

metro kansas city
EDITION



Jason Gray

EVENTS CALENDAR | PAGE 12

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IT'S CHRISTMAS!

Make the season bright with the Metro Voice annual Christmas Guide

STARTS ON PAGE 7!



EVENTS TO HELP
MAKE YOUR
SEASON BRIGHTER

by Stephanie L. Boothe

Now that the metro is in the thick of the holiday season, expect to see area churches decked to the hilt. Local production companies are rehearsing for their annual holiday shows. And area museums and historic sites are preparing to take visitors back to Christmases long ago. There is, certainly, no shortage of holiday-themed activities for families.

Child of Hope

The Culture House is presenting the story of Christmas and the Nativity with the Storling Dance Theater. The performance includes the stories behind classic songs, which will be performed by Kansas City artists. The second act, courtesy of the Storling Dance Theater, will tell the Gospel's



See EVENTS page 10

ANGELS
AMONG
US

Gifts and
Bibles
offered to
families
of men
and women
who are
incarcerated

by Lee Hartman

For American children with an incarcerated parent, Christmas can be bitter-sweet as they are separated from their imprisoned parent – often by more than 100 miles.



A volunteer assists the child of an inmate with gifts

Prison Fellowship is working hard through local churches to make a difference in the lives of these children. Some of them are the children of Kansas and Missouri inmates. In Missouri, over 32,000 individuals are behind bars, while in Kansas the number

tops 8,500. Through its Angel Tree Christmas program, Prison Fellowship for the first time ever will offer the families of 140,000 prisoners it serves a voucher for free copy of the Adventure Bible by

See ANGEL page 21

Evangelicals
vote in record
numbers

Self-described evangelicals likely helped the GOP nominee to an upset victory

Jamie Dean & Dwight Widaman

In a stunning rebuke of polls and pundits, Donald J. Trump has won the presidency of the United States with the most evangelical votes in this election than any election in polling history. Exit polls show he did it with the support of 81 percent of white Evangelicals and 60 percent of white Catholics. But the victory was also fueled by evangelicals and Catholics of color. Trump saw a 20 percent increase in support from Hispanic Catholics over Mitt Romney in 2012 and outperformed other previous Republicans. Surprisingly, Trump outperformed Bush and McCain among Jewish voters. Exit polls also show that Trump outperformed Mitt Romney among black voters and earned almost 30 percent of all Hispanic votes cast in sharp contrast to media predictions. In addition to Christian and Jewish voters,

See EVANGELICALS page 5

INSIDE:
ELECTION
ROUND-UP
PGS. 5 & 6

Christmas display reaches out to
families of murder victims

Crosses represent every 2016 homicide victim in KC

by Dwight Widaman

Leawood Baptist Church is continuing a heart-wrenching acknowledgment and Christmas tradition that honors the metro's many murder victims. "The Longest Night" service for the families of the murder victims in the Kansas City area will again be held at Leawood Baptist Church, 8200 State Line, Leawood, Kan. on Wednesday, December 21 at 6:00 pm. It is accompanied by the placement of crosses representing Kansas City's homicide victims. The event started several years ago when John Mark Clifton, pastor at the time of Wornall Road Baptist Church, noticed an epi-

dem of murders across the Kansas City metro. Moved with compassion for the families who had lost loved ones, the church began placing crosses on their church lawn. Each cross bore the name of every Kansas City murder victim. The church also hosted a memorial service for the families. Last year, Clifton reached out to a former resident intern and asked if he might take over the monumental task. That intern, Adam Carter, is now the pastor of Leawood Baptist. Carter and Leawood Baptist agreed to host the display and last Christmas posted crosses with the names of each murder victim in the

See CROSSES page 23



The lawn of Leawood Baptist Church will soon display crosses for each Kansas City-area murder victim.

Metro teens experience one homeless night

Event supports homeless teens served by Synergy

On any given night in Greater Kansas City 2,000 “unattached” teens are living on the streets, sleeping in cars or “couch surfing” with friends because they do not have a safe place to live. Many are abused and neglected kids who have run away from home or been thrown out by their family.

Last month, young people throughout the metro staged sleep-outs to raise

awareness and money for services that support the area’s homeless youth. Speakers and activities at the sleep-outs focused on helping participants understand what it is like to be homeless and on your own as a young person.

“As I shivered through the cold and rain in my collapsed tent, I wanted to quit and go home,” said participant Jennifer Morris. “Then I thought about the kids who can’t quit and have no home and decided to stick it out.”

The One Homeless Night initiative is sponsored by Synergy Services. Synergy House, the homeless youth shelter operated by Synergy Services, provides one

of the few youth-focused shelters in the area. Synergy’s Youth Resiliency Center offers a full range of youth services including mental health counseling, medical and dental care, life-skills training, a computer lab, showers, lockers, an interactive learning center and the opportunity for leadership development and community service. Additionally, the center provides a broad variety of youth-focused programs including music, poetry, dance, exercise, art and academic advancement.

To support Kansas City teens who have no place to call home, visit www.synergyservices.org.



ISIS taking newborns, young children in rampage to annihilate Christians, says Catholic priest

A Roman Catholic priest who has been helping Christians, Yazidis and other religious minorities facing genocide in Iraq and Syria said Islamic State militants separate families who live in terrorist occupied land by taking newborn babies and virgin girls while killing fathers and forcing young boys to plant bombs on the streets.

Father Patrick Desbois, a Paris-based priest who for decades has been researching the Holocaust and fighting

anti-Semitism through his Yahad-In Unum global humanitarian organization, has in recent years turned to helping minority victims of the ISIS genocide in Iraq and Syria, specifically the Yazidi people.

Desbois said in a phone interview with a Christian news organization that ISIS, which he noted has also killed thousands of Shia Muslims and Christians, uses a “very special” strategy to carry out its decimation of entire people

groups.

“They dislocate the families, they take the newborn babies, and they put them in Islamist families,” Desbois said, noting that elementary-age children are trained as terrorists, and “forced to put bombs” on streets.

“The young girls who are virgins are selected by doctors and sold,” he added, referring to the terror group’s human trafficking and sex trade, which has seen many thousands of women and children sold to jihadists.

The men, on the other hand, are often shot in pits, he said, evidence for which are the many mass graves being discovered in territory newly liberated from ISIS’ grasp.

The priest, who is a professor at Georgetown University in Washington D.C., explained that ISIS “dislocates families according to age, sexuality,” and said that “every member of the family” is used “in a special way.”

“I’ve never seen that, it’s very organized, there is no improvisation,” he

“Christians have a responsibility to help refugee families that are fleeing the war zones, and call on the government to help victims.”

added.

Desbois and his organization have interviewed hundreds of Yazidi survivors who have escaped ISIS captivity, including some who have managed to flee the besieged city of Mosul, currently the target of a coalition military campaign seeking to liberate it from ISIS control.

Many of these interviews are shared in Action Yazidis, an initiative of Yahad-In Unum, which as it explains on its website, does not seek to advocate for “political, economic or military action,”

but serves to uncover “facts of genocidal practices wherever they are found and provide a voice of protest on behalf of all victims and potential victims of genocide.”

Desbois, who recently released his book *The Fabric of Terrorists: Into the Secrets of Daesh*, based on his investigations into ISIS, shared eye-witness accounts that confirm reports that the terrorist organization is using human shields in its attempts to hold on to Mosul — including civilians.

He shared that the jihadists “use prisoners as human shields,” and that his organization has “many testimonies of girls who say they have been used as human shields.”

These eye-witness accounts have been cross-referenced with other sources, the priest explained, in order to paint an accurate picture of the atrocities that people are being subjected to.

The plight of Christians under the extremists has also been a heavy one —

■ See ISIS page 3

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Sixty kids find their ‘forever homes’ in November

Families across Kansas finalized their adoptions on National Adoption Day, Nov. 19. Following tradition, many judges opened their courthouse to complete adoptions and bring smiles to the faces of children and adults alike. In total this November, nonprofit KVC Kansas helped to facilitate the adoptions of nearly sixty children in the Kansas City

area, Topeka and other parts of eastern Kansas.

There are more than 100,000 U.S. children in foster care waiting to find permanent, loving families. In Kansas, there are approximately 350 children who need adoptive families. In Missouri over 1,000 children were available across the state. One happy story is that of

Bob, a 17-year-old who was in foster care and wondered if he was “too old to be adopted.” Thanks to a video shared on social media that showed his easygoing personality and his desire for a family, his story reached the perfect couple. Jerry Gross and Keira Jones responded immediately and Bob became a permanent part of their family this fall. The heart-touching story of how the family surprised Bob with their desire to adopt him is online at <http://bit.ly/2eHWBSR>.

“For the adoptive families and especially for the children, it is the culmination of a lot of hoping, waiting and hard work,” said Danielle Bartelli, President of KVC Kansas. We are thankful for the families that step up to the plate to become a permanent, loving family for children who have experienced abuse and neglect. We’re also thankful to the judges throughout Kansas who bring attention to the need for more adoptive families.”

To learn more, visit www.kvckansas.org or contact Kerry Hamel at (913) 956-5370 or khamel@kvc.org.

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ISIS

continued from page 2

hundreds of thousands of believers have left their ancestral homelands across Iraq and Syria, with Desbois noting that "there are nearly no more Christians under ISIS," except those held as prisoners in captured territory.

He said that all signs of Christianity are actively being destroyed, explaining, "any Christian symbol is being erased," with Christians also losing their houses, their belongings, and everything that ISIS demands, which is leading to a "total destruction" of the faith group.

Comparing the ongoing genocide to those of the past, like the Holocaust, Desbois said ISIS is using "very modern" methods, such as their heavy reliance on social media, where the jihadists spread propaganda messages, including graphic images and videos of human rights abuses.

Desbois suggested that Christians "have a responsibility to help" refugee families that are fleeing the war zones, and called on the government to help victims find work, and help those that have been traumatized by forced conversions to Islam.

The priest emphasized that today



Yazidi youngsters, terror on their faces, huddle in a camp near the Iraq-Syrian border as ISIS terrorists advance. It is not known what happened to these children after the photo was taken.

people can help in many different ways, with one option being donating to organizations that are working hard to assist people suffering as a result of ISIS' actions.

"We try to help concretely," he said, and pointed out that in the Bible, God asks people to help their brothers and sisters.

more information

ORGANIZATIONS SERVING VICTIMS OF ISIS:
SamaritansPurse.org
WorldVision.org
Rescue.org
PreemptiveLove.org

Target sales decline as sex crimes increase in stores

Transgender bathroom policy leads to 10 crimes targeting girls

As the year's busiest shopping season begins, the American Family Association has compiled a list of 10 cases to showcase why Target's bathroom policies that allow male customers who identify as female to go into women's bathrooms and dressing rooms is a threat to women and children.

"The overwhelming evidence continues to pile up against Target's policy to allow men into women's restrooms and dressing rooms in its stores," AFA President Tim Wildmon wrote in November..

Target has defended its decision by stating: "We welcome transgender team members and guests to use the restroom or fitting room facility that corresponds with their gender identity. ... Everyone deserves to feel like they belong."

But Wildmon argued that what this means is that a man can simply state that he feels like a woman on any given day, and go in to use the women's restroom.

"Target's policy is exactly how sexual predators get access to their victims. And the proof keeps mounting," he said.

"Clearly, Target's dangerous policy poses a threat to wives and daughters. Over 1.4 million people have pledged to boycott Target stores until protecting women and children is a priority."

AFA then listed 10 headlines this past year of men found recording, taking photos, or peering into women's restrooms at Target stores nationwide:

- Man wanted for taking photos inside Target changing room
- Transgender woman caught filming in Target changing room
- Man seen reaching under stall with phone in Target dressing room
- 'Peeping Tom' reported in Target dressing room
- Teen girl reports dressing room

peeper at Target

- Police Looking for Target Peeper
- Target peeping Tom pleads guilty
- Man Arrested for Taking Photos of Woman in Target Bathroom

■ Peeping tom caught filming women in Brentwood Target dressing rooms

■ 'Peeping Tom' took pics of people in Target bathroom

In one case, a transgender woman was arrested in Idaho back in July for recording an 18-year-old girl in the Idaho Falls Target store. Shaun Smith, the accused, later admitted to having recorded the videos for "the same reason men look at pornography."

AFA has said that it will not be ending its boycott until Target reverses its policies, and said that the proposed plan by the retail giant to add one unisex bathroom at each of its 300 stores in the United States that don't already have one still doesn't do anything to protect women and children.

"Unisex bathrooms are fine, but our request has always been that Target maintain the gender-specific bathrooms as well — if the company is interested in guaranteeing the safety and privacy of women and girls who patronize the retailer's stores," Wildmon previously said.

Target's same-store transactions, which is how traffic is measured, fell 2.2 percent in the second quarter of this year. Overall, sales fell 7.2 percent to \$16.2 billion.



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newsbriefs

Canadian court: Law Society must accept Christians

(WNS)—The Law Society of British Columbia must recognize Trinity Western University's (TWU) future law school graduates, according to a unanimous opinion the British Columbia (B.C.) Court of Appeals issued Nov. 1. "The TWU community has a right to hold and act on its beliefs, absent evidence of actual harm," a five-judge panel wrote. "To do so is an expression of its right to freedom of religion." The decision is the latest chapter in TWU's years-long battle to open Canada's first Christian law school. In December 2013 the provincial law society approved the university's plans, but a 2014 members referendum revoked it over concerns that the TWU community covenant—which holds students to orthodox Christian behavioral standards, including heterosexual marriage—is discriminatory. The B.C. appeals court ruled Law Society that discriminated.

Danger follows Christian refugees to Germany

(WNS)—The situation of Christian refugees in German shelters is "unbearable" according to an updated report released in October and co-authored by Open Doors Germany. The report documents 743 cases of discrimination, death threats, and physical assaults against Christians by Muslim refugees between February and May of this year and claims the findings are only "the tip of the iceberg." The study also highlights the challenges of reporting about religiously motivated attacks. European politicians have cultivated a climate with two extremes: Much of the political and media establishment ignores or whitewashes attacks carried out by Muslim refugees under the guise of political correctness, while the far-right wants to exploit the statistics for its own political gain. Open Doors said those risks should not lead to silence: "The human right of religious freedom and protection of victims in a country like Germany—that is a constant admonisher of human rights abuses on an international scale—should not be sacrificed for political objectives or the interests of individual groups."



Euthanasia advocates celebrate victory in Colorado

(WNS)—Coloradans voted to legalize physician-assisted suicide on Nov. 8, a decision critics call a "dangerous step for Colorado's medically and socially vulnerable citizens." Nearly 65 percent of voters said "yes" to the measure with almost all votes counted the next morning. The controversial initiative will allow terminally ill adults with six months or less to live the right to access a physician-prescribed lethal drug. Colorado joins Oregon, California, Montana, Vermont, and Washington in legalizing assisted suicide. All six states modeled their measures after Oregon's Death with Dignity Act, passed in 1997.



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newsbriefs

Nigeria appoints women to police refugee camps

(WNS)--Nigeria's police force has deployed 100 female officers to camps for internally displaced people across the northeastern Borno state after Human Rights Watch reported camp officials sexually abused some residents. Damian Chukwu, Borno's commissioner of police, said 100 policewomen will now handle daily interactions with displaced people in the camps, while male officers will only deal with territorial coverage and patrol. A separate committee will handle the camp's security, Chukwu said. Human Rights Watch in its report last month documented rape and abuse cases of 43 women and girls in camps across the state. Some of the women said government and security officials falsely promised them financial assistance and marriage in exchange for sexual favors. Chukwu said the different police units stationed across the camps did not receive any reports of abuse prior to the report, but many of the women and girls said they feared retaliation should they speak up about their attacks.

Study: The more we lie, the easier it gets

(WNS)--Every time Pinocchio lied, his nose grew longer. Of course, a real boy's nose does not change when he lies, but his brain might, according to a new research study published in Nature Neuroscience. Researchers at the University College London (UCL) have discovered the brain actually changes the way it responds when someone continues to lie. For the vast majority of people, the brain area known as the amygdala begins a rapid-fire response when a person is dishonest, producing uncomfortable emotions and unpleasant physical reactions. Our heart beats faster, blood pressure escalates, and we begin to perspire. A polygraph machine is designed to detect these physiological changes and alert an investigator that a person may be lying. It is these unpleasant sensations that discourage someone from continuing to lie. But the UCL researchers found when people lie repeatedly, the amygdala settles down and decreases its response, making it easier to lie again and initiating a slippery slope of dishonesty.



