



Shepherd Tuesday Happenings for December 9, 2008

Dear Shepherd Flock and Friends,

Isn't it great to be starting to feel the Christmas season all around us? The weather is cooperating by getting cold. Will the guys be able to wear short-sleeves to church on Christmas Eve?

Just Thinking -- Last Christmas, or was it the Christmas before; anyhow, Savon's aunt and uncle gave her a Jim Shore collectable piece with Mary riding on a donkey, led by Joseph. The small statue was a beautiful addition to our home during the holidays.

Most of us have seen pictures of the holy family in their trek to Bethlehem. We may have even colored pictures of the event with crayons as children. The thing that was unusual about this one, and we did not notice for several days, is that Mary is very obviously pregnant. The work is done in good taste, but it brings up some questions.



The Bible (Luke 2) plainly tells us that she was expecting her first child. In spite of some theories, Mary was in a very human condition. Being their first, was she unusually cranky with Joseph about how uncomfortable the donkey was; how it made her back hurt? Did she have to make frequent stops? Where did Joseph go to get the things she craved, like pickles and strawberry ice cream? There were no supermarkets or convenience stores.

No, I am not implying that any of that happened, this is just human reality. We should realize that Mary and Joseph were in fact subject to human feelings and emotions; they did not take a quick spin to Bethlehem in the family chariot, blink, and the baby suddenly appeared.

While we do not worship them as some do, we should be thankful to God and this couple for the hardships they endured, that we might have the birth of Jesus as foretold in the scriptures. *"While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn."* (Luke 2:6-7 NIV)

Just Thinking Update – Last week I shared with you my admiration for my favorite Christmas characters, Scrooge and the Grinch. I stated that they were each hanging in a place of honor on our Christmas tree. While we do have a figurine of Scrooge on the mantle, I regret to report that the Scrooge ornament is not in fact on the tree. Savon and I searched the tree and the boxes, but no Scrooge and even Hallmark doesn't have him anymore. I don't know where he got to; perhaps one of those pesky spirits whisked him away; but in the interest of truth, I must report he is really on the mantle and not on the tree this year. We regret any disappointment or inconvenience.

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 – Church Christmas Dinner
Thursday @ 7 pm – Discipleship @ John & Charlotte Sanders
Sunday @ 10 am – Morning Worship
Sunday @ 4:30 pm – Praise Team Practice
Sunday @ 5:00 pm – Evening Worship

Thursday Discipleship Change – Please note, the Thursday Discipleship class, this week only, will be at the home of Rev. John & Charlotte Sanders, 3400 Sweet Springs Dr., Lexington. To get there from Lexington, turn right at the light at Chicago Uno onto Mineral Springs Road; Go 3.1 miles; turn right on Mineral Lake Rd; their house will be about a tenth of a mile. If you get lost, call 996-5529 for directions.

Church Christmas Dinner – All members, friends and visitors are invited to the church Christmas Dinner at 7 pm, Wednesday, in the fellowship hall. The church will furnish the meat; everyone is asked to bring a side dish, salad or beverage; if you can't come on anyhow and help us celebrate the season.

Christmas Eve Service – There will be a Christmas Eve service at the Church on December 24 at 7 pm. Please plan to make this a part of your family Christmas celebration.

Christmas Treats – Christmas treats will be given to all that attend our Christmas Sunday service at 10 am on Dec. 21.

Finally -- A woman went to the Post Office to buy stamps for her Christmas Cards.

"What denomination?" asked the clerk.

"Oh, good heavens! Have we come to this?" said the woman. "Well, give me 3 Catholic, 10 Baptist ones, 20 Lutheran, and 40 Nazarene."

John

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