

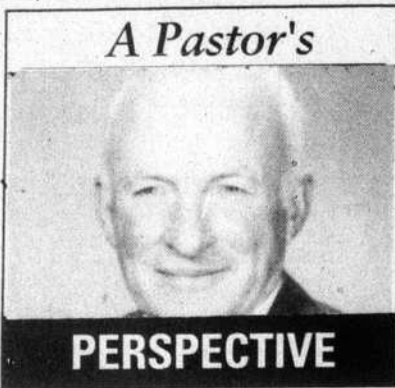
Jesus Christ was born to show us the way

BY REV. HARRY SNYDER
Retired Minister

"Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight" was the message God gave to John the Baptist. John also called people to confess their sins and to be baptized for the forgiveness of their sins. Along with many, Jesus came to be baptized by John.

When Jesus came up out of the water, he received the anointing of the Spirit and the voice from heaven, saying, "Thou art my beloved Son; with thee I am well pleased" (Mark 1:11). The Spirit and the words from heaven revealed to Jesus his assignment from God - to be the Messiah.

By grace, Jesus accepted the assignment to be the Messiah, the Savior of the world. Through prayer, Jesus sought the guidance of the Spirit to know and to do the will of God, his Father. Both friend and foe



A Pastor's

PERSPECTIVE

witnessed the mighty, saving works and heard the authority by which Jesus taught the word of God. They recognized that God was with him. Ultimately, Jesus accepted the role of the Suffering Servant, to die on the cross for the ransom of many, that we might gain freedom from our sins and death.

When Jesus told his disciples of his impending sacrifice, they were sorrowful and troubled. To his disciples Jesus said, "Let not your hearts be troubled;

believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And when I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also" (John 14:1-3).

Jesus Christ is preparing for us the "way." Jesus Christ is preparing for us the way to God. Would you like to see God? Know God as Father? Experience His love for others, and for you? Then listen to Jesus, "I am the way, the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but by me. If you had known me, you would have known and seen him" (John 14:6-7).

Secondly, Jesus Christ is preparing for us the way to our place in heaven. Moreover, Jesus promises to come again and take us to be with him. But there is more.

Thirdly, Jesus Christ is preparing for us the way to a place, a position within God's community on earth. "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I go to the Father. Whatever you ask in my name, I will do it.

"If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will pray to the father, and he will give you another Counselor, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of Truth...In that day you will know that I am in the Father, and you in me, and I in you" (John 14:12-20).

It is not enough just to worship the baby Jesus at this Christmastide. Just as Jesus grew to be the Messiah, we need to grow in our faith to allow our Lord to continue his ministry through us.



SUPPORTING HABITAT

The Rev. Thomas M. Rickenbaker, Rector of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Edenton, presents a \$1,300 check to Jim Robison, co-founder of the Chowan-Perquimans Habitat for Humanity chapter. St. Paul's had 35 members present for the last workday on the local Habitat group's first project, a home in Edenton.

Carolina Courses Online bargain for NC residents

BY LAURA JORDAN
UNC-CH News Services

North Carolina residents can now take online courses at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill for just \$147 each - a \$243 drop in cost from previous years.

"The reduction makes the program more accessible for North Carolina residents," said June Blackwelder, associate director for publications and promotions in UNC-CH's Division of Continuing Education,

which offers the series of courses called Carolina Courses Online.

"Because of new extension funding, the university received more money from the legislature to be used for extension teaching," she said. "As a part of this funding, we were able to reduce the fee from \$390 to \$147 for in-state residents."

Tuition for out-of-state residents remains \$390 per course, and individuals can take only two courses each semester.

Carolina Courses Online allows anyone to take undergraduate-level courses electronically. Twelve courses will be offered this spring:

- AFRI 40 "Introduction to African Civilization" introduces students to the African continent plus its environment, people and culture.
- ART 31 "History of Western Art I" promotes visual ancestry and demonstrates ways to connect certain works with a particular geographic region.
- DRAM 15 "Elements of Drama" offers an overview of Western drama, from Greek to modern theatre.

• ENGL 28 "Major American Authors" is a study of American authors from the 19th and 20th centuries, including Frederick Douglass, Edgar Allan Poe, Nathaniel Hawthorne, and Thomas Pynchon.

• GEOG 10 "Physical Geography" analyzes the character of Earth's climates, landforms, natural vegetation and soils.

• HIST 19 "The World Since 1945" looks at post-World War II Europe, Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Middle East.

• HIST 22 "American History Since 1865" reviews the

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Center Hill Methodists to host annual program

Everyone is invited to attend the traditional Christmas Eve program at the Center Hill United Methodist Church in Tyner on Dec. 24, starting at 6:30 p.m.

The program will follow the tradition of the early church,

followed by the lighting of the luminous and refreshments in the parsonage.

Anyone needing directions or other information can call the Rev. Thomas Fleck, church pastor, at 264-4445.

'A Star is Born' is focus of new holiday musical

Ballard's Bridge Baptist Church, 3025 Virginia Rd., Tyner, NC, would like to invite everyone to attend two special Christmas services.

On Friday, Dec. 18, at 7 p.m., the church's Children's Choir will present the Christmas musical, "A Star is Born." The Wee Choir will also be a featured part of this program.

The Adult Choir Cantata, "A Light Still Shines," will be presented on Sunday, Dec. 20, at 5 p.m.

'Bethlehem Project' set for Dec. 17

The children of Faith Fellowship Baptist Church will present "The Bethlehem Project" by C. Barny Robertson and Carter Robertson on Dec. 17.

The program begins at 7 p.m. The church is located at 3500 Virginia Road, Tyner.

Vows

Continued From Page 2-B

burg, VA. She is presently a designer with Nantucket House and Interior Design.

The groom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur Getter of West Orange, N.J. He is a graduate of the Culinary Institute of America, and is the executive Chef and proprietor of the restaurant American Seasons in Nantucket.

Anne Slocum Hollowell served as maid of honor. Wilbur Getter, the groom's father, stood as best man. Mr. Becker, father of the bride, sang the Prayer of St. Francis, and Samuel Bobbitt Dixon was the reader. Mrs. Charles Bennett Deane, Jr., aunt of the bride, served as mistress of ceremonies.

The couple now reside in Nantucket, MA.

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