

Suburban Christian Church

Loving, Serving and Growing Together

SCC Newsletter December 2011

MISSION STATEMENT:

SCC exists to:

EXALT

God

**EVANGELIZE
the Lost**

**EQUIP
Christians for
Service**



**Suburban
Christian Church**

**20290 Wood
Howell Road
Bristol, VA 24202
276-669-0591**

**Rich Pannell
Minister**

**Eric Wilber
Youth Minister**

What is Christmas all about?

It's a burning question many people ask this time of year. Considering the fact I needed to know the truth, I went to the only place I knew to find a true answer to that question, the Internet. When my Google page opened up I typed in, "What is Christmas all about." I found a Yahoo page where someone else asked the same question. I found several people who believed Christmas was all about the birth of Christ. I also found some interesting answers that had nothing to do with Jesus. Here are some of the answers I found:

- It's all about MONEY.
- It's actually a roman holiday worshipping mithra.
- The tenets are something we can do all year round ~ show love, give and get gifts and enjoy good food and family and share with the needy ~ all without the pagan lies like Santa, little baby Jesus (He's in Heaven now grown and a powerful Angel), cutting down good

trees, and spending money we don't have.

- Christmas Dec. 25 happens to be a major solar event.
- Christmas is about shopping discounts.
- I celebrate it as a time I get together with the people I love, eat great food, and exchange gifts. For me it's more about family. Not about religion or gifts.
- It's an adaptation of a pagan winter festival called most recently Saturnalia where Saturn was worshipped as a god. It has nothing to do with either Christ himself or Christianity.*

Needless to say, a lot of people have many different opinions about what Christmas is. Most Christians would agree that Christmas is about celebrating the birth of Jesus

Christ our Lord and Savior. At least that's what it should be. Maybe I'm a bit cynical, but I wonder if those people who think Christmas is all about the money are more right than we'd like to believe. In church we celebrate our special Christmas programs, but once we leave church is Christmas more about the tree, presents, and money than it is about Jesus Christ?

Christmas should never be about Christ coming to earth as a sacrifice for sin. Christmas should be about the birth of Christ coming into *your* life. Christmas should be about a God who came to give you life and rescue you from materialism and the ways of the world. Christmas should be more about your new birth. Make sure your Christmas celebrations focus on your new birth in Christ, as well as the birth of our Savior Jesus.

*<http://answers.yahoo.com/question/index?qid=20111117151923AAXmuJI>

For up to date information, please visit the website at: www.suburbanchristian.org

This Month's Events

Special Music

- 4 Faith Wise
- 11 Kelly Rife, Deborah Wise, Gena & Mark Fulton
- 18 SCC Choir
- 25 Sarah Kegley

Meditation

- 4 John Kegley
- 11 Tony Riffe
- 18 Jerry Widener
- 25 Jim Cook

Elder

- 4 Jerry Musick
- 11 Jim Cook
- 18 John Kegley
- 25 Merle McVey

Greeters

- 4 Sue & Bill Duncan
- 11 Bob & Pam Blackburn
- 18 Randall & Florence Parris
- 25 Bobby & Carol Kay Church

Communion Prep.

- 4 Linda Kegley
- 11 Linda Kegley
- 18 Jerry Musick
- 25 Jerry Musick

Projector Operator

Ernie Blankenship

- **December 1, 7:00 p.m.:** Christmas Program Choir Practice
- **December 3, 5:00 p.m.:** Christmas Program Choir Practice
- **December 4, 3:00 p.m.:** Haven of Rest Meal
Jerry & Jeffery Musick's Team will be serving.
- **December 4: Annual Congregation Meeting**
This meeting will be right after Sunday morning service. During this meeting, we will vote on the church officers and the budget for 2012.
- **December 4, 6:30 p.m.:** Hanging of the Greens Service
Christmas is always an exciting time, especially in our church family. This year we will celebrate a special Hanging of the Greens service. The service will be highlighted with music as we come together to welcome the Christmas season by decorating the church sanctuary. We encourage everyone to attend and celebrate the beginning of the Christmas season together as one body.
- **December 7, 7:00 a.m.:** Men's Breakfast at IHOP
- **December 18, 5:00 p.m.:** Youth Program & Christmas Party
- **December 20, 7:00 p.m.:** Elders' Meeting
- **December 21: Angel Tree Gifts Due**
- **Poinsettias:** If you would like to purchase a poinsettia in memory or honor of a loved one for decorating the church, please fill out a poinsettia form and place it on the secretary's desk. The cost is \$8.
- **Food Pantry:** Our food pantry is running low. Please bring in can goods to minister to local people in need of assistance. Remember, many of those we serve are in hotels, so bring in food that they can easily open and eat. Take a grocery bag from the foyer and fill with 5 items (soup, box crackers, peanut butter, cups of fruit, cereal bars, canned meat, etc.) and place in the Fellowship Hall.
- **Orlando Trip:** In case you didn't notice, snowflakes will be falling soon. It's definitely time to be thinking about Orlando! Next year's North American Christian Convention will be held at the Orlando World Center Marriott Resort July 10-13. Mark your calendars and begin to make plans to take a family vacation with your church to warm and sunny Florida!

