



The

Relator

December 2017

*"Salute one another with a holy kiss.
The Churches of Christ salute you!"
Romans 16:16*

Volume LXX – EDITION 4



But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy.

We just came off a week of traveling over 1800 miles through 6 states. It still amazes me the amount of ground that can be covered with modern transportation.

I like to travel ... not necessarily the process of traveling ... but more the arriving at new destinations. I have been to places where once was enough and to other places that a moment or a day or a week was not enough to take in all the wonder.

I don't know about you but I do not always enjoy the journey in this life, but when you have the right traveling partner the trip is always better. I have always had my Kim Kim before I received my first GPS device the Tom Tom years ago. My Kim, my beautiful wife, has always been my car buddy and navigational partner. I am so

dependent on her that when she is with me I do not even have to think about where to park ... she will tell me ... sometimes over and over again. Take that Tom (and now Siri) you have nothing on my Kim.

The best thing about my Kim, though, is that she has not only helped me navigate the metropolis of Salem, OH and its surrounding territories, she has been my constant companion to get me back on track with life, love, and our Lord. Sorry, honey, that I am not always the best conversationalist when traveling, but I am glad I have you as a traveling partner and most of all I am glad we have Christ who clearly puts up with our bad driving.

You have to know no matter the weather or the journey this holiday season that traveling conditions are never better than when Christ our Savior travels with you wherever you go in life. The journey is only part of the adventure ... the destination that will take us an eternity to discover all of its wonder awaits us as God's children.

In His mercy he has given us the greatest gift of any season ... salvation.

Traveling Mercies to You All

MERRY CHRISTMAS!



On Sunday, November 26, we had a "Lighting of the Nativity" in the front lawn of the church. It included a brief devotion and a song as the pieces of the nativity were lit up. Cookies and hot chocolate were served in the Fellowship Hall following the event. A big THANK YOU for all who came and a bigger THANK YOU to Mitch Phillis for taking an aerial shot of the lighting. We are excited to put together a DVD of the lighting to send to some of the shut ins. Please take time this Christmas season to drive past our award-winning display!

Monthly Newsletter Published by Phillips Christian Church, Salem, Ohio

reflections..

Overcoming despair

Christmas can be a difficult time for people who are hurting or grieving. In the 1860s, poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow had reason to despair: America was at war with itself, his son was severely wounded in battle and his wife died in a fire. The first Christmas after his wife's death, Longfellow wrote, "How inexpressibly sad are all holidays."

Three years later, on Christmas Day 1864, Longfellow penned a poem that later became the song "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day." The lyrics move from despair to hope — and, thanks to Jesus, so can we.

*And in despair I bowed my head.
There is no peace on earth, I said!
For hate is strong, and mocks the song
of peace on earth, good will to men!*

*Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:
God is not dead, nor doth he sleep!
The wrong shall fail, the right prevail,
with peace on earth, good will to men!*

December Calendar



- December 3rd ...** 8:00 am Trustees Meeting
6:00 pm Concert with "Zack Shelton and 64 to Grayson"
- December 10th ...** 8:00 am Elders Meeting
1:30 pm Caroling to the shut-ins
- December 17th ...** 8:00 am Board Meeting
- December 24th ...** 6:00 pm Christmas Eve Services
- December 25th ...** Christmas Day. "All the Christmas presents in the world are worth nothing without the presence of Christ."

-David Jeremiah



Perfect Attendance
(November 2017)

Family FUNday School

John & Karen Benson, Jenna Crum, Ben, Kim & Eli Fowler, Robin Janofa, Carl & Judy Merriman, Bob & Marty Shinn, Cody Opsitnik, Missy Opsitnik, Gail Phillis, Jr., Marcia Snyder, Jack & Bonnie Vincent



Dec 3 ... Beth Huston

Luke Eichler

Dec 7 ... Abigayle Phillis

Bryan Eichler

Dec 11 ... Bill Opsitnik

Dec 13 ... Elizabeth Thatcher

Dec 23 ... Warren Gentile



Dec 16th.. John & Dorothy Faloba

Dec 18th .. Richard & Verna Kelly

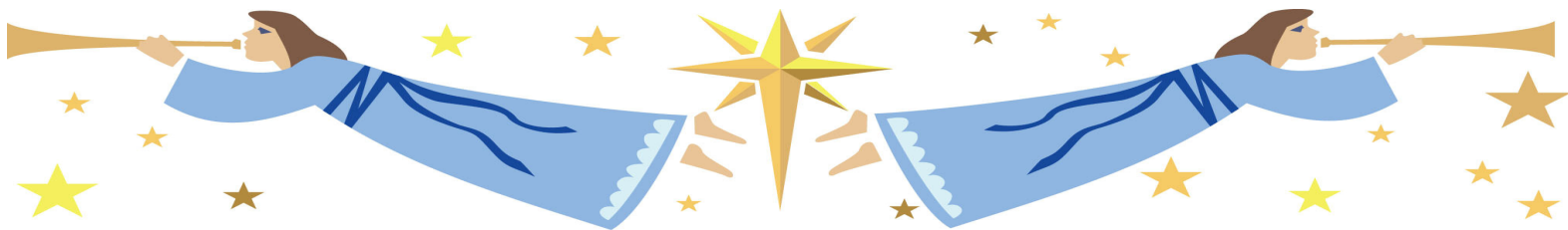
Dear Christian Church Family,

A special Thank You to Sheldon for the visits, phone calls & especially the prayers. It was much appreciated of Kim, Lucy and Sheldon's visits to the Cleveland University Hospital.

