

Koinonia *focus*

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | TALLAHASSEE HEIGHTS UMC | DECEMBER 2019

"And when the centurion, which stood over against him, saw that he so cried out and gave up the ghost, he said "Truly this man was the Son of God." -Mark 15:39

This little message I'd like to share with you was discovered a few years ago in a tract...

Jesus Christ was born in the meanest circumstances, but the air above was filled with the hallelujahs of the heavenly host. His lodging was a little pen, but a star drew distinguished visitors from afar to pay homage unto Him.

His birth was contrary to the laws of life. His death was contrary to the laws of death. No miracle is so inexplicable as His life and teaching. He had no cornfields or fisheries, but He could spread a table for 5000 and have bread and fishes to spare.

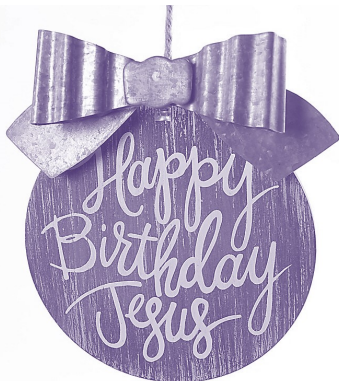
Three years He preached His gospel. He wrote no book, built no church, had no money backing Him. After 2000 years, He is the one central character of human history... the perpetual theme of all preaching... the pivot around which events of the age revolve... the only regenerator of the human race.

Was it merely the son of Joseph and Mary that crossed the horizon more than 2000 years ago? Was it merely human blood that was shed on Calvary's hill for the redemption of sinners, and which has worked such wonders in men and nations throughout the centuries? What thinking man or woman can keep from exclaiming, "My Lord and My God!"

Christmas. The coming of Christ was a journey no one has ever taken before-or since. But all can travel the road from man to God.

As you travel the road home for the Christmas holidays, make sure that you have made your start on the road that leads to our eternal home.

Have a blessed and peaceful Christmas.



Church Events

- Dec 9th - Plenty Past 20
- Dec 10th - Vida Cooper Christmas Dinner and Suzanna Wesley Christmas
- Dec 15th - Cantata (11am Service)
- Dec 21st - Children's Christmas Party
- Dec 24 - 7pm Christmas Eve Service
- Dec 25th - Christmas Day

Thank you for your support with Thank You cards for veterans who are in the Lake City Hospital! May I ask you to support another effort to send Christmas Cards? Can you image how hard it would be to be in the hospital on Christmas?

So calling all wonderful, thoughtful card writers please between now and Sunday, December 15 prepare cards with friendly greeting and bring them to church. The basket will be waiting, so let's fill it up.

You rock painting people, if you would like to surprise a veteran with a painted rock, please do.

You will be blessed as you bless others. Thank you for all you do!

Anne Pelt



Vida Cooper Circle Annual Christmas Dinner

The Vida Cooper Circle will meet on Tuesday, December 10, for our annual Christmas Dinner.

We will dine at Little Italy on Magnolia Drive at 1:00 pm.

Please contact Bobbie Prine at 877-6448, 559-5509 or bcprine@embarqmail.com if you plan to attend.

Suzanna Wesley Circle Christmas Dinner

The Suzanna Wesley Circle will have their Christmas Dinner on Tuesday, December 10th at 6:30 pm at the home of Darlene Blain. Her address is 1061 Lovers Lane.

PLENTY PAST 20 NEWS

You don't want to miss our Plenty Past 20 luncheon on December 9th at 11:30!

Our very own Elizabeth Ostrus will be our guest speaker. She brings with her a media presentation put together by some people in her office. It shows maps of old Tallahassee side by side with maps of today. It also shows us pictures of old Tallahassee landmarks and establishments.

Bring a covered dish to share and join us for this very interesting tour of the Past.

We look forward to seeing you.




Reverse Advent Calendar

In the days leading up to Christmas, draw closer to the Lord by reading a chapter of Luke each day and love your neighbors by adding the suggested food item to a gift box.

Bring the filled box to Church on December 29th as a donation to Farm Share.

December 1 -	Read Luke 1	Box of Cereal
December 2 -	Read Luke 2	Jar of Peanut Butter
December 3 -	Read Luke 3	Canned Meat
December 4 -	Read Luke 4	Boxed Potatoes
December 5 -	Read Luke 5	Macaroni and Cheese
December 6 -	Read Luke 6	Canned Fruit
December 7 -	Read Luke 7	Canned Pasta - (Chef Boyardee)
December 8 -	Read Luke 8	Canned Tuna
December 9 -	Read Luke 9	Box of Granola Bars
December 10 -	Read Luke 10	Jar of Applesauce
December 11 -	Read Luke 11	Canned Sweet Potatoes
December 12 -	Read Luke 12	Canned Vegetables
December 13 -	Read Luke 13	Can Bake Beans
December 14 -	Read Luke 14	Box of Crackers
December 15 -	Read Luke 15	Package of Rice
December 16 -	Read Luke 16	Package of Oatmeal
December 17 -	Read Luke 17	Package of Pasta
December 18 -	Read Luke 18	Spaghetti Sauce
December 19 -	Read Luke 19	Chicken Noodle Soup
December 20 -	Read Luke 20	Tomato Soup
December 21 -	Read Luke 21	Can of Corn
December 22 -	Read Luke 22	Canned Meat
December 23 -	Read Luke 23	Jelly
December 24 -	Read Luke 24	Can of Green Beans



