



HILLSBORO
CHURCH OF CHRIST

Calling People to the Heart of God

THE
Hillsboro
CHRISTIAN

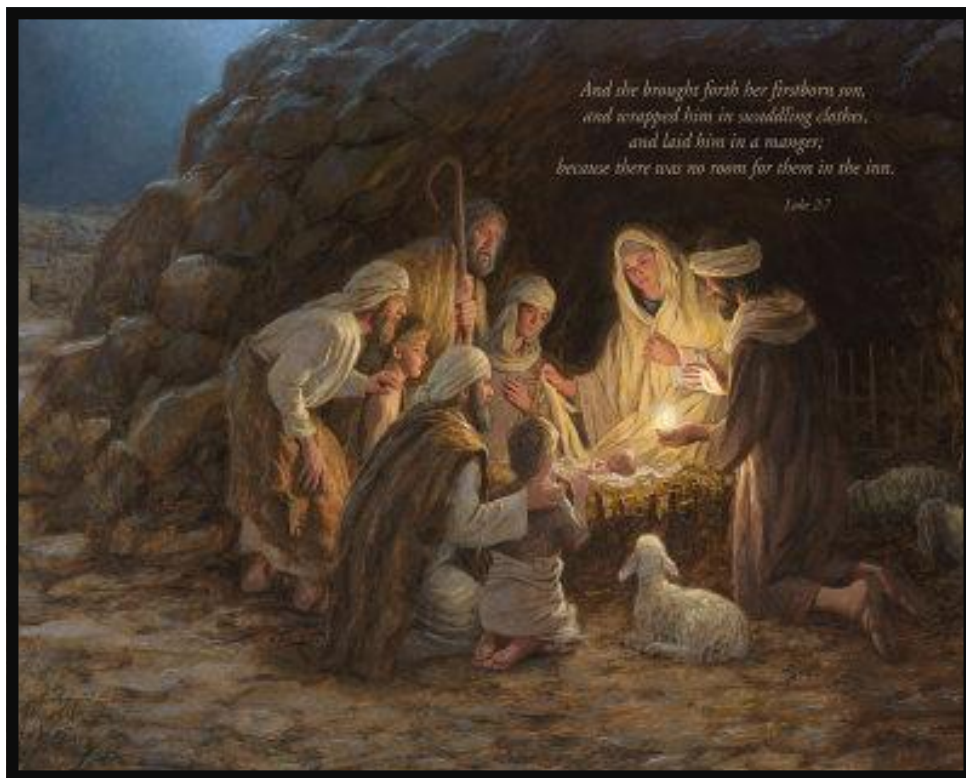
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Merry Christmas & Happy New Year



Jim and Jean Bush

Rob & Cindy Shoaff

Ken & Susan Rodes

Jim & Becky Newman

John & Cheryl Porter

Meri Magee

Jim & Marsha Williams

Jan & Chuck Aurigema

Jill & Dan Benkid

Charles & Darlene Colliver

Jim & Vicki Butler



Luke, chapter two begins, *"in those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world...and everyone went to his own town to register" (v.1-3, NIV)*. He goes on with the story saying that Joseph and Mary went to Bethlehem in order to register as Roman citizens. Mary, as we know, was pregnant, and while in Bethlehem, she gave birth to a son. They gave Him the name, Jesus.

"And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; He is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger'" (Luke 2:8-12, NIV).

Almost every time we see an angel appearing in the Bible, he is accompanied with the words, "Do not be afraid." You don't have to think about that very long to understand why! I mean, have *you* ever seen an angel? I don't mean when our children are babies and we call them our little angels. I'm not talking about our wives, guys.....our angel in our life. I don't mean to suggest they are the thoughts of our loved ones who have passed away and have become to us the angels who look out for us here on earth. Not at all. I mean the physical presence of a spiritual being – a messenger from God – who has come to tell you a specific message from the throne room of heaven. *This* is the picture we get from Luke chapter 2.

When the supernatural makes contact with planet Earth, it usually leaves the human recipients of such visits flat on their faces, trembling in catatonic fear! But Luke is telling us of heaven coming to earth in a form that is not frightening at all. In Jesus, born in a barn and laying in a feeding trough, God comes to us in a way that we do not need to fear. What can be less scary than a pink-skinned, wet-eyed, toothless baby who cannot defend itself let alone pose a threat to anyone else? Could you imagine if you had to become a baby once again? You would have to give up talking in order to learn to talk once again. You'd give up muscle coordination so you

could learn to walk again. You couldn't eat solid food, at least, not until your teeth grew in and learned to take small bites. I don't even want to think about bladder control.....that too, would once again become "an issue."

