

St. Paul's Epistle

An Inviting Community of Christ's Disciples

Volume 43, Issue 12

December, 2020

St. Paul's United
Methodist Church

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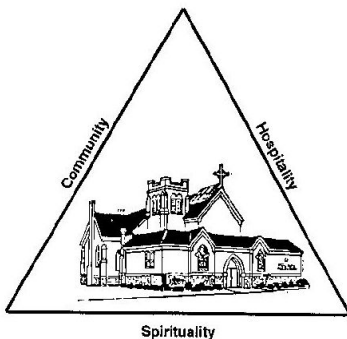
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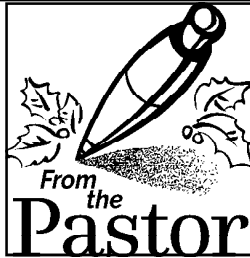
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Advent will have begun by the time you read these words. That exciting time that leads up to the birth of Christ, a time of preparation, and great hope. We celebrate the birth of Christ with a new set of rules in 2020, covid has changed how we gather, but we must not let it change our desire to celebrate who Jesus is. During a year where turmoil and fear threaten to tear us apart, I pray you will cling to the structure of Advent and find hope, faith, joy, and peace each week as we prepare for the celebration of the birth of our Savior.

If you are stuck at home, celebrate the advent wreath every week by reading a scripture about each of the 4 subjects and if you have them, light a candle to prepare for the coming of the Child who has saved us all. Although there is no cookie walk or caroling at homes around Lima and Elida, we remember the reason we celebrate. Thank God we can count on the celebration of Christmas which grounds us to the saints of the faith and familiarity that brings us comfort.

Continue to join us in person or on Facebook Live every Sunday as we worship together. I hope to see you soon and pray for an end to this difficult time we are in, and I hold fast to the promise that Christ is with us no matter the outcome.

I'll see you in the Mission field,

Pastor Paul



Thought for the Month:

Each of us is an innkeeper
who decides if there is
room for Jesus.

—Neal A. Maxwell



December 6
Coins for Communion
to benefit Lima Salvation Army

**The St. Paul's Special Christmas offering will be
 designated for the following missions:**

\$500 to United Methodist Church Camps in the Ohio Conference with
 the remaining to UMCOR, domestic natural disasters.

Hat and Mitten Christmas Tree.

St. Paul's special Christmas tree for hats, mittens and scarves will be delivered to
 Our Daily Bread, Samaritan House and Lima Rescue Mission. These items will help
 to keep those less fortunate stay warm this winter.

Upcoming Events for St. Paul's

Newsletter
 deadline:
 the **16th**
 of each month

St. Paul's Epistle

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 United Methodist Church

Subscription Rate: NONE

Secretary	Gail Fessler
Newsletter	Jone Lane
Organist	Linda Holman
Pianist	Lois Cook
Choir Director	Judy Chaffins
Custodian	Dave Decker

Christian Symbol

ADVENT WREATH

The Advent wreath is a symbol of watchfulness and increasing joy as we anticipate Jesus' birth. The wreath's circular shape symbolizes eternity, or life without end. The candles remind us that Jesus is the Light of the World — he brought light and life to a dark world (see John 1:4-5). On each of the four Sundays of Advent, we light a new candle. As the light grows, so do our hope and joy.



December 13
Food pantry

Items taken to the 5 Loaves
Food Pantry at The Church
at Allentown



December 21st

Winter officially begins,

Assemble Sunshine Bags

December 14
at 10:00 AM
in the fellowship hall



New Years Eve
December 31

Upcoming Events for St. Paul's

December 6

2nd Sunday of Advent



December 13

3rd Sunday of Advent

December 20

4th Sunday of Advent

Christmas Eve
December 24

There will be only one
Christmas Eve Service

Time to be determined



Christmas Eve
Candle Light Service

Hymn History

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

"Then Sings My Soul" Book 2, By Robert J. Morgan

1907

Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told to them. Luke 2:20 (NKJV)

During the bitter days of slavery, black workers on American plantations, solaced themselves with song and created a unique form of American hymnology—the Negro spiritual. It was the jubilee Singers of Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee, that took the plantation songs of the Negro slaves to the entire world. One of the last “spirituals” to be uncovered and published was this unique Christmas carol, “Go, Tell It on the Mountain.”

