

**PFAFFTOWN CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)**

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



3323 Transou Rd.
PO Box 130
Pfafftown NC 27040

Phone: 336- 924-9925:Fax: 336- 924-2501

E-mail: office@pfafftownchristian.org
www.pfafftownchristian.org

Church Staff

The Rev. Gerald Thomas
Pastor

The Rev. Tim Shoaf
Minister of Music & Programs

Traci Canter, Office Administrator

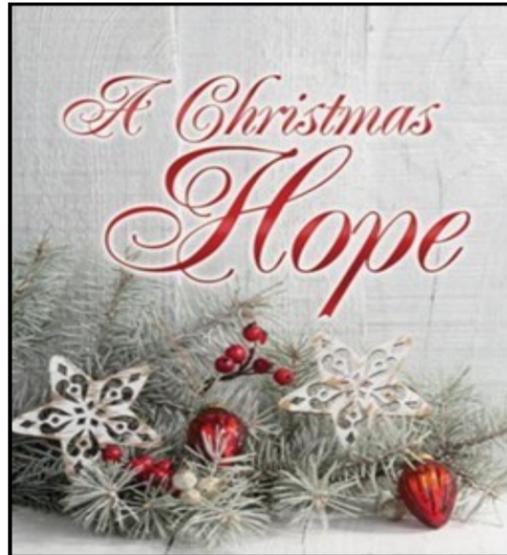
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December 2020

THE VISITOR



This year, PCC will be sharing the joy of Christmas with the children at Old Richmond Elementary School. Due to the Pandemic, instead of shopping for items for individual children, we will be collecting gift cards to be used at Target, Walmart, Food Lion, or Lowe's Foods and the Guidance Office will distribute these to the parents of these children. You may bring your gift cards to the church office or give them to Tim Shoaf no later than Monday, December 14.

Please help us bring a smile to the faces of these children this Christmas. Thank you for your continued support and generosity!

--- Tim Shoaf and Dan Binkley,
Outreach Coordinators

Pastoral Care

During this season, if you should have a need (such as someone to pick up medications or food and drop them at your door) or would simply like to talk during this time, do not hesitate to contact one of the persons listed below.

Gerald Thomas: 336-504-8206
Timothy Shoaf: 336-692-5214
Traci Canter: 336-407-1277
Elders: See your Yearbook



In-Person Worship Cancelled

Our Church Board, in conversation with parishioners who attend worship, has determined to refrain from in-person worship services, beginning this Sunday and running through the Advent and Christmas seasons. As our nation experiences an all-time high in COVID cases, we appreciate our leadership for their care over our congregation. The board will reevaluate in January.

Your church staff will continue to minister as usual and the church office will maintain normal hours. Please find opportunities for ministry in our upcoming December newsletter and continue to participate in our efforts to care for others.

In this unique season, it is good to have a church family. While we miss our Sunday gatherings, we will not allow physical distancing to diminish our community of faith's strength and love for one another. Please contact Traci, Tim, or myself as you may have need in these days ahead.

