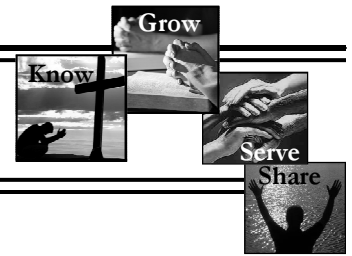




Pea Ridge Baptist Church



December
2009

The Christmas Journey

“To Know Christ and Make Him Known!”

Can you believe it is December already? We always say that as if we are surprised that life continues to move along. I think many people would just like time to stand still. If that happened, we would not get any older (a good thing for some of us), our children would stay young and innocent, relationships would last forever and we would enjoy life just like it is today! I know that I wish that sometimes for my life and I am sure others do as well. On the flipside, there are times when time and life just seem to fly by... we watch our children grow and wonder where the time went and how they got to be so big and “grown up”!

We are constantly on a journey and that journey is meaningless without the journey of God’s son coming to the earth - Jesus’ journey that began some 2000 years ago when he came to the earth as a baby. Matthew’s gospel records, *“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... 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”* (Matthew 1:18 & 21, NIV). Jesus was born into a loving earthly family and was raised in a Jewish home. The son of a carpenter, he learned his father’s trade while always keeping the will of his Heavenly Father in the forefront of his life. His journey was one

of surrender to the will of his Heavenly Father. Matthew states the purpose of Jesus’ birth and life on earth... to be

the Savior of the World. Jesus confirmed this when he said, *“For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost”* (Luke 19:10, NIV). The Apostle Paul reflected on Jesus’ life when he says, *“Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners...”* (1 Timothy 1:5, NIV). God had a purpose for Jesus’ life and Jesus surrendered to that purpose for his life here on this earth.

As we live on this journey, I trust you will be mindful of God’s purpose for your life. Don’t let life run by you with no meaning or purpose... don’t let life control you with its busyness and commotion. Allow God to be the focal point of your life. Jesus came to bring salvation to you and your entire family. He gave his life to forgive your sins and give you a new life. As we embrace the love of Jesus for us, we are called to live our lives surrendered to the journey that God has planned for you. As we live in a relationship with his Son Jesus Christ, we find meaning and ultimately direction for everything we do. Jesus said, *“I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me”* (John 14:6, NIV). Trust in the one who journeyed to the earth for you.

As you journey through this Christmas season, it is my prayer that you will know the love, peace and joy of a relationship with Jesus Christ.

Have a Joyous and Merry Christmas.



a note from Pastor Greg Creasy...

5945 E. Pea Ridge Road
Huntington, WV 25705
304.736.5572 (office)
prbc@pearidgebaptist.com
gcreasy@pearidgebaptist.com
www.pearidgebaptist.com

Church News & Announcements



Directory News

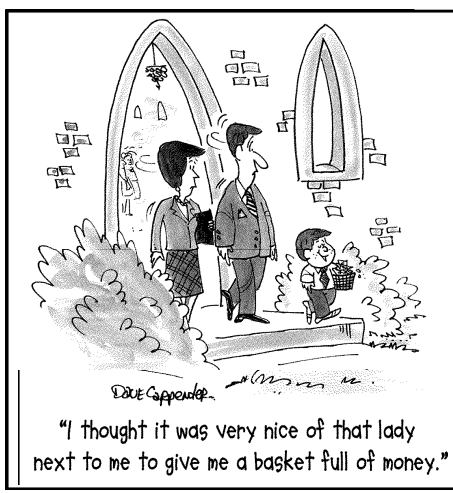
Keep the updates coming. We have received several already and there have been many changes!

ABW

Remember!



Keep your Tower / Foodfair receipts (and those of your neighbors and friends) and put them in the small basket on the table by the office.



"I thought it was very nice of that lady next to me to give me a basket full of money."

