

Campbellsburg Christian Church

Newsletter

A Family of Faith, Hope and Love

Volume 15 Issue 12

December 2019

Julie's Journal

Are you ready for Advent? If you are like me, it's hard to believe that Advent is already here! Many thanks to everyone who stayed after our Thanksgiving feast to help decorate the church. Also, thanks goes out to Les and Gina for taking care of the poinsettia plants for the sanctuary. Cheri deserves a special round of applause for organizing this year's Hanging of the Greens. All of these traditions add meaning to our celebrations and help us to bond with those we love. As each tradition unfolds, I know that I feel more bonded to the congregation.

It is so easy to lose sight of the true meaning of Advent and Christmas when there are so many secular activities competing for our time and attention. A recent article on Crosswalk.com by Jeanne Doyon suggests that Christians need to be especially intentional about how they spend their time and money at this time of the year. She provides seven questions that will help to make you ready for Advent and may even reduce your stress levels:

- 1) What traditions do I value most during this time of year?
- 2) What other events will I include in my celebrations?
- 3) What things can I let go of because of busyness or a change in my life situation?
- 4) How much decorating will I do this year?
- 5) How much will I spend on gifts for each person on my gift list?
- 6) Am I able to do all the cooking for dinner guests or do I need to ask others to contribute items to the feast?
- 7) How will my family prepare for the Advent season?

If we all prayerfully consider these questions, we can keep our eyes on the best present of all, our savior Jesus Christ.

Many have been asking if we are doing a Christmas Eve worship service this year. The answer is YES! Please invite your friends and relatives to attend this meaningful worship experience.

As I finish my master of divinity degree, I have several congregation-based projects to complete. I will be asking about your hopes and dreams for the church as well as asking about how we can improve what we are already doing. In addition, I will be planning some special events for my projects. More details will follow on this in

January. Also, I wanted to let you know that I will be taking two classes in January that will necessitate me missing worship with you. Those Sundays are January 19th and 26th. One class is "God and Monsters" and the other class is a trip to "Sacred Italy." I look forward to sharing what I learn with you.

We have five Sundays in December this year. Here are the scriptures for each worship service:

December 1st: First Sunday of Advent (Hope)

Psalm 130:5, Isaiah 40:31, and John 17:18

December 8th: Second Sunday of Advent (Peace)

Matthew 3:1-12

December 15th: Third Sunday of Advent (Joy)

Isaiah 35: 1-10

December 22nd: Fourth Sunday of Advent (Love)

John 13:34-35

December 24th: Christmas Eve (Nativity of the Lord)
Lessons and Carols

December 29th: (Sunday between Christmas and Epiphany) *Matthew 2:13-23* (This service will be recorded for a seminary project.)

May you experience all of the hope, peace, joy and love that Advent and Christmas have to offer.

*Blessings,
Julie*

Musical Musings

What Love Does (Max Lucado)

...that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height—to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Ephesians 3:17-19

Would you do what Jesus did? He swapped a spotless castle for a grimy stable. He exchanged the worship of angels for the company of killers. He nursed from a breast and was clothed in a diaper. If you were God, would you? I wouldn't, but Christ did.

If you knew that those you loved would laugh in your face, would you still care? If you knew that the tongues you made would mock you, the mouths you made would spit at you, the hands you made would crucify you, would you still make them? Jesus did. He humbled Himself. He went from commanding angels to sleeping in the straw. From holding stars to clutching Mary's finger.

Why? Because that is what love does. It puts the beloved before itself. Your soul was more important than His blood. Your eternal life was more important than His earthly life. Your place in heaven was more important to Him than His place in heaven, so He gave up His so you could have yours. He loves you that much, and because He loves you, you are of prime importance to Him.

Love goes the distance...and Christ traveled from limitless eternity to be confined by time in order to become one of us. He didn't have to. Any step along the way He could have called it quits. When He saw the size of the womb, He could have stopped. When He saw how tiny His hand would be, how soft His voice would be, how hungry His tummy would be, He could have stopped. The first time He scraped His knee or tasted burnt bagels, He could have walked out.

When He saw the dirt floor of His Nazareth house. When Joseph gave Him a chore to do. When His fellow students were dozing off during the reading of the Torah...His Torah. At any point Jesus could have said, "That's enough! I'm going home." But He didn't. He didn't, because He is love.

