



God Has a Plan

Dear Calvary Friends:

From a public relations perspective the first Christmas was extremely low key. Maybe a dozen or so people witnessed parts of the story of God's entry into human flesh. This was by design. Christ needed to come humbly and into the most humble place in Judaea, sleepy little Bethlehem. His mother, a virgin betrothed but unmarried, was of meager means. Joseph, Jesus' earthly father was a common carpenter; he certainly had no immediate claim to nobility. To be quite blunt, in worldly terms, nothing was very noteworthy about the first Christmas.

However, history shows us that the entire universe was moving toward this moment of Jesus' birth. Events planned by God since the Creation came to fruition with Jesus' birth. Prophecy was fulfilled. Planets converged to create a huge star-like effect which piqued the attention of gentile Magi, supposing that a king had been born to whom tribute should be made. The angels announced the event not to Herod or Caesar but to lowly shepherds.

St. John 1:11 says "he came unto his own and his own did not receive him." The world didn't have a clue. Herod freaked out and tried to eliminate this "king" by infanticide. Little did he know that one day he, like all creation, would bow before Him.

The point is this: God always knows what He is doing! Think about your own journey. God knew your path long before you were born. For most of us our continued survival from childhood to adulthood is simply miraculous! It comes down to sheer providence from the hand of a loving father who has a plan for you and me. It has to be love! What else could it be? And now we have to ask "Why?" The only answer that makes any sense is that He wants us to spread the love, to witness to His grace and truth in the very world which rejects him.

Can you look back at your life and see the road signs of God's love all along? Thank God for His providence, His grace and His love this Christmas. Worship him freely in church and then take Him to your home and workplace....and watch Christ be born in hearts all over again!

Merry Christmas!

Thanks to You

As we move into the final week of Advent our personal calendars are surely filling up. I know that my work calendar is! With all there is to do we can get a tad edgy. There is a story about a mother who was stressing out over a large Christmas Eve family gathering. As the hour grew closer, she began barking orders to her husband and children like a drill sergeant at boot camp: "Pick up your stuff! Don't soil the carpet! Collect your toys and put them away!...." her four-year-old son who had been the target of his mom's wrath, decided to find refuge in the den where there was a wooden creche. The mother, hurrying by the den, stopped suddenly when she overheard her little boy imitating her in front of the nativity scene: "I don't care who you are, get those sheep and cattle outa' here!"

In the rush it's easy to forget some very special people at Calvary who make our jobs work virtually seamlessly

- Our staff: Melissa, Sam, Carol and Garnett
- Louise Taylor who posts the donations every week
- Don Maxwell who "sweats out" our finances and interprets our complex financials
- Debbie Braun, Michelle O'Nan, Tina Mussetter and perhaps hosts of others who provide Christian Education for our children.
- The "B Group" who meet every other Wednesday to prepare the Crucifer for mailing.
- Our Altar Guild, users, acolytes, LEMs, layreaders and choir who, without fanfare, work many hours each week to make worship happen.
- Fellowship Hour hosts over whose coffee hour hospitality we converse and connect each week.
- TO ALL OF YOU whose presence each Sunday to praise God is really thanks enough for the rest of us!

Christmas Eve Service Information for Children, Youth, and Choirs

Saturday Morning, December 20, 9:00 a.m. - Adult choir practice for Christmas Eve Services and Lessons and Carols

Sunday Morning, December 21 - Lessons and Carols - Adult choir meet 9:30. Service at 10:30. After the service there will be a brief practice for children and adults who will be singing for the Christmas Eve 5:00 family service.

Christmas Eve, Wednesday, Dec. 24 -

Christmas Eve Family Service - Singers meet at 4:00. Service at 5:00.

Festive late service - Singers meet at 9:30 p.m. Music begins 10:30.

2008-2009 Calendar of Events

The Little Disciples (20 months – Preschool) and **The Get Along Gang** (Pre K - 2nd grade) offer our children an opportunity to gather every month for a time of Bible stories, crafts, refreshments and fellowship. We will follow our summer 2008 VBS curriculum, *Rain-forest Adventure*, at First Christian Church, 1930 Winchester Avenue.

Schedule of Events

Sun., Jan. 4	Monthly Meeting	5:00 - 6:30 p.m.
Sun., Feb. 1	Monthly Meeting	5:00 - 6:30 p.m.
Sun., March 1	Monthly Meeting	5:00 - 6:30 p.m.
Sun., April 5	Monthly Meeting	5:00 - 6:30 p.m.
Sun., May 3	Monthly Meeting	5:00 - 6:30 p.m.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

5:00 P.M. CHILDREN'S MESSAGE
AND HOLY EUCHARIST

11:00 P.M. HOLY EUCHARIST/
CANDLELIGHT SERVICE
(Carols by choir begin at 10:30 p.m.)

OFFICE CLOSED - WEDNESDAY THROUGH FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24 - 26 FOR THE Christmas Holiday and Wednesday, December 31, and Thursday, January 1, New Year's Day.