Thank You New Testament Challenge GROW Group Hosts & Leaders

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Greg & Leigh Ann Creasy | Mark & Kathleen Napier |
| Darlis Stutler & Lennie & Janet Roe | Mike Cyrus & Ron Brownfield |
| Johnna Gaunch | Bryan & Melanie Sweeney |
| Tim Forth | Harry & Kelly Estep |
| Donald & Christina Black | Nan Richards |
| Barbara Bragg | J. W. & Paula Bowen |

Youth GROW Group Hosts & Leaders

- Barbara Bragg, Jonathan & Becky Porter
 Trish Leonard, Karen Simon & Nan Richards
 Paul Bock, Cathy Hensley
 Lita Wright, Roger Wilcox & Trevor Wilson
 Mark & Carla Booth



God has truly blessed our GROW Groups this first semester! We are taking a break through the Christmas holidays and the month of January.....but the opportunity for Discipleship will not be discontinued.

We have had over 100 Adults, 50 youth, and 30 children involved in our GROW groups weekly, among 18 different groups meeting in homes and restaurants in our community!! All the groups have done a wonderful job leading some tremendous service projects!

We are now planning the next semester of GROW Groups to start February 1.

Sign up today to be a host or leader. See Bryan Sweeney or contact the office.

As soon as GROW Group Hosts and Leaders are established, we will begin class sign-ups. Look for the times, places, and topics to sign up for in January. You do not want to miss all the blessings God is pouring out on us as we gather to learn and serve together!!

Wednesdays In January

Pastor Greg will be offering a Church-wide GROW group in the Fellowship Hall beginning Wednesday, January 6, at 6:30pm, and running each Wednesday of January. It is entitled "Jesus – Relentless Lover". It will explore the topics of how Jesus invites our intimacy, desires our faithfulness, respects our individuality, protects our vulnerability, and releases our joy.

Pastor Bryan will also offer another opportunity to those wishing to continue in the Discipleship training. DISCIPLE 301 will also be offered in the Fellowship Hall during the month of January at 6:30pm.

January Prayer Gatherings

For those many requesting prayer time, Pastor Greg will again offer the prayer gathering on Sunday nights during January. He will use a study guide on the power of prayer, particularly power in the Lord's Prayer, to direct the prayers of the participants.

Check out the calendar for more church activities & special dates!

A New Beginning Crisis Pregnancy Center

925 8th Avenue, Huntington, WV 25701 304-525-3687

Baby Wash & Baby Lotion
Diaper Rash Cream
Bottles (any size)
Pacifiers & Sippy Cups
(no baby powder)



Place donations in the basinet in the foyer

-sponsored by the Stutler GROW Group

NTC GROW Group Service Projects Overview

- ⌘ Leonard (Youth)...Soup/Visitation for Shut Ins, Salvation Army packing food boxes
December 19 from 1:00-3:00 pm
- ⌘ Bragg...Helping the Strattons, Working in the Nursery & Pre-K classrooms,
Salvation Army, Branches Domestic Violence Center
- ⌘ Forth...Salvation Army, Sub Sale, November 15 Soup & Sandwich Luncheon
- ⌘ Black...Brownies for the Sub-Sandwich Sale, Golden Girls Group Home
- ⌘ Creasy...Sub Sale, Dinner for HHS Football Team, Circle of Love Food Drive
- ⌘ Sweeney...Sub Sale, Coat Drive, Shut-Ins Help
- ⌘ Hensley (Youth)... Veteran's Home Cards & Cookies, Mission Market during the
church Christmas dinner.
- ⌘ Stutler... Collecting items for A New Beginning
- ⌘ Estep... Finals Care Packages for MU students
- ⌘ Cyrus/ Brownfield... Thanksgiving dinner for the Strattons before Dennis went
back to Korea, aid for local family-moving, gifts.
- ⌘ Children's Department... Packing Operation Shoebox, Advent Baskets



