

Eastside Baptist Church



Equipping the Saints for Ministry by First Seeking the Kingdom of God
(Ephesians 4:12/Matthew 6:33)

Volume XI Issue XII **Every day is a priceless gift of God** DECEMBER 2016



Not Happy Holiday, but Merry Christmas

Twas the month before Christmas When all through our land,
Not a Christian was praying Nor taking a stand.
See the PC Police had taken away,
The reason for Christmas - no one could say.

The children were told by their schools not to sing,
About Shepherds and Wise Men and Angels and things.
It might hurt people's feelings, the teachers would say
December 25th is just a Holiday.

Yet the shoppers were ready with cash, checks and credit
Pushing folks down to the floor just to get it!
CDs from Madonna, an X BOX, an I-pod
Something was changing, something quite odd!

Retailers promoted Ramadan and Kwanzaa
In hopes to sell books by Franken & Fonda.
As Targets were hanging their trees upside down
At Lowe's the word Christmas - was nowhere to be found.

At K-Mart and Staples and Penny's and Sears
You won't hear the word Christmas; it won't touch your ears.
Inclusive, sensitive, Di-ver-si-ty
Are words that were used to intimidate me.

Now Daschle, Now Darden, Now Sharpton, Wolf Blitzen
On Boxer, on Rather, on Kerry, on Clinton!
At the top of the Senate, there arose such a clatter
To eliminate Jesus, in all public matter.

And we spoke not a word, as they took away our faith
Forbidden to speak of salvation and grace
The true Gift of Christmas was exchanged and discarded
The reason for the season, stopped before it started.

So as you celebrate 'Winter Break' under your 'Dream Tree'
Sipping your Starbucks, listen to me
Choose your words carefully, choose what you say
Shout MERRY CHRISTMAS, not Happy Holiday!

Please, all Christians join together and wish everyone you meet
During the holidays a **MERRY CHRISTMAS**

Christ is The Reason for the Christ-mas Season!



Rev. Dr. Arthur C. Banks
1st Lady Jacquie Banks

"This is the day that the Lord has made;
we will rejoice and be glad in it"
(Psalm 118:24)

From the Editor
Eric Grimes

This year marks **11 continuous years** of publication for the Messenger! If you would like to contribute information, pictures or articles, please submit them to: erg58@aol.com. If you would like to receive an **electronic copy**, the current and past year issues of the Messenger are now available on our church web site @

www.eastsidebaptistchurch65.org

Articles and views expressed in this publication are presented for the information and benefit of the members of Eastside Baptist Church, and may not necessarily reflect the position of the Church.

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Where God is praised and Disciples Are Made

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Monday-Friday
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Praise Him!



HEALTHY LIVING

Jehovah-Rophe
"Jehovah heals"

"I WILL PRAISE THEE; FOR I AM FEARFULLY AND WONDERFULLY MADE:
MARVELLOUS ARE THY WORKS; AND THAT MY SOUL KNOWETH RIGHT WELL."

(Psalm 139:14)

YOUR DIET IS MAKING YOU FAT!

Diets don't work, it is impossible for them to provide lasting weight loss. When you "starve" yourself with a reduced calorie diet, a couple of things happen that assure that no matter how much weight you lose, you will gain it all back plus more.

Why you say? A diet will slow down your metabolism; body fat is a survival mechanism our body uses to keep us from starving during long periods without food. Using a reduced calorie "diet" puts this survival mechanism into full force and this one natural body reaction alone will assure your failure.

When you diet and only eat one or two meals daily, your body thinks you are starving! It doesn't know that you're not eating on purpose. It assumes there is no food available and that there might not be any for a long time. So to prevent you from starving to death before the next meal, your body slows down its metabolism and stores all the food you eat as fat!

So even though you eat less on your diet, your body metabolizes it slower, burning less for energy and storing more as fat. Net result is that you eat less and not lose weight; you very possibly will gain weight! That is exactly why after your diet fails you often gain more than you lost, your metabolism is so slowed down that almost everything you eat gets stored as fat!

So what is the solution . . . eat more of the right kind of food! (fresh, live, raw, fruits, raw nuts, legumes and vegetables).