Study: Celebrities influence out-of-wedlock births

(WNS)--Fifty years ago, only about 8 percent of babies in the United States were born to single women. Today that figure is over 40 percent. Although sociologists point to many reasons for the disturbing trend, a new study just presented at the annual meeting of the American Sociological Association, indicates the huge increase of babies born out-of-wedlock may, at least in part, be due to the way in which mainstream media portrays the lifestyles of the rich and famous. According to the study, celebrity lifestyles have had a huge impact on social norms and the makeup of the traditional American family. Hanna Grol-Prokopczyk, the study's author and a sociologist at the University at Buffalo, analyzed nearly 400 cover stories from People magazine between the premier issue in 1974 and the present to learn when interest in celebrity pregnancies began and how the magazine changed the way it presented the family over time. Grol-Prokopczyk found that in the earlier years, although unmarried celebrities usually did not apologize for getting pregnant, the family model still encouraged couples to marry by the time the baby was born



Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt

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Which companies made the naughty list this Christmas?

Have you grown sick and tired of national retail chains bowing to the very small anti-Christmas minority? If so, then take a good look at the list below, and use it to fight back when Christmas shopping!

The American Family Association and Liberty Counsel have each released their annual "Naughty-or-Nice" list that categorizes retailers and how they approach the Christmas season.

Some of the names that made the "nice" list are well known companies such as Walmart, JCPenney, Kmart, and Lowe's. Others fell into a "marginal" list, meaning that they rarely or infrequently referred to Christmas.

The two organizations reviewed up to four areas to determine if a company was "Christmas-friendly" in their advertising: print media (newspaper inserts), broadcast media (radio/television), website and/or personal visits to the store. If a company's ad has references to items associated with Christmas (trees, wreaths, lights, etc.), it was considered as an attempt to reach "Christmas" shoppers.

If a company has items associated with Christmas, but did not use the word "Christmas," then the company is considered as censoring "Christmas."

AFA continually updates the list, so check afa.net for updates. Want to report a company? Send your detailed report to christmas@afa.net.

AFA has also begun its "Keep Christ in Christmas" campaign. AFA President Tim Wildmon announced that his group is offering wristbands with messages about the battle against "secular liberals." There are also yard signs and buttons featuring the "Merry Christmas" message available at



www.afa.net

"You might ask why we think this is an important battle. Well, secular liberals in our nation are bent on minimizing and even removing any mention of Christianity from the public square. And no other time of the year reminds people of Jesus Christ and America's Christian heritage more than the Christmas season," Wildmon explained.

Liberty Counsel also monitors cases across the U.S. where there is intimidation by officials and groups to remove the celebration of Christmas in public and private spaces.

These threats include atheist groups seeking to ban nativity scenes from public property, senior living centers that prohibit residents from singing Christmas carols, public schools that ban students from wear-

ing the Christmas colors of red and green, school officials who censor religious words from Christmas carols, and retailers which profit from Christmas while pretending it does not exist, according to the group's statement.

Liberty Counsel provides a memorandum to offer guidance regarding publicly and privately sponsored religious holiday displays, religious holidays in public schools and the rights of public school students in the context of religious holidays. For example, publicly sponsored nativity scenes on public property are constitutional so long as there is a secular symbol of the holiday in the general context. Privately sponsored nativity scenes or religious symbols are also permissible on public property that has been opened to the general public for expressive activity. No secular symbol is necessary.

"Celebrating Christmas is legal in public schools and in public venues. In the private retail market, consumers can choose to patronize stores that recognize Christmas and refuse to buy from those that pretend it does not exist," said Mat Staver, founder and chairman of Liberty Counsel.

More information is available at www.lc.org. You can also stay up to date and participate in the discussion by visiting the Liberty Council Facebook page.

2016 listing of top retailers and how they recognize Christmas

Companies in All CAPS and BOLD enthusiastically acknowledge Christmas

COMPANIES FOR "CHRISTMAS"

Ace Hardware
Banana Republic
Barnes & Noble
Bass Pro Shops
Bath & Body Works
Bed Bath & Beyond
Belk
Big Lots
Books-A-Million
Bronner's CHRISTMAS WONDERLAND
Cabella's
Christmasplace.com
Cracker Barrel
Dillards
Dollar Tree
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JC Penney
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L.L. Bean
Lehman's
Macy's
Marshall's
Meijer
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Michael's Stores
Neiman Marcus
Pier One Imports
QVC.com
Rite Aid
Sam's Club
Scheel's Sporting Goods
Sears
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Toys R Us
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COMPANIES MARGINAL ON "CHRISTMAS"

Amazon.com
Best Buy
CVS Pharmacy
Dick's Sporting Goods
Old Navy

Starbucks
TJ Maxx
Walgreens
Whole Foods

COMPANIES AGAINST "CHRISTMAS"

Academy Sports
American Eagle
Outfitters
Barnes & Noble
Dollar General
Family Dollar
Foot Locker
Gap Stores
Limited Brands
Maurice's
Nordstrom's
Office Depot
Office Max
PetSmart
Radio Shack
Stein Mart
Victoria's Secret



★ ★ ★ ELECTION ROUNDUP ★ ★ ★

Evangelical turn-out seen as key to election victories across nation

■ EVANGELICALS

continued from page 1

formed better among other faiths, beating every Republican nominee since 2000. The lone exception is Muslim voters.

Despite those predictions that Democrat Hillary Clinton held an Electoral College advantage heading into Election Day, the Republican nominee swept a bevy of key swing states with the unofficial count (Trump leads in Michigan which has not been called) now at 306 electoral votes—more than John F. Kennedy received in 1960, Nixon in 1968, Carter in 1976 and the 2000 and 2004 elections of President George W. Bush. In fact, Trump's electoral count is just 24 shy of President Obama's 2012 rout of Mitt Romney.

In the Kansas City metro, Hillary Clinton carried Jackson and Wyandotte counties, with Trump winning Clay, Platte, Cass, Johnson (KS), Clinton, Lafayette, and Miami counties.

Another group that supported Trump: rural voters. In Missouri, Clinton won just three counties: Jackson, Boone (Columbia, Mo.) and St. Louis county plus the City of St. Louis. In Kansas she won just two counties.

Trump's triumph was an emphatic exclamation point at the end of nearly 600 days of a brutal presidential campaign that divided family, friends, and countrymen, and upended every notion of a traditional political campaign.

There have been questions about how pollsters define "evangelical." In this case, it appears they allowed voters simply to self-identify as evangelicals or say they'd been born again. It is possible that the support among Evangelicals is even higher since the term, as used in the media, is often derogatory and some voters may not have self-identified as such just as many pundits

now say Trump supporters kept their support private until they voted.

Still, it's likely that plenty of true evangelicals joined the Trump constituency, whether reluctantly or enthusiastically. It's an issue that has deeply divided many evangelicals grappling with whether they should support a candidate with a deeply compromised moral character (see our story on Christian leaders reacting to the election). Even as Trump considers how to build coalitions in a fractured Republican Party, many Christians face breaches to repair among themselves.

For those wondering whether the thousands of Trump supporters show-

HOW AMERICA'S COUNTIES VOTED



Members of the clergy lay hands and pray over Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump at the New Spirit Revival Center in Cleveland Heights, Ohio.



ing up at rallies would show up at polls, the answer appeared to be a resounding yes.

Among Trump's many challenges

now: balancing his populist vision that captured many blue-collar workers with the more traditionally conservative approach of some Republican law-

makers—including those who distanced themselves from him during his campaign.

In an acceptance speech, Trump struck a conciliatory note, even with Clinton, saying, "We owe her a major debt of gratitude to our country." He appealed to voters who hadn't supported him in the past: "I am reaching out to you for your guidance and help so we can work together and unify our great country."

And he ended his speech with the kind of lofty promise he began his presidential bid with last year: "America will no longer settle for anything less than the best."

Local leaders share their thoughts and hopes about the election and future



Dr. Carroll C. McCarroll, Th.D., Founding Pastor, Heart of America Ministries

The results of Mr. Trump being elected speak of the people's desire for a change of leadership in Washington D.C. Mr. Trump brings that change, in that he has great experience in business with numerous companies doing business all over the world. However, he is a political outsider, having never held political office before. What an opportunity for prayer this offers us. Pray for Mr. Trump, his administrative Country. We have the promise of

God in this, that He will hear and answer our prayers. (1 John 5:14, 15.)



Bev Ehlen, State Director CWA of Missouri

I was overwhelmed with gratefulness to our God for this reprieve. I hate to admit that I was surprised. There had been so much effort in getting the Christians out to vote on the issues and more importantly so much prayer effort in the months leading up to the election. Both of these efforts were at a level I hadn't seen be-

fore in the 25 years of my involvement in public policy.

My plans for Wednesday and the days after election didn't change because of the results. Our country is divided, but it is the fault of the church in America. We allowed our institutions – the civil government, education even Christian education including the seminaries, law, economy and even the military to be influenced/controlled by secular humanists. Christians in America have been too comfortable huddled in our little social environments with like-minded, like-hearted individuals enjoying the blessings of God but not being equipped by our pastors to stand for truth in the culture.

God has given us more time. We

must be busy about His work. Repentance for our forsaking to implement His principles in every area of our lives as Christians must happen before we can experience the Great Spiritual Awakening that must occur for our country to truly be restored to greatness.



Dick Bott, Sr., Founder and President, Bott Radio Network

Donald Trump was not my idea of the best candidate to achieve progress on the issues I care most about. So I did my best to support Ted Cruz and/or whoever else

seemed closer to what I had in mind as the best choice.

But obviously I was wrong. Ted Cruz and the others faded quickly.

With my faith in God and trusting Him to make the final call it started to dawn on me that Donald Trump was the 'one leader' who boldly addressed the hideous practice of abortion in America in a meaningful way by promising to make a Supreme Court appointment with teeth, as well as end Planned Parenthood getting federal money.

Next, he was the first candidate in my memory to address the complete failure of America's public education where boys and girls are locked by their zip code onto a government

■ See REMEMBRANCE page 23

★ ★ ★ ELECTION ROUNDUP ★ ★ ★

Compiled by
Dwight Widaman

National reaction to election is divided

“Donald Trump is elected President in stunning repudiation of the establishment”

—New York Times Headline. 3 A.M. Nov. 9



Kirstie Alley @kirstiealley
CONGRATULATIONS PRESIDENT TRUMP! @realDonaldTrump against all odds ..against the establishment and even against most from the GOP. U did it!
1:43 AM - 9 Nov 2016

“Miley Cyrus, Chelsea Handler and Amy Schumer now have a different message after vowing to leave the country if Republican Donald Trump won the presidency: Never mind.”
—The Washington Times reporting on the dozens of entertainers who have changed their minds after vowing to move if Trump were elected.



“The triumph of Donald Trump may signal ‘the last hurrah’ of white male evangelicals in America, or it may mean that their influence is once again on the rise. We will have to wait and see.”

—Tony Campolo, former spiritual adviser to President Bill Clinton, and evangelist.

“This response to Trump’s victory reveals why Trump was victorious. Because those who do politics these days — the political establishment, the media, the academy, the celeb set — are so contemptuous of ordinary people, so hateful of the herd, so convinced that the mass of society cannot be trusted to make political decisions, and now those ordinary people have given their response to such top-down sneering and prejudice.”

—Brendan O’Neill writing for the U.K.’s *The Spectator* on the response to the Trump victory.

“We don’t need Jay Z or Beyonce,” Mr. Trump told fans at a rally in Grand Rapids, Michigan, Tuesday. “We don’t need Jon Bon Jovi. We don’t need Lady Gaga. All we need is great ideas to make America great again.”

—The Washington Times on Nov. 7 quoting Donald Trump on the entertainment industry’s elite campaigning on behalf of Hillary Clinton in last-minute rallies across the country the weekend prior to the election.



“The incoming vice president, Mike Pence, has not elicited the same reaction, instead often painted as the reasonable adult on the ticket, a “counterbalance” to Trump and a “bridge to the establishment.” However, there is every reason to regard him as, if anything, even more terrifying than the president-elect.

Pence’s ascent to the second most powerful position in the U.S. government is a tremendous coup for the radical religious right. Pence — and his fellow Christian supremacist militants — would not have been able to win the White House on their own.”

—Jeremy Scahill writing for *The Intercept*



“There Is No Violent Hate-Crime wave in ‘Trump’s America. Please stop spreading unsubstantiated stories of Trump-induced terror.”

—Elizabeth Nolan Brown writing on Nov. 11 in *Reason Magazine*, responding to the countless instances of alleged hate crimes at the hands of pro-Trump voters breathlessly reported in the media the vast majority of which have proven to be untrue.



“I’m going to kill the President Elect. Bring it secret service.”

—Former CEO of cyber security firm Packetsled, Matt Harrigan in a Facebook post. He was subsequently visited by the Secret Service and forced to resign by his board of directors.



“As a Christian who believes in the ultimate sovereignty of God, I have to believe He allows our circumstances to fulfill His plans. As the prophet Daniel said, ‘He changes times and seasons; He removes kings and sets up kings; He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding.’ The nation has spoken. I pray that God grants us the grace and wisdom to seek His heart for all people made in His image, the preborn, the elderly, progressive and conservative, each one of us. I am reminded His son Jesus Christ died for all.”

—Jim Daly, president of Focus on the Family



“Now is the time to rise up as people of faith and as an independent voice that holds political leaders on both sides of the aisle accountable to policies that don’t aim left or right, but toward righteousness and justice, for all. Chief of which remains our concern for religious liberty, the sanctity of life, immigration reform and racial unity. We pray for the safe keeping of our democracy as we transition to the new Donald Trump administration and we pray that God will continue to bless and prosper our nation in the coming months and years ahead.”

—Samuel Rodriguez, president of the National Hispanic Christian Leadership Conference



“One thing is for sure, we need to pray for our new president, vice president, and our other leaders every day—whether we agree with them or not. They need God’s help and direction. It is my prayer that we will truly be ‘one nation under God.’ Will you commit with me to pray for them every day?”

—Franklin Graham



Chris Evans @ChrisEvans

This is an embarrassing night for America. We’ve let a hater lead our great nation. We’ve let a bully set our course. I’m devastated.
11:16 PM - 8 Nov 2016

—Captain America actor Chris Evans in a tweet



Preston Yancey @prestonyancey

Vodka now.
—Preston Yancey, professor of American history and chair of the history department at Messiah College in Pennsylvania tweeting on election night how he was coping with the Trump victory.



“People have to Die”

—Anti-Trump protester calling for violence on CNN.



Beth Moore @BethMooreLPM

My deep hope for the church is that many of us will now go into recovery & break our fierce addiction to the vitriol we’ve used like Vicodin

Via Twitter: 8:01 AM - 9 Nov 2016



“We commit to pray for the new Trump administration. We pray that God might have mercy on our nation and that our leaders might know and fear Him, for as the Scriptures say, blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord. This is a time when we must hold fast to our calling to be good citizens and to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world, pointing those around us toward our hope in Christ and breathing life wherever there is despair. Presidents come and go, but our God remains forever and he will be on his throne on November 9 as he was on November 8 and as he will be for all of eternity.”

—David Jeremiah, founder of Turning Point, senior pastor of Shadow Mountain Community Church in California and member of Trump’s evangelical advisory board.

Let’s remember that God has the final say in who ascends to seats of power and who does not. God has decided the outcome. “We the People” have voted in 2016, advancing a shift for the sanctity of life, family and community. The election is over. Now what?

“Everyone must submit to governing authorities;

for all authority comes from God, and those in positions of authority have been placed there by God. So anyone who rebels against authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and they will be punished.” Romans 13:1-2

For “in spirit and in truth” Christians what hap-

pens moving ahead is our focus. Yesterday is now history.

—Dr. Alveda King, niece of Martin Luther King, Jr. and active supporter of the candidacy and presidency of Donald Trump





Readers share special memories

CHRISTMAS MEMORY—CELEBRATING A CHRISTIAN CHRISTMAS AT HOME

By Zeta Davidson, Kansas City

Little did I know in 1975 the impact attending a “Celebrating a Christian Christmas At Home” coffee would have on all our family’s Christmases to follow. Since then, planning activities and decorating for the holidays are focused. No, we are not fanatics. Pure joy has been ours to hunt and find Christ-honoring ways to celebrate the Savior’s birth. In those early days, when our children were small, their father and I were intentional in conversations. When our young son, Jay, exclaimed, “What pretty lights,” we explained the very first Christmas decoration was a star shining brightly over the manger.

Our daughter, Paige, remembers only when we tell her, “You were baby Jesus in our home drama in the manger scene with friends and their children.”

Now, a generation later, the grandchildren have grown up knowing that lighting an Advent wreath, reading verses from Isaiah, Matthew and Luke, plus sharing how we might have felt if we were a shepherd or angel on that long ago night are part of Christmas at grandparents’ house.

Another delight and blessing has been searching for Christian motifs to use in decorating. Our first nativity scene—ceramic—had been a craft project done by elderly at a local nursing home. At our house we love snowmen, reindeer and Santa Claus; however, you simply won’t find them as you go from room to room. You will find a collection of manger scenes, a Scripture tree, and a missions memory tree. The Scripture tree is the result of each family member identifying six favorite Bible verses, printing them on small cards then placing them among the branches of a miniature evergreen tree. The missions’ tree? Trinkets from missions we’ve supported and photos of missionaries we know have become the ornaments—our way of remembering.

