**Why Jesus is Better than Santa Claus?**

Santa lives at the North Pole... JESUS is everywhere.
Santa rides in a sleigh... JESUS rides on the wind & walks on the water.
Santa comes but once a year... JESUS is an ever present help.
Santa fills your stockings with goodies... JESUS supplies all your needs.
Santa comes down your chimney uninvited... JESUS stands at your door and knocks, and then enters your heart when invited.
You have to wait in line to see Santa... JESUS is as close as the mention of His name.
Santa lets you sit on his lap... JESUS lets you rest in His arms.
Santa doesn’t know your name, all he can say is, “Hi little boy or girl, what’s your name?”... JESUS knew our name before we were born. Not only does HE know our name, HE knows our address too. HE knows our history & future & HE even knows how many hairs are on our heads.
Santa has a belly like a bowl full of jelly... JESUS has a heart full of love.
All Santa can offer is Ho Ho Ho... JESUS offers health, help, and hope.
Santa says, “You better not cry”... JESUS says “Cast all your cares on me for I care for you.”
Santa’s little helpers make toys... JESUS makes new life, mends wounded hearts, repairs broken homes & builds mansions.
Santa may make you chuckle but... JESUS gives you joy that is your strength.
While Santa puts gifts under your tree... JESUS became our gift and died on a tree...The Cross. We need to put Christ back in CHRISTmas, Jesus is still the reason for the season.

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. 

John 3:16

---

**Bringing Joy to a Homebound Person This Christmas**

The Christmas season is a time of fellowship and fun festivities. However, for many it can feel like the loneliest time of the year. A group often overlooked but in need of holiday cheer are the assisted living or homebound. The scripture tells us in Matthew 25:40, “The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers & sisters of mine, you did for me.’” Here are a few simple acts of kindness are listed here: A visit and giving them your time can make their day. If you are going to a Christmas cantata or to look at lights; pick them up & let them enjoy it with you. While you may be cooking for your family, take an extra plate to them as well. You could even get the kids involved by having them decorate cookies to take. You could also decorate their home/room with Christmas lights. (This brings a child-like smile to every face). You can even put together a gift basket with fresh fruit, hot cider packets, crossword puzzles or a devotional. No matter how small you feel your ‘act of kindness’ may be, it could be the biggest blessing they receive this month.

---

**HOLIDAY GIFT IDEAS**


**For the Cook:** Measuring spoons and cups. Spices. Apron. Kitchen timer. Recipe box. Cookbook. Small mixing bowls. Whisk. Box of storage bags. (Use a large mixing bowl or colander lined with a dish towel to hold things.)

**For the Outdoor Chef:** Barbeque tools. Aluminum foil. Lighter fluid. Apron. Citronella candles. Bug spray. (Place everything in a cooler to hold the gift.)

**For the Coffee Lover:** Special coffee cup. Variety of small packets of flavored coffee. Small jar of creamer (also available in flavors). Bean grinder. Chocolate-dipped cinnamon sticks or spoons. Butter cookies.

---

**Senior Celebration at “The Cove” August 18-20, 2014.**

Interested in attending a Senior Celebration with Cliff Barrow, Dr. James Merritt, Reggie and Ladye Love Smith next August at the Cove in North Carolina? If so, call BJ for more information 601-824-2721.
BJ’s Corner

Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?” John 11:25-26

When we accept God’s gift of love, we also receive God’s gift of life. As the pages on the calendar turn, the celebration of Christmas soon gives way to the celebration of Easter. The cradle leads to the cross, but no grave can hold God’s gift of love and Jesus lives that we might live.

Jesus tells us, “...I have come that they might have life, and have it to the fullest.” John 10:10b. God has great plans for His children; He gives us the gift of life so that we might rise above our circumstances and rise above the trials and tribulations of this earthly existence. God doesn’t intend that we “just get by,” nor does He intend that we do the “best we can under the circumstances.” He wants us to rise above them.

When Jesus overcame death, He overcame the world, (John 16:33) and He desires that all of His followers live victoriously. When we celebrate the birthday of Jesus, we must also remember the reason He came into this world: He is the “resurrection and the life.”

Symbols of the Holidays
Many of our Christmas decorations have a rich & meaningful heritage; let the symbols help you keep you “on track” with the true meaning of Christmas.

