

Caleb Lloyd Coats



Was born
November 20, 2013
Weighing in at 8 lbs 3
ounces and 21 inches long.

Thank you for praying for us.

Jess went into labor on her own. The labor was two very intense hours. He was born healthy and mom and baby are doing great.

We chose the name Caleb in honor of the Israelite spy who trusted God when no one else would. We pray that he would, as the Message translates it, "walk passionately" with God.

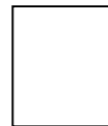
We chose the middle name Lloyd in honor of my maternal grandfather, Lloyd Andrews. Lloyd means wise and Caleb's great-grandfather is that. We pray that he would be blessed with wisdom as his great-grandfather was.

Thank you for praying for us!
Dave, Jess, Charlie and Caleb

December Birthdays

- 12/2 Tom Thornton
- 12/2 Karla Gould
- 12/16 Erica Peddy
- 12/25 Lori Smithwick
- 12/27 Henry McWilliams
- 12/28 Stan Burdock
- 12/29 Lucia Smith
- 12/29 Anita Reisdorfer
- 12/30 Drew Peddy

Happy Birthday!!!



Anglican Church of the Good Shepherd

P.O. Box 61698
San Angelo, Texas 76901-1698
(325) 949-6260

www.anglicanchurchofthegoodshepherd.com

Reaching Individuals and Families of the Concho Valley with the Transforming Love of Jesus Christ!

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AGNUS DEI

December 2013

“
...
there
was
no room
for them
in the
inn.”

Luke 2:7

Brothers and sisters in Christ,

The Rev. Dr. Kenneth Bailey, Anglican theologian and Bible teacher, grew up in a missionary family in the middle east. He is a New Testament scholar and expert on the culture of the Palestinian and Jewish people inhabiting the Holy Land. Dr. Bailey suggests that our traditional understanding of the Christmas story may be inaccurate. From the translation in Luke's Gospel, we learn that Joseph and Mary were unable to find shelter in Bethlehem's "inn," and given accommodations in the inn-keeper's stable. The Greek word translated as "inn" appears in only one other place in Scripture. Luke 22:11 tells us that the disciples met in the "guest chamber" or an upper room where they prepared and ate the Lord's last Passover with them. The word in Greek is "guest room," and comes from the root to un-harness. A room where you un-harness your donkey.

If Dr. Bailey is correct, based on the fact that Bethlehem was too small to support an inn, and close enough to Jerusalem that accommodations could be found there, then the "guest room" wasn't *out back*, or a stable. It was inside the home of one of Bethlehem's residents. Jewish homes had two rooms with perhaps a court yard. One room was where the family and guests slept, and the other room was where food was prepared and at night domestic animals were lodged for security. We see this in the story Jesus tells in Luke 11:5-8. A home owner is approached by a neighbor in the middle of the night looking for a loaf of bread to feed an unexpected guest. The owner says *"the door is now shut (for security purposes) and my children are with me in bed, I can't get up to give you anything."* The scene for those listening to Jesus would elicit laughter and delight as they could imagine the ruckus and noise of geese, chickens and donkey's startled awake by the persistent knocking and the family as well as neighbors being rudely brought out of their sound sleep. The room where the animals were kept was complete with manger and cooking area for the family. Perhaps this is where Joseph and Mary were housed, because the "family/guest room" was filled with family members already.

What's the difference? Our traditional understanding makes Joseph, Mary and the newly arrived Christ child unwelcomed guests, hastily provided for in less than a comfortable or secure manner. It makes for great sermons. But what if Dr. Bailey is correct? The scene changes from being turned away to being welcomed into the security of a faithful Jewish home and the warmth of a straw and hay-laden area near the hearth. Hospitality is one of the hallmarks of the Christian life and Gospel. Jesus and His holy family are welcomed and shown hospitality by the poor residents of Bethlehem. Room was made for them.

This Advent and Christmastide how many opportunities will there be for us to make room for one, two or three more in our homes as we celebrate the birth of the Son of God? The Twelfth Night Evening Prayer and Dinner on Jan. 5 will be just such an opportunity for us all. Father as we remember with thanksgiving the birth of our Savior and Lord, we pray that You provide us with opportunities to remember and care for the poor around us, the lonely, the hurting, the forgotten. You love us so much You gave us Your best. Grant that we may love others in the same way.

Praying for us as we keep a holy Advent,

Stan Burdock +

Father Stan

Anglican Church of the Good Shepherd

3355 W. Beauregard
San Angelo, Texas 76904
(325) 949-6260
www.anglicanchurchofthegoodshepherd.com

Send articles, announcements
and feed back to
secretary.acgs@suddenlinkmail.com

Blaise Pascal: Source: Pensées

"Know then, proud one, what a paradox you are to yourself. Humble yourself, impotent reason. Be silent, dull-witted nature, and learn from your Master your true condition, which you do not understand. Listen to God! See the Earth as a point compared with the vast circles it describes. Stand amazed that this circle itself is only a tiny point in relation to the course traced by the stars revolving in the firmament; that the whole visible world is no more than an imperceptible speck in the ample bosom of nature."

