

Heavenly Hoofbeats

December 2016



“The Greatest Gift of All Gifts”

According to Chinese history, there was a star that shone from 3 to 6 months somewhere in the Middle East. All Christians know exactly where it shined its light.

Our scripture comes from Luke 2:1-20. Please read it because you may see something new. I do every time I read the Bible.

Caesar Augustus ordered everyone in Roman occupied territories to go to the city of their lineage (for Joseph and Mary that was of the House of David in Bethlehem).

Mary was close to 9 months with child when she and Joseph began their journey. When they arrived at their destination, there was no room at the inn; only a barn was available.

After Mary gave birth, she wrapped the baby Jesus in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger—which had been used to feed cows and donkeys.

Yes, Jesus was born in very poor conditions, but God knew what he was doing. Jesus is for people from all walks of life who believe in him and accept him as Savior.

There were shepherds living in the fields the night Jesus was born, keeping watch over their flock.

An angel of the Lord came to them and they were scared near to death. The angel told them not to fear for he had wonderful news “of great joy”. The news was that a savior for all mankind had been born in the city of David. He told them where to go to see the newborn baby.

Then suddenly there was multitude of angels praising God and saying “Glory to God in the Highest and on earth peace, good will to all men.”

As soon as the angels left, the shepherds made haste to see the promised child. They found Mary and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. When they left, they went and told others what they had seen, and they were amazed.

Mary kept all this to herself, pondering all that had happened.

This Christmas, tell someone about the Greatest Gift ever given to mankind—Jesus Christ, our Savior, our Lord, and our Master.

May you and yours have peace, joy, and hearts filled with love for the Gift that keeps on giving and giving and believing.

*Holiday Greetings
from the Chappell
house to yours with
brotherly love.*

*Swaddling clothes were
long, narrow strips of
cloth which the mother
wrapped around the
baby tightly to prevent
movement.*

*Shepherds were
considered to be
unclean because they
slept outside and
reeked with
unpleasant body odor.
We would call them
low-class people.*

Frank



Give Glory and Praise to the Father

Cindy Payne and I give all Glory and Praise to our Heavenly Father for HIS Goodness and Mercy to us in 2016.

A Blessed Merry Christmas and a Peaceful 2017. Glory to God in the Highest!

Roxie

We pray a special blessing of Peace to all South Carolina Equestrian Ministries members. We further pray that each member will continue to pray for our Nation, for each other and that our witness to others will honor Father God as we are led by His spirit.



Matthew 28: 19 & 20

“Go Ye Therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.”

Amen

A Few Words from the Editor

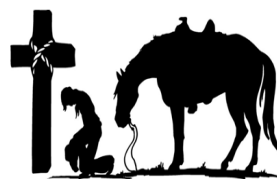
As the saying goes, “Where has the time gone?!” Maybe it’s because of my advanced years, but time does seem to go by quickly. Thanksgiving is over, Christmas is “around the corner” and the New Year is looming. And . . . it’s time to plan the SCEM annual members meeting. Please be in prayer about positions and officers for 2017. I believe it’s time to pass the torch back to the Great Adventure folks. As for me, I would like to pass the reins of newsletter editor to someone else for 2017. Please . . . someone step forward. This old lady needs a break.



The 2017 meeting date and location has not be determined at this time.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Scott Cooper—declining health
Latha, as she cares for Scott.
Jesse & Edna Whitmer, health issues
Sylvia Roper, health issues
All SCEM members
SCEM—our future officers and goals for 2017
Happy Trails Cowboy Church—pastor search
Our President Elect - Our Nation



The residents & shop owners of Pigeon Forge and Gatlinburg, TN

☼ REMEMBER ☼

Please text or e-mail me with your prayer requests and praises. I can’t post what I don’t know.

Sylvia



A Connie Maxwell Christmas – Serving God, Helping People, Using Horses

“Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!” Luke 2:14 (NKJV)

Sounds of jingling bells, the clopping of heavy hooves, the laughter of children and adults alike. These are some of the sounds of Christmas at Connie Maxwell Children’s Home, a faith-based facility offering foster and residential child care.



Each year, members of the SC Draft Horse Association, among others, are invited to bring a special treat to the kids and their foster parents - wagon and carriage rides. South Carolina doesn’t offer enough snow to use actual sleighs but the drivers, riders, and horses still enjoy the sights, sounds, and even smells of the season.

