



The Vine & the Branches

December 2013

“For a child is born to us, a son is given to us. The government will rest on his shoulders. And he will be called: Wonderful Counselor, Might God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His government and its peace will never end. He will rule with fairness and justice from the throne of his ancestor David for all eternity. The passionate commitment of the Lord of Heaven’s Armies will make this happen!

Isaiah 9:6, 7

We can’t read verse 6 without singing along with Handel’s Messiah. ☺ That’s such a lot contained in one verse!

But verse 7 continues that good news!

Christmas is coming! We celebrate the first coming of Jesus as a tiny baby. No, it wasn’t on December 25, but it’s still a celebration.

We have an advantage, knowing and believing in the end of the story, and wow, to celebrate Jesus’ second coming! We don’t know all the details leading up to it. We know it is not always easy now, and we know it will be harder. But that doesn’t change the end of the story – Jesus IS coming again! It’s our choices that can change the end of the story for us, individually, and I pray that God and Jesus will use me and help me be the right example in the preparations for the next celebration!

Merry Christmas, my special church family!

Karen Maas, 2013-14 editor



I Believe in Jesus

I believe the Bible's true
And I believe that God loves you
I believe the Babe was born
In Bethlehem on Christmas morn
I believe the star shone bright
Over the stable that special night
I believe the shepherds came
To worship Jesus' holy name
I believe the wisemen bowed
And Jesus with their gifts endowed
I believe Mary gave birth
To Jesus, Savior of the earth
I believe that Joseph knew
And understood God's story, too
I believe the story's true
That He was born and died for you

Bob Gilmore
11/25/13

From the Pastor's Keyboard:

Dear Church Family,

I just got done moving the last of my rock pile I have had sitting on our driveway since middle of the summer. Our family started a project, but never got to finishing it. So the pile just sat there. Between being busy and not noticing it, it just sat there. It would bother me that it was an unfinished project, but I got really good at ignoring it or finding other things that seemed to be of greater importance. I am so glad that it is finally out of the way. What pushed me to finish it was the change in the season. Getting the last of the home winterized has helped in finishing up a lot of little projects I have had laying around.

We are entering into a new season. It is a season of joy and a season of giving. It is a great opportunity for you to change some of those old ways that have been sitting around your life that you know needs attention, but you just have not gotten to them. It might be like getting the body in shape, eating better or right, visiting members of the family that you have not gotten to, spending time with your children or grandchildren, making something special for that one you love. But it might also include looking at yourself and saying it is time to let go of those things that I know God does not want me to do or have. It might be that you say to yourself that it is time for me to visit that person in our church family that is a widow, or visit someone who is having challenges in life, so that I might bring them the joy of the Lord. You might wish to visit that neighbor or friend that needs the hope of Jesus in their life. The joy of the season is a great motivator for change; let us not waste an opportunity to make our world or the world around us a better on behalf of your Lord and Savior.

Notice these words from James 1:27: "Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world." Have a great month, and make a difference for God.

Love and Prayers,
Pastor Ballard



December events

December 14:

- Musical choir program, church service
- 4:00pm, Christmas vespers
- 5:00pm, Christmas caroling
- 6:00pm, Christmas supper and party!

What makes a newsletter?

Let me know what you would like in a monthly newsletter! Contributions – activity reports, testimonies, healthy recipes – all will be considered.
Church box #42, kmaas262@yahoo.com

December Anniversaries

- 8 Mel and June Krause
- 9 Ted and Ling Saufley
- 15 Mel and Kay Heath
- 17 Mike and Katie Harford
- 21 Derrick and Sun Kim
- 21 Ryan and Sarah Martin
- 23 Dave and Julie McEwen
- 26 Rodney & Sandra Pekarek
- 31 John & Margaret Kokinos



December Birthdays

- 1 Dan Edgerly
- 2 Art Schacher
- 4 Jennifer Ortiz
- 8 Dougy Buck
- 8 Lowell Galambos
- 8 Travis Karkov
- 10 Leslie Alveo
- 10 Kenneth Black
- 11 Katie Hereford
- 12 Vicki Clevenger
- 13 Mary Marjen
- 13 Shawnie O'Neill
- 15 Derrick Kim
- 19 Katie Harford
- 19 Don Matthews
- 20 Penny Ausmus
- 21 Teresa McCart
- 22 Tom Rogers
- 23 Bill Cady
- 23 Scott Marjen
- 25 Bill Mayne
- 27 Barbara Ristine
- 31 Eric Funasaki



Newberg Pathfinders!!!

Thank you, church family, for helping us raise about \$700 at the Harvest Supper in November. But we still have a long way to go!

Did you like the fresh-pressed apple cider? You have another opportunity to get some to freeze for Christmas. Tom Rogers, 503-538-5560 or 503-550-2640, is taking orders! The Pathfinders will be pressing more apple cider to be available for the December 14 Christmas party. Apple cider is \$5 per half gallon, and there will be both half and gallon-size bottles available. Please continue to support our Pathfinders' trip to the Forever Faithful International Camporee, and enjoy some apple cider, too!

