



## PASTOR'S CHRISTMAS LETTER

December, 2011

A very well known theologian once said that if you took out one or two chapters from the New Testament writings, you would immediately see that only a small amount of space was given to the birth narratives of Jesus. The remainder of the Gospels and Letters are devoted to our Lord's Resurrection and all that implies for us.

Therefore, his argument goes, why do we spent so much time and effort celebrating Christmas which now begins right after Halloween, and so little time celebrating Easter? I suppose in some ways he is right; but may I say in a rather naïve way that were it not for the Christmas event there would be no Easter; there would be no Resurrection.

Were it not God's desire to humble Himself and come to us where we are, as we are, and out of a deep unconditional love, we would be most pitied to say the least. But that was not God's choice; and one can get a sense of the intentionality behind those events we read in Matthew and Luke. These stories are filled with so much compassion and tenderness focused on this Divine-human Savior.

*"The Point of Christmas," according to Harry R. Boer, is that "the simplest soul [is told] that God understands him. It tells him that God identifies with his problems, sorrows, hopes, frustrations, joys. God knows them not because God made him, not because God is all-knowing, but because God became a simple soul. God became a human being. God, who is the ever-blest second Person of the Trinity, became what we call a person."*

*"The story of the birth of Jesus has power over us," Chesterton once said, "not because it turns our minds to greatness ... to the wonders to be found at the ends of the earth. Rather its power is instead in something that surprises us from behind, from the hidden and personal parts of our being ..."*

It would be well worth our time and effort this Christmas if we could move away for a moment (just a moment – a silent moment) from all that is traditional, all that is familiar, all that takes our time an energy, to focus on some of the reasons Christmas has power over us; to seek that which "surprises us from behind" and lies hidden in the factual meaning of Christmas.

Perhaps it can happen in a quiet moment where we are able to read and reflect on those early chapters of Matthew and Luke; we could do that with family or friends. It may mean a small sacrifice on our part, but the Word of God is power and has the power to speak in a way that transforms.

I also ask that you make every effort to participate with your church family as we move through Advent, Christmas Eve (7:00 PM) and Christmas Sunday; for in doing so I cannot help but believe that moment will come when you are "Surprised from behind" by the real impact of Christmas.

I believe that this year the celebration of the Birth of Christ offers a special opportunity to participate in two days together as a worshipping community on Saturday evening and Sunday morning. I pray that you will be present for both these services which promise to be a time of sharing, prayer, special music and singing of our favorite Christmas hymns.

Peace/Shalom  
Pastor Frank



*Happy Birthday!!*

Paula Nitschke      December 28



*Happy Anniversary!!*

Edwin & Claire Smith      December 16  
Zhong & Lanlan Chen      December 26

In Our Prayers

Please keep the following people in your prayers this month:  
-Thank you

Jack Williams  
Herb Randle



*Christmas Eve  
Open House*



*Everyone is invited to a  
Christmas Eve Open House  
in the Fellowship Hall  
Dec 24th from 4:30-6:30pm.*

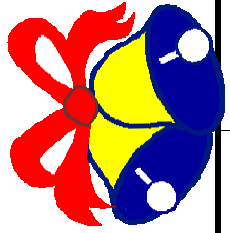
*If you would like, you are welcome to bring a dessert or a snack to share.*

*Following the Open House, our special Christmas Eve Candle Light Service  
will be held at 7:00pm. This is a joint service with the Boston-West Korean  
Presbyterian Church. It is a service of praise, reflection and silent  
anticipation of the birth of our Lord.*

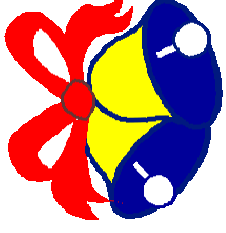


*I look forward to seeing everyone and sharing in the  
Joy of the Holidays !!  
-Pastor Frank*





# December 2011



	1	2	3
4 Advent # 2 10:00 Worship 11:00 Fellowship 1:00 Korean Church Christmas Tree Sale 11:30-4:00	7 7:30 <i>Choir</i>	9 10:00am Mother's Group 7:30-10:30 Korean Church	10 Cookie Sale 10am Christmas Tree Sale 9-4
11 Advent #3 10:00 Worship 11:00 Fellowship 1:00 Korean Church Christmas Tree Sale 11:30-4:00	14 7:30 <i>Choir</i>	16 10:00am Mother's Group 7:30-10:30 Korean Church	17 Christmas Tree Sale 9-4
18 Advent #4 10:00 Worship 11:00 Fellowship 1:00 Korean Church Christmas Tree Sale 11:30-4:00	21 7:30 <i>Choir</i>	23 10:00am Mother's Group 7:30-10:30 Korean Church	24 Christmas Eve Open House 4:30-6:30pm Christmas Eve Service 7:00pm
25 Christmas Sunday 10:00 Worship 11:00 Fellowship 1:00 Korean Church Christmas Tree Sale	28	30	31 New Year's Eve



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