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From the Pastor's Desk



Rev. Donald K. Reed, Sr.

Greetings Andrews Chapel family and friends,

The season of **Advent** is here. It is a special time of preparing for the coming of the Messiah and celebrating **Christmas**, the birth of Jesus Christ. The Latin etymology of "advent" originates from the word "arrival" - the idea of waiting for something or someone to show up. We wait for the coming of Christ at Christmas; we wait for God to come again. Luke 2:11 reminds us the reason for the season, which states, **"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."**

The Pandemic tried to steal Christmas. It did not succeed because no one can stop God from breaking into the world nor into our lives. The whole world was surprised by the unprecedented shut down that came upon us. It was a time like none seen before. Millions died; nearly everyone was affected. Family, friends and co-workers were taken all in three short years. However, we made it because God brought us through. So, what will we celebrate this Christmas? Can we return to life as it used to be? What new present are you expecting?

The best gift was born in a lowly manger thousands of years ago by a young, humble servant named Mary. She willingly submitted herself to the will of God. As Christians, we celebrate God's gift of His Son to the world. No matter what problems we face, His gift is always with us. That is God's promise. God loves us so much that He came. That's what we celebrate. But, not just that. We celebrate that He is coming again! What a wonderful gift. Therefore, nothing should stop us from singing and shouting "Joy to the world; the Lord is come!"

For some, the real Christmas story is too dark and depressing. It doesn't satisfy their desire for power, affluence, wealth, and material things. The humility and poverty of the stable; God's selection of obscure, unimportant nobodies; His inclusion of the least and the last, immigrants and foreigners, and women and silent men confuses and confounds their sense of privilege, pride and power. The world is comfortable with its emphasis on wealth, indulgence, selfishness and gift giving as a measure of status. It would gladly trade the quietness of Bethlehem for the noise of shopping and trucks delivering on line purchases. Those reject the true Christmas prefer the flashing, blinking lights of today to the star that the wise men followed. The reality is so many people have been seduced by the confusion designed by the enemy of our souls. Toys have been mixed with the true gift of the wise men, submission. Angels have been confused with flying reindeer, an ox and a donkey in a stable confused have been conflated with Rudolph the Red-Nosed reindeer, and the debris of the stable confused with fresh snow.

The enemies of God continue their assault on Christmas by substituting a "white washed" revisioning of the incarnation of God. However, God's truth cannot be defeated. Humanity needed saving. We were broken, wounded people hurting other broken, wounded, people. We could not save ourselves from ourselves. That is why God came to be with us. He loves us so much that He Came. He loves us so much He is coming back again! We celebrate the ultimate gift, "God's love for the world in the Christ child, Jesus!" **Jesus Is The Reason For The Season!**

To you and yours, Natalie and I wish you the blessings of a **Merry Christmas**, renewed hope, good health and great peace for

Rev. Donald K Reed, Sr.

EDITOR'S NOTE:

This newsletter features the timeless Christmas story from our 2020 edition. We also pay tribute to Angerla Turnipseed with her article, **"Twenty-Twenty T-H-A-N-K-S-G-I-V-I-N-G Tidbits And BEYOND In Two Hundred-Fifty Words or Less!!!???"**

Some stories transcend time. Any content from previous editions is appropriately identified.

"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is hrist the Lord."

Luke 2:11

The Christmas Story as told by Matthew

This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: "The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel"-- which means, "God with us."



When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. But he had no union with her until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him."

When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Christ was to be born. "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written: "But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will be the shepherd of my people Israel."

Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and make a careful search for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him."

After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed.

On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, and of incense and of myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. "Get up," he said, "take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him." So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt, where he stayed until the death of Herod. And so was fulfilled what the Lord had said through the prophet: "***Out of Egypt I called my son.***"

When Herod realized that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was furious, and he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had learned from the Magi.

Then what was said through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled: "A voice is heard in Ramah, weeping and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children and refusing to be comforted, because they are no more."

