

Special points of interest:

- Hanging of the Greens, Dec. 1
9:00 am
- Men's Fellowship Breakfast Dec. 5
8:30 am at Eve's
- Orchestra Christmas Concert
Dec. 7, 7:30 pm
- Ladies Christmas Luncheon Dec. 11
11:30-2:30
- Children Singing
Dec. 16, 10:30 am
- Chancel Choir Christmas Cantata
Dec. 23, 10:30 am
- Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
7:00 pm

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Dialogue with Danny: Do you have room?

Yeah, Christmas is here. One of our favorite characters of Christmas is the character of the Inn Keeper. Nobody really knows what to make of this fellow. Is he a good guy or a bad guy? He doesn't make room for the Christ child but he does let them sleep in the animal stalls. Is that good or bad?

Maybe the reason we have so much problem is because of how familiar his dilemma is to us. We too struggle with just where we are going to put Jesus in our lives when He comes knocking at our door for Christmas. Is He suddenly going to be given a front room with a great view or are we going to keep Him out back in a distant place from the rest of our life experience; work, friends, play.

Wherever Jesus goes in our economic, legal, religious, and political activities, there still is no room for Him. What began first in Bethlehem when the innkeeper turned Him away was to become a recurrent theme. Let's look at us today--to you and to me. Do we have room for Christ in our lives? When the innkeeper was presented with this unexpected situation that night, he faced a universal dilemma. At that point he became every man. Every man is asked: Do you have room for the Messiah?

The innkeeper claimed that he had no room. Isn't the crowded inn a rather appropriate symbol of our lives? So cluttered (not with important things but with things that don't amount to a hill of beans) that there is just no time, no energy, no money, no room left over. There is just no room in our lives for the Messiah. And invariably, just as in Bethlehem, the Messiah comes to us when we so often least expect Him. You'll notice that Mary and Joseph did not make their appearance at the beginning of the rush season but late in the night when the poor innkeeper was tired and irritable after a hard day's work. Then comes the knock on the door...the unexpected knock of destiny.

The fact is that the Messiah comes knocking at the door of our hearts many times in life, in various ways, through various people, in various events. Well, you say, I am not a preacher and I am not a theologian. How am I supposed to recognize these times? That's precisely the point. You are given no more preparation for this revelation than the innkeeper that night. He was just an ordinary layman like you. He could have said: If I had only known that this was the Messiah I would have gladly opened the door. But if he had known that, then he would have only responded out of awe, fear, or courtesy not out of compassion and faith.

So the Messiah comes to us just as he came to the Bethlehem innkeeper. Not in the form of a King with His entire splendor, but in the form of people in need--like Mary and Joseph. And whether or not we receive Christ depends on how we respond to these people.

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Dialogue with Danny: Do you have room? continued

So the advent message to us is to watch and wait. Keep our minds and our hearts open for his coming. For the hour approaches when Messiah will come to you and to me. And like the Bethlehem innkeeper we will be forced to make a decision. Will our lives be so cluttered with incidentals that there will be no room for God? Or will we open the door and gladly welcome Him in. To the innkeeper, the knock that came that night was just another of a long series of bothersome interruptions. That is how some respond to God in their life. Yes. Take the stable! Do anything; just leave me alone. God knocks at the door of every person. The question is--will there be room enough in your life to let Him in this Christmas season?

May you have a very Merry Christmas; and may it be merry because Christ is in it.

God Bless from Pastor Danny

Fellowship

It's hard to believe this year is almost over as we come together to decorate our church for the holidays and look forward to hearing the "Suncoast Symphony" perform their always exceptional Christmas Concert. We just want to thank you for supporting the Fellowship Committee this year.

Happy Holidays! Sande Spencer

Christmas Luncheon

Ladies Lunch Bunch Christmas Luncheon at Countryside Country Club. We are still accepting reservations for Tues., Dec. 11th from 11:30 - 2:30. Entrees include Petite Filet at \$24, Lemon Encrusted Cod at \$24, Chicken Piccata at \$22 and Portobello Mushroom Vegetarian Plate at \$22. Entrees includes salad, potato, vegetable, dessert, and beverage. Also included is tip, tax and valet service. We will be doing an optional \$10 gift exchange. Please join us in donating a \$10 grocery gift card from Publix or any grocery store for Pastor Danny's Discretionary Fund. Cathy Good and her Musical Chairs Ensemble will be entertaining us. All ladies of the church and their guests are most welcome. Check out the large poster in the Gathering Place and place your reservation today.

Barbara Walters

The Creative Crafters Wish List

We are looking for mason jar rings and brown felt. We do not want you to buy anything, but if you have some you no longer use, we would appreciate them. We will have a basket in the Gathering Place for them. We have a few months to collect them.