Health Disclaimer: *The information provided on this article should not be construed as personal medical advice or instruction. No action should be taken based solely on the contents of this letter. Readers should consult appropriate health professionals on any matter relating to their health and well-being. The information and opinions provided here are believed to be accurate and sound, based on the best judgment available to the author, but readers who fail to consult appropriate health authorities assume the risk of any injuries. The Editor is not responsible for errors or omissions.*

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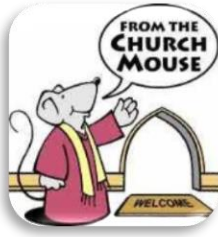
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Thanks to Nadine Fafard (See Luke 2:1-16)

12-24-2001

THAT'S THE BEST ONE-STAR HOTEL THAT I'VE EVER SEEN



Watch Night Service

Many of you who live or grew up in African American communities in the United States have probably heard of "Watch Night Services," the gathering of the faithful in church on New Year's Eve. The service usually begins anywhere from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. and ends at midnight with the entrance of the New Year. Some folks come to church first, before going out to celebrate. For others, church is the only New Year's Eve event. Like many others, I always assumed that Watch Night was a fairly standard Christian religious service -- made a bit more Afro centric because that's what happens when elements of Christianity become linked with the African American Church. Still, it seemed that predominately White Christian churches did not include Watch Night services on their calendars, but focused instead on Christmas Eve programs. In fact, there were instances where clergy in mainline denominations wondered aloud about the propriety of linking religious services with a secular holiday like New Year's Eve.

However, there is a reason for the importance of New Year's Eve services in African American congregations. The Watch Night

Services in African American communities that we celebrate today can be traced back to gatherings on December 31, 1862, also known as "Freedom's Eve." On that night, African Americans came together in churches and private homes all across the nation, anxiously awaiting news that the Emancipation Proclamation actually had become law. Then, at the stroke of midnight, it was January 1, 1863, and all slaves in the Confederate States were declared legally free. When the news was received, there were prayers, shouts and songs of joy as people fell to their knees and thanked God. African American folks have gathered in churches annually on New Year's Eve ever since, praising God for bringing us safely through another year.

It's been 153 years since that first Freedom's Eve and many of us were never taught the African American history of Watch Night, but tradition still brings us together at this time every year to celebrate "how we got over."

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12-23-1999

REMEMBER THE REASON FOR THE SEASON



True Meaning of Christmas



Just a week before Christmas I had a visitor. This is how it happened. I just finished the household chores for the night and was preparing to go to bed, when I heard a noise in the front of the house. I opened the door to the front room and to my surprise, Santa himself stepped out next to the fireplace.



"What are you doing?" I started to ask. The words choked up in my throat and I saw he had tears in his eyes. His usual jolly manner was gone. Gone was the eager, boisterous soul we all know. He then answered me with a simple statement . . .

"TEACH THE CHILDREN!" I was puzzled. What did he mean? He anticipated my question and with one quick movement brought forth a miniature toy bag from behind the tree. As I stood bewildered, Santa said, "Teach the children!

Teach them the old meaning of Christmas. The meaning that now-a-days Christmas has forgotten. "Santa then reached in his bag and pulled out a FIR TREE and placed it before the mantle. "Teach the children that the pure green color of the stately fir tree remains green all year round, depicting the everlasting hope of mankind, all the needles point heavenward, making it a symbol of man's thoughts turning toward heaven."



He again reached into his bag and pulled out a brilliant STAR. "Teach the children that the star was the heavenly sign of promises long ago. God promised a Savior for the world, and the star was the sign of fulfillment of His promise."



He then reached into his bag and pulled out a CANDLE. "Teach the children that the candle symbolizes that Christ is the light of the world, and when we see this great light we are reminded of He who displaces the darkness."



Once again he reached into his bag and removed a WREATH and placed it on the tree. "Teach the children that the wreath symbolizes the real nature of love. Real love never ceases. Love is one continuous round of affection."

He then brought out a HOLLY LEAF. "Teach the children that the holly plant represents immortality. It represents the crown of thorns worn by our Savior. The red holly berries represent the blood shed by Him.



Next he pulled from his bag a GIFT and said, "Teach the children that God so loved the world that he gave his begotten son." Thanks be to God for his unspeakable gift.