So it has been and will again be in 2016—“Celebrating a Christian Christmas” at home is a tradition, a habit and also our goal!

THE FAMILY GIFT OF A SIMPLIFIED CHRISTMAS

By Dee Chestnut

It happened to me. The year Grinch tried to steal Christmas. We warm-hearted people in Whoville are on guard for the conspicuous Grinch; that grumpy, cave-dwelling creature with a heart “two sizes too small.”

On this particular year the Grinch’s masterful plan evolved around my perfect storm. Seasons of holiday retail work to cover gift costs for a house full of people, while working in education, wasn’t a problem since it was my idea to contribute in this way. But the tedium of store holiday music, crowds, conspicuous consumption, theft, mess at shift’s end, driving home in dark, working weekends

and doing my best NOT to push opening store credit onto customers crept up on me.

Putting so much emphasis on giving perfect gifts, gift exchanges at work, office parties, white elephant gifts, ugly Christmas sweaters and event dressing, exchanging baked goods with neighbors, church activities, juggling calendars to schedule family visits, baking, meal prep, added grocery expense, housekeeping and monitoring checking account balance carefully took its toll.

Mandatory exposure to extended family who were Grinches in training; Last Straw

Digging heels in, I declared I wasn’t celebrating Christmas. That felt great. Then I pulled my emotional resources together and declared I’d change the holiday game instead. Minimize and give practical gifts. Be selective regarding people and their energy. Know thyself. Decompress. Allow myself to be less involved. Spend less time in the kitchen. Meditate. Pray.

On Christmas Day we packed one door wreath, kettle of chili, cornbread, Frito bag, brownies and one, wrapped gift for each child. After driving forty-five minutes to a modest cabin in the woods, my family tried to warm up with a chili feast. Waiting for cabin to get toasty, we walked through the woods, laughed, tumbled down hills, listened for wildlife and synchronized both chilled air and sunshine on faces.

Returning to hot chocolate in a warm cabin wrapped up our family gift of a simplified Christmas. Soon we evacuated the cabin and drove home slowly. Turning to my husband I slowly said, “Best... Christmas... Ever.”

MOM’S LAST CHRISTMAS GIFT

Dave Gordon, Station Manager, Life 88.5

Sacrifice is an attribute of the single-mom. So it was for Nellie Mae, an unmarried, 39-year old professional woman, expecting her first child. In the mid-1960’s, there was nowhere to hide.

After Davey arrived, Nellie Mae only had her aging mother and a couple of close friends to help out. So, she made the choice to give up her career and focus on raising her son.

Dedication was Nellie Mae’s plan as she invested all of her limited resources into giving him a chance. To her, she had no option but to sacrifice the free life of a single-woman and focus every waking hour on caring for her son’s wellbeing and potential.

She taught Davey the difference between a need and a want; buying the warm coat he needed – not the more expensive leather jacket he wanted.

She made sure he never missed a sports event; cheering with him for pro-wrestlers, racecar drivers and demolition derbies. If a boy should be there, Nellie Mae made sure Davey was there. She was both Mom and Dad to her son.

So, it only figures that Davey’s lasting Christmas memory involves Nellie Mae...my mom.

Mom was getting weaker and weaker. She

■ See MEMORIES page 9

Always remember the true reason for the season

What’s Christmas without the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ? He is the true meaning behind the reason we celebrate this special occasion. Now you can read the biblical account yourself.

The birth of Jesus foretold

In the sixth month of Elizabeth’s pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a village in Galilee, to a virgin named Mary. She was engaged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of King David. Gabriel appeared to her and said, “Greetings, favored woman! The Lord is with you!”

Confused and disturbed, Mary tried to think what the angel could mean. Don’t be frightened, Mary,” the angel told her, “for God has decided to bless you! You will become pregnant and have a son, and you are to name him Jesus. He will be very great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David. And he will reign over Israel forever; his Kingdom will never end!”

Mary asked the angel, “But how can I

have a baby? I am a virgin.”

The angel replied, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the baby born to you will be holy, and he will be called the Son of God. What’s more, your relative Elizabeth has become pregnant in her old age! People used to say she was barren, but she’s already in her sixth month. For nothing is impossible with God.”

Mary responded, “I am the Lord’s servant, and I am willing to accept whatever he wants. May everything you have said come true.” And then the angel left.

Mary visits Elizabeth

A few days later Mary hurried to the hill country of Judea, to the town where Zechariah lived. She entered the house and greeted Elizabeth. At the sound of Mary’s greeting, Elizabeth’s child leaped within her, filling with the Holy Spirit.

Elizabeth gave a glad cry and exclaimed to Mary, “You are blessed by God above all other women, and your child is blessed. What an honor this is, that the mother of my Lord should visit me! When you came

in and greeted me, my baby jumped for joy the instant I heard your voice! You are blessed, because you believed that the Lord would do what he said.”

The Magnificat: Mary’s song of praise

Mary responded, “Oh, how I praise the Lord. How I rejoice in God my Savior! For he took notice of his lowly servant girl, And now generation after generation Will call me blessed. For he, the Mighty One, is holy, And he has done great things for me. His mercy goes on from generation to generation, To all who fear him. His mighty arm does tremendous things! How he scatters the proud and haughty ones! He has taken princes from their thrones and exalted the lowly. He has satisfied the hungry with good things and sent the rich away with empty hands. And how he has helped his servant Israel! He has not forgotten his promise to be merciful. For he promised our ancestors—Abraham and his children—to be merciful to them forever.”

Mary stayed with Elizabeth about three

■ See CHRISTMAS page 16

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Celebrate the joy of Christmas during trying times

Christmas still comes when we don't feel like celebrating, and that may be the best part

by **Jenny Rapson**

I am a girl who loves Christmas. I love the day, I love the season, I love reveling in the wonder that God's Son came to earth to save us as a tiny baby. My third child was born on December 17, and when I cuddled him as a newborn, it made Christmas extra-special. I tried to imagine Mary cuddling and nursing her

newborn child and trying to wrap her mind around the fact that this tiny baby whose life for nine months had totally depended on her would now be saving her. And all of us. The Messiah as a swaddled babe! Incredible.

I have never had a Christmas season that was not filled with joy. But I know, as life twists and turns, that one day there may come a December when I don't feel

like celebrating. Where life will be hard. Where I will be in such turmoil that Christmas lights and tinsel might seem like an assault to my very being.

I've never celebrated such a Christmas. But I know someone who has.

Seven years ago, my sister-in-law's father was diagnosed with leukemia on December 5. It was a "do-not-pass-go, head directly to the hospital to start chemotherapy" deal. By the time Christmas came along, he had been close to death several times. His family had said their goodbyes once even ... but he

hung on. For our whole extended family, it was hard to feel exultant joy that Christmas. My niece who was nine at the time, wrote "Please, Jesus Please" on the chalkboard in my parents' home. My mother left it there for years, that sweet plea of a child to her Savior. It was a Christmas of intercession more than anything else.

Christmas evening that year, I arrived home weary after our multiple family Christmas celebrations. We had a wonderful day, but we were all "Christmased out." Then I sat down at the computer and read these words from my sister-in-law's mother. They are words I will never, ever forget.

She wrote:

"Our family Christmases have always been filled with traditions. That is not a bad thing. It helps bind families together.

This year all the traditions that were so important have been set aside. Nothing is the same. And yet, Christmas came. Quoting from Dr. Seuss, *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*, "It came without ribbons. It came without tags! It came without packages, boxes or bags! He hadn't stopped Christmas from coming. It came! Somehow or other it came just the same."

We know the reason it came is because of God's indescribable gift to us. Jesus left the glory of heaven to come as a baby in a manger. His every physical need had to be cared for by another. What humility! He came to go through the ugliness of death on the cross so that we can have life everlasting.

We understand a little more this year



about what Jesus did for us. Jerry's physical needs have to be met by others. It is humbling. We have seen physical death all around us in the Marrow and Blood unit at the hospital. It is ugly! All of which makes the birth and death of Jesus more dear to us as we focus on the hope (certainty) of heaven.

We are rejoicing with you this day that Christmas is so much more than what we usually make it. It really is all about Jesus, God's indescribable gift to each of us."

Christmas is so much more than we usually make of it.

We make it about presents and lights and amazing Pinterest creations.

But it is about Jesus, God's indescribable gift to each of us.

Maybe this year you are experiencing a trial at Christmas. Maybe you have lost a loved one, or are yourself fighting for your life. Maybe one of your children or your spouse has broken your heart.

■ See TIMES page 16

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Why I'm not waiting to celebrate Christmas this year

by **Rachel Dawson**

I've always been a strict "no Christmas until after Thanksgiving" kind of person. Maybe it's because Thanksgiving is my favorite holiday, or because I love the fall and don't want to rush it, but I've just never wanted Christmas to creep into November. This year, however, was different.

It's been a hard few months, and I've found myself turning on Christmas music on the days when I just needed a little extra cheer. I've wandered into the Christmas sections of stores (which went up right after Halloween...) and even picked up a few things to get a head start on decorating.

I've found myself craving Christmas. "I don't want to wait to celebrate the Joy to the world," Stephanie Bryant, (in)courage writer, said in her recent article "Permission to Celebrate Christmas Early This Year." I don't want to wait this year either. It feels like our weary world needs a reason to rejoice. We need a thrill of hope. We need to be reminded that our soul only

finds its worth when Jesus appears. We need to daily celebrate that holy night that Christ was born, because that night changes everything for us today.

"I'm not going to hold Christmas back to its spot on the calendar post-Thanksgiving," Bryant writes. "Instead, I'm flinging the door open wide to our hearts and home for Christ and His coming. There will be room here. Christmas isn't a 25-day countdown, but an adventure in celebrating that gives this divine moment the time and attention it deserves."

Every year, I look forward to the Advent season that paves the way to Christmas. It always feels like I need to slow down this time of year and really reflect on the gift that Jesus coming to earth is for me as a believer, and intentionally moving through Advent helps me do that. While as a kid, it was fun to break open a new square on the calendar every day to get to the treat inside, I now find that Advent really is an adventure in celebrating Christ daily and giving him my time and attention.

While I'm still trying to intentionally practice gratitude every day (which feels especially relevant as Thanksgiving nears), I'm also daily celebrating the divine moments as Christmas draws close.

"I'm extending the time I have to refocus on that holy night and giving thanks right in middle for all the goodness God is and brings to my life," Bryant says. "Grace to savor as long as I need to. I want to encourage you to not dread this advent season but enjoy the beautiful adventure leading to THE miraculous day. Whether that's starting in November or December."

The holidays can often rush by in a hurry, and we can easily get distracted by all of the hustle and bustle, but I want to better carve out time to spend celebrating my Savior in this season.

This year, I'm not waiting to celebrate the true Joy of our world. I'm not waiting to think about that holy night when Christ was born-- I'm going to daily enjoy this glorious season both of gratitude and celebration, starting now.

Celebrate the holidays with 24 days of Christmas fun

by **Stephanie L. Boothe**

Christmas with little ones is always an exciting time. There are Christmas lists and Santa visits and more Christmas dinners than should be humanly possible to eat. With a brand new baby and 6-year-old, my husband and I are just starting getting started on our own Christmas traditions.

We want to be careful with teaching our children the reasons we celebrate Christmas and how our church celebrates the message of Christmas all year – not just December 25. We want to make sure our daughter and our son understand that Christmas is not just about the presents under the tree. It's a time to celebrate family and a way for us to share our many blessings with those less fortunate.

We have a calendar that counts down the days to Christmas, which our daughter eagerly changes every day beginning Dec. 1.



We also do the elf on a shelf. Seeing her face light up each morning as she sees what her silly elf, Sprinkle Heart, did the night before has provided us with so many memories.

We've also done a new book each day, but her book shelf is bursting at the seams.

This year I wanted to do something more involved. Something more family oriented. Something that encourages us to turn off the television and do things as a family.

So I devised a plan, broke out the construction paper and popsicle sticks and created a Christmas activities calendar –

24 days of Christmas activities. Each day, she will pull the popsicle stick with the right date on it, unfold the activity. We'll do the activity as a family and hopefully create some "core memories."

Here are the activities we came up with. Some of them are a little less involved – particularly on days that she has a school or sporting event. And, this is only a fraction of the activities we have planned this year. Taking in the Christmas lights and productions will pop up too.

First and foremost, we'll include a daily Bible verse – focusing on doing for the others and Jesus, the greatest gift of all.

Operation Christmas Child – Prepare a shoebox to donate to children in need. We deeply want our children to understand how important it is to give back. This is a great opportunity to teach her about children who feel real needs.

Popcorn Garland – Make garland for one of the trees out of popcorn. This was

■ See **CHRISTMAS FUN** page 20

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MEMORIES

continued from page 7

told me it was the lingering flu. The phone can hide the truth when you live a thousand miles apart. A September 25th call from her neighbor revealed she was gone.

Growing up, Christmas was a small but, extraordinarily special time. Mom made it that way. So, I wanted the same for my family. I wanted to be the kind of Dad my Mom was.

That first Christmas without Mom was hard. It was before our boys were born, so Kerry and I were with her family in Indiana. Gifts had been opened, hugs and laughs had been shared, when Kerry said, "there's one more present."

As she passed it to me, I could tell it had been wrapped with care. Kerry shared how she found it hanging in Mom's closet – still wrapped in the department store bag. She knew it was for Davey.

Inside was a leather jacket.

Three months after leaving, in a room full of tears of joy, I received my Mom's last Christmas gift. No longer a want – in my heart, that special jacket was a need.

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From our home to yours: Metro Voice staff share their favorite recipes

by **Anita Widaman**

As a child my Christmases were filled with Grandma Imler's Jam Cake and Grandma Schad's peanut clusters and fudge made with much love.

Grandma Imler lived on our farm in a house that my uncles built for her after Grandpa died. Her house was right next to ours. She had birthed eleven children on the same farm. My Aunt Donna said that Mrs. Imler made 103 biscuits one morning to feed her family and the sick extended family that was staying at her home. She loved coffee and I still vividly remember her pouring coffee laced with milk and sugar into her saucer to cool. Relatives recount her interest in national and local events. I can blame her for my love of caffeine and politics!

So much of our character and personality reflect those who have passed on. Grandma Imler, Grandpa and Grandma Schad, Dwight's Grandma and Grandpa Scherer and our dads.

Many of the traditions that Dwight and I have created for our family are woven around these people and our memories of childhood.

We have created several food and non-food Christmas family traditions. Last year I make my Grandma's Jam Cake. I tweaked it a little—I did not have lard! This is a great cake to serve at Christmas dinner, enjoy with a cup of coffee with friends who drop by in the evening, or for breakfast!

Please enjoy these recipes from our staff and volunteers!

CHOCOLATE MINT COOKIES

Sheri Goforth, wife of Metro Voice contributor Alan Goforth.

I received this recipe when I was a receptionist at a glass company. Venders brought in cookies at Christmastime, and these were a favorite of anyone who tried them.

(Recipe makes 80 cookies)
Ingredients

¼ cup butter
1-1/2 cups brown sugar
2 tablespoons water
2 cups (12 ounces) semisweet chocolate chips
2 eggs
2-1/2 cups flour
1-1/4 teaspoon baking soda
½ teaspoon salt
1 package Andes mints
Cook butter, sugar and water in a large pan over low heat until butter is melted. Add chocolate chips and stir until partially melted. Remove from heat until completely melted. Pour into mixing bowl. Let stand 10 minutes to cool slightly. Beat in eggs, one at a time. Reduce speed to add dry ingredients. Chill dough.

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Line cookie sheet with foil. Roll dough into teaspoon-sized balls. Place 2 inches apart on cookie sheet. Bake for 12 to 13 minutes. Place mint and sprinkles on hot cookies and cool completely. These are my kids' favorites

Christmas cookies. I usually have to make two batches before Christmas.

BREAKFAST CASSEROLE

Stephanie L. Boothe, Metro Voice contributor and wife of designer Joe Boothe

During a family reunion back in 1998, my family stayed at a bed and breakfast outside of Chattanooga, TN. The owner made the most amazing breakfast casserole. My mom, Terry Howard asked for the recipe and graciously made it for nearly every family function since. My mother passed away five years ago, and we have tried to keep her holiday traditions alive for our family. My brother's wife continues this tradition in Mom's memory.

9 eggs (beaten)
4 C grated cheese (sharp)
2 C milk
6 slices of bread (chopped find)
2 lbs sausage
1/8 tsp dry mustard
Brown sausage and mix ingredients until it looks soupy. Cover and refrigerate overnight. Cook at 350 degrees for 40 minutes.

GRANDMA IMLER'S JAM CAKE

3 eggs, room temperature
1 teaspoons nutmeg, ground
1 teaspoon cinnamon, ground

1 teaspoons baking soda
2 cups flour
Pinch salt
1/2 cup black walnuts, chopped
1/2 cup raisins
1 c blackberry jam, room temp
1/2 cup butter, salted, softened
1 cup dark brown sugar, packed
1 cup buttermilk, room temp
Preheat the oven to 325 degrees. Butter and flour tube pan.

