

Church

The Christmas we dream about

We all have this picture of Christmas in our minds and hearts that may or may not be related to the truth of Christmas. Now I don't know if the memories of our childhood color our vision of Christmas, or maybe it is some movie, or even the Christmas cards we share. Somewhere along the way we have wandered from the truth of that first Christmas.



JOHN ROHR

We even get the weather wrong! It was probably not snowing in Bethlehem, it rarely does! And, by the way, the Roman empire did not issue birth certificates, so we don't know the exact day Jesus was born! Some people think it may have been in the spring since the Shepherds were in the fields at night. And then there are the wise men, they probably arrived several months,

perhaps two years after Jesus' birth. So, they didn't come to a stable or barn to meet him as he lay in the manger. Matthew says, "And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him..." (Matthew 2:11 ESV) So they came to Jesus when He was living in a house. Now these details may change what we think of at Christmas, but they don't change the reality of Christmas. Because Christmas isn't about

snow or wise men. It isn't even about a particular date. Christmas is about the simple fact that the God Himself invaded human history to save us from our sins. The Christmas story is the story of God the Son leaving the glory of heaven and taking on flesh to become one of us. It is about His sacrifice of Himself for us. Paul explains when he says of Jesus that "... Though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself,

by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. (Philippians 2:6-8 ESV) I don't know about you, but I love the idea of snow at Christmas. I think December is a great time to celebrate new life in Christ even as we head into winter. I think that whether the wise men visited a stable or a home, the point is they came to worship and

offer gifts of sacrifice to the Prince of Peace. And our dream of Christmas needs to focus on that Prince of Peace. On Jesus who came to save us. Let's welcome the baby Jesus, but let's also remember His sacrifice. That baby became the man who walked on water, and who died on the cross! He came to save us and in so doing gave Himself for us. And, to the praise and glory of God's amazing grace, He rose again the third day! That is the real hope, the real dream of Christmas.

The earthly parents of the Son of God

This is the time of year when we display our nativity sets and it's common to see depictions on the front of Christmas cards that have Mary and Joseph in a stable with the baby Jesus who is lying in a feeding trough commonly referred to as a manger. The word nativity comes from the Latin term, which simply means born. Technically, we've all experienced a nativity, but in today's world, the term is primarily used in connection with the birth of Jesus Christ the Redeemer. We also hear the word incarnation at this time of year and within the Christian faith, this is referring to the Son of God and how He willingly came down from



BILLY HOLLAND
LIVING ON PURPOSE

heaven and took on the human form of a man to save us from our sin. He is Emmanuel which means "God with us" as His mission was to rescue and restore us and because of His sacrifice we can now have an eternal relationship with Him. There are several interesting details about the earthly parents of Jesus and of course, His mother Mary becoming pregnant with Him while still being a virgin is a great place to begin. Our heavenly Father sent His Son Jesus to earth, but as we know, Christ also had an earthly dad by the name of Joseph. History reveals it was common in those days for an older man to be engaged to a

younger woman and many scholars are convinced that Mary was much younger than Joseph, probably being in her early teens. Being betrothed means the couple was to be celibate until they were married. However, when Joseph discovered she was pregnant, he did not want to publicly disgrace her but rather decided to just privately cancel the marriage. We can only imagine the agony and disappointment he was feeling as he realized she had been unfaithful. As he was making plans to deal with the situation, an angel appeared to him in a dream saying, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give

him the name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins" Matthew 1:20-21. We know that Mary is adored and rightfully so, but we must consider this was also a huge step of faith for Joseph and he is seldom given the respect he deserves. There is not much information given about Joseph except that he was a carpenter and an honest man who upheld the law. We notice he was present when Jesus was found teaching in the temple at 12-years-old, but it's presumed he had passed away when Christ was crucified as Jesus asked John from the cross to take care of His mother. We've all seen the images of Mary riding a donkey into Bethlehem as the scriptures reveal they were on their way to register with the tax collectors. When they arrived, Mary

immediately needed to find a place to deliver the baby as Luke chapter two describes the scene. "And Joseph went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be taxed with Mary his promised wife, being great with child. And so, it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn." Imagine a young girl being approached by the Creator of Heaven and Earth, and given a mission that would shape the course of

human history. Humbly submitting to give birth to the Savior of the world? So, why did The Almighty choose her for the task of raising the Son of God? Because He knew she would hold strong in her faith. And what about those today who still declare they have no room for Jesus or the individuals who only celebrate the most significant event of all time during the Christmas season? He is still patiently waiting. Never before or since have the heavens declared the glory of God with more hope and excitement than when the Lamb of God was born and willingly gave His life as a ransom for all who would believe in Him.

Read more about the Christian life at billyhollandministries.com

RELIEF

FROM PAGE A2

An overview of federal assistance programs. A tip sheet for ag producers for assessing damage. Information from the Kentucky State Veterinarian's office on livestock disposal. Mental health resources. "I spoke to U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack earlier today," Commissioner

Quarles said. "I sincerely appreciate the resources and communication he and the Department have provided in the last few days as we all work together to assist western Kentucky. This is not a time for politics; this is a time for all of us to work together to assist our friends and families in western Kentucky." As more information is available and more resources are announced, the KDA will continually update the page to help ag producers find the help they need.

