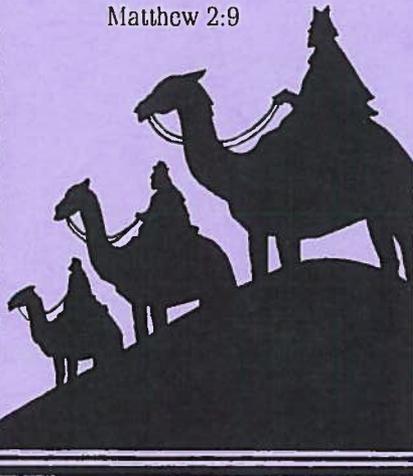




The star they
had seen in
the east ...
stopped over
the place where
the child was.

Matthew 2:9



GRACE BIBLE CHURCH

222 Boulder Drive, Gallup, NM 87301

Sunday School - 9:00 AM

Youth Group - 6:00 PM

Worship Service - 10:15 AM

Edge - 6:00 PM

Prayer Time - 6:00 PM

John W. Luginbuhl, Pastor

Steve Yoder, Youth Pastor

Church Office: (505) 722-5114

Pastor's E-mail: john@gracebiblegallup.org

Youth Pastor's E-mail: forevertrustinghim@yahoo.com

www.gracebiblegallup.org

Grace Bible Church
~ The Lord's Day ~
December 15, 2013

WELCOME

9:00 AM
10:15 AM

Sunday School for all ages
Worship Service

Call to Worship
Welcome/Announcements
Praise & Worship*
Special Music

Scripture Reading

Matthew 2:1-12

Message

John Luginbuhl

“The Gifts of Christmas!”

Closing

*Offering will be received during the third song; children age 3 - grade 4 will be dismissed to Children's Church after the Special Music.

SERVING IN THE NURSERY TODAY:

Crawlers/Walkers Lorelee Tibboel & Madison Sutliff

SERVING IN THE NURSERY NEXT SUNDAY:

Crawlers/Walkers Anya King & Donna Damon

LATER TODAY...

4:00 PM Christmas Concert, presented by Rehoboth
Christian High School Choir at Sacred Heart
Cathedral (415 E. Green, Gallup)

6:00 PM Edge Group (after High School) meets

PRAISE & PETITION



“And you shall call His Name Jesus, for it is He Who will save His people from their sins.”

~ Matthew 1:21

Praise the Lord for:

1. Jesus' mission: to save people from their sins! Praise the Lord for salvation through Jesus, as we trust in Him!
2. Forgiveness of sins, a place in heaven reserved for us, deliverance from Hell - all through faith in Jesus Christ and His finished work for us at Calvary.
3. Opportunities for ministry during this Christmas season.
4. The privilege of worship and prayer!
5. His sovereignty!
6. Family and friends, both “near and far”.

Petition the Lord for:

1. Those who are lonely and/or depressed this holiday season.
2. Those who will be traveling to see family and friends.
3. Families in our church going through the rough waters of life at this time. (Isa. 43:1,2)
4. Opportunities during the Christmas season to share our faith in Jesus with family and friends.
5. Couples preparing for marriage: CJ Landmann & Savanna Johnson (Feb. 1, 2014, Albq.)
6. Robert & Lenore Chavez and family, during this time of the homegoing of Robert's brother, Andy.
7. Healing for Kelly Stapp (had ankle surgery).
8. Ricky Lee (Nellie Lee's son), Sean Begaye, and Jana Sheffield (Nixons' niece), all in Afghanistan; Adam Sowers (Ft. Hood); Kyle Prendergast (Ophelia Krupica's son), stationed (Air Force) in Germany.
9. Our President, military advisors, military men and women.

“The Gifts of Christmas!”

Matthew 2:1-12

We are all familiar with the historical account of the magi (“the wise men”) coming to Jerusalem looking for the newly-born King of the Jews in order to worship Him. We are well aware of the three gifts that they brought (two of which seem a bit strange to us today!): gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Let’s think about these and other gifts at Christmas.

1. The Three Gifts

2. The Other Gift

3. The Left-Out Gift

4. Our Gift to Jesus

This Week at Grace Bible...

(Here at the church unless otherwise noted.)

Monday, December 16

7:00 PM

All-Church Christmas Caroling
(see announcement)

Tuesday, December 17

5:20 PM

Ladies' Aerobics

Wednesday, December 18

6:30 PM

AWANA (Don't forget your toys for
"Toys For Tots")

Thursday, December 19

5:20 PM

(PM)

Ladies' Aerobics
Deaconess Meeting

COMING SOON:

Dec. 24

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service (7 PM)





Bulletin

DECEMBER
2013

A PUBLICATION OF FOCUS ON THE FAMILY®

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Holiday Simplicity

BY VANESSA PETERS

BECAUSE I REALLY ENJOY SHOPPING FOR MY FOUR CHILDREN, too often I went overboard at Christmas. Presents spilled out from under the tree—even before gifts from the grandparents arrived! My husband and I realized we were encouraging our kids to have unrealistic expectations. So we implemented the “three-gift rule” (not counting small stocking stuffers) in the spirit of the three gifts from the Magi.

