

Ceresco Baptist Church ~ The Ceresco Messenger

December 2021 - "Jesus is the Reason for the Season"

The Lord's Light Within

Lord we reflect with thankful hearts On the wonder of your birth
The love you expressed when you left Your glory to come to earth

For your life was like a beacon, Lord Shining brightly in the night
Filling the world with the radiance of The Father's glorious light

And we, too, long to have inside Your light for others to see
The beautiful reflection of your grace And the wonder of your majesty

For as your life indwells our hearts We can shine wherever we are
And arise to take hold of each new day With your light ablaze in our hearts

So rekindle the flame within us Lord So it will not flicker nor dim
Ignite us with the light of your love So you will shine brightly within

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FIRST CORINTHIANS 13, CHRISTMAS VERSION

If I decorate my house perfectly with plaid bows, Strands of twinkling lights and shiny balls, But do not show love to my family, I'm just another decorator.

If I slave away in the kitchen, Baking dozens of Christmas cookies, Preparing gourmet meals And arranging a beautifully adorned table at mealtime, but do not show love to my family, I'm just another cook.

If I work at the soup kitchen, carol in the nursing home And give all that I have to charity, But do not show love to my family, It profits me nothing.

If I trim the spruce with shimmering angels and crocheted snowflakes, attend a myriad of holiday parties And sing in the choir's cantata, But do not focus on Christ, I have missed the point.

Love stops the cooking to hug the child. Love sets aside the decorating to kiss the husband. Love is kind, though harried and tired. Love doesn't envy another's home that has coordinated Christmas china and table linens.

Love doesn't yell at the kids to get out of the way but is thankful they are there to be in the way. Love doesn't give only to those who are able to give in return but rejoices in giving to those who can't. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails.

Video games will break, pearl necklaces will be lost, golf clubs will rust... But giving the gift of love will endure. May we love one another this Christmas as God has loved us

Martha Circle Report - October 2021

Members of the Martha Circle met at the church on Oct. 13, 2021. Those present were: Pastor Mary, Marcy B, Ruth S, Joyce C, Dawn F, Gretchen K, Donna R, Joanne H, Sharon H, Linda C, Joy S.

Devotions - Sharon read from the "Then Sings My Soul" book, reading There shall be showers of blessings.

Secretary/Treasurer: Available checking balance forward \$1718.24, less \$105.82 Love Gift for March-Sept 2021, less \$50 for Pastor Mary's Pastor Appreciation Gift from Martha Circle, add \$10 additional for Treasure Sale, and \$6 for RADA, new available balance was \$1,578.42. Need to give the Deacon Fund 10% of the Treasure Sale proceeds, so \$102.00 to Deacon Fund. Leaves an available balance of \$1,476.42.

Sunshine - sent cards to Penny Wood, Joyce Cary, Ron Chisholm, thank you to Betty Collins for Treasure Sale donations, Margie Cole, Pam Lutz. Send cards to: John & Ruth Paschen, Bud Halder, Dick Rivers, Lou Ann Brown.

Sharon reported that the cost of the three new handicap toilets was \$580.00, a check should be issued to Bob Beltz.

We have three fleece blankets available to give to people.

New Business: Motion by Joanne Henley, second by Joy Sommers to donate \$25.00 to the World Mission Offering.

Collections: Devotional \$37.50, Love Gift \$24.50

Bible Study was Matthew 20:1-16, the Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard.

We enjoyed refreshments, and then packed the Operation Christmas Child Boxes. We filled 23, and have items to fill a couple more to get us to the 25 that Martha Circle is paying the \$9 shipping fee. Any additional boxes will need to have the \$9 fee paid by the person donating them. We sang Happy Birthday to Pastor Mary and Dawn Frey. Gretchen King prayed a blessing over the food and the OCC boxes.

Men's Choir, Dec. 19th!

Attention all men of all ages. Want to sing joyfully for the Lord? On Sunday, Dec 19, you will have the chance to sing "Joy to the World" together with all the men of the church. Song sheets will be provided.



