

Faith

The fabric of Bertie County since 1832

Christmas is about Easter

Little Jessica was 4 years old, and she had just about a perfect Christmas in her eyes. She got all the presents she wanted. Her cousins had visited with her to share the holidays. She had eaten her favorite food all day long, and played to her heart's content.

That night, as her mother tucked her in bed, she looked up at her mother and smiled as she said, "Mama, I sure hope Mary and Joseph have another baby next year!"

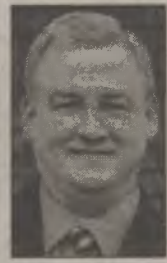
History has made it clear, there will never be another baby like the one born and laid in a manger that first Christmas eve so long ago.

Every baby born is indeed a miracle, but the birth of Jesus was more miraculous than any before or since. It was a 'special delivery' from heaven to earth when the infinite became an infant, divinity put on humanity, and the creator was laid in a cradle.

Yet the reason that Christmas has been celebrated across the continents for so many centuries, is not because God the Son was born a baby in Bethlehem, but because that same baby, ... lived, died and rose again three days later. The cradle was merely a necessary step towards the cross. Easter gives us the true meaning of Christmas!

When Joseph contemplated the pregnancy of his espoused

wife, the angel told him the baby in Mary's womb was conceived of the Holy Ghost and, "thou shall call his name JESUS:



REV. JOHN M. KEETER
The Winning Side

for he shall save his people from their sins" (Mt. 1:21). The only way Jesus could save souls from sin was by shedding His precious blood and dying for us. Then He had to arise victorious over death, hell and the grave, which He did at the resurrection that first Easter Sunday morning.

Jesus said in Matthew 20:28 that He "The Son of man came ... to give His life a ransom for many."

The Gospel is summed up in 1st Corinthians 15:1-4 when the Apostle Paul said: "Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; by which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; and that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures"

Notice the ingredients include, and redemption requires, the resurrection.

It was His vacancy that brought victory and the rising of the S-O-N was proof that the war had been won. It is Christmas that expresses the plan of God, while Easter explains the power of God!

The Apostle Paul tells us in 1 Corinthians chapter 15 verses 17-19, "And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins. Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished. If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable."

Then, in Verse 20, Paul rejoiced "But now IS Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept. For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead."

Anyone without a true understanding of Christ's ultimate purpose in His virgin birth will never fully appreciate the significance of this special season.

You can't explain Easter without Christmas, and you can't comprehend Christmas without Easter, so this December 25, remember the reason for the season is on April 21, 2019!

The Rev. John M. Keeter is the Pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church in Edenton. For further information please visit ibcedenton.org

Special Events

Church announcements are published each week in the Bertie Ledger-Advance. The deadline to submit news items for this listing is 10 a.m. each Monday. Submissions may be emailed to twhite@ncweeklies.com.

Dec. 22-24

Living Nativity

JAMESVILLE – The Jamesville Christian Church will present a Living Nativity Dec. 22-24.

The Living Nativity will begin at 7 p.m. each evening. The church is located at 1134 St. Andrews St. in Jamesville.

Dec. 24

Christmas Mass

WINDSOR – Holy Spirit Catholic Church will host Christmas Mass will be observed at 9 p.m. Monday, Dec. 24 at Windsor United Methodist Church.

Christmas carols and a prayer service/mass will be held. A reception will follow with food for all.

The church is located at 408 South Queen St. in Windsor.

The Pastor, Father Aaron Wessman, and congregation invite the public to attend.

Christmas Holy Eucharist

ROXBEL – A Christmas Eve Holy Eucharist will be held at 11 p.m. Monday, Dec. 24 at St. Mark's Episcopal Church.

Light refreshments will be served following the service. The church is located at 206 West Church St. in Roxobel.

Senior Warden Johnna Browne-Lewis and congregation invite the public to attend.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

JAMESVILLE – A Christmas Eve Candlelight Service is planned for 8 p.m. Monday, Dec. 24 at Jamesville Christian Church.

The church is located at 1134 St. Andrews Church St. in Jamesville.

The congregation invites the public to attend.

Dec. 30

Special Music

AHOSKIE – Clint Freeman and Unity will be the special guests at 11 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 30 at Calvary Missionary Baptist Church.

The Pastor, the Rev. Dr. Jerryl V. Moody, will deliver the morning message.

Dr. Moody and the congregation invite the public to attend.

Ongoing

Women's Ministry

WINDSOR – The Women's Ministry meets from 6-8 p.m. on the second Friday of each month at Cedar Landing Missionary Baptist Church.

The meetings include fun activities, free food, door prizes and lots of love.

Giveaway

HASELL – A free monthly giveaway is held from 8-10 a.m. on the fourth Saturday of each month at Kingdom Entity Apostolic Ministries.

The church is located at 1062 East Avenue North in Hassell. For more information, call 252-814-4123.

Celebrate Recovery

WILLIAMSTON – Celebrate Recovery - a Christian-centered recovery plan - is held each Tuesday night at First United Methodist Church.

Dinner begins at 5:45 p.m., and the program starts at 6:30 p.m.

The church is located at 114 East Church St. in Williamston.

Women Praying

WILLIAMSTON – All women are welcome to come and pray any time between noon and 2 p.m. at Word of Truth Fellowship, 1003 Washington St., Williamston.

For more information, call 792-0678.

Food Pantry

WILLIAMSTON – The Food Pantry at the Bible Way Apostolic Church is open from 8-10 a.m.

The church is located at Sycamore and Center streets in Williamston.

