

LINDSAY CHRISTIAN CHURCH



DECEMBER 2014 NEWSLETTER

THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW FOR DECEMBER:

COMMUNION PREPARATION: Luana Leavens

DECEMBER DONUTS: Church Board Members

GOLDEN ACHIEVERS: December 4 at 12:00

WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP: Sunday, December 7 at 8:30 A.M.

CHURCH BOARD MEETING: Sunday, December 14 following church services.

SPECIAL CHRISTMAS BREAKFAST: Sunday December 21 at 9:45 A.M.

CHRISTMAS DAY! December 25!!! Celebrate the birth of Jesus!

GOLDEN ACHIEVERS: We will celebrate the Christmas Season with a Potluck and Fellowship this **Thursday, December 4 at 12:00 P.M.** If you want to get into the fun of Christmas, come and make new friends on Thursday. Last month stories and jokes were shared by Dorothy, Paul, and Hazel. Our Gift Drawing was won by: Patti, Dorothy J., Roberta, Walter, Paul, and Ed. It was a beautiful day and house flies were very active. Walter spent most of his time hunting them down with a fly swatter. He got three of them!

WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP: The WCF will meet **Sunday, Dec. 7 at 8:30 A.M.** for a short business meeting and to finalize what we will do for our Christmas projects. Ladies, if possible please bring money to donate, baskets, cookies, candies, toys, and personalized things to go into the baskets. At our November meeting we discussed that when communion is being served, please pass the emblems from one side of the row to the other to prevent missing any one!

CHRISTMAS BREAKFAST: The WCF is heading up a morning of devotion and celebration of Christmas with a **Potluck Breakfast** at 9:45 a.m. at Lindsay Christian Church in Memory Hall. Please join us as we fellowship and spend time reflecting the true meaning of Christmas. Any breakfast dishes will be welcome.

THIS AND THAT: Our CHURCH BOARD OFFICERS are: Chairman, Mike Domres; Vice Chairman, James Johnson; Secretary, Erick Soto; Treasurer, Eileen Demerath; and Financial Secretary, Art Hembree. Jason and Wendy Atkison and boys sent part of Thanksgiving week at Disneyland! Cody Bradford came home from school in Sacramento for Thanksgiving and worked on the family Mustang, then did some maintenance at VCC

apartments on the smoke alarms. How did you spend your holiday? New phone numbers and addresses: Brenda Anderson, 631-8579; Patti and Bob Opp, 760-671-5895, cell 760-288-6062; Ted and Debbie Owens, 5502 Bobolink Lane, Fresno, CA 93727, Ted's cell 559-366-8036, Debbie 's 559-781-2355. Please put these changes in your church directory.

VCC UPDATE: Our plans for outdoor improvements at Valley Christian Community changed some. We are building only one free standing patio between the two buildings. The patio should be completed in a week or sooner. The apartment we had available has been spoken for. The new residents, from Washington State, will be moving in around Christmas time. Then we will be at full capacity. God has blessed the VCC project greatly!

DECEMBER MISSION REPORT Submitted by Marilyn Snyder

ICOM—Last month the International Conference on Missions was held in Columbus, Ohio. Many of the attendees were high school and college students. Attendance for the conference was 7300. Forty-four people made decisions to serve Christ globally. The theme of 2014 ICOM was **Vertical**. Throughout the weekend president David Butts and the other speakers encouraged us to go vertical with Jesus before embarking the the horizontal (doing “the work”). Prayer was the focus for the event that included a large prayer center in the middle of the exhibit all and a 24-hour prayer room in the adjacent hotel. Each area had a number of prayer stations, including several for children. Bob and I joined Gi and Mei in representing API in the exhibit area. Some of the students help build walls that will be used for a new building at Cookson Hills. Nedra and the rest of the Meltons send their greetings to LCC. They are praying God will open a door that allows them to take the long journey to visit us again. Most of them have moved to Indiana from Joplin. The theme of next year's conference is “The Away Team” and will be held in Richmond, Virginia in late October.

API—Founders Gi and Mei Tanbunaan are ending a three month visit to the US that included several weeks of visiting churches in southern California and the midwest. They attended ICOM last month and were able to connect with many long time supporters as well as several missionaries to Indonesia. They will return to Bandung the middle of this month. Indonesian churches are preparing for Christmas celebrations. Muslims recognize the virgin birth of Jesus and often accept invitations to Christmas programs and celebrations.

PEARL—One of our missionaries serving in Southeast Asia continues to develop an movement to prevent human trafficking in the country she serves. Part of their strategy is to educate women about the trafficking so they will not become victims.

YOSTS—In a year end letter to WCF, Joani Yost shared a few of the events of the last year. She tells of the two women prisoners—one from Java (a Muslim) and one from Papua New Guinea who she baptized into Christ. The girl from Java had repeatedly asked guards and visitors to tell her about Jesus. After many months, one of the guards told Joani, known there as Mem, and she visited the girls. Both accepted the Lord. They remain in prison, but are able to get passes to attend church some Sundays. The year has included tragedies, such as the death of two mentally handicapped children. Daughter Amy

continues to run the clinic. This year she had to treat Joani, who slipped on moss, hit her head and suffered massive head trauma. She continues her ministry, but is not yet fully recovered. Pray for her healing. Thank God for her many years of faithful service to “the least of these.”