Vestry Notes

The Vestry met at 6:00 p.m., November 18th in the library and opened with Evening Prayer. All members were present with the exception of David Harrison who was ill. The minutes were read and approved. The financials were reviewed, discussed, and approved. Correspondence was read and discussed. Rodney discussed maintenance items on his list and Vestry members added additional items. He asked Teddye and Jean to help pick out blinds for the library windows. Billie Hodges read correspondence regarding the Concho River Festival of lights on December 22 and requested that April post a sign-up sheet in the narthex and make copies of the instruction packet. Jean reminded the group of the December 22nd Hanging of the Greens and pizza luncheon following the 10:30 a.m. service. Corey was commended on the wonderful Stewardship dinner and reported that 22 pledge cards have been turned in so far. He reminded members of the Vestry that he will be working on the 2014 budget and would like input from all. Billie Smithwick advised that church pens to hand out to visitors have arrived. Father Stan updated the group on the lawsuit. The Vestry voted to allow Life Screening to use the Parish Hall on Feb. 24th from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Vestry voted to send the PortaChurch trailer to Amarillo to fill their needs. The meeting adjourned with prayer at 7:18 p.m. ~Billie Ruth Hodges

Project Dignidad needs your help!

In December there will be 16 days, counting weekends that no meal is served at school. That means 16 days, times 2 meals, makes 32 meals, many kids will go hungry. Please start bringing items or donations to the church for Dignidad to share.

Christmas Card Tree

The Daughters of the Holy Cross would like to have a congregational Christmas card tree to share with each other off-setting the expense of individual cards and stamps. If so desired you may give a donation in the basket which will go to the Pregnancy Help Center in place of extra cards and stamps that you would have purchased. Please bring your card to the church during the Advent season. Yarn and a hole punch will be available to have the card on the tree.

Luke 2:7 "And she gave birth to her first born, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger."

HANGING OF THE GREENS

The church is traditionally decorated for the celebration of Christ's Nativity after the last service of Advent. On Sunday, Dec. 22 beginning around 12:30pm we will put up the Christmas Trees, hang the wreaths and prepare the candles for the Christmas services. There's something for everyone to do, so join us.

Hosting The Concho Festival Of Lights

Good Shepherd is hosting the Concho Festival of Lights on Sun., Dec. 22, from 5:30-10 pm. We greet folks, hand out candy canes and brochures, sing a few carols, and have a wonderful time of fun and fellowship as well as Reach our Neighbors with the Transforming Love of Jesus Christ. There's a signup sheet on the table in the Narthex. Come for a half hour, and hour or however long you can be there. We need at least six folks per hour to serve two lines of cars.

TWELFTH NIGHT FESTIVAL

Sunday, Jan. 5 we will celebrate the Twelfth Night of Christmas (Epiphany - The Coming of the Magi) with Evening Payer at 5:00 pm and a festive Christmas Dinner at 6:00 pm in the Parish Hall. Each family or individual is asked to invite an unchurched friend to extend the hospitality of the Christmas season to them in worship and dinner. Jean Yarbrough will be organizing the dinner, so contact Jean to help prepare and serve. There is no charge for the dinner and we thank an anonymous member of the church who donates a substantial gift to help make this event possible. There is a signup sheet on the table in the Narthex. Please reserve your place no later than Christmas Eve, December 24th.

Post Christmas Hospitality for the Homeless

In January we will extend the hospitality of Christmastide by taking easy to prepare foods and sanitary items to the homeless around town. Watch the January newsletter for that date and time.

Mission Partner Updates

The Emmanuel Development Center

This month, we wanted to share with you a victory for the indigenous Christians of Costa Rica.

A few months ago, one of the most prominent Cabecar Christians, Isaac, suddenly died, leaving his widow and five children. As one of the very first Cabecar converts, Isaac had been a faithful Christian for over 25 years and a pastor to his people. Because of his Christian faith and that of his immediate family, it was decided that he be buried with a simple Christian ceremony, rather than subject the body to the elaborate ceremonies of the Cabecar people's animistic religion.

Soon after his burial, Isaac's brother, a prominent member of the Cabecar governing body, brought a lawsuit against Isaac's widow and two of the missionaries in our area. This case went before the Supreme Court of Costa Rica. These days, the preservation and "protection" of indigenous culture and beliefs is a hot political topic, and the very idea of evangelization of the indigenous people is often frowned upon. We knew that the decision of the Court would have greater implications, especially for the indigenous Cabecar Christians.

