

December 2010

THE CROSS & FLAME

A Publication of the Vernon United Methodist Church



What's Do We Bring to the Christ?

By Pastor Alec

In the Christmas rush to get the shopping done and find the right gifts for everyone on our list, the person that often gets forgotten or ignored altogether is the one whose birthday we celebrate. Reminders not to forget become a burden to us, even annoying. We learn to just shut ourselves off. The Salvation Army collection kettles, the food, coat, and toy drives become easy targets of our cynicism because they make us uneasy as we pass them by with bags and bags of presents in each hand.

Lets keep things in perspective. The holidays are here today and gone tomorrow but Christmas is forever. The Christ Mass, our worship of the incarnate God in Jesus Christ is forever. You wouldn't come to church on Sunday to worship and fall in love with the candlesticks at the altar would you? The glitter and gold is nice, but what good is all of that if our hearts are not good and true?

I want to challenge you this Christmas to give 10% of your total spending to enable the ministries of your church. Honor and remember Christ's birth by remembering his message to the poor and needy. It is a time of giving. Let us give with all of our hearts and minds.

House of Gold

By Hank Williams

People steal, they cheat and lie
For wealth and what it will buy
Don't they know on the judgment day
That their gold and silver will melt away

I'd rather be in a deep, dark grave
And know that my poor soul was saved
Than to live in this world in a house of gold
And deny my God and doom my soul

Jesus said ,come on to me
I'll break sin's chains and set you free
I'll carry you to a home on high
Where you'll never, never die

What good is gold and silver, too
When your heart's not good and true
Sinner hear me when I say
Fall down on your knees and pray

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Xmas Eve Services

This year we are having four Christmas Eve services. They will be candle light services and the Choir will be leading us in song, but with slight differences. We hope you will come out to celebrate our Savior's birth with us as we celebrate the Christ-mass.

5 & 7 PM Services

For families with small children who need to be in bed early and for families who just want to retire early, these worship times will be most suitable

9 PM Blue Christmas

Not everyone is in a celebratory mood during the Christmas season. If you or anyone you know has suffered loss of a loved one or loss of any kind, we invite you to come and find the comfort and solace God offers when we come into His presence.

11 PM Service

For the night owls who enjoy the 'mid-night' worship just before the clock turns over to Christmas day, this worship time will be your best option. Come and worship with us!

Mission & Outreach @ VUMC

Thank you for your shoebox contributions!

We sent out 23 boxes to Operation Christmas Child and 21 boxes to our military personnel.

Mission Opportunities for December

At this special time of year, let us remember those in need. Below are some ways you can reach out to others to share God's love with them.

The Giving Tree – Our Giving Tree was put up in Fellowship Hall on Sunday, Dec. 5. There are tags on the tree with needed items requested by families that use our food pantry and or attend our community dinners. There are also tags for donations to the Caring Hearts Fund. The Caring Hearts Fund is used to help people in need pay for basic necessities such as rent, utility bills, auto repairs and medicine.

Please select a tag and bring in your gift by **Sunday, Dec. 19**. Attach your tag to your gift.

A Special Gift – Are you having trouble deciding what to give people for Christmas? Would you like to give them a more meaningful gift that reflects the true spirit of Christmas? Consider making a donation in their honor to the Caring Hearts Fund. We will have certificates available in Fellowship Hall, which you may give people to explain their gift.

Christmas Food Baskets – We will be putting together about 30 baskets for families. The basic dinner will be supplied by NORWESCAP, but we will supplement the baskets with homemade cookies, pancake mix (please buy **complete** pancake mix which only needs water) and syrup. Sign up in Fellowship Hall. Donations should be brought in by **Sunday, Dec. 19**.

Community Dinner – Wed., Dec. 29 – Casseroles (YUM!!) – While we are enjoying our Christmas celebration with our family and friends, we need to remember that there are still people who are having trouble feeding their families and making ends meet.

We will have our monthly community dinner on Dec. 29. We know there may be many people who will not be home at this time, so we really need help from those who are here. Please consider donating food and/or your time to help set up, serve and clean up.

Join us for dinner and fellowship and help make the Christmas holiday special for people in our community. Sign up in Fellowship Hall.



December 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Church Office Hours: Mon. – Fri. 9AM-1PM Food Pantry is Open During Office Hours</p> <p>Clothing Ministry Hours: Fri. & Sat. 9AM – 12PM</p> <p>THANK YOU for your valued support of our missions & ministries in 2010. We look forward to your continued support in 2011 as we eagerly serve those in need!! A Blessed Christmas to your & your family!!</p>			<p>1</p> <p>Mid-Week Worship 7:30PM</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Girl Scouts 4:30PM</p> <p>Watercolor Class 7PM</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Clothing Ministry 9AM – 12PM</p> <p>Mission & Outreach 7PM</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Clothing Ministry 9AM – 12PM</p>
<p>5</p> <p>Worship 8:30 & 10:30AM</p> <p>Sunday School 9:30–10:15AM</p> <p>Youth Group Progressive Lunch</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Morning Prayer & Meditation 6:30AM</p> <p>Alcoholics Anonymous 7PM</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Tuesday Bible Study 11:30AM</p> <p>Knitting Club 1PM</p> <p>Annual Women's Xmas Party 7PM</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Mid-Week Worship 7:30PM</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Girl Scouts 4:30PM</p> <p>Watercolor Class 7PM</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Clothing Ministry 9AM – 12PM</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Clothing Ministry 9AM – 12PM</p>
<p>12</p> <p>Worship 8:30 & 10:30AM</p> <p>Sunday School 9:30–10:15AM</p> <p>Youth Group 6-8PM</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Morning Prayer & Meditation 6:30 AM</p> <p>Alcoholics Anonymous 7PM</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Tuesday Bible Study 11:30AM</p> <p>Knitting Club 1PM</p> <p>Boy Scouts 7PM</p> <p>Choir 7:30PM</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Mid-Week Worship 7:30PM</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Girl Scouts 4:30PM</p> <p>Watercolor Class 7PM</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Clothing Ministry 9AM – 12PM</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Clothing Ministry 9AM – 12PM</p> <p>Church Xmas Party 5:30PM</p> <p>Xmas Concert 7:30PM</p>
<p>19</p> <p>Worship 8:30 & 10:30AM</p> <p>Sunday School 9:30–10:15AM</p> <p>Youth Group 6-8PM</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Morning Prayer & Meditation 6:30 AM</p> <p>Alcoholics Anonymous 7PM</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Tuesday Bible Study 11:30AM</p> <p>Knitting Club 1PM</p> <p>Boy Scouts 7PM</p> <p>Choir 7:30PM</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Mid-Week Worship 7:30PM</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Clothing Ministry Closed</p> <p>Xmas Eve Services: 5PM, 7PM & 11PM</p> <p>Blue Xmas Service: 9PM</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Clothing Ministry Closed</p> <p>A Blessed Christmas to All Families & Friends of VUMC!!</p>
<p>26</p> <p>Sunday Worship at 8:30 & 10:30AM</p> <p>No Sunday School or Youth Group</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Morning Prayer & Meditation 6:30 AM</p> <p>Alcoholics Anonymous 7PM</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Community Dinner: Casseroles 6:30 PM</p> <p>Healing & Anointing Service 7:30PM</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p> <p>Clothing Ministry Closed</p>	



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TO: