



Elm Grove Baptist Church
8180 Barksdale Boulevard
Bossier City, LA 71112

Address Service Requested

White Steeple Banner

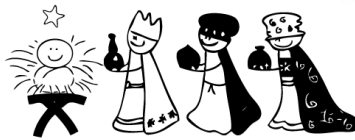
Elm Grove Baptist Church

December 2014, Volume 15, #12

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Dr. Brian D. Prucey, Pastor
Charles Anderson, Music/Ed Minister
Nathan Cash, Interim Youth Pastor

December



How did the birth of Jesus change the world?

Historian Rodney Stark argues that there was one huge factor that helped capture the attention of the ancient world—Christianity's revolutionary emphasis on mercy. Stark writes:

In the midst of the squalor, misery, illness, and anonymity of ancient cities, Christianity provided an island of mercy and security It started with Jesus

In contrast, in the pagan world, and especially among the philosophers, mercy was regarded as a character defect and pity as a pathological emotion: because mercy involves providing *unearned* help or relief, it is contrary to justice [Thus] humans must learn "to curb the

impulse [to show mercy]"; "the cry of the undeserving for mercy" must go "unanswered." "[Showing mercy] was a defect of character unworthy of the wise and excusable only in those who have not yet grown up."

This was the moral climate in which Christ came to teach us about a merciful God who desires us be merciful to others.

Because of the coming of Jesus, the world sees the true power of mercy. Instead of seeing mercy as a character defect, through Jesus we see mercy as an expression of the character and nature of God Himself.

God is merciful to us not because He is weak, but because we are weak. It is through God's great power that we experience His mercy in forgiveness, reconciliation and salvation.

And because we have experienced the mercy of God through the coming of Jesus, we are commanded to be instruments of God's mercy in the world. The coming of Jesus began a movement of mercy.

As you and your family plan your Christmas activities, don't forget to consider how you might be an instrument of God's mercy to someone in need.

As Carole and I prepare to celebrate our sixth Christmas at Elm Grove Baptist Church, we want to wish you all the best of God's blessings for the season.

Merry Christmas,
Pastor Brian



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- Lisa Frazier 2nd
- Wanda Kent 2nd
- Daniel Rideout 4th
- Natalea Rice 5th
- Kay Sutton 6th
- Glen Barnes, Jr. 11th
- Mert Carter 11th
- Anthony Goforth 11th
- Margaret Dillon 13th
- Katie Wren 14th
- Nancy Dorbandt 15th
- Ricky Bumgardner 18th
- Nancy Locky 23rd
- Jeanette Green 28th

ANNIVERSARIES

- Dennis & Tina Spearman 1st
- Ricky & Lisa Clement 1st
- Kevin & Diana Lott 15th
- Steve & Kay Sutton 22nd



Charlie's Chats

Thanks to all of you who have been so deligent in working on the Christmas program. We only have 2 more rehearsals until we present *God Is With Us* so please make every effort to attend choir rehearsal on Wednesday night!

I'm looking forward to our annual Candlelight, Carols & Communion on Christmas Eve. It is always such a special, worshipful service for the entire family.

Children's Christmas Party
 Saturday, December 6th
 from 1 to 3 p.m.
 In the Fellowship Hall
 for K - 5th Grade

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12TH
 AT 6 P.M.
 FOR GRADES 6 - 12

Sr. Adult Christmas Party
 Saturday,
 December 13th
 From 1 to 3 p.m.
 In the Fellowship Hall

Candlelight and Communion
 Christmas Eve 5-6 pm

A time of reverence and celebration with your family

SUNDAY SCHOOL
 catch the Excitement!
 9:30 a.m.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
 FOR
Children's Church Food Bank Helpers

WEEKLY EVENTS

Sunday
 Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
 Morning Worship 10:45 a.m.

Wednesday
 Prayer Meeting 6:30 p.m.
 Children's Worship 6:30 p.m.
 Youth Worship 6:30 p.m.
 Praise Choir 6:30 p.m.

God Is With Us!

A story of His birth and a reminder that He is always with us and will never leave us



Presented by The Praise Choir
Sunday, December 14th
At 10:45 a.m.

