

December 2009

Volume 1, Issue 4



2009

The end of the year is an appropriate time to look back over the past months to remember how God has blessed us. Throughout the year, several ministries hosted events and activities to encourage fellowship and outreach within and outside of the church.

Perhaps the single most celebrated and greatest spectacle was the Pastor's Appreciation and Birthday Celebration at Turf Valley.



The Pastor and First Lady make their entrance into the sanctuary. (Photo by Mark Dennis / November 8, 2009)

With the time, attention, and effort from several members of the church,



Rev. & Min. Yeargin's dance. (Photo by Mark Dennis / November 8, 2009)

Pastor Yeargin's 60th birthday definitely brought class and excitement. He was truly surprised and over-



(Photo by Mark Dennis / November 8, 2009)

whelmed, and I'm sure everyone was glad that we had the opportunity to show Rev. just how much we appreciate him. It will be a long remembered occasion.

Though the church did come out



(Photo by Mark Dennis / November 8, 2009)

in great numbers to support the Pastor and the ministerial staff's effort, if there were any members who were unable to attend, we've published some pictures below from the event.

Included in this edition are also pictures from several events that City

cont. on **P8**

R E G A R D I N G M A R Y

By April Jones

During the Christmas season, it is customary for us to look at Jesus. But what about Mary? What about the young teenager chosen to bear Jesus and, in so doing, bear the shame and ridicule of her peers? For today's teens, I think we should, at least for a moment, regard Mary.

As a youth advisor for the youth ministry, it is my charge at times to enlist young people for participation in the worship service on youth Sundays. This proves much more challenging than it sounds.

Amid the abrupt "No!'s," there's the hemming and hawing (imagine, "do I have to?") and the people who like you, so they don't want to tell you no, but it is obvious they just aren't interested.

These are children brought up in our church—children who are learning more and more about the nature of God and are coming to know what it means to be in a relationship with Him. So why the hesitation to do work for His kingdom?

I propose there is a litany of reasons: shyness, shame or embarrassment to let their peers see them "doing God's work," apathy, or plain laziness. But whatever the reason, it

is a spirit that the church cannot afford to abide.

For awhile now, Rev. Yeargin has beseeched us to make a conscious and deliberate attempt to grow spiri-



Photo courtesy of New Line Cinema

tually. This is not an adult-only submission. This is a church-wide submission, which means the youth of the church are also included.

Take a look once more at Mary, mother of Jesus. Like most of our youth, Mary believed in God. I don't imagine she wore a banner across her chest that read, "I am holy, saved and sanctified by God." Nor do I believe she wore a pendant saying, "I am waiting to do some great work for the Lord."

Indeed not! She lived like our youth today. She helped her family, received some education, and at-

tended a place of worship that taught her about God. She grew into such a relationship with God, that when Gabriel tells her she will become pregnant with a child, she accepts.

I'm sure she too thought about her peers and what they would have to say about an alleged virgin, ready to wed, who now ends up pregnant. She may have felt too shy or too embarrassed to carry out God's request. Having considered that part, she then remembered her relationship with God and chose to remain faithful to Him. She told the angel Gabriel, "I am the Lord's servant, ready to serve. Let it be with me just as you say" (Luke 1:38 The Message

Translation).

Her decision took courage, faithfulness, and the spiritual maturity required to muster up both.

I challenge all of the youth to seek to grow spiritually mature, so when the time comes for God to use you, you will have the right answer. And don't get it twisted, God can speak through anyone. So His request to you may come through Mrs. Trudy, Min. Gaskins, Rev. Yeargin, or anyone.

Begin taking seriously your relationship with Him for whom "nothing is impossible!"

think on these things

"We drink too much, smoke too much, spend too recklessly, laugh too little, drive too fast, get too angry, stay up too late, get up too tired, read too little, watch TV too much, and pray too seldom." *George Carlin*

Ponder This... Do I Care About Family?



