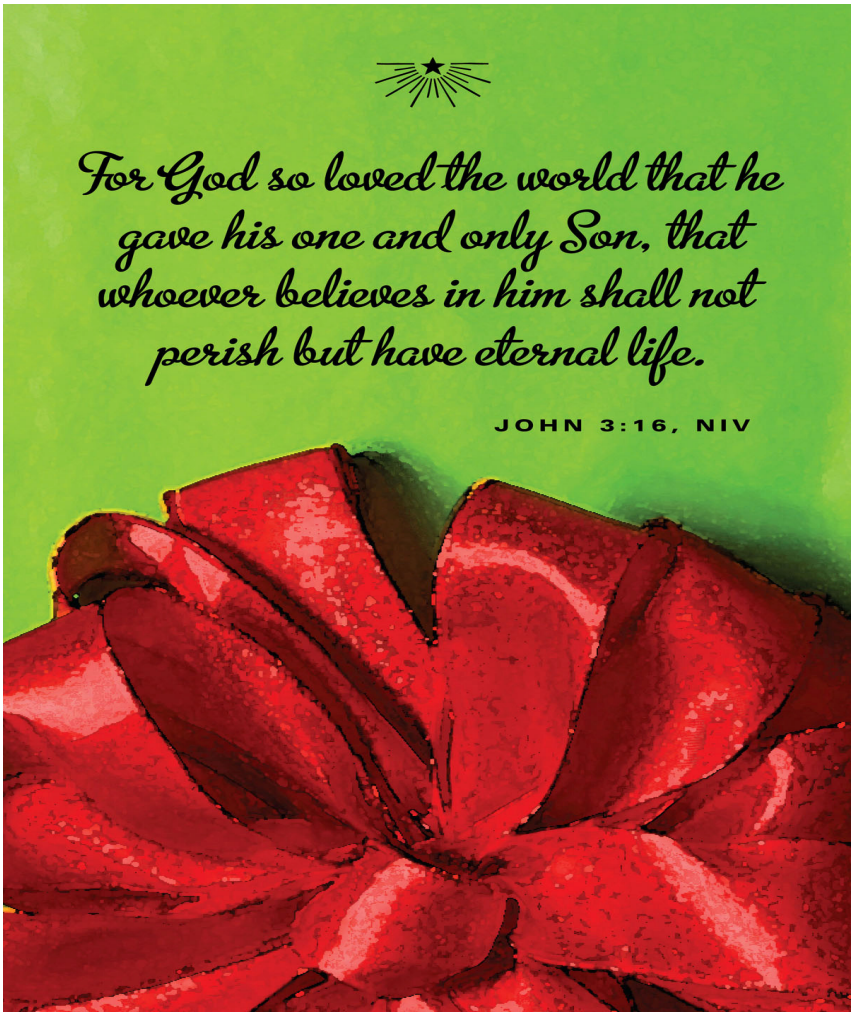
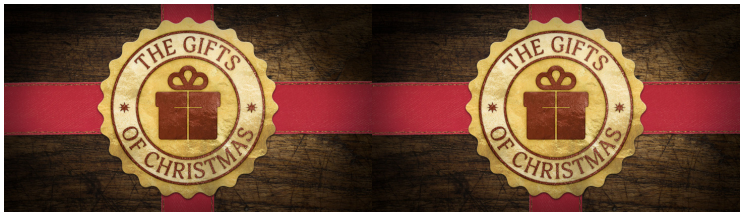
The RELATOR

December 2014



KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS

Phillips Christian Church



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'For my eyes have seen your salvation'

(Luke 2:30 NIV)

Do you think you may be able to put this verse to memory? Can you already see its relevance to the Christmas story? Have you personally experienced these words?

These are the words of a priest and prophet who many forget about in Scripture. We often associate the words of prophets and priests with the Old Testament; however, this Jewish leader by the name of Simeon saw the ushering in of a New Testament ... A New Story that would change the world, but more importantly had the potential to change people. In fact, he says it was the story he had been waiting all his life for and it began and ended with the birth of a baby.