How did it come about?

John Wesley Work Jr. was born in Nashville, on or about August 6, 1871. His father was a choir director for a Nashville church who often wrote his own arrangements. John grew up singing in his dad's choirs, and when he enrolled in Fisk University, he became active in its music program, though his primary subjects were history and Latin. Returning to Fisk to work on his masters degree, John was eventually hired as professor of Latin and Greek. But his greatest love was the preservation and performance of the Negro Spiritual.

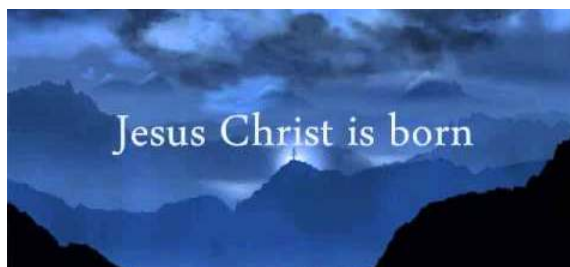
Many of the spirituals had been published, but “Go, Tell It on the Mountain” was largely unknown, though it had been performed by the Jubilee Singers since 1879. Some of the original stanzas were obscure, for spirituals, by definition, were unwritten songs passed from plantation to plantation and from generation to generation. The chorus, however, was crystal clear and highlighted the theme for the whole: “Go, Tell It on the Mountain / Jesus Christ is born.”

Intrigued by the chorus and melody, John wrote two stanzas for this song, and it became his custom before sunrise on Christmas morning to take students caroling from building to building, singing, “Go, Tell It on the Mountain.” It was first published in 1907 in *Work's Folk Songs of the Negro as sung on the Plantations*.

John Work has been called the first black collector of Negro folk song, a pursuit continued by his two sons. John Wesley Work II and Frederick J. Work. Both young men served on the faculty of Fisk University, working with the Jubilee Singers and collecting and publishing African-American spirituals and folk music.

“Go, Tell It on the Mountain” is a classic in that genre. To black slaves in antebellum America, the birth of a liberating Savior was a message to be heralded from the highest mountains.

It still is, for us all.



Methodist History

Susanna Wesley

In all these years, as well as the years that were to follow, Susanna had need of all her thrift. Her life from marriage to death was a constant struggle against weakness and poverty. One disaster followed another so drearily that a less thoroughly equipped woman would soon have despaired. The hourly tragedy of the lack of food and clothing, and the burden of an ever-increasing family of children, often seemed unbearable. Her 19 children were all born within a period of 20 years.

Her great courage was dominant throughout her life. She never gave up. She never yielded even to the actual disease. She did the work that had to be done, no matter the condition of her body or mind. Her son, John, wrote long afterword of a calm serenity with which his mother transacted business, wrote letters, and conversed surrounded by her 13 children.

Yet, while taking care of her kitchen, she was training her children: times of going to rest, rising in the morning, dressing, eating, learning, and exercising. She managed by rule, which was not permitted to be broken unless, in case of sickness. To the 19th and last child, she enforced daily routine which made the home an actual school. Six hours a day for 20 years, she taught her children and taught them so well that they were all well educated. They were brought to a regular course of sleeping by laying them in their cradle awake, rocking them to sleep. When they turned a year old, they were taught to fear the rod and to cry softly. As soon as they were grown pretty strong, they were confined to 3 meals a day. They were allowed to eat and drink as much as they would, but not to call for anything.

Her system of moral instruction was equally definite. She took such a portion of time as she could best spare every night to discourse each child by itself. On Monday, she talked to Molly; on Tuesday with Hetty; Wednesday with Nancy; Thursday with Jackie; Friday with Patty; Saturday with Charles; and with Emily and Sukey together on Sunday. Susanna was determined to form their minds aright, to conquer their will, and bring them to obedient temper: patience being her chief ingredient.

While they still lived at South Ormsby, Dr. Annesley, her father, died. As long as she lived, she was fully persuaded that he was constantly near and conversing with her. This deep sense of an almost literal communion of saints was transmitted to her sons, John and Charles. Both repeatedly asserted their belief in the nearness of the departed.

"I learned more about Christianity
from my mother than from all the
theologians of England."