**Evergreens**—are fragrant and symbolic of faith & immortality.

**Wreaths**—symbolize the never ending circle of God’s love.

**Holly**—Reminder of Christ’s suffering.

**Candles & Lights**—symbolize Christ’s presence as the “light that shines in the darkness” and are the signs of hope.

**Bells & Stars**—beckon the way to Christ’s birthplace & announce the joy Christ brought to the world.

**Pinecones, Snowflakes, Flowers, Straw, & Herbs**—remind us of the beauty of nature & bounty of God’s gifts.

**I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day**

I heard the bells on Christmas day
Their old familiar carols play,
And wild and sweet the words repeat
Of peace on earth, good will to men.

I thought how, as the day had come,
The belfries of all Christendom
Had rolled along th’ unbroken song
Of peace on earth, good will to men.

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:
“God is not dead, nor doth He sleep;
The wrong shall fail, the right prevail,
With peace on earth, good will to men.”

Till, ringing, singing on its way,
The world revolved from night to day
A voice, a chime, a chant sublime,
Of peace on earth, good will to men.

I thought that I might never see
A Christmas day, or hear the bells
Of peace on earth, good will to men.

Shirley Chapman, our mission’s coordinator, would like to THANK YOU for your generous offering for our Hands of Hope Mission Project last month. Together we were able to raise $500!

**Book Nook**

**The Women of Christmas: Experience the Season Afresh with Elizabeth, Mary & Anna by Liz Curtis Higgs.**

Angellic encounters, miraculous conceptions, unexpected visitors, and outbursts of praise: Take a fresh look at the nativity story with Liz Curtis Higgs.

“Christmas is so much more than a holiday. So much more than buying and wrapping, and cooking and eating, and trimming with tinsel, and mailing out cards. It’s a season for reflection, for preparation, for renewal. What better time to put aside our shopping lists and reach for our Bibles, where the story of the Christ child awaits us.” Liz

**The Story Behind the Hymn**

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow wrote this hymn on Christmas Day in 1863 for the children of the Sunday School of the Unitarian Church of the Disciples, Boston. The Civil War was at its worst. Six months earlier the Battle of Gettysburg had resulted in 40,000 men having been killed, wounded, or reported missing on both sides. Following a long siege, Vicksburg had been taken by the Union forces and 30,000 Confederate soldiers taken prisoner. In fact, Longfellow’s own son Charley, 19 years of age, had been wounded in the war about a month before. Longfellow, a recent widower, was caring for his son in their home. It is not difficult to understand how Longfellow bowed his head in despair and thought, “There is no peace on earth.” The poet poured out his soul for peace and goodwill in a very troubled day.
First Corinthians 13 Christmas Version

If I decorate my house perfectly with plaid bows, strands of twinkling lights and shiny balls, but do not show love to my family, I’m just another decorator.

If I slave away in the kitchen, baking dozens of Christmas cookies, preparing gourmet meals and arranging a beautifully adorned table at mealtime, but do not show love to my family, I’m just another cook.

If I work at a soup kitchen, carol in the nursing home, and give all that I have to charity; but do not show love to my family, it profits me nothing.

If I trim the spruce with shimmering angels and crocheted snowflakes, attend a myriad of holiday parties and sing in the choir’s cantata but do not focus on Christ, I have missed the point.

Love stops the cooking to hug the child., Love sets aside the decorating to kiss the spouse, Love is kind, though harried and tired. Love does not envy another’s home that coordinated Christmas china and table linens. Love does not yell at the kids to get out of the way, but is thankful they are there to be in the way. Love does not give only to those who are able to give in return; but rejoices in giving to those who cannot. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, and endures all things.

Love never fails.

Video games will break, pearl necklaces will be lost, golf clubs will rust; but giving the gift of love will endure!!!
Deepest Sympathy to...
Lori Schuler, in the loss of her cousin, Marjory Dunaway.
Raymond Mars, in the loss of his wife, Sue Mars.
Dayna Briggs, in the loss of her grandmother, Dorothy Biggs.

Prime Timer Schedule 2013-2014
Fellowship is the bond of common purpose and devotion that binds Christians together. Invite others to experience it.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Food</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 14</td>
<td>Noon</td>
<td>Covered dish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 11</td>
<td>5:30 pm</td>
<td>CATERED</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 11</td>
<td>Noon</td>
<td>Covered dish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 8</td>
<td>Noon</td>
<td>Covered dish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 13</td>
<td>5:30 pm</td>
<td>CATERED</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Reminder:* All catered meals have a deadline to purchase tickets. Please look for the upcoming dates in our weekly church ministry guide.