Have you ever had one of those momentous occasions of joy in your life ... Maybe when you won a competition, or completed a masterpiece of a project, or traveled somewhere significant to you and stood where you longed to stand, or when you were part of bringing new life into the world ... And at that moment a momentous thing happened ... Everything stopped ... Time stood still, breath was abated, space was frozen, and something surreal was happening or was it? That is the feeling I imagine Simeon felt at this moment and it was all caused by an eight-day old baby named Jesus. I mean, really, His name says it all for it means He will save ... He is salvation.

God is using a most unassuming way to usher his ultimate gift of grace into the world. Notice also he uses just a few willing servants at a time to spread the greatest news of all time.

Simeon says, Open your eyes to His salvation. It is going to change your life forever. Go ahead, *Simeon says*!

Merry Christmas!

If you are a parent, you probably remember when you first found out your child was coming into this world and all of the dreams and aspirations you had for him. Imagine if you were expecting the 'Son of God' !

Mark Lowry wrote these words in 1984 when his pastor asked him to write the program for the living Christmas tree choir presentation

Mary, Did you Know ?

Mary, did you know
that your Baby Boy would one day walk on water?
Mary, did you know
that your Baby Boy would save our sons and daughters?
Did you know
that your Baby Boy has come to make you new?
This Child that you delivered will soon deliver you.

Mary, did you know
that your Baby Boy will give sight to a blind man?
Mary, did you know
that your Baby Boy will calm the storm with His hand?
Did you know
that your Baby Boy has walked where angels trod?
When you kiss your little Baby you kissed the face of God?

Mary did you know..

The blind will see.
The deaf will hear.
The dead will live again.
The lame will leap.
The dumb will speak
The praises of The Lamb.

Mary, did you know
that your Baby Boy is Lord of all creation?
Mary, did you know
that your Baby Boy would one day rule the nations?
Did you know
that your Baby Boy is heaven's perfect Lamb?
The sleeping Child you're holding is the Great, I Am.

★EXTRA! EXTRA! ★

News & Events

DECEMBER CALENDAR

December 7th

8:00 am.. Trustees Meeting

Dedication & Flag Raising following worship*

December 11th

10:00 am.. Women of Christ "Cookie Exchange"

December 14th

8:00 am.. Elders Meeting

December 21st

8:00 am.. Board Meeting

Christmas Treats passed out compliments of the Sunday School

1:30 pm … Christmas Caroling to the Shut-Ins

December 24th

Christmas Eve Service (time to be announced)

* Sunday, December 7th, there will be a Dedication and Flag Raising Ceremony after worship. All are welcome and encouraged to attend. This is for Travis Mitchell's Eagle Scout project.

'Stitches and Giggles'

We had a great time making peppermint ornaments! There will be no meeting this month but hopefully We will see everyone at Women of Christ cookie exchange on December 11th. See you in January !

--- Robin Heestand

Our 185th Anniversary Celebration is winding down. We have received two balloons back from our launch. The first one is from Keuka Park, NY and is 302 miles away. This balloon was launched by Gary Eichler. The second balloon was found in Shippenville, PA which is about 98 miles away. That balloon was launched by Derek Frederick. These men received a gift certificate from Kayden's Yogurt Company. Thank you notes along with a small gift will be sent to the folks who returned the balloons. We are looking forward to the next "185 Years of Faithful Service. ---Marty Shinn

Dec.21 We will be going Caroling for the shut ins. Be at the church at 1:30 pm, we will be stopping for an ice cream treat afterwards!.

GET EXCITED !! Next month we are planning a trip to Brandywine to go tubing. Time and date to be announced ! ---Robin Heestand

One of our members suggested that we do a "giving" Thanksgiving project for November through our group. So we decided to ask for monetary donations and/or gift cards to help someone in need for the holidays from our congregation. It was a great success and Dorothy Faloba headed up the "giving" to two local families that our congregation felt could use this gift. We thank Dorothy for suggesting and taking care of that great outreach from our church.

It was decided during our trip to Amish County in August to hold a Christmas Cookie exchange among our group in December. I have posted a list for anyone who would like to bake their favorite kind of Christmas cookie and exchange a dozen with everyone else. Its a great way to have all different kinds and only have made one type.

