

THE NEW PORT REPORT

December, 2009 January, 2010

He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. (John 1:11-13)

It was always a challenge for me to get home on breaks when I was in college. College Station, Texas was 900 miles away from home, and plane tickets were hard to come by on a student's budget. One Christmas was especially challenging to get home. Finals didn't end until just before Christmas, and I had to be back in Dallas the day after Christmas. I decided not to go home. I ended up wishing I had, regardless of how difficult it would have been to travel the sixteen hundred miles there and back in four days.

My roommate, and best friend, invited me to spend Christmas with his family. It sounded like a good idea, and I did enjoy my time with them, but it just wasn't the same as being with my own family at Christmas.

They were very kind and hospitable. They even had gotten some gifts for me so I wouldn't feel left out. I had a good time, but I was missing my own family, their traditions and stories, and just being with them. I vowed to try and always be with family at Christmas from that time on.

I've been fortunate enough to be able to do just that ever since. I don't take it for granted; I know that many are separated from family at this time of year for many reasons, some in the military, some because of family division, some because they have no family at all. For so many, the very time of year that can be so joyful is often frustrating and lonely. My one-time, small experience causes me to remember to reach out to those who long for love and family, but find very little.

But there's an even greater and more prevalent misfortune that surrounds us: people surrounded

by the pomp and splendor of the holidays, gathering with loved ones, going off to parties, eating until they burst, but still looking in at Christmas from outside of the family.

When I was at my friend's house that Christmas, I felt like I was eavesdropping on their family as they opened their gifts, shared their stories, welcomed visiting loved ones, and all the other things families do. I was seeing a family, just not my family.

And so many see a family at Christmas, but are not a part of that family. They are eavesdropping on those who are in the family of God. They have a certain kind of joy, but they are missing out on the greatest blessing that being in His family can bring.

Erma Bombeck once said, "There's nothing sadder in this world than to awake Christmas morning and not be a child." Of course, she was referring to the delight and wonder and joy children have that adults often miss in the hustle and bustle and bills of the season. But I also think that there's something else there: *there's nothing sadder in this world than to awake Christmas morning and not be a child of God.* After all, that's what the whole thing is about, that's where all the true joy comes from – that God did not abandon us, but sent his own Son to earth to do the work of adopting us as his own children through his life, death and resurrection.

If you have received the one who came down to earth on Christmas day, rejoice that you have been given the right to be a child of God, born from nothing else except the grace of God. And remember, the greatest gift you can give to those outside the family is not to just to celebrate with them, but to share with them how they might be adopted in as a member of that family and know lasting and true joy and love. No other gift comes close.

So Merry Christmas, especially to the family of God in Christ!

Church Financial Update

<i>2009 YTD (through Nov 8th)</i>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Offering/Income:	\$108,173	\$108,384	\$ 211
Expenses:	<u>\$114,227</u>	<u>\$105,389</u>	\$ 8,838
Income – Expenses	- \$6,054	\$ 2,995	

Current Assets (not including New Port church property)

Cash Assets	\$ 49,658 *
Property @ 2755 Newport Rd	<u>\$ 95,000</u>
Total Assets	\$144,658

* This includes \$37,086 in Designated Funds (Building, Cemetery, Deacon's Emergency, Memorials, Seminary, and Speaker Funds).

*You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which...
will produce thanksgiving to God. (2 Corinthians 9:11)*



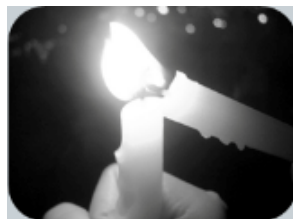
New Port Christmas Program

Sunday, December 13th, 9:15 a.m.

(No Sunday School)

Featuring talented singers and musicians from our congregation,
the children, and an old fashioned hymn-sing.
Hope to see you there!

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service



Thursday, December 24th, 6:30 p.m.

Worship



God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth. (John 4:24)
Your word is truth. (John 17:17)

Here are the upcoming sermon texts and titles for your meditation and preparation for worship:

Scripture	Sermon Title	Date
Gen 3:15-19	<i>Christmas in Genesis: Suffering to Glory</i> (Gen 4; Rom 8:18-25: 1 st Sunday of Advent)	Nov 29 th
Gen 15:1-6	<i>Christmas in Genesis: Hopelessness to Faith</i> (Gen 17:15-19; Rom 4:18-25: 2 nd Sunday of Advent)	Dec 6 th
Gen 25:19-26	<i>Christmas in Genesis: Struggling to Grace</i> (Gen 32; Rom 9:6-16: 3 rd Sunday of Advent)	Dec 13 th
Gen 38:27-30	<i>Christmas in Genesis: Dishonor to Honor</i> (Gen 49:8-12; Rom 1:1-6: 4 th Sunday of Advent; Lord's Supper)	Dec 20 th
Gal 4:4-7	<i>The Birth of the Son; The Adoption of Sons</i> (Christmas Eve Candlelight Service)	Dec 24 th
Heb 9:28; Tit 2:11-14	<i>Eagerly Waiting for Christ to Come Again</i>	Dec 27 th
Matt 24:1-14	<i>The End is Near, But Not Here, So Persevere</i>	Jan 3 rd
Matt 24:14-20	<i>The Former Things Have Come to Pass, And New Things I Now Declare</i> (Isa 42:9; Rev 21:4)	Jan 10 th
TBD	Sanctity of Life Sunday (Lord's Supper)	Jan 17 th
Matt 24:21-28	<i>Living Between the Rock and a Hard Place</i>	Jan 24 th
Matt 24:29-31	<i>The Day We've Waited for Has Come, But Not for All</i> (Joel 2:11)	Jan 31 st
Matt 24:32-51	<i>Are You Ready for the End (or is it the Beginning)?</i>	Feb 7 th

Remember, each week's bulletin is posted on the church's website (www.newportpca.org)
by Thursday or Friday.

