

Youth Newsletter

January 2006

Children, Youth Busy During Christmas Season

The children and youth have been quite busy this Christmas season.

On Sunday, December 4, after over a month of preparation, the children performed their annual Christmas Play.

This year, the play was a classic version of the Christmas story, narrated by Laura Thornton, with traditional Christmas carols sung by the children. Taylor King also sang a solo rendition of "O Holy Night".

Following the play, everyone enjoyed a special reception, and a visit with Santa.

On Sunday, December 11, the Youth Groups at Bethlehem held their last Regular Meeting of the year.

The Scooters and Voyagers worked on special holiday crafts and finishing up badge requirements, while the Pathfinders, Alphas, Omegas donned costumes and participated in the Living Nativity. Several people stopped to see the sight of shepherds, wise men, Mary, Joseph, and angels as they tended to the baby Jesus lying in the manger.

On Wednesday, December 21, the Alpha Youth Group visited the residents at Nansemond Pointe Nursing Home and Autumn Care.

While visiting, they delivered the gifts that church members had wrapped and left for them under the church's Angel Tree in the Sanctuary.

The group then enjoyed dinner at Cazadores and a ride through the neighborhoods to see the Christmas decorations before returning to church.

YOUTH GROUP SCHEDULES

SCOOTERS • VOYAGERS • PATHFINDERS

January 1	Regular Meeting, 5:30pm-7:15pm
January 8	Regular Meeting, 5:30pm-7:15pm
January 15	Regular Meeting, 5:30pm-7:15pm
January 22	Regular Meeting, 5:30pm-7:15pm
January 29	Regular Meeting, 5:30pm-7:15pm
February 5	Regular Meeting, 12:15pm-2:00pm <i>Souper Bowl Sunday – please bring a non-perishable food item for our Food Pantry</i>

ALPHAS • OMEGAS

January 1	Regular Meeting, 5:30pm-7:15pm
January 8	Regular Meeting, 5:30pm-7:15pm
January 15	Regular Meeting, 5:30pm-7:15pm
January 22	Regular Meeting, 5:30pm-7:15pm
January 27-29	SnowBlast 2K6, time & details TBA
February 5	Regular Meeting, 12:15pm-2:00pm <i>Souper Bowl Sunday – please bring a non-perishable food item for our Food Pantry</i>

For more information about your club's schedule, including any special events planned for your individual club, please contact your club's leaders.

On Thursday, December 22, the Omega Youth Group visited our shut-ins and delivered their Angel Tree gifts before having their annual Progressive Dinner and caroling through the Oak Ridge neighborhood.

Special thanks to all who supported the youth and their activities in 2005. We are looking forward to another great year in 2006!



Youth Director's Corner by David Salerno

At this time of the year, our thoughts turn to the scene that unfolded in Bethlehem over 2,000 years ago. This month, I would like to share with you the devotion I shared with the Alphas after our trip to the nursing home.

Luke 2 is probably one of the most read passages of Scripture during the Christmas season. It tells the complete story of the birth of Jesus, from the time Joseph and Mary traveled to Bethlehem, until the time they found Jesus among the teachers in the temple. But, hidden in the middle of this chapter is a verse that has a great deal of significance for each and every one of us:

"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord."

--Luke 2:11 (KJV)

"...unto you is born a Saviour..."

But just who was the angel talking to? Joseph? Mary?

No, the angel was delivering this message to a group of shepherds keeping watch over their flocks outside the town of Bethlehem.

So why did the angel say "unto you"? Why didn't he say "unto Joseph and Mary"?

The truth is, Jesus was not born to Joseph, or to Mary. Rather, He was born to each and every one of us, to show us how to live, to ultimately die for our sins, and to provide us all hope for eternal life.

"...unto **you** is born a Saviour..."

Just remember this Christmas season that the best gift we could hope for has already been given to us, born over 2,000 years ago, in a barn, behind an inn with no room, in the tiny town of Bethlehem.

All we have to do is reach out and accept it.

Until next month, God bless,

David



Pioneer Clubs News & Notes



With only one Regular Meeting in December, the Pioneers worked on special holiday crafts and activities, and on completing badge requirements.



The Pathfinders also helped with the Living Nativity.



Great job, Pioneers, and we look forward to another year of fun and adventure!

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5 IS SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY!

**SPECIAL REGULAR MEETING TIME
12:15PM-2:00PM
(FOLLOWING MORNING WORSHIP)
LUNCH PROVIDED**

**PLEASE BRING A NON-PERISHABLE FOOD
ITEM TO HELP RESTOCK BETHLEHEM'S FOOD
PANTRY FOR THE NEEDY IN OUR COMMUNITY**



**Happy
New Year**