



WHO'S YOUR DADDY?

Just before the Christmas vacation, a little girl moved to a local school. The teacher wanted to get to know the child and asked her about her family. What's your father's name?

"Daddy," replied the child.

"Yes, I know, but what does your mother call him?"

"Oh, she doesn't call him anything. She really likes him!"

HEADING HOME FOR CHRISTMAS

A man had settled into his seat, heading home for Christmas, when looking out his window he discovered two engines on one side were on fire. He began to holler, "Two engines on fire! Two engines on fire!" The passengers all began to panic, running about, some crying others screaming at the stewards to do something.



Suddenly the pilot ran from the cockpit with a parachute on his back. "Don't worry!" he yelled, "I'm going for help!"

The man who had begun the commotion, looked at the steward, "How am I ever going to get home for Christmas?"

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

A woman took her four-year-old niece to church for the first time on Christmas Eve. The lights were lowered and the choir came down the aisle carrying lighted candles to begin the candlelight service. Amid the beautiful voices singing the songs of Christmas, there was a reverent hush over the room. That is until the little girl began to sing, "Happy birthday to you, happy birthday to you!"



TRUE CHRISTMAS STORY

The church's nativity play was going as planned. Joseph and Mary were going from house to house, knocking on doors to ask if there was any room for them. As they continued to get "no room" answers a little voice called from the back "You should have booked ahead!" bringing the house down.



MULE GUIDANCE

Mary and Joseph used a donkey to travel to Bethlehem because GPS wasn't working, and they needed a little "mule" guidance!



First Baptist Church Strathroy

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



GETTING CONNECTED

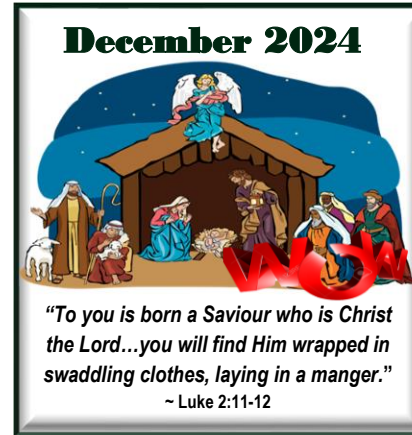
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There is Cause for Rejoicing!

May the holy remembrance of that first Christmas Day.

Be our reassurance that Christ is not so far away!

For on that first Christmas, He came to walk here on earth.

So let us find great joy in the news of His holy birth!

And let us find sure comfort, and strength for every day in knowing Christ our Saviour walked this same earthly way.

He knows our needs, And hears our every prayer, And keeps all His children safe within His care.

So, once more this Christmas, Let the whole world rejoice In the knowledge He hears us and answers every prayer we voice.

~ Helen Steiner Rice

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Sunday, 11 a.m. Services.

20 Centre Street W., Strathroy, Ontario

Thot: "May we not 'spend' Christmas or 'observe' Christmas, but rather 'keep' it." ~ Peter Marshall

GOOD & DEAD

A young boy, chosen to be the narrator for the school play, *The Christmas Carol*, was troubled by what he knew of Marley's character and of the lines he was to read, particularly the line that said, "Bob Marley was good and dead" and so on the night of the play with family and friends before him, he simply said, "Bob Marley was well past his expiry date"!



DIDN'T YOU GET MY E-MAIL?

Things have certainly changed. As a little girl climbed onto the mall Santa's lap, Santa asked the usual, "And what would you like for Christmas?" The child stared at him open mouthed and horrified for a minute, then gasped: "Didn't you get my E-mail?"



Something to Think About...

"And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth." ~ John 1:14

Why do we celebrate Christmas? Is it that time of year when we dig out our list of 'loved ones' and rack our brains to figure out a meaningful gift to give? Or do we dread the extra efforts for baking, decorating, visiting and gathering that seems to invade our schedules this time of year? As believers in the Lord Jesus Christ, my prayer is that we can do many things that bring fellowship and encouragement to one another without being burned out by expectations. Rather, in the joy of this blessed season, we discover that we celebrate because of the true meaning of Christmas which is in our hearts.

The true meaning of Christmas in God's Word, the Bible, centers on God's Son, Jesus Christ and His birth. Yes, God's own Son, our Lord and Saviour, came to fulfill the prophecies that would bring us hope, peace, and salvation (Luke 2:10-11). The central message of Christmas then is "God is Here!"

Many years before the time when Christ came as a baby and was laid in a manger, King Solomon dedicated the Temple to God. God's glory had dwelt in the tabernacle and would now dwell in the Temple. Even so, Solomon pondered, asking, "Will God indeed dwell on the earth?" (1 Kings 8:27). That question must have resonated with many faithful people for generations as the glory departed from disobedient Israel and they walked in darkness. The prophet Isaiah brought hope when he cried of a future time when "*the people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned*" (Isaiah 9:2).

When we have Jesus at the center of our celebrations, setting aside all the commercial trappings that are around us, it reveals that that Light has come – Jesus the 'true Light'; the original of which every other light is a copy –

emphasizes joy and the divine incarnation, highlights God's love and the gift of His grace given to the world that we again celebrate at Christmas. But the true meaning of Christmas, as depicted in the Bible, extends beyond just the celebration of Jesus' birth; it encompasses the profound implications of His coming into the world. "*For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through Him*" (John 3:17). Christ came, becoming flesh like you and me, dwelt among us, so that we might experience His grace and truth and be saved from our sins, set free from the tyranny that holds us separated from the Father who loves us.

Jesus Christ gave us the greatest gift of all that first Christmas. Though we don't know exactly what time of the year Jesus was born, we should celebrate His birth, His coming, His gift every day of the year. Jesus has the fulness of God's grace – His favour and kindness bestowed on us who don't deserve it – and His loving-kindness that reaches out to us even while we were sinners. In fact, Christmas celebrated in Christ invites us to reflect on the nature of that love of God as demonstrated in the incarnation of Christ.

This season will we take the opportunity to acknowledge and embrace the transformative power of God's promise of a Saviour; of love, peace, and joy that flows from Christ's presence in our lives? This year as you put up the Christmas lights, as you take part in the festivities, enjoy the great food, are blessed with fellowship, will you accept the invitation to live out the principles of love and service, choosing to reflect the character of Christ in you; carry those wonderful traits beyond this holiday season, sharing the Light of the World who resides in you in your daily life?

If we take up the response of the Shepherds, who, having heard the angels bring the "*Good News of great joy*", chose to go to find Jesus, to "*see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us*", we too must go and find the child God has revealed to us. The shepherds knew what to look for. May they be our example today as we celebrate the season.

Mark Your Calendar!

December 1st – Communion

"Lighting the Advent Candle"



December 3rd, 1:30 p.m. Godwinks' Café

Women's Mission Encounter Group

December 14th – Men's Breakfast

Saturday at 8:30 a.m.

December 15th – Christmas Tea & Coffee

Godwinks' Café (follows service)

December 24th – 7 p.m.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Wednesdays 1:30 p.m.

Weekly Prayer (FBCS Godwinks' Café)

Message Series...

Unexpected Encounters in the Ordinary

Come and join us!