- 3 Katelyn Ellis
Greg Porter
- 4 Michelle Caserta
Meagan Leonard
- 5 Juanita Dempsey
Staci Nottingham
- 7 Mary Lou Sims
- 8 Thomas Murphy
Willi & Diana Wilson
- 9 Shane Nicely
Jim Phifer
David Wendell
- 11 Amy Mink
- 12 Molly Urian
Andrew Smith
- 16 Karen Simon
Greg & Leigh Ann Creasy
- 17 Jada Mullins
Melanie Sweeney
- 18 Jim Smith
- 19 Brenda Sizemore
- 20 **Brian & Carol Porter**
Orman & Cheryl Hall
Kifle Gebreyzabhere
- 22 Doug Chambers
- 24 **Jonathan & Becky Porter**
- 25 Senait Teklhaimanot
- 26 Mildred Ford
- 27 Kenny Bowen
Hans & Julia Bengston
Joey & Katrina Heck
- 28 Zenaida Prichard
Brayden Potter
Kaitlyn Beckett
Jennie Raike
- 29 **Scott & Misty Shoemaker**
Terry & Lisa Ellis
Mark & Kathleen Napier
- 30 Jaeclinn Hall
Karl Vetter
- 31 **Rick & Debbie Abel**
Gary & Dee Simpson



*We invite you
to celebrate with us
the birth of Jesus
and our friendship
at our Christmas Open House*

*Please join us ...
Friday evening, December 18, 2009
Between the hours of 6 and 9*

Greg, Leigh Ann, Blake, Luke & Max Creasy
7 Permele Circle * Guyan Estates * Barboursville

PRBC Children's Ministry



Operation Christmas Child

We packed shoeboxes Wednesday, November 11. We delivered 113 shoeboxes full of gifts and wishes to the Prince of Peace Church in west Huntington.

Thank you to all who donated and helped the Children's Department with this worthy mission project.

Thanks again to our "pie-faced" friends from VBS for the funds raised to support this other Christmas projects.

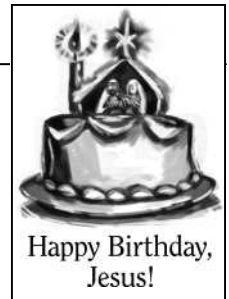
What's New...

We have been hard at work in the children's department. We have been doing the New Testament challenge with the adults. I am so proud of the children and the participation. The kids have been very faithful with their attendance and their reading. Children have been lining up to say the Bible verse every Sunday. I have seen so much growth in our kids. How blessed we are! We are now making Advent bags for shut-ins. This is an activity that the children see through from start to finish. We now are in need of families to deliver these baskets. Please see Christina to pick up your child's basket and the name of the person it is to go to.

In Sunday school the children will be starting a new series of lesson for December. We will be starting our Advent lessons.

- Nov 29 Hark! (The angels that announced the birth of Jesus)
- Dec 6 Get Ready to Tell the Good News
- Dec 13 Greatest Gift (Ms. Elizabeth and Emily will be coming to visit us)
- Dec 20 Now It's Your Turn
- Dec 27 Three Wisemen
- Jan 3 A party and movie

During this time we will be sending home an advent activity that goes along with these lessons. This is a daily activity that I encourage you to do with your children to help reinforce why we celebrate Christmas.



Parent Tips for the Christmas Season...

The December tip is very simple. This time of the year it is very easy to get caught up in all of the rush of the holidays. As Christians it is very important that we stop, remember, and share why we celebrate this time of the year...to take the time to teach our children the true spirit of Christmas. Christmas is a celebration of the birth of Jesus and as we have learned through the New Testament Challenge He came to serve and not to be served and to give His life as a ransom for many.

In trying to follow the example that He set before us it is important that we teach our children how to serve others. Christmas is the perfect time of year to do this.

Take the time to read the birth of Christ to your children before they open all their own gifts. Stress to them how Jesus is the best gift of all.

