



NORTHEAST NEWS

December 20, 2009

Northeast Church of Christ ♦ 15537 E. 9 Mile Rd. ♦ Eastpointe, MI 48021
586-777-5470 ♦ Website: www.necofchrist.org

ESPECIALLY FOR OUR GUESTS ...

- ▶ Please pick up an information packet from our welcome table in the lobby. We also have a small gift for our first-time guests.
- ▶ We are grateful for your presence today. Please fill out an attendance card (please indicate both your first and last names) so we can have a record of your presence.
- ▶ About halfway through the service, the children ages 4 years old through the 3rd grade will be dismissed for their own class downstairs. For those under 4 years old, there are classes on the main level throughout the entire service. We encourage the use of our attended nursery class for those who need it.
- ▶ If you have any questions concerning our services or the church or the Bible, we encourage you to speak to one of our elders or our minister.

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

2010 directories are available in the lobby.



A special thanks to Shannon Filipiak for her help with getting the directories printed and put together.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DEVO



Our Wednesday night service this week will consist of a devotional time in the auditorium, with all classes combined. No children's classes on this night.

SMALL GROUP SCHEDULE



There **will** be a small group meeting tonight at the home of Terry and Dee Graves. The group **will not** be meeting on the next two Sundays - December 27 and January 3.

Men's Bible Study



This Tuesday night
7:30 in the Teen Center
Teacher: Jeff Jackson



WARM WISHES FOR A MERRY CHRISTMAS!

There will be no bulletin next week. Vicki will have limited office hours and Stan will be on vacation. David Walker will preach next Sunday.



Let's remember these who are having health problems...

- *Arless Wilson* (back in St. John Macomb)
- *Marilyn Jones*
- *Kelsi Spurlin* (now home)
- *Ellen Wright*
- *Kevin Bottomley*
- *Madeline Reinhard*
- *John Bizovi* (our former janitor)
- *Allan Riddle* (Betty Riddle's son)
- *Mike Talley*

WEBSITE REMINDER

Don't forget to visit our website at www.necofchrist.org.

It's a great tool and resource. We will soon have our membership directory included on the site.



NEED A RIDE TO CHURCH?



Call LaDonna Wheeler at 586-612-1883.

ELDER CHAIRMAN

The chairman of the elders for this quarter is **David Walker**.

ATTENTION TEENS!

Winterfest will be **Feb. 18-21** in Gatlinburg, TN. If you plan to go, a



\$20 deposit needs to be given to Bill Nocita soon.

Sign up in the hall as soon as you can, today if possible, if you want to be part of this fantastic and uplifting occasion.

BIBLE BOWL



We are looking for all young people, **grades 4 and up**, who are interested in participating in Bible Bowl this year. If you want to be part of the team, please see Vicki as soon as possible.

WEDDING SHOWER



There will be a shower for **Lori Nelson** on Tuesday, January 12, at 6:30 here at the building. A light meal will be served. Lori and Scott are registered at Target, Bed, Bath & Beyond, and Home Depot.

HOW TO BECOME A CHRISTIAN

Jesus Christ, the Son of God, died for us and rose from the dead, making salvation available as a gift (John 3:16; Romans 6:23). In order to benefit from this great sacrificial love, one must receive God's grace through faith in Christ and obedience to him (Romans 5:1-2; Hebrews 5:9). To become a Christian, the Bible teaches that we must put our trust in Christ (John 8:24), turn away from a life of sin (Luke 13:3), confess Jesus as Lord (Romans 10:9-10), and be baptized for the forgiveness of sins (Acts 2:38; 22:16). If you would like to further study this question of "What must I do to be saved?" please see our minister or one of our elders.

'Twas The Night Before Christmas

'Twas the night before Christmas and all thru the church...
Rang the age-old question, "Should we celebrate **Christ's** birth?"
"To decorate or not decorate..." the familiar refrain.
Do we share the tradition or should we restrain?
'Tis true that His birth date to us is unclear.
And December's for sure the wrong time of year.
Is Christmas pagan? Does it sound an alarm?
If I participate do I really cause harm?
Does **God** define "Christian," something like this,
A baptized believer who doesn't give gifts?

When Jeremiah spoke against the decorated, cut tree,
He had in mind the sin of idolatry (Jeremiah 10:2ff).
I have only bowed down near our Christmas tree
To pick up a present addressed to me.
Peter called Christians "peculiar" in the KJV.
Well, rejecting Christmas, is surely odd, seems to me!
But what Peter actually was talking about,
Is that Christians belong to **God** no doubt.

Yes the word "Christmas" comes, in part, from the term "mass."
But words can't be limited to their meaning in the past.
Did you know that to us the words "Wednesday" and "Thursday,"
From the ancient gods, Woden and Thor, found their way.
Many words derive from roots of old,
Which no longer the true meanings hold.
This is my point that really is true...
What is the meaning of Christmas to you?

The angels sang praises and announced our **Lord's** birth.
The shepherds and wise men acknowledged **His** worth.
No...the Bible doesn't give orders about Christmas.
But should we ignore what angels, shepherds and wise men teach us?
Our **Lord** healed ten lepers and required nothing more.
But when one returned praises, **His** spirit did soar.
Are we so locked in that there's no place any more
For impulsive, out-breaking praise of our **Lord**?

Yes, we honor **His** life, death and resurrection.
But none of these come without the Bethlehem connection.
And yes, I can honor **His** birth every day of the year,
Does that mean I can't hold December 25th dear?
If many of my friends think of **Jesus** this season,
Must I be compelled to find fault with their reason?
Could I not find some common ground with them here at year's end
That might, please **God**, help them find their place with **Him**?
I have searched and find no compelling reason
To isolate myself from others this joyous season.
So, I exclaim, because I think it right,
Merry **Christmas** to all...and to all a good night!

by Doug Oakes