The Pathfinders have committed themselves to participating in activities and Pathfinder classwork to be able to go to Oshkosh. They are working hard! Other ways to support the Newberg Pathfinders are:

Direct donations – on the tithe envelope, direct donations can be taken by designating Pathfinders Oshkosh on the donation line.

Bottles/Cans – bottles and cans that get the deposit can be donated in the Fellowship Hall. Please be sure they are bottles that get the deposit, for many of the water bottles and sports drinks do NOT get the deposit, and instead should be recycled with your garbage procedures. Please don't crush the cans/bottles, for the machines need to read the bar codes to count for the deposit.

Printer cartridges – used printer cartridges can be donated to Pathfinders. We have access to recycling and getting funds for them.

Yard/garden/household projects – if you have projects that you'd like help with, please contact a Pathfinder leader to work out how we can help you for Oshkosh donations!



From the Oregon Conference:

The MEMBER MINISTRIES & EVANGELISM department in the Oregon Conference is looking for a full-time administrative assistant with strong interpersonal, organizational, and computer skills. This department oversees several different ministries, including Adventist Community Services and Disaster Response, evangelism (ShareHim), GLOW Ministry, Youth Rush, men's and women's ministries, prison ministries, and prayer ministry. The full-time administrative assistant provides support for the department directors and various ministry teams to organize and carry out major annual events. Duties include general office duties (mail, filing, processing reimbursements, etc.), overseeing the Ministry Resource Center, maintaining and updating ministry-related websites for the department, and keeping ministry-related database information current. This person will also need to attend and assist with department events, including reserving event venues, making lodging arrangements, communicating with speakers, and organizing registration. The successful candidate will work well with a team, and be professional, yet warm and genuine in person and on the phone. This person must have solid working knowledge of Microsoft Office, especially Word, Outlook, Publisher, and Excel. Some familiarity or working knowledge of website content management is preferred. A four-year degree is preferred, and experience with at least one of the department's ministries is desired. For a full job description and/or to apply, visit the Oregon Conference Employment page at <http://www.oregonconference.org/employment-home>.

Chocolate Chip Cookies

It may be time for those special, traditional Christmas cookies, but chocolate chip cookies are good any time! Here's a slightly healthier recipe that I got from the Healthy Cooking magazine, June/July 2011:

1 ¼ cups packed dark brown sugar
½ cup canola oil
¼ cup sugar
¼ cup unsweetened applesauce
2 teaspoons vanilla extract
2 ¼ cups all-purpose flour
1 teaspoon baking soda
¾ teaspoon salt
1 cup semi-sweet chocolate chips
½ cup finely chopped walnuts

In a large bowl, beat the first 6 ingredients until well-blended. Combine the flour, baking soda, and salt; gradually add to sugar mixture and mix well. Stir in chocolate chips and nuts. Cover and refrigerate for at least 1 hour.

Drop by rounded tablespoonfuls 2 inches apart on a parchment-lined baking sheet. Bake at 375F for 10-12 minutes or until edges are lightly browned. Cool for one minute before removing from pans to cooling rack. Yield: 3 ½ dozen.

Nutritional info: Each cookie is 111 calories, 5 g fat (1 g saturated fat), 0 cholesterol, 76 mg sodium, 16 g carbohydrates, 1 g fiber, 1 g protein.

By the way, this newsletter editor is happy for reader contributions! 😊

The Christmas Story...

At that time the Roman emperor, Augustus, decreed that a census should be taken throughout the Roman Empire. (This was the first census taken when Quirinius was governor of Syria.) All returned to their own ancestral towns to register for this census. And because Joseph was a descendant of King David, he had to go to Bethlehem in Judea, David's ancient home. He traveled there from the village of Nazareth in Galilee. He took with him Mary, his fiancée, who was now obviously pregnant.

And while they were there, the time came for her baby to be born. She gave birth to her first child, a son. She wrapped him snugly in strips of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no lodging available for them.

That night there were shepherds staying in the fields nearby, guarding their flocks of sheep. Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared among them, and the radiance of the Lord's glory surrounded them. They were terrified, but the angel reassured them. "Don't be afraid!" he said. "I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people. The Savior—yes, the Messiah, the Lord—has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David! And you will recognize him by this sign: You will find a baby wrapped snugly in strips of cloth, lying in a manger.

Suddenly, the angel was joined by a vast host of others—the armies of heaven—praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased."

When the angels had returned to heaven, the shepherds said to each other, "Let's go to Bethlehem! Let's see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

They hurried to the village and found Mary and Joseph. And there was the baby, lying in the manger. After seeing him, the shepherds told everyone what had happened and what the angel had said to them about this child. All who heard the shepherds' story were astonished, but Mary kept all these things in her heart and thought about them often. The shepherds went back to their flocks, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen. It was just as the angel had told them.

From Luke 2, NLT version.

Merry Christmas!