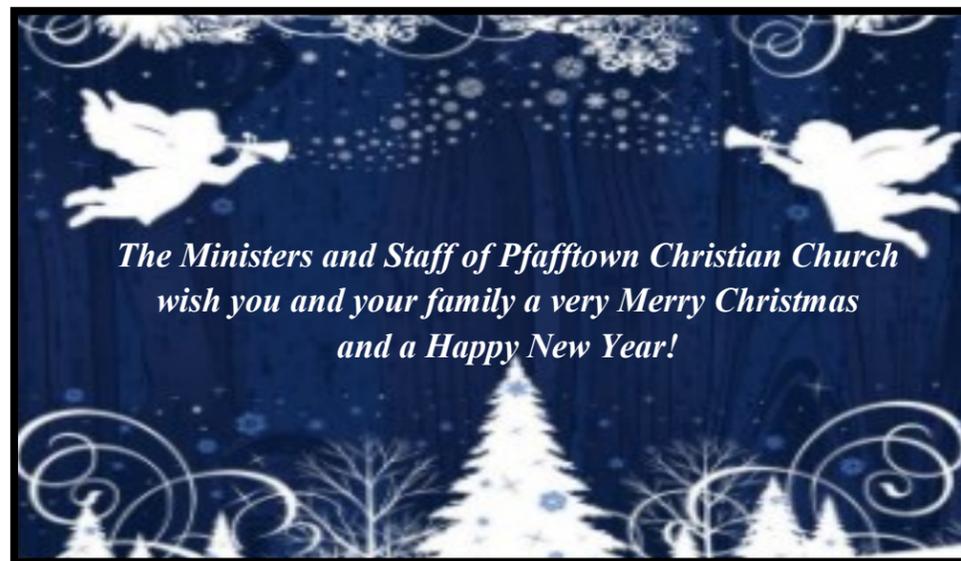
A Way to the Manger



Matthew 1:21

...and though shalt call His Name Jesus!

*He made a way in a manger
A way to the cross.
Messiah the promised
Before time had begun.
For God so loved this world
Though He knew what love
would cost.
He made a way in a manger
To make a way to the cross.*



*The Ministers and Staff of Pfafftown Christian Church
wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year!*



As Way Leads On To Way

One winter's night close to Christmas, I loaded the youth of the Plentitude Baptist Church into a van and took them to a youth conference in Atlanta, Georgia. The conference went deep into the night and we found ourselves returning to the high-rise, downtown hotel to order pizza for a late-night supper. Over an hour later, the pizza had not arrived and our stomachs were complaining as loud as our voices. "Everyone into the van," I declared, not so much out of leadership, but desperation.

Plentitude was a comfortable, rural home in Georgia. One knew right where to find good vittles. I had no notion of where to find fast food at midnight in this part of Atlanta. We just drove around, looking, hoping. Out of the inky night shined tidings from a fast food restaurant. We pulled in and everyone took turns shouting their orders over my shoulder toward the overwhelmed figure within the squawk box.

Lance, one of the youth, never missed a thing. Even when you wished he'd miss some things. "Brother Gerald," he said, tapping me on the shoulder and pointing, "What does that sign mean?" I looked across the street to one of those rectangular, mobile signs like you might find outside a barbeque restaurant, all lit up in bright, white backwash with plastic letters that spelled, "Rooms, \$12 per hour." "What does that sign mean?" he had asked.

"It means it's time for us to get our food and eat it someplace other than here," I said. We laughed and we did.

What a sign has to say for some can mean different things for others. Wise men and King Herod were both looking at the same star. Same star, different messages. "The good news is always bad news for somebody," a friend is forever reminding me. For Herod, the star was a trigger for his behavioral illness, never a happy reality for folks who come under the influence of people warring to maintain their power. So Rachel would be echoed as horror spread through the folks.

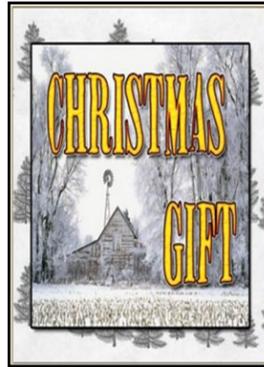
For the wise men, the star made them feel as hopeful as a hungry band who just wandered upon a sign declaring the daily special.

For Joseph and Mary, the star said, "We'd better eat someplace other than here," and off to Egypt they scurried.

"Brother Gerald, what does that sign mean?" I've heard that question for a lifetime. A sign for joy. A harbinger of pain. For some, it's an invitation to sit and stay a while. For others, it announces it is time to move on. For some, good news. For some, bad news.