Think about that for a moment. Drink deeply from that for a moment. Don't just sip or nip. It's time to gulp. It's time to let His love cover all things in your life. All secrets. All hurts. All hours of evil, minutes of worry. His love will cover all of that. Every promise broken, drug taken, penny stolen. Every cross word, cuss word, and harsh word. His love covers all things.

Let it. Discover along with the psalmist: "He...loads me with love and mercy" (Psalm 103:4 NCV). Picture a giant dump truck full of love. There you are behind it. God lifts the bed until the love starts to slide. Slowly at first, then down, down, down, until you are hidden, buried, covered in His love.

Do it for His sake. For the peace of your heart. And do it for their sake. For the people in your life. Let His love fall on you so yours can fall on them.

In His service,
Cheri

From the Chair

I love to read!! My favorite genre would probably be a mystery, but I don't believe I have ever read a book that I didn't like! Quite some time ago, I read the book, *The Rock, the Road, and the Rabbi* by Kathie Lee Gifford with Rabbi Jason Sobel. At first I was merely curious due to Kathie Lee's "celebrity" status. At the time, she was co-host of NBC's "Kathie Lee & Hoda" (or the 4th hour of Today) that I occasionally watched. On the show, Kathie Lee was never shy about sharing her faith. She described herself as a lifetime student of scripture and shared that she had been afforded the luxury of traveling to Israel since she was 17

years old. In her desire for a deeper understanding of God's Word and a deeper knowledge of God Himself, she began studying the biblical texts in their original Hebrew and Greek languages and actually hiked the ancient paths of Israel along with Rabbi Jason Sobel.

I was reminded of the book this week by an email devotional that I received, *Bethlehem: Church of the Nativity* by Kathie Lee Gifford with Rabbi Jason Sobel. It's very long, but in my opinion, very interesting.

Kathie Lee writes, *I was deeply disturbed when our tour group visited modern-day Bethlehem. Scripture tells us Bethlehem was the birthplace of Jesus, the Messiah, prophesied in Micah 5:2 sometime between 750 BC and 686 BC (seven hundred years before Jesus' birth): "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for Me One who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times."*

Today, the city of Bethlehem is controlled by the Palestinian Authority, and it feels — as my daughter, Cassidy, described it — "darkly oppressive." There are military checkpoints as you enter and exit. It hardly feels joyful or anything like the way the shepherds would have experienced it two millennia ago, as a place of great rejoicing at the Savior's birth.

More from Rabbi Jason — The Significance of Bethlehem — Shortly after the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem, an angel of the Lord appeared to shepherds guarding their sheep at night and announced to them, "Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; He is the Messiah, the Lord." — Luke 2:11 "And the sign given to them was that they would find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." — Luke 2:12 Of all the possible signs that could have been given to these shepherds, why did the Lord choose a baby lying in a manger and wrapped in swaddling clothes?

Why was this so significant?

To answer this question, we need to dig deeper and explore the Jewish context in which the New Testament was written. Good students of the Bible are like detectives who ask lots of questions of the text. The first question we need to ask is: Who are these shepherds? Is there anything unique about them?

I believe these were no ordinary shepherds. They were Levitical shepherds, trained and tasked with the responsibility of tending and guarding the flocks used for sacrifices in the temple in Jerusalem.

Next, we must ask, What is so significant about the location in which they found Jesus? When it was time for one of their flock to give birth, the shepherds would bring the sheep into one of the caves surrounding Bethlehem that were used for this purpose. These birthing caves were kept in a state of ritual purity since these lambs

were destined to be used as sacrifices in the temple. In fact, many of the male lambs born around Bethlehem would be used for the Passover.

Since there was no room in the local inn, Mary and Joseph used one of these caves around Bethlehem. Messiah was not born in a stable behind some Econo Lodge or Motel Six. He was born in one of the many caves used for birthing these sacrificial lambs, because He Himself would be the ultimate sacrificial Lamb.

Not only would the location of Jesus' birth be significant to these shepherds, but so would the fact that Jesus was swaddled in cloths.

These shepherds were responsible for making sure that the newborn lambs did not contract defects, for only animals without spot or blemish could be used as a sacrifice in the temple. Baby lambs are very clumsy when they are born, so many scholars believe that these shepherds would swaddle their newborn lambs in order to prevent these future sacrificial lambs from becoming blemished by injuring themselves on jagged parts of the cave.

Another key aspect of swaddling in ancient Israel was "salting" a newborn. After Jesus was born, Joseph would have washed and scrubbed Him with salt water. Practically, the salt killed any bacteria found on an infant's body. But there is a lot of spiritual symbolism in this act as well.

