



The Christian Griot

St. Luke C.M.E. Church

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Rev. and Mrs. Buchanan

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Who's Who in God's Church: Jesus Christ !

Merry Christmas! Jesus is the Reason for the Season!

THE STORY OF THE CHRIST CHILD AND CHRISTMAS

When Rome was a great Empire ruled by Caesar Augustus and Israel was governed by King Herod, in the village of Nazareth lived Joseph and Mary. Joseph was a carpenter and Mary was a young virgin who would become his wife. Mary told Joseph of a dream in which she was visited by an angel who told her she had been chosen to bear the Son of God and his name was to be Jesus.

One day the emperor sent notice that all persons were to register for a new tax. They were instructed to return to the towns of their birth. Joseph and Mary left Nazareth for Bethlehem. Mary who was with child, and close to the birth, rode on a donkey while Joseph walked beside her. They traveled for many days and only rested at night.

When they reached Bethlehem it was night. They looked for a place to rest but there were no empty rooms when they reached the inn. As they were being turned away Joseph mentioned his wife was with child and close to birth. The inn keeper took pity on them and told them of some caves in the nearby hills that shepherds would stay with their cows and sheep.

So Joseph and Mary went up into the hills and found the caves. In one cave was a stable room. Joseph cleaned it and made beds of fresh hay. He found a feeding trough which he cleaned and filled with hay to use as a crib. The next night Mary gave birth to a son and they named him Jesus, as the angel had said.

When the child was born a great star appeared over Bethlehem that could be seen for miles around. In the fields nearby shepherds were tending their flocks. An angel appeared to them surrounded by bright light. The shepherds were frightened and tried to run.

"Fear Not," said the angel, "For I bring you tidings of great joy. For unto you is born this day in Bethlehem - a Saviour who is Christ the Lord."

"And this shall be a sign unto you. You shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger." Suddenly the sky was filled with angels, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the Highest, and on Earth peace, good will toward men."

After the angels departed the shepherds set out for Bethlehem. When they reached the cave they found the stable and inside was the child wrapped in swaddling clothes.

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Mark Your Calendar

Church Conference Dec. 15, 6 PM
Christmas Program December 21st, 9:30 AM

Watch Night Dec. 31 9:30 PM

Birthdays

December

- 4 Marvarine Pirtle
- 5 Evelyn Walton
- 7 Dana Cockrell
- Ethel Kennedy
- 16 CME CHURCH
- 20 Emmitt Elam
- 22 J.W. Pirtle
- 24 Lemond Peppers
- 24 Mark Creighton
- 24 Jennie Sheffield
- 27 Kendell Adams
- 28 Joyce Bradley
- 29 Dora Jamerson

Have You Heard? Good News! Halleluiah, Praise Corner!

Who is Jesus?



IN CHEMISTRY, HE TURNED WATER TO WINE.

IN BIOLOGY, HE WAS BORN WITHOUT THE
NORMAL CONCEPTION;

IN PHYSICS, HE DISAPPROVED THE LAW OF
GRAVITY WHEN HE ASCENDED INTO HEAVEN;

IN ECONOMICS, HE DISAPPROVED THE LAW
OF DIMINISHING RETURN BY FEEDING 5000 MEN
WITH **TWO FISHES & FIVE** LOAVES OF BREAD;

IN MEDICINE, HE CURED THE SICK AND THE
BLIND WITHOUT ADMINISTERING A SINGLE DOSE OF DRUGS,
IN HISTORY, HE IS THE BEGINNING AND
THE END;

IN GOVERNMENT, HE SAID THAT HE SHALL
BE CALLED WONDERFUL COUNSELOR, PRINCE OF PEACE;

IN RELIGION, HE SAID NO ONE COMES TO
THE FATHER EXCEPT THROUGH HIM;
SO WHO IS HE?

HE IS JESUS!

The Greatest Man in History

Jesus had no servants, yet they called Him Master.

He had no degree, yet they called Him Teacher.

He had no medicines, yet they called Him Healer.

He had no army, yet kings feared Him.

He won no military battles, yet He conquered the world.

He committed no crime, yet they crucified Him.

He was buried in a tomb, yet He lives today.

I feel honored to serve such a Leader who loves us!

If you believe in God and in Jesus Christ His Son,

JOIN ME AND LET'S CELEBRATE HIM;

HE IS WORTHY.