Go as a family to serve someone else. Our church has many different service opportunities going on this month. We will be packing food boxes at the Salvation Army on December 19 from 1:00-3:00 pm. This is

something my children have done for several years and ask when we are going to do it again.

We have GROW Groups collecting different items, take your family out to shop for these items. Check this newsletter and the bulletin for all the items being collected. Come and help decorate the church for Christmas. Come be a part of the Night Journey In Bethlehem which will be a fun outreach for our community, Sunday evening, December 13.

The children's department has been putting together Advent Bags for shut-ins, volunteer to take a gift bag to a shut-in.

If you need help in finding an activity for your family, contact Pastor Greg, Bryan or myself and we can share any information with you. Take time as a family to celebrate the wonderful gift of Christ.

-Christina Black, Director Children's Ministry

More SERVE Opportunities

Bible Clubs

at Forrest Bluff Apartments

We have an opportunity to do something for children and families living in these apartments. This past summer, the church picked up several children from Forrest Bluff Apartments for VBS. They loved coming and it was a tremendous outreach. Some of these children want to come back to PRBC...and we need to go and get them.

This outreach has two components: *Host Bible Club once a month on site for all children in the complex...we can use the community room and common areas outside for games, Bible lessons, snacks, etc. This would be like a mini-VBS club lasting about 90 minutes.*

Running the van on Sunday and Wednesday to pick up children for church. This would involve a commitment on a regular basis... a day could not be missed! This would bring children and hopefully their parents to our church.

There may be some families that have special needs. As we look to care for others during the Christmas season and beyond, there might be families needing help with food, clothing, etc.

BIBLE CLUB

Number of Volunteers needed: 10-12 for each club
Time commitment for Bible Club: 3-4 hours a month
Duration of Commitment for Bible Club: Now-through June 2010

(leading up to VBS...then breaking for summer... picking up in the Fall)

VAN MINISTRY

Number of Volunteers needed: 10-12 (for rotation)
Time commitment for Bible Club: 2-3 hours a week (less, if we have enough volunteers)
Duration of Commitment for Bible Club: Ongoing



Good News Club

at Davis Creek Elementary

Acts 20:24 (NLT)

"But my life is worth nothing to me unless I use it for finishing the work assigned me by the Lord Jesus- the work of telling others the Good News about the wonderful grace of God."

The Good News Club is a ministry of Child Evangelism Fellowship (CEF). Nathan Sayre and Pastor Greg met with Principal Vickie Caldwell. Later Pastor Greg spoke with Superintendent Bill Smith about this ministry and they have both given approval to proceed. The Good News Club consists of: *Bible stories, missionary stories, games snack, memory verses, music, etc.*

The program materials are provided through CEF and we will provide the volunteers. This is totally our ministry to these children. The children voluntarily stay for the Club, with their parent's permission. This is an incredible opportunity to reach some children and families for Christ.

Number of Volunteers Needed: 10-12

Time Commitment: one day a week 2:30-4:30 pm

Duration of Commitment: Now-through May 2010 (begin again in the Fall of 2010)

With enough volunteers you may only have to help once a month. Contact the office for more information.



"I suspected it was done that way."

Begin Your Christmas Journey With Us...

December 6 @ 5:30 pm

Our Journey Through the New Testament ...

Christmas Dinner

On this evening we will enjoy our traditional Christmas Dinner for the entire Church family. Everyone is invited to the dinner (please bring a covered dish or two). After dinner, we will be telling what God has done during our journey through the New Testament. Don't miss this wonderful evening!

December 13 @ 6:00 pm

A Night Journey Through Bethlehem

Your entire family can experience a Bethlehem marketplace with the Bakery, Carpenter's Shop, townspeople, and more. Complete your journey in the stable, the location of the humble beginnings of Jesus Christ. Make this a must stop during the Christmas season.

Christina Black is looking working and helpers for the town of Bethlehem. To find out where you can serve, there will a short meeting, Sunday, the 22nd, in the Children's Department following both worship services.