As rows of lights shimmer and sparkle, horses and mules wait patiently as they are harnessed and hitched. Ready for the call to begin, the drivers bring their vehicles around and each is loaded in turn for what becomes, in effect, the Connie Maxwell Christmas Caroling parade.



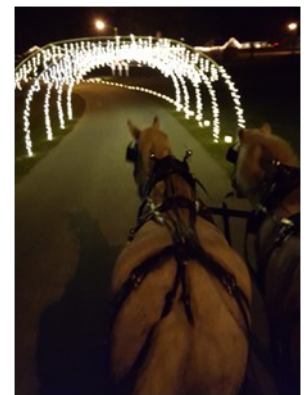
Randy, and his friend, Cathy, have teamed up to help in this festive event for several years. Randy brings two of his Percheron geldings and his wagon, which holds up to sixteen people, from Gilbert to Greenwood via a large trailer.



Preparation begins weeks in advance as the horses are conditioned, harness is cleaned, metal fittings are polished, and the wagon given a thorough detailing.

It is quite a chore to do all the prep work. Randy, with Cathy’s help, groom, harness, and drive the horses for many miles several times a week to get them fit. The horses, semi-retired from their show days, need to be able to pull the wagon, filled with people, for about three hours each night during the holiday celebration weekend.

Joining the other drivers in an outpouring of teamwork Randy and Cathy experience the beauty of the season by sharing their horses and their love for the riders. The Connie Maxwell staff, residents, and community, celebrate the birth of Jesus through songs and laughter as Christmas carols ring out from each wagon. Seeing, and petting, the horses adds another dimension of delight to their experience. The horses seem to revel in the attention, ears perked, stepping heartily, they act as if they understand the great work they are doing.



Randy and Cathy say that the love and fellowship that they give, and receive, is a blessing to them by providing fun and enjoyment for the children.

Creating memories to last a lifetime – Serving God, Helping People, Using Horses.

For more on The Connie Maxwell Christmas, or the facility itself, visit www.conniemaxwell.com

~Cindy Payne, Nov 2016



Like Us on Facebook

www.scequestrianministries.org

501 (c) (3) Non-Profit Organization

Have a Holly, Jolly Christmas

SAVE THE DATE!

April 1 2017
SCHC Expo
T. Ed Garrison Arena
Pendleton, SC

Join the excitement
of 2 fun filled days

WHY CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS?

Christmas was officially declared a federal holiday 146 years ago, in 1870, by President Ulysses S. Grant. The observance of this special season has changed dramatically since then. The pagan origins have long since been forgotten, Santa Claus became popular, and merchandising bloomed excessively, with stores creating big displays in their windows. Amid all this, Christians have put forth special effort to make Jesus the focus of Christmas. In current times, it seems our efforts need to be increased, considering how diminished the true meaning of Christmas has become in the world.

No scripture can be found that substantiates December 25 as the day Christ was born. There is no scripture that tells us to observe this date as his birthday, or to even proclaim his birthday at all. So the big question is: As Christians, should we celebrate the season by buying and giving gifts, cooking massive meals, visiting with loved ones, mailing Christmas cards, putting up Christmas trees, and hanging mistletoe? Perhaps the question should be, Why Not?

You can Goggle Christmas and birthdays and learn much more than is discussed in this short article. But the question still remains: Why not celebrate Christ's birthday? After all, had he not been born, Christians would still be sacrificing animals for the forgiveness of sin! What we have to be careful about is not to get caught up in all the commercialism, to be careful not over-buy, and to make Christ the focus of our celebration. After all, he is the greatest gift ever given to mankind.

The Twelve Days of Christmas Song – Explained

- 1 partridge in a pear tree = Jesus Christ, the Son of God
- 2 turtledoves = the Old and New Testaments
- 3 French hens = the theological virtues of faith, hope, and charity
- 4 calling birds (*) = the four gospels and/or the four evangelists (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John)
- 5 golden rings = the first five books of the Old Testament
- 6 geese a-laying = the six days of creation
- 7 swans a-swimming = the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit and/or the seven sacraments
- 8 maids a-milking = the Eight Beatitudes
- 9 ladies dancing = the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit
- 10 lords a-leaping = the Ten Commandments
- 11 pipers piping = the 11 faithful disciples (minus Judas, who betrayed Christ)
- 12 drummers drumming = the 12 points of doctrine in the Apostles' Creed



(*originally colly birds—meaning black birds)