We praise our Lord that in His sovereignty and goodness, the lawsuit was a victory for upholding and respecting the indigenous believer's rights to freely worship and follow Christian practices in Costa Rica, even when these are contrary to the traditional beliefs of their people. What man meant for evil, God meant for good.

December 2013

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Advent Sunday 8 AM - MP & HE 9:15 AM - Sunday School 10:30 AM - HE	2 6 PM Daughters of the Holy Cross	3 9 AM- 3:30—CC 6:30 PM— Music Rehearsal	4 6:30 PM - HE 7:15 PM - Bible Study	5	6	7
8 8 AM - MP & HE 9:15 AM - Sunday School 10:30 AM - HE	9 1 PM - Stitches	10 9 AM- 3:30—CC 6:30 PM— Music Rehearsal	11 6:30 PM - HE 7:15 PM - Bible Study	12 10 AM - Intercessory Prayer	13 9 AM- 3:30—CC	14 Quiet Day 9AM- 3PM
15 8 AM - MP & HE 9:15 AM - Sunday School 10:30 AM - HE	16 6 PM Vestry Meeting	17 9 AM- 3:30—CC 6:30 PM— Music Rehearsal	18 6:30 PM - HE 7:15 PM - Bible Study	19 10 AM - Intercessory Prayer	20 9 AM- 3:30—CC	21 8:00 AM— Men's Breakfast at Peppercorn Restaurant
22 8 AM - MP & HE 9:15 AM - Sunday School 10:30 AM - HE Noon- Hanging of the Greens & Lunch	23 1 PM - Stitches	24 Christmas Eve 7:00 PM— Christ Mass Eve Service	25 Office Closed Christmas Day 10:30 AM—Christ Mass Day Service	26 10 AM - Intercessory Prayer	27	28
29 8 AM - MP & HC 9:15 AM - Sunday School 10:30 AM - Lessons & Carols & HC	30	31 New Years Eve			Regular Office Hours: Monday Through Friday 9:00-11:30 AM Noon- 2:00 PM	

Men's Retreat Update



The Great House, Junction, Texas served as the site of our Men's Hill Country Retreat, Nov. 15-17. Participants included Rodney Brown, George Butler, Stan Burdock Jim Cogan, David Harrison, Bob Masterson, Henry McWilliams, Corey Peddy, Jimmy Sanders,



Steve Shaw, and Steve Woolard. Corey led us in discussions on the topic of authentic manhood using the DVD series "33." Steve and Marianne Blaylock, and Joe and Sandy Chapman served us well with great stories, singing, tours of the property and outstanding and plentiful meals. Mark you calendars for next year - Nov. 14-16, 2104 at the Great House in Junction. Plan on participating and bring a friend or two.

Advent Quiet Day

The Jesus Prayer is the topic of our Advent Quiet Day, Saturday, December 14, 9am-3pm at the church. We will discuss using the Jesus Prayer as a source for meditation, and the use of Anglican Prayer Beads for those who want to explore and ancient Christian method of meditative prayer. Anglican Prayer Beads are available through Trudo's Religious Goods store on Avenue N, as well as on line from a monastery near San Antonio.

Fellowship Luncheon

Pizza and Salad will be served on Sunday, Dec. 22 beginning at Noon in the Parish Hall. Folks are asked to bring salads to share, the church will provide the Pizza Pies. See Jean Yarbrough for details and to help out.

Christmas Services

Christ Mass Eve - Dec. 24th - Candlelight Festival Holy Eucharist - 7:00 PM
Christ Mass Day - Dec. 25th - Festival Holy Eucharist - 10:30 AM

Stewardship update



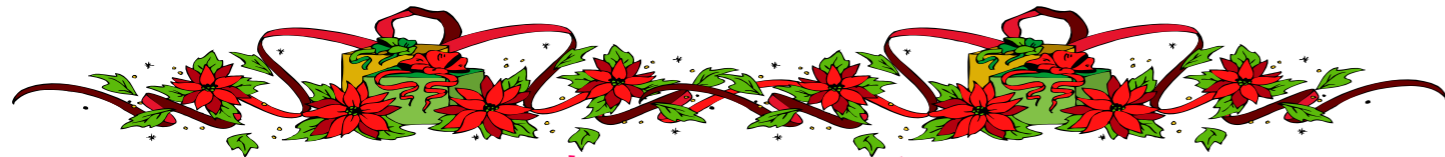
Over 80 folks participated in the Stewardship Dinner ably chaired by Corey Peddy. Thanks Corey! And thanks to all who helped set up, clean up, baked delicious desserts, helped with the giving of door prizes, and to the Vestry members who donated center pieces for the tables. Steve Blaylock gave an inspiration talk on Matthew 6:33 -

and how he sees stewardship as seeking to make Jesus FIRST in every aspect of his life and service. As of the Vestry meeting on Nov. 18, 21 pledge cards were submitted with folks signing up for new or continued ministries through the church and a total of just over

\$91,000 for the budget year 2014. If you haven't had the opportunity to complete a 2014 pledge card, additional cards may be found on the table in the Narthex, completed and placed in the Offering Plates or mailed to the church office.



