

Attend Church Regularly

...and read your Bible daily



WEEKLY SERMONETTE

"Selecting a Christmas Gift"

By Pastor Terry Laughlin, CrossRoads Church

It is that time of the year when people really start to get serious about selecting Christmas gifts.

When purchasing Christmas gifts one must first remember what is being celebrated. "For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16).

The key thrust surrounding the first Christmas was a proclamation. The angels proclaimed, "Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; He is Christ, the Lord" (Luke 2:11). After the shepherds heard the good news they went into Bethlehem and found Joseph, Mary and the baby Jesus. When they had seen Him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about the child; all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them (Luke 2:16-18).

It has been over two thousand years since this historical event and there is just as much need today as there was then to proclaim the birth of Christ. The Christmas celebration is the perfect time to remind or tell people about God's plan of redemption. After all, it is the time of year we have chosen to celebrate the birth of the Savior who came into the world to save people from their sins.

Before you can select the perfect Christmas gift, one that will proclaim the message of the birth of Christ, you must first understand who

Jesus is and the purpose of His coming to earth. Jesus is God's perfect gift to the world. He is fully God and fully man. "In Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form" (Colossians 2:9). He is God in the flesh. The beloved John tells us,

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning" (John 1:1,2). "The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from

the Father, full of grace and truth" (John 1:14). Mark Lowry wrote about the incarnation wonderfully when he wrote these words, "Mary, did you know, that when you kissed your little baby, you kissed the face of God? Mary, did you know?"

Jesus' key purpose for coming into this world is for the redemption of fallen man. The price He paid on the cross meets the need of all mankind, "...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God and are justified freely by His grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus" (Romans 3:23, 24).

The perfect Christmas gift that will proclaim the gospel message meets two qualifications: 1.) It must represent the personality of the giver, and 2.) It meets the need of the recipient.

Even people of this world know the value of a thoughtful gift. When Pastor John Bisagno was working as chaplain to the Houston Oilers, the players gave him an autographed football which every player had signed inscribed with a Scripture from the Bible. Whenever he looks at the football, it reminds him of every player to whom he ministered the Word of God as chaplain.

Christians, among the gifts you give this year, give some that reflect the Christ who lives in you and expresses the need of the recipients to receive Christ as Savior and Lord.

Have a Joyous Christmas celebrating the Greatest Gift!

O Holy Night

Each year many churches observe a Christmas Eve candlelight celebration. Carols chime the birth of Jesus as the flickering candles cast an entrancing glow on stained glass windows. As the choir sings "O Holy Night" or perhaps trills the "Halleluiahs Chorus" we are transported to the realms of spiritual reality. Tears of joy replace holiday tiredness and tension as we are truly touched by the spirit of the Christ-child. As the steeple bells ring out at midnight, heralding Christmas Day, the warmth in our hearts could melt the deepest snow. We are truly prepared to celebrate Christ's birth.

Experience the "reason for the season" this Christmas and celebrate God's gift each week at church. Keep the gift of Jesus alive all the year through.

Merry Christmas

Sunday Luke 2:1-20	Monday John 1:1-18	Tuesday Luke 2:21-40	Wednesday John 2:1-12	Thursday Revelation 1:1-20	Friday Revelation 4:1-11	Saturday Revelation 7:9-17
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Scriptures Selected by The American Bible Society
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NORCATUR NEWS

Notice: The *Norcatur News* was printed for the last time this year on Tuesday. Printing will resume Tuesday, Jan. 9.

Visitors Friday, Dec. 8 at the home of Bee Nelson were her cousin, Bob and Joan Milner from Paonia, Colo., and Oran and LaVerne Milner. Bob and Oran are also cousins.

Phillene Weets tells the *News* that Ethel Hansen, wife of Ted Hansen, has had a very bad stroke. First reports were she would not live, but now she is at Dixie Regional Rehab. Medical, 544 S 400 E. Campus, St. George, Utah 84770, or mail will reach them at Box 3595, Mesquite, Nev., 89024. She reports also that Ted's cancer is in remission and he is doing well. His 80th birthday was in April.

Bee Nelson drove Marguerite Clark, Dorothy Ward, Oran and LaVerne Milner to Norton on Saturday evening, Dec. 9, to view the Norton United Methodist Church living nativity, and they also enjoyed refreshments there. It was a beautiful evening for this activity.

Birthdays and anniversaries: Heather Baker - Dec. 14; Bryndon Wentz - Dec. 16; Justine Miller - Dec. 17; Tom and Betsy Jakowski - Dec. 19.

Mr. and Mrs. Stan Miller left on Dec. 3 for Las Vegas. They attended "The Phantom of the Opera" in the new theater there that night. Carol recommends it highly, but Stan won't admit how great it was. He was much more impressed with the musical history tribute to the Beatles, "The Fab Four," which they saw Dec. 5. The Millers returned home on Dec. 6.

