

Warners Chapel Church of Christ

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Preachers: **Paul Kirkpatrick**
Frank Shepard

A CORDIAL WELCOME AWAITS YOU

December 25, 2011

CHRISTMAS

It is commonly accepted that Christ was born on December 25th in the year 1 A.D. However the Bible is silent about the date of Christ's birth. In 754 A.D. a "Christian calendar" was used to mark the center point in counting time with the birth of Christ at December 25th. 1. Historians date the death of Herod the Great at 2 B.C. His decree to kill all male children 2 years and under makes Jesus birth somewhere between 2 and 4 B.C. Also, a winter month seems to be a false setting for the birth of Christ. It is recorded in the Bible that the shepherds were with their sheep in the fields when Christ was born (Luke 2:7-18). Those knowledgeable of the Bible lands tell us that it is during the winter months that the shepherds bring their sheep into shelter, and are no longer in the fields with them.

So how was the 25th selected as the exact date of Jesus' birth? Man's command! In 354 A.D. Liberius, who was the Bishop of Rome and a forerunner to the pope ordered that Dec. 25th be adopted as the date. When Liberius wanted to keep those of pagan religions converting to Catholicism, he chose the date for the feast of the sun or winter solstice, celebrating "light over darkness". No celebration of Jesus' birth was held until the first half of the 4th century. Obviously, history informs us that this was not a practice of the first century church and we should not celebrate this holiday religiously. This does not preclude or inhibit us from secular involvement. There is nothing wrong with gift-giving, trees, celebrations, decorating our houses with lights when done from a secular perspective.

Happy Holidays.

Paul

ELDERS CORNER:

CHRISTMAS ON SUNDAY?

I've been reading in the news lately of several churches who are deciding to cancel their Bible classes and worship services on Christmas Day because it falls on Sunday. Several rather influential churches have announced that they are closing their doors on Christmas day, which of course, falls on Sunday this year. Apart from the obvious inconsistency in this practice and their oft repeated statement, "Jesus is the reason for the season, there is another factor I would like for you to consider.

According to these churches, the reason for closing their doors on Christmas is because they value families, and want families to be able to spend time together. Having to schedule opening presents, a meal with all the trimmings, and all that goes along with Christmas, around Bible study and worship service is considered too inconvenient, so those who have preached we need to put "Christ back into Christmas," will be locking the doors to their houses of worship, keeping those who have accepted their message locked outside in the cold.

But now consider. Where will this end? How long will it take for someone to see the logical end of such a position, and call for its implementation less sporadically. Imagine this Spring the following AP News Headline...Churches Cancel Worship Services since Easter Falls On Sunday. "In order to promote family time, churches across America will be closing their doors on Easter Sunday so that families won't be inconvenienced with having to schedule their Easter egg hunts and Easter egg paintings around Bible study and worship..."

Who are we fooling? This isn't about valuing family. It's about individualism. It's about consumerism. It's about having what we want, when we want it, the way we want it. And apparently, even God can't be allowed to get in the way.

Friends, while I value my family and respect others who value theirs, I am reminded that family should not be elevated above my relationship to the Lord. It was Jesus who said, "If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple" (Luke 14:26).

Are these churches really prepared to stand by their logic which elevates family over the Lord when special occasions fall on Sunday? If so, I wonder what will occur on Easter, Mother's Day, Father's Day, Labor Day Weekend, 4th of July, President's Day, Groundhog Day, etc... I guess time will tell.

Warners Chapel will be having services as normal for both Dec 25th and Jan 1st.

**Sewing this Week: December 25, 2011*

Devotions:	Opening Prayer: a.m. - Tommy Rose	Nursery #1: a.m. - Robin Hauser
Scripture: Jake Thomason	p.m. - John Allen	p.m. - Debbie Southern
Song: Jason Cravy	Song Leaders: a.m. - Wayne Allen	Nursery #2: a.m. - Mary Anne Allen
Prayer: Shawn Thomason	p.m. - Tim Allen	p.m. - Jessica Lay
	Wed. - Song Req. -Gene	

OUR SICK

Please Remember In Your Prayers

Paul Kirkpatrick is doing well in his recovery from the most recent surgery of a week ago.

It was announced Wednesday evening that **Kim Matthews** has been diagnosed with Huntington's Disease.

Lindsay Riddle underwent minor surgery this past Thursday. She is in some pain at this time but doing well in her recovery.

Mike Cooper requested prayers for his friend, **Gene Aikens and family**, who's 16 year old son was killed recently.

