

CHANDLER U.M.C.

by Linda G. Keeling

(Combined service at 10:30 a.m., Dec. 21)

Sunday School at 9-10 a.m. Come to Fellowship Hall for coffee and fellowship at 10 a.m.)

"The character of even a child can be known by the way he acts whether what he does is pure and right." Proverbs 21

The wonderful children of the CrossTraining program offered each Wednesday night to children from Pre-K to 11 years of age have shared with us: What does Christmas mean to you?

Levi Oliver (age 3) "That means Jesus' birthday."

Cameron Williams (age 3) "It means big presents and I get a transformer."

Emma Lambert (age 4) "Santa reminds me of presents and Rudolph with that blinking red nose."

Cooper Garner (age 4) "I know. Santa, Christmas trees, and snowmen."

Maddox Plazek (age 4) "It means Jesus loves me."

Blake Bradbeer (age 4) "It is about Jesus."

Luke Little (age 4) "It means I wanna get a Christmas tree."

Kristina Grace (age 6) "Christmas is fun, tricks, and games."

Camper Cade (age 6) "Christmas means presents to me."

Megan Warren (age 6) "To get presents."

Rylee Plazak (age 6) "Christmas is about Jesus' birthday."

Lyric Patterson (age 7) "Christmas is about Jesus, God, presents, family, friends and people."

Kristen Cherry (age 7) "Christmas means Christ is born."

Jenny Burch (age 8) "To me Christmas is a time to celebrate the birth of Christ!"

Kaylee Lambert (age 8) "Christmas is about Jesus."

Camryn Johnston (age 8) "Christmas means that Jesus is born."

Baylee Ellis (age 8) "Christmas is about Jesus and about his birth."

Augustus Cade (age 9) "Christmas is about Jesus."

Lillie Rozell (age 9) "Christmas is about the birth of Jesus and about giving to others and caring for others!!!"

Jennifer Neely (age 10) "The birth of Jesus Christ."

Laura Croasman (age 10) "To me, Christmas means

family, friends, and JESUS' BIRTHDAY."

Cub Griffin (age 10) "Christmas is about giving presents and celebrating Jesus' Birthday."

Kaitlyn Smit (age 10) "Christmas means it's Jesus' Birthday! It also means time for love!"

Kassidy Grace (age 10) "Christmas means a lot to me, but the most important thing is the birth of Jesus."

Mary Whittle (age 10) "The birth of Jesus. P.S. I love Christmas."

Taylor Mullens (age 11) "Christmas is Jesus' Birthday. It is about love and joy."

Tommy Pollard (age 11) "Christmas means to me my Birthday and Jesus' Birthday."

Thank you, CrossTraining class and the dedicated teachers and volunteers for the amazing work each of you are doing. May your Christmas be one of love, joy, family and friends, and may God's blessings shower you every day.

Last Sunday our Chancel Choir performed a special program "Sing and Shout for Joy," with solos performed by Kim Pollard, Gwen Jones, and Pam Nokes and narrations by Mary Stewart, Linda Pinson, Tom Jones, and Araminta Montgomery. I am running out of ways to describe what a talented group of musicians our church is blessed with. Thank you for your hard work and dedication in sharing your talent. Each Sunday the music touches our souls. "Let all the joys of the godly well up in praise to the Lord, for it is right to praise him. Play joyous melodies of praise — sing joyfully." Psalms 33:1-3

Next Sunday, at the combined service, the Angelus Ringers and the Praise Team musicians will perform. Be sure to come and bring a friend to share the joy.

Monday, December 22 the Youth will leave the church at 1:45 p.m. for Six Flags "Holiday in the Park." Call John Taylor and/or Terry York, if you would like to volunteer as an "adult" or join the youth.

Wednesday, December 24th the Candlelight Service and Communion will be at 7 p.m. Honor the birth of our Savior with communion, worship and prayer.

Happy Anniversary to: Pamela and James Nokes

Happy Birthday to: Tom Birdwell, Lou Langston and James Thompson.

Thought for the Week: "The Christian way is different: harder, and easier. Christ says "Give me all. I don't want so much of your time and so much of your money and so much of your work; I want you!" Readings from C.S. Lewis, The Joyful Christian.