Keeping the Savior in the Season
♦ Begin the season with a family prayer that commits the holidays to Christ.
♦ Use devotional readings each day of the month of December.
♦ Ask frequently, “What would Jesus do?”
♦ Allow time for reading and meditation on the Bible passages and Jesus’ birth.
♦ Invite unchurched or lost people to your home for a celebration of Jesus’ birth.

Game Night
Join us for fun and Pot Luck Fellowship on **Thursday, December 5**
At 5:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall

Thank God for memory, that most gracious artist, who softens the hard things in our lives, and makes more beautiful the beautiful ones. It gilds the faces of those who have gone, with a radiance we could never see whilst we had them here, and makes the “waste places in our lives to blossom as the rose.” Author Unknown

MY FIRST CHRISTMAS IN HEAVEN
I see the countless Christmas trees around the world below with tiny lights, like Heavens, reflecting on the snow. The sight is so spectacular, please wipe away the tear, for I am spending Christmas with Jesus Christ this year.

I hear the many Christmas songs that people hold so dear. But the sounds of music can’t compare with the Christmas Choir up here. I have no words to tell you, the joy the voices bring, for it is beyond description, to hear the angels sing.

I know how much you miss me, I see the pain inside your heart. But I am not so far away, we really aren’t apart. So be happy for me, dear ones, you know I hold you dear, and be glad I’m spending Christmas with Jesus Christ this year.

I sent you each a special gift, from my heavenly home above. I sent you each a memory of my undying love. After all, love is a gift more precious than pure gold. It was always most important in the stories Jesus told. Please love and keep each other, as my Father said to do. For I can’t count the blessings or love he has for each of you. So have a Merry Christmas and wipe away that tear, remember I am spending Christmas with Jesus Christ this year.

Game Night
Join us for fun and Pot Luck Fellowship on **Thursday, December 5**
At 5:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall
**Hey, Mary, did you know that the little drummer boy passed by the other night on his way to the little town of Bethlehem?** He claimed that there was a song in the air and a star in the sky over in that direction. As he marched past our front yard, he yelled, "Come on, all ye faithful!" I thought he might be inviting me to come along. For a minute or two I thought I heard the bells on Christmas Day myself. But it wasn’t bells at all. It was just a bunch of dumb sheep following that little musician. What a way to spend a holy night. Just for grins, I decided to tag along anyway. I thought he might need some help carrying that big ole drum after a while. We came upon a midnight clearing and found out for ourselves why everyone had a reason to go tell it on the mountain. Why, joy to the world, there were angels from the realms of glory winging their flight over all the earth! The whole hillside was flooded with light! No silent night here. Why, this might just turn out to be a good time after all, I thought. Hark and the herald angels were there. They were singing about some child in a manger. I yelled over the din, "What did you say was the baby’s name?" Those angels replied, "Emmanuel, Emmanuel, His name is called Emmanuel!"

Away in a manger down the hill, we found the reason for the angel song lyrics. Two or three kings were already there. I kinda lost count. Don’t you know that they had stopped by the local walmart along the way and brought gifts? Kings think they know everything, but they couldn’t hold a candle to the sight of this newborn king. I felt like singing myself, but I decided to just stand there and hold that drum while the little boy played…holly silent night…on the drums. It was a worshipful little number. I never knew drums could sound so sweet. I really hate that he had to use wet drum sticks, but maybe my tears helped him to play so softly and tenderly.

**How many songs did you recognize from this story?**

---

**REFIREMENT CONFERENCE**

When: Sunday - Wednesday, May 18 - 21, 2014
Location: CBC  Cost: FREE
Speakers: Bro. David Jett, Dr. Phil Jett,  
& Bro. Tommy Vinson.
If you would like to serve on our committee,  
please call BJ by Monday, December 16.

MARK THIS ON YOUR CALENDAR TODAY!

---

**JANUARY PROGRAM**

Join us for our Prime Timer’s luncheon on Tuesday, January 14th at noon. Our guest speaker is Bonita Bridges. She is a retiree who spent 34 years with the Mississippi State Rankin County Home Extension service and her topic is “Coping with Aging.” Don’t forget to invite a friend and bring a covered dish!

