

The True Story  
Of  
Santa,  
Told In the Spirit  
Of St. Nick  
Sunday Evening  
December 21  
At 6:00

Come and visit with our very  
Special Guest, St. Nick

WESTPORT CHRISTIAN CHURCH

## WESTPORT WITNESS

[www.westportchristianchurch.com](http://www.westportchristianchurch.com)

December, 2008

### Mike's Message...

Can you believe it, it's December--the end of another year. It is true, time flies! Along with December comes this thing called Christmas. Now, I would like to take a moment to dispel a myth. I am not the Grinch who stole Christmas. I'm not even a grinch, but I must say I don't like what Christmas has become.

Allow me to share with you some of what Christmas has become. It has become a time when parents go in debt more than they can pay back in a year. Thus, after the toys, or gadgets are no longer fun, the debt is still there. It has become a time when retailers put all their eggs in a basket to make big returns. It has become a national winter holiday where employees are told to say, "happy holiday," and now become a time when secular traditions have replaced anything that has to do with God. That is why I don't care for what Christmas has become.

Now, allow me to share with you some things I like and enjoy about what Christmas is really all about. I enjoy watching a child open a gift as the expression changes from uncertainty to a smile. Not because the gift cost a lot of money, but because that gift whether large or small, is given in love. I enjoy seeing a smile come upon the face of a parent or grandparent when they hear the words, "thank you!" I enjoy watching people smile and laugh as they spend time together with those they love and care for. As they exchange not just gifts, but--something that is more important--the gift of themselves.

I enjoy the sound of children laughing as they play together. I enjoy watching memories being created that will be passed down for generations to come.

I enjoy sharing the real story of Christmas and seeing the real meaning of Christmas bring hope to the hopeless, joy to the hearts of those who are sad.

*Continued inside. . .*

*Mike's Message continued...*

I enjoy watching comfort come to those who are struggling with a loss and those who are caught in some conflict receive true peace when they understand the real meaning of Christmas.

I truly enjoy Christmas when Christmas is what Christmas is all about-- Sharing the gift of love with those you love! At this time of year, don't allow yourself to get caught up in some commercial winter holiday, but may you share with others the real meaning of Christmas. The real understanding of Christmas should be 365 days a year giving the gift of self to everyone you meet and telling them why you have joy inside. Not because of some material gift, (even if it is a new fishing lure) but the gift you received when you allowed Christ in your life. Sharing the joy you receive when you read the true Christmas story.

*Now in those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus, that a census be taken of all the inhabited earth. This was the first census taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. And everyone was on his way to register for the census, each to his own city. Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, in order to register along with Mary, who was engaged to him, and was with child. While they were there, the days were completed for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son; and she wrapped Him in cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. In the same region there were some shepherds staying out in the fields and keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord suddenly stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them; and they were terribly frightened. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people; for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. "This will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." And suddenly there appeared with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased." (Luke 2:1-14NASU)*

Merry CHRISTmas to all,  
Mike

### Elders Express:

What does it take to be saved? Last month we addressed the third step towards salvation and that is: Repentance. This month we will address the fourth step in reaching salvation: Confessing. Jesus said in Matthew 10:32 "Therefore everyone who confesses Me before men, I will also confess him before My Father who is in heaven." In Romans 10:9-10 "that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation."

We have been instructed previously that once we hear the word and believe that we are sinners and in need of a Savior and we believe that Jesus in the Christ the Son of God sent by God to be our Savior we are motivated to repentance. We now know that we must make a public proclamation confessing that Jesus is the Christ the Son of God. Once we do this we immediately proceed to the next step: Baptism. See you next Month.



Westport Christian Church

Biblical Ed class 9:30

Worship 10:30


Sunday night & Youth Group 6:00

Wednesday night 7:00

# December

**Birthdays**  
 11th Shelley Riggs  
 14th Cole Sebastian  
 19th Larry Rowe  
 26th Gina Clayburn

**Anniversaries**  
 2nd Dan & Nina  
 Richardson  
 16th Ron & Donni  
 Buchanan  
 23rd John & Shelley  
 Riggs  
 27th Kenny & Carolyn

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Encouraging Others 6:30	2 Women's meeting At Church	3  Bible Study 7:00	4	5 Elders/Deacons Meeting 6:00	6 Children's Shop- ping day 9-12 at church
7 Family Sunday Congregational meeting following worship	8 Encouraging Oth- ers 6:30 Board Meeting 6:30 Elders/Deacons	9	10  Bible Study 7:00	11	12	13
14 Ministry Outreach Skybird Manor 3:00	15 Encouraging Others 6:30	16	17  Bible Study 7:00	18	19	20
21 ALL Church Pitch-In Following worship <b>**Special evening service.**</b>	22	23	24 Christmas Eve service 7:00	25 	26	27
28 Ministry Outreach Morning Breeze 2:30	29 Encouraging Others 6:30	30	31 New Year Eve party 6-?	"The True Story of Santa, told in the spirit of St. Nick." This is a special program you will not want to miss. Our special guest is traveling a long way to bring the true story to us. Invite your friends and family. Program begins at 6:00		

Sisters in Christ,

It's Christmas time again. Let's use Thanksgiving (still so fresh on our minds) to get us ready to celebrate the birth of Christ. In an article by Adrian Rogers the author gives 5 spiritual "sacrifices of thanksgiving" that can help us.

The first sacrifice is me. I must give me to Jesus because He gave Himself for me at the cross. (Rom. 12:1-2) Living sacrifices tend to slip off the altar if you aren't careful, so I need to do this daily.

Then my attitude--the sacrifice of praise--giving thanks to His name. Keeping a positive attitude, trusting God with my life.

Third is my prayers. (Ps. 141:2) My prayers must go to God through Jesus. He made a way for me to go to God when He went to the cross. I need to begin and end my day with the sacrifice of prayer.

The fourth sacrifice is my possessions. I am to share, to be generous. (Heb. 13:16) I must show my thanks in my giving. God loves a cheerful giver.

Finally, the sacrifice of a broken and contrite heart. (Ps. 51:17) God's goodness--His gift of His precious Son, Jesus--leads me to turn from my way to His way.

What a way to prepare to celebrate His birth! I'm going to try it this year.

See you Sunday!

## What's Cook'in



### Apple Pecan Cobbler

4 cups thinly sliced apples	1 teaspoon baking powder
½ cup white sugar	¼ teaspoon salt
½ teaspoon ground cinnamon	1 egg, beaten
½ cup chopped pecans	½ cup evaporated milk
1 cup all-purpose flour	⅓ cup butter, melted
1 cup white sugar	¼ cup chopped pecans

1. Preheat oven to 325 degrees. Generously grease a 2 quart baking dish.
2. Arrange apples slices in an even layer in the baking dish. In a small bowl, mix together ½ cup sugar, cinnamon, and ½ cup pecans. Sprinkle mixture over apples.
3. In a medium bowl, mix together flour, 1 cup sugar, baking powder, and salt. In a separate bowl whisk together egg, evaporated milk, melted butter. Pour milk mixture into flour mixture all at once, and stir until smooth. Pour mixture over apples, and sprinkle top with ¼ cup pecans.
4. Bake for 55 minutes.

ENJOY!