

Church of Christ at Ellendale

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SCHEDULE OF WEEKLY ACTIVITY

SUNDAY

Bible Study.....9:30 a.m.
Worship.....10:30 a.m.
Worship.....5:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

Ladies' Bible Class.....10:00 a.m.
Bible Study and Devotional...7:00 p.m.

PRIVILEGED TO SERVE

December 25, 2011

Announcements. Billy Sharp
Lead Singing. Mike O'Guinn
Opening Prayer.. Jowe Albrecht

Lord's Table:

David Dement Steve Elrod
Kim Nance Chris Watson

Sermon. Mike Mays
Closing Prayer. Ron Rasberry

P.M. Services

Opening Prayer..
Closing Prayer..

(Please meet in the library as soon as possible after Bible Study.)

Our Elders

David Dement
Billy Sharp

Our Deacons

Steve Elrod
Jerry King
Mike O'Guinn

Our Ministers

Mike Mays

Mission Work

Eastern European Mission
Brad Harrub

Galloway church of Christ
Haiti

Hungary

India

Milledgeville church of Christ

David Nance (India work)

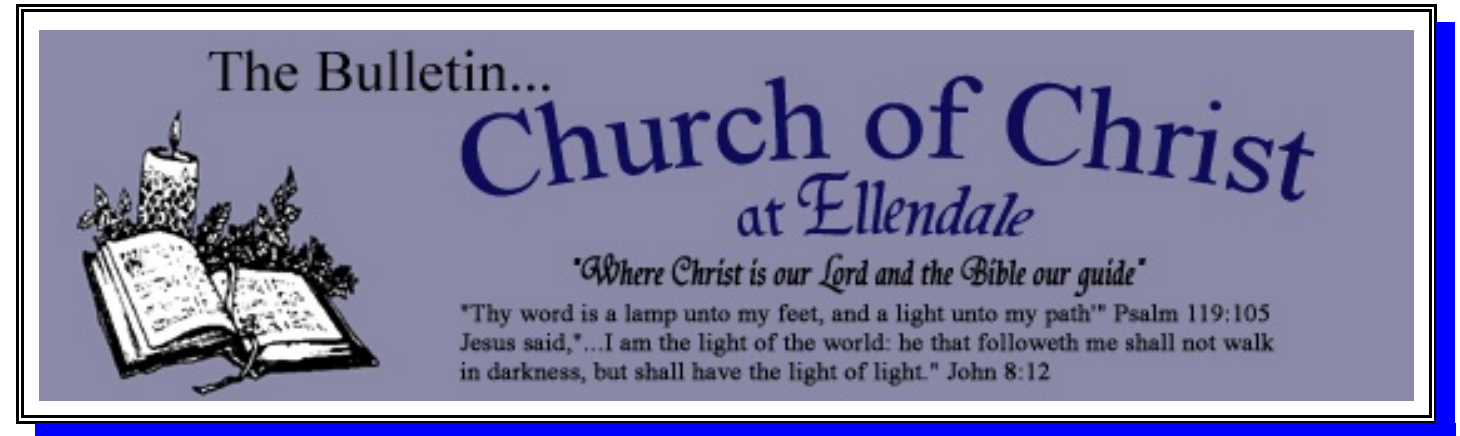
Paragould Children's Home

Prison Ministry

FOR THE LORD'S SERVICE

December 18, 2011

Budget. \$2,900.00
Contribution. \$2,990.00
Attendance. 71



December 25, 2011



Wishing everyone

a

Merry Christmas

and a

Happy New

Year!



Welcome!

Welcome to everyone. We extend a special welcome to our visitors. Please fill out an attendance card located on the back of the pew in front of you and drop it in the contribution plate as it is passed.

Mike's Message

We are thankful for the response of **Judy Espy** to the Lord's invitation, and share the joy of the angels in heaven on her decision to rededicate her life to the Lord. Welcome back, Judy!