Separate the eggs, putting the yolks and whites in different mixing bowls. In another large bowl, mix together the flour, baking soda, salt, cinnamon, and nutmeg. In a small bowl, mix 1/4 cup of the flour mixture with the black walnuts and raisins.

Add the brown sugar, butter, and blackberry jam to the egg yolks, and stir together thoroughly. Stir in the buttermilk. Add the flour mixture.

Beat the egg whites until they turn white but are loose and runny. Fold the egg whites into the batter. Fold in the nuts and raisins.

Pour the batter into tube pan and bake for 1 hour. Remove and cool for 10 minutes. Invert a cake and turn into plate. Ice with powder sugar glaze if desired.

EVENTS

continued from page 1

story of Jesus' birth. The performance will be 7 p.m. Dec 2 through Dec 4, with matinee performances at 2 p.m. Dec. 3 and 4. The production will be at the White Theater (at the Jewish Community Center), 5801 W. 115th St. in Leawood. Tickets are \$25 for guests 6 and older and \$10 for ages 5 and younger.

Bingham Waggoner

One of the crown jewels of Independence, the Bingham Waggoner, features a couple of special holiday tours. Festivities began the day after Thanksgiving with extended walk in tour hours – 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 1 to 4 p.m. Sundays. For groups 10 or more – with advanced booking – the tours will include a catered lunch.

"All 26 rooms are decorated so it's gorgeous," said Shireen McLaughlin, site coordinator.

The third floor tearoom, decorated by Harrisonville based MeraVic, includes hot cider and cookies for sale.

A twilight tour is planned Dec. 4 from 4 to 7 p.m. The tour includes refreshments and a performance from the Morton Sister in Harmony.

Each room in the home is decorated by a different organization, and the overall theme this season is "The Spirit of Christmas Past, Present and Future."

"I like it in its natural state," McLaughlin said. "It's perfect, but people go all out in decorating."

Pleasant Valley Baptist Church

A drive-through light show will tell the Gospel story while synchronizing the light display with live musicians at the Pleasant Valley Baptist Church parking lot in Liberty. The Light Show is scheduled 6 p.m., 6:45 p.m., 7:30 p.m., 8:15 p.m., 9 p.m. on Dec 2-4 and 9-11. Each performance lasts 15 minutes and automated shows will run throughout the month.

Red Bridge Baptist Church

Families looking for a Christmas Eve service are invited to the late-night candlelight service at Redwood Baptist Church, 4901 Red Bridge Blvd. in Kansas City.

"The atmosphere is warm and cozy as the lights are the low, the wasail is hot, the cookies are sweet and the festive spirit is palpable," according to a statement from the church.

The service features traditional hymns as well as special musical selections, a devotional as well as observance of the Lord's Supper.

Mystery of Christmas

Paramount to the family Christ-

■ See EVENTS page 21



Spirit of Christmas ~
Past, Present & Future
Bingham-Waggoner Estate
Join Us Nov. 25 thru Dec. 30

Twilight Tour Dec. 4
(Closed December 23, 24, 25)
10 A.M. to 4 P.M. - M-Sat.
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Adults: \$6 • Youth 6-16: \$3
816-461-3491

313 West Pacific, Independence, MO • www.bwestate.org



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RED BRIDGE
BAPTIST CHURCH

Candle Light Service
AND LORD'S SUPPER

Saturday, December 24, 10 p.m.
4901 E. Red Bridge Rd. • Kansas City, MO
816-761-1194
www.redbridgebaptist.org



WALK
TO THE MANGER
SUNDAY

An outreach event featuring the story of the birth of Christ in drama and song.
Learn more at colonialkc.org/manger

Sunday December 11
8:00, 9:30, 11:00 AM and 6:00 PM
Overland Park Campus
9:30 and 11:00 AM
Kansas City Campus

Colonial
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, EPC

Overland Park Campus • 12501 W 137th Street • OP KS
Kansas City Campus • 9500 Wornall Road • KC MO
816.942.3272 • colonialkc.org

You can carefully have the Christmas budget you've always wanted



**DAVE
RAMSEY**

businessman, radio
personality, author

dave says

Christmas is the best. You get to hang stockings, shop for your favorite people, and potluck like a champ. There's no other time of the year quite like it. That's why it's so easy to get carried away with your seasonal shopping!

In fact, 2014's annual Gallup poll found that nearly a quarter of Americans anticipated spending \$1,000 or more on Christmas. That's a decent chunk of change for any budget. While it's perfectly okay to spend extra money around the holidays, you don't want to end up with the unwelcomed gift of credit card debt come Christmas morning.

Be prepared for the holiday season with Dave's online budget tool, EveryDollar. Now you can plan, save and track every dollar online. No more pen and paper needed! And when you're out and about shopping, you can see how much you have left to spend on Aunt Sally with your EveryDollar app. Talk about an upgrade!

Here's how you can use EveryDollar to make your Christmas budget brighter:

1. Figure out how much you can spend on Christmas.

Let's go ahead and address the question on everyone's mind: How do you figure out your Christmas budget? This is where EveryDollar shines. Start by plugging in your normal monthly expenses, like gas, utilities, insurance and groceries. Then take a closer look at your flexible spending budget groups, like dining out and fun money.

If you typically spend \$300 on restaurants in a month, why not cook a few extra meals at home and divert an extra \$200 toward Christmas savings? Or if your personal money is partying it up at \$150 a month, why not hold off (temporarily) and put an extra \$100 into your Christmas stash? Smart budgeting now can free up more money for what you want later—like Christmas presents!

2. Divide your Christmas budget into categories.

Once you've figured out how much you can spend on Christmas, do some dividing. Take your number—let's say \$500—and think over your seasonal expenses. You'll need money for travel (\$50), a tree and trimmings (\$50), a few potlucks and parties (\$50), and some extra giving (\$50). Then there's the Big Kahuna: Christmas gifts (\$300).

As long as you plan where your money will go before you spend it, there's no right or wrong way to split up your Christmas budget. Plus, if that evergreen goes on sale, or you economize on your potluck groceries, that



means more money to splurge on your loved ones.

3. Write down who you need to buy gifts for.

Now that you know exactly how much you can spend on gifts, decide who gets what. Make a list of everyone you'll buy for this year. And we mean everyone—coworkers, church friends, your parents, your kids, your grandkids. Next to each name (or category, if you're budgeting a treat for the office), write a specific dollar amount.

If you don't have enough money to cover everyone on your list, rethink how much you'll spend on each person. Maybe you can agree to only buy for the kids. Or perhaps you can draw names, instead of buying for multiple families. And then there are always baked goods or homemade crafts! Who doesn't love a gift that comes fresh out of the oven or straight from the heart?

Christmas at NORTHLAND CATHEDRAL

🎄 **CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS MUSICAL**
DECEMBER 11TH, 10:45 AM

🎄 **SOUNDS OF THE SEASON CONCERT**
DECEMBER 18TH, 3 PM & 6 PM

🎄 **CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE**
DECEMBER 25TH, 10:45 AM

🎄 **SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE**
DECEMBER 11TH, 6:00 PM

🎄 **CHRISTMAS EVE
CANDLELIGHT SERVICE**
DECEMBER 24TH, 6:00 PM

J. Lowell Harrup, Pastor
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www.northlandcathedral.org
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Enjoy the 15-minute show featuring live performances of your Christmas favorites from the comfort of your vehicle. Parking is first-come, first-serve. Vehicles will be directed to enter at the north entrance and exit at the south entrance.

LIVE PERFORMANCE SHOWTIMES:
6pm • 6:45pm • 7:30pm • 8:15pm • 9pm

LIVE PERFORMANCE DATES:
Friday, Dec. 2 | Saturday, Dec 3 | Sunday, Dec 4
Friday, Dec 9 | Saturday, Dec 10 | Sunday, Dec 11

Automated shows (without live musicians and glowsticks) will run Dec 12 through Dec 24 from 6pm to 11pm each night.



Held at Pleasant Valley Baptist Church
1600 N. 291 Hwy.
Liberty, MO 64068
Please enter from 291 Hwy./96th St.

Kansas City's most complete guide to the events and concerts you want to see!

the events calendar

Compiled by Anita Widaman

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PLEASE NOTE: Your item must be in by
the 3rd Wednesday of each month for
following month's issue.

Family Events, Christian Concerts, Theatre, Youth Events, Meetings, Clubs, Bible Studies, Family Fun, Speakers and More!

CHRISTMAS AND HANUKKAH

SERVICES OF HOPE AND HEALING. Dec. 1, 5:30 pm and 7:15 pm. Resurrection Leawood, 13720 Roe Ave., Leawood, KS. Wesley Covenant Chapel. 913-897-0120; cor.org/leawood

COOKIES WITH SANTA. Dec. 2, 6:30 pm. Resurrection Blue Springs, 601 NE Jefferson, Blue Springs, MO 64014. Join us for an evening for the whole family to have fun serving together. Bring a new book for a child at our Kansas City partner school, fill Socks of Kindness, and more! 816-389-8900; cor.org/bluesprings

FAMILY JOY NIGHT. Dec. 2, 5:45 pm. Resurrection Leawood, 13720 Roe Ave., Leawood, KS. Featuring children's musical, "All About that Baby" 913-897-0120; cor.org/leawood

HOW GREAT OUR JOY. December 2, 7:30 pm. Liberty Chapel at Calvary University, 15800 Calvary Rd., Kansas City, MO. \$10 Adults/\$7 Seniors & Students, Children 4 & Under/Free. Calvary Choral, Evidence & Music Department. 816-425-6180.

THIS CHANGES EVERYTHING 2016 HEART OF AMERICA CHRISTMAS PAGEANT. December 2-4 & 9-11. First Baptist Church, 10500 E. 350 Highway, Raytown, MO 64138. A dazzling blend of heart-stirring music, drama, ad dance. 816-778-1153.

LIBERTY LIGHT SHOW. December 2-4 & 9-11 6:00 pm. Pleasant Valley Baptist Church Parking Lot, 1600 N. 291 Hwy., Liberty, MO 64068. Experience a unique drive-in Christmas light show synchronized with live musicians, Dec. 2, 3, 4 and 9, 10, 11 with 15 minute shows beginning at 6:00 pm, 6:45 pm, 7:30 pm, 8:15 pm, 9:00 pm. The light show is completely free to the community. No reservations are needed. Automated shows (without live musicians and glow sticks) will run December 12 through December 24 from 6:00 pm-11:00

pm each night. 816-781-5959.

CHILD OF HOPE. December 2, 7:00 pm; December 3, 2:00 pm & 7:00 pm; December 4, 2:00 pm & 7:00 pm. White Theater at the Jewish Community Center, 5801 W. 115th St., Leawood, KS 66211. Tickets are \$25, \$10 (5 & under). Presented by Störing Dance Theater & The Culture House. The richness and inspiration of Christmas and the Nativity story brought to life as only Störing Dance Theater and the Culture House can do it. 913-393-3141.

HANGING OF THE GREEN SERVICE. December 3, 7:00 pm. Pisgah Baptist Church, 112 Pisgah Drive, Excelsior Springs, MO 64024. 816-630-5121.

CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS: A NIGHT OF DINNER AND MUSIC. December 4, 5:00 pm. Nall Avenue Baptist Church, 6701 Nall Avenue, Prairie Village, KS 66208. Dinner starts at 5:00 pm, show starts at 6:15 pm. \$15 for dinner and show; \$10 for show only. Pay at the door. A delicious catered meal followed by a Branson-style variety show featuring Christian recording artists Phil & Pam Morgan and the comic antics of Lizzy Lou. Limited seating available, so reserve your seats now! 913-432-4141.

CHRISTMAS CANTATA "THE ARRIVAL." December 4, 10:00 am. Pisgah Baptist Church, 112 Pisgah Drive, Excelsior Springs, MO 64024. 816-630-5121.

FINDING CHRISTMAS. December 4, 10:30 am & 6:00 pm. Church on the Rock Outreach Center, 1700 SW Market St., Lee's Summit, MO. Free and open to public. You won't want to miss this Christmas story about a little girl's search for the true meaning of Christmas. 816-246-7625

FAMILY ADVENT NIGHT Dec. 6, 5:30 pm. Resurrection Downtown, 1522 McGee St., KCMO. Get your Christmas spirit on track with this fun evening for family and friends! Enjoy dinner, crafts and games, photo booth, entertainment and more! 816-979-1330; cor.org/downtown



"CHRISTMAS AT RESURRECTION" MUSICAL.

Dec. 8-9, 7:30 pm; Dec. 10, 1 pm and 7:30 pm; Dec. 11, 1:30 pm and 7:30 pm. Resurrection Leawood, 13720 Roe Ave., Leawood, KS. More than 300 musicians, children, actors and dancers sharing the story of Christmas. 913-897-0120; cor.org/leawood

DRIVE-THRU LIVING NATIVITY. December 9-11, 6:00 pm. Lone Jack Baptist Church, 202 S. Bynum

Rd., Lone Jack, MO 64070. No donations accepted. 816-423-5463.

THE LOST BROTHER A CHRISTMAS STORY. December 10, 5:00 pm. Avondale Baptist Church, 2501 NE Parvin Rd., Kansas City, MO. Shops open at 5:00 pm, Performance at 6:00 pm, Desserts and Shops 7:00 pm. www.avondalebc.org

CHRISTMAS CANTATA "CRADLE THAT ROCKED THE WORLD." December 11, 6:00 pm. Southside Christian Church, 7304 Cleveland, Kansas City, MO 64132. A multi-church choir presents a Christmas cantata.

WALK TO THE MANGER. EXTRAORDINARY ORDINARY NIGHT. December 11, at 8:00, 9:30, 11:00 AM, and 6:00 PM. Colonial Presbyterian Church, Quivira, 12501 W. 137th Street, Overland Park, KS 66221. The Christmas story through powerful music and drama. 816-942-3272

WALK TO THE MANGER. "UNTO US." Dec. 11, 9:00 and 11:00 AM. Colonial Presbyterian Church, 9500 Wornall Rd., Kansas City, MO 64114. An original nativity musical celebration 816-942-3272

JASON GRAY'S CHRISTMAS STORIES TOUR. Dec. 12, 7 p.m. Deerbrook Covenant church, 200 NE Tudor, Lee's Summit, MO. \$10, \$15 at door. 816-246-9337

THE MYSTERY OF CHRISTMAS. December 16-18. Dramatic Truth, Goppert Theatre at Avila University, 11901 Wornall Rd, Kansas City, MO 64145. www.dramatictruth.org

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS MUSICAL. Dec. 17, 10 am and 6 pm Resurrection West, 24000 W. Valley Parkway, Olathe, KS. 913-538-7800; cor.org/west

FAMILY CHRISTMAS. December 18, 6:00 PM. Fellowship Greenwood, 1601 W. Main, Greenwood, MO. Join us for our Family Christmas as we gather together as a family to celebrate Christ, the reason for the season! 816-984-8300.

THE SWEETER MUSIC. December 18, 9:30 am. Blue Ridge Church, 8524 Blue Ridge Blvd., Raytown, MO 64138. Christmas Cantata and children's program. 816-353-8053.

SOUNDS OF THE SEASON CHRISTMAS CONCERT. December 18, 3:00 pm-8:00 pm. Northland Cathedral, 101 NW 99th St., KCMO. 816-455-2555.

A CHRISTMAS NIGHT OF WORSHIP. December 18, 6:30 pm. First Baptist Church of Olathe, 2024 E 151st St., Olathe, KS 66062. An evening of seasonal music. 913-764-7088.

CHRISTMAS CANTATA "CRADLE THAT ROCKED THE WORLD". December 18, 6:00 pm. Northland Christian Church, 6120 NE 48th St., Kansas City, MO 64119.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT. December 18, 5:00 pm. Woods Chapel Church Blue Springs, 3609 SW State Route 7, Blue Springs, MO 64014. Everyone is welcome to join us for the FREE Christmas Concert. Great for all ages. 816-795-8848.

CHRISTMAS AT EVANGEL. December 18. Evangel Church, 1414 E. 103rd St., Kansas City, MO 64131. We will celebrate the joy of Christmas with the Evangel Worship Choir & Orchestra. 3 performances: 9:00 am, 11:00 am and 6:00 pm. 816-942-1414.

CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP. Dec. 23, 5 pm and 7 pm; Dec. 24, 1 pm, 3 pm, 5 pm, 7 pm, 9 pm, 11 pm. Resurrection Leawood, 13720 Roe Ave., Leawood, KS. 913-897-0120; cor.org/leawood

CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP. Dec. 23, 5 pm; Saturday, Dec. 24, 11 am, 1 pm, 3 pm, 5 pm, 7 pm Resurrection West, 24000 W. Val-

■ calendar continued on next page

Christmas at BSA
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DEC. 12 JASON GRAY'S CHRISTMAS STORIES TOUR. 7 P.M. DEERBROOK COVENANT CHURCH, 200 NE TUDOR, LEE'S SUMMIT, MO.

ley Parkway, Olathe, KS. 913-538-7800; cor.org/west

CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS EVE. Dec. 23, 5 pm and 7 pm; Dec. 24, 3 pm, 5 pm, 7 pm. Resurrection Downtown, 1522 McGee St., KCMO. 816-979-1330; cor.org/downtown

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES. Dec. 24, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00 PM Colonial Presbyterian Church, Quivira, 12501 W. 137th Street, Overland Park, KS 66221. 816.942.3272

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES. Dec. 24, 5:00, 7:00 PM. Colonial Presbyterian Church, 9500 Wornall Rd., Kansas City, MO 64114. 816.942.3272

CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE. December 24, 5:00 PM. New Life City Church Auditorium, 1717 McGee, Kansas City, MO. (816) 421-7729

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES. December 24, 3:00, 4:30, 6:00 PM. Fellowship Greenwood, 1601 W. Main, Greenwood, MO. Childcare for three and

under provided. 816-984-8300.

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP. Dec. 24 at 3 pm, 5 pm, 7 pm, 9 pm. Resurrection Blue Springs, 601 NE Jefferson, Blue Springs, MO 64014. 816-389-8900; cor.org/bluesprings

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT WORSHIP. December 24, 6:00 pm. Pointe of Hope Church, 1215 N. 7 Hwy., Blue Spring, MO 64014. At 6:00 pm hot cocoa and the sounds of a jazz band playing Christmas tunes in our Coffee House. 7:00 pm angelic dancers and the singing of traditional carols. 816-220-2609

CHRISTMAS EVE. December 24, 5:00 pm & 6:30 pm. Cornerstone Church, 301 SE County Road AA Hwy., Blue Springs, MO. We invite you to celebrate with us. Family-friendly, traditional and contemporary Christmas music, candlelight, communion, and short message. www.cornerstonelife.org.

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICES. December 24, 6:00 pm-7:00 pm. Northland Cathe-

■ calendar continued on next page



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dral, 101 NW 99th St., Kansas City, MO. 816-455-2555.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE. December 24, 9:00 pm. Church on the Rock Outreach Center, 1700 SW Market St., Lee's Summit, MO. Free and open to the public. The children will re-enact the Christmas story. Don't miss this special service. 816-246-7625.

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SERVICES. December 24, 4:30 pm & 7:30 pm. Avondale United Methodist Church, 3101 NE Winn Rd., Kansas City, MO 64117. 816-522-1023.

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CANDLELIGHT SERVICE. December 24, 5:00 pm. New Hope Church of the Nazarene, 4330 N. Oak Trafficway, Kansas City, MO. 816-452-8442.

CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE. December 25, 10:30 am. Church on the Rock Outreach Center, 1700 SW Market St., Lee's Summit, MO. Please join us for this special Christmas Day service. No classes or nursery available that day. 816-246-7625.

THE ROAD CHURCH CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE. December 24, 5:30 pm. The Cotillion, 1717 NW Burdett Crossing, Blue Springs, MO 64015. 816-228-7620.

CANDLELIGHT SERVICE. December 24, 5:30 pm. Oakwood Baptist Church, 7600 Lee's Summit Rd., Kansas City, MO 64139.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE. December 24, 6:00 pm. Grace Fellowship Church, 10201 W. 127th St., Overland Park, KS 66213. Join us for our candlelight Christmas Eve Service, celebrating the birth of Christ. 913-681-3003.

CANDLE LIGHT SERVICE AND LORD'S SUPPER. December 24, 10:00 pm. Red Bridge Baptist Church, 4901 E. Red Bridge Rd., Kansas City, MO. www.redbridgebaptist.org. 816-761-1194.

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLE LIGHT SERVICE. December 24, 12:00pm. New Beginnings Nazarene at Chipman Commons, 214 NE Chipman Rd., Lee's Summit, MO 64063. A candle light ceremony for proclaiming the birth of the Christ child. Families are encouraged to bring the children. 816-525-7403.



DEC. 2&5 **COOKIES AND COCOA OPEN HOUSE . MOTHER'S REFUGE, 3721 DELRIDGE, INDEPENDENCE, MO 64151. 816-353-8070.**

CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE. December 25, 10:30 AM. Fellowship Greenwood, 1601 W. Main, Greenwood, MO. Childcare for children 3 years and under only. 816-984-8300.

HANUKKAH CELEBRATION. December 27. Or HaOlam, 9898 W. 95th St., Overland Park, KS. Enjoy shopping and schmoozing. Then laugh & worship while adults, youth, and children present 'drama', music, and dance. After this, you may indulge in yummy finger foods and more shopping and schmoozing.

CONCERTS

CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS TOURS PHIL & PAM MORGAN. December 3, 7:00 pm. Paola Community Center, 905 E. Wea St. Paola, KS, 417-437-6971. December 4, 6:15 pm. Nall Avenue Baptist Church, 6701 Nall Ave, Prairie Village, KS, 913-432-4141. December 9, 7:00 pm. First Baptist Church, 2 NE Douglas, Lee's Summit, MO, 816-525-0700. December 18, 5:00 pm. Grace Baptist Church, 650 E. Madison Ave., Gardner, KS, 913-856-2880.

CHRISTMAS AT BSA WITH SELAH. December 4,

6:00 pm. Blue Springs Assembly, 2501 NE Duncan Rd., Blue Springs, MO 64029. 816-847-0200.

JASON GRAY'S CHRISTMAS STORIES TOUR. Dec. 12, 7 p.m. Deerbrook Covenant church, 200 NE Tudor, Lee's Summit, MO. \$10, \$15 at door. 816-246-9337

SWEET SPIRIT. January 21, 6:00 pm (food) 7:00 pm (music). Moment of Truth Bible Baptist Church, 310 S. Randolph Rd., Claycomo, MO 64119. 816-452-4426.

SOUTHERN GOSPEL (Call for groups)

ALPHA OMEGA CHRISTIAN MUSIC ASSOCIATION MONTHLY MEETING, PRAYER, DEVOTION, POTLUCK AND JAM. FIRST FRIDAY, 7pm. 10035 E. Westport Rd., Indep., MO 64052.

MO-KAN GOSPEL MUSIC ASSOCIATION POTLUCK AND JAM. FOURTH FRIDAY (except for Nov. & Dec. when we meet on the 3rd Fri.). Northland Christian Church, 6120 NE 48th St., KCMO. 913-432-0359.

PENTECOSTAL TABERNACLE CHURCH. SECOND SATURDAY, 6pm. 341 S. 72nd St., Kansas City, KS 66111. Praise and Worship songs of Zion. 913-334-1009.

CGMA NW MO CHAPTER MEETING, GOSPEL MUSIC AND POTLUCK. SECOND SATURDAY. Faith Assembly of God Church, South 13 Hwy, Polo, MO. Travel North on I-35 North, go North of Liberty to the Polo/Lathrop Exit. Turn right onto 116 Hwy. Go 12 miles to 13 Hwy. Turn left and go ¼ mile. pegcla@msn.com.

MOMENT OF TRUTH BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH. THIRD SATURDAY in January, May, September & October, 7pm. 310 Randolph Rd, Claycomo, MO.

Gospel music sing. 816-452-4426.

RADIANT LIFE ASSEMBLY OF GOD. LAST SUNDAY, 6:30 p.m. Hwy. 33, Kearney, MO. Open mike. Gospel sing.

PARADISE BAPTIST CHURCH. SECOND SUNDAY, 6 p.m. Pot luck dinner at 5 p.m. Paradise Missouri. 816-591-1020.

CLASSES, SEMINARS, CONFERENCES

MEDICARE OPEN ENROLLMENT: MEDICARE & YOU. Through December 7. JFS Kansas Office, 5801 W. 115th Street, Suite 103, Overland Park, KS 66211. 913-327-8250. JFS Missouri Office, 9233 Ward Parkway, Suite 125, Kansas City, MO 64114. 816-333-1172. Sponsored by Jewish Family Services. Have questions about Medicare? Kansas or Missouri residents can contact Kelly G. Loeb, Older Adult Care Manager at kloeb@jfskc.org or 913-327-8278 to schedule a free counseling appointment.

"ULTAMITE CHRISTMAS PARTY" TRAINING. December 1, 6:30 pm-8:30 pm. Blue Ridge Bible Church, 8524 Blue Ridge Blvd., Kansas City, MO. Register by November 29.

4-DAY CONVENTION. December 2, 7:00 pm; December 3, 7:00 pm; December 4, 11:00 am & 7:00 pm; Monday 5, 7:00 pm. First Love Ministries Church, 4747 Hadley Ave., Overland Park, KS 66203. Special guest speaker Mary K. Baxter. Pastor Bill & Jan Sinkewich. www.firstlovekc.org 913-403-9644.

WOMEN'S CHRISTMAS FELLOWSHIP. December 3, 2:00 pm-4:00 pm. New Hope Church of Nazarene, 4330 N. Oak Trafficway, Kansas City, MO. Guest speaker: Duffy Russell will be speaking about Biblical Oils and their significance in our lives today. There couldn't be a better time to enjoy the scents of Frankincense and Myrrh as we approach the celebration of His birth. 816-452-8442.

AVOID PROBATE. December 6, 7:00 pm. Lewis Living Trust Center, 700 NE Langsford, Lee's Summit, MO 64063. 816-524-3200.

SOUTH KANSAS CITY AGLOW MEETING. December 14, 9:30 am. Grandview Assembly of God, 12400 Grandview Rd., Grandview, MO 64030. Come enjoy Christmas music with the Dyke Family. Christmas luncheon following. 816-540-2590.

AVOID PROBATE. December 20, 7:00 pm. Lewis Living Trust Center, 700 NE Langsford, Lee's Summit, MO 64063. 816-524-3200.

ABORTION RECOVERY CLASS, HER CHOICE TO HEAL. January 2017, 9-week class. Sponsored by, If Not For Grace Ministries. Contact Jama at jedlund@inf.org or call 816-847-2911.

"LIFE IN THE FAST LANE: MANAGING CHANGE

AND STRESS." January 10, 17, 24; 7:00 pm-8:00 pm. Jewish Community Campus, 5801 W. 115th St., Leawood, KS. 913-327-8259.

"ROMANTIC GETAWAY" AT CHATEAU AVALON. January 15 & 16. Chateau Avalon across from the Legends. Just \$152 per couple. Mountain-topmarriages.org 913-780-3423.

THE PURSUIT OF HOLINESS BY JERRY BRIDGES. Tuesday's - January 17-April 4, 6:30 pm-8:00 pm. TBA, OPKS. friends@hamw.org

ARISE 2017 WOMEN'S CONFERENCE. January 26-29. World Revival Church, 9900 View High Drive, Kansas City, MO 64134. With Kathy Gray and special guest Julianna Zobrist. For more information, visit arise.worldrevivalchurch.com.

SPECIAL CHURCH EVENTS

JUSTICE FAIR. December 2, 6:30 pm-8:30 pm. New Life City Church, 1717 McGee St., Kansas City, MO 64108. Justice Fair is an opportunity for us to make purposeful purchases during this season of gift-giving. Your purchases provide fair wages, dignity, and hope to many around the world. Music, food, and shopping! We hope you can join us.

LIBERTY LIGHT SHOW. December 2-4 & 9-11 6:00, pm. Pleasant Valley Baptist Church Parking Lot, 1600 N. 291 Hwy., Liberty, MO 64068. Experience a unique drive-in Christmas light show synchronized with live musicians, Dec. 2, 3, 4 and 9, 10, 11 with 15 minute shows beginning at 6:00 pm, 6:45 pm, 7:30 pm, 8:15 pm, 9:00 pm. The light show is completely free to the community. No reservations are needed. Automated shows (without live musicians and glow sticks) will run December 12 through December 24 from 6:00 pm-11:00 pm each night. 816-781-5959.

CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON FOR ADULTS. December 3, 11:30 am. Avondale United Methodist Church, Wesley Hall, 3101 NW Winn Rd., Kansas City, MO 64117. 816-522-1023

OPEN MIC NIGHT. December 4, 6:00 pm. The Crossing, 33180 W. 83rd St., De Soto, KS 66018. Free for all ages. Variety of family friendly talents welcome. 913-583-3411.

EVENING OF WORSHIP. Dec. 10, 6:00 PM. Calvary Worship Center International, 10809 E. Hwy 40, Independence, MO. Special Guests: Willis Blount, Derrick Ikerd, Roshawn Graves-Dye, Michelle Roulette, and our own worship team. Sermon conducted by our own Bishop Juliette Sherman. FREE Event. (816) 254-7829

COOKIES AND COCOA OPEN HOUSE MOTHER'S REFUGE . December 2, 5, Mother's Refuge, 3721 Delridge, Independence, MO 64151. 816-353-8070.

"CHRISTMAS PAST AND A PRESENT" MADRIGAL DINNERS. December 9 & 10, 6:30 pm December 11, 3:00 pm. Liberty Chapel at Calvary University, 15800 Calvary Rd., Kansas City, MO. \$25 Adults/\$20 Seniors & Students - Friday/Saturday and \$20 all tickets - Sunday. 816-425-6180.

MISSOURI RIGHT CARAVAN. January 26, 27, 28. The Annual bus trip to Washington, DC for the 44th Annual National March for Life. Missouri Right to Life. 314-434-4900.

MIDWEST MARCH FOR LIFE. February 4. Jefferson City. Details coming soon.

■ calendar continued on next page

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FINE ARTS

A CHRISTMAS CAROL 2016. Through December 24. Kansas City Repertory Theatre, 4949 Cherry St., Kansas City, MO 64110. 816-235-1453

CHRISTMAS IN SONG. Through December 24. Quality Hill Playhouse, 303 W. 10th St., Kansas City, MO 64105. Presenting holiday music in cabaret setting. 816-421-1700.

RUDOLPH THE RED-NOSED REINDEER: THE MUSICAL. Through December 31. Crown Center, 2450 Grand Ave., Kansas City, MO 64108. 816-474-6552.

CHILD OF HOPE. December 2, 7:00 pm; December 3, 2:00 pm & 7:00 pm; December 4, 2:00 pm & 7:00 pm. White Theater at the Jewish Community Center, 5801 W. 115th St., Leawood, KS 66211. Tickets are \$25, \$10 (5 & under). Presented by Störing Dance Theater & The Culture House. The richness and inspiration of Christmas and the Nativity story brought to life as only Störing Dance Theater and the Culture House can do it. 913-393-3141.

HOLIDAY CONCERT. December 4, 3:00 pm. Belton Christian Church, 409 Airway Lane, Belton, MO. Presented by Southland Community Chorale. Everyone is invited.

THIS CHANGES EVERYTHING. December 2-4 & 9-11. First Baptist Raytown, 10500 E. 350 Hwy., Raytown, MO 64138. Free tickets for the 2016 Heart of America Christmas Pageant. A dazzling blend of heart-string music, drama, and dance. 816-778-1153.

HELLO, HOLIDAYS! December 9, 7:30 pm. Rolling Hills Presbyterian Church, 9300 Nall, Overland Park, KS 66207; December 11, 2:00 pm. Mission Woods, 1900 Shawnee Mission Pkwy, Mission Woods, KS 66205; December 13, 7:30 pm. St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 11 E 40th St., Kansas City, MO 64111. Presented by KC Chorale.

RUDOLPH REVUE. December 10 & 17. Puppetry Arts Institute, 11025 E. Winner Rd., Independence, MO 64052. 816-833-9777.

CHRISTMAS IN BRASS. December 12, 7:30 pm. Bell Cultural Events Center, 2030 E. College Way, Olathe, KS. Presented by Fountain Brass.

WINDSYNC, WIND QUINTET [FREE DISCOVERY CONCERT]. December 15, 7:00 pm. Folly Theater, 300 W. 12th St., Kansas City, MO 64105. 816-415-5025. Presenter: Harriman-Jewell Series.

SURPRISED BY JOY. December 16, 7:00 pm. Mis-

sion Woods Community of Christ, 2800 NW Duncan Rd., Blue Springs, MO 64015. Presented by Jacomo Chorale. Concert of Christmas music, both traditional and new. 816-560-9148.

THE MYSTERY OF CHRISTMAS. December 16-18. Dramatic Truth, Goppert Theatre at Avila University, 11901 Wornall Rd, Kansas City, MO 64145. www.dramatictruth.org.

FAMILY OUTINGS

SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS-PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE. Through December 30, Monday-Saturday 10:00 am-4:00 pm & Sundays 1:00 pm-4:00 pm. TWILIGHT TOUR. December 4, 4:00 pm-7:00 pm. Bingham-Waggoner Estate, 313 W Pacific Ave., Independence, MO.

87TH ANNUAL KCP&L PLAZA LIGHTS. Through January 15, 5:00 pm. Country Club Plaza. 816-753-0100.

