



God at work

December 2009

Merry Christmas!

## Church Family Fellowship

**“A Baby Changes Everything” December 12 at 7 PM**

ACTS Musical (*Adoring Christ Through Song*)

“A Baby Changes Everything”

Bring the whole family to Westminster for an evening of worship and entertainment! We will enjoy a wonderful fellowship time over delicious desserts following the program. Nursery care provided.

**Christmas Eve Service December 24 at 7 PM**

We will celebrate Christ’s birth during our annual Christmas Eve Worship.

- Church Family Fellowship
- Devotional
- This month In the Life
- Officers

Upcoming Events



## DECEMBER DEVOTIONAL

### The King of Kings

by R.C. Sproul

The gospel of Luke ends with a supremely jarring statement: “Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. While he blessed them, he parted from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and were continually in the temple blessing God” (24:50-53).

What is jarring about this passage is, as Luke reports the departure of Jesus from this world, the response of His disciples was to return to Jerusalem with “great joy.” What about Jesus’ departure would instill in His disciples an emotion of sheer elation? This question is made all the more puzzling when we consider the emotions the disciples displayed when Jesus earlier had told them that His departure would come soon. At that time, the idea that their Lord would leave their earthly presence provoked in them a spirit of profound remorse. It would seem that nothing could be more depressing than to anticipate separation from the presence of Jesus. Yet, in a very short period of time, that depression changed to unspeakable joy.

We have to ask what is it that provoked such a radical change of emotion within the hearts of Jesus’ disciples. The answer to that question is plain in the New Testament. Between the time of Jesus’ announcement to them that

He would soon be going away and the time of His actual departure, the disciples came to realize two things. First, they realized why it was that Jesus was leaving. Secondly, they understood the place to which He was going. Jesus was leaving not in order that they might be left alone and comfortless, but that He might ascend into heaven. The New Testament idea of ascension means something far more weighty than merely going up into the sky or even to the abode of the heavenlies. In His ascension, Jesus was going to a specific place for a specific reason. He was ascending into heaven for the purpose of His investiture and coronation as the King of kings and Lord of lords. He is King in the highest possible sense of kingship.

In biblical terms, it is unthinkable to have a king without a kingdom. Since Jesus ascends to His coronation as king, with that coronation comes the designation by the Father of a realm over which He rules. That realm is all creation.

The King is already in place. He has already received all authority on heaven and on earth. That means that at this very moment the supreme authority over the kingdoms of this world and over the entire cosmos is in the hands of King Jesus. There is no inch of real estate, no symbol of power in this world that is not under His ownership and His rule at this very moment. In Paul’s letter to the Philippians, in chapter 2, in the so-called kenotic hymn, it is said that Jesus is given the name that is above all names. The name that He is given that rises above all other titles that anyone can receive, is a name that is reserved

for God. It is God’s title *Adonai*, which means the “One who is absolutely sovereign.” Again, this title is one of supreme governorship for the One who is the King of all of the earth.

The New Testament translation of the Old Testament title *adonai* is the name *lord*. When Paul says that at the name of Jesus every knee must bow and every tongue confess, the reason for the bowing in obeisance and for confessing is that they are to declare with their lips that Jesus is Lord – that is, He is the sovereign ruler. That was the first confession of faith of the early church.

The lordship of Jesus is not simply a hope of Christians that someday might be realized; it is a truth that has already taken place. It is the task of the church to bear witness to that invisible kingdom, or as Calvin put it, it is the task of the church to make the invisible kingdom of Christ visible. Though invisible, it is nevertheless real.

*Dr. R.C. Sproul is president and chairman of the board of Ligonier Ministries, and he is author of The Last Days According to Jesus.*

### VERSE OF THE MONTH

#### Luke 2:19

But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart.

## THIS MONTH IN THE LIFE

### Christian Education



Coming this January, take a walk on the wild side at Kingdom of the Son Prayer Safari! During this spectacular prayer safari, we'll journey into the Serengeti - the magnificent grassland region of Tanzania and Kenya. We'll learn to talk to God as we explore the Lord's Prayer and go on an expedition into the pages of God's Word. We'll discover exotic animals, create a keepsake craft project, play games, sing upbeat songs, and enjoy tasty snacks. Don't miss the adventure!

Wednesdays  
January 13 - February 10, 2010  
6:30 - 8:00 PM

Each family will receive a Prayer Safari music CD upon registration, which will take place on December 27 and January 3 in the Welcome Center.

If you have any questions or would like to volunteer to help, please contact Denise Monday.

Sunday School Offerings  
Dec. 6 through Feb. 22, 2010

#### Adults

Expositors: McCafferty, Ihlenfeld, Cope, and Green  
Isaiah: J. Hoffer  
WCF: Pastor Dan and Others  
Peacemakers: Pastor Walt and Others (through December)

#### Youth

Grades 9-12

*Knowing Scripture* by Sproul  
Jan Wigton

Grades 6-8

*The Hiding Place/Apologetics*

Jen Ledford

Grades 4-5

*The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe* by CS Lewis

Shelley Brown and Others

Grades 2-3

The Miracles of Jesus

Laura Shandick

Grade 1

The Ten Commandments

Pam Smith

Ages 4 & Kindergarten

Bible Heroes

Jane Hartzler

Ages 2&3

Bible Personalities

Michelle Gonda

#### **ACTS**

Adoring Christ Thru Song is a non-profit choral/instrumental organization that is committed to providing opportunities to share the gospel of Christ through the performing arts by praising God and celebrating our American Freedom. This year's Christmas Cantata will be A Baby Changes Everything by Deborah Craig-Claar and David Clydesdale. The cantata tells the story of three imagined, troubled seekers who almost slept through Christmas-and the children who woke them in time to experience the life-changing miracle of the Incarnation. This cantata will feature drama, soloists, choir and orchestra. A free will offering will be taken at each performance. Join us on Saturday, December 12<sup>th</sup> at 7PM at Westminster Church!

