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The Beacon



December 2009



Presented by: **THE JOYFUL JAMMERS**
CHILDREN'S CHOIR
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20 at 6:30 PM

IT'S THE CHRISTMAS SEASON ONCE AGAIN AND TIME TO SEND CHRISTMAS CARDS TO OUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY. INSTEAD OF PUTTING YOUR CARDS TO YOUR FRIENDS AT CHURCH IN THE MAILBOX, CONSIDER GIVING POSTAGE MONEY TO HELP OUR YOUTH GO TO CAMP NEXT SUMMER.



**Christmas
 Card Delivery**

YOU CAN DROP YOUR CHRISTMAS CARDS OFF AT THE TABLE IN THE UPSTAIRS FELLOWSHIP HALL AND THE YOUTH WILL DELIVER THEM DURING BOTH WORSHIP SERVICES UNTIL AFTER CHRISTMAS.



It's time to begin buying gifts for the children on our Angel Tree. We need to have the gifts at the church by December 13 to give us time to deliver them before Christmas. If you are interested in helping a child, please select a name off the tree in the front foyer. Follow the directions in filling out a tracking card so we know what name you have selected. We also need volunteers to deliver the gifts. These children live in Mtn. Home, Gassville and one in Norfolk. Please contact Sandra if you are interested in helping.



OUR RECORDS



	<u>November 1</u>	<u>November 8</u>	<u>November 15</u>	<u>November 22</u>	<u>November 29</u>
Sunday School:	131	140	129	139	139
9:00 am Worship:	70	75	64	73	61
11:00 am Worship:	95	104	104	109	130
Evening Worship:	44	48	37	53	52
Offering:	\$4,516.20	\$5,167.03	\$4,184.00	\$3,869.10	\$3,254.86



From
the
Pastor's
Heart

"To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven."

Ecclesiastes 3:1 (NKJV)

Christmas? Christmas! Is it really that time of year already? Is it really the season for Christmas so soon?

During Christmas we should ask ourselves what is the purpose of Christmas for our families, our community and our church. Christmas has to be more than stress, business and spending. It has to be more than gift giving, receiving and ultimately exchanging. Christmas is even more than the family getting together feasting and spoiling the kids with way too many presents. But if all of these aren't our purpose for Christmas, what should we focus upon?

The answer may sound way to simple but it is in fact the truth. The purpose of Christmas is to worship the Savior. All through the New Testament we see worshipful celebration at the coming of the Messiah. Read the Gospels and you will find individuals who are celebrating the birth of Christ and worshipping the Christ of Christmas. Can we do any less in our families? In our community? In our church? This Christmas season let's make our purpose to worship Jesus and to point others to Him! There is a season, Christmas, upon us. There is a time for every purpose under heaven. Now is the time for God's people to thankfully celebrate Jesus' birth in our worship of the Savior of the world. Share the good news of this season through your worship.

Bro. Gary



A CHANGE OF SEASONS

As so many of you know we just celebrated Thanksgiving. Now one thing that strikes me as strange that happened this year, was that stores skipped over this holiday in order to start pushing Christmas on everyone, and not even Christmas, but “Happy Holidays.” It is sad to see that we are skipping over a holiday that, when I was a kid, meant so much to so many. Now instead of it being a time of thanks it is a time of over-eating and football. Now I am not complaining, not one bit, as you all know I eat more than most and especially on Thanksgiving Day. It is also the day that I watch the Texas A&M vs. Texas football game. However, with these great things going on I think we still miss just being thankful.

My family was supposed to be here this Thanksgiving and for several different reasons they were not able to make it up here. Thanksgiving for me this year was not spent with family, but instead was spent house jumping as I tried to make all of the invitations that I had received the few weeks prior. As I was driving between houses, tables and food, I had time to think about what I was truly thankful for. I have come to these few conclusions. I am thankful for my family, for my church, for the families in the church that took me in when I was all alone, to the people who have loved me and cared for me over these past 3 ½ years and for many other things. I realized that my life, even though it can be quite crazy, is truly blessed by so many things. I am so amazed that God has continued to use me to reach others regardless of my faults and weaknesses.

So as we approach Christmas, let us not forget Thanksgiving and what that holiday has always taught us! Tell someone that you are thankful for them and that they are a blessing to your life. In doing these things you will bless their life and brighten their day! So, again, thank you from the bottom of my heart for everything you as a body of believers have blessed me with.

-Hunter