HANDS ON HISTORY. December 3-December 31, 11:00 am. National World War I Museum & Memorial, 100 W. 26th St., Kansas City, MO 64108. Family-friendly program complimentary with paid admission. 816-888-8100.

KANSAS CITY JAZZ ORCHESTRA SWINGS THE NUTCRACKER. December 6, 7:00 pm. Kauffman Center for Performing Arts, 1601 Broadway Blvd., Kansas City, MO 64108. A fun, innovative, and highly entertaining concert of this timeless classic.

913-780-5250.

JIM BRICKMAN WITH THE KANSAS CITY SYMPHONY. December 9. Kauffman Center for Performing Arts, 1601 Broadway Blvd., Kansas City, MO 64108. 816-218-2626.

MANNHEIM STEAMROLLER CHRISTMAS. December 10, 8:00 pm. Arvest Bank Theatre at the Midland, 1228 Main St., Kansas City, MO 64105. 816-471-9703.

SONGS OF THE SEASON. December 12-December 14. Mesner Puppet Theater, 1006 Linwood Blvd., Kansas City, MO. 816-756-3500.

MUSEUM UNWRAPPED. December 15-17, 6:00 pm-9:00 pm. The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, 4525 Oak Street, Kansas City, MO 64111. 816-751-1278.

SCREENLAND AT THE SYMPHONY: HOME ALONE. December 21-22. Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts, 1601 Broadway, Kansas City, MO 64108. 816-471-0400.

HANDEL'S MESSIAH. December 23, 7:00 pm. Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts, 1601 Broadway, Kansas City, MO 64108. Let the glorious voices of Spire, and the virtuoso playing of the Spire Baroque Orchestra on original period instruments be your guide this holiday season. 816-994-7200.

NEW YEAR'S EVE SWINGIN' EVE. December 31, 8:00 pm. Union Station, Sprint Festival Plaza, 30 W. Pershing Rd., Kansas City, MO 64108. Featuring the award-winning Dave Stephens Band. For more information, please call 816-460-2020.

MONTHLY MEETINGS

BUILDING BETTER MOMS. THE BUILDING BETTER MOMS. BUILDING BETTER MOMS. The United Methodist Church of the Resurrection, 13720 Roe Ave., Leawood, KS. For local mothers of children in early childhood, elementary school, middle school, high school, and for single moms, with both day and evening meeting times available at the Leawood campus. www.cor.org 913-897-0120.

DIVORCECARE AND DIVORCECARE4KIDS. 6:00-7:30 pm. Timothy Lutheran Church, 425 NW RD Mize Road, Blue Springs, MO. Help for those going through or having gone through divorce. 816-228-5300.

WEEKLY - CHRISTIAN BUSINESS MEN'S COMMITTEE. Meets weekly in various parts of the city.

Call Jim Mathis, 913-269-6709, for time and location.

WEEKLY - FAITH BASED 12-STEP PROGRAM OF RECOVERY FROM COMPULSIVE OVER-EATING. Call Overeater's Anonymous 913-383-5933 or visit www.kansascityoa.org for more information and to access the schedule of various meetings in the metro area.

MONTHLY - MISSOURI RIGHT TO LIFE CHAPTERS 816-353-4113.

3RD SUNDAY - CANCER SUPPORT GROUP. 6:30-8:00 pm. Beacon Free Baptist Church, 10825 E. 79th Street, Raytown, MO 64138. Connect with others who share your journey, you are not alone. 816-353-7447.

MONDAY - MOMS AND TOTS COMMUNITY. 10:00-11:00 am. Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 7851 W. 119th St., Overland Park, KS. A different activity each week - story time, play time, Mom's bible studies and fellowship, or special outing. A great way to connect with other moms and young children. Contact amyviets@holycross-elca.org for

more info.

MONDAY - HEALING ROOMS MINISTRIES. 3:00-6:00 pm. Healing Rooms of Olathe, 1548 E Spruce, Olathe, KS 66061. M-T-W by appointment. www.healingroomsolathe.com 913-563-2413.

MONDAY - HEALING ROOMS MINISTRIES. 4:00-6:00 pm. Hope City, 5101E. 24th St., Kansas City, MO.

2ND & 4TH MONDAY - MOPS. 9:30 a.m. MOPS. First Baptist Raytown, 10500 E 350 Highway, Raytown, MO. Support groups for mothers of preschool-aged children. Offers creative activities, social events & learning opportunities. 816-353-1994.

TUESDAY - IF NOT FOR GRACE PRAYER. 9:30 am. Crown Pointe Church, 5950 NE Lakewood Way, Lee's Summit, MO 64086. kmiller@infgr.org

TUESDAY - FEAR NOT SUPPORT GROUP. 7:00 pm. Lakeland Community Church, 913 NW Colbern Rd., Lee's Summit, MO. Christ-Centered support

■ calendar continued on next page

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group for anxiety and depression. Material based on the Christian 12 Steps; Serenity Prayer also Anxiety Centre "The Anxiety/Phobia Workbook" by Edmund Bourne.

TUESDAY - CELEBRATE RECOVERY. 7:00 pm. Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 7851 W. 119th St., Overland Park, KS. This 12-step Christ centered program. Drop in any Tuesday! Contact Craig Hauser, 913-449-7265 for more info.

TUESDAY - HEARTLAND HEALING ROOMS. 7:00-8:30 pm. Christ Triumphant Church, 401 NE Chipman Rd., Lee's Summit, MO. www.heartland-healingrooms.org.

1ST TUESDAY - CHRISTIAN NIGHT. 6 - 8 pm. Skate World, I-35 & Shawnee Mission Parkway, Mission, KS. 913-262-0711.

1ST TUESDAY - CREATION SCIENCE ASSOCIATION FOR MID-AMERICA. 7 p.m., Westbrooke Church, 9777 Antioch, Overland Park, KS. Presentation followed by Q&A; Answers to your questions regarding Science and the Bible; "Creation Safaris" (Res. Req'd); www.csama.org (includes link to FB page) 816-246-4517.

1ST & 3RD TUESDAY - FIBROMYALGIA SUPPORT GROUP MEETINGS. 7:00 pm., Life Springs Church, Neos Youth Center, 206 N. Webster St., Suite 112, Spring Hill, KS. Contact Kim: fibrohopeandhealing@yahoo.com or 337-852-5052.

1ST & 3RD TUESDAY - GRIEF SHARE. 7-8:30pm. Timothy Lutheran Ministries, 425 NW RD Mize Rd., Blue Springs, MO. 816-228-5300.

2ND TUESDAY - EQUIPPING BELIEVERS MID-WEST. 7:00 pm. Blue Spring, Hampton Inn, 900 NW S. Outer Rd., Blue Springs, MO 64015. Free Prayer for healing and freedom from addiction, Free training to heal the sick, evangelize the lost, set the oppressed free. 913-488-6749.

2ND & 4TH TUESDAY - "WINGS OF HOPE." Blue Springs Christian Church, 7920 S. 7 Hwy, Blue Springs, MO. A Christian based ministry to provide support for families grieving loss through miscarriage or infant death, because every life matters. Email: wingsofhope@bscc.org.

2ND & 4TH TUESDAY - MOPS. 9:00 am. Emmanuel Baptist Church, 10100 Metcalf Ave., Overland Park, KS. 913-649-0900.

3RD TUESDAY - LUNCH & LEARN. 12:00 pm. KC First Church of Nazarene, 11811 State Line Rd. Kansas City, MO 64114. Each session will focus on a different geographical area or skill set. Please bring your own sack lunch; desserts and beverages will be provided. 816-942-9022.

WEDNESDAY - HEALING ROOMS MINISTRIES. 1:30-3:00 pm. Hope City, 5101 E. 24th St., Kansas City, MO.

WEDNESDAY WEEKLY - LIVING FREE, CHRIST-CENTERED 12 STEP PROGRAM. Front Modular, 6:30-8:00. Abundant Life Baptist Church, 414 SW Persels, LS, MO. 816-554-8181.

WEEKLY WEDNESDAY - CHRISTIAN BUSINESS CONNECTIONS NETWORK. 3:00 pm, Gusto! Coffee, 3390 SW Fascination Dr., Lee's Summit, MO 64081. 816-767-1100.

WEDNESDAY - BREAK TIME CLUB. 9:30am-1:30pm. Timothy Lutheran Church, 425 NW R.D. Mize Rd., Blue Springs, MO 64014. Enriching environment for older adults with mental and/or physical limitation. 816-228-5300.

WEDNESDAY - AL-ANON FAMILY GROUP. 11:30am-12:30pm. First Presbyterian Church, 601 E. Oak St., Pleasant Hill, MO (please use North basement entrance off Myrtle Street). Are you troubled by someone else's drinking? 816-540-6179

WEDNESDAY - CELEBRATE RECOVERY. 6:30 pm. First Baptist Raytown, 100500 E. 350 Hwy., Raytown, MO. Please enter through the rock entrance. Meet in room B-116. For info call: 816-778-1156 or www.firstbaptistraytown.com

WEDNESDAY - CATCH THE FIRE SOAKING PRAYER CENTER. 7-9pm. 816-804-8283.

WEDNESDAY - DELIVERANCE - BREAKING CURSES WORKSHOP. 7:00 pm. First Love Ministries Church, 4747 Hadley St., Overland Park, KS.



913-403-9644. Call Tues. - Fri. after 1 p.m.

2ND WEDNESDAY - LEE'S SUMMIT WOMEN'S PRAYER CONNECTION. 9:00 -10:30 am. In a comfortable setting, we get to know each other better and take time to pray (silently or audibly) for our nation, families, Lee's Summit Women's Connection, and our national organization. Call Millie Mathews for meeting location: 816-537-9898.

2ND WEDNESDAY - COFFEE CONNECT. 6:30 pm. IHOPU, 12901 S. US Highway, Grandview, MO 64030. An informal gathering with believers from different spheres of influence. www.ihopekc.org/josephcompany. (816) 763-0243

4TH WEDNESDAY - SOUTH KANSAS CITY AGLOW. 9:30 a.m. Grandview Assembly of God Church, 12400 Grandview Rd., Grandview, MO. Contact Mary Boston 816-804-5166.

LAST WEDNESDAY - CHRISTIAN LEGAL SOCIETY LUNCHEON. 12:00 pm. Levy & Craig, 1301 Oak, Kansas City, MO. First time guest free. \$10. 816-559-2173.

WEEKLY WEDNESDAY - FREEDOM CLASSES.

6:30-8:00pm. Pleasant Valley Baptist, 1600 N. 291 Hwy, Liberty, MO. Meet in the west wing. 816-781-5959.

WEDNESDAY - FREE INDEED ADDICTION RECOVERY. 6:00 pm. First Baptist Raytown, 10500 E. 350 Hwy., Raytown, MO. Please enter through the rock entrance. Meet in room B-222. For information call 816-778-1156 or www.firstbaptistraytown.com.

THURSDAY - HEALING ROOMS MINISTRIES. 2:00-8:30 pm. Healing Rooms of Olathe, 1548 E Spruce, Olathe, KS 66061. M-T-W by appointment. www.healingroomsfolathe.com 913-563-2413.

THURSDAY - CELEBRATE RECOVERY MEETING. 7:00-9:00pm. Life Church, 16111 S. Lone Elm Rd., Olathe, KS 66062. 913-829-7511.

1ST THURSDAY - HEART OF AMERICA CHRISTIAN WRITERS' NETWORK (HACWN). Evangel Temple, 1414 E 103rd St., KCMO. \$3 members, \$5 nonmembers. 816-942-1414.

FOR A FULL LIST OF MONTHLY EVENTS VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT METROVOICENEWS.COM

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Celebrate Hanukkah with Or HaOlam

You are invited to join us for the annual *HANUKKAH Celebration* on Tuesday, December 27. Come and make history with us as we experience another first in our new 95th St home. Enjoy shopping & schmoozing. Then laugh & worship while adults, youth, & children present 'drama', music, & dance. After this, you may indulge in yummy finger foods & more shopping & schmoozing. To complete your party experience, vendors & eaters can share in a quick cleanup to keep our new home beautiful.

- ✧ 2:30 - Shuk Set Up
- ✧ 3:30 - Shuk & Gift Shop open
- ✧ 5:45 - Shuk & Gift Shop closed during program
- ✧ 6:00 - Hanukkah Lighting & Program
- ✧ 7:00 - Finger Food Fellowship & Shuk & Gift Shop reopen
- ✧ 8:00 - Vendors & Eaters tidy up

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CHRISTMAS

continued from page 7

months and then went back to her own home.

The birth of Jesus

At that time the Roman emperor, Augustus, decreed that a census should be taken throughout the Roman Empire. (This was the first census taken when Quirinius was governor of Syria.) All returned to their own towns to register for this census. And because Joseph was a descendant of King David, he had to go to Bethlehem in Judea, David's ancient home. He traveled there from the village of Nazareth in Galilee. He took with him Mary, his fiancée, who was obviously pregnant by this time.

And while they were there, the time came for her baby to be born. She gave birth to her first child, a son. She wrapped him snugly in strips of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the village inn.

The Shepherds and Angels

That night some shepherds were in the fields outside the village, guarding their flocks of sheep. Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared among them, and the radiance of the Lord's glory surrounded them. They were terribly frightened, but the angel reassured them. "Don't be afraid!" he said. "I bring you good news of great joy for everyone! The Savior — yes, the Messiah, the Lord — has been born tonight in Bethlehem, the city of David! And this is how you will recognize him: You will find a baby lying in a manger, wrapped snugly in strips of cloth!"

Suddenly, the angel was joined by a vast host of others praising God:

"Glory to God in the highest

heaven, And peace on earth to all whom God favors."

When the angels had returned to heaven, the shepherds said to each other, "Come on, let's go to Bethlehem!" Let's see this wonderful thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

They ran to the village and found Mary and Joseph. And there was the baby, lying in the manger. Then the shepherds told everyone what had happened and what the angel had said to them about this child. All who heard the shepherds' story were astonished, but Mary quietly treasured these things in her heart and thought about them often. The shepherds went back to their fields and flocks, glorifying and praising God for what the angels had told them, and because they had seen the child, just as the angel had said.

Jesus presented in the temple

Eight days later, when the baby was circumcised, he was named Jesus, the name given him by the angel even before he was conceived.

Then it was time for the purification offering, as required by the law of Moses after the birth of a child; so his parents took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord. The law of the Lord says, "If a woman's first child is a boy, he must be dedicated to the Lord." So they offered a sacrifice according to what was required in the law of the Lord.

When Jesus' parents had fulfilled all the requirements of the law of the Lord, they returned home to Nazareth in Galilee. There the child grew up healthy and strong. He was filled with wisdom beyond his years, and God placed his special favor upon him.

—Taken from *The Book, Luke chapters 1:26-2:40.*

TIMES

continued from page 8

My friends, what I learned from my sister-in-law's courageous family is this: It is the trying and devastating times in our lives that make Christmas all the more joyful, beautiful and wondrous.

Because of Christmas, all those trials will work together for good. Because of

Christmas, we will one day be in a place where none of earth's ill can befall us. Because of Christmas, what's broken can be made whole.

Because of Christmas, we are blessed when we mourn! This is the good news we can cling to in the midst of trials ... even when we are covered in tears at the foot of our Christmas tree.

—By Jenny Rapson

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[Editor's Note: Metro Voice does not make it a habit to review R-rated films. At times, though, a film is important enough to review because of its portrayal of historical events in which the atrocities and violence of the subject matter cannot be ignored. It is part of a story that must be told. We realize that if accurately told on film, most of the Old Testament would also receive a similar rating. It is rare that an A-list Hollywood director presents faith and sacrifice in such an outstanding production, that event the most liberal of his or her peers stand in a 10-

film411

HACKSAW RIDGE

STARRING: Teresa Palmer, Andrew Garfield, Sam Worthington,

RATING: R

RUNTIME: 135 minutes

DIRECTOR: Mel Gibson

minute ovation and cheer at its premiere. Such was the case with Mel Gibson's "Hacksaw Ridge". This is not a film for the faint of heart nor for children. It is a story that shows the brutal sacrifice that our fathers (my own father Ellery Widaman served in the Pacific in WWII and re-enlisted to serve in

Korea) and grandfathers gave in preserving our freedoms. For that reason, a film like this cannot be judged solely by its film rating. —Dwight Widaman]

The Bible calls it a burning lake, a blazing furnace. Dante imagined it as nine circles of Sisyphean torture. Bosch colored it with our darkest nightmares. It's been called Abaddon, Gehenna, Tophet, Hades.

Perhaps those who took part in the Battle of Okinawa have another name for hell: Hacksaw Ridge.

It's the waning months of World War II. Germany has surrendered but Japan fights on, contesting every inch of land with ferocious tenacity. And as the United States military pushes ever closer to the Japanese homeland, the fighting grows more desperate, more horrific.

