



Central Church of Christ

December 22, 2013



CONTINUED PRAYERS:

DON & GAYE YOUNG'S daughter-in-law **Susan Young** has pneumonia and is in CCU at BSA. **ROSS JAMES' dad JD** had knee replacement surgery and is recovering well. **Donice Hayes** began cancer treatments last Thursday. **Carl Dickey** is having health issues.



Records for 12.15.2013

Bible Class: 79

Worship: 118

Contribution: \$3,418

Budgeted Contribution: \$3,760

If you shop at United and are not participating in the cookware promotion, would you consider getting the stickers and donating them to the church. We would like to get some new cookware for the church kitchen. If you have any stickers you would like to give, please give them to Becky Tucker. The promotion is running from October 30, 2013 - March 11, 2014.

Morning Service

Singing-Toby

Song

Song

Song

REFLECTION & LORD'S SUPPER

WEEKLY CONTRIBUTION

Song

Song

Prayer

Song

-Bruce-

Song

Announcements

Kenneth Littlefield



MONTHLY REMINDERS:

DECEMBER

Mission Contributions

25-No Wednesday Morning

Bible Class or Wednesday evening assembly.

Also keep these people in your hearts and prayers: **SERVICE MEN & WOMEN**, Clayton Williams, John Brookins, Gene Hayhurst, Jay Weddel, Mabel Sadler, Frances Lemoine, Darla Young and David George.



One of the most persistent of all religious antagonisms is that between legalism and antinomianism. Legalism holds that man's good and God's glory are best served by asceticism, affliction of the body and slavish performance of ritual ceremonies, among other things. Antinomianism holds that man should be totally free to do as he pleases and that any restraint on him is demeaning. Paul's response is to say that freedom and joy are found in neither legalism nor license to do what you want (Galatians 3:10, 5:1-10). Real freedom and joy are found in voluntary bondage to Christ. Jesus liberates from sin and its deadly enslavement and sets us free to be bound to Him. Christian liberty is not so much freedom from certain things as it is freedom for love and service. Christ's appearance is more than a manger scene, a star above Bethlehem, wise men, shepherds etc... although they are true they are simply a means to and end or rather beginning! It is a beginning of celebrating life in Him!

I read of a story from the famous Danish philosopher from the mid 1800s, a Christian theologian named Soren Kierkegaard. It is a familiar story, a story rewritten by many over the ages in many different forms, yet it is still relevant today. Here's what he wrote:

A prince wanted to find a maiden suitable to be his queen. One day while running an errand in the local village for his father, he passed through a poor section. As he glanced out the windows of the carriage, his eyes fell upon a beautiful peasant maiden. During the ensuing days he often passed by the young lady and soon fell in love.

But he had a problem. How would he seek her hand? He could order her to marry him. But even a prince wants his bride to marry him freely and voluntarily and not through coercion. He could put on his most splendid uniform and drive up to her front door in a carriage drawn by six horses. But if he did this he would never be certain that the maiden loved him or was simply overwhelmed with all of the splendor.

The prince came up with another solution. He would give up his kingly robe. He moved, into the village, entering not with a crown but in the garb of a peasant. He lived among the people, shared their interests and concerns, and talked their language. In time the maiden grew to love him, because of who he was and because he loved her first.

This very simple, almost childlike story is what John is describing here--God came and lived among us. He had to reveal Himself to us in an understandable way, and this is precisely what Jesus did--became flesh just like you and me. He made Himself understandable.

We have lots to celebrate! So celebrate every day, let your light shine, let His image reflect in you. Go ahead, get after it! Hold nothing back! He held nothing back to reconcile you to God, to free you to be like Him!

*See ya at the Gathering Place!
Bruce*