For the end of January, we are trying to get an interesting speaker. I will let you know who and when we will meet.

Have a blessed Christmas with **Jesus** being the **Reason for the Season**.....

---Diana Reiter

Lost Souls
Our Nation
Unspoken Needs
Our Congregation

Northeast Ohio Bible College
Nathaniel Davis (immune system problems)
Bill Wiley (undergoing tests in December, health problems)
Sophie Null (3 years old on chemo for cancer)
Gary Flamino (cancer)
Margaret Greier (health problems)
Bob Roberts (cancer)
Paul Clunen (health problems)
Kim Redmond (health problems and skin cancer)
Hope Ostapiak (spiritual concerns)
Maxine Vincent
Jay Lafferre (surgery due to Parkinson's)
Mary Lou Eberhart (kidney problem)
Kathy Taucher (ALS)
Julianne Poynter (hip surgery, home recovering)
Joy Fearigo (stroke—please pray for speech)
Jeff Strange (surgery for brain tumor went well)
Burt Sutter (cancer)
Kim Bergman (treatment resistant kidney cancer)
Deb Phillips (cancer)
Ellie Wright (vision problems)
Bill Yeager
Kevin Lanney (recovering from heart surgery)
June Williams (Salem Hospital)

OUR SHUT-INS Jim Dorsey; Bess Staubs; Pat Kalbfell; Bob Bryan; Dorothy McFadden; June Williams; David Phillis; Margie Bell; Martha Crookston; Barbara Strange (Essex I)

SERVING IN THE MILITARY

Tim Huston; Joe Phillis;
Ron Walling ; Paige Wyss ;
Joel Newburn, Germany;
Kyle Stephenson;
Clinton Barnhart, Kuwait

Dec 3 ... Luke Eichler
Dec 7 ... Abigayle Phillis,
Bryan Eichler
Dec 11 ... Bill Opsitnik
Dec 13 ... Elizabeth Thatcher
Dec 23 ... Warren Gentile

Dec 16 ... John & Dorothy Faloba
Dec 18 ... Richard & Verna Kelly

Our Dear Friends,

We thank each of you who contributed to the generous gift card from Giant Eagle given to us for Thanksgiving. We also thank you for food, groceries and transportation provided during my confinement. We are so grateful for your help and friendship and prayers. May God Bless you for your generous service. In Christ's Love, Karen and Gabe Mraz

NOVEMBER
PERFECT ATTENDANCE!

Little Angels: Missy Opsitnik

Curious Kids :Marty Shinn

Teens: Mike Phillis; Dom DiBaggio; Cody Opsitnik; Ali Opsitnik

Loyal Sons & Daughters: Don Huston; Dick & Verna Kelly; Gail Phillis, Sr.; Gail Phillis, Jr.; Bill & Marty Snyder; Bob Shinn; Carl & Judy Merriman; Robin Janofa; Jack & Bonnie Vincent; Tom & Linda Miller; Dorothy Faloba; Ed DiBaggio; Tami Dennison

Introducing...

PCCRelator@hotmail.com

to submit relator content/reports and ideas

PHILLIPS CHRISTIAN CHURCH
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Sheldon Cosma, Minister
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Email: **phillipschristianchurch@hotmail.com**

SERVICES: SUNDAY
9:00 am … Sunday School
10:00 am … Worship
WEDNESDAY
7:00 pm …Adult Bible Study & Youth Group

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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Website : phillipschristian.org

In 2015, we would like to give the Relator an update! In this high-tech world we live in, we want to keep pace and provide the Relator in additional formats with the information you want to read. Some ideas include delivering the Relator via the web for those who prefer to read it online, inserting web links for video/audio where appropriate and even photo's (available to the online viewers). Other ideas might include additional topics/guidance, Christian book reviews, Teen topics and even more personal interest items about our families at Phillips. If you have any suggestions, jot them down and give them to Diana Reiter or Janet DiBaggio. You may also send your ideas to our new email address: PCCRELATOR@hotmail.com. We look forward to your input. **See you in 2015 !!!!**