The U.S. turns its guns on Okinawa, just 340 miles from Japan. It pounds the island with fire as soldiers and marines scurry ashore. Japanese soldiers hide underground, determined to push the Americans into the ocean. Hacksaw Ridge is one of the island's most contested points, and soon the ground lies smoking. Bodies litter it like autumn leaves; blood pools in foxholes



and footprints; sounds of agony fill the sky. Countries may fight for this patch of land, but it's Death that rules here. Death that wins.

But into that black, blasted game board scurries one slight, skinny man. He carries no gun: Indeed, he fought the U.S. Army for the right not to. Bandages, not bullets, fill his pockets. He alone seems to walk upright in this land of crawling, screaming flesh. He alone dares all in this doomscape of the dying.

"Please Lord," he prays, his clothes

soaked in the blood of others, his hands ripped open from the burn of rope. "Let me get one more."

Desmond Doss finds another man, almost dead—skin torn away, muscles ripped open, bone exposed. He gives the man a shot of morphine—American, Japanese, doesn't matter—and hoists him to his back, returning to the face of a cliff where, below, lies sanctuary. There, at the top of the ridge, he secures the man to a rope and slowly

■ See HACKSAW page 18

Christmas film 'Believe' brings families of all races together through faith

'Believe,' A story of family, loyalty and love, comes out in December

Upcoming family-friendly Christmas movie "Believe" is about a close-knit Virginia community whose hardships bring them together.

"Believe" will be in select theaters nationwide on Dec. 2. At press time, the movie was scheduled to show at the B&B 16 Theater in Lee's Summit.

The movie's synopsis reads, "For years, the fictional small town of Grundy, Virginia, has relied on the Peyton family to provide the highlight of the year — the annual Christmas pageant. When Matthew Peyton (Ryan O'Quinn) inherits the family business, the responsibility of the Christmas pageant also falls on his shoulders."

"His new-found friends impact Matthew's life in a way he never thought possible and teach him to believe and give faith a chance."



As the movie progresses, viewers will see financial hardships fall on the town and the main character Matthew finds himself overwhelmed. His business profits plummet and his workers begin a strike. When Matthew is forced to make a decision between selling the family business and cancelling the beloved pageant, he faces a rapidly declining loss of popularity in the community and is attacked.

That's when Matthew meets Clarence (Issac Ryan Brown), a boy who believes in God and miracles, and his mother Sharon (Danielle Nicolet). "His new-found friends impact Matthew's life in a way he never thought possible and teach him to believe and give faith a chance."

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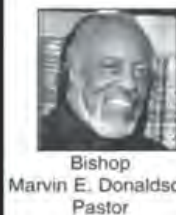
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HACKSAW

continued from page 17

lowers him down, the rope cutting deeper into his hands as he does. Once the man is down, Desmond breathes deep and turns his head again to the smoking ruins of Hacksaw Ridge.

"Please Lord," he says again. "Let me get one more."

And into hell he goes again.

Hacksaw Ridge is based on the true story of Desmond Doss, the first conscientious objector to receive the Medal of Honor. The character that we meet here is pure, unalloyed hero.

Like many young men of the day, Desmond took the bombing of Pearl Harbor "personal" and was on fire to volunteer. Even though he could've stayed home if he wanted to, Desmond didn't think it was right to stay behind while others fought in his place.

But Desmond also promised God that he'd never carry a weapon or kill another human being. And as you might expect, that creates a few prob-

lems once he and his squad move to the shooting range, preparing for war. Desmond explains to his superiors that he volunteered to save lives as a medic, not take them.

And even under threat of a court martial, and despite the pleas of those closest to him, Desmond refuses to violate those personal convictions.

"With the world so set on tearing itself apart, it don't seem like such a bad thing to me to put a little bit of it back together," he says.

Desmond's commander, sergeant and the rest of his company find the pacifist soldier's stance to be peculiar at best, cowardly at worst. But Desmond proves, through his actions at Hacksaw Ridge, that he is no coward.

Desmond's stance on killing people stems from his deep religious convictions. As a fervent Seventh Day Adventist, he keeps his Saturday Sabbath. He reads his Bible constantly, even asking someone to retrieve it for him from a battlefield. His fellow soldiers sometimes mock him for his piety—some-

times it's friendly teasing, sometimes more serious—but he never wavers. The closest Desmond comes to a spiritual crisis is amid the battle on Hacksaw Ridge after seeing a close friend die.

"What is it You want from me?" he asks of God. "I don't understand. I can't hear You."

And then he hears the cry of "Medic!" and Desmond knows what he has to do.

Desmond's convictions took root early. A poster featuring the Lord's Prayer and the Ten Commandments adorns the family home. And as a boy, Desmond is particularly drawn to the commandment "Thou shalt not kill," which his mother tells him is the worst sin.

But it's also clear that other deeply faithful people have come to different conclusions about that commandment. One tells Desmond, "I believe in [the Bible] as much as any man."

Desmond's brother volunteers for the Army and, apparently, has no such anti-weaponry qualms. Dorothy, his love interest back home, cautions

Desmond about his stubborn streak: "Don't confuse your will with the Lord's," she says.

Desmond's mother sings in a church choir. Desmond compares the choir to angels ... though not necessarily musical ones. A bombed-out church stands on a bleached battlefield. Someone wears a cross, putting it in his mouth during battle. Desmond recites a portion of Isaiah 40.

And then there's the gore. Hacksaw Ridge features some of the most brutal depictions of war ever put to screen. It's impossible to overstate the level to which we see men turned to meat.

Okinawa's battlefield provides a fitting stage for director Mel Gibson, given his proclivity for violence in his movies. From Braveheart to The Passion of the Christ to Apocalypto, Gibson bathes the screen in blood, often using pain and destruction as a catalyst for stories about freedom and redemption. Gibson, a longtime Catholic, seems to believe quite literally in the saving power of blood.

Which makes Gibson's selection of his newest on-screen hero—the conscientious objector Desmond Doss—an interesting one.

A director long fascinated by violence tells the story of a man who eschews it. Instead of giving us a hero who would die for his people, he gives us a hero who lives—and lives to save others.

Hacksaw Ridge is riveting cinema. But it's also bloody—as bloody as we've seen on screen for a long, long time. And while the horror and gore we see may impress upon us the depth Desmond's heroism, these images nevertheless assault us with their unblinking depiction of this hellish battle's carnage.

[From the editor: There is a strong and undeniable Christian message of sacrifice here. If one can make it past the graphic depiction of the brutality of war, it is worth seeking that message and remembering those that sacrificed for it. —Dwight Widaman]

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Lecrae suggests books for white Americans to read in effort to heal racial divide

Since the killings of Philando Castile and Alton Sterling by police officers, Lecrae has openly become an advocate for racial reconciliation and has used his voice and gifts to spread awareness. Despite his efforts, the Texas native says he's often misunderstood for his position even by fellow Christians, as can be seen by responses to his book suggestions.

"Not sure why as a Christian, you continue to let race define you," one Facebook user wrote on his post.

Another defended Lecrae and responded, "It impacts him, his children and brothers and sisters in Christ in very practical ways....race defines him partially because others including the system have defined him by race...being a Christian doesn't automatically take that away".

In a recent open letter to Huffington Post, he talked about seeing "so much fakeness" in his brothers and sisters as he traveled on tour.

He also shared about where he currently is in this season of his life, and confessed that he has been battling depression because of the loss of black lives.

"I can't even read comments on social media anymore. All the slander is too much for any one person to digest. They don't get me," he penned.

The Anomaly emcee went on to clarify his stance on police and white people despite what his critics might think. He shared that his mother and others in his family work in law enforcement.

"Just as I don't hate cops, I'm not mad at white people. But I am disturbed at the supremacy and disparities that still exist. And what's ironic is that I'm so bothered because JESUS

"Books that have helped my white friends 'get it,'" Lecrae captioned a photo on Facebook with the names of all the books listed below.

A DIFFERENT MIRROR: A History of Multicultural America Revised Edition by Ronald Takaki

BETWEEN THE WORLD AND ME by Ta-Nehisi Coates

THE CROSS AND THE LYNCHING TREE by James H. Cone

DIVIDED BY FAITH: EVANGELICAL RELIGION AND THE PROBLEM OF RACE IN AMERICA by Michael O. Emerson

JUST MERCY: A STORY OF JUSTICE AND REDEMPTION by Bryan Stevenson

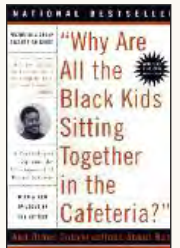
LET NOBODY TURN US AROUND: AN AFRICAN AMERICAN ANTHOLOGY BY Manning Marable

MORE THAN JUST RACE: BEING BLACK AND POOR IN THE INNER CITY (ISSUES OF OUR TIME) by William Julius Wilson

THE NEW JIM CROW: MASS INCARCERATION IN THE AGE OF COLORBLINDNESS by Michelle Alexander and Cornel West

THE WARMTH OF OTHER SUNS: THE EPIC STORY OF AMERICA'S GREAT MIGRATION by Isabel Wilkerson

WHY ARE ALL THE BLACK KIDS SITTING TOGETHER IN THE CAFETERIA: AND OTHER CONVERSATIONS ABOUT RACE by Beverly Daniel Tatum



actually challenges me to not only care for the souls of all humanity, but to feed the hungry, aid the sick, regard the stranger, visit the prisoner, and love my neighbor in tangible ways," he stated.

He added, "Honestly, the pains of humanity have been draining me."

The 37-year-old wrote a song about his rough season and released it as his latest single.

The song is called, "Can't Stop Us," and according to Billboard, Lecrae has never been more honest on a track.

"I've wanted to quit. I told myself I can't be a leader and a figure of in-

tegrity and wisdom until I become whole and not have to always be the one with answers. I'm not who they want me to be. I never will be. That's where I found myself. And that's where God found me. I'm only one man. I stress MAN. Human.

Fallible. Fallen. Susceptible. Vulnerable. Hang out with me long enough, and I'm bound to let you down. But I'm working on me. Well, God is. And as He is, I hope for grace and mercy and prayers from all those who really care," his letter maintained.

Cliff Barrows led music and emceed six decades of Graham crusades

Gospel Music Hall of Fame member dies at 93 years old

by **Evan Wilt**

Cliff Barrows, the man who brought the melody to Billy Graham's worldwide crusades for six decades, died Nov. 15. He was 93.

Graham's music and program director was there for the first crusade in Grand Rapids, Mich., in 1947 and continued serving until the last crusade in New York, 11 years ago. Barrows was the youngest member of the iconic trio comprised of himself, Graham, and George Beverly Shea, who died in 2013 at age 104. Together they formed the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association (BGEA), which has shared the gospel with millions around the world.

Barrows was an instrumental part of Graham's ministry, serving as a song leader, choir director, and the emcee for a ministry that evangelized to stadiums packed to capacity.

"Cliff Barrows was the voice behind my father for 60 years, emceeding the platform for his crusades and The Hour of Decision radio program," said Billy



Left to right: George Beverly Shea, Billy Graham and Cliff Barrows.

Graham's son, Franklin, who now leads the BGEA. "Not only was he one of my father's closest friends, but he was a friend to all of us on the team and in the family. Growing up, and until the day of his death, I called him Uncle Cliff."

Graham first met Barrows in Asheville, N.C., while Barrows was on

his honeymoon in 1945. The two quickly became inseparable.

Despite his declining health, Barrows joined his best friend in the city where they first met to celebrate Graham's 95th birthday in 2013. In a room of 800 well-wishers, including celebrities and politicians, Graham spotlighted his family

and Barrows, rather than the big names who showed up to honor him.

"Cliff, I want to thank you," Graham said, according to the Charlotte Observer. "This celebration is partly for you as well. And I want to thank you for all that you have meant to me through all the years."

Born in Ceres, Calif., Barrows started in ministry at an early age. He learned to read music and play the piano from his Aunt Helen and with her help, convinced his pastor to let him lead the church choir on Sunday nights.

Barrows became an ordained Baptist minister in 1944 and served as an assistant pastor at Temple Baptist Church in

St. Paul, Minn., before he met Graham a year later. Barrows always believed that corporate singing was one of the most

"The Christian faith is a singing faith, and a good way to express it and share it with others is in community singing."

Cliff Barrows

profound ways to build community, stating: "The Christian faith is a singing faith, and a good way to express it and share it with others is in community singing."

Barrows' musical talent left a profound impression on the millions who heard him perform. For his musical contributions, Barrows joined the Nashville Gospel Music Hall of Fame in 1988.

Graham once said, "The remarkable contribution Cliff has made to my ministry cannot be measured in human terms."

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D.C. JEANES
Metro Voice
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Wow, it's that time of year, already? Can't say, at this writing, it's beginning to look a lot like anything other than spring, but maybe it's changed when by the time you're reading this.

Regardless, there are some fun things to get excited about, in line with enjoying the celebration of Christ's birth. For one, the K-Love Christmas 2016 tour, including Crowder, Mac Powell of Third Day, and Unspoken will be here on Dec 10, at 7 pm at the Sheffield Family Life Center! This will be a great opportunity to gather with friends and family and enjoy a celebration of our Savior's birth with some wonderful music. For more

information, please visit klove.com/events/christmastour.

And you won't want to miss Selah's Christmas Tour coming to Blues Springs Assembly, Dec. 4 at 6 pm. Selah's music has a unique ability to touch lives and transform hearts. Over the course of 17 years in ministry, Selah has seen that power over and over again. For Todd Smith, Allan Hall, and Amy Perry, it's both humbling and exciting to be part of a force that inspires, entertains, and encourages and it shines through in this must-see Christmas celebration. Tickets available at itickets.com.

Another great thing about this time of year is pulling out all of those classic

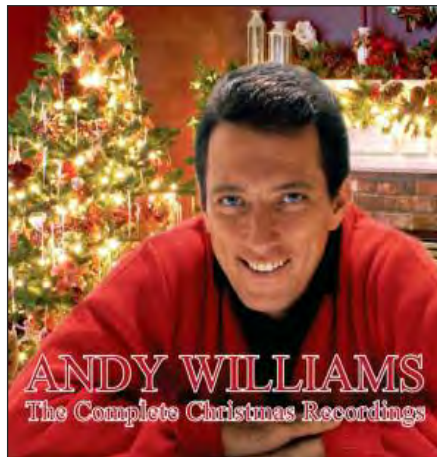
albums to listen to while making hot chocolate, or decorating the tree, or... decorating the tree with hot chocolate.

From Amy Grant to Andy Williams; Bing to Bono, there are some incredible recordings worth checking out. Here are a few to consider this holiday season...

Michael Crawford: Christmas Album reveals some of the most incredible pipes ever set to a recording. Crawford, known originally for his performance in Phantom of the Opera, weaves a beautiful tapestry of Christmas music on this album. His rendition of "O, Holy Night" gives me chills

every year.

Another one not to miss this season is MercyMe The Christmas Sessions. Including the songs 'God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen', 'Silent Night', 'White Christmas' and 'Winter Wonderland,' MercyMe puts their spin on some wonderful holiday classics, with a few special



guests thrown in. It's also listed as a "Highly Recommended" release on Amazon.

Amy Grant, Steven Curtis Chapman, Third Day, Chris Thomlin, Pentatonix, Michael Buble all have some festive Christmas albums to offer, too.

Lastly, but surely not the least of the list, is Cellofourte's newest release, A Cellofourte Christmas. Currently on tour in Europe with Skillet, Carnegie Mellon University Cellist Tate Olsen offers his second solo recording, this one for the holiday season. Cellofourte was founded in 2004 "with the goal of blending high level classical music training with a modern performance aesthetic and sound."



truly makes this a classic.

It is the type of Christmas album one could easily have playing in the background during a holiday party, but at the same time it would jive with any of the Trans-Siberian Orchestra albums, too. This disc is highly recommended. For more information on Cellofourte, please visit them at cellofourte.com

Have a wonderful Christmas, and take a moment to dwell on the incredible gift God sent us.

CHRISTMAS FUN

continued from page 9

an activity I remember doing with my mom and something I think my daughter will love doing as she sneaks a few kernels here and there.

Christmas Crafts—We have about 10 days of various Christmas crafts. Everything from ornaments to homemade gifts and our own wrapping paper.

Random Act of Kindness—My daughter will get to do something nice for someone she doesn't know. We'll lay out the parameters for her while teaching her again that we should always seek to do for others.

Christmas Karaoke—My husband and I love Christmas music and will listen to it in our cars for weeks. So a night of singing Christmas songs is right up our alley.

Red and Green Dinner—Our supper this night will be all red and green foods—on our red dishes.

Scavenger Hunt—Our kids will have a list of Christmas-oriented items to find.

Sleepover under the tree—Our daughter loves camping out in the living room, but this one will include the twinkling of the Christmas tree lights.

Gingerbread House—We'll get a kit to make our traditional gingerbread house.

Hot Cocoa for Breakfast—Our

daughter loves hot chocolate and will be over the moon at the prospect of having it for breakfast.