The Red Hat Ladies of Lenora and Norcatur held their Christmas party at the Cardinal Cafe on Sunday evening, Dec. 10. There were 23 in attendance, including husbands and guests. A grab bag of gifts and other gifts were presented. The group included Stella

Harold, Sally Ellis (the queen bee) and her husband Les, Rita Carey, Lea Jones and her husband Glen, all of Lenora; Iris Smith (vice queen bee) of Clayton; Rose Bainter of Selden; and Devonna New and husband Gerry, Judy Jackson and husband Gerald, of Norcatur. Other guests from Norcatur were LaVerne Milner and husband Oran, Dorothy Ward, Marguerite Clark, Bee Nelson, Kathy Anthony and husband Gary, Norma McCallister and husband Wayne, and Carol New and husband John.

Norcatur Christmas Drawing Update

Due to the generous donations received for the Norcatur Christmas Drawing, we will be having a drawing on Dec. 23 at 2 p.m. We are still looking for an organization to have a bake sale and/or supper. If interested please contact Deb Marshall at (785) 693-4344 and leave a message. See you on the 23rd! Merry Christmas, Deb Marshall and Chris Dempewolf

United Methodist Church activities on Sunday, Dec. 24: 10 a.m., Norcatur Christmas program; 11 a.m., Clayton Christmas choir; 4 p.m., Norcatur Christmas Eve service; 6 p.m., Clayton Christmas Eve service/choir.

Museum Tidbits

Kenneth and Pansy Price donated the following to the Norcatur Museum: Kenneth's baseball mitt and shoes, complete stamping kit, several books from Norcatur Rural High School, a Citizen's State Bank pen and match book, and a K.G. Ward Agency matchbook.

We would like to have stories about you. Write down where you were born, what country school you went to and what it was like, what your parents did, etc. It is all interesting to us. We would like to preserve more Norcatur history. Please take time this winter to write your story.

JENNINGS NEWS

By LOUISE CRESSLER

Members of the Tuesday Study Club met at the United Methodist Church for the Dec. 12 meeting. A dessert and salad luncheon was held at noon. Roll call was answered by Ruth Chance, Wilma Mader, Joan McKenna, Helen Muirhead, Kathy Nauer, Lynn Tacha, Rachel Carter, Neoma Tacha and Vendla Tacha. Three guests Joan Metz, Clara Gillum and Violet Foster attended this event.

The evening of Dec. 12 at the Sunflower Senior Center a meal of turkey and ham with all the trimmings was enjoyed by the following: Jay Kump, Arch Harman, Bob and Neoma Tacha, Ruth and Merl Chance, Wilma and Jim Mader, Helen and Keith Muirhead, Emma Sanford, Eleanor Morel, Mary Votapka, Violet Foster, Pat Hall, Violet and Kenneth Krizek, Alice and Larry Mizer, Stan and Ramona Shaw, Rachel and William Carter, Agnes Wahlmeier, Vendla Tacha and Louise Cressler. Each member brought a food or paper item for the Food Pantry at Oberlin. Friday afternoon we delivered 80 items to Stanley Hardware where they are collecting them.

Christmas lighting contest winners from Jennings were: Sue Long, Stan and Ramona Shaw and Imogene Keenan.

There were some very nice yard decorations. Bill and Charlotte Nelson and Richard and Nikki Rowilson's yard were well decorated.

The Jennings Housing Board met Thursday evening.

Jennings City council met Dec. 7 with three council members present: Bill Gawith, Rick Foster and Louise Cressler. Guest Violet Krizek, chairman of the City Library Board, spoke about the library board discussion of moving the library to the church study if it became available. No decision has been made yet. The council discussed the water and sewer rates. If a raise was made, they discussed the amount. It was tabled until more of the board members are present. The new generator for well No. 3 has not yet arrived. The tractor is back in the shop after having a larger air conditioner put in. Millings are going to be put on Third and Washington streets. The council discussed rewiring the main floor of the Community Hall but will get more bids before a decision is made. Overhead doors are being installed at the City Shop. A weather alert radio was received and will be put in the emergency center (Senior Center). It was learned the water heater for restrooms is not installed yet.

The paper you read for the news you need!

PUBLIC NOTICE

Estate of Helen M. Henderson

Published in The Norton Telegram on Friday, December 15, 22, 29, 2006. (3T)
IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF NORTON COUNTY, KANSAS Pursuant to Chapter 59, K.S.A.

Case No. 2006-PR-16
In the Matter of the Estate of Helen M. Henderson, Deceased
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
THE STATE OF KANSAS TO ALL PERSONS CONCERNED:
You are hereby notified that on July 10, 2006, Richard E. Henderson was

appointed Administrator of the Estate of Helen M. Henderson, deceased.
All creditors are notified to exhibit their demands against the said estate within four months from the date of the first publication of this notice as provided by law and if their demands are not thus exhibited they shall be forever barred.

Richard E. Henderson
Administrator
Henderson Law Office
Attorney for Petitioner
627 Commercial, P.O. Box 349
Atchison, Kansas 66002-0349
Telephone: (913) 367-1912

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