

*From Everyone at the
Westport Christian
Church,
Merry CHRISTmas*

CHRISTMAS EVE
SERVICE
6:30

Come and join us for a short
service as we focus on the TRUE
Meaning of Christmas!!



*christmas eve
service*



WESTPORT CHRISTIAN CHURCH

WESTPORT WITNESS

www.westportchristianchurch.com

December, 2004

Mike's Message...

It's the most wonderful time of the year, or is it? Now, I know that most of you have heard that song . It describes how great this time of the year is suppose to be, but what has happened? It seems to me that WE have allowed the world to take over something very important. Yes, I know that Jesus was not born on December 25th, but it is the date that has been set aside to celebrate His birth. You see, it doesn't matter what day or what month Jesus was actually born. We shouldn't worship the day whenever it is. However, I must ask what is happening? In some places in America, children can't take candy to school and tell another child Merry Christmas. They can tell them "happy holidays." A school cannot set up a Christmas tree because it promotes religion? What's up with that? What about our children? Now I am not going to tell you how to raise your children. I not even going to tell you not to tell them about, *you know who!* I will tell you however you **MUST** tell them about Jesus! If your child wants to know the real meaning behind why we celebrate Christmas, then you must tell them about CHRIST!

I think (*yes I know I must be careful doing that*) that, for the most part, people get into the mode of giving because inside every person, is the understanding that God truly exists. They can't explain it so they try to change it. Christmas is now all about selling toys, games, candy and so on, but deep down inside they know that there is something special about this time of year.

I feel the bottom line is we must tell the truth. If Christians don't speak out, then who will? I'm reminded of a story about a man that was sneaking into a church on Sunday nights. It appeared as though he didn't want people to know that he was there. His behavior had to do with his position in the town. After attending there several Sundays in a row, he walked down the aisle and accepted Christ as his Savior and Lord. However, the comment that he made is so very important. He said, "You, Christians have something that the whole world needs to hear. So why are you keeping it a secret?"

This CHRISTmas, lets tell the whole world, "Joy to the world, the Lord, has come!"

God Bless,
Mike

Youth Happenings,

How many of you know how many days left till Christmas break? Well maybe you don't know yet but you will soon I'm sure. Let me ask you a serious question for just a moment. What is Christmas all about? I know that all of you know that it is a time for gifts, goodies, and fun, but is that all there is to it? Know for some of you, I'm sure you know what I am talking about. So just in case you don't let me help you. Christmas is ALL about giving!! To many time we think about getting and not giving. If I asked each of you right now, to tell me one thing that you got last year, could you? What if I asked you what you gave to your mom or dad, grandma or grandpa, sister or brother, could you tell me? This is a time to focus on giving! This is the time of year that we should really think about what God has given to each of us, His Son!

Let me ask you to do something this year. Focus this year on giving, not getting. Think about some way that you can give something to someone in need. It doesn't have to cost money. Here are a couple of suggestions.

1. Tell your mom that you will do the dishes without her asking for a week.
2. Volunteer to take out the trash without being ask for a week.
3. Call your grandmother or grandfather every weekend to tell them you love them.

(Remember ask your mom or dad if it's long distance)

4. Think about taking one of your days off from school to help someone for a day.

These are just some suggestion, try to come up with your own and give!!

Before I give you the riddle for the month, let me give you a couple new rules. First, you must now wait until the first of the month to give me the answer. Secondly, if you won last month you must take the next month off. Sorry, but this will give everyone a chance to win. OK, here is the riddle for the month. Other than Mary and Joseph, who was the first to see Jesus after he was born? Give me the name and the book, chapter and verse. Remember, no help from an adult

Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him. James 1:12 NIV

David was working on his tractor when his son, Caleb, came walking past him with a bucket in his hands. "Where did you find all these beauties?" asked the father as he inspected the pail full of blackberries. "Well, I had to crawl through a lot of briars to get these," confessed the boy. "Didn't the thorns scratch you badly?" his father inquired "Sure they did, but you know how much Mom loves these berries," acknowledged Caleb. "When I see her big smile, I'll forget all about the thorns in my hands!"

Has your life become a little thorny lately? Don't throw in the bucket. God never promised that your journey would be problem free. A godly life requires courage and a willingness to endure suffering. The thorns will be worth it when you see His smile!

We are always in the forge, or on the anvil; for by trials God is shaping us for higher things. Henry Ward Beecher

What Ron Thinks..