Audio files of past sermons and the current monthly newsletter are also available there.

Read Through The Bible In 2009

Our plan to read through the entire Bible in a year finishes up in January. If you'd like to start again, you can plan out a new reading schedule at www.ewordtoday.com/year/.



You have exalted above all things your name and your word.
(Psalm 138:2)

Read Through the Bible Chapter by Chapter (Dec)

Dec 6: Acts 24-26
Dec 7: Acts 27-28
Dec 8: Rom 1-3
Dec 9: Rom 4-7
Dec 10: Rom 8-10
Dec 11: Rom 11-13
Dec 12: Rom 14-16
Dec 13: 1Cor 1-4
Dec 14: 1Cor 5-8
Dec 15: 1Cor 9-11
Dec 16: 1Cor 12-14
Dec 17: 1Cor 15-16
Dec 18: 2Cor 1-4
Dec 19: 2Cor 5-9
Dec 20: 2Cor 10-13
Dec 21: Gal 1-3
Dec 22: Gal 4-6
Dec 23: Eph 1-3
Dec 24: Eph 4-6
Dec 25: Philippians

Dec 26: Colossians
Dec 27: 1Thess
Dec 28: 2Thess
Dec 29: 1Timothy
Dec 30: 2Timothy
Dec 31: Tit-Philemon
Jan 1: Heb 1-6
Jan 2: Heb 7-10
Jan 3: Heb 11-13
Jan 4: James
Jan 5: 1Peter
Jan 6: 2Peter
Jan 7: 1John
Jan 8: 2John-Jude
Jan 9: Rev 1-3
Jan 10: Rev 4-8
Jan 11: Rev 9-12
Jan 12: Rev 13-16
Jan 13: Rev 17-19
Jan 14: Rev 20-22



Women's Bible Study

The ladies of New Port will not be meeting in December for our monthly Bible study. We will, however, resume our study on Wednesday, January 20th.

We hope you will begin the New Year by joining us in our new Bible Study. Please watch the weekly worship bulletin for more information.



A Little Christmas (Shopping) Humor

A woman was doing her last-minute Christmas shopping at a crowded mall. She was tired of fighting the crowds. She was tired of standing in lines. She was tired of fighting her way down long aisles looking for a gift that had sold out days before.

Her arms were full of bulky packages when an elevator door opened. It was full. The occupants of the elevator grudgingly tightened ranks to allow a small space for her and her load.

As the doors closed, she blurted out, "Whoever is responsible for this whole Christmas thing ought to be arrested, strung up, and shot!" A few others nodded their heads or grunted in agreement.

Then, from somewhere in the back of the elevator, came a single voice that said: "Don't worry. They already crucified him."

Christmas Giving

Our Christmas giving continues for a family from the Pregnancy Assistance Center. There are 2 large gift-wrapped boxes in the narthex with "gift tags" showing requested items for each member of the family. Please take a tag, purchase the item, wrap the gift, and put the tag back on the gift. Gifts must be back to the church by Sunday, December 13th. If all gift tags are gone and you still wish to contribute, general household items are always welcome (bath towels, blankets, soap, etc.) Thanks for your help in this *Christmas Giving* opportunity!

Good News Club needs your help! We need more juice boxes and more snacks to refresh our children at the Good News Club meeting on Wednesdays at Campbellton School. Thank you for helping with this ministry.

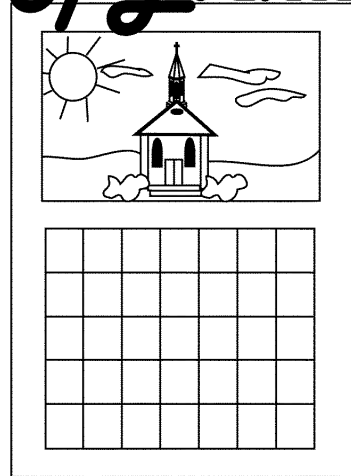
December

- 9 Good News Club at Campbellton, 2:30 p.m.
- 10 Trustees Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 13 New Port Christmas Program, 9:15 a.m.
- 13 Worship at New Haven Care Center, 2:30 p.m.
- 16 Good News Club at Campbellton, 2:30 p.m.
- 20 Lord's Supper at Morning Worship
- 24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, 6:30 p.m.

January

- 13 Diaconate Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 17 Sanctity of Human Life Sunday, 10:30 a.m.
- 20 Women's Monthly Bible Study, 7:00 p.m.
- 21 Session Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 22 Sanctity of Life Candlelight Vigil
- 31 Annual Congregational Meeting, 11:45 a.m.

Calendar Of Events



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December

- 1 Bill Allen
- 1 Stephen Rust
- 3 Dennis Kassebaum
- 11 Mimi Amburgy
- 17 Harolyn Schultz
- 19 Cole Brinker
- 20 Karen Allen
- 26 Janelle Cronin
- 27 Dave Batson
- 27 Jim Klott
- 28 Kevin Brinker
- 28 Sterling Gordon

January

- 1 Jana Todd
- 5 Lyman Cook
- 12 Steve Cronin
- 12 Rich Schmidt
- 12 Laura Shola
- 20 Barb Barrett
- 20 Mary Ann Barrett
- 21 Betsy Allyn
- 21 Abi Schmidt
- 22 Charlie Scheer
- 25 Stacey Barrett
- 25 Bob Galbraith
- 25 Jean Koirtyohann
- 29 Dave Brockmann