Those of us in the churches of Christ do not celebrate the birth of Christ as a religious holiday since there is no authorization for it in the New Testament. However, His birth is part of Scripture, and it is appropriate to teach Scripture any time.

"Good News of Great Joy"

The announcement by the angels to the shepherds of the good news of the birth of the Savior is reason for great joy. The greatest problem you and I have is our sin problem, and Jesus, the answer to the problem, made His entrance into the world. In spite of this great news, many Christians are in need of a joy transfusion.

One reason may be a failure to understand the nature of joy. Jesus said that the joy He promised no one will be able to take away from us (John 16:22). That means it is not to be confused with happiness.

Happiness depends on certain things happening. When sorrow and suffering enter

the picture, happiness makes its exit. However, joy does not depend on having the right circumstances.

The apostle Paul could tell the Philippian Christians to rejoice in the Lord (Phil. 4:4). Nineteen times in the 104 verses of the book of Philippians joy or rejoicing is mentioned. Keep in mind that Paul was writing while he was in prison in Rome.

Not only was Paul in prison, he was on death row. At any time a guard could come and tell him, "Good news, the emperor has pardoned you," or "Come with me; you are going to the chopping block." In spite of these adverse conditions, Paul could still call on his fellow Christians to rejoice with him.

Paul knew he would be delivered, either from prison or from this life through death. The deliverance through death was Paul's preference; it would have been better by far for him to depart from this life to be with Christ (Phil. 1:19-24).

Hebrews 12:2 says that Jesus "for the joy set before Him endured the cross." The joy did not come from the extreme suffering, but from the outcome - the availability of salvation for all people. The reason Christians can count it all joy when we encounter various trials is not because of the trials but the outcome - the trials can enable us to mature spiritually (James 1:2-4).

Joy depends not on what happens *to* us, but what happens *in* us. Joy can only be found in Christ. When we are baptized into Christ, we have good reason for rejoicing in Him. "Rejoice in the Lord always."

News & Notes

OUR SICK & HOMEBOUND

Edd Marie Agnew, Jim & Birdie Arnold, Wilma Dwyer, Martha Harris, Kameron Kirk, Kim Nance, Charles & Lucille Neal, Evan Rasberry, Maggie Schlafer, Lorene Watson, Carolyn White

(Please pick up a copy of the Friends & Family sick list and remember them with your prayers and cards, calls or visits. Also, please let the office know of any additions, corrections or deletions that need to be made.)

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Jan. 9 - Truck from Children's Home

Suggested grocery items are: pancake mix, sugar, cream of celery soup, hair spray, men's stick deodorant and snack bars. Clothing and household items are also appreciated.

I Don't Worry

"I have a mountain of credit card debt," one man told another."

"I have lost my job. My car is being repossessed and our house is in foreclosure, but I am not worried about it," exclaimed his friend. "I've hired a professional worrier. He does all of my worrying for me, and that way I don't have to think about it."

"That's fantastic! How much does your professional worrier charge for his services?"

"\$50,000 a year," he replied.

"\$50,000 a year! Where are you going to get that kind of money?"

"I don't know," came the reply. "That's his worry."

Author Unknown

Sermon Outline

The Savior Is Born

Luke 2:1-20

1. The _____ of the Lord led Him to become _____ so we might become _____.
2 Cor. 8:9; Eph. 1:3

Practical lessons for us:

1. One of the messages of the gospel is: _____.
Luke 2:10; Isaiah 41:10; John 14:27
2. The gospel is a message of _____.
Luke 2:14
 - a. The gospel can provide _____ with _____, and _____ of _____.
Romans 5:1; 6:17-18; Phil. 4:6-7
3. The example of the shepherds is worthy of our imitation. They:
 - a. _____ God.
Acts 27:21-25
 - b. Had an _____.
Heb. 3:18-19
 - c. _____ the _____.
Matt. 28:18-20
 - d. _____ and _____.
1 Cor. 10:31
 - e. Were _____ than they were before they _____ Jesus.
Rom. 6:3-4; 2 Cor. 5:17