Contemporary Sing!

3rd Sunday of Each Month

We have started something new, and it is for ALL of God's children!

At 6 pm on the 3rd Sunday of the month, we play videos of favorite hymns or contemporary Christian, or Christian children's music.

We have been having fun!

Come check it out this month!

Dec. 19th, 6 pm.

NOVEBER QUIZ QUESTION:

What was notable about Jacob's birth?

A: Genesis 25:19-26

DECEMBER QUIZ QUESTION:

Q: Why was Jesus really born?



Ceresco Baptist Church Administrative Council MINUTES – December 11, 2021

Lay Moderator Rick Frey opened with a devotion, reminding us to check our attitudes each morning with readings from Psalms and Matthew.

Clerk's Report - Minutes from the Sept. 2021 meeting were in the Messenger.

Financial Secretary - Dawn Frey: General Fund receipts for Sep-Nov 2020 was \$16,773, Sep-Nov 2021 was \$19,533

Treasurer's Report - Mary Ivey (reports will be handed out) We are not overbudget! We have a \$10,000 CD that is going to mature on 12/13/21. Motion by Dawn Frey, second by Marcy Bonney to let it roll over, motion carried.

Pastor's Report – Pastor Mary: Goal for this quarter was to attend many ministry meetings, and the only one she hasn't been able to make is Tuesday morning Bible Study. Will reschedule the meeting we had planned for Dec. 5th.

MACS Report – Marcy Bonney: Dark Horse-Sept.18/19 Food Drive for MACS, Paper and I (Craft Store) Oct 5/6/7 Online Auction-for MACS was held, Stuff the Bus by Lions Club-Nov. 6th-Kmart Parking Lot was held. Many donations! Accepted Donations of Toys-ov.15/16 Trinity Church. Christmas Basket Week-Dec. 5-Dec. 9. Like last year- Limited Workers-Shifts. No Adoptions as MACS will do all applicants, MACS informed schools that food & coats would be available if needed. Other coat donations, from our Church, this year were given to Charitable Union. Meetings were held in Oct & Nov at Family Bible Church @ 7pm No meeting in Dec or Jan.

Worship Ministry Team – Mary: Thank you to everyone that helped with the Hanging of the Greens. Had a great Thanksgiving Eve Service at First Baptist Church, Marshall. Advent Sundays (Nov 28- Dec 19), Pastor Mary contacted children to do the readings before she lights the Advent candles. The banners changed for Christmas at the Hanging of the Greens. Dec 24 – Joint Christmas Eve Service at Ceresco is cancelled. No Worship Service on December 26, 2021 but Pastor Mary will record a sermon to be posted online. January 2 – following Worship Service – put away Christmas decorations. No Sunday School that day. No meal. The next WMT meeting will be the organizational meeting – TBD

Property Management Ministry Team - Deb Beltz: Replaced 3 toilets, Worked on plumbing on toilet, Repair on basement door, Repair of basement window, Worked on light in library, Replaced lights in library, Met with Sims about heater in library – has been fixed!! Pilot tube needs to be cleaned every other year. Need to look at the front door – something with the bar is keeping the door from closing properly. Children's chair legs in SS room need to be tightened. Front sign may not get changed weekly if it freezes shut.

Deacon Ministry Team – Roger: Gretchen & Roger have been helping Pastor when requested. Communion individual cups have been thrown away, as they are expired. Need additional Deacons – Gretchen would like to step down.

Educational Ministry Team - Marcy Bonney: Children's Sunday School-held when Children are present. Children's Time-covered. Volunteers requested. Harvest Gathering-26 Attended includes 8 Children. Samaritan Purse/Operation Christmas Child-32 Boxes. Donations of items from Congregation. Cost and filling of boxes done by the Martha Circle.

Contemporary Sing-Started by Joy/Darlene once a month. Youth and all Congregation invited. Next one is the 19th.