Same star. Same sign. In Advent, at Christmas, grace to you who are joyful, to you who are hurting. Upon all of us who are reading the signs and seeking the meaning as we journey in this season.- GT

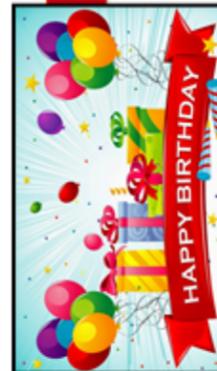
Off the Shelf



Christmas Gift!
Delta Publishers, 1991
By Ferrol Sams
Sams was a physician who lived in a house his great grandfather built in Fayetteville, Georgia. The author of eight books, his first, *Run with the Horsemen*, was not published until he was sixty years of age. His works of fiction contain moments inspired by his own childhood, growing up on a farm, serving in World War II, and practicing medicine. *Christmas Gift!* grows out of his personal reminiscences of his boyhood Christmases during the Great Depression.



December 2020						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
	7	8	9	10	11	12
6 YouTube 11:00 AM Worship						
	14	15	16	17	18	19
13 YouTube 11:00 AM Worship						
	21	22	23	24 Christmas Eve	25 Happy Birthday Jesus!	26
20 YouTube 11:00 AM Worship						
	28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve		
27 YouTube 11:00 AM Worship						



- 1 Mary Kathryn Faircloth
- 2 Anne Bryant
- 4 Betty Clodfelter
- Ruby Terry
- 12 Rowan Fletcher
- 26 Dan Binkley
- 29 Terrence Davis
- Ben Sinclair

December Memory Verse

*Greater is He that is in me,
than he that is in the world.*
1 John 4:4



- 1 Mark & Lorrie Bennett
- 21 Tom & Mary Timmons
- 22 Jack & Mary Groff
- 30 Jordan & Lauren Myers

**Pfafftown Christian Church
Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual
July through September 2020**

	<u>Jul - Sep 20</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>\$ Over Budget</u>
Income			
Rhein Annuity	4,234.72		
Contributions Income	34,831.01	44,547.00	-9,715.99
Loose Offering	0.00	360.00	-360.00
Sales Tax Refund	0.00	252.00	-252.00
Building Rental	0.00	123.00	-123.00
Investment Earnings	804.87	1,803.00	-998.13
R G Flynt Endowment	281.69	768.00	-486.31
Yard Sale	0.00	1,302.00	-1,302.00
Total Income	40,152.29	49,155.00	-9,002.71
Expense			
Administrative Expense	34,264.07	36,831.00	-2,566.93
Christian Education	193.10	348.00	-154.90
Building and Capital Improv Fd	0.00	498.00	-498.00
Evangelism	0.00	27.00	-27.00
Membership	223.75	102.00	121.75
Fellowship	0.00	252.00	-252.00
Childcare	0.00	48.00	-48.00
Property	8,270.54	9,612.00	-1,341.46
Worship	86.71	825.00	-738.29
Total Expense	43,038.17	48,543.00	-5,504.83
Income over Expenses	-2,885.88	612.00	-3,497.88



First Baptist Church Stanleyville
851 Ziglar Road, Winston-Salem, NC 27105

SUNDAY and MONDAY, DECEMBER 13 & 14 ~ 6:30PM - 8:30PM

Invite others to come!



Bereavement: Family of Bill Simpson

Mission Hospital: Merle and Graham McAllister
(Debbie Fletcher's friends)

Recuperating: Pat Millsaps, Betty Tilley, Betty Clodfelder,
Alan Fletcher, Jan Everton, Betty Simpson, Patrick and
Sue Simpson, Joyce and Roy Huff, Pam Wagstaff.
Sue Terry

Homebound

Brighton Gardens: Edna Williamson

Rose Tara: Vallie Cline

Willowbrook Rehabilitation: Bud Barker

Church Family: Frank & Pat Barber, Craig Bracken, John
Grice, Jodi Saunders, Garland Terry, Julie Tilley, Tommy
Timmons, Richard Yarbrough

Others:

