

December



the
joyful noise

“I Believe - Walking with Christ in the Adventure of Faith”

When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, “Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch.”

Luke 5:4 (NIV)

From the Pastor

But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

Luke 2:10 - 12 NIV

These fantastic words from the Angelic messenger to us from God are ever so familiar. So familiar that the impact that they should make in our hearts has become more of a “ho hum” and we go about our everyday lives. Instead the impact should grab hold of us, stop us midstep, draw our eyes to the heavens and be AMAZED!

Be AMAZED! The living God has entered into our world. Entered into our suffering. Entered in to be as us, HUMAN. Entered in for one purpose, and one purpose alone - to be the SAVIOR. The little baby boy born in Bethlehem is the Messiah. He is Christ the Lord.

Messiah. Savior. Lord. We need the constant reminder that Jesus is the Son of God, incarnate, born human and by the mystery of God, fully God. We need the fellowship of believers gathered together in worship every week to remind us that we are sinners redeemed by grace through faith in Jesus Christ.

We need the challenge of living together as brothers and sisters in Christ learning together to love each other as Christ loved us. And learning to love the lost and lowly, broken and forsaken. Learning to love and serve the worst riffraff because together we have learned for each of these that little baby boy was born to be Savior.

50 years ago Charles Schulz, a Christian, shared his love of Jesus through his beloved Peanuts. He fought the producers. A nativity scene is ok. But a minute long speech by Linus directly from the New Testament, that would be too much. Mr. Schulz's faith won out. **A Charlie Brown Christmas** has gone on to be watch by millions each year over the past 49 years.

With memorable scenes of a scrawny little forgotten and forsaken Christmas tree becoming beautiful with loving care. With the kids singing *Hark the Harold Angels Sing*. The melancholy melody of *Christmas Time is Here*. And there is the testimony of the Christmas story straight from Luke told by Linus.

"I guess I really don't know what Christmas is all about." Charlie Brown said. Exclaiming with frustration Charlie Brown cries out "Isn't there anyone who knows what Christmas is all about?" Linus knew the answer.... Do YOU?

With this reminder, I invite you to make this Christmas more about Christ than anything else. Just like Charles Schulz did 50 years ago.

Merry Christmas!
Pastor Jeff

Prayer Moment:

An Advent Prayer

Keep us alert, we pray, O Lord our God, as we await the advent of Christ Your Son, so that when He comes and knocks He may find us watchful in prayer and exultant in His praise. For the Son lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Christmas Eve Worship - Thursday Dec. 24th at 7 P.M.



Sing with Great JOY!

A Savior has been BORN!

He is Christ our LORD.

Emmanuel, GOD with US!.

*We'll worship our God with Carols,
Candlelight and Holy Communion.*

Bring your whole family!

Bring your Friends!

Listen Online to a Sunday Sermon Message

Sunday Sermon messages are recorded and made available for listening on our Website: www.ficlc.net The link to the message archive is found on the Pastor page.

This is a great opportunity to hear again the Word Preached and also a great opportunity to share the Word Preached with a friend at work or anywhere you have access to the internet. The Lord can bring a blessing and draw another to Faith in Christ.

**Walking in the Word –
Tuesday Night Bible Study
December 1st and 15th at 7 P.M.**



Walking in the Word

We have taken a break from Nehemiah and we are walking with C. S. Lewis and his very influential book *Mere Christianity*.

Mere Christianity is a classic of Christian Apologetics and has become one of the most influential books on basic Christian Faith. Chuck Colson pointed to *Mere Christianity* as bringing him to Christian Faith and transforming his heart and life to become a disciple of Jesus Christ.

We meet at 7 and conclude by 8:15 p.m.

Children's Sunday School

We are traveling down Route 66 and traveled a good distance through God's Word. Beginning at Genesis we are on our way down the road through the 66 books of the Bible.

Moms, dads, grandmas and grandpas, great-grandma and great-grandpas, these intentional times of discipling will nurture the FAITH of those entrusted to your care. Make a Sunday morning faith commitment for you and your family! Attend Sunday School and Worship together.

*Train a child in the way he should go,
and when he is old he will not turn from it.*

Proverbs 22:6 (NIV)

**Remember, Children's Sunday School will not meet
December 27, 2015 and January 3, 2016.**



Now why? Who? What son?

By Jeffrey J. Lee

*Christmas rush is soon to swish on by
with lots of things and toys to buy.
So many things to get done,
Now why? Who? What son?*

*Standing in line for hour upon hour.
Credit cards ringing up another debt dollar.
Rushing from place to place,
Why, O Why am I in this mad dash race?*

*Wrapping paper to cover the gift.
Checking off as I fulfill each wish.
Thinking of happy faces to come,
Now why? Who? What son?*

*Don't bother me with the meaning of the day.
I will just keep going my own way.
Buying things that will not last
Stuck in traffic, going nowhere fast.*

*Hark, hear the carols fill your ear.
Raise a glass of holiday cheer.
Laugh, sing, have some good fun.
Now why? Who? What son?*

*The world may ignore,
go ahead, fall asleep in bed and snore.
But the day will come,
when it will matter if you know the Son!*

*So may the true meaning of the day
capture your heart and guide your way.
For the lost, broken, and forsaken He did come.
The one and only Begotten Son!*



Praying Together

Praying together is very powerful:

*We must begin to believe that God, in the
mystery of prayer, has entrusted us with a
force that can move the Heavenly world,
and can bring its power down to earth."*

~ Andrew Murray



Praying together

For God to Open Doors
for the Gospel
of Jesus Christ

Please pray for Faith in Christ and the
ministry we share together. Also pray for
guidance on building our prayer life
together.