Barbara Parr



Community Missions

It is time for our annual Christmas Angels mission. Again this year we are helping the Salvation Army with their Angel Tree program. There are gift boards with angel tags attached in the Gathering Place. After shopping for your angel, place the unwrapped gifts in a bag and attach the angel tag filled out with the information asked for. For those who wish to buy only one gift, there are little angels that ask for just one gift for a boy or girl of any age. Please do not wrap the gifts. There will also be the Clothes to Kids wreath that has gift items on it which parents can get and wrap for under the tree. There are items like girls hair accessories, boys ball caps girls purses, shoes and pants. These gifts can be placed in the CTK blue chest in the center of the Gathering Place. All gifts need to be returned no later than December 9. Let's make sure all children have smiles on their faces Christmas morning.

Bonnie Spears

Congregational Care

We have had a very busy year reaching out to our homebound members. The visits, cards, phone calls, and the seasonal craft gifts mean so much to them and always brings a smile.

As this year comes to a close, I would like to take this opportunity to thank each of our caregivers for their support and dedication for the outstanding service you have so willingly given to this important mission. Your kind words and actions go a long way in helping our homebound feel they are still a part of our church family. I would also like to thank our church crafters for the love and handwork that goes into each gift they donate for us to share with our homebound. A thank you also goes out to Janet Macfarlane for her dedication in making sure our homebound members receive cards on a regular bases.

Now that the holiday season is upon us, I'd like to wish our committee volunteers, homebound and our church family A Very Merry Christmas, may these days be blessed and filled with joy, peace, hope and happiness to you and your families.

Committee Chairperson
Jean Lefebvre

Music

December is an exciting time for our choir as we prepare for this year's Christmas Cantata: Behold The Star! We will be featuring nine of our talented members in various solos and duets. David Rutter will be narrating and the message will truly give us inspiration in this wonderful season. We hope you will join us on December 23 when we present the Cantata.

As always, we welcome new members to join us. We meet on Thursdays from 6:30-8:00 and in addition to singing we have a wonderful time of fellowship as well. We will begin preparing for the Easter Cantata in mid-January.

Musically,
Kendall Kline

World Missions Projects and Updates



California Wildfires Relief: We are once again partnering with Samaritan’s Purse for disaster relief. On December 2nd, there will be a special offering for anyone wishing to help those affected by the recent California Wildfires. Please use the white pew envelopes. Checks should be made out to NBCC. Please designated in the memo section “California Wildfires Relief”.

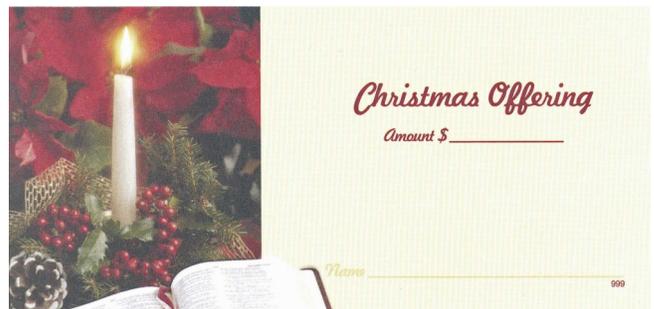
Samaritan’s Purse/Operation Christmas Child: NBCC donated 94 shoeboxes filled with toys and school supplies to help needy children around the world. In addition to distributing your gifts, Samaritan’s Purse shares the Gospel with these young recipients.

December marks the end as my first year as the chairperson of the World Mission’s committee. I would like to take this time to acknowledge the following people for their help and service. First, thank you to Pastor Danny for your leadership. Thank you Desiree for your gentle reminders and flexibility. Thanks to David Rutter and Roberta Luckie for your help and patience with forms and finances. Thank you to my fellow committee members for volunteering your time and energy. Finally, I am truly grateful for the ongoing the generosity and support of the congregation of North Bay Community Church.

In His service,
Laura Wisniewski

Christmas Special Giving Envelopes

Envelope (dated 12/ 25) is dedicated to Employee Bonuses. Envelope (with candle) is dedicated to FEAST.



The Church with a Vision.....Knowing Christ and Making Him Known



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Desiree Little-Organist

Cathy Good-Pianist

Administrative Staff

Desiree Little-Office Administrator

Church Facilities Staff

Barry Austin-Church Facilities Superintendent

Preschool Staff

Nicol Nixon-Director

**Merry
Christmas**

*"All you need is
love. But a little
chocolate now
and then doesn't
hurt."*

~ Charles Schulz