According to Scripture, Jesus was both God and human. As God, He can work miracles, forgive sins, predict the future, and even conquer death. Jesus did all of that, provoking awe and wonder in all of the people who were around Him. But for people who are accustomed to a God who came in pillars of fire, the rushing of great winds, huge clouds of smoke – Jesus is a confusing image of God. How could a baby in a manger in Bethlehem, a mere Nazarene carpenter's son, be the Messiah from God? For many people, Jesus' skin gets in the way. It's not what they were expecting.

The skeptics would follow Jesus all throughout His life and ministry. Luke chapter 2 shows us that God confirms Jesus' identity as the Messiah from even His earliest days of life on earth. A group of shepherds in a field have no doubt about who this baby in the manger was and is. They heard the message of good news straight from the lips of an angelic choir. Later in the chapter, an old prophet and prophetess recognize Him and give God praise for Him...the One they had waited a lifetime to see. When Jesus was twelve, we see skeptical teachers in the temple courts being amazed.

Philippians chapter 2 tells us that God emptied Himself of His "Godness" in order to take on human form. But why? Why did He come? Why did He do it the way that He did? The Bible, if we search it, gives us lots of theological – and practical – reasons for "why." But the reason I want to share with you this week, on the eve of our Christmas celebrations, of "why" Jesus came the way He did is because NOW, for the first time in human history, ordinary people can encounter God face to face. Regular people like you and me can have a conversation with a supernatural God. We can talk with Him. We can argue with Him. We can be angry at His face. We can rejoice in His presence. We have God with us, in a physical and visible form. Jesus can talk to anyone – His parents, a rabbi, a poor widow, you and me – without first having to announce, "Don't be afraid!" In Jesus, God comes very, very close.

This Christmas, as you open gifts, spend time with family, worship at church, I'd like you to take a moment to stop and remember that the reason God chose to bring heaven to earth through the birth of Jesus was NOT to introduce fear into our hearts. But it was so that He could come close to us and we could draw close to Him. Draw close this Christmas...it's what God wanted from the very beginning.

Have a Merry Christmas.....until they ALL hear –

Rob

Birthday Party for Jesus – Christmas morning, 9 – 10:30 we are having a birthday party for Jesus at The Web. We have partnered with the Pregnancy Center to help two families with Christmas presents and we will be giving them their gifts at this party. Parents, you are welcome to stay with your children and join us in showing these families the true meaning of Christmas and showering them with love.

Attention Parents of 924 members: The 924 leadership class will be meeting on the second Sunday of January (8th) instead of the 1st. We will have the planning party the night before on the 7th at Meri's home.

The Women's Bible study will meet again Thursday, January 5, 9:30 a.m. at the home of Andrea Holt, 8375 Selph Rd. Come and join us if you are available and bring a friend!

Coffee Shop

The children's ministry coffee & pastry shop is set up on the main level in the hallway between the parlor and the nursery. All donations given at the Coffee Shop will be used to enhance the children's ministry area to make it more inviting. Stop by and pick up a cup and something yummy too!

Do you need last minute Christmas gifts? The Missions ministry still has some cookbooks available for just \$10. They even have a few already wrapped! Stop in the church office to pick one up! All proceeds go to the Missions Ministry.

If you have borrowed any of the church's roasters or kitchen equipment please return them as soon as possible. THANK YOU.

HCC Office Schedule

The church office staff will be keeping holiday hours from December 24, 2011 through January 2, 2012. There will be no Hillsboro Christian for the week of December 26.

If you have a family concern or need to reach a staff member, we will check the voice mail and email(hillsborochurch@hotmail.com).

Staff & Elders can also be reached at their homes.



The Jr. High and Sr. High Youth Groups will not be meeting on Sunday, December 25 (Christmas Day) and Sunday, January 1 (New Years Day).

The Junior High will be meeting again at the Mycroft's beginning at 5:30 on Sunday, January 8. The study will end at 7:00 p.m.

The Senior High will begin meeting from 6:00-7:30 at the home of Michael and Kaitlyn Yates (115 Oak Hills Drive) on Sunday, January 8.

Area 937 Food Pantry List

Pick **one or more items from each box** and help us fill the pantry!

Can & jar items needed:

corn
green beans
carrots
pork n beans
spinach
tomatoes
peaches
pears
pineapple
mandarin oranges
applesauce
soups
spaghettios
potatoes
tuna
ham
chicken
peanut butter
jelly

Box & bag items needed:

crackers
dry beans
cereal
pancake mix
stuffing
flour
sugar
boxed whole dinners
hamburger helper
tuna helper
mac n cheese

Non-food necessities:

shampoo
toothpaste
toothbrushes
toilet paper
dish soap
tissues
paper towels
feminine products

Food Pantry Volunteers: Dec. 22: Jan, Chris, Dennis, Dorcus, Olin, Sharon, 24: Jan, Tim, Debbie, Helen, 26: Kay, Tammy, Stella, Jill, Jan. 2: Michelle, OPEN, Shirley, Tom, 5: Patty's Bible Study, 7: Kay, OPEN, Les, Vivian,

Clothing Pantry Volunteers:

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE — December 18, 2011

Morning Worship: 393 Bible School : 204
Weekly need: \$ 11,923.32
\$ 11,524.25

A complete financial report is available upon request to the church office.