HOW SENIORS CAN ENJOY WINTER 2023-2024

Seniors can have a delightful and fulfilling winter in this season and the upcoming 2024 season by engaging in a variety of activities that cater to their interests and well-being. Here's a list of activities to ensure that seniors make the most of the winter months, and find joy and fulfillment in every moment. Here are some suggestions:

Indoor Hobbies: Seniors can engage in activities like painting, knitting, writing, or learning to play a musical instrument. These hobbies serve as outlets for self-expression, offering a relaxing and enjoyable way to spend time.

Reading Club: Joining or starting a reading club is a wonderful way for seniors to stay mentally active during the winter. Reading stimulates the mind, enhances mental abilities, and provides a shared involvement that brings people together.

Cooking and Baking: Experimenting with new recipes or revisiting old favorites can be a delightful winter activity. Cooking and baking engage the senses, offering a therapeutic and rewarding experience.

Online Classes: The digital age has made education more accessible than ever. Seniors can take advantage of online courses to learn something new or deepen their knowledge in areas of interest, providing a sense of accomplishment.

Fitness Classes: Staying physically active is essential for seniors. Many community centers and online platforms offer fitness classes tailored to older adults, helping maintain flexibility, strength, and balance.

Movie Nights: Winter evenings are perfect for setting up cozy movie nights at home or venturing out to local theaters. It's a delightful way to unwind and enjoy the magic of movies.

Gardening Indoors: For gardening enthusiasts, winter doesn't have to mean a break. Seniors can bring gardening indoors by nurturing potted plants or starting a small indoor garden, developing a sense of purpose and accomplishment.

Virtual Tours: For those preferring indoor activities, virtual tours of museums and historical sites provide exciting alternatives, allowing seniors to explore the world from the comfort of their homes.

Social Clubs: Joining a local senior center or social club offers an excellent way to stay socially active. These organizations often host events and gatherings, providing opportunities to make new friends and engage in various activities.

Scenic Drives: Seniors can appreciate winter landscapes by taking scenic drives, connecting with nature while staying warm and comfortable inside the car.

Volunteer Work: Engaging in volunteer work is a fulfilling way for seniors to contribute to their communities, providing a sense of purpose and a meaningful way to give back.

Tech-Savvy Activities: Seniors can embrace technology to stay connected and engaged. Video calls, online games, and staying informed through digital platforms enhance social interactions and provide entertainment during the winter months.

After Herod died, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who were trying to take the child's life are dead."

So he got up, took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning in Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. Having been warned in a dream, he withdrew to the district of Galilee, and he went and lived in a town called Nazareth. So was fulfilled what was said through the prophets: "He will be called a Nazarene."



Matthew 1:18 - 2:21 New International Version

We Hope You Had A Happy Thanksgiving

**Twenty-Twenty
T-H-A-N-K-S-G-I-V-I-N-G
Tidbits
And BEYOND
In Two Hundred-Fifty Words or Less!!!!???**

When I was asked to do **this task**, I was excited and **texted** Gwen, our **tenacious** leader saying, "If I had **Ten Thousand Tongues**, it wouldn't be enough to **thank God** for all he's done". We are All Blessed and living testimonies!!! We all have been **through trials** and **tribulations** and we are still here **to-day**, to **tell** the story! Because we are all "long in **tooth**", age criteria for being in Prime **Timers**, most of us retired, with **time** at home, we can do homework. Homework: letters "h" - **through** "g" by next **Thanksgiving**. You have at least **three hundred and sixty five** days, **twelve** months to complete **this task** !!!

"**Travel** with me", as I share reflections in words and phrases starting with "T" celebrating **Thanksgiving Twenty-Twenty** and beyond.

T List
The Trinity!
Trust in the Lord with all your heart.
Time for

Today.
This is the day that **the Lord** has made, I will rejoice...
Tomorrow.

Ability to **think** creatively and logically: **Thanksgiving** has **twelve** letters, **twelve** disciples, **twelve Tribes** of Israel, **twelve** Days of Christmas?
twelve gates to the city, Hallelujah!!!

