

MY DINNER DATE

Did you hear about the young man who didn't want to go to his parents' place for Christmas dinner without a date? He asked this girl in his college class if she would like to go home with him for a fine Christmas dinner.



She agreed to go but only if she could bring a date.

THE CHRISTMAS PRESENTATION

A little boy forgot his lines in the Sunday School's Christmas presentation where he was an angel. His mother, sitting in the front row to prompt him, gestured and formed the words silently with her lips, but it didn't help. Her son's memory was blank.

Finally, she leaned forward and whispered, "*Fear not, you have found favour with God. You will conceive and bear a son and you shall call him Jesus*".



Picking up about half of what his mother told him, the child beamed and with great feeling and a loud, clear voice, announced, "My mother has found favour with God and will bear a son".

THE ADVENT WREATH

As the Christmas season started, Pastor Johnson asked the children in the congregation to come to the front where he then explained the Advent wreath that had been set there. He had told them what the three purple candles represented, then asked with great enthusiasm, "Does anyone know what the pink candle means?"



There was silence throughout the congregation.

Finally, one little girl threw up her hand. He again asked her what she thought the pink candle represented.

Her quick response horrified her mom – "It means they're expecting a girl!"

CHRISTMAS SUPPER

The church's annual Christmas supper had just finished with the main course and everyone was invited to go up for dessert. There was a bowl of fresh apples at one end of the serving table with a sign that read, TAKE ONLY ONE APPLE, PLEASE. GOD IS WATCHING.



On the other end of the table was a large plate of Christmas cookies where an enterprising youth had placed a note saying, "TAKE ALL THE COOKIES YOU WANT. GOD IS WATCHING THE APPLES!"

JOSEPH – THE BOY NEXT DOOR

A little girl was asked to play Mary in the church play. When she was told that she was to be married to Joseph she insisted the role had to be played by the boy who lived next door. She explained to her Sunday School teacher that she had to marry him because she wasn't allowed to cross the road.

First Baptist Church Strathroy

Where Christ is cherished, family is loved and everyone is family!



GETTING CONNECTED

Publication of...

First Baptist Church Strathroy

Strathroy, Ontario N7G 1T5 519-245-0291 / 519-317-8659 (cell)

firstbaptistchurchstrathroy@gmail.com

www.FirstBaptistChurchStrathroy.ca, Edited by Pastor Dave Adams

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Remember, This Christmas

Turn your eyes this Christmas
To the Child who was born
He came into the world
Only to find sorrow and scorn.
He knew we needed a Saviour
To set us free from sin
No other way to redemption
But to open your heart to Him.

Remember this Christmas season,
Material things cannot satisfy

They are but temporary
They disappear and die.

But the love of our Saviour
A gift that lives eternally
He is that brightest Star
Which shines upon the tree!

by Mary E. Carpio

Join us for Christmas

• Joseph – The Boy Next Door **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24th 11 A.M.**



Sunday, 11 a.m. Services.

20 Centre Street W., Strathroy, Ontario

Where Christ is cherished, family is
loved & everyone is family!

Hot: "Who can add to Christmas? The perfect motive is that God so loved the world. The perfect gift is that He gave His only Son. The only requirement is to believe in Him. The reward of faith is that you shall have everlasting life."

~ Corrie Ten Boom

THE CHRISTMAS GUEST

Auntie Mae was spending Christmas with Jeff and His family. After a difficult night sleeping in the guest room, she asked her nephew, “What on earth do you put in your mattress?” He replied, “O Aunti Mae, it’s the finest straw and local from farmer Hal!” She retorted, “So that’s where the straw that broke the camel’s back came from!”



THE CHRISTMAS HAT

Auntie Mae was opening her gifts when she discovered a flower-laden dress hat. “What’s this” she asked. “That’s the hat for you” her nephew said. “It makes you look 10 years younger.” Then I don’t want it! I can’t afford to put on 10 years every time I take it off.”



Something to Think About...

