JESUS, THE NAME SAYS IT ALL

John Coen tells of the time his family was out on their annual Christmas-light drive through town. A light snow covering made the displays all the prettier: twinkling lights of reds, greens, blues, garlands, majestically decorated evergreens... the children were wide-eyed. “Dad, pull over quick! I want to read something,” begged our first-grader.

The car was pulled over to the side of the street for a closer look. There across the front lawn, lit up by flood lights, were large letters spelling J-E-S-U-S. No blinking lights, no bright colors, no fancy display – just the name Jesus. There was a starkness and a dignity about the display that spoke louder than all the other light shows that night. The little first-grader spelled out each letter, “J-E-S-U-S. That spells Jesus!” she proclaimed to her younger sisters.

The simple and uncluttered name JESUS says it all.

JESUS – THE NAME SAYS IT ALL:

“The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” – which means, “God with us.” –Matthew 1:23

Jesus is our EMMANUEL: God WITH us.

Oh what a love... the love that Jesus should come to us to be with us to save us. God didn’t send Christ to earth for a couple of minutes so He could pose for the camera, flash a smile and then go back to the

Theologians call it the incarnation of Christ. God literally bounded down the staircase of heaven with a baby in His arms. And when the angel told Joseph, “Hey, this boy is going to be called Emmanuel, God With Us,” little did Joseph realize that this baby would identify with us to such an incredible degree.

“Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you..”–Luke 2:11

Jesus is our SAVIOR: God FOR us (Luke 2:11)! That’s the message of our Savior hanging on the cross, shedding his blood so we might find forgiveness and a relationship with our Father. It is a message of love!

The news of Christmas is that Christ became flesh and dwelt among us, He left the crib and went to the cross. He was nailed there. He hung suspended between heaven and earth. He died a torturous death for your sins and mine, for your iniquities and mine, for your shortfalls and mine.

Jesus did that, something we don’t deserve, yet He did it. And we can talk all day and night about Emmanuel, God With Us, and that is great.

But the question is, “Are you with God.” Yes, God is with us, but are you with God? Because to be with God, you have got to know Him. You have to accept Jesus the Christ as your Savior.

“Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.” –Luke 2:11

Jesus is our Christ the LORD: God IN us!

LaVon and I want to wish you a very Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year.
During November 2011 Chevrolet Motors Celebrated its 100 year anniversary. Wow! Chevy is considered the American car for the common man. In the Bible Discovery Class we have been studying about Peter and the founding of the early church, now 2,000 years old.

The early church was founded by the apostles. The first four being fishermen, all common men, including Simon, called Peter (meaning “the Rock”). The Bob Seger song “Like a Rock” served as Chevy's/GMC's theme song for many years in their commercial campaigns for trucks. To be rock solid denotes quality and dependability. At Caesarea Philippi Jesus refers to Simon as “Peter” (Matt. 16) and promises to build the church on his faith that Jesus is the Christ. In the early chapters of Acts we find Peter repeatedly preaching the simple message of repentance and belief that the resurrected Jesus is the Christ. The common man responds to Peter’s first two sermons (3,000 and 5,000 respectively) and are added to the church.

Today, 2,000 years after the early church was founded, let our focus for the new year be to teach and share Peter’s simple message. It is still the most important message for all men, common or otherwise. We can all depend on that, like a rock.

Amen. See you in class!
Sunday, October 23rd, **Tessa Stein** and **Renae Thompson** followed the Lord’s example by being baptized. Believer’s Baptism is an ordinance of the church.

**Pastor Mike** explains that baptism signifies the burying of the old self and the emergence of the new creation in Christ. It is a public declaration of faith and a symbol of one’s commitment to the Christian life.

**Congratulations Tessa and Renae**

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**Paul J. McCray**, “Pop” went home to be with the Lord on October 24, 2011. He was much loved by his family and the Heart 2 Heart women at FallsCreek. Our love and prayers go out to his dear wife **Frances**, and daughter, **Shary White**.

**Elizabeth Frances Henderson** changed her address from her earthly to her heavenly home on December 7, 2011. Our thoughts and prayers are sent to her Daughter, **Kay Wharton** and son, **Rick Henderson**, and their families.

Please pray that God will comfort these families in their time of loss.

