~ Kevin's Kolumn ~

Who is this Jesus?

When the message of Jesus came to Mary, her son was to be called the **"Son of the Most High".** There's no way Mary could have missed the significance of that terminology. Unfortunately, I believe WE sometimes miss what was actually being communicated. The fact that her baby was to be called the "Son of the Most High" pointed to His *EQUALITY* with Yahweh. If we are to look at this concept in Semitic thought, a son was a "carbon copy" of his father, and the phrase "son of" was often used to refer to one who possessed his "father's" qualities. It's hard for us to fathom that Jesus was God in the flesh! To take that to its logical conclusion, it seems to me that one of the tragedies of Christmas is that we continue to worship 'baby' Jesus. In fact, some of us are still in the habit of picturing Jesus in the nursery and not on the throne. It's important that we remember the greater message of Christmas. The greater message is that this baby, who uniquely invaded the world, grew up to be the Savior of mankind. His incredible courage and contagious love compel us to visit Bethlehem, the starting place in the celestial journey of the One who came to save His people from their sins. The late scholar of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), W. E. Garrison, declared there were two high tides in the Christian year: the night of the nativity, and the morning of the resurrection. While they are events in time, they are also timeless, mysterious, and symbolic. No one can fully comprehend what happened in Bethlehem any more than one can understand what happened on Golgotha. If one can accept history and common observation, these events shape one's entire comprehension of life! Not only do they shape our comprehension of life, they have the potential to transform us into Jesus' image. Both the birth of Christ Jesus as well as the death, burial and resurrection proclaim the same essential message: Emmanuel, God with us; the living Christ! This holiday season don't confuse a helpless infant lying in a manger as the message we preach. That "helpless infant" is the Creator of the universe! Herod couldn't kill him, the apostles failed to understand Him and his own people rejected Him. But, none of that negates the fact that JESUS IS LORD.

Have a blessed day and remember the One who gave it to you!
Kevin

Wishing you a very Merry Christmas!

Prayer Requests ♥

Please continue to keep the following in your prayers:
Edwina Summers, Keith Kisner, Joan Matheny & Jim Reszler.
Also, remember our shut ins: Bob Carpenter & Norma Riley.
We express our deepest sympathy to the Fancher family on the passing of Tara this past week.

Upcoming Events

Christmas Caroling   has been **canceled** due to scheduling conflicts. We apologize for any inconvenience.

Christmas Cookie Exchange will be on Sunday, December 21st at 5:00 PM in the Lower Fellowship Hall. Please bring 13 dozen of the same kind of cookie. We will each leave 1 dozen for the Christmas party and then each will take home 12 dozen different kinds of cookies! Questions, please see Mary Lough.

The annual church Christmas party will be on Sunday, December 21st immediately following the evening service. Please bring finger foods. If you have questions, please see Rob Pugh.

New Year's Eve Party at the home of Kevin & Mary Lough on Wednesday, December 31st beginning at 8:00 PM. Please bring finger foods. Everyone welcome!!

News & Notes

Whitehall Nursery School is now accepting enrollment for the 2015-2016 school year. Children must be three years old by September 1st and potty trained. There are openings but they will fill up quickly! If you have a child that you would like to enroll, please see Edwina Summers or contact her at 304-265-2085 or 304-368-0300.

Thank You!

A special "Thank You" to all who helped in organizing, preparing food, serving and cleaning up at the Senior Saints Christmas Luncheon. Also, thank you to Ed Carpenter, Jacob & Faith Lough, Kevin Lough,