

ST. TIMOTHY'S UPCOMING EVENTS

January

1st - 10:00 a.m. New Year Service
6th - Epiphany Service & Bonfire
11th - Vestry Meeting
17th - Church Office Closed
22nd - MOPS Scrapping Event
23rd - Sanctity of Life Sunday
23rd - January Angel Food Deadline
24th - March for Life, Washington D.C.
29th - Angel Food Distribution

February

8th - Vestry Meeting
20th - Angel Food Deadline
21st - President's Day
26th - Angel Food Distribution



St. Timothy's Church of Baltimore County

"You have made known to me the path of life;
You fill me with joy in your presence,
With eternal pleasures at your right hand."

-Psalm 16:11

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January 2011

Chimes

Faith — Wholeness — Joy
St. Timothy's Church

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

This issue of the Chimes highlights the outreach effort of "A Night in Bethlehem" held on the Saturday before Christmas Day. The effort to offer this "night" can only be described as HUGE, taking a large percentage of our membership to prepare, setup and offer this event. The overall leadership of this event is to be acknowledged and thanked for the long hours they each put in: Becky Caulk, Gwen Stagmer, Olivia Sweeney, and Becky Valentine. The attendance was good, and the feedback from many was gratifying. I think it is fair to say that afterwards we were all very tired and needed some rest. So I asked myself, "Why do we do such things?"

As in most things we do in life, there is a hardly ever one reason why we do something. In other words we have mixed motives. As applied to Night in Bethlehem we could say we do this because it's part of the Great Commission to preach, teach and baptize throughout the world. We could say it's our way of letting people know something about our church: who we are as people, our values and purpose. We could say it's a fun way to teach children about Christ; to teach the gospel in a low key manner.

Any of these reasons by themselves have merit and serve a good purpose worthy of our best efforts. Let me add one additional thought for us to consider as we make similar strides into our community in the year ahead. I've been working my way through Soren Kierkegaard's book, "Purity of Heart is to Will One Thing". Kierkegaard (1813-1855) was a 19th century Danish philosopher/theologian regarded by many as the significant figure in contemporary thought. In the early stages of this monograph he discusses man and the eternal.

His fundamental argument is that we live in seasons of time and as we go through them we find gains and losses. We change and our environments change. An old man can speak of wisdom on a different level than can a young man because the old man has experienced the seasons of change the young man has not. "All has its time" Kierkegaard says so when the flower is dead it's time is done and while taking the theme from Ecclesiastes further he notes Ecclesiastes 3.11 noting that "God has made all things beautiful in their time; also he has set eternity within a man's heart." It's what the reformers called the "seed of God". Lying sandwiched in this section of Kierkegaard's thought lays the supreme reason for why we put such effort into outreach.

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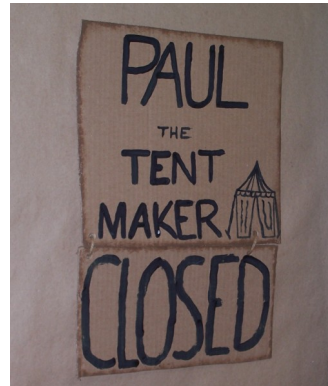
Reprint - Catonsville Times: December 22, 2010

Visitors given taste of life in the time of Christ - Journey to past for "Night in Bethlehem"
by Lauren Fulbright - [Photos by Dona Peters](#)

Paper lanterns and tiki torches shimmered like tiny Christmas stars as they guided visitors down a pathway to the sanctuary of St. Timothy's Church, in Catonsville Dec. 18. "Welcome to Bethlehem," read a passing sign.

As Arbutus resident Kerri Curlett crowded into a pew with her sons, Jordan, 12, a seventh-grader at Arbutus Middle School; and Luke, 5, a kindergartener at Relay Elementary, she said she didn't know what to expect.

"I thought it would be a fun family experience for my boys and myself to spend some time together," Curlett said as she waited to experience "A Night in Bethlehem," at the church, 200 Ingleside Ave. "I'm hoping that they would truly understand the reason for the season by the end of the night," she said.

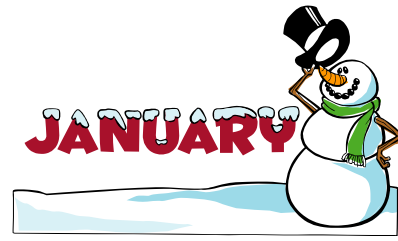


Becky Caulk, the assistant to the pastor at the church, was one of the event's organizers. "We really just wanted to have an outreach to the community so that they could experience the true meaning of Christmas," said Caulk, noting it was the third year the event was held at the church. "Sometimes with Christmas, we get so caught up in the hustle and bustle, and we forget that we're celebrating Jesus' birthday," she said.

On Dec. 18, the small group listened as the Rev. Terry Sweeney, the church's pastor, told the Christmas story. Then they made their way past closed doors of merchants such as Paul the tent maker and James the potter.