NOTE FROM THE TREASURER - Please review your pledge statements. As we reach the end of the Year 2008, pledges brought up to date as soon as possible will help the church to meet its final obligations for the year in a timely manner. Outstanding pledges received by **Tuesday, December 30, by 4:00 p.m.**, will be posted to your 2008 pledge cards.

Save the Date - January 31 at 6:00 p.m. Calvary goes Italian. Italian feast sponsored by Pastoral Care Committee. More details will follow.

For Your Information

The Fourth Sunday of Advent - December 21

First Lesson: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16
Epistle: Romans 16:25-27
Gospel: Luke 1:26-38
Psalm: 89:1-4, 19-26

Christmas Eve - December 24

First Lesson: Isaiah 9:2-7
Epistle: Titus 2:11-14
Gospel: Luke 2:1-14, 15-20
Psalm: 96

The First Sunday After Christmas Day - December 28

First Lesson: Isaiah 61:10-62:3
Epistle: Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7
Gospel: John 1:1-18
Psalm 147

Prayers Are Requested for:

For the Sick and Those in Need

Bill Moore, Betty Lou Moore, Brian and Becky, Gurney Johnson, K.C. Donnelly, and Peg Ruge

Shut-in/Convalescing

Nell Hutchinson, Marie Kephart, Lucille Kazee, Phyllis McKenzie, William and Betty Brown, Duane Chapman, Martha Compton, and Grace Pennington

Annual Reports Due January 12

All Commission Chairs, Wardens and heads of parish organizations are asked to write a brief report of 2008 activities for publication in the Annual Meeting packet by January 12. The Annual Meeting of Calvary will be held Sunday, January 25 at 10:00 a.m.

Mistaken Identity

A stressed-out man in a big hurry was tailgating a woman's car when she slowed down and stopped for a yellow light. The man blew his horn and shouted at the woman driver.

A police officer came by, arrested the man, and took him to the local jail.

A few hours later, the officer came by and released the man. "I'm very sorry for this mistake," the officer said. "you see, I was right behind your car while you were blowing your horn and yelling and cursing the woman in front of you. I noticed your 'Choose Life' license plate, the 'What Would Jesus Do?' bumper sticker, and the 'fish' emblem on the truck. Naturally, I assumed you had stolen the car."

-via George Goldtrap
Ormond-by-the Sea, FL

Book Club and Ladies' Night Out will not meet in December. It will resume on January 28. The book that is to be read for book club is The Shack by William P. Young.

Calendar of Events

Advent IV, December 21

*8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist and homily
*10:30 a.m. Lessons and Carols

Christmas Eve, Wednesday, December 24

*Office closed through 12/28
*5:00 p.m. Children's Service and Communion
*10:30 p.m. Pre-service carols
*11:00 p.m. Festive Mass of Christmas

Post-Christmas

*Sunday, December 28 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist and Homily (NOTE! One service only!)

*Wednesday and Thursday, December 31 and January 1
Office closed

*Sunday, January 4 Adult and Children's Christian Education resumes

*Wednesday, January 14 - Noon healing/HC service resumes

2008 Fellowship Hosts

Dec. 21 Martha Dodson
28 Kathy and Don Setterman

PRAYER AND THANKSGIVING

We are pleased to lift up special needs and thanksgivings related to loved ones. Names are carried for one calendar month unless otherwise requested. Thanksgivings change weekly. Please try to be as concise and specific as you can.

PLEASE BLOCK PRINT

PLEASE PRAY FOR...

NAME OF PERSON(S) TO BE PRAYED FOR:

Their Need (healing, hospital, convalescing, dying, etc.):

Thanksgiving for:

Today's Date: _____

Your Name _____

(important)

Please place form in offering basin or mail to the office.

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- **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**
- **ANNUAL REPORTS DUE JAN. 12**

Birthdays in Our Parish Family in Dec. and Jan.

December 02 Judy Ford, 04 Christine Farrington, 06 Kathy Setterman, 08 David Mussetter and Christopher Todd Smith, 11 John Newman and Pam Watson, 13 Whitney Martin and Caroline Proffitt, 14 Bill Moore, 15 William Brown, 19 Lillian Sebastian, 25 Karen Newman, and 30 Brooke Gunnoe

January 05 Liz Alexander, 06 Ernie Pitt, 08 William Brown, David Slagel, 09 Ashton Slagel, 12 Annabelle Clark, 13 Kari Farrington, 14 Betty Brown, Martha Dodson, 16 Andrew Braun, Phillip Chapman, 17 Becki Gunnoe, Cindy Sparks, 18 Paul Farrington, 19 Evan Mussetter, 21 Pam Womack, 25 Ralph Blair, 27 Martha Compton, 28 Sydney Cox, Eli Cox, 31 Sheri Moore, and Patsy Cochran

The deadline for the next Crucifer is December 29. Please have all articles for submission in to the office by the above date.



The Rt. Rev. Stacy Sauls, Bishop
The Rev. Mann S. Valentine, Rector
Dr. Carol M. Greene, Music Minister

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