



# THE INFORMER

Church of Christ ~ New Albany, Mississippi

[www.nacoc.us](http://www.nacoc.us)

December 15, 2015



May  
Lovely,  
Happy Times  
Decorate Your  
Holiday Season,  
May Warm, Special  
Memories Brighten  
Your New Year, May  
The Wonder of Christmas  
Be With You Forever.

*Mike*

*Betty*



*Troy*

*Matt*

*Kathy*

*Richard*

*From the Elders and Staff at New Albany Church of Christ*

## THE GREATEST GIFT

I heard recently about a 90-year-old lady who one Christmas found buying presents a bit much, so she wrote out checks for all of her family and friends, and decided she would put them in with her Christmas cards. She wrote out her Christmas cards and put "Buy your own present" after her name, then sent them off.

But after the Christmas festivities were over, she found the checks in her desk! Everyone had got a Christmas card from her with "Buy your own present" written inside but without the checks! .

We all like gifts. We like to receive them from those that we love. And we also enjoy giving them. What Jesus said is certainly true: *"It is more blessed to give than to receive."* (Acts 20:35). I used to think that the greatest joy of Christmas belonged to children because they get to experience the excitement of opening their presents. But I've learned that the real excitement of Christmas come in being able to give to those who mean so much to you.

Unfortunately, our gift list is always so limited. If you're like me at this time of the year, you always have a lot of people you would like to get something special for, but you just don't have the money. We can't give to everyone. But God can, and God has, and there's no one who's been left off of his gift list.

*"For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have everlasting life."* (John 3:16)

This Christmas, enjoy giving gifts and enjoy receiving them. But be especially thankful for the greatest gift of all that came to this earth in the form of a baby in a stable in the little town of Bethlehem, and be sure that you respond by receiving that gift through obedient faith. ~ Alan Smith 12/23/02

## Christmas Is For Love

author unknown


Christmas is for love. It is for joy, for giving and sharing, for laughter, for reuniting with family and friends, for tinsel and brightly decorated packages. But mostly, Christmas is for love. I had not believed this until a small elf-like student with wide-eyed innocent eyes and soft rosy cheeks gave me a wondrous gift one Christmas.

Mark was an 11 year old orphan who lived with his aunt, a bitter middle aged woman greatly annoyed with the burden of caring for her dead sister's son. She never failed to remind young Mark, if it hadn't been for her generosity, he would be a vagrant, homeless waif. Still, with all the scolding and chilliness at home, he was a sweet and gentle child.

I had not noticed Mark particularly until he began staying after class each day (at the risk of arousing his aunt's anger, I later found) to help me straighten up the room. We did this quietly and comfortably, not speaking much, but enjoying the solitude of that hour of the day. When we did talk, Mark spoke mostly of his mother. Though he was quite small when she died, he remembered a kind, gentle, loving woman, who always spent much time with him.

As Christmas drew near however, Mark failed to stay after school each day. I looked forward to his coming, and when the days passed and he continued to scamper hurriedly from the room after class, I stopped him one afternoon and asked why he no longer helped me in the room. I told him how I had missed him, and his large gray eyes lit up eagerly as he replied, "Did you really miss me?"

I explained how he had been my best helper. "I was making you a surprise," he whispered confidentially. "It's for Christmas." With that, he became embarrassed and dashed from the room. He didn't stay after school any more after that.

Finally came the last school day before Christmas. Mark crept slowly into the room late that afternoon with his hands concealing something behind his back. "I have your present," he said timidly when I looked up. "I hope you like it." He held out his hands, and there lying in his small palms was a tiny wooden box. 

"Its beautiful, Mark. Is there something in it?" I asked opening the top to look inside. " "Oh you can't see what's in it," He replied, "and you can't touch it, or taste it or feel it, but mother always said it makes you feel good all the time, warm on cold nights, and safe when you're all alone." I gazed into the empty box. "What is it Mark," I asked gently, "that will make me feel so good?" "It's love," he whispered softly, "and mother always said it's best when you give it away." And he turned and quietly left the room.

So now I keep a small box crudely made of scraps of wood on the piano in my living room and only smile as inquiring friends raise quizzical eyebrows when I explain to them that there is love in it.

Yes, Christmas is for gaiety, mirth and song, for good and wondrous gifts. But mostly, Christmas is for love.

*"But Jesus said, Suffer the little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven."* Matthew 19:14

# For daily devotional & updates call NEWSLINE @ 534-0016

## PRAYER LIST



**Larry Cobb** is scheduled for shoulder replacement surgery Thursday, Dec. 17th, in Memphis.

**Bobby White** was to have a second surgery on his injured hand Tues., Dec. 15, at the Tupelo Hospital.

**Jean Drummond** fell this past week and broke her hip. She had surgery at the Tupelo Hospital and was expected to be taken Monday to New Albany Health & Rehab for recovery and rehab.

**Charles Ulmer**, relative of the *Terry Young family* suffered a heart attack Sat., Dec. 12th He was taken to the Vanderbilt Hospital where he received a stent.