SIERRA CHRISTIAN SERVICE CAMP: Three of our church members currently serve on the board for SCSC. New officers were recently elected and beginning in 2015 two of the three will hold offices. The Chairman will be James Johnson, Secretary will be Debbie Landers. Katie Roberts has held the office of Secretary for 8 years. What a blessing Katie has been to the board. She will continue to serve SCSC as a board member. Please pray for these board members as they work towards helping SCSC grow and prosper according to God’s plan. The camp has been seeing very positive change and growth under the direction of Chris Pitter and the board, and things are looking great for 2015. Pray that we are able to lead the camp in a direction that is pleasing to God and centered around bringing the good news of Him to children and adults alike. What a gift it is to be able to serve in this way.

BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION: Please continue to clip Box Tops and turn them into Mary Ann Hensley. The box tops are sent to Cookson Hills Christian Ministry who is turning the Box Tops into fulfilling some of the needs at Cookson Hills, which provides Christ-centered residential care, education, and therapeutic services for at risk children ages 5-17. Since its beginning in 1957, Cookson Hills has offered help, hope, and healing to abused and neglected children and worked with their families to break the cycle of abuse, neglect, dependency, and failure. Set on more than 1,000 acres in the foothills of the Ozark Mountains in rural northeastern Oklahoma, Cookson Hills provides a rustic and rewarding retreat for children requiring out-of-home care. When families have exhausted the resources of their local church, school, and community and still face a crisis that threatens to overcome the families’ ability to sustain itself, the most likely place to turn to is the government-run foster care or the juvenile justice system. Cookson Hills provides an alternative to those families by offering residential care for their child in a family-modeled environment, individualized Christian education, vocational training, spiritual formation programs, and specialized therapeutic services. Check them out at ... <https://www.cooksonhills.org/>

FOOD CLOSET: We are in need of extra things to fill our food closet to help others. Items most needed include canned tuna, refried beans, peanut butter, macaroni and cheese, spam, cake mix, soup, spaghetti sauce. When you are filling your basket at the grocery store, please think of adding one of these items and help fill the food closet. Together we can make a difference in the lives of others.

Preparing for Christmas



CHRISTMAS DEVOTION

The Real Meaning Of Christmas

By Martha Noebel

It's that time of year again. December has come and with it all the joys of Christmas. But what is the real meaning of Christmas? Is it the gifts under the tree, the lights in the windows, the cards in the mail, turkey dinners with family and friends, snow in the yard, stockings hanging in the living room, and shouts of "Merry Christmas" to those who pass us in the streets? Is this really Christmas?

For many people, Christmas is a time of sorrow. They don't have the extra money to buy presents for their children, family, and friends. Many are saddened at Christmastime when they think of their loved ones who will not be able to come home for various reasons. Turkey dinners may be only a wish and not a reality for some.

Yet, Christmas can be a season of great joy. It is a time of God showing His great love for us. It can be a time of healing and renewed strength. You see, Christmas is when we celebrate the birth of the Christ child. God sent His Son, Jesus, into the world to be born. His birth brought great joy to the world. Shepherds, wise men, and angels all shared in the excitement of knowing about this great event. They knew this was no ordinary baby. The prophets had told of His coming hundreds of years before. The star stopped over Bethlehem just to mark the way for those who were looking for this special child.

Luke 2: 4-19 says:

"So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.

This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests."

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart."

Why did He come? Why did God send His son to this sometimes cruel and hard world? He sent Jesus to us so that one day, He would grow up to become a very important part of history. His story (history) is one of truth, love, and hope. It brought salvation to all of us. Without Jesus, we would all die in our sins.

Jesus was born so one day the price could be paid for the things we have done that are wrong. The Bible says that all have sinned. We are all born with a sin nature. We do things that do not please God. Through the sins of Adam and Eve, we have all inherited that sin nature. We need to have that removed. The only way is through Jesus. Jesus came so He could die on the cross for ALL of our sins. If we believe that Jesus died for our sins, we can ask Him to come into our hearts and forgive us. Then, we are clean and made whole. We can know that heaven is a place where we can go to when this life is over.

"But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us and to cleanse us from every wrong." [1John 1:9](#)

We can truly be happy at Christmas! No matter what may be happening, we can know that we are His children. We then become sons and daughters of God. Heaven will be our home one day. Look at Christmas in a new way this year. This is the year to invite Jesus into your heart. You will then have a "Merry Christmas." The joy and peace you will receive will last all year as you look to God for all your needs to be met.

Jesus Is The Reason For The Season! Rejoice!

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays

12/1 Kenny Dragt

Anniversaries

12/4 Karen and Wade Roberts

12/4 Audrey Bradford
12/7 Joyce Hiatt
12/26 Martha Atchison

12/6 Sam and Doris Hurtado
12/19 Paul and Luana Leavens

SERVING AT THE TABLE IN DECEMBER

<u>Date</u>	<u>Communion</u>	<u>Offering</u>
12/7	Bill Dragt	Mike Domres
12/14	Mike Domres	James Johnson
12/21	James Johnson	Paul Leavens
12/28	Paul Leavens	Sam Hurtado

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Minister - Paul Leavens
Chairman of the Board - Mike Domres
Chairman of the Deacons - Greg Landers
WCF President - Debbie Landers
Secretary - Sandy Hawley
Choir Director - Carol Bradford