December 16th @ 6:30 PM

Collegium Musicum

Enjoy the sounds of Christmas with one of the premier vocal groups of the region. Collegium Musicum is a madrigal group from Cabell Midland High School. Under the direction of Mr. Ed Harkless, Collegium Musicum as performed in locations around the country and in Ireland. This year, they were the guests of Marshall University's University Chorus

at the their annual concert, the only High School group to ever be given this honor. Come and here this talented group, whose members include Blake and Luke Creasy. Their performance will be followed by a special business meeting of the church to vote on the proposed Budget for 2010.

December 20 @ 6:00 pm

Journey to Tell the Good News

We will go as a congregation to sing Christmas Carols in Wyngate. The children will be inside visiting and singing at the Assisted Living Facility and others will travel throughout the Wyngate community to share the Good News of Jesus Christ.

December 24 @ 6:00 pm

Christmas Eve Offering

We will be collecting a special offering at our Christmas Eve service. This offering will be designated for our Benevolence Fund. The Benevolence Fund is used to assist individuals and families throughout the year with utilities, food, gasoline and other special needs. This fund is administered by the our Pastor and Deacons. Please give generously to this offering.

December Sermon Series

Sunday, December 6 *The Journey to Bethlehem*

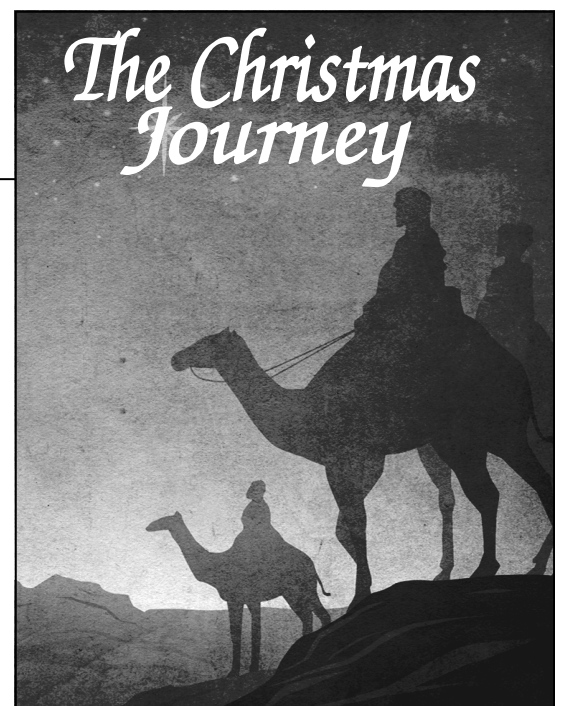
Sunday, December 13 *The Journey to the Manger*

Sunday, December 20 *The Journey to Your Heart*

Thursday, December 24 @ 6:00 pm *The Journey to Your Home* (candlelight service)

Sunday, December 27 *The Journey to Your Future*

**At the Christmas Eve service we will collecting a special offering for the Deacon's Benevolence Fund.*



More Opportunities to SERVE & SHARE

A New Beginning

Crisis Pregnancy Center

925 8th Avenue, Huntington, WV 25701
304-525-3687

Donations items...

Baby Wash & Baby Lotion
Diaper Rash Cream
Bottles (any size)
Pacifiers & Sippy Cups
(no baby powder)



Place donations in the basinet in the foyer

-sponsored by the Stutler GROW Group



ECCHO

Noon, Wednesday, December 23

Luncheon & Christmas food baskets.

We will receive a list of names from ECCHO who need food for the Christmas holidays. When these families come to pick up their baskets, we will provide them with a meal and some friendly smiles.

Usually we help 40-50 families. This year's need is great. Please, watch for notices and lists to appear in the bulletins and let's support this ministry.