The small town of Bethlehem was complete with basket weaving, pottery, carpentry, scribe and music shops. Frankincense, anise, myrrh, cinnamon, bay leaves and a herb called spikenard, which was used to embalm the dead, were on display in Catonsville resident Nancy Bellis' Bethlehem spice shop.

"It's fun. It's educational," Bellis said. "And you really get in the feeling of the time when the baby was born."



BIRTHDAYS

1-14 Ray Sprague

1-22 Marga Caffyn

1-18 Tom Mollete

1-27 Ralph Morehead

1-19 Liz Hale

1-27 Sandy Smith

Gifts of the Seasons

There are so many things, Lord, to thank you for,
The strong wind that blows open springtime's door,
Bringing her sweet breath with snow still on the ground,
And making hearts leap with a joyful bound.



For stirring and rousing the still half-frozen earth,
To a glorious, long awaited new birth,
When all things respond to the warmth of the sun,
And the cycle of seasons has once more begun.

For the long, lazy days, Lord of summer time,
When all the world seems to be in rhyme,
Luring and enticing to now lay aside
All that would hinder, and just drift with the tide.

For the autumn days, with their gorgeous hues
Of leaves and flowers, all bringing us news
That the harvest is ripe for gathering in,
To fill barn, hayloft, barrel and bin.

For the closing-in days that winter brings,
When doors are shut tight and the kettle sings,
And 'round the cook stove ancient stories are read,
Of baby Jesus, asleep, in His manger bed.



Thank you, Lord, for the gift of seasons gone,
Now our ears are attuned for the first blue bird's song,
And with keen anticipation we are waiting for
The strong wind that blows open a new springtime's door.

By Catherine Bellis via The Holy Spirit

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If the eternal (God) is set within a man's heart then God must exist and be able to be grasped at every stage of our lives. With every change we go through from birth to death the eternal (God) is set within us and (through Grace) we come to faith and begin to see how our days are numbered differently than that of the flower. In other words since the eternal (God) is set within us, immortality is set upon us as well. The eternal set within us doesn't have a set number of days; it does not grow weak but within itself remains constant.

The fact of the matter is this. Living life growing in the knowledge that God Himself is living within us makes life richer and fuller and free and more thanks-filled. Living life seeing the days go by, the years go by, the decades go by, believing there will be a day of darkness that lasts forever as we wither and die like the flower, is at best morbid, if not depressing.

We make such efforts as "A Night in Bethlehem" because God Himself has set Himself upon us through His Son Jesus and we in turn knowing something of His goodness towards us are driven by the great desire to share God's goodness, even to announce that goodness to as many as we can so they in turn can come to grips with the eternal within them.

Many, many of you opened your hearts through hospitality and good old fashioned elbow-grease and with God's help opened the window of heaven to roughly 110 guests whom we pray felt the touch of eternity as they wandered these halls, decked out for "A Night in Bethlehem". God bless you all.

Fr. Terry+



After registering for the census and handing a gold coin to a tax collector, the visitors found themselves in a bustling marketplace where Jewish merchants sat beneath the canopies of their small shops.



Paradise resident Liz Hale helped a group of children knead dough in flour to make bread.

"It's kind of like a haunted house, but not scary," Jordan said. "I also think it's showing how much harder it was back then to make stuff."

Visitors to the market's metalworking shop pounded small metal pieces into circular charms called bull to wear on leather straps around their necks.

"The Romans believed that this was a lucky charm they would tie around their children's necks to protect them," said shopkeeper Donna Anderson, a Towson resident who manages the grounds at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County.



Halethorpe resident Jameson Caulk, 5, a kindergartener at Mount Providence Child Development Center, nodded as shopkeeper Susan Saulsbury asked if she would like to make a bracelet in the market's leather shop. Assisted by Saulsbury, a Woodbine resident, Jameson threaded beads onto small leather straps, occasionally scrambling to catch a dropped bead. Jameson's father, Matthew Caulk, said he liked that the event provided hands-on activities. "I'm a plumber, and I know from firsthand experience that actually doing something is how you learn," he said.

The smell of hay and live animals -- which included goats, sheep and a pair of doves -- filled the manger where Catonsville residents Carla and Andy Cook, and their 7-month-old son, Jackson, portrayed the holy family. A group portraying the wise men sang as Carla Cook rocked the baby in her arms.





“Tax Collector”, Jim Davison, retrieved gold coins from visitors before they could enter the marketplace of Bethlehem.

The Well, located in the center of the marketplace, was the newest edition of props this year. It was handcrafted by Emory & Gwen Stagmer.



Ralph Morehead served Bethlehem as our resident “Rabbi”.

Andrew, Carla, & Jackson Cook made the perfect “Holy Family”.



Shepherd boy, Geoffrey Caffyn, lead “flocks” of visitors to the manger.



The Three Wise Men, Fr. Gus Peters, Ray Sprague, & Barry Johnston, also brought their gift of song to the new born King.



Liz Hale helps visitors knead dough while Jill Whitehead served up hot loaves to sample from the ovens in the kitchen.