

December 22, 2024

Melbourne Church of Christ

"A family of believers seeking to grow spiritually while sharing Jesus and serving others."

Looking for Jesus in Christmas by Rick Brown

Years ago, the Birmingham City Council of Birmingham, England, was looking for Jesus. As their Christmas Market opened, customers looked into the Nativity Scene only to find Jesus missing and a garden gnome in his place. Most onlookers were not amused. The Council removed the gnome and a search for Jesus began. A council spokesman said: "Until Jesus and the crib have been found the display will stay boarded up."

Some might say that Jesus is missing from Christmas too. What if the Christmas season were boarded up until Jesus was found? What if the Christmas Council went on a search-and-find mission for Jesus in hopes of putting him back into Christmas? Where could they look for him with a high probability of finding him?

The first place to look for Jesus would be in the church. On occasion, someone will be looking for me. They may call, come by the office, or drop by my house. If they still can't find me, they look for me where my bride is. Karen will get a call or be asked, "Do you know where we can find Rick?" They assume she knows where to find me because we stay connected.

You and me and other believers around the globe, are the love of Jesus' life. The Scriptures tell us that the church is "the bride of Christ." A church gathering is the first place one would go if looking for Jesus. The early church met daily "in the temple courts and from house to house." And, just as the shepherds came to see what had happened that first night Jesus entered our world, people came to see what was happening to these people within whom the spirit of Christ had entered. The church, the bride of Christ, greeted him regularly and passionately.

Continued...

The Encouragement Group meets on Thursday's at 9 a.m. in the fellowship hall. Come serve with us as we reach into our community!

Sunday Classes 9:15 a.m.
Sunday Worship 10:10 a.m.
Wed. Services 6:00 p.m.

Visitors, please take a card from the back of the pew, fill it out, and put it in the offering tray. We are glad you're here and want you to know that you're welcome in the family of Christ that meets here!

Listen to sermons at Melbournechurchofchrist.com

Elders

Danny Brightwell 291-3439
Alan Love 243-4608

David Brightwell 307-5714
Shelby Qualls 291-7424

Deacons

Joe Cooper 291-4653
Dalton Grigg 421-6240

Rusty Treat 373-1884

Minister

Ryan Lloyd 217-1109
Melbourne CoC
Box 267
Melbourne, AR

Family News

- The Christmas gifts were delivered to Pioneer Nursing Home on Thursday. Thank you to all who gave of their time, heart, and finances to bless many people that truly need a little boost of encouragement!
- Billy Jones, Brandi Treat's father, fell off a ladder and cut his head and fractured a vertebra. He had surgery to cement the vertebra and repair a disc. He is now at home recovering.
- Gage Barn's will resume treatments later this month in Mountain Home.
- Doris Mynatt, Shelby Quall's cousin, passed away.
- Wade Bylar passed away.
- Joann Weston, Jeanette Everett's sister, passed away.

Opening Prayer.....Brent Qualls
Communion Reading.....Rusty Treat
Closing Prayer.....Sanders Lee Wyatt



DECEMBER

ALAN LOVE	DAVIS LOVE
DAYLEE BRIGHTWELL	DANNY RUNION

JANUARY

JOE COOPER	SHAWN WORTHAM
CHIPPER LAMB	BRENT QUALLS

Continued....

As a groom, I know how I like to be greeted. When I come home from a long day, she gets excited. She's the first one to greet me at the door. The first one to acknowledge my presence. The first one to hug me. Mattie is the best dog anyone could ask for. Karen follows her closely behind in the greeting.

Jesus is largely missing from Christmas. But what if we arranged our schedules around the groom rather than arranging the groom around ours? The power of God would be seen clearer, Jesus would be found and put in the place he belongs. And Christmas could continue, even year round, as the boarded up barriers are taken down, so people could see Jesus.

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him" (Matthew 2:1-2).

Prayer List

Military: Derek & Allison Love **Officers:** Steve & Sherry Davidson, Jamie Irvin, Tyler Webb, Caeden Wolfe, Blake Johnson

Nursing Home: Al Gillihan, Debbie Hoskinds, Imodean Webb, Sue Campbell, Barbara Watson, Bill Wiseman, Shirley Hill, Imogene James, Bill Roland

Boyde Martin	Wilma Cooper	Phyllis Gilbreath	Dorothy Teague
Ruby Patillo	Joe Guiltner	Cornelia Summers	Christie Haney
Joanna Smith	Wayne Crosby	Brooke Partin	Toby Weatherford
Sanyia Austin	Charlotte Cooper	John Young	Regenia Gillihan
Regina Master	Shawna Teegarden	Gage Barns	John Ward
		Joe Anne Hendrix	

December Birthdays

Danny Brightwell 3 rd	Danny Runion 6 th	Callen Cooper 6 th
Roger Humphrey 10 th	Earlene Martz 11 th	Brad Teague 11 th
Kylea Morgan 14 th	Minnie Dutton 14 th	Shelby Qualls 14 th
Paulette Jubela 14 th	Kaden Williams 16 th	Tamra Brightwell 20 th
Shirley Guiltner 22 nd	Wanda Dill 23 rd	Rose Irvin 24 th
Darla Weaver 24 th	Deedra Watts 28 th	Abby Everett 28 th
Lavonia Roland 28 th	Brandy Kelly 29 th	

December Anniversaries

Bill & Lavonia Roland 2nd
 Rhett & Kiley Carter 16th

Dates to Remember

Ladies Night Out 4th Monday of every month @ 6 p.m. bring a finger food.
 Ladies Bible Study 1st, 2nd, 3rd Monday @ 6 p.m.
 Men meet 3rd Sunday of every month for breakfast @ 8 a.m.
 Potluck every 5th Sunday after services, please bring a dish.

Jeremiah 29:11-14, "For I know the plans that I have for you,' declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. You will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart. I will be found by you,' declares the Lord."

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