Giving your Christmas best

Christmas is at its very core a time for generosity. Its story can be summed up in what is perhaps the most familiar verse in the Bible. John 3:16. References to this passage can be seen at sporting events and venues around the world, but how does it relate to generosity?

1. God Gave. Plain and simple. He was, he is and he will always be a generous God. His loving nature motivated him to give and so will ours. The motives of our heart will be demonstrated by our acts of generosity to God and to others.

2. God Gave his Best. I must admit that sometimes I shop the clearance aisle in an attempt to find the very best bargains for those on my Christmas list. God however, chose the most costly of gifts (his son) to give to us. True generosity will at times demand we give of our best.

3. God Gave Sacrificially. He gave what he cared about the

most. He gave until it hurt. I'm reminded of the widow lady who gave a couple of coins and Jesus said she had given more than those who had given large sums of money. How is that possible? It is because she gave sacrificially and they gave from their abundance.

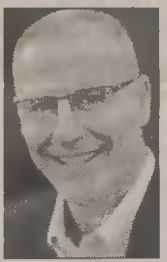
4. God Gave Knowing not Everyone Would Accept His Gift. His generosity was not determined by the anticipated response of the recipient. He was generous because he loved. Romans 5:8 reminds us that God demonstrated his love for us by sending his son Jesus to die for us while we were still sinners!

As the intended recipient of any act of generosity, when we reject a gift we reject the giver

of the gift. During this Christmas season let's be intentional about not only demonstrating generosity that is motivated by a heart of love and compassion, but also by accepting whatever forms of generosity that are offered to us. May we model our efforts by those examined in the John 3:16 passage. May we give, give our best, give sacrificially and give without reservation as to how the recipient may respond.

Christmas is a season of generosity. May we keep God's gift of Jesus at the center of all we do and generously share him with everyone we meet. Unlike the temporal gifts we give, he will never wear out, break down, go out of style or need replacement batteries! He is the gift that lasts forever.

Merry Christmas!
Pastor Jay Rivenbark is Pastor of Open Door Church - Bertie Campus. He can be reached via email at jay@visitopendoor.com.



PASTOR JAY RIVENBARK
This is the Day

Bible Trivia

BY WILSON CASEY

1. Is the book of Jeremiah in the Old or New Testament or neither?

2. The villains Sanballat and Geshem are mentioned only in which book (KJV)? 2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehe-

miah, 2 John 3. From Ephesians 5, what did Paul recommend as a substitute for wine? Water, Laugh-

ter, Love, Holy Spirit
ANSWERS: 1) Old; 2) Nehemiah; 3) Holy Spirit (c) 2018 King Features Synd., Inc.

BERTIE COUNTY TAX OFFICE 2019

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ON TAX LISTING NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN

ALL PERSONS WHO, ON THE DATE AS OF WHICH PROPERTY IS TO BE LISTED, OWN PROPERTY SUBJECT TO TAXATION MUST LIST SUCH PROPERTY WITHIN THE PERIOD SET FORTH IN THIS NOTICE AND ANY PERSON WHO FAILS TO DO SO WILL BE SUBJECT TO THE PENALTIES PRESCRIBED BY LAW.

Bertie County has a permanent, real estate listing system. The Tax Office will automatically list real estate for the owner.

(Important note: taxpayers are required to list buildings and other improvements to real property having a value in excess of one hundred dollars that have been acquired, begun, erected, damaged, or destroyed since the time of the last listing on January 1, 2018. If a building permit was obtained for new construction please verify with the tax office that the record has been updated to reflect the addition.)

The tax office no longer mails individual abstracts, (listing forms), for real property. For 2019, you will receive a listing form only if you listed personal property in 2018, or if it is a new account for real property.

Taxpayers are required by law to annually list all taxable personal property including but not limited to mobile homes, boats, motors, unlicensed vehicles, motorcycles, 4 wheelers, golf carts, airplanes, business equipment, business furniture and fixtures, tools, farm equipment and multi-year permanent tagged trailers. This does not include registered motor vehicles that have a current license tag.

NOTE: IF YOU HAVE MADE NO CHANGES TO YOUR REAL PROPERTY SINCE JANUARY 1, 2018 YOU ARE NOT REQUIRED TO FILE A LISTING FORM.

The only location to list taxes in Bertie County for 2019 will be in the County Commissioners Room of the County Office Building at 106 Dundee Street, Windsor, NC. NOTE: IF YOU REQUIRE ASSISTANCE WITH LISTING TAXES PLEASE VISIT THIS LOCATION.

LISTING OF 2019 TAXES WILL BEGIN ON WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 2nd, 2019 AND CONTINUE THROUGH THURSDAY, JANUARY 31st, 2019. THE LISTING OFFICE HOURS WILL BE 9:00A.M. TO 4:00 P.M. MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY IN THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ROOM ON THE FIRST FLOOR OF THE COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING AT 106 DUNDEE STREET, WINDSOR, NC, OR BY APPOINTMENT.

IF THERE ARE ANY QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT THE BERTIE COUNTY TAX OFFICE.
TELEPHONE: (252)794-5310
FASCIMILE: (252)794-5357
P.O. BOX 527
WINDSOR, NC 27983

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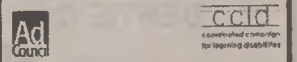
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d

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Jaylor THEATER

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Disney's Mary Poppins Returns

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Plays at 7pm thru Dec. 20

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7pm shows nightly
Matinees every Fri Sat & Sun
We can't wait to watch with you!