Morning Worship Nursery

- 4 Roya Blankenship
- 11 Deborah Wise & Hannah Eastridge
- 18 Lynn Pannell & Tuesday Dowell
- 25 Sandy Aven & Seth Kegley

This time of year we can all get so wrapped up in shopping, parties, and planning our Christmas meals that we sometimes forget the real reason that we celebrate. The fact that God sent his one and only son to be sacrificed for our sins should be first and foremost in our minds. As we celebrate this Christmas, let us remember that "Jesus is the Real Reason for the Season."

Children's Church Assistant

- 4 Michaela Pannell & Kamryn Blankenship
- 11 Trisha Wilber & Tuesday Dowell
- 18 Cindy & Hannah Eastridge
- 25 Family Sunday

- Praise God for our Savior
- Pray that our nation would embrace the values of our founding fathers.
- Pray that Christ will be seen in every gift given this season.
- Pray that during the business of this month Christ will remain the center of our worship.
- Pray that we would not lose sight of who we celebrate.

Outreach News

- Christmas Angel Tree will be the Outreach Project for December. The SCC family will have an opportunity to help needy families by providing gifts for their children. Families will be chosen from the "Find-A-Way" program, which Lynn Pannell manages through Bristol Redevelopment & Housing Authority. Choose a child from the tree in the foyer, write your name by the corresponding number, and bring wrapped gifts by Sunday, December 18 or Wednesday, December 21 at the latest. Your generosity will bring smiles to many children's faces!
- Updates on last month's projects:
 - With SCC's assistance of \$100, WCQR made their goal of feeding 5,000 families.
 - SCC sent \$350 to assist the Haven of Rest with food for their Thanksgiving community meal.
 - We raised \$600 for Thanksgiving meals for the 15 families in the Find-A-Way program.

The Suburban Christian Outreach Committee thanks each of you for your prayers and monetary support as we reached out to "Serve Christ's Community" in the past year!

HAVEN of REST
December 4

VISIT-and-a-MEAL
Will resume in January

Prayer Time

December Birthdays

- 1 Herb Wilkie
- 6 Mallory Wise
- 7 Sandy Aven
- 12 Gwen Wilson
- 13 Joe Wilson
- 16 Carolyn Widener
- 21 Kristen Crowe
- 23 Hazel Worley
- 23 Elizabeth McCarty
- 23 Kevin Woods
- 25 Kim Sims
- 25 Carol Church
- 30 Angie Leonard
Clendenin

- Theresa Azure
- Matthew Azure
- Ron Rose
- Onie Willis
- Wendall Harlow
- Beulah Beavers
- Elizabeth (Lizzy)
Jones
- Ken Jones
- Tony Childress
- Lydia McKenna
- Sandy Keene
- Donney Rife
- Pat Fortner
- Carrie Alexander
- Theresia Cannon
- Wanda McClain
- Ona Burress
- Fred Duncan
- Jocelyn Matusevich
- Roy Scarem
- Diana Jones
- Betty Little
- Brian Mooney
- Jerry Cole
- Elizabeth René Cox
- Micah Cox
- Albert and Katherine
Owens
- Tarina Cox
- Connie Wilkie
- Laura Whaley
- Debbie Childress
- Sandy Keene
- Jeanette Anders
- Cecil Anders
- Eddie Little
- Jerry Hagy
- Helen McKenna
- Brady Dando
- Kendall Singleton

- Sympathies, the families of:
- Joshua Harr
 - Gerald Mullins
 - Mabel Minor
 - Carol Blankenship

- Military
- Colton Hess
 - John Keen
 - Andy Frye
 - Corey Edwards
 - Brandon Anders
 - Ron Justice
 - John Chung
 - Forrest Schuler
 - Kaleb Littreal
 - Daniel Goodwin
 - Dustin Farmer

Youth News

As this is the first Christmas that I know what to expect at Suburban, I would just like to express how excited Trisha and I are about being part of this family during this holiday season. With the many additions to our youth and young adults, I want to encourage you all to invite them into this celebration in the same way that you invited me and my family. This might mean stepping out of your comfort zone or making your way down stairs but trust me, it is very much worth it. Finding someone you don't know who is in our congregation and making them feel special and accepted is one of the best things you can do during this season. I know that the example you set for me last year will motivate me to reach out this year. Merry Christmas!

Reminder: One of SCC's most cherished annual events is coming up: TCTC! This trip is a great time for us to have a great spiritual experience together. The dates for this year's TCTC are January 6-8th. If you are interested in participating, please put your name on the sign-up sheet on my door. If you have any questions, please feel free to ask me.