#### **Women In the Church (WIC)**

Last month Joyce McCaslin led our group in learning how to lay down our Worry Stones and leave our concerns with the Rock of our Salvation. Thank you, Joyce! And thank you to all who contributed to the Food Cupboard.

On Sat. December 5th, at 9:30 AM, Elizabeth Harvey will be speaking about being "Stressed Out." We'll also be decorating our tree with our donated Hats and Mittens. Don't forget to sign up if you'd like to bring something for our brunch. Sign-up sheets are available on the Welcome Desk in the Narthex and on the Secret Sisters table in Perrin Hall. Childcare will be provided.

And we're looking forward to Ann Cope sharing her testimony with us in January. Our meeting will be on January 2<sup>nd</sup>, and will get our year off to a joyous start!

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*Women On Wheels (WOW) Trip* is Tuesday, December 8<sup>th</sup>. See Charlene Stevenson to sign up!

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*Order your Christmas Poinsettias today!* Deadline to order is Sunday, December 6<sup>th</sup>. Look for an insert in the bulletin and in our weekly email.

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*Officer Nominations* are due to the Office by December 6<sup>th</sup> as well. Pick up a booklet at the Information Center and turn in your hot pink nomination form.

### **OUR STAFF:**

*Shepherding Pastor:* Dan Ledford  
*Executive Pastor:* Walt Coppersmith  
*Dir. of Student Ministries:*  
Jeremy Coyer  
*Christian Education Coordinator:*  
Lorri Shuber  
*Office Administrator:*  
Jocelyn Richardson  
*Administrative Assistant:* Jan Wigton  
*Treasurer:* Kathie Wilson  
*Choir Director:* Barbara Galloway  
*Organist:* Joan Eisenreich  
*Child Care:* Sharon Sortini, Marcia Furman & Sharon Noullet  
*Head Custodian:* Jay McCaslin  
*Custodial Assistants:* Ross Morgan, Jim McCaslin & Jeremiah McCaslin

### **OUR ELDERS:**

Lowell Bosley, Darryl Brown, Dave Convery, Don Cope, Matt Depew, Dave Frengel, Travis Furman, Harry Glenn, Rick Green, Eric Grove, Paul Harbison, Jim Hoffer, Warren Ihlenfeld, Joe Mauro, Ken McCafferty, Jay McCaslin, Scott Miller, Bill Mitchell, Jerry Purcell, Towner Scheffler, Jerry Smathers, Bill Stevenson, John Stoops, Ed Wehr, Bill Wigton, Jeff Wigton, Joe Wilson

### **OUR DEACONS:**

Doug Bell, Bob Boyles, George Brothers, Jeff Brown, Gary Cousins, Bernie Dowd, Red Gilliland, Mike Gonda, Kevin Hall, Mark Hoffer, Tom Ihlenfeld, Keith Johnson, Bill Jones, Dave Jones, Dick King, Tom Koegler, Bill Mayhew, Pete Monday, Doug Nemeth, Dave Paraska, Mark Richardson, Scott Richardson, Bill Rodgers, Jay Sasse, Dale Shandick, Bill Sheppeck, Pete Shuber, Mike Sleigher, Dave Stevenson, Harry Tayman, Glenn Walker

### **December Birthdays**

2 Lisa Hoehn, Raymond Covert III, Conrad Ostertag  
3 Joan Ihlenfeld, Jocelyn Shuber  
4 Nathaniel DeLucia  
6 Dave Jones  
7 Denise Monday, Sherry Sassone  
8 Kathryn Wigton  
9 Makenzie Koegler, Scott Richardson  
10 Russ Morrow  
12 Colina Glenn, Josh Mauro  
13 Bill Sheppeck  
15 Bonnie Depew, Barbara Evans, Eric Grove, Carter Shandick  
16 Connie Hoffer, Marti Gregor, Dan Ledford  
18 Joyce McCaslin  
19 Gary Cousins  
20 Lauren Gonda  
22 Audrey Mauro  
24 Towner Scheffler  
26 Janice Kelly  
27 Zachery Johnson  
28 Linda Nemeth  
29 Kathryn Jones  
30 Steve Evans  
31 Becky Frengel, Marian Fleming, Brenda Neigh

### **December Dates**

3– Prayer Gathering 7:00 PM  
5 - WIC Meeting 9:30-11:30 AM (childcare)  
6– COMMUNION  
7 - Operations Commission  
8 - Women On Wheels  
10 - Deborah Circle 7PM  
12 – ACTS Musical 7PM  
15 - Officers Meet  
17 - Naomi Circle 9:30 AM  
24 - Christmas Eve Service 7PM  
25 – Christmas

29 - Elizabeth Circle  
30 – NO CHANCEL CHOIR

### **December 4, 11 & 18:**

Hannah Circle - 9:30 to 11:30 AM  
*Bible Study for moms with young children*

*Child care provided*

### **Wednesday Evenings:**

Romans Bible Study 6:30 PM  
Chancel Choir 7:00 PM  
*Child care provided*

## **Westminster Presbyterian Church**

420 N. Main Street Butler, PA  
724.283.4204 fax:  
724.283.7573  
office@westminsterpca.com  
*Sunday Worship: 9:30 AM*  
*Sunday School Hour: 10:50 AM*

**ALL INFORMATION  
available at**

**[www.westminsterpca.com](http://www.westminsterpca.com)**

*Visit the Information Center  
in our Narthex!*

It was recently designed and is our hub for information.  
Go there for all sign ups and questions.