

From the Pastor



Church Family,

Christmas is here, and so are lots of misinformation. Over the centuries the details of Christ's birth were distorted for songs, plays and other forms of entertainment. A close reading of the Bible provides the truth.

May I share a few corrections?

There was no inn keeper found in the Bible who turned Mary and Joseph away. Matthew 2:7 tells us, "... there was no room for them in the inn."

The inn keeper character probably was created by a playwright who was composing a stage play about the birth of Christ.

Despite the popular carol, "Away in a Manger's" line that says "the cattle are lowing", there were no animals surrounding the new born baby Jesus in the Bible. The song writer perhaps imagined a stable as the scene of Jesus' birth, but no animals are listed as being present.

We do not know the exact number of Wise Men or Magi who came to visit Jesus. The number three was suggested, perhaps since they brought three gifts: gold, Frankincense and Myrrh. Also, the Wise Men were not present at the birth of Jesus. Yes, Christmas pageants, plays, cards and nativity scenes place the Wise Men with the shepherds, but this is biblically incorrect. According to Matthew's gospel, the Wise Men meet Jesus months later.

Here is the best news of all. Despite the errors and inaccuracies, Jesus came to save us from sin. God stepped down from heaven and the Word became flesh. He is Immanuel- God with us. The birth of Jesus shows us that God is in the new beginnings business! The new baby gives us new life, new hope, and new joy!!

Let us adore Him!!

Your pastor-

Dr. Sheron C. Patterson

CHILDREN AND YOUTH MINISTRY

Confirmation 2018

- Visit the registration table Sunday, Dec. 24, in the CLC.
- The first class will be held Sunday, Jan. 28, at 9:30 a.m.
- Parents will meet on Jan. 7 at 12:15 in the Justin Blaylock Room.

Chrysalis is scheduled for January 13-15. Registration is now open. The deadline is Dec. 31. See Kathy Griffith for registration forms.



CHILDREN AND YOUTH WILL WORSHIP WITH THEIR FAMILIES ON DECEMBER 24TH AND DECEMBER 31ST

'THE PARK' Ornaments

Stop by the CLC after worship to purchase your Christmas ornaments for **\$10** while supplies last.



Church Office Holiday Schedule

Closed Christmas & New Years

and the following dates:

Friday 12/22, Tuesday 12/26,
Friday 12/29, and Tuesday 01/02

December UNITY Worship

December 24th and December 31st

(No 8:00 Chapel on those Sundays)



If you purchased a Christmas Poinsettia for the holiday season, please pick it up from the altar after Sunday worship.



A Word of Thanks

The Acts II Drama Ministry of HPUMC would like to thank all its members, cast and crew for your support and participation with The Park's Christmas production, "A Christmas Wish". It is my wish and prayer that each and every one of you have a blessed and Merry Christmas.

~ David E. Kemp

Sermon Answers 12/24/17

- 1) Angels
- 2) Christ
- 3) stones
- 4) Incarnation