Stacey R. Johnson

Have you noticed that the family unit seems to be under attack? I have long wondered what has happened to the family unit in the black community.

I have tried to figure out why the morals and values that used to hold families together so tightly seem to have disappeared.

Everyone agrees that there is a noticeable difference in the way that children are being raised today. We all recognize it but what is the main cause for this difference?

I have come to a few conclusions; most people do not wish to discuss these reasons because it is an uncomfortable topic. However I am going to explore a few of the reasons

in this article.

First of all, there are a number of individuals having children who are not financially prepared, mature enough or simply ready and willing to raise them properly. This leads to many children to end up in foster care, adoption agencies or living with relatives other than their mother and father.

When these children grow up, who can they look to as a model of what a family should look like? How will they know the way that a family unit should function? Should they rely on television shows like the Cosby Show to teach them?

Secondly some couples who bring children into this world appear to have misplaced their sense of morality. No longer do these couples have a sense of order about starting a family. They don't even consider waiting to find the right person to marry and then decide to start a fam-

ily.

They just have children and then this leads to some individuals having to really struggle to raise them in a single parent household. This is not fair to the child who is coming into this world.

Even though there are many other reasons, the last one that I consider to be a major reason for the breakdown of the family is the lack of discipline that comes from parents. It appears that some parents choose to limit the people allowed to discipline their child. They don't want anyone to say anything to their child even if they are behaving inappropriately. Some parents also fail to require that their children respect them and learn responsibility.

Instead of enforcing these fundamentals of life, they make excuses for their children and allow them to behave in such a way that is setting them up for a difficult life ahead.

cont. on **P4**

ministries in motion

upcoming events

THE CITY TEMPLE YOUTH MINISTRY

The time is indeed come for us to honor and worship our greatest gift of this season! In this effort, the Youth Ministry presents *A Christmas Medley of Light, Song, and Dance*.

Join our youth on Friday, Dec.

18, at 6:30 p.m. for an enchanting evening celebration. You do not want to miss this joyous occasion!

COLLEGE TOUR

March 29 - 31 Michelle Hamiel, Trudy Revell, and April Jones will travel with all willing youth on City Temple's first HBCU College

Tour. All interested parties should submit their \$200.00 fee to any member of the youth ministry by March 7. Payments can be made in installments.

In the giving spirit of our church, several members have offered to sponsor teens to attend this tour. Please see Trudy or April if you would like to sponsor a child

cont. on **P4**

ministries in motion

upcoming events

cont. from P3

or if you have a child that needs to be sponsored.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PLAY

The annual Sunday School Christmas play and program will be Sunday, Dec. 20. Please come

out to support our youth from tots to teens as they wish our Lord a HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE

There will be service on Christmas Day, Friday, Dec. 25 at 10 a.m. Please join us in fellowship and worship as we celebrate the

birth of the Savior.

GED SPRING SEMESTER

Classes for the spring semester of the G.E.D. Program begin on Jan. 20. Please see Pat Payne or call her at (410) 292-7864 to register or to get more information.

ponder this

do you care about family?

cont. from P3

We must all get back to the way that God has ordained that we structure our families.

We must remember those morals and values that structured our community in the past because those were the values that kept our families together.

We must encourage couples to be responsible and wait until they are prepared to have children.

We must also raise our children together, mother and father, so that they know what a family unit should be and continue the legacy of strong family units. A mother and a father can make a great team and one cannot replace the other.

We also must instill morality and values within our children. We must demand that they are respect-

ful and responsible at all times.

We should not have children out in public using profanity when speaking to their elders or disrespecting their parents.

Most of us were raised to be respectful at all times and to everyone. We must demand the same of the children of the future.

During this holiday season we should spend time with our family and do what we can to reconnect with them.

However let's just make sure that we do not wait until the holidays to focus on our families.

Our families are the core of the black community and if they break down it is likely that our entire community will self destruct.