Serving December 25, January 1,8,15.

ELDER ON CALL: 25: Mike Y. Jan 1: Steve A. 8: Dan F.15: Ron H.
 CHILDREN'S CHURCH 25: Jim W., Jan 1: Ken R., 8: OPEN, 15: Jerry T.
 HOME COMMUNION 25: Joe B., Bill M., Ryan W., 1: Larry B., Scott H., 8:
 Greg A., Jim B., Eric R. 15: Chuck A., David L., Wes L.
 VAN DRIVERS: 25: Dan Fauber, Jan 1: Dan B., 8: Ron H.,15: Jason M.
 NURSERY: 25: Angela B., Debbie V. Jan 1: Lindsay W., Karen B., 8: Joyce
 R. Jacque F.,15: Kay M., Christina R.,

If deaf interpreting services are needed please see someone at the welcome center.

A card shower is requested for Richard Temple. He is in Drake Center in Cincinnati for rehabilitation and he will be there through Christmas and the New Year. The address is 151 W. Galbraith Rd., Cincinnati, OH 45216.

12/25 8:45-12:00 Scott H.
 9:00-10:00 Dan B.
 10:00-11:00 Bob W.
 11:00-12:00 Rick K.

HCC South Entrance:
9:00-10:30
10:30-12:00

1/1/12 8:45-12:00 Harley M.
 9:00-10:00
 10:00-11:00 Chris O.
 11:00-12:00 Steve A.

HCC South Entrance:
9:00-10:30
10:30-12:00

1/8 8:45-12:00 John C.
 9:00-10:00 Corey H.
 10:00-11:00 Keith/Molly.
 11:00-12:00 Jamie H.

HCC South Entrance:
9:00-10:30 Greg R.
10:30-12:00



HCC Safety Team Schedule

The Hillsboro Christian is also available on our Website @: www.hillsborochurch.net

Times of HCC Events

Sundays:

8:15 AM *ASAP Prayer Ministry meets in the Parlor
 9:00 AM Worship
 9:00 AM K-5th grades at the WEB
 10:30 AM Adult Bible Fellowships & Children's Sunday School

TV Broadcast on Cable Channel 15 / Tues. at 2:00 PM

Mondays:

6:30 PM 1st Monday—Elders & Ministers Meeting
 7:00 PM 3rd Monday—Leadership Meeting
 7:00 PM 1st & 3rd Monday—Nursing Home Visitation

Tuesdays:

10:00 AM Ladies Bible Study

Wednesdays:

*ASAP =Always Say A Prayer

Connection 2:42 groups meet in various homes and locations throughout the week. Please call the office for a current list. You are more than welcome to be a part of our small group ministry - Connection 2:42!

PRAYER LIST: A: Luwanna Allen, America, Chuck Aurigema **B:** Darlene Bailey, Georgianna Burton, Erma Butler, **C:** Roy Collins, Jim Cook **D:** Margene Dorton, **E:** Cindy Eleyet, Judy Evans, **F:** Flowers Family **G:** Marvin Gard, Joni Gilbert, Milton Gragg, **H:** Sara Jean Higgins, Keith Holt, **I:** Kim Irvin **J:** **K:** Elfriede Karnes, Frank & Rosemary Kiser, **L:** Mary Lloyd, Bre'ann Lofton, Lillian Ludwick **M:** Ron Magee, Janice Mason, Melissa Matheny, Elsie McConnaughey, Maxine McCormick, Opal McMurray, **N:** Jake Nichols, Meredith Nicley, Harold Nixon **O:** **P:** Janet Pence, Doris Jean Pierce, Clara Porter, John Porter, Karie Price, **Q:** **R:** Charles Redkey, Laverne Rhoads, Rex Ruble, **S:** Paj Shelton, Shirley Sider, Irene Sprinkle, Louise Sprinkle, Jacquie Stethem, Teri Stethem, Dot Swingley **T:** Karen Temple, Richard Temple **U:** **V:** **W:** Sharon Web, The Willoughby Family, Inez Wilson, Dorothy Wilkin **X:** **Y:** **Z:** **"Mission for the week":** CCU, The Jim Newman Family, our shut-ins. **Deployed Military Prayer List:** Adam Strawmyer, Heath McCoppin, Craig McLaughlin, **Non Deployed List:** Jeff Allen, Eric Aurigema, Seth Page. ~Names in bold are due to be taken off the list.