Leagueville Baptist

by Church staff

The choir presented the musical, "A Night to Remember," this past Sunday morning. They did a fantastic job and I know that everyone in attendance received a blessing. Afterward, Bro. Brad Fulton sang, "O Holy Night," and did a beautiful job on that as well. Bro. Tom spoke about that night to remember long ago and pointed out several things that made that night special.

We had lots of children make the trip to Mazzio's and then on to the nursing home to sing Christmas Carols. The youngest ones dressed in their costumes and performed their speaking parts for the residents, as well. There were lots of smiles from both the residents and the children. Thanks to all adults who made the trip possible. It is the highlight of the year for our kids. Following the caroling, the children involved in the Nativity program returned to the church to practice and enjoy snacks before the evening worship service.

The Nativity Program was a huge success this past Wednesday evening. A big

thanks goes to Ms. Betty for all her hard work. Many hours of work are put in to make this a memorable experience for the children. She has lots of helpers and we want to thank them as well. This program is such a tradition at Leagueville and each year it is a little different.

We will be having our Wednesday evening service next Tuesday, December 23rd at 7pm. We will be having our regular evening service activities, so please make plans to attend.

We would also like to thank those that sponsored an angel from our tree this year. You have brightened someone's Christmas by your generosity. It is so uplifting to see our members truly give back to those in need at this special time of year.

The young people will be having a Christmas party Sunday at 4 pm. This will be held at Justin and Beth's home. Please bring a \$10 gift to exchange. We would love to have you join in the fun!

We have several birthdays this week. Happy birthday to: Mary Lou Jennings, Sandy Fulton, Brad Smith, Layne Dingle, and Janet Costlow. We hope that you have a great week and remember that Jesus is the reason for this blessed Season!

St. Boniface Catholic

by Sue Beams

As the Liturgical Year comes to an end, members of St. Boniface celebrated the Feast of Christ the King. The new Liturgical Year begins next week with the season of Advent. The readings of the day included the 23rd Psalm. We never need be afraid of our King. The Lord is my Shepherd ... there is nothing I will fear. When we think of a worldly King, we know that they dominate with power and control with fear. Christ the King cannot be served but to serve. As the Good Shepherd He goes after the lost, finds the scared and comforts the weary. Don't be afraid, He takes care of His own. There is no golden throne, Christ the King rules from a cross. He did not use weapons of swords and shield. His weapons are love and compassion. We can win over our enemies with that same love and compassion. His Kingdom is for eternity. We are privileged to have a part of the everlasting kingdom.

In his homily, Fr. Luke had an answer for the question, "When do we become part of the Kingdom of God?" At our Baptism, we become children of God. The Kingdom of God is within you. The Kingdom of God in this world is the Church. The Kingdom of God is eternal. How can we become a part of God's Kingdom? Reach

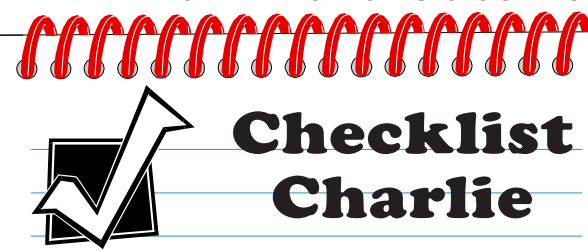
out to others making a connection. No man is an island! Reach out! The worst hunger is for love. The worst of feelings is rejection. The worst of nakedness is lack of respect and dignity. God is hidden in each of us. We have a special role in fighting against the enemy, defending our faith in God's Kingdom. The rewards are great. Refreshments were served following Mass.

Members returned to the community room around 4pm to savor the wonderful foods at the annual parish Thanksgiving dinner! Table decorations were made by the youth. Turkey was provided by the church and members brought side dishes to share. Over 100 people signed up to attend! Thank you to the women of the Altar Society who worked tirelessly to plan, organize and prepare our Thanksgiving meal. Your service to our parish is invaluable.

Keep an eye on the bulletin in the coming weeks for news and updates on the holiday plans for the parish.

New Baking and Cleaning schedules are in the works ... please look for the sign-up sheets. We are in need of individuals, couples, or families to help with these duties.

Congratulations and best wishes to all who are celebrating birthdays and anniversaries. Please pray for those who are sick and suffering. Remember, too, the souls of the faithful departed. We continue to pray for the men and women of the armed services. May the Lord protect them from all harm.