So ponder this...do you truly care about the family?

making a difference

City Temple has so much to thank God for when it comes to our youth. Now all grown up and setting an example for youth, Sam Rather is setting the standard higher for those coming up after him.

The Johns Hopkins School of Education recognized his success as a math teacher. 98 percent of his students passed the Maryland Scholastic Assessment Math Test.

The article explains how Sam inherited "a 78 percent math rate and increasing it to 95 percent his first year teaching and to 98 percent this past year."

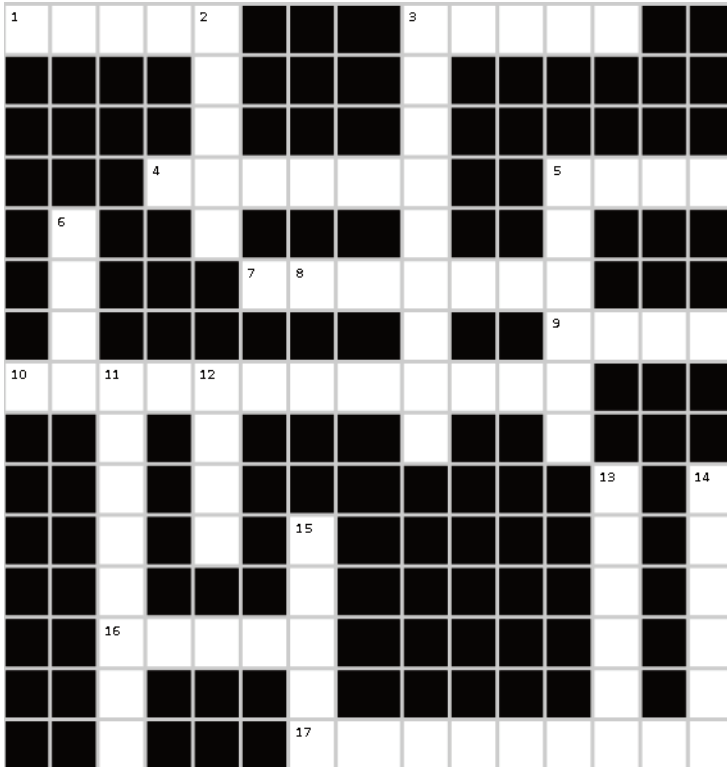
Check out the spectacular article about Sam on Johns Hopkin's University newsletter at <http://webapps.jhu.edu/jhuniverse/featured/education/> and congratulate Sam and wish him much more continued success.

kid's fun page

games, puzzles & trivia

The Christmas Story Crossword

answers on page 6



Across

1. A pungent herb: One of the gifts from the wisemen
3. We celebrate His _____ at Christmas
4. Mary's husband
5. His mother
7. The 3 kings who followed the star
9. A precious metal: One of the gifts from the wisemen
10. A fragrant gum used to make incense: A gift from the 3 kings
15. Bethlehem was here
16. Mary and Joseph went to Bethlehem to pay these
17. Angels came to tell these guys about His birth while they were watching their flocks

Down

2. King of Judea at the time of His birth
3. The city of His birth
5. An open box to hold food for livestock. Mary laid Jesus in one.
6. This led the wisemen to Jesus
8. He was born in a stable because there was no more room here
11. The Roman emperor who taxed everyone
12. Where is He that is born _____ of the Jews?
13. For unto you is born this day in the city of David, a _____ which is Christ the Lord.
14. These appeared to shepherds and told them of the birth of Christ
15. And she shall bring forth a son, and you shall call his name _____: for He shall save His people from their sins.

The Christmas Story Word Find

BETHLEHEM
MANGER
HEROD
MARY
JOSEPH
TAXES
SHEPHERDS
WISEMEN
ANGELS
STAR
VIRGIN
KING
GOLD
MYRRH



FRANKINCENSE
AUGUSTUS
JESUS
SAVIOR
INN
BIRTH
JUDEA



Puzzles, Games, Fun!