---

**“Merry Christmas Song” by Becky Brown**

**Twas the month before Christmas**

When all through our land,  
Not a Christian was praying  
Nor taking a stand.  
Why 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 no where 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

**Twixmas**

Christ is The Reason' for the Christ-mas Season!

---

**MARK THIS ON YOUR CALENDAR TODAY!**

---

**REFIREMENT CONFERENCE**

When: Sunday - Wednesday, May 18 - 21, 2014  
Location: CBC  Cost: FREE  
Speakers: Bro. David Jett, Dr. Phil Jett,  
& Bro. Tommy Vinson.
If you would like to serve on our committee,  
please call BJ by Monday, December 16.

MARK THIS ON YOUR CALENDAR TODAY!
**TIPS FOR THE HOLIDAYS**

Overloaded refrigerators are an invitation to food poisoning! The latest research shows that 88% of cases of domestic food poisoning result when people are catering for larger numbers than usual. Cramming food into the fridge and constantly opening the door can cause the internal temp to rise.

- Check the temp of your fridge from time to time using a refrigerator thermometer. If it's between 32° and 40°, the germs that can cause illness can't multiply.
- Hot foods should be cooled quickly before placing in the fridge, or the temperature will rise.
- All foods in the fridge should be covered.
- Defrost your refrigerator should be covered.

---

**Microwave Oven Peanut Brittle**

- 1 ½ cups dry roasted peanuts
- 1 cup white sugar
- ½ cup light corn syrup
- 1 pinch salt (optional)
- 1 Tablespoon butter
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 Tablespoon garlic powder

Grease a baking sheet, and set aside. In a glass bowl, combine peanuts, sugar, corn syrup, and salt. Cook in microwave for 6 to 7 minutes on high (700 w); mixture should be bubbly and peanuts browned. Stir in butter and vanilla; cook 2 to 3 minutes longer. Quickly stir in baking soda, just until mixture is foamy. Pour immediately onto greased baking sheet. Let cool for 15 minutes, or until set. Break into pieces, and store in an airtight container.

---

**Broccoli Cheese Soup**

- 1/2 cup of butter
- 1 onion, chopped
- 1 (16 oz.) pk. frozen chopped broccoli
- 4 (14.5 oz.) cans chicken broth
- 1 lb. Velvetta Rotel Cheese, cubed
- 2 cups milk
- 1 Tablespoon garlic powder
- 2/3 cup cornstarch
- 1 cup water

In a stockpot, melt butter over medium heat. Cook onion in butter until soft. Stir in broccoli, and cover with chicken broth. Simmer until broccoli is tender, 10 to 15 min. Reduce heat, and stir in cheese cubes until melted. Mix in milk and garlic powder. In a small bowl, stir cornstarch into water until dissolved. Stir into soup; cook, stirring frequently, until thick.

---

**Cowboy Cookie Mix in a Jar**

- 1 1/3 cups rolled oats
- 1/2 cup packed brown sugar
- 1/2 cup white sugar
- 1/2 cup chopped pecans
- 1 cup semisweet chocolate chips
- 1 3/4 cups all purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/4 teaspoon salt

Layer the ingredients in a 1 qt. jar in the order given. Press each layer firmly in place before adding the next layer.

**Instructions:**

- Preheat oven to 350°. Grease cookie sheets. Mix together 1/2 cup melted butter, 1 egg, and 1 teaspoon of vanilla. Stir in entire contents of jar. Shape into walnut sized balls. Place 2” apart on sheets and bake for 11 to 13 minutes. Makes 3 dozen cookies.

---

**Join us in the Fellowship Hall for Wednesday Night Supper!**

**Ice cream machine - - 2 different flavors each week.**

---

**Wednesday Night Menu**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>December 4</th>
<th>December 11</th>
<th>December 18</th>
<th>December 25</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Beef Tips w/Rice</td>
<td>Fried Chicken</td>
<td>Fried Pork Chops</td>
<td>NO MEAL ~ ENJOY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Broccoli Casserole</td>
<td>Mashed Potatoes</td>
<td>Green Bean Casserole</td>
<td>CHRISTMAS DAY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baby Carrots</td>
<td>Greens Beans</td>
<td>Mac &amp; Cheese</td>
<td>WITH YOUR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roll</td>
<td>Roll</td>
<td>Roll</td>
<td>FAMILY!</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*ALL MEALS WILL BE SERVED WITH A SIDE SALAD!*