—John Wesley

Faith In Action

Worship Attendance:

November 1, 2020	38
November 8, 2020	29
November 15, 2020	24
November 22, 2020	34

Financial Giving

Weekly Need for
Unified Ministry Budget
\$3,466.00

Unified Ministry Giving:		Other:
November 1, 2020	\$5,996.00	\$470.00
November 8, 2020	\$4,103.00	\$254.00
November 15, 2020	\$1,608.00	\$100.00
November 22, 2020	\$1,998.00	\$495.00



Altar Flowers

2021 Altar Flower Calendar

If you would like to sign up for altar flowers for 2021, please call the office at 419-339-3801 or e-mail; officeespc@gmail.com . Please specify if the flowers are in memory of, or in honor of some one or a special event.

Flower Calendar

December 6, 2020	Dan & Margie Best
December 13, 2020	Jack & Cindy Swihart
December 20, 2020	Poinsettias
December 27, 2020	Poinsettias



Poinsettia Orders

If you would like to order poinsettias for the Christmas service, please fill out the form on pg. 11 and drop off, or mail with payment to the church by December 21.

Daily Bible Readings

Tuesday 12/1

Psalm 5, 6, 10, 11, Isaiah 1:21-31
1 Thessalonians 2:1-12
Luke 20:9-18

Wednesday 12/2

Psalm 12, 13, 14, 119:1-24
Isaiah 2:1-11
1 Thessalonians 2:13-20
Luke 20:19-26

Thursday 12/3

Psalm 18, Isaiah 2:12-22
1 Thessalonians 3:1-13
Luke 20:27-40

Friday 12/4

Psalm 16, 17, 22, Isaiah 3:8-15
1 Thessalonians 4:1-12
Luke 20:41-21:4

Saturday 12/5

Psalm 20, 21, 110, 116, 117
Isaiah 4:2-6
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
Luke 21:5-19

Sunday 12/6

Psalm 114, 115, 148, 149, 150
Isaiah 5:1-7
2 Peter 3:11-18, Luke 7:28-35

Monday 12/7

Psalm 9, 15, 25
Isaiah 5:8-12, 18-23
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11
Luke 21:20-28

Tuesday 12/8

Psalm 26, 28, 36, 39
Isaiah 5:13-17, 24-25
1 Thessalonians 5:12-28
Luke 21:29-38

Wednesday 12/9

Psalm 38, 119:25-48
Isaiah 6:1-13
2 Thessalonians 1:1-12
John 7:53-8:11

Thursday 12/10

Psalm 37, Isaiah 7:1-6
2 Thessalonians 2:1-12
Luke 22:1-13

Friday 12/11

Psalm 31, 35, Isaiah 7:10-25
2 Thessalonians 2:13-3:5
Luke 22:14-30

Saturday 12/12

Psalm 30, 32, 42, 43, Isaiah 8:1-15
2 Thessalonians 3:6-18
Luke 22:31-38

Sunday 12/13

Psalm 63, 98, 103, Isaiah 13:6-13
Hebrews 12:18-29, John 3:22-30

Monday 12/14

Psalm 41, 44, 52, Isaiah 8:16-9:1
2 Peter 1:1-11, Luke 22:39-53
Psalm 45, 47, 48

Tuesday 12/15

Psalm 45, 47, 48, Isaiah 9:1-7
2 Peter 1:12-21, Luke 22:54-69

Wednesday 12/16

Psalm 53, 119:49-72
Isaiah 9:8-17
Peter 2:1-10, Mark 1:1-8

Thursday 12/17

Psalm 59, 60, Isaiah 9:18-10:4
2 Peter 2:10-16, Matthew 3:1-12

Friday 12/18

Psalm 40, 51, 54, Isaiah 10:5-19
2 Peter 2:17-22, Matthew 11:2-15

Saturday 12/19

Psalm 55, 138, 139
Isaiah 10:20-27
Jude, 17-25, Luke 3:19

Sunday 12/20

Psalm 8, 24, 29, 84, Isaiah 42:1-12
Ephesians 6:10-20, John 3:16-21

Monday 12/21

Psalm 61, 62, 112, 115
Isaiah 11:1-9
Revelation 20:1-10, John 5:30-47

Tuesday 12/22

Psalm 66, 67, 116, 117
Isaiah 11:10-16
Revelation 20:11-21:8
Luke 1:5-25

Wednesday 12/23

Psalm 72, 111, 113
Isaiah 28:9-22
Revelation 21:9-21, Luke 1:26-38

Thursday 12/24 Christmas Eve

Psalm 89:1-29, Isaiah 59:15-21
Philemon 2:5-11

Friday 12/25 Christmas Day

Psalm 2, 85, 110, 132
Zechariah 2:10-13
1 John 4:7-16
John 3:31-26

Saturday 12/26

Psalm 80, 146, 147
Isaiah 29:13-24
Revelation 21:22-22:5
Luke 1:39-56

Sunday 12/27

Psalm 34, 93, 96, Isaiah 62:6-12
Hebrews 2:10-18
Matthew 1:18-25

Monday 12/28

Psalm 93, 96, 148-150
Isaiah 33:17-22
Revelation 22:6-11, 18-20
Luke 1:57-66

Tuesday 12/29

Psalm 18, Isaiah 12:1-6
Revelation 1:1-8, John 7:37-52

Wednesday 12/30

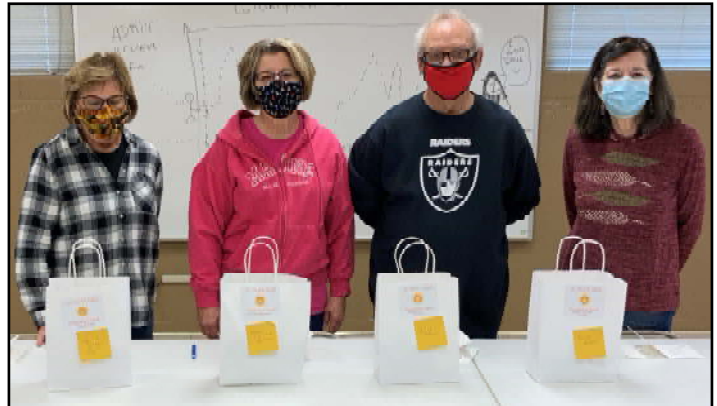
Psalm 20, 21, 23, 27
Isaiah 25:1-9
Revelation 1:9-20
John 7:53-8:11

Thursday 12/31

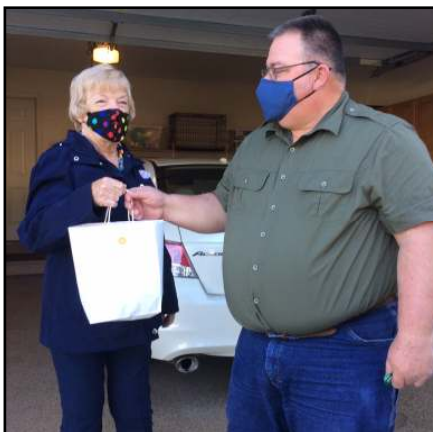
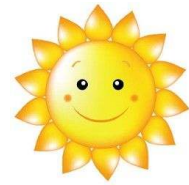
Psalm 46, 48, Isaiah 26:1-9
2 Corinthians 5:16-6:2
John 8:12-19



Sunshine Bags



See the Sunshine bulletin board at the top of the steps of the classroom wing for more photos.



Remember When...



**Christmas
2004**



**Christmas
2006**



**Christmas
2011**



Connecting With...

Annual Holiday Cookie/Candy Walk

The Crafty Creatures regret to announce that the annual holiday cookie/candy walk that is held each year, in early December, will **NOT** be held this year. This was a hard decision to make, but due to safety concerns with the Covid-19 virus on the rise again, we decided to cancel our annual fundraiser.

While this is the one event we have each year to raise funds to purchase supplies for the quilts that we make and distribute to all of the area nursing homes, the American Township Fire Dept., and individuals needing comfort and hope in times of need, we may consider an event in the Spring, if we feel it is safe to do so.

The most important thing to all the Crafty Creatures is to do our part to help keep everyone safe. God has always supplied us with all we need to continue our outreach mission, along with all of you. We thank you all for supporting our small group over the years and look forward to renewing our Annual Cookie / Candy Walk in 2021.



POINSETTIA ORDER FORM

Orders for Poinsettias are being taken.

They are **\$10.00 each**.

Please fill out this order form and drop off, or mail with payment, to the church by December 21.

