



Azalea City Church of Christ

“A Place for Families, A Place for You”

3550 Schillinger Road North, Semmes, Alabama 36575 WWW.AZALEACITY.ORG (251)649-2436

Vol. 22

December 13, 2009

No. 49

Let's Be Glad He Was Born - Whenever It Was! (Part 2)

Certain special days and seasons of the year pose problems at times for Christians because of their personal beliefs and opinions (see Romans 14:5-7; Colossians 2:16-17). In this present age, in following Christ, some convictions become clear to Christians who are really dedicated and sincere, and they do not mind holding to them in order to be faithful to Christ, even if they are misunderstood, ridiculed, or even persecuted in doing so.

This was the case with the first Christians. They had even more trouble than we do. Their world was thoroughly pagan. Some of them had formerly been pagans. To make a complete break from paganism was not easy. However, not all ties were broken (see above scriptures). Participation in all activities with non-Christian friends was not forbidden. Sometimes Christians continued to live with pagan spouses (1 Corinthians 7). Paul observed some Jewish national customs that did not cause him to deny Christ. He taught Christians at Corinth that there is only one true God and that an idol is nothing (1 Corinthians 8:4). At the same time, he taught that as long as they had that truth clear in their minds, their participation in social activities, even in things that had their origin with idolatry, was not wrong unless conditions were imposed on them that gave honor to the idol and denied God (1 Corinthians 10:28-29).

That is why Christians can use words like Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, December, January, February, March, etc., with no problem as far as their convictions and influence are concerned. Though all of those terms, and many more we use, were all once connected with paganism and idolatry, they carry no such connotation now. They are merely holdovers from an ancient past that throw no informed Christian for a loop when he encounters them. Rituals such as rice at weddings or little children dressing as ghosts to go trick-or-treating are not understood by any informed person to threaten belief in the one God. Thanksgiving day is not a sacred holiday, but it is not un-Christian to thank God on that day. Many holiday customs in December have lost any significance to pagan roots and have become only national or family customs. Meaning of the terms and the original intent of such customs have changed completely through the years.

(continued on page 3...)

MISSION STATEMENT

We exist to **EXALT** Christ, **EVANGELIZE** the lost, **EDIFY** the saved, and be an **EXAMPLE** to our community.

2009 THEME: WALKING WITH HIM

“To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in His steps.” **1 Peter 2:21**

YOUTH GROUP

Jason Killough - Youth Minister
(251) 455-6443- cell

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 16- Sing His Praises, Bring a friend, we'll have refreshments afterwards.

December 18- Tween Christmas Party at the Decks. It will start at 6 p.m. Please bring finger foods and a gift not exceeding \$10 for your own child to open.

December 19- Teen Christmas Party at Terry and Michelle's, 4-7, Bring a "gag" gift that is less than \$10. We will be playing Dirty Santa.

BIBLE VERSE OF THE WEEK

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.

Proverbs 1:7

IMPORTANT DATES

Exposure Youth Camp- December 27-30, \$100 is due before we leave

GULF- January 15-18, Cost- \$100, this is due before we leave.

Parents, I need Chaperones for GULF, Please let me know if you will be able to help with this trip, I need to know by Wednesday Night.

These are great events in order to grow spiritually.
Please get involved!

YOUTH GROUP MISSION

To grow into one of the strongest, God fearing, neighbor loving, cross centered, Bible studying youth ministries in the world today.

THOSE PRIVILEGED TO SERVE

| | |
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| Announcements | Mike Eubanks |
| Video Media | Claude Thompson |
| Ushers | Jacob Durham |

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| | Taylor Copeland |
|--|-----------------|

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| Song Leader | A.M. Steve May |
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| | P.M. Steve May |
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| Scripture Reading | A.M. Ashton Jayroe |
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| | P.M. Caleb Cameron |
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| Opening Prayer | A.M. Phil Massey |
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| | P.M. Tim Russell |
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| Closing Prayer | A.M. Gerald Copeland |
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| | P.M. Michael Davidson |
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9th Man