Andy Santiago's co-worker, **Seth Burcham**, has a 5 year old son in the Baptist Hospital with a major bacterial infection. Prayers have been requested.

It was reported that **Lutrelle Chipman's** great grandson is doing well. He was reported early in his life that he was having health difficulties.



The **new Prayer List** is available on the credenza in the foyer.

Congratulations to:

Lori Rose who was voted employee of the year by the Yadkin County Health Department.

Going Away Get -Together

Following the **December 28th** Wednesday evening service, there will be a "Going away Get-Together" for **David, Julie, Luke and Jude Bowers**. They will be moving to Indianapolis at the end of the month. Refreshments will be provided.

Reason & Revelation

Please see Don Minor if you are interested in renewing or newly subscribing to Reason & Revelation. Don will be taking up subscriptions during the month of **December**. The cost is \$12 for the year.



HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL

Welcome

WE ARE HAPPY TO HAVE YOU VISITING WITH US THIS MORNING. WE INVITE YOU TO RETURN THIS EVENING AT 6:00 P.M. FOR THE SUNDAY EVENING SERVICE AND AT 7:00 P.M. EACH WEDNESDAY EVENING FOR THE MID-WEEK BIBLE STUDY.

WARNERS CHAPEL EVENTS:

Please Note:

The Adult Tuesday Evening Class will be cancelled until Jan. 10th.

The 50 & Over Bible Study group that meets on Thurs. morning will be cancelled until Jan. 12th.

Jan. 21 - A trip to **Hillbilly Hideaway** is planned for the 50 and over group, leaving at 4:30 p.m.

Teachers & Assistants Needed

A Teacher's Roster has been placed on the Bulletin Board. There are a number of openings to be filled for the next quarter. Please check it, and if you would like to help, please see **Jason Allen**.

Read the New Testament in 2011

Dec. 26 - Rev. 17	Dec. 30 - Rev. 21
Dec. 27 - Rev. 18	Dec. 31 - Rev. 22
Dec. 28 - Rev. 19	Jan. 01 - Matt. 1
Dec. 29 - Rev. 20	(2012)

FOR THE RECORD

Sunday Bible Study - December 18, 2011 **170**

Sunday Morning Worship Service: **203**

Contribution for December 18, 2011 **\$6,087**

Daily Adult Bible Readers:

Chapters Read:

Daily Children Bible Readers:

Chapters Read:

Sunday Evening: **152**

Wednesday Evening: December 21, 2011 **141**

Lord's Day Appointments - January 1, 2012

Serving the Lord's Table For January:

Tommy Rose

Gene Ruark Jason Cravy

Homer Holland Bob Plunk

Preparing Communion for January:

Jeannie Moore

Making Announcements on Sunday:

Steve Martin

Making Announcements on Wednesday:

Andy Santiago

DEVOTIONS:		OPENING PRAYER:		SONG LEADER		SCRIPTURE READER	
Scripture	- Rodney Brown	Morning	- D. C. Mock	A.M.	-	A.M.	- Ken Cooper
Song Leader	- Steve Tesh	Evening	- Michael Cooper	P.M.	-	P.M.	- Bill Carothers
Prayer	- Steve Martin			Wed.	-		

NURSERY (0-2 1/2):		NURSERY (2 1/2-4):		Greeters: January	FELLOWSHIP MEAL:
Morning -	Meredith Southern	Morning -	Abbie Little	Michael & Laura Cooper	
Evening -	Marie Harper	Evening -	Linda Flinchum		

Opening and Closing Building

Sunday: -

Wednesday -

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES - *Nursery open for small children during all services.*

SUNDAY:

Bible Classes 10:00 AM

Morning Worship 10:50 AM

Evening Worship 6:00 PM

WEDNESDAY: Mid-Week Service 7:00 PM

“GETTING TO KNOW YOUR BIBLE” at 10:30 p.m. each week night on Cable 8
SEARCH PROGRAM - Sunday Mornings at 7:30 a.m. on Cable 68

WARNERS CHAPEL CHURCH OF CHRIST
8999 LASATER ROAD
Clemmons, NC 27012

ELDERS

David Moore
Tim Allen
Joe Everett
Todd Hinson
Steve Tesh

DEACONS

Randy Warner
Tommy Rose
Keith Warner
Andy Santiago
Mark Minor

Jason Allen
Mike Cooper
Jody Everett
Gene Southern
Shawn Thomason