

# Christ United Methodist Church Newsletter

December 4, 2007

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Weekly Radio Broadcast (Sunday at 7:00 p.m.) - WGRV Radio & TV Channel 18

## Wrapped In Swaddling Clothes

What did Mary do for the newborn baby Jesus? According to Luke 2:27, "she...wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in the manger." What are swaddling clothes? What was the purpose of this custom?

A **swaddling cloth** was a long strip of cloth that was wrapped tightly around and around the baby. The baby's arms were pinned to its sides and its legs were kept straight together. Sometimes the cloth covered the chin and forehead, so that you could only see the pair of eyes. This custom goes back thousands of years and throughout many cultures.

The wrapping of the baby in swaddling cloths was not a sign of poverty, but a sign that the parents loved the baby and knew how to take proper care of it. In biblical times, parents would also wash their baby and then rub it in salt before wrapping the baby up. It was thought that salt helped to harden the baby's skin and make it strong. The prophet Ezekiel described an unloved and neglected baby as one who had nobody to wash, salt, and wrap it in swaddling clothes.

As we see, swaddling is a loving act. However, swaddling also means to tie up, control, hold down, restrict and restrain. Ponder this for a moment --- GOD WAS SWADDLED! The prophet Isaiah says this about the swaddled baby: "For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulder and His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

In other words, Jesus the Son of God is the greatest of the great. As Prince he is in charge of all governments. This Jesus is the Mighty God. He is wonderful and everlasting. Jesus who is very God became very man, a newborn baby wrapped in swaddling clothes. In his human birth, Jesus laid aside His glory and power. He became "swaddled" --- humble and human and restricted. The Wonderful One lived the life of a commoner. This Jesus, the Supreme Counselor, remained silent before His accusers. This Mighty God refused to call legions of angels to rescue Him on the cross. The Everlasting Father was an obedient Son. Jesus, the Prince of Peace, was wounded for our sins. The swaddling of the baby Jesus was a sign of God's love and care.

I remember another time Jesus was wrapped in another kind of swaddling clothes. They took Him down from the cross, prepared Him with spices, wrapped Him in burial cloth and laid Him in the tomb. He was wrapped in death. But these swaddling clothes could not keep God Almighty restricted. The tomb could not hold the Everlasting Father. The Prince of Peace, who is our salvation, lives to reign as the King of kings and Lord of lords. Remember! This was all for you. God loves you very much!!!

Pastor Lewis and Marcia Weaver

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### Memorials

#### Martha Jo Ballard

Ray & Jean Adams

#### Edward Brooks

Ray & Jean Adams, Joyce Blount,  
Christ United Methodist Church, Bobby & Margaret Kirk,  
The Action Group, The United Methodist Women

#### Mary Emma Henley

Bill & Helen Britton, Roy Crawford & Family, Dottie Leonard,  
Lucille H. Paris, Franklin & Joann Stanton,  
Charles & Nancy Worley, The Wesley Class

#### Louise Mason

Ray & Jean Adams, Joyce Blount,  
Christ United Methodist Church, Bobby & Margaret Kirk,  
The Action Group, The United Methodist Women

#### Daisy Ricker

Ray & Jean Adams, Rick & Whitney Ball, Joyce Blount,  
Bob & Pat Bradford, Bill & Helen Britton,  
Mary, Vernon & Greg Carder, Susan & James Colyer,  
Roy Crawford & Family, Glenn & Shirley Eddington,  
Mrs. Freddie Harris, Freddie & Lollie Lamb, Dottie Leonard,  
Lucille H. Paris, Mack & Flo Mitchell, Frances Smith  
Franklin & Joann Stanton, Charles & Nancy Worley,  
The Inspirational Group, The Wesley Class

#### Margaret Ruth Smith

Bobby & Margaret Kirk

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**Reminder:** During the month of December, please pray from 12:00 - 12:05 p.m. for nurses and support staff.

### Christian sympathies are extended:

to Taylor Brooks in the death of his brother, Edward Brooks.

to Blanche Sauls in the death of her sister, Louise Mason.

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### New Membership

We welcome our newest members: Tom & Frances Gregory, Kathy Gregory and Gary Gregory. They united with us on November 25.

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### **J.O.Y. Group** Christmas Meal Reminder

For those of you who have made reservations (they needed to be made by December 4), this is just a reminder. We'll be gathering at the New Mill Wheel Restaurant (which is actually inside the Italian Village restaurant bldg.) on **FRIDAY**, December 7, at 6:00.

