

Christmas Eve Service

7:00

ALL Church Praise Service

Sunday, December 27 at 6:00

New Year Eve Party

6:00-12:30

This is a great time to get to know your brothers and sister in Christ.

There will be games, food, and a whole lot more.

Watch for more details to come.

WESTPORT CHRISTIAN CHURCH

WESTPORT WITNESS

www.westportchristianchurch.com

December, 2009

Mike's Message... Well, here we are at the beginning of December! We just finished celebrating Thanksgiving and I hope all of you realize how much there is to be thankful for. No matter who you are, or what situation you maybe in, each and every one of us have something to be thankful for. We should be thankful first and far most for Jesus Christ. It is in Christ that we have salvation, the forgiveness of sins. It is in Christ we have the hope of tomorrow and the promise of eternal life. We must understand the world, (satan) can take absolutely everything away from us except Jesus! Nothing can separate us from the love of Jesus Christ. It is for that reason every Christian should be thankful.

Isn't it wonderful that we go from the month of giving thanks to the month we celebrate the greatest reason to give thanks, and that of course is the birth of our Lord and Savior? As all of you know, the date of the birth of Jesus is unknown. Some say He was born between June and October, other of course say December. The exact date is not important. *"But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, so that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons."* (Gal 4:4-5 NASU)

What is important is we understand that Jesus left the glories of heaven to come to earth as the redeemer of all of mankind! Remember the words the angel said to Joseph? *"Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife; for the Child who has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins."* (Matt 1:20-21 NASU)
Continued inside. . .

Mike's Message continued. . .Let's not get so caught up in all the garbage about when Jesus was born, but let's focus on the reason He came. Let's not get caught up in what Christmas has become, but let's get caught up in the reason we celebrate Christmas. Let's not concern ourselves with being politically correct, let's live our lives so that people will know without words. Let's not get caught up making sure we buy the perfect gift for someone, but let's focus on the greatest gift ever given to man.

It is my opinion that Linus is one of the greatest theologians ever. He stated it the best as he stood there with his blanket in his hand and said, *"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 2:8-14 NASU)*
Merry CHRISTmas,
Mike

Praise the Lord!!

Thank you for giving over and above. Our special Thanksgiving offering was \$3,708.13! This will give us an opportunity to complete some of our projects and plan for some new ones. Again, thank you so much for giving to the Lord.

Elders Express "A Faith that Works"

Are we justified by our faith or are we justified by works? This has been a question for many and also a point at which many people disagree because they do not understand. First we must understand what it means to be justified.

As a result of sin, we are all condemned to die. Romans 3:23 says "all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. Last month we talked about sin and who is responsible for it. We are and have need of a Savior to reconcile us to God. We cannot save ourselves, but we are saved by Grace at our Baptism if we have faith in what God has done, is doing and what he will do for us. We are justified by our faith in Christ Jesus. Justification then means that we are made right before God. We are made as if we have already paid the price.

We read in Romans 3:21-28. But now apart from the Law the righteousness of God has been manifested, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, even the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all those who believe; for there is no distinction; for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus; whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith This was to demonstrate His righteousness, because in the forbearance of God He passed over the sins previously committed; for the demonstration, I say, of His righteousness at the present time, so that He would be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. Where then is boasting? It is excluded By what kind of law? Of works? No, but by a law of faith. For we maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from works of the Law.

James tells us in 2:24-26 "You see that a man is justified by works and not by faith alone. In the same way, was not Rahab the harlot also justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out by another way? For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead.

So are we justified by faith or works? The answer lies simply as Jack Cottrell puts it in his book, "Faith Once for All": "We should have a faith that works". If we have true faith in Christ Jesus, even though we are made right by our faith, if we are not fruitful we do not have true faith. True outward expression of our faith comes through works for God to help build his kingdom. So instead of running from works and living for ourselves, if we truly believe in God and Christ Jesus, the world will know this by our outward expression of works. What are you doing to help build his kingdom? I hope you are not just Sunday morning Christians.

God Bless,
John

December 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 S.C.I.M.C.F. at North Vernon 1st Christian. Women's business meeting 7:00	2 Biblical Ed class 7:00	3	4	5
					Community Play 7:00 PM At the community building.	
6 Family Sunday Congregational Meeting for worship CDT here 5:30-8:00	7 Encouraging Others 6:30	8 WCC God's Men 6:15	9 Biblical Ed class 7:00	10	11	12 Church Work Day 8:00-?
13 Ministry Outreach Skybird Manor 3:00	14 Encouraging Others 6:30 Board Meeting 7:00	15	16 Melton Family Christmas concert 7:00	17	18	19 Youth Christmas party at the Riggs 6:30-8:30
20 ALL Church Pitch-In	21	22	23 No Biblical Ed classes	24 Christmas Eve Service 7:00.	25 CHRISTMAS Enjoy the day we celebrate Jesus' birth!	26
27 Ministry Outreach Morning Breeze 2:30 ALL Church Praise service. 6:00	28	29	30 No Biblical Ed classes	31 New Years Eve party. 6:00-12:10		

Birthdays
5th Blake Bennett
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 Blanton