Mike Wright

Men to Serve the Lord's Table - December

| | | |
|-------------|---------------|----------------|
| Harold Enke | Robert Oliver | Kent Wilkerson |
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| Daivd Durham | Larry Dye | Phillip Odom |
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|-----------------|-----------------|
| Johnny McDonald | George Spurlock |
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Lord's Table PM: Robert Cornelison

Communion to Shut-Ins: Mike Eubanks

Greeters for December

Front: Side:

Nursery Attendants

A.M. Ashley May **P.M.** Judy Jones

Toddler Training Room: Pam Carpenter

Children's Bible Hour: Jeff & Brandie May

Men to Serve Wednesday, December 16th

Song Leader: Bill Pierce **Prayer:** Claude Thompson

Lock up Building for month of December: George Spurlock

Prepare Communion: Bob & Wanda Hankins

Coordinate Meals for Sick & Bereaved: Need Volunteer

ELDERS

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|---------------|--------------|
| Kevin Crowell | Mike Eubanks |
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| Stan Holland | Rudy Pierce |
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STAFF

David Myers Pulpit Minister

Terry Cagle Associate Minister

Jason Killough Youth Minister

Carra Deck Secretary

Glenda Carpenter Secretary

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

| | |
|----------------------------|-----------|
| Sunday Morning Bible Study | 9:30 a.m. |
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| Sunday Morning Worship | 10:30 a.m. |
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| Sunday Evening Worship | 6:00 p.m. |
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| Wednesday Evening Bible Study | 7:00 p.m. |
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THE RECORD YOU HELPED MAKE

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| Bible Study | 110 |
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|-----------------|-----|
| Morning Worship | 206 |
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|-----------------|-----|
| Evening Worship | 125 |
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| Wednesday Bible Study | 144 |
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| Contribution (Regular) | \$7,445.30 |
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| Weekly Contribution Need | \$8,607.80 |
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UPCOMING EVENTS

TODAY: ELDERS/MINISTRY LEADERS MEETING 4:00

Dec 14th - MONDAY NIGHT FOR THE MASTER dinner at 6:00, activities at 6:25; If you plan to attend, please sign up on the white registration card.

Dec 16th - WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNER at 6:00; If you plan to come, please sign up on white registration card

COST: \$1 for kids; \$3 for teens and adults

MENU: Chili

COOKS: Congregation, please see bulletin board in side foyer to sign up or see if you're already signed up

CLEAN UP: Tammy Odom, Sara Andrews, Jeanette Mears

DESSERTS: Congregation, please see bulletin board in side foyer to sign up or see if you're already signed up

Dec 18th - PIONEER GAME NIGHT 6:30

Dec 22nd - MIDWEEK SERVICE 7:00

Dec 29th - MIDWEEK SERVICE 7:00

Feb 6th - NEXT ACCS/MCS FISH FRY

ELDERS/MINISTRY LEADERS MEETING

We will have a very important elders/ministry leaders meeting this afternoon at 4:00. We will be discussing the upcoming 2010 budget. We need to have every deacon & ministry leader at the meeting so we can discuss your area of ministry. Please make plans to attend the meeting.

SINGING SERVICE

Tonight is our monthly singing service. Please make plans to attend for an evening of "joyful singing unto the Lord".

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNER

We will be having Wednesday night dinner this week. The menu is chili. If you can help out by making a pot of chili or bringing desserts, please sign up on the sheet located in the side foyer.

FROM THE MAILBOX

To our church family,

Thanks for all the cards, flowers, and especially your prayers in the loss of our mother. She loved you all dearly.

In Him, Eleanor & Ray Kemp, Debbie & Don Thomaston

ADULT BIBLE CLASS DIRECTORY

Sun Aud. David Myers - The Book of John

Sun F'hall Terry Cagle/Bill Pierce - Fundamentals of Faith

Wed Aud. David Myers - Hebrews: Beautiful Savior

Wed Fhall Ladies' Class - Various Topics

Let's Be Glad He Was Born...