Christmas Bags prepared for 15 Youth. Family Nights have resumed -Speakers (October/Ruth and Don St. John) (November/MACS President Harriet Carroll) December Family Night is cancelled. Fellowship Sundays have begun , but No Fellowship Sunday in December. Easter Plans 2022-to be determined Next Quarter Meeting-to be determined

Boy Scouts - Dawn found a wallet on Tuesday morning after a Scout Meeting and turned it over the MPS.

New Business/Open Items: 1. Brad Ray – copier contracted maintenance being discontinued effective 1/1/22. Can still offer service on the machine for \$95 for the first hour, plus parts. 2. Nominating Committee – Roger Sommers – presented proposed slate of officers. Motion by Mary Ivey, second by Dawn Frey to approve as presented, motion carried. 3. The Region Office has selected 14 churches – put together a two-year program for core leadership. Pastor Mary will be attending on the 4th Thursday of each month. “Thriving in Church Ministry”



Flower Sign-Up

December 2021

12/5 - Open

12/12 - Poinsettias

12/19 - Poinsettias

12/26 - CLOSED



Children's Time Sign-Up for December:

12/5 - Sharon

12/12 - Sharon

12/19 - Sharon

12/26 - CLOSED

Martha Circle Minutes, November 10, 2021

Present: Dawn Frey, Gretchen King, Linda Chisholm, Darlene Anthony, Veronica Anthony, Joanne Henley, Sharon Hadley, Vi Halder, Joyce Cary, Ruth St. John, Marcy Bonney, & Joy Sommers

Devotions – Dawn Frey – read “His Magnificent Stained Glass Window” and 1 Cor. 12:27. We can accept God’s help, or stay on the ground in the broken pieces of our lives. Stained glass windows are examples of what can be done with broken pieces of glass.

Secretary/Treasurer Report – Joy - Beginning balance \$933.42 (after last month’s allocations).

Sunshine – Joanne Henley – sent cards to Bud Halder (TOY), Dick Rivers, Lou Ann Brown, John & Ruth Paschen, T/Y to Rick, Dave & Bob for the new toilets, Ron Chisholm, Art Ruthruff, Rick & Dawn Frey (sympathy), Bob & Debby Beltz (sympathy). Need to reimburse Joanne for a roll of stamps.

Missions – read info from International Ministries, and latest email from Katherine Niles. Darlene read information from the World Vision Gift Catalog. Motion by Sharon Hadley, second by Marcy Bonney to donate \$215 to World Vision to purchase 1 goat, 2 ducks, 3 rabbits & 4 chickens. Motion passed.

Educational Ministry Team wants people to sign up their children/grandchildren to receive Christmas bags this year from the church. Need names/info by Nov. 21st so the shopping can get done, and have the bags available on Sunday, Dec. 12th. This project went over very well last year. Also, on the third Sunday, having a Contemporary Sing at 6 pm at the church. Family Night – Nov. 17th, 6 pm – Thanksgiving Dinner, Roger will be cooking the turkey, stuffing, gravy & potatoes. Rest of the meal is a potluck. We will have Harriet Carroll from MACS will be our guest speaker.

Motion by Ruth St. John, second by Dawn Frey to give \$25 to the following for Christmas: Missionary Niles, Missionary Guitierrez, Scholarship Girl, and RMMO. Motion passed.

Collections: Love Gift \$15.90, Devotional \$21.02

Bible Study, 1 John 2:28-30

After Bible Study discussion, we enjoyed refreshments. Next meeting is on Dec. 8th – it is our Christmas Party – bring a white elephant gift (something you already have and don’t want), and a favorite treat. We will not have an actual business meeting. Reminder, we do not meet in January & February, so the next business meeting will be in March.

Martha Circle is open to all ladies of the church, all ages! Join us if you can when we resume in March 2022!

A Christmas Lesson

"Is there a purpose? Why are we here?"
A little boy asked as the yuletide drew near.
"I really do hope that someday I will know
The reason we stand out here in the snow,
Ringing this bell as people walk by
While snowflakes descend from out of the sky."

