



Shepherd Tuesday Happenings for December 2, 2008

Dear Shepherdites and Friends,

As we enter the Advent Season, we pray that you are getting in the spirit of the season.

Just Thinking -- Well, Thanksgiving is over and we are still regretting that extra helping of stuffing and pumpkin pie; but with the arrival of December we now turn our thoughts to Christmas.

While most of you will be thinking of Santa Claus, Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer, Frosty the Snowman; I turn to my favorite Christmas characters, Ebenezer Scrooge and the Grinch, both of which are ornaments hanging on our Christmas tree. Certainly, you may think I am joking or I'm really a curmudgeon (The dictionary defines this as a bad-tempered, difficult, cantankerous person). This may be true, but let's look at these poor, misunderstood characters associated with the season.

First there was Scrooge, he was hard-hearted, self-centered man, who, with the help of some Christmas spirits, found the true meaning of Christmas and had a life-changing experience; he was never the same again.



Then there was the Grinch, remember that lovely song, "You're a mean one Mr. Grinch"? Sing along, if you know the words. He was cold, and cruel, because his heart was several sizes too small. But then he met Cindy Lou Who, found out that the joy of the season didn't come from a store, and then his heart grew 3 sizes that day. He was filled with the spirit of Christmas and he was never the same either.

While I like these characters, they are not the real reason we celebrate Christmas. We remember the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. We may have our faults, but we can come to Jesus and have an even bigger life-changing experience.

Oh we'll enjoy Santa and the others characters we've come to associate with the holiday, but don't forget; Jesus is the reason for the season. "*For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord.*" (Luke 2:11)

At Shepherd This Week – Here are your opportunities for worship this week at Shepherd Church of the Nazarene:

- Tonight @ 7 pm– Discipleship @ Pastor Coleman's
- Wednesday @ 7 pm – Bible Study in Fellowship Hall
- Thursday @ 7 pm – Discipleship @ Van & Clarence Coleman's
- Sunday @ 10 am – Morning Worship
- Sunday @ 4:30 pm – Praise Team Practice
- Sunday @ 5:00 pm – Evening Worship

Crafts Time Change – The ladies Arts and Crafts meeting has been changed from every week to the 2nd Monday of each month. The next meeting will be Monday, December 8, 2008, at 6 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Communion This Sunday – We will celebrate the Lord's Supper this Sunday during the 5 pm service. In the Church of the Nazarene, you do not have to be a member to receive communion, you just have to have everything clear between God and you. Please plan to attend with your family to receive the sacrament together. Visitors are welcome.

SC Quarters – John & Savon still need South Carolina quarters for their mission trip. If you have some to sell or donate, please bring them this Wednesday night to Bible Study.



Church Christmas Dinner – It's Christmas dinner for the entire church and friends. It will be on Wednesday, December 10 at 7 pm. The church will furnish the meat; we ask that you bring a side-dish, salad, desert or beverage. Let's celebrate the season and dine together in the fellowship hall.

Christmas Treats – Christmas treats for all will be distributed on the Sunday before Christmas, December 21.

Christmas Eve – There will be a Christmas Eve service at the church. We will meet in the sanctuary for a family time of worship.

Central Church Cantata – West Columbia Central Church of the Nazarene is having their Christmas Cantata this Saturday night. The church is located at Augusta Highway (US 1 and I-26). Please call the church at (803) 796-0595 for the time of the program.

Finally -- Little Johnny had bought Grandma a book for Christmas and wanted to write a suitable inscription. He racked his brain until suddenly he remembered that his father had a book with an inscription of which he was very proud, so Johnny decided to copy it. You can imagine Grandma's surprise when she opened her book, a Bible, and found neatly inscribed the following phrase: "To Grandma, with the compliments of the author."

That ought to leave her scratching her head. Remember, come home to Shepherd where you ARE family.

John

John Frierson – Editor, news@shepherdnazarene.com
Shepherd Church of the Nazarene
119 Ballpark Rd.
Lexington, SC 29072-2262
(803) 957-4348
www.shepherdnazarene.com
Rev. Richard I. Coleman, Pastor
pastor@shepherdnazarene.com