Salt was symbolic of friendship and loyalty in the ancient world; it was a sign of covenant, as in the phrase "a covenant of salt" (2 Chronicles 13:5; Leviticus 2:13; Numbers 18:19). A common expression to denote friendship in Middle Eastern culture is, "there is salt between us." A salt covenant is used to denote the eternal covenant of friendship and kingship that God made with David and his heirs: "Don't you know that the Lord, the God of Israel, has given the kingship of Israel to David and his descendants forever by a covenant of salt?" (2 Chronicles 13:5). Jesus was not only born in Bethlehem, which is the city of David, but He was also the promised Son of David, the Messiah and King who came to fulfill the Davidic covenant — God's promise that one of David's descendants would live on the throne forever — and to establish the new covenant spoken of in Jeremiah: 'The days are coming,' declares the Lord, 'when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and with the people of Judah'. — Jeremiah 31:31

Salt was also an indispensable part of every sacrifice offered in the temple, as we read in Leviticus:

"You are to season with salt every sacrifice of your grain offering. You are never to allow the salt of the covenant of your God to be lacking from your grain offering. With all your sacrifices you must offer salt." — Leviticus 2:13 TLV Not only was Messiah born in the same location as the temple offering, but He was also washed in salt as part of the swaddling process, which points to His future sacrifice as the

Passover Lamb of God who would take away the sins of the world and inaugurate the new covenant (Jeremiah 31:31).

Messiah came to make a covenant with us, and He was so committed to us that He chose to die in order to establish it, demonstrating how seriously He takes His friendship with us! This is what John 15:13 alludes to: Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. Messiah was the Lamb who was slain from the creation of the world. — Revelation 13:8, So He needed to be salted as our true sacrifice to erase our sin and bring us into a covenant friendship with the Lord. Now, that's a true friend. Isn't it amazing? We must make sure we are valuing His friendship and taking full advantage of it.

Not only was the process of swaddling significant to the shepherds, but I believe the actual garments in which the baby Jesus was swaddled were meant to be a sign to them as well. Let's explore their deeper meaning.

One of the oldest symbols of the Jewish faith is the menorah, a seven-branched candelabrum used in the temple. The Kohanim, the Levitical priests, lit the menorah in the sanctuary every evening and then cleaned it out every morning, replacing the old wicks with new ones.

What were the wicks of the menorah made from? The priests' tunics. Any priestly garment that became so dirty to the point that its stains could not be washed out was no longer acceptable to be worn during priestly service. These unusable garments were not destroyed; instead, they were cut up, and the fabric was used for another holy purpose. The tunics of the ordinary priests were used to make wicks for the menorah that was to burn continually in the Holy Place in the temple.

This is speculation, but I believe Jesus' swaddling clothes could have been made from the torn priestly garments that would have been used to make the wicks of the menorah. But where would Joseph and Mary have gotten them? My guess is that Mary got these cloths from her cousin Elizabeth, who was married to the priest Zechariah. As soon as Mary entered the home of Elizabeth, who had miraculously conceived in her later years, the unborn baby in her womb leaped, filled with the Holy Spirit. Elizabeth cried out, You are blessed among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Who am I, that the mother of my Master should come to me? For even when I just heard the sound of your greeting in my ear, the unborn child leaped with joy in my womb. Blessed is she who trusted that there would be a fulfillment of those things spoken to her by Adonai. — Luke 1:42–45 TLV

So the shepherd priests, who encountered angels, went to a place where the lambs used for the sacrifices were born and swaddled. There, they saw the baby Jesus swaddled like a sacrificial Passover lamb in priestly garments that were used

for the lighting of the menorah in the temple, which symbolized the eternal presence and promise of God! Now it should make more sense as to why a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger would be such a significant sign to these shepherds, for it pointed to Jesus being both the Lamb of God and the Light of the World.