Technology that allows safe physical distancing as we're connected via: **Tele-Health, Telephones, texting, YouTube, FaceTime...**

Connecting to: family, community, Spiritual leaders, Prayer Warriors...**Technology** down?? No problem...Jesus is on the Main-line!!!

Teachers: of "**The Text**" on line, audio, captioned, **translations.** Spiritual **teachers**, School **teachers**, **teachers** covering **topics** for the Mind, Body and Soul!

Toolbox/Tool belt
 Good **Trouble, Trouble** Don't Last Always...
Tub, Tea, Talk, Touch, Temperature
Ten years from now, New COVID will be a **Tall Tale** told to children explaining why they should wash their hands for at least **twenty seconds.**

H List
Homework starter: 2nd letter of **THANKSGIVING, "H"!!!**
Healthcare workers, **Heroes** redefined
Holy is **His** name,
Hallelujah!!!

Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!!

Till we meet again!!

Submitted by:
Angelra Turnipseed-November 2020

A Shortened History of Thanksgiving in the United States: Native Americans, and Enslaved Blacks

The history of Thanksgiving in the United States is rooted in early colonial history and is often traced back to the 1621 harvest feast shared between English Pilgrims and the Wampanoag Native Americans in Plymouth, Massachusetts. In recent years, there has been increased awareness about the need to tell a more inclusive and accurate story of Thanksgiving, recognizing the viewpoints of Native Americans and acknowledging the complex history of colonization (the process by which people from other countries conquer and control native people of another country). The Wampanoag people continue to be an important part of this broader story.

While the experience of enslaved individuals during Thanksgiving varied, many were able to celebrate the holiday with their cultural strengths and traditions. Slaves often drew upon their African roots, incorporating common aspects of their native cultures into their celebrations. This could include storytelling, dance, and music, which helped maintain a sense of identity and community.

In some cases, slaves were given time off during the holiday, providing them with a rare breather from their daily toil. During this time, they might have gathered in small groups to share food and engage in religious or cultural practices. The dishes prepared for these occasions often reflected a blend of African and European culinary influences, displaying the creativity and resourcefulness of the enslaved community.

It is essential to recognize that while Thanksgiving may have been observed by some enslaved individuals, the holiday itself did not hold the same significance for them as it did for their white counterparts. Slaves faced tremendous challenges and oppression, and any celebration was often tempered by the harsh realities of their lives.

As we reflect on the history of Thanksgiving, it is crucial to acknowledge the resilience, strength, and cultural contributions of enslaved Blacks, even in the face of adversity. Their ability to find moments of celebration and connection in the midst of difficult circumstances speaks to the enduring human spirit.

Beyond its origins, Thanksgiving stands as an annual reminder to cultivate a thankful heart, fostering a positive outlook and promoting a sense of connectedness. In essence, Thanksgiving is a timeless celebration that encourages us to find joy in gratitude and promote a sense of belonging in our shared human experience. Acts 17:26, (New International Version) states: "**From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands.**"



Caring for Hurting People During the Holidays

"The Lord is close to the broken-hearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit" Psalm 34:18

For most of us, the holidays are a festive and happy time. And then for others, holidays are a time of mixed emotions. Mixed with the pleasure, there can be a lot of pain and hurt.

Although life has shown us that there are no quick fixes to getting rid of the holiday hurt, as veterans in the faith we can readily turn to God. God, Jesus and the loving support of our friends and family can enable us to get through the hurt with the passage of time.

So, this year, join me as I look for the ones who are hurting. We will know them by their bad-tempered and irritable ways. They are most likely the heartbroken and the sorrowful. The ones who avoid anything with a Christmas theme.

Help me to be on the lookout for those who need compassion and understanding more than "Jingle Bells" and false rejoicing. Even during COVID-19, I was and am tempted to offer a much needed hug and a listening ear.