The mother just smiled at her shivering son
Who would rather be playing and having some fun,
But soon would discover before evening was done
The meaning of Christmas, the very first one.

The young boy exclaimed, "Mother, where do they go,
All the pennies we collect every year in the snow?
Why do we do it? Why do we care?
We work for these pennies, so why should we share?"

"Because once a small baby, so meek and so mild
Was born in a manger," She said to the child.
"The Son of a King was born in this way,
To give us the message He carried that day."

"You mean Baby Jesus? Is He why we're here,
Ringing this bell at Christmas time every year?"
"Yes," said the mother. "That is why you should know
About the very first Christmas a long time ago."

"The present God gave to the world on that night
Was the gift of His Son to make everything right.
Why did He do it? Why did He care?
To teach about loving and how we should share."

"The meaning of Christmas, you see, my dear son,
Is not about presents and just having fun.
But the gift of a Father—His own precious Son—
So the world would be saved when His work was all done."

Now the little boy smiled with a tear in his eye,
As snowflakes kept falling from out of the sky—
Rang louder the bell as the people walked by
While down deep in his heart at last he knew why.

--Tom Krause



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Dec 18 Ryan Boysen
Dec 21 Rayna Sommers
Dec 27 John Paschen, 1939
Dec 28 Donna Ruthruff
Dec 28 Candace Ivey
Dec 30 Viviana Anthony

Jan 1 Michael Meng
Jan 4 Avery Goodman
Jan 13 Bob Beltz
Jan 18 Brian Gary
Jan 25 Emily Ivey
Jan 28 Harlynn Casey



Dec 23 Ken & Kay Davis
Jan 3 John & Ruth Paschen, 1959



As Long as There's a Christmas

The first few lights glow brightly,
as you watch the season start.
You know you should be happy,
but don't feel it in your heart.

Instead you think about a time
when someone laughed with you,
and the love you shared then filled your soul.
But too soon it was through.

So Christmas comes with sadness,
and a yearning deep inside,
a thirst for love and peace and hope
that will not be denied.

Late one night you hear a voice,
so soft, and without blame,
and then, surprised, you realize,
He's calling you by name.

"I know your hurt and loneliness,
the heartache that you bear.
I listen and I cry with you
through every single prayer.

"I promised in the manger
and fulfilled it from the cross.
I built a home that's filled with love
for all those who are lost.

"So let me come and heal your heart
and give you rest within.
For my way is kind and gentle
and will bring you joy again."

His words still echo through the years,
a vow that He made true,
"As long as there's a Christmas,
I will be in love with you."

--Jack Zavada

RECALL NOTICE!

The Maker of all human beings (**GOD**) is recalling all units manufactured, regardless of make or year, due to a serious defect in the primary and central component of the heart. This is due to a malfunction in the original prototype units code named Adam and Eve, resulting in the reproduction of the same defect in all subsequent units. This defect has been technically termed "Sub-sequential Internal Non-Morality," or more commonly known as **S.I.N.**, as it is primarily expressed.

Some of the symptoms include:

1. Loss of direction 2. Foul vocal emissions 3. Amnesia of origin 4. Lack of peace and joy 5. Selfish or violent behavior 6. Depression or confusion in the mental component 7. Fearfulness 8. Idolatry 9. Rebellion

The Manufacturer, Who is neither liable nor at fault for this defect, is providing factory-authorized repair and service free of charge to correct this defect. The Repair Technician, **JESUS**, has most generously offered to bear the entire burden of the staggering cost of these repairs.

There is no additional fee required. The number to call for repair in all areas is: **P-R-A-Y-E-R**. Once connected, please upload your burden of SIN through the REPENTANCE procedure. Next, download ATONEMENT from the Repair Technician, Jesus, into the heart component. No matter how big or small the SIN defect is, Jesus will replace it with: 1. Love 2. Joy 3. Peace 4. Patience 5. Kindness 6. Goodness 7. Faithfulness 8. Gentleness 9. Self control

Please see the operating manual, the **B.I.B.L.E.** (Basic Instructions Before Leaving Earth) for further details on the use of these fixes.

