

Center Hill Panorama fills hearts with holiday spirit

Community volunteers donate time, talents to share story of Jesus

BY HELEN K. OUTLAND Staff Writer

The Center Hill Panorama began Wednesday evening. The panorama is a moving tribute to the life of Jesus Christ. The sky was clear and a full moon only enhanced the visual beauty of the display.

"We have two new scenes for this years panorama," said Mary Nixon. Center Hill Baptist Church and community volunteers combine their talents to present the panorama.

"The thing that really impresses me is how the entire community comes together to present this program every year," said Reverend Don English of the Center Hill Baptist Church.

English went on to say that the church and community try to use something new each year. Their ingenuity proved rewarding for spectators as the scene of Jesus ascending was a real eye catcher. Using a Cherry picker and dark cloth to camouflage any sign of equipment, the person pordraying Jesus was slowly lifted skyward, the spotlight adding a glow and realism to the event.

The panorama ran from 6 p.m. till 8 p.m. for three nights and was set up so visitors could drive their cars through the display. Live animals were used and local church and community members, including children, portrayed characters in each of the scene.

This year two new scenes were included. The first new scene and one of the most profound was that of Jesus praying in the Garden of Gethsemane. The second new scene was "Jesus Healing the Paralytic". It depicted a paralytic being lowered through the roof of a house by his friends so that Jesus might heal him.

"It is absolutely beautiful," said Geyne Vogel of the panorama as she and her husband Bob drove slowly through. "It is a little chilly, so it's nice to be able to view it from the warmth of the car."

This marks the fourth year that the panorama has been presented in Tyner.

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> Mary gazes lovingly at the baby Jesus as Joseph ter derly watches over them in one of the most popular scenes from the Center Hill Christmas Panorama which beings alive the spirit of the holiday season. (Helen Kerr Outland photo)

Message of love, Holiday lights grace downtown

BY HELEN K. OUTLAND Staff Writer

peace, goodwill

Dear Readers:

Some things simply cannot be improved upon, as with the original telling of this beautiful story.

Our wish for you this holiday season is that we may all carry its message of love, peace and goodwill toward our fellow man in our hearts every day of the coming year.

Merry Christmas to you and all those you love.

The Chowan Herald Staff THE CHRISTMAS STORY

And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed.

And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of

Nazareth, into Judea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David; To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with

child.

And so it was, that while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered.

And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

And lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them, and they were sore afraid.

And the angel said unto them, Fear not; for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one unto another, Let us go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which has come to pass, which the Lord has made known unto us.

And they came with haste, and found Mary, Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child.

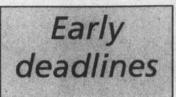
And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart.

- From the Bible, the Book of St. Luke

Without a doubt downtown Edenton is always beautiful at Christmas. However, this year there is a little extra glow as more trees lining the sidewalks were decorated with white lights.

"The Marketplace Guild has been responsible for the downtown Christmas decorations for several years now," says George Alma Byrum. "We are responsible for the monies needed to supply the decorations as well." Byrum adds that contributions from the Chamber of Commerce and the Chowan County Tourism and Development Authority also contributed to the additional lights.

"Jack Habbit approached us See LIGHTS On Page 3-A



The Chowan Herald will be closed all day January 1 to allow employees time off to spend New Year's Day with family and friends. Accordingly, there will be early deadlines in place for the paper's Jan. 1 edition. All advertising, classifieds, legals, news items and photos for next week's newspaper should be turned in by noon this Thursday (Dec. 26). Any items received after that time will be printed as space remains available. Happy Holidays!



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Tree lights beautify a street corner in downtown Edenton.

Peace and Joy this Holiday Season