Be on the lookout because we never know who is facing the holiday season with challenges. Your coworker, relative or your neighbor may be struggling. Behind the smile maybe a divorce, or chronic health problem. A church member or family member may feel abandoned and alone, but also just waiting for someone to notice.

So when you are in or out spreading Christmas cheer, while observing COVID-19 guidelines, be alert for those who are hurting.

Remember: ***"He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak ... those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength" (Isaiah 40:29, 31).***

Be an active listener while disciplining yourself not to give advice.

Exercise the ministry of "presence." Just be there.

Worship with the hurting individual.

Text words of encouragement often.

Love them.

Be a friend, be kind, and love them unconditionally.

Submitted by,

Ruthie Moore
December 2020

- ◆ ***Worship with the hurting individual.***
- ◆ ***Text words of encouragement often.***
- ◆ ***Love them.***

HOLIDAY RECIPES

CHRISTMAS PUNCH

Prep: 5 minutes
Ready in: 5 minutes

Ingredients

6 cups cranberry juice or pomegranate cranberry juice
3 cups pineapple juice
1 Tbsp. **almond extract**
3 liters ginger ale
1 (12 oz.) bag fresh cranberries (optional)
2 fresh limes, sliced (optional)
Ice



Instructions

Pour cranberry juice, pineapple juice, and almond extract into a large drink dispenser and mix. Pour in ginger ale and give it one quick stir. Add in cranberries, ice and ginger ale. Serve within a few hours for best results as it will start to go flat.

Servings: 14

NOT SO SWEET PECAN PIE

Ingredients

1 unbaked pie shell
1/4 c butter, room temperature
1/2 c sugar
1/2 c corn syrup, dark
1/4 tsp salt
3 large eggs
1 c pecan halves



How to Make Not So Sweet Pecan Pie:

Preheat oven to 350°F. In a medium mixing bowl, cream butter and sugar together well. Add dark corn syrup and salt and beat well. Add eggs, one at a time, mixing well after each addition. Stir in pecans. Pour into unbaked pie shell and bake at 350° for 50 minutes. Cool

Submitted by,

Cathrine Starr
October 2020



LAUGHTER—THE BEST MEDICA-



The Perfect Husband?

There are several men in the locker room of a private club after exercising. Suddenly a cell phone that was on one of the benches rings. A man picks it up and the following conversation ensues:

"Hello?"

"Honey, It's me."

"Sugar!"

"Are you at the club?"

"Yes."

"Great! I am at the mall 2 blocks from where you are. I saw a beautiful mink coat... It is absolutely gorgeous!! Can I buy it?"

"What's the price?"

"Only \$5,500.00"

"Well, OK, go ahead and get, if you like it that much..."

"Ahhh and I also stopped by the Mercedes dealership and saw the 2024 models. I saw one I really liked. I spoke with the salesman and he gave me a really good price ... and since we need to exchange the BMW that we bought last year..."

"What price did he quote you?"

"Only \$80,000..."

"OK, but for that price I want it with all the options."

"Great!, before we hang up, something else..."

"What?"

"It might look like a lot, but I was reconciling your bank account and...I stopped by the real estate agent this morning and I saw the house we had looked at last year ... it's on sale!! Remember? The one with a pool, English Garden, acre of park area, beachfront property..."
 "How much are they asking?"

"Only \$750,000... a magnificent price, and I see that we have that much in the bank to cover..." "Well, then go ahead and buy it, but just bid \$720,000. OK?"

"OK, sweetie... Thanks! I'll see you later!! I love you!!!!"

"Bye... I do too..."

The man hangs up, raises his hand while holding the phone and asks to all those present: "Does anyone know who this phone belongs to?"

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Ellawese Clemons 1st
 Gwendolyn Winston 28th

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Rosa Burton 3rd
 Mary Irvin 26th

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Georgia Wilson 17th
 Joyce Fluker 27th
 Willa M. Collins 29th

Happy Birthday to You,
 Happy Birthday to You,
 Happy Birthday

Dear Prime Timers

Happy Birthday to you!
 And Many More....

