

**NURSERY MINISTRY WORKERS FOR THIS WEEK**

10:50 a.m. Service ----- Cradle Roll 1: *NEED VOLUNTEER!*  
Cradle Roll 2: *NEED VOLUNTEER!*  
6:30 p.m. Service ----- Cradle Roll 1: *NEED VOLUNTEER!*  
Cradle Roll 2: *NEED VOLUNTEER!*  
Wed. Evening Service ----- Cradle Roll 1: *NEED VOLUNTEER!*  
Cradle Roll 2: *NEED VOLUNTEER!*

**AND THE PEOPLE CAME...**

*Week of December 11, 2016*

Sunday School ----- 26  
Sunday Morning Service ----- 28  
Sunday Evening Service ----- 19  
Wed. Eve., 12/14/16 Service ----- 17

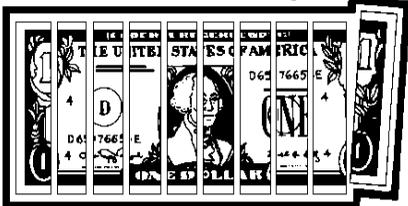
**AND THE PEOPLE GAVE...**

*Week of December 11, 2016*

Undesignated Tithes & Offerings ----- \$ 1,761.00  
Total Received for Week of 12/11/16: \$ 1,761.00

Average amount of **UNDESIGNATED** Offerings  
needed to operate the church **EACH WEEK**,  
as a **minimum** = **\$ 1,400.00**

**TITHING**



**LISTEN TO -**



**ABIDINGRADIO.COM**

**WHAT IT MEANS TO BE SAVED**

1. *Admit that you are a sinner.*
2. *Admit that God says all sins must be paid for.*
3. *Accept the fact that Christ took upon Himself the suffering necessary to pay for all your sins.*
4. *You must change your mind about sin and sinning (God calls this repentance).*
5. *By an act of your will, accept by faith the Lord Jesus Christ, who can save you from the penalty of sin. Then, tell God about this in a simple prayer. Believe that God keeps His promise to save you, and thank Him for His salvation.*

**Please Remember To Be Faithful to Give!**



As with everything else, the costs of keeping a church going never go down - they always go *up*. Bills wait for no one, and churches are no exception to this. An extra, sacrificial gift today by everyone present would go a long way...

We encourage all of our membership to practice obedience to God by being faithful every payday to give back to Him His tithe (10%). *If every family in our church would practice this one simple discipline, we would never have weeks where we have to put off paying some bills until the following week!*

Everything is expensive, especially for a small church like ours, but ours is a BIG God, and He LOVES to bless His children when they are obedient to Him!

If you are already a tither, we thank you, and encourage you to also give offerings as well. If you're currently not tithing, won't you please start **today - OK?** Thank you.

**Church Directory**

Todd W. White ----- Pastor  
Mickie Shatwell ----- Pianist  
Lois Mae Floyd ----- Pianist/ Organist  
----- Greeter  
Shayne Hooper, Brian Crawford, Charity Crawford, LeAnna White -- S.S. Teachers  
Larry & Mary Byars, ----- Outreach  
Bertha Segebarrt ----- Custodian  
Flowers ----- Shirley White, Charity Crawford

**REMINDER**



**"I Almost Missed A Christmas Miracle"**

**BETHLEHEM - MAY, 2000** - The excitement was building. We were standing in the Shepherd's Fields just outside of Bethlehem. We were ready to go into the Shepherd's Caves and sing Christmas Carols. Some members of the tour group had done it with me on previous trips. For others, it was their first time - but everyone was excited. Bethlehem... Christmas Carols... Shepherd's Caves... Who wouldn't be excited? We had always done it. We had always sung carols in the caves. Why? Because once you did it, you were never the same. After my first time, I was never the same. So, I had planned it so that everyone else could experience it, too. My plans were about to be fulfilled. We would sing Christmas carols inside the Shepherd's Caves in the hills of Bethlehem.

There was a problem. It was crowded. The year 2000 had bought more groups than ever to Israel. The Shepherd's Caves were full! We waited... and waited... No groups were leaving the caves. Our time was growing short. We were about to miss out on the chance to sing Christmas carols in those caves. I was disappointed. I knew what a blessing our group was about to miss.