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### Trustees' Meeting

Sunday, December 9 - directly after morning worship  
(Please meet in the parlor.)

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### Poinsettia Orders

The cost is \$7.50. See Kim Abelson for an order form. The deadline to order is December 9.

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## Chili Cook-Off

**Sunday, December 9**

**(directly after church)**

Come eat chili with us!

Everyone is invited.

Vote for your favorite chili!!

**Youth Fund-Raiser & Fellowship**

**NEW BEGINNINGS: Broken Wings**

**Meets each Thursday at 7:00 p.m. (at CHRIST UMC)**

**Marcia Weaver, Facilitator**

- feeling stressed, depressed, burned out
- divorced      --single parent      --grieving (death or loss recovery)
- experiencing empty nest

If so, this class is for you. It is a unique approach to healing. It is an inspirational class for adults, only an hour a week. It is a time to share your feelings, to get a weekly "HUG" and to meet new friends also going through a difficult time. Bring your favorite music, poem, book or friend. This is meant to be very informal and is a peaceful "den-like" setting. This group is open to the church and the general public. Storms come in our life and God can be our rock. Trust HIM and call on HIM in the middle of your storm.

If you want to help or attend, contact Marcia Weaver. In an effort to determine room size, interest, growth potential, etc., please call or e-mail with your intention to attend. You are also welcome to join at anytime.

Contact info: [marciaweaver@yahoo.com](mailto:marciaweaver@yahoo.com) or 423-638-6364

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**Pastor-Parish-Staff Relations Committee Meeting**

Monday, December 10 - 7:00 p.m.  
(Please meet in the parlor.)

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**Angel Tree**

It is Christmas time again and time for our annual Angel Tree. Come by and brighten up your Christmas by helping others in need. All angels are local and in need. Please wrap all presents (attach the angel name on the outside) and return by Friday, December 14. Thank you so much!

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**Christmas Post Office**

Cards may be mailed to the congregation for 10¢ a card. The last day that cards will be accepted is December 15. Please visit the post office in the church lobby.

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**Prayer Ushers & Cover Prayer**

**December 9** Prayer Ushers: Vicki Kirk & Kay Grissom

Cover Prayer: Kim

Abelson

**December 16** Prayer Ushers: Betsy & Charlie Keller

**December 23** Prayer Ushers: Debbie & Haden Scott

**December 30** Prayer Ushers: Rhonda Johnson & Kim Abelson

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**Thank You**

Our family appreciated so much the love shown to us by each of you with your prayers, loving words and gifts of food. I know Christ United Methodist Church and each of you were very dear to Mother. She was blessed to have such wonderful Christian friends.

**Becky, Buddy, Tiffany, Andy, Brad, Christy and Emma**

**Kids Club** would like to thank all of you for the generous contributions made to pay for the Sunday Night meal. We love and appreciate you very much!

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**January Ushers**

Richard Adams, Todd King, Tim Leonard,  
Chad Ricker, Ron Metcalfe

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**Newsletter Schedule**

Due to the Holiday Season, the next Newsletter will be January 8. **Please submit your Newsletter articles to the church office by January 2.**

**January Birthdays**

- 3. Fawn Johnston
- 6. Keith Kilday
- 8. Kiley Scott
- 9. Wanda Ricker
- 10. Lee Ann MacIntyre
- 11. Richard Adams, Robert Adams  
Tessie McCorkle, Austin Owens
- 13. Jeff Grissom
- 15. Heather Stiles
- 16. Michael Kirk
- 17. Shane Stiles
- 18. Lane Wilson Doane
- 19. Mike Burns
- 20. Zachary Wood
- 27. Ray Adams, John Michael Hardin
- 28. Annette Burger
- 31. Nicole Jeffers

**Please note that the Birthdays are published a month in advance. The February Birthdays will be listed in the January Newsletter.**

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*This month's needs for:*

**FOOD BANK** - canned hams (any size), plus any other type of canned meat, soup, oatmeal, canned fruit & peanut butter.

**HOLSTON HOME** - 3-ring loose-leaf binders (1", 2" or 3") - black & assorted colors, packs of 3-ring notebook Tab Divider sheets with clear or colored tabs

Any food or school items are always welcome. But, those listed above are the items of emphasis or need this month. You may place your donated items in the appropriate basket on the floor, across from the church office.

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**Holiday Events**

**Evelyn Murphy Class Christmas Party**

Saturday, December 8 - 6:00 p.m. (in fellowship hall)

**Inspirational Group "Christmas Dinner"**

**Thursday**, December 13 - 6:30 p.m. (in fellowship hall)  
Meat, bread & drink will be provided. Please bring a covered dish. Husbands are invited!