That first Christmas was difficult. As friends and relatives shared excitement about all the toys they bought, I had to wonder, *Are my kids missing out?* But I learned to appreciate the simplicity of the idea. Not only does the rule provide a limit, but it also prevents me from buying on impulse. Now, we’re more thoughtful about choosing gifts, and the post-Christmas clutter is manageable. Most important, the three-gift rule reminds our family that Christmas is much more than shiny gadgets and sparkly bows.

One year, I overheard my daughter telling an incredulous young friend that she only got three presents. “I got more than I could count,” he said. I braced for a “No fair!” from my daughter. Instead, she replied, “I think it’s kinda cool. It makes me feel like baby Jesus.” Is there any greater gift I could give my children?



TOUGH QUESTIONS FROM KIDS

Why did an
angel come to
Mary?

Answer on back



Toy Workshop

“Do you remember what you got from Jimmy last year for Christmas?” I asked my son DJ.

“No, but I made him the rubber-band gun and a target,” he replied.

“I made Baby Joanie a mobile with pink butterflies,” his sister Rachel volunteered. Her hands fluttered like the paper butterflies hanging from the wire.

Every year, I organize a Christmas workshop for each of the children. I Google simple crafts that each child could make with minimal help. Last Christmas, even my 2-year-old, Josh, participated, coloring paper twirlers and putting stickers on barrettes. I also recorded a skit the children performed as a gift for their dad. Come Christmas morning, the children love to give their gifts and explain how each was made. The cardboard basketball hoop, giraffe puppet, flipbook, foam bathtub race car and fabric heart-shaped box may not last forever, but the memories of giving from the heart will last a lifetime. —Jennifer Garrett



Focus on the Family's Thriving Family magazine and Adventures in Odyssey radio drama have teamed up to create a unique and meaningful 2013 Advent experience for your family. The gang from Odyssey shares a variety of Bible-based activities and lessons about the real reason for the Christmas season. Enjoy a very special Advent in Odyssey by visiting ThrivingFamily.com/Advent.

Giving in Secret

My family has a Christmas tradition of anonymous giving. Early in December, my children begin asking God for the name of a person He wants to receive their gifts. Then each child chooses a person and secretly gives a card containing money.

One year, my son Judson could not decide who should receive his secret gift, so I prayed with him about it. Later I attended a school concert and overheard a tearful boy in the office say over the phone, “But you told me you would come see me sing.” He hung up the phone and left.

I asked the principal about him, and that night, Judson and I agreed that he was the one. We prepared a card with money and asked the principal to deliver it for us. The note on the card read, “From someone who heard you sing.”

—Lettie Kirkpatrick Burress

Surviving the Season Together

Christmas may be the most wonderful time of the year, but at my house, we can go from activity to activity, party to party, and then spend countless hours shopping and wrapping gifts. The season may be wonderful, but it often leaves us feeling a little ragged.

Unfortunately, the busyness of the season, along with differing expectations and financial pressures, can lead to stress, which breeds conflict and leads to disconnect in marriage. So how do we maintain a strong connection with our spouse amid the Christmas chaos? I've decided the key to peace begins with *teamwork*.

Teamwork is best described by the apostle Paul in Philippians 2:4 where he exhorts believers with these words: "Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others." To make this verse come alive in marriage, we must start with a unified mindset. This means that as a married couple, you and your mate recognize you're on the same team and you're working together for one common goal: unity.

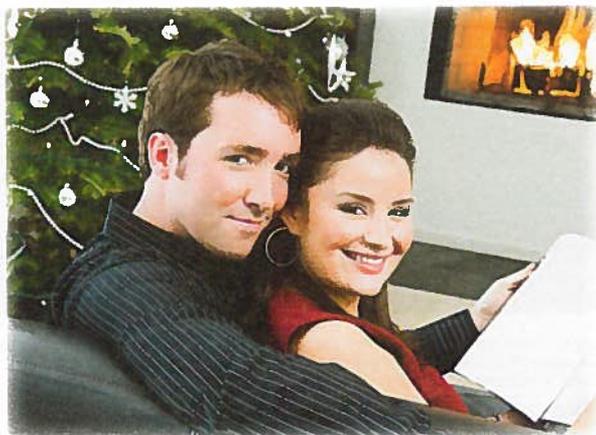
Next, you need to uncover each other's expectations. During holiday chaos, couples often encounter disagreements over finances, schedules or relatives.

But at the heart of these conflicts lies a common denominator: differing or unclear expectations. It's essential to make your unspoken expectations clear—by speaking them. Ask each other questions such as:

- "Which parties do we need to attend and which ones can we skip?"
- "How do you want to divvy up shopping responsibilities?"
- "What is the plan for visiting extended family?"