Weirton Christian Center

3012 Elm Street
Weirton, WV 26062
weirtonchristiancenter@comcast.net

Branches Domestic Violence Center

P. O. Box 403
Huntington, WV 25708
304-529-2382

Child Evangelism Fellowship

1249 Madison Avenue
Huntington, WV 25704
304-522-3777



Huntington City Mission

624 10th Street
Huntington, WV 25706
304-523-0293

Golden Girls in Ceredo

999 B Street, Ceredo, WV 25507
304-453-1401 or 304-544-7400

Golden Girl Group Home is a residential care facility for twenty-four (24) adolescent females who are wards of the State of West Virginia (foster children). They come from a variety of backgrounds. Most of them were sexually and/or physically abused. All of them were neglected and some, saddest of all, simply not wanted or loved. If you ask them why they are at a group home they will likely say, "My parents had problems." When they arrive here most of them have few possessions, low self-esteem and appear "beaten." We work hard to help the girls overcome many problems in their lives.

A major part of our program is Holiday Celebrations that are not just fun, but also memorable for the girls. We have special friends who have sponsored girls in the past who we like to call our Christmas Angels.

We invite you to become one of Angels this year...

You can sponsor a Golden Girl's Christmas with a donation of \$150.00 or you can get a wish list and do the shopping.

We appreciate any contribution and wish you a very Merry Christmas!

For more information, call the numbers listed above or the church office.

Hospice of Huntington

1101 6th Avenue
Huntington, WV 25701
304-529-4217 or 304-781-8400

This time of year poses a challenge to those who are caring for a loved one. Please keep our Hospice patients, families, caregivers and staff in your prayers. We know your prayers will help.

Faith In Action

848 9th Avenue, Huntington, WV 25701
304-697-1274
emailfiarc@comcast.net
Website: www.fiarivercities.org

They assist in non-medical activities such as a ride to the grocery store or the mall, or putting away groceries or reading a book with someone. There are times in our lives when another set of hands or a listening ear is an invaluable asset. All services are free.

FIA does a few fundraisers each year and they accept donations. This year the donations have been low (no surprise there). Contact information is listed above.

1 Corinthians 13

Christmas Version

If I decorated my house perfectly with plaid bows,
Strands of twinkling lights and shiny balls,
But do not show love to my family, I'm just another
decorator.

If I slave away in the kitchen, baking dozens of
Christmas cookies, preparing gourmet meals and
arranging a beautifully adorned table at mealtime,
But do not show love to my family, I'm just another
cook.

If I work at the soup kitchen, carol in the nursing home,
and give all that I have to charity, but do
not show love to my family...it profits me nothing.

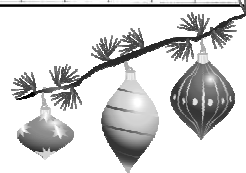
If I trim the spruce with shimmering angels and
crocheted snowflakes, attend a myriad of holiday
parties and sing in the choir's cantata,
But do not focus on Christ, I have missed the
point.

Love stops the cooking to hug the child. Love
sets aside the decorating to kiss the husband (or
wife). Love is kind, though harried and tired.

Love doesn't envy another's home that has coordinated china and table linens. Love doesn't yell at the kids to
get out of the way, but is thankful they are there to be in the way.


Love doesn't give only to those who are able to give in return but rejoices in giving to those who can't.
Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails.

Video games will break, pearl necklaces will be lost, golf clubs will rust, but giving the gift of love will endure.



Author Unknown
-submitted by Betty Crouch

Follow the maze through the verse.



START

And suddenly there

was with the angel

a multitude of the

heavenly host praising God,

and saying, "Glory to God

in the highest, and on earth

peace, good will

toward men."

Luke 2:13-14, KJV **FINISH**

Peace on Earth

Do you remember what King Herod did when he heard about the birth of Jesus?

He was so troubled that he issued a decree ordering the death of all male children younger than two years old. Jesus was not born in a time of peace, but we can look forward to His return and believe what the heavenly host proclaimed... "Peace On Earth."

