

THE INFORMER

Church of Christ~ New Albany, Mississippi

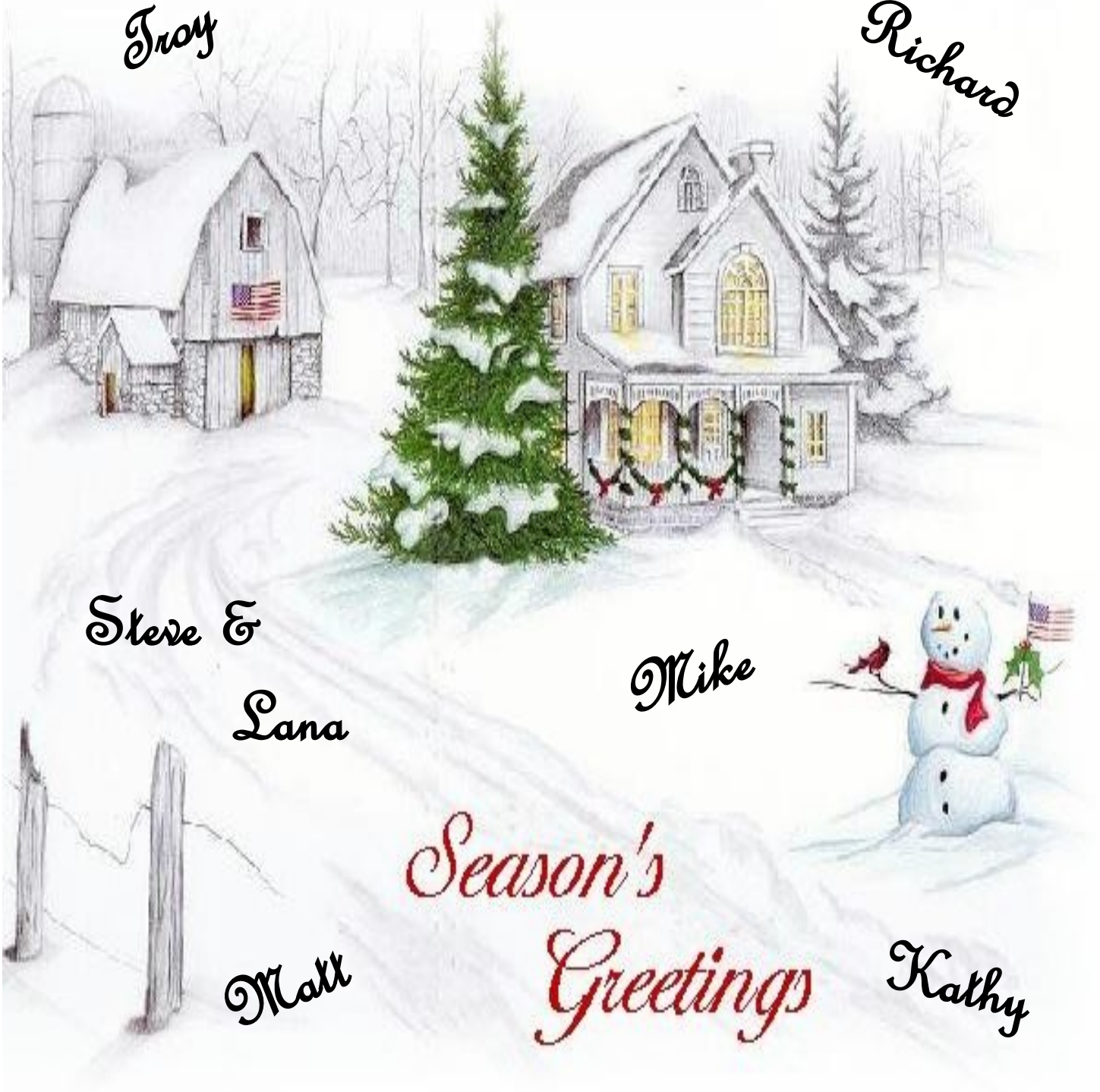
www.nacoc.org

December 14, 2010

Harold

Troy

Richard



Steve &

Lana

Mike

Matt

*Season's
Greetings*

Kathy

Cheap Crosses For Sale

Mike King

During the holidays, everyone is striving to find a bargain, get the best deal and purchase the most for their dollars spent. This is particularly true with “Black Friday” that follows Thanksgiving day. Are we guilty of bargain shopping in our spiritual life. We must insist on quality, the original and that which will endure.

There was a family visiting Manila in the Philippines during Easter one year. They passed numerous stalls in the market where incense, candles, and veils were sold. A sign in one stall caught the man’s attention. It said, “Cheap crosses for sale.” His thoughts were drawn to the religious world in which we live today. Some seek a religion that makes no demands; others seek one requiring no effort. The question is asked by many, “Isn’t there an easier way?” Jesus said, “*And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple*” (Lk. 14:27).

Some are looking for cheap crosses in the matter of church attendance. They declare, “One service a week is enough.” There is no room left for cheap crosses in the passage found in Heb. 10:25! For them, the threat of persecution did not license forsaking the assembling of early Christians.

There are people looking for cheap crosses in the matter of giving. “The Bible does not require a tenth,” some naively chide. The mind of Jesus on the matter is: “*Though He was rich, yet for our sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich*” (2 Cor. 8:9). We must not allow ourselves to look for the “minimum allowable standard.”