Jason Alexander: Jack & Mary Groff's friend

Haley Burns: Skip & Jo Stanley's friend

John Davis: Ken and Vicki Davis' friend

Tommy Disher: Traci Canter's Uncle

Jennifer Durham: Irma & Fred Muetzel's granddaughter

Geraldine Edwards: Ann Fletcher's aunt

June Fulton: Jill Robertson's friend

Elaine Grice: John Grice's sister

Betty Haddock: Sharon Binkley's mother

Cayden Kingsbury: Rodney Stilwell's grandson

Chuck Kolstad: Evelyn Nifong's son-in-law

Sue Miles: Jo Stanley's friend

Plemmons' Family: Alan & Debbie Fletcher's friend

Pam Reynolds: Traci Canter's friend

Kent Shropshire: (Paul Shropshire's cousin)

Darlene Stewart: Ann Fletcher's sister

Heather Stokes: Jill Robertson's niece

Joy Stokes: Jill Robertson's sister

Judy West: Ann Fletcher's cousin

Loved Ones in the Military:

Joshua Hughes, Norfolk, VA.; Chase Lee, Guam; USS Key
West; Major Hope Poster, NG, Texas; Cpt. John G. Van
Hoy IV, Fort Campbell, KY



Craig Bracken is home from the hospital and is recuperating!



Sarah Ingram is improving!

We give thanks and praise to Him for hearing our prayers!



God took centuries as revealed in the Old Testament, to carefully prepare for the birth of His Son. When the time had fully come, God sent forth His Son. At that appointed moment, "the

Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth." (John 1:14) .

But not everyone was ready. The innkeeper was not ready as there was no room for the carpenter and his weary bride. King Herod was not ready as his fearful reign could not tolerate a rival for his throne. The religious leaders were not ready as they longed for a Messiah who could come in kingly glory to rule on the throne of David. So few were ready, however, the shepherds were ready for the good news. They immediately went to find the babe just as the angel had proclaimed.

Now is the time to make ourselves truly ready to receive all that Christ is. Now is the moment to come and adore Him, not as a babe in a manger, but as the Lord of our lives. Now is the time to bring Him our gifts, not gold, frankincense and myrrh, but hearts filled with love and a life dedicated to His service.

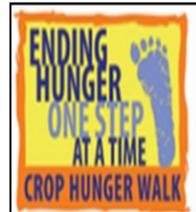
Jesus is Emmanuel, God with us, not only at Christmas time, but every day, telling us that God loves us even though we are unlovely and unloving. The world needs Jesus. Christ alone is the transcendent gift of love from the Father to the world. In Christ alone we receive forgiveness of our sins and life eternal with Him. What better gift can you give someone this Christmas than to tell them how to receive God's Greatest Gift? *End Time



Thank you for contributing 190 food items to the Crisis Control Center in October/November.

During the month of December, we will be collecting saltine crackers.

Thank you, PCC family, for your giving hearts and for always stepping up to help others in need.



Winston-Salem/Forsyth County
CROP Hunger Walk

PCC had a great response to this year's virtual walk. We took in about \$1,000.00 to help persons in this difficult season of COVID. This, combined with our overflowing "watermelon box" of food in September has been a wonderful effort by our church. Thank you so much!



In November, PCC delivered 50 jars of peanut butter to the New Communion Food Pantry. Thank you to Alan and Debbie Fletcher for sponsoring our effort.

December's Sponsors:
Fred & Irma Muetzel



We send you glad tidings of comfort and joy!

Our family is so grateful and thankful for all the calls, cards, and food I've received since I broke my spine last July. Although I have some therapy left to do and some permanent damage, I am walking and I can drive. I pray we will all be back to regular worship in the near future.

With all our love,
The Millsaps Family



Thank you for your wonderful response to the PCC Coat Drive. We collected 70 coats this year!