This Christmas, take time to clarify your expectations and then make decisions as teammates. This will help you and your spouse remain unified as a team. Ecclesiastes 4:9 offers encouragement by reminding us: "Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil." When a husband and wife find unity, even surviving the Christmas season together becomes a possibility.

—Erin Smalley



Family Matters

Answers to your questions . . .

How important is it that we eat together as a family?

Answer: It's *really* important. Indeed, before we consider *what* we eat, we also need a reminder about the importance of the *context* of our nourishment. We are meant to be nourished at the table in more ways than merely transporting food from plate to stomach.

Meals are a time for socializing, conversation, sharing and celebration. Family meals can be particularly powerful events in the lives of both children and adults. They can and should be the occasion to share the day's events, decompress,

commiserate, encourage one another, laugh, learn how to speak and listen politely, instill values and acknowledge God's provision on a day-to-day basis. Make a decision that shared family meals will become a priority in your home. Consider the following:

Set aside three, if not more, nights per week that are designated for family meals.

After considering the ages and abilities in your family, establish routines that will spread the work around. Younger children can learn to set the table, and everybody should help clear it.

Table manners (including such niceties as pulling

out chairs for the ladies and not starting to eat until everyone is seated and grace is said) can and should be encouraged.

Televisions should be turned off and phones unanswered.

It is wise to address hot issues in the family at some other time. If mealtimes are a constant hotbed of bickering and animosity, no one is going to want to show up. Ideally, the family table should be a place of warmth, respect, safety, genuine interest in what everyone has to say and mutual support.

(The content of this answer was taken from *Busy Mom's Guide to Family Nutrition* by Paul C. Reisser.)

**TOUGH
QUESTIONS
FROM KIDS**

Answer:

An angel came to Mary to tell her God's message—God wanted Mary to know that she would be the mother of Jesus, God's Son. When Mary heard the news, she was frightened, but she also wanted to obey God. And she felt very honored to be Jesus' mother.

For more information on any of the topics in this bulletin, go to FocusOnTheFamily.com or call 800-A-FAMILY (232-6459). To reach Customer Service regarding your subscription, please call 800-692-9912. To check out more church resources and read the editor's thoughts, please visit us at www.tyndaleperiodicals.com.

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**FOCUS
ON THE
FAMILY**

WE WELCOME YOU!

There are many good reasons for coming to church, but we hope that your joining us this morning includes the best reason: to thank and worship God for His amazing love revealed in the birth, life, and ministry, the suffering and death, and the wondrous resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ! This is what our church is all about! If you are visiting today, please fill out a guest card and bring it to our Welcome Center in the foyer and receive a free gift. Thank you... and visit us again!

The mission of our church is to prayerfully
prepare believers for worshiping God, serving
Christ, loving one another, and
reaching out to others!

2013 YEAR VERSE

"Let us consider how we may spur one another
on toward love and good deeds."

- Hebrews 10:24

YOU ARE RUNNING OUT OF TIME to suggest a "Year Verse" for our church for 2014! Suggestions can be written out (please include which version of the Bible) and given to Pastor John or placed in the offering plate.



OUR THANKS to Broken Arrow Bible Ranch - as well as all the other ladies and men who helped in any way - for making last night's Ladies' Christmas Banquet a wonderful success! Approximately 60

women attended the event!

ALL-CHURCH CHRISTMAS CAROLING! Dec. 16, 7:00 PM

- Meet at church and dress warmly!
 - Bring the whole family!
 - Refreshments after caroling.
-



THE ELDERS are considering Richard Matzke for appointment to the Deacon Board. If you have any concerns, please contact Mike Nye or Pastor John.



CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE
Tuesday, December 24, 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM

FROM OUR FINANCIAL SECRETARY:

“Notice to donors: Donors are advised not to file their federal income tax return before they receive their contributions receipt from the church. Also, donors wishing to ‘catch up’ on their financial commitments to the church must deliver such contributions before Jan. 1, 2014, to be credited to 2013, (mailed-in contributions must be post-marked by Dec. 31). Backdating is not allowed by the IRS. See Paul Schell for advice.”

This Week in Church History...

On December 16, 1714, George Whitefield, English revivalist, was born in Gloucester, England. He met the Wesley brothers at Oxford in 1732, experienced the new birth in 1735 and embarked on his lifelong calling as an evangelist. He usually preached outdoors, to crowds as large as 20,000. He first sailed to America in 1738, where he founded an orphanage near Savannah, Georgia. During the years 1741-43, he broke with the Wesleys over the doctrines of free grace and predestination. Whitefield visited America seven times, and died at Newburyport, Massachusetts, on September 30, 1770.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK...

“God became man to turn creatures into sons, not simply to produce better men of the old kind but to produce a new kind of man.”

~ C. S. Lewis