Thanks Be to God,
Kim

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Scripture of the Month

⁶ For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given, and the government will be on His shoulders. And He will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷ Of the greatness of His government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this. **Isaiah 9:6-7**

Financial Info

As of November 30th:

| | |
|----------------------------------|--------------|
| Balance in the Checking Account: | \$ 46,168.01 |
| Total Offerings for November: | \$ 7,280.00 |
| Balance in the Memorial Fund: | \$ 17,999.90 |

December Calendar

December 1st: **First Sunday in Advent - Hope**
Hanging of the Greens
Psalm 130:5, Isaiah 40:31, John 17:18
Call to Worship – Kevin Mullikin
Elders – Chet Lawrence
Kim Mullikin
Deacons – Greg Simpson
Tina Spencer
Acolyte – Adam Lyle
Board Meeting following Worship
*Happy Birthday – Mark Bastin,
Isaac Schwarz & Angie Southworth*

December 4th: Soldier Box packing – 2:00 p.m. –
Church Fellowship Hall
Choir Practice – 6:30 p.m.
Happy Birthday – Casey Gardner

December 5th: *Happy Birthday – Mallorie Bush*

December 8th: **Second Sunday in Advent - Peace**
Matthew 3:1-12
Call to Worship – Isaac Schwarz
Elders – Alice Lyle
Les Lyle
Deacons – Jill Bohman
Isaac Schwarz
Acolyte – Amy Lyle
Happy Birthday – Julie Toner

December 10th: Henry County Ministers' Meeting –
Our Best – 11:30 a.m.

December 11th: *Team Lyle* packing bags for
Campbellsburg Kids' Kitchen – 5:45 p.m.
Choir Practice – 6:30 p.m.

December 13th: *Happy Birthday – James Mobley,
Joe Mobley, & Cody Osborne*

December 15th: **3rd Sunday in Advent – Joy**
Choir Christmas Cantata
Isaiah 35: 1-10
Call to Worship – Chet Lawrence
Elders – Jim Chambers
Kevin Mullikin
Deacons – Patricia Carpenter
Mary Ann Courtney
Acolyte – Jake Moore
Pop-tarts & Ramen noodles due for
Kids' Kitchen Christmas bags

Congregational Meeting Following Worship

Annual Christmas Luncheon

December 18th: Choir Practice & Christmas Party –
Carpenter Home – 6:15 p.m.
*Happy Anniversary –
Sue & Robert Reed Bush*

December 21st: **1st Day of Winter**

December 22nd: **4th Sunday in Advent – Love**
John 13:34-35
Call to Worship – Alice Lyle
Elders – Les Lyle
Chet Lawrence
Deacons – John Ellegood
Mindy Lawrence
Acolyte – Ethan Lyle

December 23rd: *Happy Birthday – Becky Bush*

December 24th: **Christmas Eve**
Candlelight Community Service – 11:00 p.m.
(Children wear pajamas and adults wear red)

December 25th: **Birthday of Jesus**

December 29th: Sunday between Christmas &
Epiphany
Matthew 2:13-23
Call to Worship – Les Lyle
Elders – Jim Chambers
Kim Mullikin
Deacons – Ben Lyle
Greg Simpson
Acolyte – Logan Bush
Tissues and wide ruled paper due
for Teacher Care bags

December 31st: **New Year's Eve**
Happy Anniversary – Jim & Linda Wolfe

January 1st: **New Year's Day**
Happy Birthday – David Graetz

January 2nd: Packing Teacher Care bags –
Campbellsburg Methodist Church

January 5th: **Epiphany Sunday**
Call to Worship – Gina Lyle
Elders – Alice Lyle
Les Lyle
Deacons – Isaac Schwarz
Tina Spencer
Acolyte – Amy Lyle

Jim & Linda Wolfe
In honor of Soldiers
In memory of Loved Ones



Poinsettias

Thank you to the following people for adding to the beauty of our church sanctuary this holiday season and for calling to mind and memory these special people.

Ed & Jill Bohman

In memory of Amanda Dae Hood

Robert & Sue Bush

In honor of children & grandchildren

Betsy Carpenter

In honor & memory of Loved ones

Patricia Carpenter

In honor & memory of Loved ones

John & Joan Ellegood

In memory of daughter, Nancy;
brother, Dennis; & Bob Ellegood

Chet & Cathy Lawrence

In memory of our parents

Doug & Mindy Lawrence

In memory of loved ones

David & Alice Lyle

In memory of our parents

Ben Lyle

In honor of Family

Les & Gina Lyle

In memory of Lynn & Marty Bright

Marie Mattick

In memory of Hank Mattick

Kevin & Kim Mullikin

In honor of Andrew & Kelsey, & our Moms
In memory of our Dads & our Grandparents

Jennifer Rankin

In memory of Charlotte Loudon & Betty Moore

Carl & Joann Rucker

In honor of Church family
In memory of deceased Church family

Tina & Russell Spencer

In memory of Henry & Rumola Spencer
In memory of Floyd & Barb Barcus

Julie Toner

In honor of Patrick & Megan Schrader
& Travis Schneider

In memory of Arnold, Fay & Jim Toner

Martha Watts

In honor of Jim Englert
In memory of Robert & Rosemary Englert
& Catherine Nieman

Outreach & Evangelism

Soldier Boxes

We have 15 Christmas boxes packed and ready to be shipped to deployed soldiers. These boxes will go to Kentucky Air National Guard soldiers stationed in Afghanistan where their Chaplain will distribute the boxes. We obtained the Chaplain's name and address through connections of David Graetz. We will bless the boxes and ask for God's protection for their recipients during our worship service on Sunday, December 8th.