Name: _____

Number of poinsettias: _____

In Honor/Memory of: _____

You may pick up your poinsettia following the Christmas Eve service or pick up the week of December 28.

The People of St. Paul's

Thank You

*To our church family,
What a thoughtful surprise
we found on our porch. The
Sunshine Sack brought a
smile to both of us. Your
thoughtfulness shows the
meaning of Christian Love.
We hope to be back in
church very soon. It will be
nice to see our church family
again.*

Greg and Barb Schade

*Thank you so much for the
bag of wonderful goodies.
I really enjoyed them.*

*God Bless,
Dee Johnson*

*St. Paul's Congregation,
Thank you on behalf of the
Family Promise board for
your continued faithfulness to
the homeless of our
community. It's been a
challenging year for all of us
with Covid, but yet you have
kept up the work of serving
and we are truly grateful..
Lord willing, we will return to
our churches hosting in 2021.*

*Thank You!
Charlotte Hefner*

*To the Sunshine people at
St. Paul's,*

*Thank you so much for the
assortment of gifts to brighten
my day, and to the Crafty
Creatures for the afghan, it is
now at this time in use.*

*Love you all,
Mary Grigsby*

*Pastor Paul and "Sunshine
People",*

*Thank you so much for the
gift bag of treasures. It was
fun going through
everything! Unexpected gifts
from the heart are the ones
that mean the most.*

*Love and blessings to all!
Nancy and Bruce Kizer*

Dear Caring Folks,

*We loved all the yummy
goodies in the Sunshine
Sack. Thank you for turning
a pandemic day into a
sunny day!*

*You are truly a blessing,
Gloria and Larry Brunk*

*St. Paul's,
Thank you so much for the
Amazon card you sent me for
my birthday.*

*Thanks,
Josh Guess*

Remember in Prayer

Recovering from Surgery or in the Hospital

Mary Steiner

Homebound Members

Hazel Dunn
Glenna Kohli

Those in Need of Healing, Support, Strength & Encouragement

Ray Trigg

In the Military & Missions

Nathan Stewart

*Dear St. Paul's Church
Family,*

*Just want to thank you for
the lovely Sunshine Sack.
I appreciate my church
family, the committee that
created the sacks, and Pastor
Paul along with Cody who
made the delivery with their
sunshine smiles. What a
thoughtful act of caring for
members of our church
during these stressful times.*

*God Bless You All,
Martha Vazquez*

Meetings

December 1, 2020
Trustees...7:00 PM

December 2, 2020
Worship Mtg...
10:00 AM

December 7, 2020
PPR...7:00 PM

December 9, 2020
Missions...7:00 PM

December 14, 2020
Ad Council /Finance
Mtg..7:00 PM.

Sundays
Prayer Group.9:30 AM
Worship...10:00 AM

DECEMBER

2020

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

		1 Lena Whetstone A. J. White	2 Michael Craft Lavonne Segovia	3	4 Carl Miller	5 Shirley Adams David Segovia
6 Teresa Grigsby Sue Theodore Lisa Wurster	7	8	9	10	11 Ron McAdams John Segovia	12
13	14	15 Taryn Piper	16	17	18 Mary Holmes Pam Moser	19
20 Mary Steiner	21	22 Kara Woeller	23	24 Linda Craft	25 Denny Grapner	26
27 Deb Hurd Megan Wyant	28	29 Tiffany Emmons Tammy Segovia	30 Cameron Emmons Tristin gahaen	31 Jack White		

Anniversaries

*Roger & Jackie
Henderson
December 4; 49 yrs.*

*Shara & Dennis Bowsher
December 19; 40 yrs.*

*Larry & Gloria Brunk
December 21; 52 yrs.*

*John & Val Kuenzli
December 27*

*Denny & Janna
Thompson
December 29; 42 yrs.*

*Ron & Karen Bible
December 30*

*Mike & Kim Crates
December 31*



Featured Recipes from St. Paul's Cooks

Make Ahead Potatoes

By Jone Lane

Ingredients		Instructions
12 Large	Potatoes (boiled with salt)	Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Combine potatoes, cream cheese, sour cream, and onion powder. Whip until fluffy. Add small amount of milk, if necessary. Spread in buttered 9x13 pan. Refrigerate or freeze until needed. When ready to use, drizzle butter and paprika over the top. Cover with foil and bake 1 hour. Potatoes may be uncovered the last 10 to 15 minutes to brown lightly.
1 8oz.	Cream cheese	
1 tsp.	Onion powder (optional)	
1/4 cup	Butter, melted	
1 8 oz.	Sour cream	
	Paprika	