(continued from front page)

Though we do not know when Jesus was born, it is not wrong for Christians to thank God for "His indescribable gift" (2 Corinthians 9:15) anytime, including December when many others do. It is certainly a Bible truth that the baby Jesus was born, and we should be thankful for that reality. We also believe in Jesus all year long, 365 days a year. Once a year, if only for a moment, many people in our world stop to reflect on the birth of the baby Jesus. I wonder what Paul would do if he were with us today. I personally believe he would seize the opportunity afforded by this season and preach Jesus, from the wonderful Kodak moment of the manger scene through His death, burial, and resurrection. As a preacher, and His disciple, why would I (we) want to discourage anyone from thinking about Jesus, singing about Jesus, or remembering Jesus at anytime, anyplace, or anywhere? No one should ever be happier about the coming of Christ at any time of the year than His own people.

Please remember that I'm not saying that terminology never matters nor that "anything goes". There surely are limits and "weightier matters" that call for concern, but we seem to let trivialities trip us up long before we ever get to them. The important thing is to keep stressing that "there is no other God but one and an idol is nothing"! When we get that straight, along with the conviction that God sent His Son, Jesus, into the world to save us, we will not have to tip-toe through minefields of terminology. We can even use the word "Thursday" without worrying that anybody thinks we are endorsing worship of Thor! He was nothing; Christ is everything. **Let us be glad Jesus came - whenever it was.**

David

PANTRY ITEM OF THE WEEK: CEREAL

REMEMBER IN PRAYER (members)

PLEASE LET THE OFFICE KNOW OF ANY CHANGES IN THE PRAYER LIST

Bill Nichols - Bill is on hospice care and not doing well
Betty Nichols - Please pray for Betty as she struggles to take care of Bill
John Allsup - Tests on Thurs showed no blockages and his lungs are clear, doctors were able to put his heart back in rhythm, on medication
Violet Tart - Fell and broke her hip Thursday, had surgery at Providence Friday, surgery went well and she should be in Providence at least through tomorrow
Jamie Overton - Doing well, recovering after jaw surgery
JoAnn Brown - Recovering from knee surgery, doing extremely well
Michelle Jayroe - Has shingles
Betty Graham - Health issues, not feeling well
Trez Rudder - Recovering at her sister's - 33971 Lee Rd, Robertsedale, AL 36567
Deborah Moody - Still recovering from pneumonia
Ruby Allsup - Infection in her leg
Jane Campbell
Myra Blizzard - Back pain
Brenda Odom
Billy Allsup - Back problems, deteriorated discs
Nita Mae Eubanks
Bill & Eunice Day - Health problems
Audrey Anderson - Thyroid problem, on medication
Cubby Merrell - Lots of health problems (Paul & Debora's grandson)
Rainie McInvale - Back surgery 12/29
James & Esther Bell - Health problems
Paul & Debora Merrell
Linda Lockler - having to resume treatments for blood problem

REMEMBER IN PRAYER (friends & family)

