

West Side Baptist Church 2011

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From the Desk of our Pastor:

Like many of you, I love Christmas music. There's nothing like the old familiar carols. They bring back many memories of times past and sometimes I will find my eyes tearing up. One of the things I've noticed however is that we have sung them from heart for so many years that we sing them without stopping to think about what it is they are saying. Recently I looked at the words of one of my favorites, "O Little Town of Bethlehem" written by Phillips Brooks.

*O little town of
Bethlehem, how still we
see thee lie!
Above thy deep and
dreamless sleep the silent
stars go by.*



Oh, how true it sometimes is. The folks in Bethlehem, Brooks suggests, are sleeping. Not only

are they sleeping but they have even forgotten to dream dreams.

*Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light;
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee
tonight.*

And, while they were sleeping dreamlessly, something big was happening right outside their front doors. All of the hopes that they had forgotten about and all the fears they had about the future were being exposed by the light of Heaven, wrapped up in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.

*For Christ is born of Mary and gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of
wondering love.*

*O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the King, and peace to all on
earth.*

It had happened when they least expected it. Who knew that Mary was about to give birth to the holy son of God? The hosts of heaven knew and they were busy telling the shepherds who seemed to be the only ones awake enough to hear and receive the good news.

*How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his
heaven.*

*No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin
Where meek souls will receive him still the dear Christ
enters in.*

It is still true today. The way Jesus often enters each heart and life is when we are finally quiet enough to hear the voice of the Holy Spirit drawing us to the Light, the gaze of his wondering love, the blessings of his heaven. When we are quiet enough to listen we can hear him knocking at the door of our heart. He is there waiting for us to open the door to let him in.

*O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in; be born in us today.*

It is that easy and what a beautiful prayer it is. Each of us who have followed Jesus have, along the way, had to pray this prayer, believing in our hearts that Jesus has forgiven our sins and has been born in our lives.

*We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel.*

Believing that Christ is alive in our hearts and is waiting to be born in every individual, motivates us to be angelic messengers to tell the world that Jesus not only came once as a baby, but that he is coming again to dwell with us for eternity for all those who receive him and believe in his name. We call him Emmanuel, which means "God with us." At last, when we receive him he comes in, awakes us from our slumber and helps us to dream new dreams, and hope new hopes. Thank God for Christmas and the Holy Child of Bethlehem.

Merry Christmas to my West Side Baptist Church family! May the Holy Child bring you hope, joy, and much love this Christmas.

~ *Pastor Kip*

UNDERSTANDING THE CHRISTMAS STORY

Stories of the birth of Jesus are among the most widely read in the world. Christmas is celebrated by the world's two billion Christians. And because of the cultural and commercial importance of Christmas in western culture it is observed by many non-Christians as well. Christmas is often associated with our earliest memories of childhood so it has emotional power. It touches deep human yearnings for the fulfillment of hope and for a better world. Yet, the stories of Jesus' birth are more than sentimental, they speak of personal and political transformation. Set in their first-century context, they are comprehensive and passionate visions of another way of seeing life and of living our lives. Even as tidings of comfort and joy they challenge the common life and confront normalcy. So, what do these stories mean?

Marcus J. Borg and John Dominic Crossan explore the meaning of these stories in The First Christmas (2007, Harper Collins). They use a historical-parabolic approach to probe what these stories did and do mean. They look at the stories in their first-century context and they look at their meanings for Christian understanding and commitment today.

This is not a devotional Christmas booklet that retells the familiar stories. Rather it shows what the early church was saying to the dominant culture and gives insight for learning for our contemporary society because America has become the dominant culture today. It is solid biblical scholarship as well as having astute observations of our current world situation. Even though you know well the stories of Jesus' birth you will find in this easy to read book profound and convincing insight into the meaning of Jesus' birth – and life – for the early church and you will be challenged to discover their meaning for the world today and for your personal life.

To read this book find it on the display shelf in the West Side Baptist Church library, sign the check-out pad, enjoy the book and return it so others may read it.

~ Fred Ansell



S.O.S.

CHRISTMAS ITEMS NEEDED! WE REALLY NEED YOUR HELP!

Due to hard times...the new items that are collected throughout the year for our Christmas Store are **CONSIDERABLY LESS**, we do not have 50% of what we usually have collected at this point in time.

Doorstep has adopted 250 households as we always do (involving 744 individuals) and we need your assistance to help us make this time of year good for those who are struggling the most this year.

We badly need clothing for children sizes 6-16, men and women. Please help where you can...

Women/Teen Girls

Men/Teens Boys

Sweat Shirts & Pants (Size Sm - 3X)
Sweat Shirts/ Pants (Size M - 4X)
Sleepwear (Size Sm - 3X)
Flannel Shirts (Size M - 4X)
Large Sized Bras ~ Gloves
Flashlights ~ Tool Sets
Jeans (all sizes) ~ Socks Watches ~
Boxers ~ Cologne

Boys & Girls

Sweats (Size M/L)
Jeans (Size 6-16)
Winter Clothing (Size 6-16)
Pajamas (Size 6 -12)
Socks Gloves

Thank you for your help this holiday season!