Checklist Charlie

Facebook Loser

I managed to be on Facebook for several months without acquiring a single friend. For those who don't have young people in their homes still, Facebook is a "place" on the internet where tech-savvy folks go to communicate with each other. When you get on Facebook, a computer screen pops up that has your picture on it and pictures of your friends and a place for one-liners that people send to each other.

Kinda weird, huh? I'm having trouble adjusting.

Parents can also waste hours of time looking at pictures of their kids and all their kids' friends. Not that I've ever done that in the middle of the night or anything.

I have Facebook because my daughter set it up for me.

My Facebook page has my picture on it because my kids also know how to use digital cameras. I can take pictures, but so far I can't seem to get them off the camera. I am planning to learn how to transfer pictures off of my camera eventually. Someday.

Probably the same day I learn to use Facebook.

Anyway, I made the mistake of mentioning that I didn't have any friends. On Facebook, you understand.

"I look like a Facebook loser," I complained to my daughter.

Later that same day, when I opened my email, I had over 75 messages.

I realize this is nothing compared to some people who have hundreds of messages to sort through every day, but I lead a

quiet life. I get excited if I have an email that is not from a person related to me by birth or marriage.

Seventy-five emails! Imagine my surprise.

It turns out that to be a friend on Facebook involves emailing the person for permission.

It took me two days to figure out which of my children sent out the message that I was desperate for friends.

Of course, the children thought this was highly amusing.

Almost as funny as my son deciding it would be hilarious to text both his sisters and all their friends from my phone. Something I would never do myself.

I'm sorry. I like human voices. Plus, texting involves spelling in odd, abbreviated ways.

I have a grand total of 17 unopened texts still. If you sent one, feel free to call.

I found out that my son was texting when he suddenly became a fount of information about all his sisters' friends. Apparently, he was letting them in on the joke because they were all so surprised to see my phone number associated with a text.

I have to admit, I think it is funny, too, at some bizarre, ironic level. It is so much like something I would do myself. If I only knew how to work all these new-fangled modern gadgets.

Just for the record, I have 22 friends on Facebook now. I guess I accidentally deleted the others.

Cathy Krafve, aka Checklist Charlie, lives and writes with a Texas twang. Comments are invited at <http://checklistcharlie.blogspot.com> or cathy.krafve@gmail.com.

Brownsboro junior high teacher partners with NASA

Gina Byford, an 8th grade science teacher at Brownsboro Junior High School, has teamed up with NASA Langley Research Center in Hampton, Va., to provide scientific observations that will help validate some of their most prominent satellite instruments.

Byford and her students are now participants in the S'COOL project (Students' Cloud Observations On-Line), an international effort in which teachers and students examine clouds and submit their observations to NASA. Scientists use these ground measurements to help assess the accuracy of CERES (Clouds and the Earth's Radiant Energy System), a collection of satellite-based instruments that observe clouds from space and monitor Earth's radiation balance.

The program is approaching its 12th anniversary in January of 2009. Students from more than 1,000 schools across the globe have made observations of the sky to verify, or "ground truth," what satellites see from space. Students from 54 countries have gotten involved in S'COOL, making a total of more than 74,000 cloud observations.

Because clouds have so many layers, satellites can be limited in their observation abilities. Ground measurements greatly improve our understanding of clouds because they offer a different perspective. If students and teachers are able to analyze the clouds within 15 minutes of one of the CERES spacecraft flyovers, the scientists at NASA Langley will be able to take the two sets of data and study the effects of clouds on the Earth's climate.

"We use these observations to identify cloud conditions that our satellite instrument has trouble with, such as sparse, thin cirrus clouds. The student observations and satellite data are also available for the students to examine," explains Lin Chambers, director of the S'COOL project.

Using the S'COOL Web site, teachers can find out how to join the program, and participants are able to obtain observation instructions and forms. After submitting the cloud observations online, ordinary classroom learning is instantly tied to a larger world of scientific inquiry.

Find out more: <http://asd-www.larc.nasa.gov/SCOOOL/>

Can someone you know COOK?

If you or someone you know would make a good Cook of the Week call Nathan at *The Statesman* to set up a time to be interviewed. You may also email us your suggestions.

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or

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