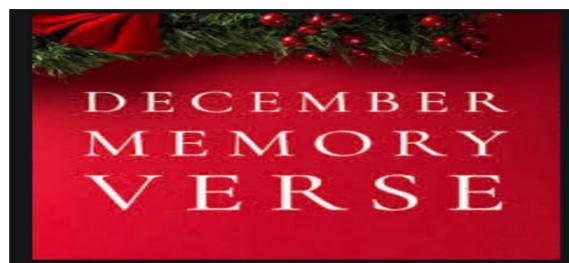
CWF

CWF will collect for Senior Services Meals on Wheels in December. Please drop your check made out to Meals on Wheels in the offering box in the narthex or mail to church. Checks will be delivered

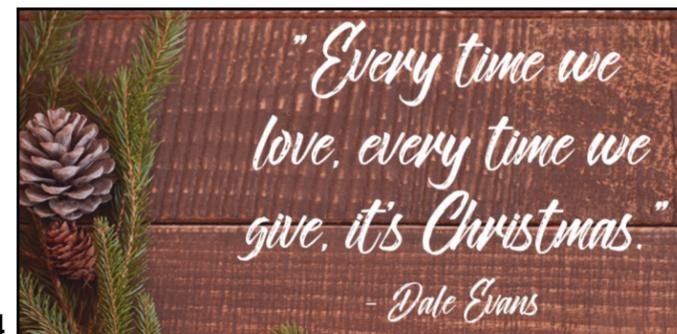
to Senior Services office last week in December. Our Dinner Party will be held at a later date.

CWF will not meet in December due to Covid-19.

\$3,000 was collected from the Frozen Goods/Baked Sale including sales and donations. These funds will be used to fund our outreach budget. Many thanks to all those who helped make this event a success.



*Greater is He that is in me,
than he that is in the world.*
1 John 4:4



Many of you remember our "Come to the Manger" Christmas Candlelight Open House, held at our church on Sunday afternoon, December 2, 2012 in the Upper Fellowship Hall. Members of our church family and friends provided more than 60 of their beautiful and unique Nativity sets, figurines, and other inspirational Christmas pieces to be displayed and viewed by our church family and folks from the community.

It was a wonderful Christmas event and I have a collection of photos taken of the many Nativity displays, etc. that I am going to feature in a scrolling Youtube Video complimented by various piano and organ carols. This video will be available for viewing on my Youtube page, Facebook page and the PCC Youtube/Facebook page beginning on Saturday, December 12. (You are welcome to "share" this post with your friends if you like).

Since we are unable to offer some of our special Christmas events this year due to the pandemic, my hope is this will provide another avenue for our church to share the gift of Christmas with you, your family members, and others in our community as we prepare our hearts for this holy season. Please tell your friends to be watching for this video presentation beginning on December 12!

Wishing for you a blessed Christmas season.
Tim



Notes from Tim

Light is a symbol which is tied very closely to the deeper meaning of Advent and Christmas.

I'm sure many of you have seen the "Festival of Lights" display at nearby Tanglewood Park or maybe in the town of McAdenville, NC! What a wondrous and spectacular way to begin the Christmas season with family and friends as you drive through and view the snowflakes, candy canes, Nativity scene, stars, and many other lighted displays relating to Christmas!

Throughout the season, we see lights everywhere --- on Christmas trees, in windows, brightening downtown streets, the top of office buildings, candles glowing warmly everywhere. Light is indeed an appropriate symbol of Christmas, for the impact of light on darkness is similar to the transformation of the world's suffering and despair into peace and hope with the coming of God to us in the fullness of His love in Jesus Christ. The prophet Isaiah wrote: "the people who walked in darkness have seen a great light..."

And it was in Jesus where hope took flesh and became and gave life. "I am the Light of the World." said Jesus. No longer would there be any question about God's ever present love. The Christmas gospel is that God is with us, and nothing can change that. John said: "The light shines in the darkness and the darkness cannot overcome it..."

There is a strong word of victory and hope here for every person who is experiencing some sort of dark night. Whether it be a dark night of fear, sickness, loneliness, worry about a loved one, grief, heart-break, temptation, despair, boredom with life or a shattered dream, the light eventually comes. It comes because God cares about you and me.

One of my Dad's close friends, Dr. Wilson O. Weldon said in his little book, *Christmas--More than a Season*: "...midnight darkness is not the final story, for in the coming light is victory!" May we remember that truth when we light a candle or watch the glowing bulbs on our tree during these next few weeks.

Love and blessings to all. *Tim*