P	T							L	F	A	E	T	L	A	Y
S	U	P	B					K	N	S	A	L	K	X	W
M	I	F	C	P	L	A									K
										L	C	R	P	W	T
X	V	R	K	H	L	Y	H	E	S						
A							A	P	N	Z	E	N	T	I	
P	O	T													
C	T	S	L	I	M	U	J	Y	U	Z					
R							B	V	Q	L	S	V	E	Z	K
E	Q	P	U	T								T	Y	C	L
P	C	A	B	P							S	Q	B	A	T
						R	Y	L	O	E	H	R	T	K	O
O	L	D	G	K	I										
R	E	K							X	R	Z	H	P	N	Z
W	M	P	Y											T	S
								K	A	H	S	U	T	A	L
T	P	S	A	L	T	A	M	G							
Y	O	M	L								I	S	T	L	O
L	Z	Q	P	L	G	H	L	Z	Y					A	S
X	M	A								M	C	F	R	D	Q
								S	E	V	E	S	W	O	H
U	P	B	A	K	R	E	G	A	L						
A								L	O	N	P	E	R	O	S
L	K	S	R	T										U	P
B				L	Y	S	I	N	Y	U	C	A	L	E	
P	D	K								T	U	Y	O	T	C

Twenty-six letters are missing from this puzzle. Each letter of the alphabet can only be used once. Fill in the missing letter to answer the clues to complete the puzzle.

HOLLY

EXALT

JESUS

BELLS

SCRIPTURES

WISEMEN

MARY

FRANKINCENSE

QUIET

PEACE

BELIEVE

SON

FRIEND

JERUSALEM

JOY

GOD

MANGER

NAZERETH

BELLS

BIRTH

CHRIST

PRAYER

JOSEPH

ANGELS

JEHOVAH

VIRGIN

P	T	Q	U	I	E	T	L	F	A	E	T	L	A	Y
S	U	P	B	J	O	Y	K	N	S	A	L	K	X	W
M	I	F	C	P	L	A	W	I	S	E	M	E	N	K
N	O	R	T	H	S	T	A	R	L	C	R	P	W	T
X	V	R	K	H	L	Y	H	E	S	J	E	S	U	S
A	V	I	R	G	I	N	A	P	N	Z	E	N	T	I
P	O	T	F	R	A	N	K	I	N	C	E	N	S	E
C	T	S	L	I	M	U	J	Y	U	Z	M	A	R	Y
R	B	E	L	L	S	B	V	Q	L	S	V	E	Z	K
E	Q	P	U	T	F	R	I	E	N	D	T	Y	C	L
P	C	A	B	P	H	O	L	L	Y	S	Q	B	A	T
P	E	A	C	E	R	Y	L	O	E	H	R	T	K	O
O	L	D	G	K	I	S	C	R	I	P	T	U	R	E
R	E	K	B	I	R	T	H	X	R	Z	H	P	N	Z
W	M	P	Y	J	E	R	U	S	A	L	E	M	T	S
J	E	H	O	V	A	H	K	A	H	S	U	T	A	L
T	P	S	A	L	T	A	M	G	A	N	G	E	L	S
Y	O	M	L	C	H	R	I	S	T	I	S	T	L	O
L	Z	Q	P	L	G	H	L	Z	Y	G	O	D	A	S
X	M	A	J	O	S	E	P	H	M	C	F	R	D	Q
B	E	L	I	E	V	E	S	E	V	E	S	W	O	H
U	P	B	A	K	R	E	G	A	L	E	X	A	L	T
A	M	A	N	G	E	R	L	O	N	P	E	R	O	S
L	K	S	R	T	N	A	Z	E	R	I	T	H	U	P
B	S	O	N	L	Y	S	I	N	Y	U	C	A	L	E
P	D	K	P	R	A	Y	E	R	T	U	Y	O	T	C

Mary Had A Little Lamb

Mary had a little lamb,

His fleece was white as snow.

And everywhere that Mary went,

The Lamb was sure to go.