THE OLD HE-COON

By Sandy Kelley

The old he-coon ambled slowly toward the thicket. He was hungry but his teeth were old, and his gums were sore. He found it increasingly difficult to consume anything but the spongiest foods. In fact, he was so hungry he might be tempted to try chewing on a fresh fish...if he could catch one. Old age had slowed his responses and had messed with his timing. An omnivore, he hadn't been able to chew any but the softest food in several days. Worms and grubs might be part of his standard diet, but his nose was telling him that something sweet was just ahead. Now, he would eat anything, but something sugary! Man-o-man! That would be a treat. Sure enough, just at the edge of the thicket where the rising sun shone through the trees, was a feast! During a windstorm, a late bearing fruit tree had dropped a sweet bounty onto the ground. He wouldn't even need to climb the tree! Generally, he would dip his food in water, increasing the sensitivity of his fingers to help him identify and categorize food. He was just too keen to worry about it today. He would depend on what his nose was telling him.

Hobbling as fast as old joints would let him, he walked toward the fragrant aroma of honied nourishment. What a feast! Ripe persimmons laying on the ground in abundance. Hungrily, he grasped the pungent fruit with nimble fingers and began to eat. The soft, luscious yield didn't cause sore gums to throb and was easy to gobble down. He ate until he could hold no more. Moving even more slowly now that there were no hunger pangs to soothe, he moseyed toward his burrow to sleep through the day. His nest was in a semi-closed hollow of a giant oak tree. He had lived there for the past year. Generally, he moved frequently and had thought about finding another den but somehow, he just didn't have the energy to look further. He had mated earlier in the year but had left his companion's den before the pesky kits were born. Who wanted to be bothered by two or more infants constantly mewling for food? He was very comfortable in this den. He had lined the area with grasses and had found an old blanket piece that he dragged in to keep him snug and warm.

What a life he had! He was among the most intelligent of the animals and could outsmart the few predators that might bother him. He could sleep for weeks at the time, waking only to forage when his body had utilized its' stored fat. Nutrition was always available and if the food sources in his immediate area diminished, there were always other areas to explore. While he enjoyed the companionship of the opposite sex, he preferred a bachelor existence for most of the year. At times he might band with a group of brothers to hunt for food or to keep warm on especially cold nights. But, most often, he preferred to keep to himself. All his needs were met without him lifting a finger. Well, he did need to catch and eat his own food but basically, he had a sustained existence. Best of all, he didn't have to live in the hectic White House like "Rebecca" who was sent there when Calvin Coolidge was president. She had been offered as a Thanksgiving "dish" but thankfully they consumed only turkey to celebrate the occasion. (*Rebecca was kept as a pet until the Coolidge family left the White House and Rebecca was donated to a zoo. The Coolidge family had obtained a male companion for Rebecca, Rueben, but he liberated himself.*)

In the wild, the lifespan of a raccoon is anywhere from 2-5 years generally, (estimates vary according to source). In captivity, they may live up to 20 years. Our protagonist is getting older and suffers the changes of time, just as many of us do. Regardless, he continues to live out his lifespan supported by the provisions that God arranged from the beginning.

Psalm 104:14-21 – *"You cause the grass to grow for the cattle, and plants for people to use, to bring forth food from the earth, and wine to gladden the human heart, oil to make the face shine, and bread to strengthen the human heart. The trees of the Lord are watered abundantly, the cedars of Lebanon that He planted. In them the birds build their nests; the stork has found its home in the fir trees. The high mountains are for the wild goats; the rocks are a refuge for the coneys. You have made the moon to mark the seasons; the sun knows it's time for setting. You make the darkness, and it is night, when all the animals of the forest come creeping out. The young lions roar for their prey, seeking their food from God."*

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU

Stephanie McAllister 12/01	Alyssa McKinnon 12/10	Micah Selman 12/25
Olivia Lashley 12/02	Zach McAllister 12/12	Sabrina Ballew 12/26
Elaine Barrow 12/03	Kay Szigeti 12/14	Diana Mason 12/27
Debbie Keeling 12/04	Derrick Miller 12/14	David Britt 12/29
Rebecca Stumbaugh 12/04	Clint Milner 12/14	Maurice Watson 12/29
Kay Kelly 12/06	Daniel Warren 12/16	Ken Hamilton 12/29
Zane Sheldon 12/06	Bobbie Prine 12/20	Alyssa Ledon 12/29
Don Bizzell 12/08	Bobbie Rushing 12/21	Alyssa Carter 12/29
Jack Adkins 12/09	Carol Lee Billups 12/22	Mallory Jackson 12/30
Lily Forsman 12/10	Phillip Harman 12/24	

Happy Anniversary to You!

Noah & Debbie McKinnon III, 12/3
Russell & Amy Clark, 12/6
Dennis & Kay Clark, 12/6
Kyle & Sheri Storey, 30th
Frank & June Siemon, 31st