“Behold the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call His name Immanuel – which means, God with us.”

~ Matthew 1:23

Who would believe such a story! An unwed woman becomes impregnated and tells her fiancé it’s by the Holy Spirit of the One True God and that she will give birth to God’s own Son! Not only that but there are tales of her being visited by an angel and her fiancé had the Lord appear to him in a dream telling him to believe all that the young woman, Mary, was telling him. **Who would believe it? Here’s hoping that you and I do!**

We’ve no need to jettison reason to believe the Christmas story. For two thousand years, people have told not only of the angel visiting Mary and the message of God to Joseph, but of the child laid in a Bethlehem manger; of angels who announced His birth to shepherds; of learned men who traveled a great distance over much time to view Him.

That a story persists for many years does not prove its truthfulness. Santa Claus, the Easter Bunny and the tooth fairy all survive in popular imagination; and are more accepted by our culture than the proven Word of God that not only tells the story but foretold the many events that would occur. We still have the many prophecies written many years before His birth. The Hebrew writer, Micah, who around 700 BC told of deliverance through a coming Messiah, “Anointed One”, from Bethlehem and then Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea. The prophet Isaiah, also writing around 700 BC, said the Messiah would be born of a virgin, “*The Lord Himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.*” (Isaiah 7:14) The Biblical accounts that claim Jesus’ mother was a virgin when she bore Him fit with the prophecy God had already provided. Additional prophecies concern the Messiah’s lineage, betrayal, suffering, execution, and resurrection. Peter Stoner, a California mathematician, once calculated the probability of just eight of the 300

prophecies Jesus fulfilled coming true in one person due to chance alone. Stoner concluded there was one chance in 10^{17} that just those eight were fulfilled by fluke. He says 10^{17} silver dollars would cover the state of Texas two feet deep. Mark one coin with red fingernail polish. Stir the whole batch thoroughly and what chance would someone blindfolded have of picking the marked coin on the first try? One in 10^{17} , the same chance that just eight of the 300 prophecies “just happened” to come true in this man, Jesus, the Son of God. What about the remaining 292 prophecies? Impossible!

But can we trust the biblical accounts of the Christmas story? Great weight is placed on testimony in our courts of law. We have eyewitness testimony. The Gospels — presentations of Jesus’ life — bear evidence containing eyewitness accounts. There’s also no known record of New Testament factual authenticity ever being successfully challenged by a contemporary. Leading archaeologists have dated every book of the New Testament within 80 years of the events. The apostle Paul testified following Christ’s bodily resurrection, that “*He appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, the majority of whom are still alive*” (1 Corinthians 15:6). Paul would have been absurd to make a claim that could easily be discredited. Not only is the Christmas story notable for its enduring message of hope, peace and joy, but Jesus’ followers taught that His conception and birth were part of a divine plan by an all-loving God to bring us into the family. Because God so loved the world, He wanted us to enjoy friendship with Him, and discover our true meaning and purpose. To unplug us from sin that kept us separated from Him, He gave His only Son, Jesus, who emptied Himself of His glory and took on human form – the form of a humble baby born to poor itinerant parents who were faithful to the God who commissioned them to care for His Son. Why? So that all who would believe in this wonderful gift of His salvation would receive eternal life, forever with Him.

God has also given us His Spirit so that “*we might understand the things freely given us by God*” (1 Corinthians 2:12). Christ died for our sins and when we accept that, we are saved. The Spirit indwells believers to receive God’s understanding of these spiritual blessings. God in us! That is why we celebrate Christmas and why we know it’s true!

Merry Christmas!

Mark Your Calendar!

Dec 3rd – Communion

Dec 9th – Men’s Breakfast (8:30 a.m.)

Dec 24th – Christmas Service (11 a.m.)

Dec 25th – Celebrate Jesus’ Birth with family & Friends

Wednesdays 1:30pm

Weekly Prayer (FBCS Godwinks’ Café)

Message Series
Experiencing God
- At the Nativity

All Welcome!