He followed her to school each day,

It wasn't even in the rule.

He made the children laugh and play

To have a Lamb at school.

And then the rules all changed one day,

Illegal it became

To bring the Lamb of God to school,

Or even speak his Name.

Everyday got worse and worse,

And days turned into years.

Instead of hearing children laugh,

We heard gun shots and tears.

What must we do to stop the crime,

That's in our schools today?

Let's let the Lamb come back to school,

And teach our kids to pray!

Answers
Across:
1. Myrrh
3. Birth

4. Joseph
5. Mary
7. Wisemen
9. Gold

10. Frankincense
15. Judea
16. Taxes
17. Shepherds

Down:
2. Herod
3. Bethlehem

5. Manger
6. Star
8. Inn
11. Augustus

12. King
13. Savior
14. Angels
15. Jesus

ten do's and don't of safety

from Al Hines of the Security Ministry

Do's:

1. Always be alert, cautious, and aware of your surroundings.
2. Make sure your car doors are locked and valuables are put in the trunk (if you have no trunk, put under the seat).
3. Have someone from church security escort you to and from your car if you need assistance.
4. Carry your purse close to your body.
5. Pay attention when people are approaching you, especially if you are alone.
6. Look around the area before exiting and entering your car to be sure someone isn't hiding or waiting to rob you.
7. Have your keys in your hand before approaching your car.
8. Have your ticket or money already

in your hand when boarding a bus.

9. Always stay alert and awake on the bus.
10. Notify Security Ministry of anything suspicious.

Don't's:

1. Don't pick up hitchhikers or strangers, even if they seem familiar to you.
2. Don't let your purse hang vulnerably from your arms.
3. Don't carry extra cash if not necessary.
4. Don't park your car or walk in isolated areas.
5. Don't leave your car windows down and doors unlocked.
6. Don't attach your name and address to your key ring.
7. Don't leave your garage remote in your car if you have anything with



your address on it (a car registration, for example).

8. Don't leave your car if suspicious people seem to be standing around and waiting. Trust your instincts; if something does not feel right, it usually isn't.

9. Don't get close to a vehicle if someone stops you to ask for information.

10. Don't approach anyone on your own who is committing a crime. Call for help.

arena players

holiday schedule

YOUTHEATRE HOLIDAY PRODUCTION

Dec. 18, 19, & 20

TO BE ANNOUNCED

Christmas Day Service

**Please remember to come and
fellowship with us as we go to
Bethlehem.**

Service begins at 10 a.m. Christmas Morning



cont. from P1

Temple hosted in 2009!

We've set the bar and standard pretty hard for next year. Let's start preparing now to do greater and better things for 2010!

"Verily, verily I say unto you, he that believeth in Me, the works that I do he shall do also; and greater works than these shall he do, because I go unto My Father." John 14:12

PASTOR'S APPRECIATION CONTINUED



Rev. Yeargin shares a hug with his big sister.
(Photo by Mark Dennis / November 8, 2009)



MC Charles Gaskins
and Co-Coordinator
Debra Hickman.

(Photo by
Mark Dennis /
November 8, 2009)

TAKING THE YOUTH TO THE PUMPKIN PATCH



(Photo by Jai Rice / October 31, 2009)



(Photo by Jai Rice / October 31, 2009)



(Photo by Jai Rice / October 31, 2009)



(Photo by Jai Rice / October 31, 2009)

TRUSTEES' BULL ROAST



(Photo courtesy of Delores Allen)

MOTHER-DAUGHTER TEA



(Photo courtesy of Rev. Debra Hickman)

PUBLICATION DEADLINES

Articles for The Times are due no later than the 3rd Sunday before the month the issue is published. The next Times will be published on Mar.7, 2009.

THE TIMES ON-LINE OR BY E-MAIL

See the latest and past issues of The Times in color at <http://www.thecitytemple.org/times>. The Times can be e-mailed to you. Send an e-mail to times@thecitytemple.org to join our e-mail list!

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