Many people are looking for cheap crosses in the matter of service. Again, the attitude of Jesus: “*I am among you as the One who serves*” (Lk. 22:27). The statement inscribed at the foot of the grave of *John F. Kennedy* contains the words: “Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country.” If we could adapt this quote to our spiritual lives by replacing “Lord” for “country,” we would have the mind of Jesus. You can rest assured that the “marginal Christian” is an unhappy Christian. The very words “marginal” and “Christian” do not go together.

It is not uncommon to find a significant number who are looking for cheap crosses in the matter of morality. They like the name of Christian, but reject the standard. Discipline is demanded for godly living. We are to “*Deny ungodliness and worldly lusts...live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age*” (Titus 2:12). Those who live by loose standards are losers!

Cheap crosses are no bargain; “You get what you pay for.” A cheap cross is not the authentic cross of Calvary and has no power to save. Jesus did not pretend that the way of the cross would always be pleasant or painless (Lk. 9:23). Jesus gave all for you, what are you willing to give Him in return?

YOUTH NEWS

- The youth will prepare fruit baskets Sunday, December 19 at 5:00pm at the fellowship building. They will begin delivering these baskets at 6:30pm on Monday Dec. 20th.
- This month’s Youth Devo will be held at the Fellowship supper Sunday, Dec. 19th.

PRAYER LIST

Eleta Grimmett, is at home slowly improving.

Robert Hancock, has terminal cancer. (friend of Geoff Stutts)

Harmon Craft, former member of this congregation is in room 595 of the Tupelo hospital.

Continual Prayer

Jean Adams, Jim Dickerson, Harold Russell, John Sanford, Kathy Dye, Hailey & Carol Enlow, Hugh Collins, Margaret Bailey, Vicki Chism, Donna Haynes, Barbara Smithey, Shane Crofts, Udell Wilson, Bill King, Donna Weeden, Sylvia Plunk, Terry Young

Shut-Ins

Jean Drummond, Lessie Bryant, Billy Joe Garner, Laura Mae Harris, Belle Cross, Pauline Smith, Raymond & Amy Vest

Nursing Home/ Assisted Living:

Sue Collins, Corrine Hall, Eunice Mabry, Faye Owen , Anna Davis & Mattie Golden

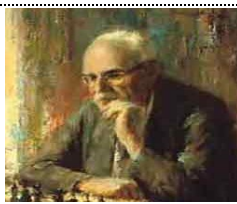
Military List:

David Wilhite-Navy-Florida Barry Wilhite-Marine-Navy –Virginia, Jimmie Stutts-Air Force— California, Tiffany Erwin– Army-Camp Rooker, AL; Aaron Raines-Army, Afghanistan Jamie Vansandt, Alaska; Michelle Ham, Fort Leonard, Missouri.

SAGE ADVICE

Man's way leads to hopeless end...

God's way leads to an endless hope.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

*December 20.....Callie Smithey
December 21.....Janet Drummond
December 22.....Sue Marques
December 23.....Tony Cross
December 25.....Wadie Leopard
December 26.....Chris Smithey
December 28.....Jenna Simmons
December 29.....Dean Dillard
December 29.....Mable Erwin*

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

*December 23.....Carl & Mary Nell Smith
December 26.....Troy & Novene Robertson
December 30.....Gary & Linda Turner*

THANK YOU

Thanks so much for all the food, calls, cards and acts of kindness shown me since my recent surgery. They were greatly appreciated.

In Christian Love, Harold Russell

HOLIDAY FELLOWSHIP

We will have our congregational Holiday Fellowship Sunday night following services. Bring any kind of snack food, soups, candies, etc. that you would like. There will be several groups singing Christmas carols.

AREA EVENTS

AREA-WIDE NEW YEAR'S EVE SINGING
Friday night, December 31 beginning at 8pm at the Beech Hill Church of Christ.

OUR RECORD

Sunday School 95
Sunday A.M 117
Sunday P.M 91
Wednesday 85
Contribution \$2,989.91
Budget \$3,305.70

TO SERVE

Scripture.....Jerry Gibson
A.M. Prayer..... Greg Harrison
Closing Prayer.....Bill Lyon
P.M. Prayer. ... Roger Clayton
Closing Brad Pounders
Wed. 12/15.....Richard Jennings
Wed. 12/15.... Drew Drummond
Usher & Lock.....Greg Clayton
Greeters..... ..G & K Clayton

PANTRY ITEM:

Cereal

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday School 9:30
Morning Worship 10:30
Evening Worship 6:00
Wednesday Bible Study 7:00

ELDERS

Richard Jennings 534-6671
Troy Robertson 534-3491

DEACONS

Bill Botts 316-2422
Greg Clayton 252-9762
Roger Clayton 534-5240
Andy Clemmer 816-5887
Harold Russell 534-4648
Randy Wall 316-9255

Minister

Mike King..... .662-507-0625
Home..... .662-534-6872
Office..... 662-534-4649

HIS NAME AT THE TOP

I had the nicest Christmas list,
The longest one in town,
Till Daddy looked at it and said,
“You’ll have to cut it down.”

I Knew that what he said was true
Beyond the faintest doubt,
But was amazed to hear him say,
“You’ve left your best Friend out.”

And so I scanned my list again,
And said, “Oh, that’s not true!”
But Daddy said, “His name’s not there,
That Friend who died for you.”

And then I clearly understood,
Twas Jesus that he meant;
For Him who should come first of all
I hadn’t planned a cent!

And tho ‘I’ve had to drop some names
Of folks I like a lot,
My Lord must have the most- - because
HIS NAME IS AT THE TOP!

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