A Thank You to our PCC Family for the prayers (for both of us), phone calls, cards, soup, flowers and gas gift card. What a warm feeling to know that we are loved and prayed for, especially during the two week stay at UH Hospital.

Again Thanks to Everyone,
The Kelly's, Verna & Richard





IN NEED OF PRAYER

Our Nation Our Congregation Lost Souls

Mary Long (COPD)

Tom Miller (chemo)

Renee Baker (cancer)

Bill Wiley (health issues, herniated disc, neuropathy left leg, back surgery home continuing to recover)

Debbie Ketchum (recent deaths in her family and son now on hospice care)

Donald Barnhart (hip and knee problems and kidney disease)

Zac Carter (scans scheduled for November at St. Jude in his fight against cancer)

Baby Elijah (making small improvement in heart function)

Jim Webber (heart problems, doing much better)

Mandy Fitch (dialysis; needs kidney transplant)

Jean Fluharty (has begun cancer treatments)

Richard Kelly (heart surgery, home and recovering)

Margaret Grier

Mark & Mary Korff

Nathaniel Davis (immune system problems)

Bill Wiley (health issues)

Mary Lou Eberhart (health problems)

Steve Singer (blood condition)

Bill Bohannon (back problems)

George Faull (pray for strength)

Northeast Ohio Bible College

Debbie Ketchum (deaths in family)

Elizabeth Thatcher (health problems)

Casey Graham (weight loss)

Donald Barnhart (hip and knee problems)

Loni Grisez and her Family

Highland Christian Church

Judi and Wayne Alio (health problems)

Dorothy Miller (cancer)

Dustin Jackson (Police officer was shot)

SERVING IN THE MILITARY

Joe Phillis

Joel Newburn

Kyle Stephenson & Family

OUR SHUT-INS

Bess Staubs

Pat Kalbfell

Ted Bell

Nita Floor

Ada Bailey

Wanda Huston



The funds for the Thanksgiving Basket were given to United Local Schools. The total collected was \$250. I would like to thank everyone for their contribution.

I will be collecting funds for a Christmas Basket to go to a needy family or school in this area. Thank You!

- Dorothy
Faloba



FUNday School Report

The FUNday School class is excited to announce the curriculum for the month of December.

"Finding Christmas" is a five week series that

tells the Christmas Story using angel fish, star fish, sharks, and sea shells, all leading up to a lesson titled "We FISH you a Merry Christmas!" Each lesson is action packed and you won't want to miss a single one! Hope to see you there!

Cody, Missy, Marty, & Mike,
FUNday School Teachers



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Sheldon Cosma, Minister

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SERVICES:

SUNDAY

9:00 am ... Sunday School

10:00 am ... Worship

WEDNESDAY

7:00 pm ... Adult Bible Study & Youth Group

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



www.phillipschristian.org



We will be caroling to our shut ins on Sunday, Dec.10th at 1:30.
Meet at the church at 1:15. It's always a good time and they
appreciate our visits! — Robin Heestand



Our greatest need

If our greatest need had been information,
God would have sent us an educator.

If our greatest need had been technology,
God would have sent us a scientist.

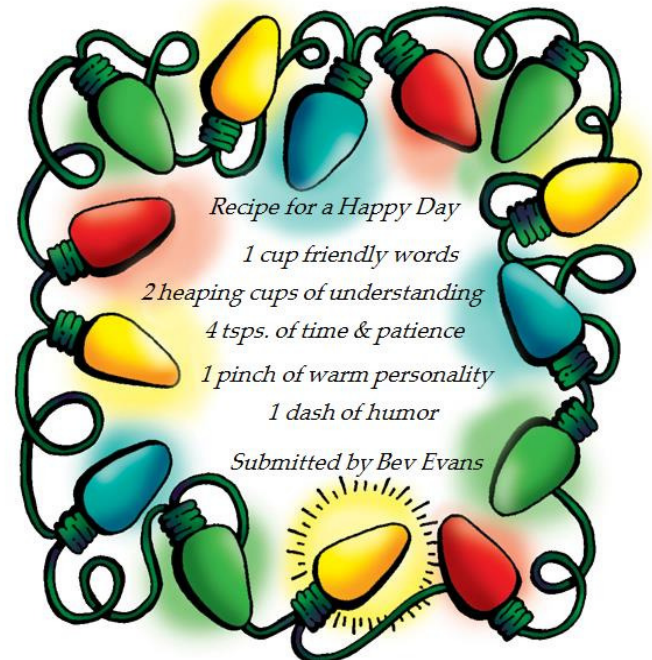
If our greatest need had been money,
God would have sent us an economist.

If our greatest need had been pleasure,
God would have sent us an entertainer.

But our greatest need was forgiveness
and acceptance, so God sent us a Savior.

—Author unknown

*With the hustle & bustle of the season
here is a recipe we all could use....*



Recipe for a Happy Day

- 1 cup friendly words*
- 2 heaping cups of understanding*
- 4 tsps. of time & patience*
- 1 pinch of warm personality*
- 1 dash of humor*

Submitted by Bev Evans