2011 Doorstep Christmas Adoption Wish List

Doorstep will adopt 250 families and individuals.

Needed Items Include...

Infant/Toddler Boys & Girls

Sleepers-Pajamas (size 12 mo – 5) Sweats (Size M/L)
Sweat Shirts/Tops/Jeans (Size 12 mo-5)
Jeans (Size 6-16)
Winter Clothing (Size 12 mo – 5)
Winter Clothing (Sz 6-16)
Socks Gloves

Women/Teen Girls Men/Teens

Boys

Sweat Shirts & Pants (Size Sm – 3X)
Sweat Shirts/ Pants (Size M - 4X)
Sleepwear (Size Sm - 3X)
Flannel Shirts (Size M - 4X)
Large Sized Bras ~ Gloves
Flashlights ~ Tool Sets
Jeans (all sizes) ~ Socks
Watches ~ Boxers ~ Cologne



BATTERIES – ALL SIZES BLANKETS – ALL SIZES

TOYS – For Ages 1 – 12

Puzzles ~ Games ~ Dolls
Coloring Books & Crayons
Back Packs

Other Gifts

Health Kits ~
Sheets ~ Towels
Dishes ~ Pots/Pans ~
Personal Hygiene Items

Teenage Type Gifts:

Basketballs ~ footballs ~ soccer balls ~ handheld video games ~ radios/cd players craft kits ~ games ~ jewelry ~ cologne ~ nail polish ~ scented bath products



Donated Items can be brought to Doorstep (10th & Buchanan)

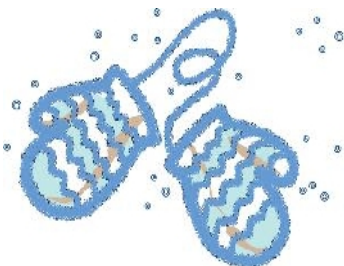
(Monday – Friday from 8am – 3pm)

Christmas Store Schedule – We Need Volunteers

Sunday, December 11th Help move items to 1st Nazarene @ 2pm
Monday, December 12th Help Sort Donated Items 9am – 4pm
Tuesday, December 13th Help Sort Donated Items 9am – 2pm
Wednesday, Dec. 14th Escort Clients at Store 8am – 8pm
Thursday, Dec. 15th Escort Clients at Store 8am – Noon
Thursday, Dec. 15th Help Move Items Back to Doorstep Noon - ?

If you would like to volunteer call the Doorstep office, 357-5341.

Mittens for Meadows will be rounding up on the second Sunday of December. Please have any items here at Church by Sunday, Dec 11.



Cornerstone

Anyone wanting to volunteer to help out with Cornerstone dinner on December 7 at 6:00 pm please see Almira Collier.

December Prayer Emphasis

The Region Board highlights a prayer emphasis each month. In December, let's make the greatest of effort to celebrate Christ, the Son of God, coming to earth as a baby. The heavenly angels announced the birth of Jesus, with the highest praise on the highest subject, in recognition of the highest person, who came to bring good will and peace to all men. Thank Him for coming to pay the full price for all sin.

Luke 2:14 — *"Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace, good will toward men."*

During the year in most American Baptist Churches we take four special offerings. The America For Christ offering goes to help outreach ministries here in the United States. The One Great Hour of Sharing offering goes to help people in need around the world who are affected by war, famine, and natural disasters of nature. The World Mission offering goes to help American Baptist missions and missionaries around the world, including the United States designated as one of the newest mission fields. In December we take the Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering, known by its acronym RMMO. This offering sometimes gets overlooked as somehow not as important. It goes to help those ministers and missionaries - and their widowed spouses - as a thank you for

RMMO
Offering



Remembering Others
In Need

their years of service, and to help many with financial needs. This offering is important in that it gives all those who participate the opportunity to be thankful for those who have gone ahead and paved the way for new ministries, to be grateful for the lives they have touched as they have shared God's love. We will be taking this very special and meaningful offering on Sunday, December 11th and the 18th during the Sunday services. There will be special envelopes or you may just mark on your offering envelope how much you would like to designate toward the RMMO. Thank you for sharing your generosity with those who have given their years of service to the Lord.



WSBC will be having their Christmas Eve service at 7:00 pm, Saturday December 24th. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Be sure to stop in the office and get your Advent book if you don't already have one.



Looking
Toward
Year 2012

- New Diaconate leadership for 2012
- Continuing our involvement with Meadows School
- Opening the Baby Closet
- WSBC continuing to GROW
- Continue our Outreach to the community
- Preparing our community for On Track 2012
- Youth Group's trip to Washington DC

