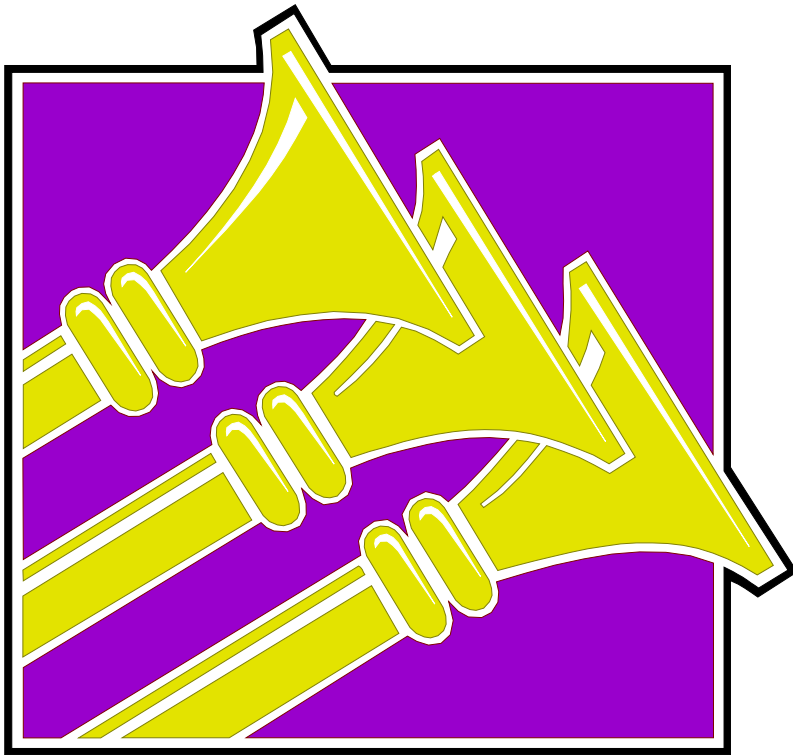


# Inside Wyoming

*The Newsletter of the Wyoming Ave. Baptist Church*

*Vol. 17, No. 4, December 1, 2002*

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**ALLELUIA**

## Holiday Food Baskets

This Thanksgiving we distributed four food baskets to families in the neighborhood. Each basket included a turkey and all the fixings for a full Thanksgiving meal. We will again be distributing food baskets for Christmas, including gifts for the children in the families. Slips of paper indicating items needed will again be posted in the hallway. Be sure to take some slips (before they're all gone!) and contribute to these baskets, that we may be generous with what the Lord has given to us.

*"Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come you who are blessed by my Father... For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.' ... 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.'" (Matthew 25:23-36, 40)*

### Inside Wyoming

Published approximately every two weeks by and for the members and friends of the Wyoming Avenue Baptist Church.

Contributions of articles and information are most welcome! Contact the editor, Walter Rice, Jr., at 215-820-0165.



## Making Cookies with Girls' Guild

On Saturday, November 9th, the Guild Girls got together and made cookies for the Race Track Ministries, the Whosoever Gospel Mission, and the church's shut-ins. There were 11 girls who helped. We made lots of different cookies, including chocolate chip and oatmeal raisin, peanut butter cookies with Hershey's kisses, sugar cookies, and gingerbread men. We made so many cookies that we had some left over for Sunday morning. Guild meets again this Saturday, December 14, when we will decorate our Christmas tree – all girls are welcome! –by Jennifer Rice

# The Manger and the Cross

Many people have trouble believing what are, to us as Christians, key points of Jesus' life – his sinless life, his many miracles, his death on the cross, and his resurrection. But few people seem to dispute that Jesus was born about 2,000 years ago, in a little town called Bethlehem. Ironically it is Jesus' birth that is perhaps the greatest mystery of the gospel. "In fact," as British theologian J. I. Packer writes in his book *Knowing God*, "the real difficulty, the supreme mystery with which the gospel confronts us, ... lies not in the Good Friday message of atonement, nor in the Easter message of resurrection, but in the Christmas message of Incarnation. The really staggering Christian claim is that Jesus of Nazareth was God made man."

Consider how great is this mystery, that the second person of the triune God became fully man, while remaining fully God – the Almighty God coming to earth as a helpless child. The Incarnation was no illusion, for truly, as John 1:14 tells us, "The Word became flesh and dwelt among us." This is where Jews, Muslims, Jehovah's Witnesses,

and many others stumble, that the man Jesus is God himself.

In the light of the Incarnation, other mysteries are made clearer. If Jesus Christ was truly man and truly God, why should it surprise us that having died he would rise again? If the Almighty God truly was among us, how could we not expect to see great miracles? But the Incarnation must not be taken out of context, for it was only looking forward to the Cross that Christ came into the world.

Some have tried to make the

Incarnation the primary focus of the gospel, trying to say that by God becoming man and coming into the world, all was made right in the world, Christ's death being an afterthought. But, as Packer quotes James Denney, a turn-of-the-century New Testament scholar, "the New Testament knows nothing of an incarnation which can be defined apart from its relation to atonement. . . . Not Bethlehem, but Calvary, is the focus of revelation, and any construction of Christianity which ignores or denies this distorts Christianity by putting

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**AND SHE WILL  
BRING FORTH A SON,  
AND YOU SHALL CALL  
HIS NAME JESUS,  
FOR HE WILL SAVE HIS  
PEOPLE FROM THEIR SINS.**

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MATTHEW 1:21

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*continued on page 4*

## Thanksgiving Eve Service

On Thanksgiving Eve, Wednesday, November 27, we had an opportunity to gather together and give thanks for the many things the Lord has done. Although the group was small (23 people attended), the thanksgiving was great, as we have much for which to thank God. A time of worship with scripture and hymns was followed by a time of thanksgiving and prayer, when we shared with each other the things we were thankful for, and then brought them before the Lord.

We were privileged to have as our guests Rev. Luis Centeno and his family. Rev. Centeno brought us a short message on why we praise God and give Him thanks. Preaching from Psalm 146, he explained how God is our Creator and our Savior, and while we owe Him praise for creating us, we

### Manger and the Cross, *cont'd from page 3*

it out of focus.” Packer concludes, “the crucial significance of the cradle at Bethlehem lies in its place in the sequence of steps down that led the Son of God to the cross at Calvary, and we do not understand it till we see it in this context.”

It is meaningless to consider the manger alone, for Christ came for the very purpose of dying on the cross. Let us praise God not only that He came among us, but that He “made himself nothing,” and “humbled himself and became obedient to death” (Philippians 2:7-8).

owe Him all of our being in gratitude for His making us anew and saving us in Christ. It was a particular blessing to hear from Rev. Centeno how the Lord is blessing his ministry among Muslims in our community.

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Joy  
to  
the  
World