Pet Treats—Our pets are important members of our family, so we'll make treats to put in their stockings.

Cookies—Baking is an important part of Christmas, and we always have fun making cookies

Christmas Memories—Each of our Christmas activities will be in a box that on Christmas Eve we will fill with our new memories. Each of us will write our favorite memory from the holiday season so we can revisit them in years to come as we add more each year.

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ABOUT ANGEL TREE

- Prison Fellowship's Angel Tree is a ministry that serves incarcerated parents by strengthening and restoring prisoners' relationships with their kids and families.
- There are 2.7 million American children with an incarcerated mom or dad – that's one out of every 28 kids.
- Holidays like Christmas are bittersweet as children are separated from their imprisoned parent—often by more than 100 miles. Angel Tree programs mobilize churches to minister to hundreds of thousands of children by delivering a gift and the gospel message on behalf of their incarcerated parents.
- Last year, the program provided more than 300,000 children with Christmas gifts.
- This year, Prison Fellowship's Angel Tree program is able to offer every Angel Tree family The Adventure Bible from Zondervan's children's imprint, Zonderkidz.
- Adventure Bible is Available in English and Spanish

ANGEL

continued from page 1

Zondervan's children's brand, Zonderkidz. The book, both in Spanish and English, will be in addition to the gifts that over 300,000 children in those families will receive this year.

"What better way to show kids the true meaning of Christmas than to offer them God's word as they open their Angel Tree gifts?" said James J. Ackerman, president and chief executive officer of Prison Fellowship.

The ministries countless volunteers feel the same way.

"I never realized how much of a need there was until I got involved with Angel Tree," says Christina White who volunteers every year for her church's annual Angel Tree Christmas party. Her role is to facilitate "fun" for the children. She leads the kids in games, makes sure there's good music, and tries to ensure that everyone

enjoys themselves. For Christina, it is time well spent.

"Some families just pick up their gifts and leave," she says. "But the ones that stay always come back."

This type of support helps churches reach out to their communities. Prison outreach is one of the most overlooked ministries in America's churches.

"We just let them know that we're a resource," Christina explains. "Whether it's Christmas, or any other holiday, or even not a holiday. That we're here ... It's not only a Christmas holiday-type of impact, but it's year-round."

Every Christmas in all 50 states, Angel Tree mobilizes churches to minister to hundreds of thousands of children by delivering a gift and the gospel message to more than 300,000 children with Christmas gifts. Since 1982, Angel Tree has delivered more than 10 million gifts to children on behalf of nearly 4.2 million parents.

"Prison Fellowship's Angel Tree program has always been near and dear to the hearts of our team at Zonderkidz," said Annette Bourland, senior vice president of publishing. "To be able to present The Adventure Bible, in both English and Spanish, to young readers who will find comfort and strength in God's message for them is a tremendous joy for our team."

All the caretakers or children have to do receive the bible is fill out an information card and send it back to Prison Fellowship by mail.

Ackerman said that providing a kids Bible provides a better chance that the bibles will be read by multiple members of the family, as opposed to a more advanced Bible where higher literacy skills are required to comprehend the message.

"It is a really beautiful Bible. It has lots of graphics and lots of fun facts and lots of maps and pictures and things like that," he said. "Hopefully because the Adventure Bible is so engaging, the children will read it as a regular thing, not just as a Bible but as an exploration of God's truth."

Ackerman credits the thousands of donors who chip in to make Prison Fellowship's goal to provide a Bible to each Angel Tree household this Christmas a reality.

"It ranges from people who donated \$25 to people who donate hundreds of thousands of dollars," Ackerman ex-



A child shows joy after receiving a Christmas through Prison Fellowship's Angel Tree Christmas program.

plained. "But look, \$25 buys a few bibles. So, it's money well spent."

In organizing the program, Ackerman said that each year there are more and more kids that are in need of gifts because the prison population keeps increasing. The United States has an incarceration rate that is three times that of the industrialized world. Some churches, Ackerman said, provide as many as 800 to 1,000 kids with gifts.

Prison Fellowship's Angel Tree is the only nationwide, year-round program that reaches out exclusively to children who have a parent in prison. Partner churches also meet the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of prisoners' families through ministries like camping

and mentoring.

"We are doing really well this year but there is still a gap to be closed and we are still looking for donations," Ackerman said.

Larry McGraw is a member of College Church of the Nazarene in Olathe and leads the Angel Tree program.

"We've been doing it [Angel Tree] for 25 years," says McGraw. "I think we do it because it's helping people in need without getting anything in return. Although many never see the smile on the child's face, they are compelled to give because of the love of the Savior for us and for the child."

If your church does not yet have an Angel Tree program, you can find out how to start one. To learn more, visit www.angeltree.org or www.prisonfellowship.org.

In both Missouri and Kansas, the Salvation Army also operates an Angel Tree Program locally. To get involved through them, visit salamymokan.org or call 816-756-1455.

JCPenney and The Salvation Army have joined forces and launched an Online Angel Giving Tree Program. Through December 14, customers can adopt and shop online for Angels at jcp.com/angel.

EVENTS

continued from page 10

mas experience, Dramatic Truth presents the 19th annual Mystery of Christmas performance. This year, the performance will add two additional ethnic dances – Israel and Ireland – to the national feature choreographies.

"As television and cinema continue to push traditional family



boundaries, it's more difficult to find productions/events that will be appropriate and enjoyable for parents and children," organizers said in a statement. "The Mystery of Christmas will give all ages an understanding of a classic Christmas event with a clear communication of why we celebrate this time of year."

The production is an alternate take on the classic ballet, The Nutcracker. It includes all of the classical music from Tchaikovsky, and just like the original, Clara is taken to a magical dream world with Sugarplum Fairies. The difference, however, is that she travels back in time to Jerusalem where she witnesses an-

gels, shepherds and kings "converging on a humble stable where she discovers 'The Mystery of Christmas.'"

For more on the production and ticket information visit www.dramatictruth.org.

Blue Springs Assembly of God

Selah and Family Life are bringing their Christmas tour to the Blue Springs Assembly of God church, 2501 NE Duncan Road, 6 p.m. on Dec. 4.

For ticket information visit www.itickets.com/events/256704.

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Post-election protesters enabled by colleges



DWIGHT WIDAMAN

Publisher and Managing Editor of the Metro Voice Newspaper

view point

If you are like me, there's relief that the election is over, if only for the lack of television commercials or robo calls. For some there was jubilation Wednesday morning, Nov. 9, as the news networks called it for Trump. For others there was sadness and trepidation. Trepidation that continues on the streets as young people protest the outcome of a time-tested democratic process.

A lot of the focus seems to be on America's college campuses where "snowflakes" (a term describing young people who, for the first time in their lives, didn't get their way and can't cope) are being offered "crying rooms", counseling or comfort dogs as was the case at the University of Kansas in Lawrence. Other universities cancelled classes and provided rooms where college students could play with children's building blocks or fill in coloring books featuring Barney, My Little Pony and other comforting images from their childhood.

But the response of many of these spoiled, self-centered offspring is in contrast to their contemporaries in other parts of the world—areas of our globe where tears are shed by young people not for an election loss but for the loss of family members at the hands



Anti-Trump protesters carry the Communist flag in Seattle.

of ISIS, hunger, disease or bombs raining from the sky.

For me that's what is most embarrassing about this election. While the media tells us a world of "haves" is aghast at a Trump victory, I see a world of suffering masses, the "have-nots", looking with confusion as entitled and naive American protesters riot only to return to homes that are NOT burned-out, with Chipotle carry-out in hand, to lay in a warm bed for an evening of Netflix binging.

Yeah, these American youth have it so bad.

So how has the election result been received in some of these areas that many college students cannot find on a map?

The New York Times reports that Iraqis, who endured years of Islam being used to justify mass killing, publicly voiced optimism in "Mr. Trump as a truth-teller in calling out Islam — or a certain brand of it — as the problem."

The Times shares how Iraqi Shiites believe Trump will take a harder line on Saudi Arabia, which is seen as foment-

ing an extreme form of Islam—Wahhabism.

"The victory of Trump is the beginning of the end of extremist Islam and Wahhabism," said Mouwafak al-Rubaie, an Iraqi lawmaker and the country's former national security adviser.

"We have no concerns about the policy of Trump because he is against extremism," said Saad al-Hadithi, the spokesman for Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi of Iraq. "We think we are facing one enemy, and that is fighting ISIS. Therefore, I do not think there are fears

or concerns about a new American policy."

Mr. Abadi made it a point to call President-elect Trump and affirmed their cooperation against the Islamic State.

Then there are the regular folks on the front line and pay with their lives.

According to the Haym Salomon Center, a Yazidi couple in Iraq whose family suffered at the hands of the Islamic State named their newborn child "Trump" within minutes after Republican nominee became the U.S. President-elect. The new mother was reportedly in labor as the U.S. presidential election vote count rolled in. An hour before Trump officially won, she gave birth to a baby boy.

"We have been going through a never-ending genocide over the last two years at the hands of ISIS, and Obama failed to take out ISIS or help liberate the thousands of Yazidi women and children that are still enslaved by ISIS," said the father of the new baby boy Trump. "I hope President Trump will at last take out ISIS so we can return home and rebuild our lives."

And in India, also suffering from a wave of terrorism at the hands of Islamic insurgents, President-elect Trump has become somewhat of a hero. So much so that Hindus declared Trump the winner even before the voting ended.

A news report says that "with drums banging and speakers blaring, the Hindu Sena, or Hindu Army, gathered at Jantar Mantar - New Delhi's answer to London's Speakers' Corner - to proclaim to a knot of TV crews that Trump had 'already won' the Nov. 8 vote."

"Trump's victory is confirmed early,

■ See **PROTESTERS** page 23



LOOKING FOR A KING



CLINT DECKER

President and Evangelist with Great Awakenings, Inc.

hope for today

On the eve of history's first Christmas, the Jewish people were filled with centuries of hope, rooted in the prophecies of their religious writings. Hope that one day a King would rise up from among them to deliver their people from the occupation of the Romans. All the non-Jewish people in the world did not have such a hope. If they faced a similar oppressive government, all they had to rest on was their own efforts at forging change. In a sense, for all the world, it was truly the dark ages. Outside of an inward hope or personal heroism, how would the darkness of the

nations be turned to light?

In approximately 4 B.C. a divine earthquake caused a split right down the middle of human history—the birth of Jesus Christ. It was like the rising of the sun that meant a new day, a new era for mankind.

The Jewish prophet Isaiah, 700 years earlier, foretold about the coming of a Messiah who would become the hope of all nations. Isaiah wrote, "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end" (Isa. 9:6-7).

As Jesus grew up and settled into His heaven-sent role, the public responded and a movement was built around Him that evolved into a revolution of sorts. However, His followers became disillusioned at His messaging. He was not becoming the national Savior they envisioned.

"He came to govern the lives of precious souls, not a nation."



He told the crowds His purpose was to "seek and save the lost". He said if they wanted to follow Him they must "deny themselves", meaning give up pursuing their agenda and take up God's. All this was much different then what they expected.

Jesus' focus was the hearts and souls of mankind. He purposed to deliver them from the bondage of sin and lead them to spiritual freedom. He came to govern the lives of precious souls, not a nation.

Still today, the world is looking to po-

litical leaders and government for societal change. And if that does not satisfy they escape into entertainment, addiction or self-determination. The lesson of Christmas teaches us that real and lasting hope is found in one place, Jesus. He brings us spiritual freedom, where we no longer have to be a slave to our sin. This kind of freedom the world longs for. It can only be found in the Christ child.

—Clint Decker is President & Evangelist with Great Awakenings, Inc. cdecker@greatawakenings.org

REMEMBRANCE

continued from page 5

plantation of failed and failing schools without a choice.

Next, he was quick to recognize the torment Christians are forced to experience when they are forced by government power to participate in wedding ceremonies that offend, and are contrary to, their religious faith.

In Biblical history God has used those He chooses, not anyone else. And many were strange and ungodly choices for sure.

So as it all unfolded my choice was directed more to the Christian issues I care about, rather than the man used by God to perfect His will.

Now, if we look at the states that voted for Donald Trump that surely would not have voted for any of the other traditional Republican candidates, such as Michigan, Wisconsin and others, you see that he was the candidate to beat the other candidate. So I did my best to vote, to consider the issues, talk it over -- and Pray about it constantly and then let God make the final choice.

I believe that is why evangelicals voted so strongly for Trump.



Clint Decker, Great Awakenings, Inc.

Upon the election of Donald Trump for president I committed to pray regularly for him and treat

him as Jesus would. So far I'm encouraged at the people he's surrounding himself with. How the country will fair morally and spiritually under his leadership and example, nobody knows, but I pray God would use him, in some manner, to draw us nearer to Christ.



Roger Gilbert, Deerbrook Covenant Church

Both national candidates were deeply flawed.

However, many other good men and women were also elected. I believe America can survive this divisive election, but we need to change the way we treat one another. The ability to understand and show empathy to opposing opinions is a good start. I am

disturbed that the media (both sides) have decided it's their job to tell us how to vote.

I am weary of us equating our trust in Jesus as trust of political parties. The people in power need to act with humility for the good of the country. Another election is coming in two years and the margin of control is slim.

I suggest each of us view the opposing newscast, to understand what the other half of America believes. Then turn off the news, and frame our conversations and behavior with Colossians 3:12-13

"As God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you."

Caring for the less fortunate is our Christian calling. In my opinion, we have given politics too much importance and misplaced our hope. I am doubtful that any administration will deliver on the campaign promises.



Hindus celebrate Trump victory with a birthday cake.

PROTESTERS

continued from page 22

due to his thoughts against Islamic terrorism and love for India and Hindus," said Vishnu Gupta, the Hindu Sena's national president.

In October, Trump had uttered the memorable phrase "I love Hindu", a kind of Two Corinthians moment, at an event organized by Indian supporters of his candidacy. While awkward, his sincere meaning was understood by Hindus.

As far as Hindu Sena is concerned, the feeling is mutual.

Its celebration featured posters bearing the slogans, "India Loves Trump" and

"Trump Our Only Hope".

"One supporter held up a portrait of Trump with a tilak, or religious mark, on his forehead and held a sweet to his mouth," the news story reported, along with photos of birthday cakes with Trump's name on them.

So why do the worlds most oppressed see hope in Donald Trump? Just as he ran a campaign on representing America's forgotten middle-class, the world's most vulnerable also see him as representing them—listening to them. Strange, I know. Or maybe not so strange.

Perhaps America's privileged college liberals can stop crying for a moment long enough to listen themselves.

His sister, Bobbie Bradford, told a local TV station how beloved her brother was and echoed the pain families who have lost loved ones this year.

"He loved me. He loved my kids. He went to church every Sunday," she said. "He has two children, a boy and a girl, so we just need justice for them also."

Damon Daniel, Director with Adhoc Group Against Crime agreed, "This is a reoccurring nightmare and we've gotta do better," he said.

Some of that pain may be more bearable by the effort of Leawood Baptist as they prepare their display and invite families of victims to the special service.

G. Cornelius Jones, pastor at Uchurch in Kansas City, Mo, attended and shared a message of hope. Other people from the community participated as well. Many of those attending said that it was a great comfort just knowing that others cared about their loss.

This year, during the service the memory of each victim will be honored and it will be an opportunity for the community to come and support these families.

"As believers in Jesus Christ," says Carter, "we can share that there is hope in the Gospel, that there will be a day when there will truly be peace on Earth."

For info visit leawoodbaptist.com

CROSSES

continued from page 1

Kansas City area on the front lawn, where everyone passing by on the busy street in front could see. Next, the church planned and hosted a service called, "The Longest Night" to honor the victims and their families. The name seemed very appropriate since the families are going through a long night of loss and despair. The members of Leawood Baptist Church invited the families of the victims to attend, and wept with them, shared the gospel with them, and prayed with them.

"It's a meaningful way for us to show

love and support for families touched by violence," Leawood Baptist pastor Adam Carter told Metro Voice.

The FBI in September included Kansas City as one of seven cities singled out in the FBI's report on crime statistics. For cities with at least 400,000 residents, Kansas City's murder rate was the fifth highest. The homicide rate increased from 78 deaths in 2014 to 109 in 2015 with over 150 across the metro. As of late Nov. 2016 Kansas City's rate was 112 with the 176 murders across the metro.

The report said that Kansas City, along with Chicago, Houston, Washington D.C., Milwaukee, Philadelphia, and Bal-

timore, were largely responsible for the national increase in crime.

The news infuriates Kansas City's police chief, Darryl Forte. "Seven of this year's homicide victims have been 16 or younger," Forte wrote on his blog Nov. 15. "Several of them were young children -- innocent bystanders who were victims of adults unable to resolve conflicts in a civil manner. Their loss should outrage us all."

Many murder victims are just in the wrong place at the wrong time, and are not involved in any crimes themselves. Charles Bradshaw was shot and killed near 57th and Michigan in the early morning hours on Sunday, Oct. 23.

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