PLEASE LET THE OFFICE KNOW OF ANY CHANGES IN THE PRAYER LIST

Charles McMillian - Mob. Inf., Rom 5609 (Belinda Russo's father)
Cathy Finch - Renal failure (Rhoda Carpenter's mother)
Kathy Ferguson - Broke femur (Beverly Hall's daughter)
Jeff Ludlam - Recovering from back surgery (Mandy Schmitz's brother)
Loretta Vaught - Cancer has returned in her liver (Tricia Pierce's mother)
Larry Miller - Home, cancer (Stacy Cagle's father)
Wanda Browning -Home, recovering from surgery and awaiting biopsy (Nita Mae Eubanks' daughter)
Lillie Pierce - Health problems (Kathy Henebry's mother)
Mr. Newbill - Prayers for speedy recovery (friend of Libby Phillips')
Lester McIntyre - Prayers for speedy recovery (friend of Libby Phillips')
Faye Smith - Had a bad fall (friend of Rachel Myers')
Michelle Batchelor Mills - cancer, had double mastectomy, in Atlanta
Chris Barrett - Cancer (friend of Lisa Marler's)
Addie Jones - Congestive heart failure, on hospice care (June Tart's mother)
George Loden - Heart problems (Pauline King's brother)
Vera Hill - Cancer returned, radiation treatments soon (Dora Wright's sister)
Madelyn Fetner - Neonatal diabetes, treating with insulin (Ben & Jennifer's baby - members at Univ. COC)
Frances Davidson - Been sick for long time, Drs don't know why (Jerry's wife)
Fred Roschen - Cancer, not taking any more treatments (Margaret Istre's friend)
Gil Ludlam - Blood clots in leg, on medication (Mandy Schmitz's father)
Judy Lincoln - Needs liver transplant (former member)
Larry Williams - Complications from kidney transplant (Easter's son)
Amy Dominques - Cancer of lymph nodes (relative of Helen Jones)
DC Mosley - Bone & blood cancer (Quincy & Pat Woodard's neighbor)
Gerald Ruiz - Hit by tractor trailer 7/20, paralyzed from waist down, not doing well (address on bulletin board for cards) (Kathy Henebry's co-worker)
Doris Moss - Doing better (Bob's mother)
Freddy Corina's father - Health issues
Toni Lucas - Lymes Disease (Perry & Donna's daughter-in-law)
Mary Bauer - Cancer, on chemo (Tom Deck's aunt)
Icleatus Albritton - home
Temple Anderson - Cancer (elder at Opelika Church)
Jessica Weller - Cancer free (friend of the Roberts family)
Mary-Kathryn Harrison - Has Gorlin's Syndrome
Michelle Epperson & Darian Guy
Pauline Russell - cancer (Tim's sister)
Donald Thrower - Various health issues (Glenda Wilkes' brother)
Breanna Moore - 18 mth old, incurable disease (friend of Blankenships)
Brynn Woods - Malignant Fibrous Histiocytoma (3½ yrs old)
J.T. Harrison - Back problems
Ann Weaver - Cancer (friend of Glenda Warren)
Charlie Peterson - Cystic Fibrosis (child) (Mac & Jamie Goleman's friend)
Billy Jones - Mother is battling ovarian cancer (Kevin Crowell's friend)
Michael Hornbuckle - Head injury, another 6 months of recovery
Teddy Mears - Bone cancer
Ronin White - Cancer (Linda Lockler's 7 yr old nephew)
Hixon Nobles - Friend of David & Sarah Myers
Pauline Russell - Cancer
Patricia Jones - Colon cancer
Greg Lewis - Cancer (friend of David & Sarah Myers)
Dylan Gibbon - Blood disorder (JoAnn Gibbon's young grandson in Calif.)
Elders, preachers, missionaries, college students
our Country & leaders

EXPECTANT MOTHERS

Lori Holland (June 2010)

OUR MILITARY

Josh Henebry - Marines, Afghanistan (Rick & Kathy's nephew)
Jason Odom - Iraq (Phillip & Tammy's nephew)
Chris Campbell - Navy
Randy Pierce - Marines, Fort Pendleton (Rudy & Nita's grandson)
Kenneth Andrews - In Iraq (Terry & Sue's son)
Aaron Allsup - Stationed in Italy (John & Ruby Allsup's grandson)
Jacob Pierce - Leaving 12/1 for Iraq
Matthew Geroux - Deployed to Kyrgyzstan, 6 mths (Phillip & Tammy's son-in-law)
Keith Moss - Marines, in Afghanistan (Skip Garner's son-in-law)
Dewayne Nix - Navy, stationed in Corpus Christi, TX
Manuel Baldwin - Iraq (Natasha Polk's-member at Univ COC-fiance')
Michael L Burroughs - Navy, back in the states (Irene King's son)
Layne Ortiz - London & **Ryan Ortiz** (Beverly Hall's niece and her husband)

BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES

Monday - Brian Busby
Tuesday - Anna Powell, Evelyn Wright
Saturday - Terry & Michelle Cagle