I expressed my disappointment to God. *"God, we've always sung in the caves. No one is ever the same after they do! We have to do it, Lord. We've always done it that way. If we don't, our group will miss out on the blessing of Bethlehem. Can't you work it out to open one of the caves for us?"*

None of the other groups left the caves. We didn't get to sing carols in the Shepherd's Caves. Disappointed, I led the group to the top of the hill - to a small chapel called "The Chapel of the Angels." We would sing there - but I knew it wouldn't been the same. It couldn't be, because we had always done it only one way.

Once inside the "Chapel of the Angels", we started singing carols. Most of the group had tears in their eyes as we sang "Silent Night". For them, Christmas already had a new meaning.

**A MIRACLE!** Then, it happened. A group from Germany entered the chapel. While we were singing "Silent Night" in English, they started singing it in German. Two other groups entered as well. There were now four groups singing Christmas Carols. Every time I started our group in a song, we were joined by an "International Choir" singing in German, French and Spanish!!!

There was not a dry eye in the chapel. Everyone called it a "Christmas" miracle. I almost missed out on that "Christmas Miracle" - me, the "spiritual leader" of the group. Why? Because I was so intent on doing it the way we'd always done it. If we didn't follow the same traditions of Bethlehem that we'd always followed, I just knew that we wouldn't be blessed.

**What about you?** Does God have a special blessing or a miracle for you this Christmas? If you're so intent on making sure that you follow the same traditions, that you do exactly the same things that you always do each Christmas, you may miss out on a special blessing or a Christmas miracle.

Two thousand years ago, the people of Bethlehem were doing things the way they'd always done them. People were working, shopping, visiting and worshipping. Due to the census, extended families from far-away places had returned home and were visiting with their friends and families - swapping gifts and memories. In the midst of their traditional way of doing things, God preformed the greatest miracle of all - the birth of his Son, Jesus Christ. With the exception of some shepherds, the introduction of God's Son went unnoticed. Don't miss out on a miracle this Christmas just because *"We've never done it that way before."*

*by David Langerfel*



# God's Gift

*He did not use a silvery box,  
Or paper green and red;  
God laid His Christmas gift to men  
Within a manger bed.*

*No silken cord was used to bind  
The gift from above.*

*'Twas wrapped in swaddling clothes and bound  
In cords of tender love.*

*There was no evergreen to which  
His precious gift was tied:  
Upon a bare tree on a hill  
His gift was hung. . . and died.*

*'Twas taken down from off the tree  
And laid beneath the sod,  
But death itself could not destroy  
The precious gift of God.  
With mighty hand He lifted it  
From out the stony grave;  
Forevermore to every man  
A living gift He gave.*

- Ruth Prentice



## It Came To Pass

*It came to pass  
That Jesus came.  
He forgave my sins,  
And I have never  
Been the same.  
He came to die  
Upon the cross,  
To pay for my sins  
And for all the sins  
Of the lost.*

*It came to pass  
That on the third day,  
He arose  
And in God's Word  
The story is told.*

*It will come to pass  
That Jesus will come again  
To rapture His church  
From this world of sin.*

*Will you be ready  
To see Jesus at last,  
Or will you miss Him  
As it comes to pass?*

- Margie Blagg



## The Will of God

*The will of God will never take you,  
Where the grace of God cannot keep you,  
Where the arms of God cannot support you,  
Where the riches of God cannot supply your needs,  
Where the power of God cannot endow you.*

*The will of God will never take you,  
Where the Spirit of God cannot work through you,  
Where the wisdom of God cannot teach you,  
Where the army of God cannot protect you,  
Where the hands of God cannot mold you.*

*The will of God will never take you,  
Where the love of God cannot enfold you,  
Where the mercies of God cannot sustain you,  
Where the peace of God cannot calm your fears,  
Where the authority of God cannot overrule for you.*

*The will of God will never take you,  
Where the comfort of God cannot dry your tears,  
Where the Word of God cannot feed you,*

*Where the miracles of God cannot be done for you,  
Where the omnipresence of God cannot find you.*

*Everything happens for a purpose. We may not see  
the wisdom of it all now, but trust and believe in the  
Lord that everything is for the best.*

- Unknown

## NEWS OF INTEREST TO CHRISTIANS

**K DEATH OF AN ASTRONAUT WHO BELIEVED IN GOD** - John Glenn, one of the original seven American astronauts, died on December 8 at age 95. In 1962, he was the first American to orbit the earth, and in 1998 he was the oldest person to go into space (age 77). Glenn was one of many American astronauts who talked about their faith in God. The following interesting overview was published in the Orlando Sentinel, Nov. 7, 1998. Orlando is only a few miles from Florida's Kennedy Space Center.