Santa then reached in his bag and pulled out a CANDY CANE and hung it on the tree. "Teach the children that the candy cane represents the shepherds' crook. The crook on the staff helps to bring back strayed sheep to the flock. The candy cane is the symbol that we are our brother's keeper."



He reached in again and pulled out an ANGEL. "Teach the children that it was the angels that heralded in the glorious news of the Savior's birth. The angels sang Glory to God in the highest, on earth peace and good will toward men."

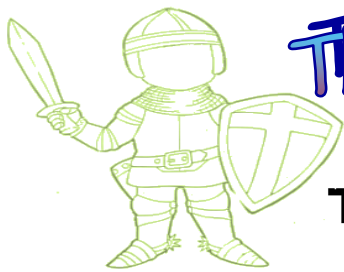


Suddenly I heard a soft twinkling sound, and from his bag he pulled out a BELL,.. "Teach the children that as the lost sheep are found by the sound of the bell, it should ring mankind to the fold. The bell symbolizes guidance and return.



Santa looked back and was pleased. He looked back at me and I saw that the twinkle was back in his eyes. He said, "Remember, teach the children the true meaning of Christmas and do not put me in the center, for I am but a humble servant of the One that is, and I bow down to worship him, our LORD, our GOD."





The Kings Kids

The Wise Men

#69

ANCIENT
 ASTROLOGERS
 BALTHAZAR
 BELIEVE
 BETHLEHEM
 CELEBRATES
 CHILD
 CHRIST
 CHURCH
 DREAMS
 EPIPHANY
 FEAST
 FELL (down and
 worshipped)
 FIRST
 FOLLOWED
 FRANKINCENSE
 GASPAR
 GIFTS
 GOLD
 HEAVENS
 (Visited) HEROD
 HONORS
 JESUS
 KEEPERS
 KINGS
 MAGI

W	H	R	R	Y	M	A	T	T	H	E	W	S	T	A	R
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C	S	T	V	N	R	E	L	I	G	I	O	N	C	F	S

MATTHEW	STAR
MELCHIOR	THREE
MYRRH	TRAVELED
PRIESTLY	VISIT
RELIGION	WISE
SEARCHED	WORSHIPPED

*Seven days without prayer
 makes one weak!*

KIDS IN CHURCH

(Submitted by Deaconess C. Jones)

3-year-old Reese :
'Our Father, Who does art in heaven, Harold is His name.
Amen.'

A little boy was overheard praying:
'Lord, if you can't make me a better boy, don't worry about
it. I'm having a real good time like I am.'

After the christening of his baby brother in church,
Jason sobbed all the way home in the back seat of the car.
His father asked him three times what was wrong.
Finally, the boy replied, 'That preacher said he wanted us
brought up in a Christian home, And I wanted to stay with
you guys.'

One particular four-year-old prayed, 'And forgive us our
trash baskets As we forgive those who put trash in our
baskets.'

A Sunday school teacher asked her children as they
Were on the way to church service, 'And why is it
necessary to be quiet in church?' One bright little girl
replied, 'Because people are sleeping.'

A mother was preparing pancakes for her sons, Kevin 5,
and Ryan 3 The boys began to argue over who would get
the first pancake.

Their mother saw the opportunity for a moral lesson.
'If Jesus were sitting here, He would say, 'Let my brother
have the first pancake, I can wait.' Kevin turned to his
younger brother and said, ' Ryan , you be Jesus !'

A father was at the beach with his children
When the four-year-old son ran up to him,
Grabbed his hand, and led him to the shore
Where a seagull lay dead in the sand..
'Daddy, what happened to him?' the son asked.
'He died and went to Heaven,' the Dad replied.
The boy thought a moment and then said,
'Did God throw him back down?'

A wife invited some people to dinner.
At the table, she turned to their six-year-old daughter and
said, 'Would you like to say the blessing?'
'I wouldn't know what to say,' the girl replied.
'Just say what you hear Mommy say,' the wife answered.
The daughter bowed her head and said,
'Lord, why on earth did I invite all these people to
dinner?'

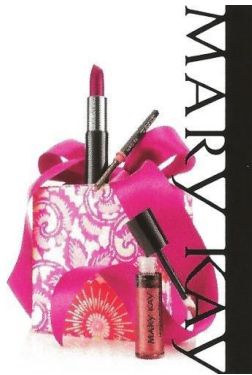


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