WARNING: Continuing to operate the human being unit without correction voids any manufacturer warranties, exposing the unit to dangers and problems too numerous to list and will result in the human unit being permanently impounded. For free emergency service, call on Jesus.

DANGER: The human being units not responding to this recall action will have to be scrapped in the furnace. The SIN defect will not be permitted to enter Heaven so as to prevent contamination of that facility.

Thank you for your attention! – **GOD**

P.S. Please assist where possible by notifying others of this important recall notice, and you may contact the Father anytime by 'Knee mail'!

'Twas the Night Before Christmas: A Christian Version

'Twas the night before Jesus came and all through the house,
Not a creature was praying not one in the house.
Their Bibles were lain on the shelf without care,
In hopes that Jesus would not come there.

The children were dressing to crawl into bed,
Not once ever kneeling or bowing a head.
And mom in her rocker with baby on her lap,
Was watching the Late Show while I took a nap.

When out of the east there arose such a clatter,
I sprang to my feet to see what was the matter
Away to the window I flew like a flash,
Tore open the shutters and threw up the sash

When what to my wondering eyes should appear,
But angels proclaiming that Jesus was here
With a light like the sun sending forth a bright ray,
I knew in a moment this must be the day.

The light of His face made me cover my head,
It was Jesus, returning just like he said
And though I possessed worldly wisdom and wealth,
I cried when I saw Him, in spite of myself.

In The Book Of Life which He held in His hand,
Was written the name of every saved man,
He spoke not a word as he searched for my name,
When He said "It's not here" my head hung in shame.

The people whose name had been written in love,
He gathered to take to His Father above
With those who are ready He rose with out a sound,
While all the rest were left standing around.

I fell to my knees but it was too late,
I had waited too long and this sealed my fate
I stood and cried as they rose out of sight,
Oh, if I had only been ready tonight.

In the words of the meaning is clear. The coming of Jesus is drawing near.
There's only one life and when comes the last call,
We'll find that the Bible was true after all.

December 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wed.	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
11/28	11/29	11/30	1	2	3	4
First Sunday of Advent, Fellowship Sunday	Scouts 7 pm	Bible Study 10 am				
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
2nd Sunday of Advent, Communion Sunday	Scouts 7 pm	Bible Study 10 am	Martha Circle Christmas - cancelled			
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
3rd Sunday of Advent	Scouts 7 pm	Bible Study 10 am	Family Night CANCELLED			
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
4th Sunday of Advent, Contemporary Sing at 6 pm		Bible Study 10 am			Christmas Eve Service - cancelled	Happy Birthday JESUS! Merry CHRISTmas!
26	27	28	29	30	31	01/01
NO SERVICES TODAY			Information for JANUARY 2022 Messenger due by noon			

1970 Budget - Ceresco Baptist Church

Custodian's Salary	\$ 720.00
Fuel (Oil & Gas)	\$ 650.00
Electricity	\$ 200.00
Insurance	\$ 300.00
Maintenance & Supplies	\$ 1,000.00
Music	\$ 100.00
Office Supplies & Mailings	\$ 400.00
Pulpit Supply	\$ 75.00
Church School - Christian Education	\$ 1,200.00
Pastor's Salary	\$ 4,350.00
Automobile Allowance	\$ 1,200.00
Parsonage Utilities	\$ 600.00
Education	\$ 100.00
Denominational Conferences	\$ 50.00
Pastoral Supplies & Books	\$ 25.00
M & M Medical Plan	\$ 304.00
M & M Retirement Plan	\$ 910.00
Miscellaneous	\$ 400.00
American Baptist Basic Mission Program	\$ 1,000.00
Diaconate - Community Fund	\$ 200.00
Dues - Assoc. & State Conv.	\$ 25.00
TOTAL	\$ 13,809.00
** Does not include the following: World Fellowship and America for Christ Offerings, W.M.S., Love Gift, or World Mission Campaign Shares	

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