getting banana boxes this year, but there are moving boxes in the Fellowship Hall that can be used. We also need new underwear (all sizes). If you would prefer Mark Slaight is taking donations and will do the shopping for you. The truck is scheduled to leave on Wednesday December 14, 2011. We need volunteers to help pack and load. If you have any questions please ask Mark.



Thanks,
Mark

Former CCC Member Dies

Jack Lamb, former CCC passed away on December 5, 2011. A *Celebration of Life* service for Jack will be held on Saturday, December 10 at 10:30 a.m. at Bentwood Trail Presbyterian Church, 6000 Bentwood Trail, Dallas, Texas.

We extend our condolences to his wife, Karen Wolfe, and his family.

Worship Attendance 11/27/11 79

Visitors 17

Debb Faulk	Gabe Faulk
Bill Kaufman	Angela Kaufman-Poehlman
Caroline Kellam	David Kellam
Elizabeth & Joseph Mackey	Breeann Neal
Deborah Olinger	Connor Poehlman
Jack Poehlman	Owen Poehlman
Arthur Roberts	Sally Turner
Richard & Martha Valencia	

Worship Attendance 12/04/11 67

Visitors 5

Gage Hamor	Caroline Kellam
David Kellam	Wayne & Mary Quick

Financial Report

(Budgeted weekly **revenue**: \$2,788.46)

Receipts for 11/27/11 \$3,153.02

Receipts for 12/04/11 \$4,071.50

Memorial Gifts

In Memory of	From
Dick Daigre	Lee Cole

Note from Treasurer

As of the end of November, CCC is negative to the budget. If you are behind on your pledge or if you can donate more, December is the time to do it!! Also, if you plan to pre-pay your 2012 pledge for tax reasons, I need your checks received or post-marked on or before 12/31/11.

Julie Knecht, CCC's vice-chair, will lead a cost-reduction effort early next year to look at all major budget items and determine possible actions to reduce costs while preserving CCC's ministries. She is looking for volunteers who would like to participate in that effort. Volunteers do not need a finance background, just an interest in optimizing financial stewardship for CCC. Let Julie know if you would like to participate.

Deacon Serving Schedule

The following deacons signed up to serve during the month of **December**:

Cyndy Emmert, Proctor	Kristin Slaight
Denise Fairchild	Amy Taylor
Mark Slaight	Paul Latham, Deacon Chair



Sunday, December 11

Matthew 2: 1-12

Homily

“A Stellar Journey”

Worship Participants

Preacher: David Cartwright
Lay Leader: Greg Hendrickson
Acolyte: Austin DeLay

Sunday, December 18

Luke 1: 47-55

Luke 2: 41-52

Sermon:

“Living and Growing with Greatness”

Worship Participants

Preacher: David Cartwright
Lay Leader: Elaine Kellam
Acolyte: Whitley Taylor

Leading Worship for December

Elders: Larry Fairchild, Karlan Fairchild
Deacons: Cyndy Emmert, Proctor
Denise Fairchild Kristin Slaight
Mark Slaight Amy Taylor



Join Us on Sundays

9:30 a.m. *Sunday School*
10:50 a.m. *Worship Service*
12:15 p.m. *Fellowship Time*

Church Office Hours

Monday through Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Church Office Contact Info

972-234-4571 ccc@cccrichardson.org

David Cartwright's Contact Info

972-234-4571 (office) djc@cccrichardson.org
972-437-4869 (home) tracvad@aol.com
972-998-9193 (cell)

Calendar Updates

For updates to the CCC calendar, check with the church office or the bulletin board across from the church office.

The next issue will be Wednesday, December 21, 2011

The *Communi-K* is published bi-weekly by Community Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), 1300 Holly Drive, Richardson, Texas 75080, (972) 234-4571, (972) 235-4947 fax, editor, Jeannine Frank. © 2002 Community Christian Church

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Rev. David Cartwright	Minister
Jeannine Frank	Church Secretary
Rebecca Baker	Choir Director
Anne Speights	Accompanist
Hop Chu	Childcare
Santos Camarillo	Custodian
Mark Slaight	Board Chair
Julie Knecht	Board Vice Chair
Amy Taylor	Board Secretary
Mary Anne Potter	Church Treasurer
Teresa Gafford	Chair of Elders
Paul Latham	Chair of Diaconate

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