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The church office will be closed from
December 24th until December 28th.



CHRISTMAS CARDS



We will once again be playing "post office" for your Christmas Cards being sent to one of your church family members. There will be a basket in the entrance hallway in early December for you to put your "outgoing" cards in. They will be sorted alphabetically and be available for pick up the following Sundays. No stamps needed! Remember....no cards will actually be mailed so do not include any mail for out of town members or shut-ins. These cards should be mailed in the usual way.

... and for your convenience ...

WOMEN OF TODAY

WOT will be selling Christmas cards this year starting November 22nd. The packs of cards will again be 6 cards for \$5.00.



INTERFAITH HOSPITALITY NETWORK NEEDS

IHN is in need of the following items:

Canned Peas; Canned Carrots; Canned Potatoes; Canned Greens (i.e. spinach, etc.); Canned Fruit; Dry Pasta & Pasta Sauce. ANY and ALL donations are GREATLY appreciated! The TWIGS' next delivery is Dec. 6th. (Note: This ministry is ongoing throughout the year and not a part of the annual Christmas food basket project.)



Christmas Caroling to FIC's Homebound Sunday, December 20

All are invited to join BUDs after church on Sunday, December 20 to share some Christmas cheer with our homebound members. Please bring a brown bag lunch to eat after worship as well as your Christmas spirit. Following the caroling all are invited back to Dave & Holly Hare's home for dinner and fellowship!

*"Good Christian Friends REJOICE
with heart and soul and voice!
Jesus Christ is born today!"*

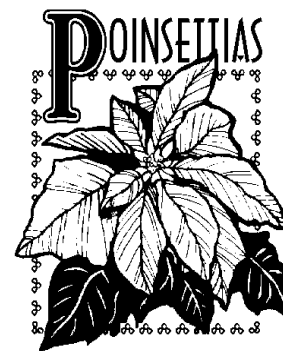


Flower Chart for 2016

The new flower chart is now available and is in the church office (unless it has been put up next to the 2015 flower chart). Starting in January, 2016, the cost of each flower vase will be \$18.00. Hurry and pick your important dates and sign up now.

2015 POINSETTIA ORDER FORM

Please complete this form and send it, along with your payment, to the church office no later than **DECEMBER 13TH** (orders may also be placed in the offering plates or hand delivered). Add a dedication below, if you wish, to be printed in our Christmas Eve bulletins.



Name (s) _____

Number of flowers ordered _____

Payment enclosed at \$9.00 each: \$ _____

Dedication: In Honor Of/In Memory Of:

*Thank you for helping us decorate for Christmas!
Poinsettias may be picked up after the
late service Christmas Eve
or left on the altar during
the remainder of the
Christmas Season.*



*Women
in
Service*

Loyal Followers of Christ (LFC)

We will meet on Friday, December 4th at 12 Noon in Bay Breeze Restaurant for their annual Christmas party and gift exchange. Each member is to bring a wrapped gift, value approx. \$10.00 for the exchange.

Newcomers always Welcome!
Questions? - see Cindy Post

Women of Today

We will meet Monday, December 21st, 3:00 P.M. at the home of Marilyn Quick.

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FOOD BASKETS FOR MULBERRY TERRACE

Faith in Christ will be providing Christmas food baskets to the residents of Mulberry Terrace (part of the IHN homeless shelter network) again this year. The total number of individual and family baskets needed has yet to be determined .



*Christmas
Baskets*

The items needed are listed below:

Single Individual - Total Needed 26

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|
| 2 Lb. Canned Ham | 1 2-Layer Cake Icing |
| 2 Cans Vegetables
(different kind) | 1 Can Cake Icing |
| 2 Cans Fruit (diff. kind) | 1 2-Liter Soft Drink |
| 1 Box Mac and Cheese | |
| 1 Box Instant Potatoes | |

Family - Total Needed 7

- | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|
| 3 Lb. Canned Ham | 1 2-Layer Cake Icing |
| 4 Cans Veggies (2 ea of
same) | 1 Can Cake Icing |
| 4 Cans Fruit (2 ea of
same) | 1 Qt. Juice/Punch |
| 2 Boxes Mac & Cheese | |
| 1 Box Instant Potatoes | |

The last day for donations will be Wednesday, December 16th. This will allow for packing and making any final purchases that are needed. The date all items will be delivered to the Mulberry Terrace apartment building has yet to be determined. Any questions, see Pat Kunce.

A CHRISTMAS PRAYER

Help us rightly remember the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the song of angels, the gladness of the shepards, and the worship of the Wise Men.

Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world. Let kindness come with every gift, and good desire with every greeting.

Deliver us from evil by the blessings that Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with clean hearts. May the Christmas morning make us happy to be Thy children, and the Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts; forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake.

Amen

-Robert Louis Stevenson-

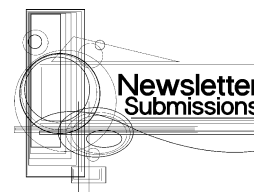
A BLESSED CHRISTMAS SEASON TO ALL



All information for the annual report must be submitted to the church office no later than **Sunday, January 10, 2016!**



All giving to be included in 2015 annual giving statements must be received in the church office by noon, **December 31, 2015.**



Please have all January 2016 Newsletter articles into the church office by Tuesday December 15, 2015. You may email them to church office ficlc@sbcglobal.net sending your article in rich txt format (.rtf). Thank you.