**Christmas Cantata**

Sunday, December 16 (10:30 a.m.) No Early Worship

**"Celebrate" Christmas Program**

Sunday, December 16 (6:00 p.m.)

We need our church members! If you will be involved in our Sunday evening Christmas Celebration with songs, instruments, recitation, and drama skits, please let Amy Thomas know. It will be followed by finger foods and gathering in the fellowship hall and our surprise guest.

**No evening activities at the church on Sunday, December 23 and Sunday, December 30.**

**Christmas Eve Communion & Candlelight Service**

Monday, December 24 - 6:30 p.m.

**Office Closed:** December 24 - 25 & Dec. 31 - Jan. 1

**UMW Epiphany Celebration & Brunch**

Saturday, January 5 - 9:30 a.m.

All ladies (all ages) are invited! We encourage you to come and fellowship with us!

## Stewardship & Offering Reports November 11 - December 2

**STEWARDSHIP FOR NOVEMBER 11, 2007**

**STEWARDSHIP FOR NOVEMBER 26, 2007**

8:30 a.m. Worship Service	12
8:30 a.m. Worship Service	10
10:30 a.m. Worship Service	78
10:30 a.m. Worship Service	84
Sunday School	55
Sunday School	47

**OPERATING BUDGET RECEIVED \$ 4,155.98**

**OPERATING BUDGET RECEIVED \$ 2,576.00**

By Mail & Other	782.00
Mail & Other	110.00
Sunday School	74.48
Sunday School	28.00
Morning Worship	3,299.50
Morning Worship	2,438.00

**OTHER RECEIPTS 1,174.50**

**OTHER RECEIPTS \$ 237.00**

Memorial Fund	360.00
Memorial Fund	190.00
Conference Askings	350.00
United Methodist Student Day	20.00
Africa Hunger	50.00
His Kids	2.00
Youth Rally	289.50
Rebekah Simmerman	25.00
Evelyn Murphy Class	25.00

**TOTAL OFFERING RECEIVED \$ 2,813.00**

**Dishes 100.00**

**TOTAL OFFERING RECEIVED \$ 5,330.48**

**STEWARDSHIP FOR NOVEMBER 18, 2007**

**STEWARDSHIP FOR DECEMBER 2, 2007**

8:30 a.m. Worship Service	13
10:30 a.m. Worship Service	95
10:30 a.m. Worship Service	82
Sunday School	43
Sunday School	51

**OPERATING BUDGET RECEIVED \$ 2,278.00**

**OPERATING BUDGET RECEIVED \$ 1,818.00**

Mail & Other	182.00	By Mail
& Other	.00	Sunday
School	63.00	
Sunday School	58.00	
Morning Worship	2,033.00	
Morning Worship	1,760.00	

**OTHER RECEIPTS 1,280.55**

**OTHER RECEIPTS 415.55**

Memorial Fund	35.00
Memorial Fund	105.00
Conference Askings	1,100.00

Conference Askings	150.00
Africa Hunger	50.00
Dishes	10.00
Rebekah Simmerman	25.00
Prepare a Place	25.00
His Kids	50.55
Elevator	25.00
Dishes	20.00
His Kids	50.55

**TOTAL OFFERING RECEIVED \$ 3,558.55**

**Rebekah Simmerman 50.00**

**TOTAL OFFERING RECEIVED \$ 2,233.55**

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By

**Holston Home "Fifth Sunday" is December 30.**

The mission of Holston United Methodist Home for Children in Greeneville is to provide hope and healing to children and families struggling with life's challenges. You can help give children and youth a better life, a good education, and a chance to develop into Christian men and women. Your interest determines their future.

**Wednesday Women's Bible Study** will start back on January 2, at 12:30. We will be doing the Beth Moore study on the "Life of Paul".

**All Sunday evening activities will resume on January 6. All Wednesday night activities will resume on January 9.**

**Morristown District Day of Vision is Saturday, January 12, at Panther Springs UMC in Morristown.** Registration 9-9:30; Workshops 9:30-11:30; Lunch 11:30-12:30; Workshops 12:30-3:00. A donation of \$10 per person registered would help to cover the cost of food and resources.

If you would like your e-mail address listed in the new address directory that will come out early next year, please contact the church office or e-mail the church at [christum307@yahoo.com](mailto:christum307@yahoo.com).

*Merry Christmas and  
Happy New Year!!!*