Cranberry Salad

By Jeannine May

Ingredients		Instructions
1 sm. pkg.	Orange jello	Mix jellos, sugar, and Kool-aid with 3 cups hot water. Stir until dissolved. Add 2 cups cold water. Stir and set aside. Peel and core apples; wash and sort cranberries. Grind apples cranberries, and celery. Stir all into jello mixture. Put in glass 13x9 dish and refrigerate overnight.
2 sm. pkgs	Raspberry jello	
1/2 pkg.	Kool-aid	
3	Apples	
1 pkg.	Cranberries	
1 lrg.	Celery stick	
2 cups	Sugar	



KIDZ KORNER

LET IT snow!

Create a winter wonderland with this fun craft.



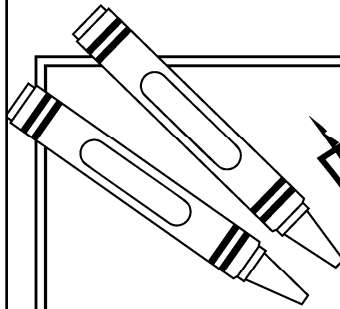
What you need:

- Glass jar with lid but no label
- Laminated photo (that will fit in the jar)
- Small plastic Christmas trinkets
- Hot or waterproof glue
- Container with spout
- 1 cup distilled water
- 3 tsp. glycerin
- Glitter



What you do:

1. Unscrew lid and flip jar upside down. Glue the photo and trinkets to the inside of the lid, standing upright.
2. In a container, mix water and glycerin. Pour the mixture into the jar, leaving space at the top.
3. Spoon in some glitter.
4. When glue is dry, attach the decorated lid tightly. Shake the jar to see "snow" swirl and settle.



WHITE AS SNOW

Jesus, our Savior, came to earth to purify sinners.

Directions: Figure out which path through the puzzle is correct. Choose one to try, starting at the first picture under the "Path" box. Follow each picture's directional cues to see if the words make sense when placed in order in the blanks below. If not, try a different path until you figure out the Bible verse.



PATH 1	PATH 2	PATH 3	PATH 4	PATH 5	PATH 6
for	give	come	together	around	after
self	into	settle	eternal	thanks	forgive
God	LORD	says	without	Christ	warmth
love	sins	scarlet	other	light	praise
red	star	white	snow	winter	peace



"_____ now, let us _____ the matter," _____ the
 _____. "Though your _____ are like _____,
 they shall be as _____ as _____"

ISAIAH 1:18, NIV

Answer: Path 3; come, settle, sins, LORD, say, settle, white, snow

St. Paul's United Methodist Church

105 E. Main St.
Elida, OH 45807

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Our Web Address:
www.elidastpaulschurch.org

Our Facebook page
Elida St. Paul's Church

Twitter Account
@ESPCHURCH



Living Our Faith

Fear Not!

On that first Christmas night, the angel said to the shepherds: "Do not be afraid" (Luke 2:10). What is there to fear from a baby? A baby is powerless, with no guile, no anger and no judgment, only needing from us without fearing we will not provide: simply trusting, and content to be resting in our arms. This is how God came. This is Christmas. This one child, and for a time, perhaps too brief, our fears are taken over by our love for this child, and he is able to change our hearts. ...

In Jesus, we are free to live life as fully and as joyfully as we will allow ourselves. For it is only we who hold ourselves back. God does not. For God has forgiven us in this baby and will not restrain us from living with sheer abandon, trusting in this gentle and gracious God, who keeps telling us: "Do not be afraid."

—Gary Westgard, *At Break of Day*

A Fresh Look

Just when everything is bearing down on us to such an extent that we can scarcely withstand it, the Christmas message comes to tell us that all our ideas are wrong, and that what we take to be evil and dark is really good and light because it comes from God. Our eyes are at fault, that is all.

God is in the manger, wealth in poverty, light in darkness, succor in abandonment. No evil can befall us; whatever men may do to us, they cannot but serve the God who is secretly revealed as love and rules the world and our lives.

—Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *God Is in the Manger*