Thanks so much to everyone who contributed to these boxes; to those who organized handmade Christmas cards; to those who prepared homemade goodies; to everyone who helped organize and pack them; and thanks again to **Robert Cain** for his generous donation for the postage! What a great gift!

Prayer – *Lord hold our troops in Your loving hands. Protect them as they protect us. Bless them and their families for the selfless acts they perform for us in our time of need. Amen.*

Campbellsburg Kids' Kitchen

Everything is still running smoothly with our Backpack Ministry. *Team Lyle* is scheduled to pack bags on December 11th. Christmas break is almost here and additional food will be sent home in larger bags that will be packed on Wednesday, December 18th. Our church has been asked to provide *Pop-tarts* and *5-packs of Ramen noodles* for these bags. We will need to have these items to the church by Sunday, December 15th. Children will also receive a voucher for a family box of food from Campbellsburg Supermarket in their Christmas bag.

We have also been asked to provide *tissues* and *wide ruled paper* for **Teacher Care bags** that will be packed on January 2nd. We will need those items at the church by Sunday, December 29th.

Restocking will need to begin after the first of the year. Our church is still responsible for the following items: *Fruit Grain Bars, Pepperoni Snacks, Jif To Go, Ramen Noodle packets, Pringles, Pudding Cups, Individual Goldfish, Individual Cookie Packs, Cheese Dips Snacks, and General Mills Snack Bars*. Our next packing date will be January 29th with *Team Carpenter / Mullikin*.

Thanks in advance for your contributions!

Choir Cantata

Our choir has been practicing diligently – well, for the most part – to present a cantata on Sunday morning, December 15th, during the

worship service. Please plan to be in worship not only to support our choir, but hopefully to be blessed by their music.

Luncheon

Our annual Christmas luncheon will be held on Sunday, December 15th. The church will be providing country ham, tea and coffee. We will need side dishes, bread and desserts. Please come worship and then join us for a wonderful fellowship dinner. Be sure to invite and bring family and friends!

Choir Christmas Party

Our annual Choir Christmas party / dinner will be held Wednesday, December 18th, at 6:15 p.m. at the home of Tracy and Patricia Carpenter. All choir members and their spouses or guests are invited to attend. Please bring a covered dish and a wrapped \$5 or less Christmas ornament for the gift exchange.

“Love Gifts”

Once again boxes will be placed in the Church to receive our Christmas gifts for our minister, our music minister, and our custodian. If you would like to share in a “Love Gift,” you may place it in the appropriately marked box.

Church Cookbook

After a bit of a hiatus, our Church Cookbook is back in the works! All previously submitted recipes are being entered into a website that we will use to create our very own custom cookbook. However, more recipes are needed. They can be given to or emailed to anyone listed below:

Patricia Carpenter (patoestra@aol.com)

Ben Lyle (Ben43560@gmail.com)

Kim Mullikin (mullikink@seidata.com)

Cheri Simpson (gregandcheri@bellsouth.net)

We are still hoping to have at least 300 recipes!! Our new deadline is February 28, 2020.

Among Our Own

Thank You

Campbellsburg Christian Church,

Thanks so much for the beautiful cozy, warm cover.

Thanks to Alice and David for delivering it.

We miss our helper and friend Bob Ellegood very much.

*Thanks again for thinking of us,
John & Joan Ellegood*

Many THANKS to the **Kitchen Committee** for all the preparations for our Thanksgiving Dinner...

.... to the **Worship Committee** and **everyone** involved in decorating for the Christmas Season...

... to **Cheri Simpson** for organizing the Hanging of the Greens service, **Chet Lawrence** and **Patricia Carpenter** for sharing their musical talents, and everyone that shared readings...

... to everyone that has decorated a window in our fellowship hall and to those who haven't yet, but are going to do so!

Prayer Concerns

Please See Newsletter in Church

For Specific Prayer Concerns

Due to Confidentiality

All our military personnel

Our Church

Our Nation

WORLD PEACE