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*A Loss in Our Church Family*
December
2nd  Nik Mayer
     Zackary Scott
6th  Bill Manley
7th  Rosalee Hupp
8th  Roslynn Mayer
11th Alexandrea Feiler
12th Marie Burch
    Karen Needham
15th Gavin Burgan
    Alexis Gilbert
    Austin Underwood
16th McKayla Hollin
    Robin Ickey
18th Stephanie Mellinger
21st Renny Long
22nd Dan Campbell
24th Rita Anderson
28th Tom Likovetz
29th Jason Bennett
    Joyce Wilkinson

11th Wayne Anderson
17th Barbara Heiner
    Blaine Mayer
18th Dave Kelley
20th Brian Frank
23rd Terrie Campbell
26th Dave Law
27th Joanne Kelley
29th Bev Mellon

February
3rd  Joe Manley
4th  Afton Mayhew
9th  Russ Bulgrin
10th Homer Pack
11th Caleb Lear
    Rochelle Stein
14th Darlene Krupis
    Jeanne Richardson
15th Dale Skiljan
16th Henry Pemberton
19th Gio Patti
20th Karen Mason
21st Doris Antonetti
    Logan Naylor
    Linda Reynolds
23rd Gregg Stanley
24th Kaitlin Maloney
    Diane Marks
27th Tracie Studer
26th Gregory Brunk

March
1st  Judy Kaylor
3rd  Gary Varner
10th Ryan Campbell
    David Hupp
14th Michael Gay, Jr.
16th Julie White
17th Kaedyn Chaney
18th Gage Hollin
19th Kourtny Skiljan
21st Steve Chaney
24th Carol Burks
    Melissa Skiljan
25th Janice Israel
27th Tracy Stanley
28th Eddie Burks
    Dennie Carroll
30th Luke Shorder
31st Candy Grubb

CONGRATULATIONS
SOUL SURFER

Our first Free Movie Night at FallsCreek was a great success! The church provided pop and popcorn, while the Youth Group sold candy and pizza. Thanks Tamara Strebler for organizing this!

Candy’s for sale???
It took many hands working together for this evening to happen. A BIG THANKS to those at the welcome table, popping popcorn, serving pop, selling food, attending the parking lot, greeting visitors, participating in worship, running the projector, cleaning up, etc. ... Pastor Thomas said he was proud of all who helped this be a great time of fellowship.
October featured a Halloween costume contest and a tribute to Pastor Thomas by Donna and the Donettes. All enjoyed the songs: *We Love You Pastor, The Greek Boy at the Pool, two versions of Pastor Thomas We Appreciate You, and Pastor Thomas Sends the Light*. It was a great time of fun.

A traditional Thanksgiving Dinner was enjoyed during the month of November. Canned goods were collected for donating to the Haven of Rest. Donna Peters presented a program entitled, “A Time of Thanks and Giving.”
Bryce Anthony Clark
Made his arrival on October 11th,
weighing 7 lbs. 5 oz,
measuring 20 inches long.
Congratulations to his parents:
Jeromy & Corey Clark
and big sister, Aubry.

Ava Marie Chaney
Made her arrival on October 13th,
weighing 7 lbs. 5 oz,
measuring 21 inches long.
Congratulations to her parents:
Jim & Karen Chaney
and big brother, Noah.

Did You Know

...that FallsCreek has an awesome new interactive website that will keep you aware of all that is going on at our church ...that Stephanie Underwood designed this site (www.fallscreekcc.org) ...that the FallsCreek Youth group has a new name- P.U.S.H. (pray until something happens) ...that Jodi Lenc designed a wonderful witness card for those attending FallsCreek to use to remind others that God loves them ...that creation shows us God’s hand, but salvation shows us His heart ...that Greg Brunk built a portable workbench tool caddy that won him the first place prize and a feature article in the Fine Woodworking Magazine ...that Greg Brunk also has some of his original furniture pieces on display on the website: www.sapfm.org/gallery ...that Karen Needham had an exciting month. She finished her Masters in Information Technology and Information Security and began a new job ...that when God measures a person He puts the tape around the heart not the head ...that Blaine Mayer attended his family's 94th reunion, but he assured us he had not attended all of them ...that Alexander Peters spent 10 days in November visiting his cousin and her family in Germany ...that Mickey Knight enjoyed Thanksgiving in Charleston, South Carolina with Afton, Brad and Mako, the grandpuppy ...that No matter what you’ve done for yourself or humanity, if you can’t look back on having given love and attention to your own family, what have you really accomplished? ...that Chuck Ickey’s favorite cookies are oatmeal raisin ...that Nancy Scott makes delicious scones ...that LaVon Thomas learned a new word that she loved the sound of- “chutzpah!” ...that Ytha Chaney has a laugh that is unique and unforgettable. ...Did you know these things? I thought you should.  Donna Ann Peters, Editor 😊
Candids from Falls Creek

Sisterly love???