Thank you for your continued generous participation in the mission and work of Good Shepherd church.



Poinsettia Fund

Christmas is fast approaching. You have a wonderful opportunity to contribute to the worship service of the church. If you would like to contribute to the Poinsettia Fund, there are envelopes available in the Narthex. Please list your name and the name you wish the contribution to be in memory of or honor, insert the contribution you would like to make and drop the envelope in the collection plate or at the church office. If you have any questions please contact Sharon Weber at sweber@angelo.edu or 949-3116. We will take the offerings until 12-15-13.

December 2013 ~ Minister's Schedule

Duty	December 1 First Sunday of Advent	December 8 Second Sunday of Advent	December 15 Third Sunday of Advent	December 22 Fourth Sunday of Advent	December 29 First Sunday After Christmas
Vestry In Charge	Rodney Brown	Billie Smithwick	David Harrison	Corey Peddy	Barbara Robken
Teller	Richey Oliver	Bob Masterson	Billie Ruth Hodges	Kathi Johnson	Mark Brown
Altar Guild	Yarbrough/Baker	Anaya/Read	Weber/Weber	Johnson/Springer	Holloway/Wallace
Usher/Greeter	Jeannette Anaya	Teddye Read	Nan Barber	Charles Westbrook	Jackie Jennings
Crucifer	Deacon June	Deacon June	Deacon June	Deacon June	Deacon June
Lector	Craig Porter Isaiah 2:1-5	Jean Stinnett Isaiah 11:1-10	Jo Millican Isaiah 35:1-10	Paul Millican Isaiah 7:10-17	Pam Jennings Isaiah 61:10-62:3
Eucharistic Minister	Nan Holloway Psalm 122 Romans 13:8-14	Pam Jennings Psalm 72 Romans 15:4-13	Craig Porter Psalm 146 James 5:7-10	Nan Holloway Psalm 24 Romans 1:1-7	Jeannette Anaya Psalm 147 Galatians 3:23-25, 4:4-7
10:30 am - Bell Ringer	Rigel Rilling	Rigel Rilling	Rigel Rilling	Rigel Rilling	Rigel Rilling
Greeters	Richey Oliver /Katie Harrison	George Butler/ Barbara Robken	Judi Gurley/ Rodney Brown	Stephanie Peddy/ Rita Baker	Nan Barber/ Billie Smithwick
Ushers	Teddye Read & Bob Masterson	Stephanie Peddy & Erlene Springer	Teddye Read & Bob Masterson	Rodney Brown & Erlene Springer	David & Katie Harrison
Crucifer	Larry Weber	Atusonje Dube	Mark Brown	Larry Weber	Stephanie Peddy
Torch Bearer	Atusonje Dube	Erica Peddy	Drew Peddy	Atusonje Dube	Leann Springer
Torch Bearer	Nandi Dube	Leann Springer	Nandi Dube	Erica Peddy	Drew Peddy
Lector	Anngie McWilliams Isaiah 2:1-5	Steve Woolard Isaiah 11:1-10	Ruth Ann Wallace Isaiah 35:1-10	George Butler Isaiah 7:10-17	Atusonje Dube Isaiah 61:10-62:3
Eucharistic Minister	Mark Findlay Psalm 122 Romans 13:8-14	Eileen Burdock Psalm 72 Romans 15:4-13	Rudy Wallace Psalm 146 James 5:7-10	Billie Smithwick Psalm 24 Romans 1:1-7	Mark Brown Psalm 147 Galatians 3:23-25, 4:4-7
GOSPEL OF THE DAY	Matthew 24:33-44	Matthew 3:1-12	Matthew 11:2-11	Matthew 1:18-25	John 1:1-18
Nursery Worker	Nan Barber	Martha Sue Oliver	Stephanie Peddy	Sheri Brown	Teddye Read

Wednesday Ministers (6:30 PM)

	December 4	December 11	December 18
Lay Eucharistic Minister	Nan Holloway	Eileen Burdock	Martha Sue Oliver
Altar Guild	Sharon Weber	Jeannette Anaya	Ruth Ann Wallace

Please see Insert for Christ Mass Eve and Christ Mass Day