**Glen Hill**, father of *Steve Hill*, has been taken to M.D. Anderson for a second opinion about his cancer treatments.

**J.C. Garner**, first grader at New Albany Elementary has been diagnosed with a brain tumor.

**Kevin Bradley**, grandson of *Mary Beasley* of New Albany, is in the army, stationed in Virginia, and having a difficult time.

**Fern Gains**, aunt of *Richard Jennings*, has not been doing well.

**Ralph Williams**, minister for the Hwy 178 congregation had emergency surgery Fri., Dec. 11th, at the Tupelo Hospital.

**Mitch Doom**, nephew of *Callie Smithey* received severe burns to both hands. He had to have skin grafts this past week, and they are waiting to see if they will take. He is in the hospital in Jackson, Ms.

### Continue to Remember:

Ricky Adams, David Crossings, Joyce Clayton, Roy Crow, Jackie Dodd, Deborah Elliott, John Elliott, Kevin Flowers, Preeble Foster, J.T. Gaines, Sonny Gay, Pam Hall, Donna Haynes, Dianna Hodges, Shane Hutton, Davie Johnson, Judy Kirk, Lonnie Parker, Nancy Petrowski, Wayne Reams, Suzette Renick, Brooks Russell, B.A. Stubblefield, Sheila Thomas, Judy Ward, Nicki Weaver, Eudell Wilson, Bobby White, Chris Windham, Terry & Betty Young, Tommy Young.

### Shut-Ins:

Jean Drummond, Teresa Clark, Linda Griggs, Billy Joe Garner, Claudia Senter

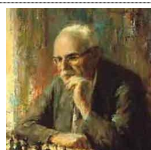
### Nursing Home/Assisted Living:

Grace Anderson, Perrin Drummond, Cornelia Kennedy, Betty Lang, Mayna Senter, Miriam Styers, Laura Mae Harris



## I've Learned...

One thing you can give and still keep is your word.



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY



December 20..... Callie Smithey  
December 21..... Janet Drummond  
December 22..... Sue Marques  
December 28..... Jenna Carpenter  
December 29..... Dean Dillard  
December 29..... Mable Erwin  
December 30..... Emily Gann  
December 30..... Terry Stubblefield

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

December 26..... Troy & Novene Robertson  
December 30..... Gary & Linda Turner



## HOLIDAY FELLOWSHIP

Sunday night, Dec. 20th we will have a fellowship meal following evening services. You are asked to bring your favorite Christmas snacks and goodies. The adult III class will be in charge of the fellowship building.



## ATTENTION YOUTH!



The youth will meet next Sun. evening, Dec. 20th, at the fellowship building to prepare fruit baskets. These baskets will be delivered Tues. Dec. 22nd. All youth are encouraged to take part. If you have any questions please see *Jessica Garrett*. A time to meet to deliver these baskets will be announced later.

## AREA EVENTS

The Plainview Church of Christ in Fulton invites you to join them for their 3rd Annual New Year's Eve Singing. Singing begins at 8:00pm.

**No Bulletin Next Week. The office will be closed for the Christmas Holiday!**  
**Merry Christmas!**

Visit our website @ <http://www.nacoc.us>  
Email: [nacoc15s@gmail.com](mailto:nacoc15s@gmail.com)

## SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

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

### MINISTER

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

### ELDERS

Richard Jennings .....316-1305  
Troy Robertson .....316-3163

### DEACONS

Greg Clayton.....252-9762  
Roger Clayton..... 538-8195  
Brad Pounders.....316-7931  
Harold Russell..... 507-1180  
Randy Wall ..... 316-9255  
Lonnie Weaver.....801-8448

### TO SERVE

Scripture.....Michael Crotts  
A.M. Prayer.....Harold Russell  
Closing Prayer....Harold Crowe  
P.M. Prayer.....Gary Turner  
Closing .....Jerry Grimmett  
Wed.12/23.....Phil Young  
Wed.12/23...Daniel Drummond  
Usher & Lock .....Randy Wall  
Greeter.....T & N Robertson

### OUR RECORD

Sunday School.....129  
Sunday A.M.....143  
Sunday P. M.....111  
Wednesday.....111  
Contribution.....\$3,672.35  
Budget.....\$3,984.46



### PANTRY ITEMS

Pancake Mix

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### Eight Gifts That Do Not Cost a Cent

**The Gift of Listening.** But you must really listen. No interrupting, no daydreaming, no planning your response. Just listening.

**The Gift of Affection.** Be generous with appropriate hugs, kisses, pats on the back, and handholds. Let these small actions demonstrate the love you have for family and friends.

**The Gift of Laughter.** Clip cartoons. Share articles and funny stories. Your gift will say, "I love to laugh with you."

**The Gift of Written Notes.** It can be a simple "Thanks for the help" note or a full sonnet. A brief, handwritten note may be remembered for a lifetime, and may even change a life.

**The Gift of a Compliment.** A simple and sincere, "you look great in red," "you did a super job" or "that was a wonderful meal" can make someone's day.

**The Gift of Favor.** Every day, go out of your way to do something kind.

**The Gift of a Cheerful Disposition.** The easiest way to feel good is to extend a kind word to someone. Really, it's not that hard to say, "Hello" or "Thank you." Read Luke 6:38!

~via Findlay church of Christ Sparta, TN