Christmas is a wonderful time of the year. I have had quite a few years of receiving presents under my tree. Some presents have been really neat and some have been quite useless. Buying gifts for others has been really the same way...I have come up with some unique gifts and some gifts were bought just so I had the duty done. There was a time when I cared if I got the same number of gifts as my brothers did. Sometimes I got gifts of clothing, shoes and underwear instead of the gadgets I desired. I always wanted snow for Christmas and most of the time we had a White Christmas. I always loved going to my Grandparents and Great Uncle's houses on alternate years for Christmas. It was a wonderful life.

When I got married and had someone of my own to care about, my attitude toward presents started to change. I had someone who was very important to please. Then came the kids...their Christmas excitement was transferred to me. I used imagination and ingenuity to make Christmas special to them. I loved seeing them get presents and started not caring if I got gifts or not, and I maintain that attitude till today. Knowing someone cares about me and being able to give joy to someone else is a wonderful Christmas.

Have you noticed I have not said anything about Jesus? That is because when I was a child the presents were more important than anything else. I heard the Christmas story every year hundreds of times and I thought it was really nice of Jesus to make a day every year so I could get the loot. The loot means nothing to me any more- hasn't for a long time. I am a lot more aware of the reason of Christmas. It is getting through my thick skull that his birth was a means to a cruel death. Knowing that, giving of oneself is the only good present one can give year round.

Still, this Christmas give useful gifts, not just door knob warmers. Give gifts that people can use. Give of your time, tell of the gifts of the Savior. These are free and will never be outdated or useless. (Jesus is the gift that keeps giving.) Give Jesus a gift of yourself, tell others of him, make Him proud of you, sing to him, pray to him, and love him. If you give attention to the Christmas you give to Jesus, then you will have a good Christmas yourself.

Ladies, aren't Christmas decorations fabulous? We're always looking for something simple and absolutely beautiful (and inexpensive if at all possible.) We want to have things festive for our family and friends.

I heard a guy last night that decorates buildings for Christmas as a living who said, "I live and breathe Christmas. This is what I do." What a statement! I know what he meant, but if we could say that...we would carry the wonder of God's Son coming as a baby to Bethlehem's stable, the glory of the good news of God's love, the amazement that He would come in such circumstances to rescue us from sin. We would treasure it in our hearts like many. We would praise God and spread the glorious news like the shepherds. We would come to worship, bearing gifts like the wise men.

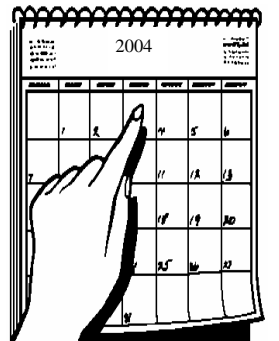
Let's live and breathe Christmas this year!

Remember, ladies-come on December 5 to find out the secret sisters revealed. Bring a present for your sister and a salad or desert to share with everyone. If you would like to be involved in the next drawing, please come and join in the fun so you can match up for the next year.

Everyone be watching for a new table in the kitchen. It will be a big, beautiful change! (We all love change)

UP COMING EVENTS

5th Congregational Meeting after worship	
5th Secret Sister revealing	4:00
9th Board Meeting	6:00
13th Hour of POWER	7:00
18th God's Men Breakfast	7:30 AM
24th Christmas Eve service	6:30
26th Morning Breeze	2:30



Westport Christian Church
 Sunday School 9:30
 Worship 10:30
 Sunday night & Youth Group 6:00
 Wednesday night 7:00

December 2004

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Bible Study 7:00	2	3	4
5 Family Sunday No WEE-worship Secret Sis revealing 4:00	6	7 Men's meeting North Vernon	8 Bible Study 7:00	9 Board Meeting 6:00	10	11
12	13 HOUR of POWER 7:00 at parsonage	14	15 Bible Study 7:00	16	17	18 God's Men Breakfast 7:30
19 ALL Church Pitch-In After Worship	20	21	22 Bible Study 7:00	23	24 Christmas Eve Service 6:30	25 CHRISTmas Day!!
26 Morning Breeze 2:30	27	28	29 Bible Study 7:00	30	31 New' Years Eve Party 6:00-?	

<p><u>BRITHDAYS</u> 12th Brianna Arnett 14th Cole Young 15th Bobby Lozier 19th Larry Rowe 26th Gina Lozier</p> <p><u>ANNIVERSARIES</u> 16th Ron & Donni Buchanan 23th Bob & Rosa Hermann 27th Kenny & Carolyn Blanton 28th Tim & Summer Catron</p>