On Monday, KDA informed Kentuckians of two resources to aid agricultural producers who have been affected by the storm. The Kentucky Agriculture Relief Fund. The Kentucky Agriculture Relief Fund is a cash donation portal managed by the Kentucky Farm Bureau Education Foundation. Funds collected will be administered through a grant process. The donations will be used to support farmers and agribusinesses in the affected areas.

Donations can be made to the Kentucky Agriculture Relief Fund at gofundme.com/KyAgReliefFund. Kentucky Ag Disaster Donations. The Kentucky Department of Agriculture and the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture, Food and Environment's Cooperative Extension Service are teaming up to coordinate an operation to identify the needs and supplies for individual farming operations in the impacted area. Individuals in impacted

areas should contact their county extension office, which will collect a list of needs from producers for their operation and provide that information to the KDA. The Department will then coordinate with farm organizations in the commonwealth and work to match the requested need with the donor of the item. This can include immediate needs such as hay or feed to longer-term items such as fencing material. — Submitted to The Spencer Magnet

CHURCH HAPPENINGS

AA MEETINGS

Al-Anon meetings are held each Monday from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. at First Christian Church, located at 403 Main Cross Street, Taylorsville.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Submit your church announcements to The Spencer Magnet by Friday at 5 p.m. Email them directly to editor@spencermagnet.com.

Visit us online: www.spencermagnet.com

The Spencer Magnet

Cost to display your church advertisement in the newspaper:

1 block for 26 consecutive weeks at \$8.50 wk.

Double block for 26 consecutive weeks at \$14.00 wk.

Community Church Directory

Call Victoria at 633-4987 ext. 114 to have your church listing added.

"I was glad when they said, 'Let us go into the house of the Lord.'" Psalm 122:1

Waterford Church of Christ
5607 Mt. Washington Rd.,
Taylorsville
Minister: Joseph Stone
502-477-2316

Schedule Of Services
Sunday Morning
Worship 10:30 a.m.
Messages from the Bible

"As a light on a hill"
BRIAR RIDGE CHRISTIAN CHURCH
3951 Briar Ridge Rd, Mt. Eden
Lonnie D. McNabb, Minister

Sunday Classes 10 a.m.,
Worship & Youth 11 a.m.,
Sunday Night Worship & Youth 6 p.m.
Wednesday Prayer Meeting 6:30 p.m.

All Saints Catholic Church
Mass:
Sunday 8:00AM and 12:00PM
Wednesday 12:00PM
Thursday 12:00PM
410 Main Cross St.
477-6676

First Baptist Church
115 West Main St., Taylorsville
www.taylorsvillefbc.com
Chance McConnell, Pastor
Contact or for transportation call:
477-8197

Sun: Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.
Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.
Youth Group 6:00 p.m.
Wed: Prayer & Bible Study 6:30 p.m.
Family, Children & Youth 6:30 p.m.

Taylorsville United Methodist Church
145 W. Main St., Taylorsville
Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors

Sunday School 10 a.m.
Morning Worship 11 a.m.
Pastor Charley Hatfield
TaylorsvilleMethodist.org
502-477-8718

RISEN LORD LUTHERAN
Pastor Jon Mueller
Office (502) 477-6557
www.risenlordchurch.com

Christ-centered with an emphasis on Scripture, Grace, and Faith

5138 Taylorsville Road, Taylorsville, KY 40071
(located near Elk Creek on Ky 155/55)
Worship 11:00 a.m.
Sunday School 10:00 a.m.
"Caring and Sharing...Spreading the Gospel"

Wakefield Baptist Church
5517 Bloomfield Rd.
Pastor Brother Tom Sparrow

SUNDAY SCHOOL 10 a.m.
MORNING WORSHIP 11 a.m.
EVENING SERVICES
Sunday 5 p.m.
Wednesday 6 p.m.
WBRT RADIO 1320 AM
Good Sunday Morning
9:30 a.m. - Listen

LITTLE MOUNT BAPTIST CHURCH
6129 Little Mount Rd., Taylorsville
Allan Hahn, Interim Pastor
477-6979

Sunday School - 9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship - 10:45 a.m.
Wednesday Community Meal - 5:15 p.m.
Wednesday Prayer Meeting and Bible Study - 6:30 p.m.

PLUM CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH
www.plumcreekbaptist.com
Off of Hwy. 44 in Waterford
(502) 477-2582

SUNDAY SCHEDULE
Sunday School 9:50 a.m.
Morning Worship 8:30 & 11 a.m.
Youth Small Group 6 p.m.
Evening Worship 6 p.m.

WEDNESDAY FAMILY MINISTRY NIGHT:
Dinner 5:45 p.m. • Children, Youth & Adult
Bible Study & Prayer Meeting 6:30 p.m.

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
Main Cross St. Taylorsville
Where Friends Become Family

Pastor Bill Dunning
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Worship 11:00 a.m.

Know God, Worship God, Serve God

The Old Country Church
OCC Ministries
FULL GOSPEL
3596 Mt. Eden Road
Deborah Peach, Pastor

SUNDAY SCHOOL: 10 A.M.
MORNING WORSHIP: 11 A.M.
EVENING WORSHIP: 6:30 P.M.
THURSDAY EVENING: 7 P.M.
502-738-5081