"From high above Earth, John Glenn saw the face of God. He is not alone. There is something about the beauty of space, Earth and the universe that touches many astronauts' spirits. Logic-oriented scientists and daring pilots turn spiritual, some even evangelical, after their space flights. Glenn and most of his Mercury astronauts strongly testified about how faith helped with their groundbreaking flights. The crew of Apollo 8 punctuated the first flight around the moon with a moving reading from Genesis. The first liquid poured and food eaten on the moon occurred when Buzz Aldrin took communion. Apollo astronaut Jim Irwin became an evangelist before his 1991 death. Astronaut Tammy Jernigan talked about her Christian faith in a live broadcast from a shuttle three years ago. Shannon Lucid, the daughter of missionaries, took a minister's sermons up to the Russian space station Mir. When that space station was damaged in a crash, one of the cosmonauts' first broadcasts back to Earth was to thank God that they survived. John Glenn ... summed it all up last week while in orbit. *'To look up out at this kind of creation and not believe in God is to me impossible,'* Glenn said in a Sunday news conference, responding to a reporter's question. *'It just strengthens my faith.'*

Glenn, a devout Presbyterian, said he was praying every day in orbit. An enhanced faith 'is pretty common,' said former astronaut Bryan O'Connor, who used to run the space shuttle program for NASA. 'I can tell you I felt a sense of awe out there looking at the Earth that I never had before, and it's easy to relate that to a spiritual kind of thing. It's almost natural. ... It's really an accentuator.'

Astronauts usually don't talk about faith much at work, said three-time ex-astronaut Mike Mullane. However, there was an active Bible study group among the astronauts when he flew several years ago. ... 'It is so incredibly beautiful that it does stir your soul into thinking that there does have to be some Supreme Being,' Mullane said Monday. Astronaut Dom Gorie ... has vivid

memories of looking out the window and thinking there is 'no other way it could have formed without a creator'" ("Astronauts Faith Isn't Lost in Space," Orlando Sentinel, Nov. 7, 1998).

**K GIRL WHO WAS NOT SUPPOSED TO BE BORN HEADING TO CARNEGIE HALL** - The following is excerpted from WorldNetDaily, Dec. 11, 2016:

"The young girl's fingers fly over the piano keyboard in ways that impress even the judges of international competitions, so much so that she's scheduled in a few weeks to appear at Carnegie Hall. But the talent that Anni Zhang puts on display, if China had had its way, never would have been. She was the No. 2 daughter of her family in China during a time when the one-child policy, now two-child but still forcing abortions, limited family sizes. According to Reggie Littlejohn, president of the Womens Rights Without Frontiers organization, which has been fighting China's deadly mandatory abortion policy for years, Anni's family had to endure persecution to keep their daughter. 'Family planning police came daily to pressure Anni's mother to abort her,' a statement from Littlejohn explained. 'Anni's father was able to get permission for Anni's birth only after a long and difficult struggle.'

She arrived in the United States only a few years ago, with her older sister, after having been detained as 'China's youngest prisoner of conscience.' It was because her father, Zhang Lin, was sentenced to prison for standing up for Anni's right to go to school. ... 'We are so proud of Anni. She is flourishing, both as a pianist and as a top student. Her father, Zhang Lin, was trained as a nuclear physicist, and Anni has inherited his strength in math and science.

Her story is an example for all those who struggle against the odds. Through our help and her own hard work, Anni is a witness to the hope of a new beginning and to the beauty, brilliance and infinite value of Chinese girls,' Littlejohn said. ... 'Anni could easily have been one of the 400 million lives 'prevented' by China's One (now Two) Child Policy of coercive population control. Or she could have been selectively aborted because she is a girl, as happens to so many second daughters in China.'

... 'The fact that the Chinese government refuses to give Zhang Lin a passport under these circumstances underscores their inhumanity,' Littlejohn said. 'It is pointless and cruel that they are depriving Zhang Lin and Anni of the joy of his attendance at her Carnegie Hall performance.'" To hear Anni practice Chopin's Étude Op. 10, No. 5, see [www.wnd.com/2016/12/girl-who-was-not-supposed-to-be-born-heading-to-carnegie/?cat\\_orig=diversions](http://www.wnd.com/2016/12/girl-who-was-not-supposed-to-be-born-heading-to-carnegie/?cat_orig=diversions)