The Concert

When the house lights dimmed and the concert
 Was about to begin, the mother returned to
 Her seat and discovered that her child was missing
 Suddenly, the curtains parted and spotlights
 Focused on the impressive Steinway on stage.
 To her horror, the mother saw her little boy
 Sitting at the keyboard, innocently picking out
 "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star."
 At that moment, the great piano master made his
 entrance, quickly moved to the piano, and
 Whispered in the boy's ear,
 "Don't quit . . . Keep playing."
 Then, leaning over , Paderewski reached
 Down with his left hand and began filling
 In a bass part. Soon his right arm reached
 Around to the other side of the child,
 And he added a running obbligato.
 Together, the old master and the young novice
 Transformed what could have been a frightening
 situation into a wonderfully creative experience.
 The audience was so mesmerized that they couldn't
 recall what else the great master played.
 Only the classic,
 " Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star."
 Perhaps that's the way it is with God.
 What we can accomplish on
 Our own is hardly noteworthy.
 We try our best, but the results aren't always
 Graceful flowing music. However, with the
 Hand of the Master, our life's
 Work can truly be beautiful.
 The next time you set out to accomplish great feats,
 Listen carefully. You may hear the voice of the
 Master, whispering in your
 Ear,
 "Don't quit . . . Keep playing."
 May you feel His arms around you and
 Know that His hands are there, helping you
 Turn your feeble attempts into true masterpieces.
 Remember, God doesn't seem to
 Call the equipped, rather, He equips the 'called.'
 Life is more accurately measured by the lives you
 touch than by the things you acquire. So touch some-
 one by passing this little message along.
 May God bless you and be with
 You always!
 And
 Remember ,
 "Don't quit . . . Keep playing."



My First Christmas In Heaven



I see the countless Christmas Trees around the world below,
 with tiny lights, like heavens stars, reflecting on the snow.
 The sight is so spectacular, please wipe away that tear,
 For I am spending Christmas with Jesus Christ this year.

I hear the many Christmas songs that people hold so dear,
 But the sounds of music can't compare with the Christmas choir here,
 I have no words to tell you, the joy their voices bring,
 For its beyond description to hear the Angels sing.

I know how much you miss me, I see the pain inside your heart,
 But I am not so far away, we really aren't apart.
 So be happy for me dear one, you know I hold you dear,
 And be glad I'm spending Christmas with Jesus Christ this year.

I send you each a special gift from my heavenly home above,
 I send you each a memory of my undying Love..
 After all "Love" is the gift more precious than pure gold,
 It was always most important in the stories that Jesus told.

Please Love and Keep each other, as my Father said to do,
 For I can't count the Blessings or Love He has for you.
 So, have a Merry Christmas and wipe away that tear,
 Remember, I'm spending Christmas with Jesus Christ this year.



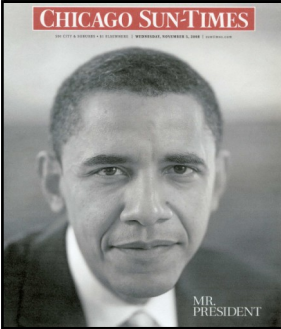
(Story of Jesus continued from page one.) As the star shined over Bethlehem, in the east three kings would see it. They knew it was a sign and they set off to follow the star. There was Caspar - the young King of Tarsus, Melchior - a long bearded old man and leader of Arabia, and Balthazar - the king from Ethiopia. They traveled on camels for many days over the mountains, and through the deserts, and plains. Always following the bright star.



When they finally arrived in Bethlehem they found the child in the manger. The 3 kings bowed to their knees and offered gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. They would stay the night in the cave and the next day returned to their lands to spread the news.

Today families all over the world commemorate the birth of Jesus Christ by celebrating **Christmas!**

KNOW YOUR HISTORY! President-elect Obama, A Dream Fulfilled !



President-elect Barack Obama, son of an African man and a white woman from Kansas, has etched his place in history by becoming the first African American elected president of the United States of America. On January 20, 2009, he will take his oath of office and become our nations forty-fourth president. He and his family will

move into their new residence located at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington, DC, the White House. The White House, a house, partially built by former slaves, will be occupied by a black family.

His plausible journey began on the steps of the old state capitol in Springfield, IL, on February 10, 2007, when he announced his candidacy from the same steps that Abraham Lincoln, our 16th president, announced his candidacy for the same office that Pres. Lincoln was elected to in 1860. He is the third president elected from Illinois (Grant, Lincoln, Obama), but is the first president elected from Chicago.

President-elect Obama was raised in Honolulu by his maternal grandparents, Madelyn and Stanley Dunham. His mother, Ann Dunham, had remarried and was living in Indonesia where Barack attended school for a while as a youngster. His mother died of ovarian cancer in 1994. His father, Barack Hussien Obama Sr., died in Kenya in a car accident in 1982. Barack's grandmother died two days before his historic election to the presidency.

President-elect Obama met his wife, Michelle Robinson in June 1989 when he was employed as a summer associate at the Chicago law firm of Sidley Austin. They began dating that summer after Michelle gave in to his pleas to date her. They became engaged in 1991 and were married on October 3, 1992. The couples first daughter Malia Ann, was born 1998 and their second daughter, Natasha ("Sasha") was born in 2001.

With the historic election of Barack Obama, all of America can stand proud and celebrate this momentous event. We have come this far by faith. As in the words of "Lift Every Voice and Sing," we "*Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us. Sing a song full of hope that the present has brought us. Facing the rising sun of our new day begun. Let us march on until victory is won.*" Electing an African American to the highest office of our nation has definitely started a new era in the history of America, but we must continue to work to elevate our children. We must encourage them to aspire to achieve, and inspire them to excel from being good to being great. Our ancestors are smiling—pleased that their work, strife, blood, sweat, tears and lives have not been in vain.



Patricia M. Lewis with the future First Lady of the United States, Michelle Obama.